

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
30th April 1863**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 1st May 1863

The SPEAKER took the chair at twenty-one minutes past three.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE, No. 1.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved, without previous notice,—That message No. 1, of his Excellency the Governor, received by this house, on the 29th instant, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

The motion was put and carried.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table certain correspondence between the Right Reverend Dr. Quinn and the government.

On the motion of Mr. BLAKENEY the paper was ordered to be printed.

THE DREDGE.

Mr. MACKENZIE asked the Secretary for Lands and Works—When it is the intention of the government to proceed with the dredging operations at the river bar without any delay, and to provide for the steam tug being employed without interruption, in the work for which it was originally intended?

The SECRETARY for LANDS, in reply, said the government are now, and have been for a considerable time past, proceeding with the dredging operations at the bar; and no delay other than that caused by the elements, or the absence of the necessary equipments, has been allowed to interfere with these operations. The steam tug is also engaged in this work.

THE ESTIMATES.

Mr. BLAKENEY asked the Colonial Treasurer—On what day the government intend laying the Estimates for the present session on the table of this house.

The COLONIAL TREASURER stated, in reply, that the Estimates are now being revised, and it is expected will be ready to be laid on the table of the house in the course of the ensuing week.

IMMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.

Mr. BLAKENEY asked the Colonial Secretary—Whether, on his late visit to England, he gave any and what directions to the Queensland Emigration Agent, or the Emigration Commissioners, for the purpose of putting a stop to any further emigration from Ireland to this colony?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply, said that he had given no directions to put a stop to further emigration from Ireland to this colony; on the contrary, he had made full provision for its continuance.

THE IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved,

(1.) That, by amending the present system of immigration, a largely increased number of immigrants of the best description may be introduced at a reduced cost to the colony.

(2.) That the land revenue is now too heavily charged with the land orders issued on account of immigration, and that it is expedient to appropriate a considerable sum of money to meet the expense of assisted passages.

(3.) That the land order system may continue to be a valuable incentive to immigration, if so controlled as to prevent speculative operations and other abuses.

(4.) That it is expedient to raise the charge for passage certificates under what is called the remittance system.

(5.) That the Emigration Agent in England be instructed to select English, Irish, and Scotch emigrants in numbers proportioned to the population of England, Ireland, and Scotland respectively.

(6.) That the immigration regulations be accordingly revised.

As he had stated yesterday, notwithstanding that the house had agreed to the appointment of the committee, it was his intention then to place them in possession of the views of the government with reference to the alterations in the immigration regulations. He did not intend, however, to further defer to the house in the matter. He believed that it would have been a much more satisfactory course to have pursued had the government been allowed to deal with the question, and that the committee was not likely to treat it half so fully as it had been the intention of the government to do. It would certainly have been much better had it been so, than that the government should, perhaps at the end of the session feel it to be its duty to resist the report which the committee might bring forward. The hon. member for North Brisbane had stated yesterday that there were numerous evils connected with the immigration system which it was very necessary should be inquired into. No one could deny the truth of that hon. member's statement. But after the house had heard his (the Colonial Secretary's) address, he thought they would be prepared to admit that it was the intention of the government to take the most sweeping measures to induce the necessary reform. The fact that the resolutions proposed by him dealt with the matter too generally had been cavilled at. But it had been his intention, after having moved the resolutions, to have gone thoroughly into all the details of the question. He might state that he still intended to adhere to that course, and therefore he would only deal generally with the question then, but would submit the details to the house at some future time. He would give the opinion of the government as to how the present immigration regulations were faulty, and the plan which it was proposed to adopt to obtain the required amount of immigration at a much reduced cost. He would trouble the house to go back to the time when the land order system was first introduced, and he believed that hon. members would remember that the bill referring to it had been introduced by the government about the same time when the select committee on immigration, which had been sitting for some time previous, had brought up their report. It was then believed that the land order should be given as an inducement to immigration, and he thought that the house had adopted a very wise report, and that the best thing that could be thought of was done at the time. Then there arose the question as to whether or not the land order should be transferable. The original idea had been that a grant of land should be given to each immigrant, and that the land order should not be negotiable. Remembering, however, what had before occurred in New Zealand through following the same plan, whereby the land order had gradually become looked upon as a mere piece of paper, the proposal to make the Queensland orders transferable was agreed to; and he thought they might congratulate themselves upon having done so. It was true, there were many difficulties to contend with, and the transfer system was attended by many what he might term minor evils. But it was justly considered that those evils were not equal to the advantages which were obtained by making the land orders transferable. Had that not been done they would never have succeeded in getting the shipowners to come forward in the manner which they had done. He thought the colony would never have to repent the course that had been taken, although it certainly was attended by many

