

**Record of the
Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament**

...
**Legislative Assembly
29th April 1863**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 30th April 1863

The SPEAKER took the chair at a quarter-past three o'clock.

PAPERS.

The SECRETARY for LANDS laid upon the table a return to an address relative to the case "The Queen v. Buzacott," agreed to by the house, on motion of Mr. Blakeney, on the 22nd instant.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table of the house the following papers:—Return to address, relative to the Rev. W.m. M'Ginty, agreed to by the house, on motion of Dr. Challinor, on the 23rd instant. Further papers in reference to the north-western boundary of Queensland. Papers in reference to Mr. Robert Alexander's claim to land orders. Papers in reference to the case of Jonathan Harris. Return to address, relative to the immigrant ship Conway, agreed to by the house, on motion of Mr. Blakeney, on the 24th instant.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that it had been the intention of the government to lay the papers referring to the North-western Boundary on the table of the house last session; but in consequence of some inadvertency the intention of the government had not been carried out.

On the motion of Dr. CHALLINOR, the return relative to the Rev. W. M'Ginty was ordered to be printed.

CONSTABLE DEMPSEY.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN asked the Colonial Secretary whether there is any objection to lay before this house the petition of constable Dempsey, of the Warwick police, to his Excellency the Governor, praying for an investigation into the cause of his dismissal from the force, and also the action taken by the Executive in reference thereto?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply, stated that the papers would be laid upon the table of the house without delay.

MR. ROBERT TOOTH'S PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTING RAILWAY.

Mr. GROOM asked the Colonial Secretary whether any proposal has been received by the government from Mr. Robert Tooth, of Sydney, for constructing a railway from Ipswich to Toowoomba and from Toowoomba to Dalby and Warwick. Have the government any objection to lay a copy of Mr. Tooth's proposal on the table of the house?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that the matter referred to was under the consideration of the government, and the house would be placed in possession of Mr. Tooth's proposals when the Railway Bill came under consideration.

TOOWOOMBA COMMONAGE.

Mr. GROOM asked the Secretary for Lands and Works—Whether the government have arrived at any decision on the application made by the Toowoomba Town Council for a commonage grant?

The SECRETARY for LANDS replied that for all present requirements the government conceive that the unsold lands in the Toowoomba town and agricultural reserves are amply sufficient, and the proposed extension of these several reserves will meet any decrease which may be caused by sales.

On the motion of Mr. GROOM, the answer of the hon. Secretary for Lands was ordered to be printed.

CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.

Mr. MACKENZIE asked the Colonial Treasurer—As no contract has been entered into with the Australasian Steam Navigation Company for the conveyance of the English Mails from Sydney to Brisbane, whether an Executive Minute was passed, and at what date, authorising the payment of a subsidy to the aforesaid company for the detention of the steamer Telegraph, advertised in the first instance to leave Sydney on the 14th of April?

The COLONIAL TREASURER replied that there had been no payment made to the Australasian Steam Navigation Company on account of the services referred to. The Government have placed an amount upon the supplementary estimates for the present year to provide for the conveyance of the English mails to and from Sydney and Brisbane.

On the motion of Mr. BLAKENEY, the answer of the Colonial Treasurer was ordered to be printed.

THE REAL PROPERTY ACT.

Mr. FORBES asked the Colonial Secretary—Whether the government intend taking any steps to obviate the delays in bringing land under the “Real Property Act of 1862,” in cases where the title is a grant from the Crown to the applicant?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply, said that he would inquire into the matter, and endeavor, as far as possible, to obviate any delay that may be avoidable; the present staff of the office cannot perform the work more rapidly.

THE TARIFF CONFERENCE.

Mr. FORBES asked the Colonial Secretary—If the government will lay on the table of this house, all the correspondence between the Queensland and the other Australian Governments relating to the Tariff Conference?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply, said that the papers relating to the Inter-colonial Conference would be laid upon the table.

LETTER FROM DR. QUINN.