evils. As the hon. member for the Maranoa had stated yesterday through the operation of what he had termed the middle men, neither the emigrant nor the government had received the full benefit of the system: other persons had lived from the profit obtained by trafficking in land orders, and he believed that a deal of the outcry which had arisen on the subject had been occasioned by people making an actual trade of it—by buying land orders cheap and selling them dear. He had seen the current price of land orders quoted in the daily journals at a very low rate—occasionally as low as £6 and £8. As those persons supplied the press with reports, it followed that they at times would have the whole control of the land order market. When they purchased from the emigrant, reference would be made to the market value as reported in the journals: but if anyone wished to buy from them he had to pay a full price. There was no doubt but that every attempt would be made to drive a coach and six through any Act of Parliament which might be passed by that house; therefore, the fewer restrictions that were made the better. (Hear, hear.) The government had, of course, had under their earnest consideration some method by which the system might be freed from jobbery of every description. Certain shipowners had expressed their willingness to bring out immigrants at the rate of £16 per head; and, therefore, it had occurred to the government that if the land orders were bought from the emigrant on his arrival for £16 by the government, and were not otherwise transferable, the desired object would be attained—the emigrant would receive back the price of his passage, and the object of the jobber would be defeated. Referring to what had yesterday fallen from the hon. member for North Brisbane as to the receipt by the government of land orders in bulk, which had been purchased very cheap in payment for land, he (the Colonial Secretary) could inform the house that the total sum of money in cash received during the past year from land sales was less than during the previous year—there was an actual deficiency. And unless the fund placed at the disposal of the government for emigration purposes was bolstered up from some other source, there would be no possibility of further carrying on the present system of immigration. He had been, whilst in England, in communication with Mr. Jordan every day, and had ascertained from that gentleman that the majority of the persons who were anxious to emigrate did not care whether the land orders were transferable or not; all that they wished for was to be placed on shore, where an opportunity would be afforded them of earning a living. On the other hand, there were persons possessed of a small amount of capital who were desirous of owning land for the purpose of working it. He had ascertained from Mr. Jordan, than whom, he was sure, no higher authority could be required, that it was desirable that the land order system should be continued; that there were many small capitalists possessing say from £500 to £1000, who were desirous of becoming proprietors of farms—of entering into agricultural pursuits generally; and he thought that the house was bound to do everything in its power to secure so very desirable a class of immigrants. He would therefore propose that a land order worth £18 should be issued to persons of that description, who generally were cabin or intermediate passengers; and after the lapse of two years they should receive a further land order for £12. For the steerage passengers he thought an equivalent to the amount of their passage money would be sufficient; in fact, many of them had stated that they required no more; and the steerage passengers in many ships that were now on their way out had signed a paper to the effect that they did not wish to accept the second land order. He thought, under these circumstances, that it would be very wrong were they to continue issuing the £12 land order to all classes of passengers. It was very desirable, at the same time, that the hands of Mr. Jordan should be strengthened as much as possible; and he hoped that the line of ships which he had had the pleasure of seeing in the bay on several occasions might be continued, and that their owners might be induced to start them at regular intervals. The rates at which they took passengers were unquestionably reasonable; a cabin passage by them generally cost about £45, whilst the same description of passage to Sydney cost from £60 to £70. The effect of what had been at home to induce immigration to Queensland was very evident. Almost every working man in England who had any intention to emigrate never for one moment thought of any colony but Queensland—Victoria and New South Wales were looked upon quite contemptuously. Thousands of applicants for passages to the colony had offered to pay part of their passage money; and he would point out the great advantage which would accrue to the colony, if for every thousand immigrants who were brought out solely at the expense of the colony, another thousand were found who would pay say £8 of their passage money. And it was a generally understood fact, that a man who had saved something was a much greater

acquisition to the colony than a man who had saved nothing. It amounted to this, that if shipowners would bring people out for £16 a head, and those people would pay £8 themselves, the cost to the colony would only be £8. It was therefore obvious that an enormous saving could be effected—a saving of about £60,000 for every 3000 immigrants, and therefore he thought it was their bounden duty to forward such an admirable plan. Or, putting the matter in a converse way, they would be able, under the proposed system, to introduce 8000 immigrants where now they could only introduce 3000. In his opinion, the colony never stood in a more favorable position with regard to immigration than it did at the present time. If they continued to adopt the remittance system of immigration in concurrence with the land order system, it would be necessary to raise a considerable sum of money by loan, seeing that the amount of money received from land sales was not nearly so large as formerly. With regard to assisted immigration, he thought it would be desirable were the better class of female domestic servants charged a less sum than the men—say half the amount. It would also, be expedient to raise the sum to be paid by immigrants coming out under the remittance system. The Victorian government charged men who were over age £8, and ordinary adults £6. He had often, whilst in offices in London, known persons to come in and inquire the best way they could get to New South Wales and Victoria via Queensland; and he therefore thought it would be wrong to continue to bring out immigrants for £4 and £2, who, immediately after their arrival, would perhaps start for Victoria or the other colonies. At present, New South Wales had made no provision for the introduction of immigrants into that colony: and at the late intercolonial conference a resolution had been adopted to the effect that it was essentially necessary that every colony should have an assisted immigration scheme of its own. At present, (and it was not his opinion alone), New South Wales might be said to be living on the immigration systems of other colonies. It was evident, therefore, that as long as we continued to bring out immigrants at a lower rate than other colonies did, we were just doing their work at the expense of our own small revenue. He might state that, while in England, he had heard of ships which had been rapidly filled up by Irish people, whilst numbers of English and Scotch people were unable to get passages. It had consequently been thought necessary to provide some means by which deserving people should not be deprived of their passages, and that a fair proportion of immigrants should be taken from the different countries. He meant nothing invidious, but it was certainly nothing but right that future arrangements should be made on a fair and proper basis. He had known of a case where a number of persons for whom passages had been provided by the money which had been sent hence towards the Lancashire Relief Fund, and ordered to be spent that way kept back in consequence of a whole ship being taken up by 350 immigrants selected by the agent of the Queensland Immigration Society. It was a well known fact that Queensland could not be expected to be a depot for an unlimited number of emigrants, therefore some interference had become necessary. He had been wilfully accused of doing a great deal towards stopping Irish immigration; he denied that he had done so, and the individuals who had made the statement had no other object in view than damaging him. There was another matter to which he would refer—the dealings of the government with the Queensland Immigration Society. In consequence of communications held with the Bishop of Brisbane and Dr. Quinn, of Dublin, the government had assented to the Queensland Immigration Society's selecting a certain number of immigrants to be shipped direct from Ireland. It had been represented that there was a large amount of inconvenience attached to people being compelled to go from Ireland to Liverpool to reach the ship. The government could not deny that fact, and had accordingly assented to the proposal. However, it was not intended to last for ever; and, as he had found that the Irish immigrants were quite willing to communicate with Mr. Jordan, and as his (Mr. Jordan's) agents always managed the matter properly, he (the Colonial Secretary) had determined that it would be better for the future that the government should take charge of the Irish immigration. There was no wish on the part of the government to afford other than full satisfaction to Ireland, and they had determined that the fair proportionate number from that country should always be made up. He hoped the house would endorse the conduct pursued by the government. He had thought also that if the society were to be wound up too quickly there might be no means of providing passages for persons who might have already been selected by the society; and on consulting with Dr. Quinn, he discovered that arrangements had been made with 460 persons for passages, and had taken upon himself the responsibility of providing passages for that number. (Hear, hear.) He did not think it would have been right to have wound up the society at once, and