Mr. JONES asked the Colonial Secretary,—If there is any objection to lay on the table of the house, a copy of a letter addressed by the Right Reverend Dr. Quinn to his Excellency the Governor, previous to the arrival of the Right Reverend Prelate in this colony, with a copy of the answer of the hon. the Colonial Secretary to that letter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said, in reply, that the government had no objection to produce the correspondence asked for, and it was being prepared.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

The following messages were received from his Excellency the Governor:—

(1.) Services rendered by the Water Police in rescuing persons lost from the ship Queen of the Colonies:

Message, No. 1

G. F. BOWEN,

Governor,

In accordance with the provisions of the 54th clause of the Constitution Act, the Governor recommends for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly, the desirability of recognising the services lately rendered by the Inspector of Water Police, and the men under his direction, in rescuing persons lost from the ship Queen of the Colonies, by the

appropriation of one hundred pounds (£100); fifty pounds (£50) thereof to be presented to Inspector M'Donald, and fifty pounds (£50) to be divided among the men who accompanied him on his two expeditions.

Government House, Brisbane,

29th April, 1863.

(2.) Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1862, with Auditor-General's report thereon:—

Message, No. 2.

G. F. BOWEN,

Governor,

His Excellency the Governor herewith transmits to the Legislative Assembly a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the colony for the year 1862, together with the Auditor-General's report thereon.

Government House, Brisbane,

29th April, 1863.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, message No. 2 was ordered to be printed, with the accompanying documents.

THE IMMIGRATION LAWS.

Mr. RAFF moved—(1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on the operation and working of the Immigration Laws, and the legality of the regulations affecting same, which have from time to time been issued by the government. (2.) That such committee consist of the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. Lilley, Mr. M'Lean, Mr. Blakeney, and the mover; and have power to call for persons and papers. In rising to submit the motion to the house he might state that he was fully impressed with the magnitude of the interests that were involved, and the evil consequences that would ensue from the mismanagement of the immigration system. On entering into the discussion he would declare his entire freedom from wishing for a moment by his resolution to embarrass the government—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: You promised to postpone it until the resolution on the subject brought forward by me was before the house.

Mr. RAFF resumed: All that he did was to promise to postpone this motion from the date that he had originally fixed upon to introduce it until the house could see what was likely to be the term of the resolutions to be brought forward by the hon. member at the head of the government, and he still thought that the motion for the appointment of a committee should precede the resolutions of the government. He should repeat that he had not the slightest wish to embarrass the government, but thought that on the present occasion all party feeling should be thrown aside, and that every hon. member should give his most serious attention to the most important question which could possibly be submitted to the deliberations of that house. Every one must agree that the successful advancement of the colony must mainly depend upon the increase of the population, and it was in the face of it absurd to imagine that it was possible to go on with the formation of railways and other public works unless there was a continuous supply of labor and capital. The continued flow of population had not been inaptly termed the life-blood of the colony. At present he considered that we had reached the floodtide of our affairs, and if we omitted to take every advantage of the opportunity, much blame and shame would, undoubtedly, attach to the government and to the house. That opportunity might probably never occur again. He should feel much regret if in the course of his statement it became his duty to expose many errors that had been made by the government, but he rejoiced in the conviction, that after his statement had been made those errors would be remedied, and steps would be taken to avoid them for the future. He must admit that he was glad to see the resolutions which were to be proposed by the hon. Colonial Secretary, and he considered they were sufficient proof that the government had commenced to see the errors which had been committed. No one could deny that there was something very wrong—that the immigration regulations required revision, and many of them repealing altogether. To make use of the very emphatic language of the hon. member for Warwick, he would say that, in consequence of these regulations the unfortunate emigrant had been swindled, and the government had been cheated—infamously cheated. He hoped, therefore, that the government would see the necessity of not allowing the matter to be disposed of in the hasty manner proposed by the resolutions of the hon. Colonial Secretary. He thought