the expense of the plan he had adopted had been much lessened by the immigrants having voluntarily agreed to forego the second land order for £12, to which, otherwise, they would have been entitled. There were a great many other improvements to which he could allude, but they had of course been affected at an additional cost. For the future, provision had been made for the appointment of a competent surgeon to each ship and he hoped to be able to show clearly that there would be nothing likely to occur again similar to what had happened on board the City of Brisbane. The shipowners had consented to pay a surgeon the sum of £50 for the voyage, which sum it would be well for the government to supplement by paying the surgeon 5s. per head for every immigrant who landed alive. He might state that there were no less than sixty-five applications in answer to an advertisement for a surgeon on the above terms—all of them legally qualified men. He thought that for the future, so far as the ship's surgeon was concerned, there was every reason to be satisfied. Certain small payments might also be made to schoolmasters and constables who would be appointed by the immigrants themselves. He did not see how the arrangements for the voyage were to be made in a creditable and proper manner, unless these small expenses were incurred, and he had no doubt but that the shippers themselves would be prepared to assist in meeting them. He attached a deal of importance to the ships being started regularly, once a month, or whatever the intervening period might be. Many persons who had come out in the ship City of Brisbane, might be inclined to say that they would never on any account allow their friends to come out in a ship belonging to the Black Ball Line; but he was convinced that any irregularities which might have occurred then would not be likely to occur again. With reference to what he had stated as to a fixed proportion of immigrants being sent from the different portions of the United Kingdom, he would propose that two-twelfths should be sent from the Clyde; three-twelfths from Ireland; and the remainder from the various parts of England. He had also proposed to send one-half of the number to the northern ports—if it was found that they were capable of absorbing that quantity, in the following proportion:—Three-twelfths to Keppel Bay, two-twelfths to Wide Bay, and one-twelfth to other ports to the northward. He had considered that the proposal of the shipowners that £1 a head extra should be paid them for every steerage passenger who was landed at any of the northern ports was a very reasonable one, seeing the difficulty there was experienced in pioneering the ships into some of the new harbors, and the greater inducement held out to sailors to desert in consequence of the difficulty of detecting them. He thought that by the means he had just stated they would succeed in establishing a line of fine ships to come to all the ports of Queensland, and he thought the house would concur with him as to the desirability of such a course being adopted. He had referred generally to most of the proposed amendments in the regulations; and of course, should the committee desire it, he should be willing to lend them every assistance. He wondered how it was that the hon. member who had moved for the committee had not placed his (the Colonial Secretary's) name upon it. He thought that he might possibly have been of some service to it; but perhaps it did not matter, seeing that he did not hold a remarkably high opinion of the committee. However, he thought his hon. friend might have shown him the small compliment of placing his name upon it. In conclusion, he thought he had succeeded in showing the house that the colony could obtain as good a class of immigration as had been hitherto obtained, at an enormous reduction.

Mr. MACKENZIE was pleased to hear the mild manner in which the hon. Colonial Secretary had explained the view the government took of the matter, but thought it behoved them to pause ere they entered into a scheme of such magnitude. As a member of the government, when the land order system was introduced, he was quite willing to take his share of the blame which might be attached to the manner in which the regulations had been dealt with. He would state, however, that all the alterations were made in good faith, for the purpose of checking the very improper manner in which the land orders were being dealt with. He could not see what objection could be made to the appointment of the committee, seeing that the action proposed to be taken by the government was prospective, while that of the committee would be retrospective. With reference to what had fallen from the hon. gentleman referring to a loan, he thought that what with the loan for the railway and other public works, they had loans enough. He could quite agree with his hon. friend as to the policy of doing away with the second land order. The question of selecting in certain proportions English, Irish, and Scotch immigrants, was rather a knotty one,

and required a deal of consideration. In conclusion, he should state that he would have liked to have seen the resolutions postponed until after the report.

Mr. RAFF was glad to hear from the Colonial Secretary that it was the intention of the government to support the continuance of the land-order system, and that it was to be rendered free from the operations of jobbers and interested speculators. He admitted that the second order for £12 worth of land was mere waste; and he thought this fact fully established when it was found that people were willing to forego their second land orders and pay £8 only for their passage out. He did not agree, however, in thinking that any hasty alteration in the law was either desirable or necessary. They were at present obtaining what they most required, a large influx of population. By diminishing the cost of immigration in the manner proposed by the government, other people than those now in a position to emigrate would come to the colony. The government had discovered that the land orders had been considerably depreciated in value, and he was glad to find that they were at length convinced that it was necessary to do something to restore them to their original price. He was sorry to find the Colonial Secretary still harping on the idea of discourtesy; and renewing the charge in consequence of his not putting the hon. member's name on the committee for which he had previously moved. He had thought it too much, however, to tax the valuable time of the Colonial Secretary too heavily by nominating him as one of the committee, especially as another member of the government had already been appointed. He was aware, however, that the hon. member would readily give all the valuable assistance at his disposal, otherwise he would have most gladly named him as a member of the committee if he had received the slightest hint that it was the wish of the hon. member to be so appointed.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said that it appeared to him, from the wording of the resolutions themselves, as well as from the explanation that had been offered by the Colonial Secretary, that the hon. member left the colony for England with the sole intention of embarking in the business of immigration himself. He had frequently conversed with Mr. Jordan; had offered many important suggestions; had ordered that five shillings be paid in the colony for certain considerations; and it appeared, in fact, that he had the whole business in his own hands. He contended that the resolutions moved by the Colonial Secretary could not be consistently supported by any member who had voted for the motion of Mr. Raff on the previous day, or who intended to vote for the motion that had been placed on the paper relative to the disapproval of the house in the procedure of the Colonial Secretary in going home without leave. It had been suggested to him by an hon. member who had lately walked over to the opposition from the ministerial benches, to ask why emigration should be proportionate to the population of the different sections of which the mother country is composed. He declined, however, to adopt the suggestion as he was inclined to be suspicious of any recommendation proceeding from such a quarter. The hon. member he referred to had left the ministerial benches, and he was inclined to think he must have done so either because there was something radically wrong in the government, or in himself. He would not say anything as to the restrictions proposed for emigration from the three kingdoms, respectively. He thought, however, if Irishmen sent home their own money to bring out their own friends, under the assisted immigration regulations, the numbers introduced by them should not be taken into account in settling the proportion of immigrants that should be brought from each country. With regard to the raising of a loan for immigration purposes, he considered that the fact of the introduction of immigrants would so largely benefit the country, that no loan would be requisite or necessary. The Colonial Secretary proposed that the government should have the exclusive privilege of buying up the land orders. He did not see, however, why any such monopoly should be permitted. It had been said that Mr. Jordan had induced many persons to sign a declaration giving up their second land orders. If he had done so, he had directly violated the law, which commanded that such orders should be issued. It appeared to him that the reason why immigrants had failed to obtain full value for their land orders, was in consequence of the neglect of the government in delaying to mark off convenient allotments in the reserves. Because they could not get convenient lots, they were obliged to sell their orders at a price very much under their value. He would be sorry if the head of the government would do anything in the way of thwarting the operations of the committee that had been appointed, and concluded with expressing a wish that the resolutions would be withdrawn.

Mr. BLAKENEY had listened with attention to the statement that had been made, with his usual clearness and precision, by the Colonial Secretary; but he saw no small amount of sophistry in the arguments he adduced. He expressed his high opinion of the ability of the hon. member, and his appreciation of the excellency of his administration; yet with many of his proposals he could not concur. He did not understand why orders had been given for the stoppage of the operations of the Queensland Society. He hoped the hon. member possessed the authority of a minute of the executive for the step he had taken in this matter. He perfectly understood the position taken by the Colonial Secretary, however. It was merely an echo of the old cry, "No Irish need apply." He denounced class legislation, and asked if Irishmen were spirited enough to originate a society for the promotion of emigration from home, why they should be thwarted by the Colonial Secretary. It appeared to him that a monopoly had been given to Messrs. Baines and Co., who were evidently the pet firm of Mr. Jordan. The system of monopoly had been established before in Sydney, and had been found to work unsatisfactorily; he hoped therefore it would be abandoned here. One further remark he would make with reference to the apportionment of emigrants to the respective kingdoms. In Victoria a large sum was voted for assisted immigration on the apportionment principle, but it was found that neither the English nor Scotch took advantage of it. Was it therefore to follow that the enterprising Irish, who were anxious and willing to pay their full share for the immigration of their friends should be denied participation in the advantages of the Act, over and above their own allotted amount? He thought it a great stretch of authority on the part of the Colonial Secretary, to order the stoppage of immigration by the Queensland Society, and with a view to a full solution of the difficulty, he advised the postponement for a month of the question under consideration.