that hon. gentleman had returned to the colony a much wiser man, and that he would readily agree to afford the committee the benefit of his experience, and of many valuable ideas and suggestions; and he (Mr. Raff) sincerely trusted that the government and the house would come to some agreement upon the most important subject then before them. He was sorry that in the course of his address he was compelled to refer to matters which had been previously discussed; but still he considered that if the government were to blame, so also were the house to blame in the matter. The way in which the business of the country had been conducted last session effectually precluded the bringing in of new immigration laws. Much mischief had resulted from that delay, and they all knew the injury that had been done to the emigrants and to the country by the regulations which had been promulgated by the government, and he thought that the operation of those regulations might possibly affect our future. It was generally known that by them the value of the land orders had been much depreciated, so much so that cases had occurred in which people had been compelled to sell for £5, £6, and £10, a land order which they had been given to understand would represent £18. It was only reasonable to believe that these people would take very good care to convey that fact to their friends at home. He had been at one time fearful that when these accounts reached England they would have the effect of stopping immigration altogether. That they had not had that effect might be attributed to the fact that there had not been so many applications for passages, in which the applicants wished to pay a small sum only for their passage, and forego the land order altogether; and that he believed was the foundation of some of the resolutions to be proposed by the hon. the Colonial Secretary. He believed that the government were now prepared to deal properly with the land laws of the colony; but, seeing that they had blundered so much formerly, he did not think it was the duty of the house to trust to them now, and he thought the government should be thankful if they received the assistance of the committee of the house in the matter. He had heard it said that day that there were very few people who perfectly understood an act of parliament, and he thought the truth of the statement was fully borne out by the manner in which the government had dealt with the land laws. He would read the clause of the act referring to the land orders as follows:—"It shall be lawful for the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to issue to any adult immigrant who shall have come direct from Europe to the colony of Queensland—but not at the expense of the said colony—or to the person who shall have paid for the passage of such immigrant, a land order for the amount of £18." Hon. members would observe that there was no qualification—no restriction—as the amount was arbitrarily settled to be £18. [The hon. member then proceeded to read the remainder of the clause.] That was the whole of the legislation on the subject. It appeared to him that the government, instead of applying regulations to the immigrants, had done so to the land orders. Their first attempt to meddle with them was indeed quite contrary to the provisions of the act, and virtually amounted to a repudiation of documents then in circulation. He referred to the regulation of 12th April, 1862, which was to the effect that land orders were only to be taken in payment for country lands. The government were induced to annul this order, but on the 1st October in the same year a similar order was issued. Now there was certainly nothing in the act which empowered the government to restrict the operation of land orders. By the first issue of the regulations it was clearly understood that a land order should represent cash at any land sale whatever. Why, the government might just as well have issued at once a proclamation to the effect that land orders would only be available for the purchase of land in a particular agricultural reserve, as restrict them to country lands only. (Hear, hear.) Another regulation which had also tended very much to depreciate the value of land orders, was one which certainly the government might plead in extenuation a resolution which had been come to by the house. He referred to there being formed two classes of recipients—to one of whom the land order was immediately available for transfer, whilst to the other a delay of six months must occur. The land orders received by persons who paid the passages of emigrants were rendered immediately available, whilst those received by immigrants themselves were not transferable for six months. The great injury which had been thus done would, he hoped, act as a caution for future legislation on the subject. He might state that for some time the bulk of the land orders had been in possession of the shipowners. He looked upon it as being most important that the government should consent to the formation of the committee, believing as he did that it would be folly at once to adopt the resolutions to be proposed by the Colonial Secretary. They were much too vague, and placed too much power in the hands of the government. (Hear, hear.) He had

introduced the motion with a sincere wish to assist legislation, and he hoped that the hon. member at the head of the government would consent to postpone the consideration of the resolutions until the report of the committee was before the house. (Hear, hear.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that when he addressed the house a few days ago on this question, he did not object to any appointment of a committee of inquiry. He desired, however, that the motion of the hon. member should be postponed till after the production of certain documents which should shortly be laid on the table. He complained, however, of the discourtesy with which he had been treated by the hon. member for North Brisbane. He was completely taken by surprise, and did not feel prepared to discuss the question on its merits. He was prepared to speak to his own motion on the following day, if the house would grant him the courtesy of a hearing. If, however, hon. members were determined to back up the discourtesy of the hon. mover, he could not help it. At all events as he never anticipated that the motion would then be proceeded with after what had taken place on its first postponement, he would make no further statement that day.

Mr. WARRY regretted the charge of discourtesy, and thought that five minutes' social talk would put all matters on this head to rights again. He certainly understood that an arrangement had been entered into between the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Raff as to the postponement of the motion till after the production of certain documents, bearing on the question, by the head of the government.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN did not consider the charge of discourtesy was a just one. For the notice of motion given by the Colonial Secretary was last on the paper, and Mr. Raff was entitled to the precedence he claimed for his resolutions. He did not see how any statement that could be made to-morrow would not do as well to-day. He hoped the government would not oppose the motion, and he concluded with proposing that the names of the hon. members for Warwick and Toowoomba, respectively, be added to the committee.