Mr. JONES had from the first deprecated discussion of this question until the committee that had been appointed had heard evidence, and arrived at a conclusion. He thought the Colonial Secretary acted wrongly in challenging debate just then. The committee was appointed simply because the house was unwilling to leave the issuing of emigration regulations to the mere caprice of the government, and desired that the whole matter should rest on a satisfactory basis. As he had to confer with his colleagues in committee he would refrain from proceeding further in the discussion of the question, but would content himself with requesting the Colonial Secretary to come forward and postpone the discussion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY would be sorry indeed to interrupt so able a speech as that upon which the hon. member had entered. He would like to hear a little more before he adopted the valuable suggestion of the hon. member.

Mr. JONES, resuming, said he understood by the resolutions of the Colonial Secretary that it was proposed that no one should enter the colony without the special sanction of Mr. Jordan, that any one who was to be favored with a land order must come out stamped, sealed, and marked as eligible by their immigration agent at home. He objected altogether to such a proposal as that. He objected further to the proposal to give land orders to first and second class passengers only, and to refuse them to steerage immigrants.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY explained that he merely proposed with regard to the second order for twelve pounds, that as first and second class passengers would be more likely to settle on the land they only should have the second order allotted to them.

Mr. JONES, continuing, said he thought no restriction should be made, and that the benefits of the system should be equally extended to all. He thought poor and rich should be protected together; and that instead of two systems, the £12 order should be dispensed with altogether, and an order of the value of £20 presented to each immigrant immediately on his arrival. He objected, also, to people coming out from home at their own cost being subjected to the inspection of Mr. Jordan. Coming to the last resolution, he thought there was an objection to be met that would prove overwhelming. In dealing with the revenue, they were voting the money of English, Irish, and Scotch together, of whom the two last named formed the majority. Were they, therefore, to consider the population of the three kingdoms without considering the elements of their own, and regard three Englishmen in the same light as half an Irishman or Scotchman respectively? But there was a stronger objection to the resolution. Its effect was to exclude German immigrants altogether, for what countryman of theirs would bring out a German

immigrant in preference to an Englishman, an Irishman, or a Scotchman. He hoped that in stating so much as he did he would not be understood as entering on his duties, as a committee man, with a prejudiced mind, or that he would be incapable of giving an impartial verdict.

Mr. LILLEY, as one of the committee, would not then express a deliberate opinion or commit himself in any way. He thought, however, that the resolutions proposed by the Colonial Secretary might be viewed in the light of a weather-cock, that was to test the opinion of the house, and show him which way the wind blew. He could say this much, however, that the appointment of the committee on the previous day had been fully justified by the present debate, notwithstanding the avowal by the hon. member for Maranoa of his general disbelief in the utility of Committees Enquiry at all.

Mr. CRIBB could not allow the question to pass without expressing his opinion upon it. He complimented the Colonial Secretary upon his able address, and the temperate and highly satisfactory character of his explanation. It was quite possible, however, that gentleman who were totally unacquainted with commercial matters, were equally incapable of considering the real commercial merits of the question, or of regarding it in a business manner. The government and the country received great benefit from the introduction of population; but he held, as long as the prohibitory regulations existed, the immigrants could not receive their full share in the profits intended to be conferred on them by the act. He would ask the Colonial Secretary whose fault it was that the immigrants did not receive the full value of their land orders? Were the middle men to be blamed, or the government that had made the orders not available for six months? A transferable order immediately negotiable would yield the immigrant £14; but one not transferable for six months would not be worth in the market more than £6. He trusted the government would recognise their own share in the business, and the effect their regulations had in bringing about this depreciation of the value of the orders. With regard to borrowing money for immigration purposes, he hoped the house would never consent to burden the country with a loan, when they could obtain more, and better immigrants, under the old system without it. He objected to the granting of land orders to first and second class passengers, and denying them to those who came out in the steerage. Rich and poor should be regarded alike, neither should any distinction be made between Roman Catholics and Protestants, or British subjects and Germans. He objected to the plan of making brokers of the government. Being generally unacquainted with business matters, they usually either paid too dearly for their whistle, or made a botch of their trade. He defended the appointment of Mr. Parkes and Mr. Dally, as Emigration Commissioners for New South Wales. They were men of vastly superior talent to Mr. Jordan but they had not such advantages as were enjoyed by him. He had the talisman of the land order system, and could offer £30, while they had nothing to recommend their scheme. Their cases were very different, and should not be invidiously compared. It was certainly clear that men who had shown their industry by saving £8, in order to pay their passage out were better as a class than those who had saved nothing at all. But it was clearer that those who had saved £18 were better than those who had saved either £8 or nothing. He would therefore desire to see the system carried out as it was originally proposed, and give to every man who could pay his own passage out a free order for his money. He considered that the government proposed to take too much responsibility into their own hands. If they left the system to itself the colony would derive the greatest benefit in the voluntary immigration of the best and most useful classes of men at the cheapest cost to the country. Mr. Blakeney had said a great deal about class legislation, and the due apportionment of the emigrants according to the population of the countries whence they were selected. He thought the hon. member would have done wisely had he refrained altogether from touching on this point. If two-thirds of the immigrants were apportioned to Ireland the hon. member would have been content; but as soon as a just apportionment was proposed he made an outcry on patriotic grounds against the injustice of the proposal. What was it to the country whether emigrants came from England, Scotland, or Germany? In the colony they were known only as Queenslanders and fellow-citizens; and he therefore deprecated any reference to individual countries.

After a few remarks from Dr. CHALLINOR and Mr. FERRETT,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, with permission of the house, withdrew his resolutions, reserving to himself the right of introducing them again should the report of the committee be not forthcoming before the end of three weeks.

The house was then adjourned by the SPEAKER at six o'clock p.m. till seven o'clock.

PUBLICANS' BILL.

Mr. MACALISTER, in rising to move the second reading of this bill, explained that altogether it was a mere matter of detail which might be very appropriately considered in committee. Still as the bill affected a very large and influential class of our fellow colonists—the licensed victuallers—he hoped that the measure would be duly considered by the house, and the important interests involved fairly and respectfully appreciated. Although it might be true, as advocated by many moralists, that licensed houses for the sale of spiritous liquors were unnecessary; yet the fact remained that these houses were still in lawful existence, and it, consequently, became the duty of the legislature to pass such a law as might be likely to effect an improvement in their regulation; and also, to protect the parties lawfully engaged in the trade. He was aware that the publicans under the present act suffered many grievances, and it was with a view to redressing those grievances and placing the publicans' licensing system on a more equitable footing that he introduced the present bill. The hon. gentleman then went into an explanation of the several leading clauses contained in the bill, pointing out that no application for a licence could be refused under the present bill on the mere information of a constable given at the last moment. He also showed that the same facility would be granted to new applicants, who under the existing act might go to very great expense in building and furnishing houses, and yet suffer a material deterioration of property in consequence of delay or refusal in reference to the granting of the licenses. The penalties proposed were large, but, as would be seen from the provisions of the bill, the sole object of the government was to protect both the publican and the public. In reference to the 16th clause, disqualifying certain justices from sitting in cases of applications for publicans' licenses, he explained that the object was to prevent not only wholesale dealers in spirits, but also owners of publichouses who might be magistrates, from taking any part in proceedings touching publicans' licenses in which they might be directly or indirectly interested. He thought the provision was a good one; if a magistrate were to be disqualified for sitting in a selling case in which he was interested, why not be disqualified for acting in a case in which he might be otherwise interested, affecting as it did the act itself. The hon. gentleman then pointed out that in case of a landlord dying the widow would be entitled to claim the licence privilege, which was not the case under the present act. With regard to the clause having reference to music or dancing in public-houses, he confessed that his own opinion on the matter was very doubtful, and that in committee he would be prepared to receive any amendments that might be offered. In fact, if the feeling of the house were against this provision, he should have no objection to its expungment altogether. The hon. gentleman concluded by drawing attention to the 44th clause, touching the circumstances under which constables could affect licensed victuallers, and pointing out the advantages to be gained by the new act in comparison with the old one. He admitted, however, that the bill might be susceptible of improvement in committee, and he was prepared to receive and endorse any suggestions of improvements that might be for the better.