Mr. GROOM thought the hon. member for North Brisbane had made out a good case for the appointment of a select committee, and he would support the motion. The resolutions of the Colonial Secretary would not clash with those at present before the house.

Mr. LILLEY did not think any discourtesy intended by the mover of the resolutions, and that the committee would profit by the explanations to be offered by the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. BELL thought the committee would prove a useful one, as it would settle the difference of opinion that existed with reference to the working of the land order system, and the conduct of the government. He considered, however, that the proper time for moving in the matter would be after the Colonial Secretary had given his explanations, and not then.

Mr. BLAKENEY held that if there ever was a case that wanted calm and deliberate examination it was the one they were then considering. The land order system was founded on the recommendation of the Select Committee that had based their report on the evidence of gentlemen who were well able to form valuable opinions on it. If the system, as at first introduced, had not been interfered with, they would not then have to be told of jobbery and corruption on the part of capitalists, on the one hand, and heartburnings and disappointments on poor immigrants, on the other. The labors of the committee would show what hardships many poor people were forced to undergo, and how far their bitter experience tallied with the glowing descriptions of Queensland, as a land flowing with milk and honey, published by their immigration agent at home. Under the working of the system, the eighteen-acre farms had dwindled down to half their value in most cases, and had passed out of the emigrants altogether in many others. It was said that the restrictions that had been imposed by the government regulations were intended to induce emigrants to remain in the colony, and prevent their removing to New South Wales or the other colonies. He thought it would be better to leave out the prohibitory clauses altogether, and to allow the few for whom they were intended to go away if they pleased. He believed that human ingenuity had never devised a better scheme for peopling the millions of acres of waste land at the disposal of the colony, than the land order system as it was originally carried out. The prohibitory restrictions had negatived the good that would have accrued to the colony and the

emigrants, however, and he thought the appointment of a select committee of inquiry urgently and imperatively called for.

Mr. B. CRIBB had great hopes of the land order system as it was first carried out. The liberality of the country in giving away the waste lands to induce emigrants to come from the mother country was more apparent than real; for it cost the country nothing, and did it a vast amount of good service. While they had no adequate population, their lands and the treasures they contained, were of no use to them; nor would they ever be made available till they brought people to their shores. He protested against making the land orders to emigrants not transferable for six months. Instead of protecting the emigrants it did exactly the reverse, compelling them to part with their property at half its value, to transfer to the hands of capitalists. By it the poor man was robbed for the sake of enriching the land-shark. The ship owners could afford to wait six months for the land, but the case was different with the industrious emigrant who had expended all his savings in paying his own passage, and wanted his land order made immediately available. As it was the orders which represented £18 had to be disposed of frequently for £9. He instanced the case of a woman who had been induced at home to invest £54 in land orders by paying the passages of three persons to the colony, on the understanding that she would be able to receive the whole sum on her arrival. She was compelled to content herself with half the amount, no one being willing to give her more than £27. Another person brought out orders of the nominal value of £120; and he went with her to the government to represent the hardship of her case, and endeavor to get her orders made immediately available. His answer was that the board had made a rule that prevented any compliance with his request. The regulation was made for the exclusive benefit of capitalists. It was said that large numbers of land orders found their way to the Treasury, and but little cash. Now, he contended that the orders should be regarded as cash. That fact was no argument in favor of the rule that had been established by the board.

Dr. CHALLINOR thought great necessity existed for a thorough investigation into the working of the system. At present the emigrants did not receive a fair share of the advantages of the land orders; and the government did not receive their share. The profits were swallowed up by the middlemen. One class of land buyers received every consideration, however, and that was the class of persons who bought land under pre-emptive rights—who get it at a fixed price, and are enabled to purchase for a merely nominal sum with land orders. He would like to see the committee appointed; but he would prefer that the usual course should be taken and the present motion allowed to stand over till after the Colonial Secretary had offered his explanations.

Mr. JONES would not give any opinion on the working of the system just then; for he felt that as he was to be a member of the committee, it would be better to enter upon his labours with an unbiassed judgment. If they were to have a discussion, to-morrow, the debate would probably assume a warm tone that would operate unfavourably for the deliberations of the committee. There was no censure of the government implied by the resolutions. Their object was to discover where mistakes had been made, and to suggest amendments. He thought it injudicious to challenge debate at the present early stage of the business.

Mr. FERRETT had listened for a long time expecting to hear what reasons hon. members had for supposing that the committee would be of any service at all. He had some considerable experience of committees, and he generally found that very little good was derived from them. Indeed, when a question was to be shelved altogether the usual course was to appoint a select committee to consider it. He had heard a great deal of the prohibitory clauses, but did not think the evil complained of was half so bad as it had been represented. He had himself bought land orders, but he never was able to purchase them for less than £12.

After a few remarks from Mr. M'LEAN and Mr. HALY,

Mr. RAFF said that as the government had remained silent he had nothing to reply to. Either his arguments were unanswerable or they were not worth answering at all. He repudiated the charge of discourtesy that had been preferred against him by the head of the government. That gentleman had doubted his statements but he would be guilty of similar discourtesy, and retaliate in the same strain. The whole affair was the result of a misunderstanding of a trivial character indeed. He had often asked for the appointment of a committee before to inquire into

the working of this system. Now he believed that a committee would be appointed, whether the government consented or not. He trusted they would not be guilty of the further weakness of proceeding to a division.

The question was then put and carried without a division.

JURY ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. BLAKENEY postponed the following motion, standing in his name until that day week:—For leave to introduce a bill to consolidate and amend the Jury Acts of the colony of Queensland.

IPSWICH RECREATION GROUND.

Mr. FORBES moved—That an address be presented to the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid on the table of this house, all the correspondence and other documents relative to the granting of the Public Park and Recreation Ground at Ipswich to trustees, and the opening of streets and roads through the same. He did not wish to raise any discussion on the motion, although he believed that the public had suffered some injury in the matter, he would merely move the resolution in a formal manner.

Mr. GROOM seconded the motion.

The MINISTER for LANDS was not aware of the public injury referred to by the hon. member; but as he presumed that a substantive motion would follow, he would state on behalf of the government, that there was no objection to furnish the papers.

The motion was then put and carried.

LAIDLEY POUND.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN moved—That, in the opinion of this house, the Pound, lately established in the village of Laidley, is a public grievance, and ought to be abolished. There might be some objection raised to his having made use of the word public, when perhaps it would be looked upon by most hon. members as being merely a local grievance. However, he believed that it was a public grievance. As a general principle, he thought it was wrong that a pound should be established at a distance of thirty miles from a police court. Pounds were things that required constant looking after; and he thought it was necessary that the Laidley pound should either be abolished, or that a monthly return of brands, &c., should be sent to the police offices. It would very likely happen that a farmer in the vicinity of Ipswich would lose his cattle in Ipswich, and after a useless search for them for a week find them the next week in Laidley pound. He had also heard that cattle and horses from Toowoomba were occasionally served the same way. Laidley being an out of the way place, it very likely happened that the owner might not hear of his stock having been impounded in time, when they would be sold probably at the rate of about 5s. per head. He looked upon that sort of thing as being a legalised system of robbery. When he looked at the Impounding Act, too, he saw that it was not legal to erect more than one pound in a district, and therefore he thought that the establishment of the Laidley pound must be illegal. But whether it was illegal or not, he would call the attention of the house to the fact that its existence at all was a public grievance. If any cattle were taken to the pound, the charges for releasing them were invariably most excessive. He would conclude by remarking that he was not personally concerned, as he possessed no cattle, although he certainly had a few head of horses.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY had no doubt that he could glean a deal of information from hon. members as to the management of pounds in the outlying districts, and it was possible that the grievances alluded to might exist. But he would state that a petition had been received from the inhabitants of the district, praying that a pound might be established at Laidley, and he thought it would have been as well had those people, if they wished it to be removed, have made their wishes known to the executive.

Mr. GROOM said there was every reason to believe that the people of Laidley were well satisfied with the pound, seeing that they were thereby enabled to purchase stock at a very cheap

rate. The people of Toowoomba were, however, the sufferers. The hon. member concluded by confirming the opinions expressed by the mover of the resolution.

Mr. COXEN would not oppose the motion.