Mr. BLAKENEY was glad the bill had been introduced by the government, and he also agreed with the mover that it affected a large and influential class of people—the publicans throughout the colony. From this source alone he found that the yield of revenue during the past year amounted to more than £4000. In dealing with this matter he had closely studied the provisions of the bill, which he found to be in substance nearly equal to those adopted in New South Wales and elsewhere. He objected, however, to the provision with regard to billiards, &c., on the ground that it would be unjust to those who had incurred a very large amount of expense, in some instances over £100, in providing billiard tables, to forego their right to the use of them and the advantages arising thereby.

Mr. GROOM agreed generally with the arguments of Mr. Blakeney, and also with those of the Minister of Lands and Works. At the same time he thought a distinction ought to be made in favor of road side inns. He believed that a fifteen pounds license for such public houses would be

quite equal to a thirty pounds license in the metropolis. He objected further to the funds being devoted exclusively to the Brisbane Hospital, seeing that there were kindred institutions in the interior which required similar aid.

Mr. FORBES agreed with the bill in so far that it was likely to do away with a monopoly by reducing the license fees—which he believed would result eventually in an increase of the revenue instead of decrease. The hon. gentleman then referred to a bill which he had introduced during the last session, the free trade principles of which he still adhered to. Touching the bill under consideration he was in favor of a reduction of the license fee for publicans occupying road side inns.

After a few remarks from Messrs. CHALLINOR, WARRY, and FERRETT, the motion was put and passed, and the bill having been read a second time, the committal was fixed for Thursday next.

ABSENCE OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. RAFF moved—1. That the departure of the Honorable the Colonial Secretary for a period of eight months from the colony, without the sanction of the Parliament, was contrary to the spirit and practice of responsible government. 2. That the house desires to record its disapproval of this act, in order to prevent the same becoming a precedent, which might, at some future period, endanger the interests of the colony. It was not necessary for him to say much in submitting these motions to the house, as it would be apparent to every member why he wished to have the resolutions carried—it was for the purposes of record, and by that record to show the feeling of the house—that they would not allow such an act of absence to be made a precedent. The course now taken was doubtless understood by the honorable the Colonial Secretary himself, as well as by the members of the house; it would be a waste of time, therefore, to enter into any discussion on the matter. If there were any question of censure, he would leave it to other hon. members; as for himself, he had none to put into the resolutions, and could not indeed see that any discussion would be necessary or desirable in thus placing that matter on record. The hon. the Colonial Secretary might think himself fortunate in there being no factious opposition to the quiet passing of these resolutions.

Mr. WARRY was satisfied with the explanation already given.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY explained himself much to the same effect as on a former occasion.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN proposed an amendment, to the effect that the Colonial Secretary's absence was a violation of Parliamentary usage to the extent of rendering his seat vacant.

The amendment was not seconded, and the original motion was carried.

PUNTS ON THE CONDAMINE.

Mr. FORBES moved,—That an address be presented to the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause a sum of money to be placed on the estimates for 1864, for the construction of three punts; one to be placed on the river Condamine, at Greenbank, near Dalby; one to be placed on the river Condamine, at the township of Condamine; and one to be placed on the Balonne River, at the crossing place. He need hardly point out the necessity for these punts—drays were being delayed continually at the Condamine, and as bridges were more expensive he anticipated no trouble in obtaining a sufficient sum to be placed on the estimates for the purpose of constructing punts.

The SPEAKER pointed out that the motion at that time was altogether out of order, and

Mr. FORBES withdrew it until some future time.

The house, on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, at twenty-seven minutes to nine, adjourned until ten o'clock a.m. this day.