Mr. JONES said it was very easy to believe that the people of Laidley would not complain. The fox never attacked fowls that lived near him. The people of Warwick and Toowoomba, however, entertained a well founded objection to selling cattle at so cheap a rate as they were enabled to do at the Laidley pound. In his opinion, the pound should be abolished, or a guarantee given that it should be visited fortnightly by a magistrate.

Mr. BELL could say, from his own personal knowledge, that it was inexpedient that the pound should be kept; and he should, therefore, support the motion.

Dr. CHALLINOR said that the pound was a great nuisance, and it was very desirable that it should be abolished.

Mr. FERRETT thought that some injury might be done were the pound to be abolished. However, he hoped to see a new Impounding Act introduced, believing, as he did, that the present act operated as a sort of inducement to evil-doers.

The MINISTER for LANDS thought that the course taken by the hon. member who introduced the motion had been somewhat irregular. The proper course to have adopted would have been to have first communicated with the executive, when some inquiry might have been held into the matter.

Mr. ROBERT CRIBB would support the motion.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN briefly replied, stating that, although a petition for the establishment of a pound might have been received from the inhabitants of Laidley, no such petition was received from the inhabitants of the district.

The motion was then put and carried.

MINISTERIAL ANSWERS.

Mr. COXEN moved that all answers to questions, put to members of the ministry, on and after this day, be printed in the "Votes and Proceedings."

Mr. BLAKENEY seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

QUARANTINE LAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend and consolidate the laws relating to quarantine.

The MINISTER for LANDS seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

The bill was then read a first time, and its second reading fixed as an order of the day for that day week.

LIENS ON CROPS BILL.

The MINISTER for LANDS, in rising to move the second reading of the above bill, did not intend, neither did he think it was necessary, to occupy at any length the attention of the house, believing as he did that the necessity for the introduction of the bill was self-evident. Hon. members would acknowledge that a deal of success had attended the operation of the Lien on Wool Act, which, it would be remembered, was introduced at a time when there was a large amount of distress prevalent among persons who were engaged in squatting pursuits. So successful, indeed, had that act been, that there were was a unanimous desire that it should continue in constant operation. He did not see why the boon should not be extended to the other interests of the colony. It had therefore occurred to him that it would be desirable that the same sort of assistance should be extended to the industrious agriculturist. It very often occurred that those classes of persons were placed in such a position as to require some sort of assistance before their crops were out of the ground; and he thought that such was peculiarly the case at the present moment. He thought that the operation of the bill would not only tend to support one of

the substantial interests of the colony, but would also induce the introduction of capital. The hon. member concluded by briefly summarising the various clauses of the bill.

Messrs. CRIBB, FORBES, CHALLINOR, GROOM, and WARRY briefly expressed their approbation of the bill.

The motion was then put and carried.

The MINISTER for LANDS saw no reason why the bill should not be committed at once, and he would therefore move that the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of considering the various clauses of the bill.

Mr. JONES quite agreed with the principle of the bill, but still he thought it would be advisable to postpone its committal until the next day.

The MINISTER for LANDS would not postpone the committal; at all events, not until he had heard the opinion of other hon. members on the matter.

Mr. BLAKENEY was decidedly of opinion that it would be better to proceed with the bill at once.

Mr. BELL took the same view of the question as the hon. member. He thought it would be necessary for hon. members to peruse the bill before it was committed.

Mr. FORBES objected to any delay. There would be no more difficulty in committing the bill than there would be in transacting any ordinary business.

Mr. COXEN could not see any necessity at all for deferring the committal of the bill.

After some further remarks from Mr. JONES,

The motion was put and carried, and the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

LIEN ON YEARLY CROPS BILL.

On the motion of Mr. MACALISTER, the Speaker left the chair, and the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the above bill in detail.

After a verbal amendment was made in the third clause by the substitution of the word "tenant" for "leaseholder" a discussion arose as to the propriety of retaining the last proviso of the clause, the legal gentlemen taking the chief part in the discussion.

On the motion of Mr. MACALISTER, the further consideration of the bill was postponed, to allow hon. members time to consider the clause, and the house resumed.

SCAB IN SHEEP PREVENTION BILL.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the Scab in Sheep Prevention Bill was read a third time, and ordered to be conveyed with a message to the Legislative Council.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table correspondence relating to the removal of police officer Dempsey from Warwick.

The house adjourned on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, at half-past six o'clock till three p.m. (this day.)