

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

...
Legislative Council
14th May 1863

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 15th May 1863

The PRESIDENT took the chair at three o'clock, p.m., and read the usual form of prayer.

LOAN FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

Dr. HOBBS, pursuant to notice, asked the Attorney-General—If it be the intention of the government to introduce a bill during the present session of Parliament, to empower them to raise a loan for railways and other public works?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied by quoting from the Governor's opening address as follows:—"It would be unjust, even if it were possible, to provide out of the current revenue for permanent and reproductive works calculated to confer lasting benefits on future generations. It will, therefore, be proposed to you to authorise the raising of a loan to the extent which the completion of these undertakings may, in my opinion, render necessary." He also stated, that in accordance with the above programme, the works referred to would be provided for by loan.

BLANKETS FOR THE BLACKS.

In answer to a question put by Mr. BIGGE, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that the blankets for the blacks would be ready to-morrow (this day).

NEW ELECTORAL BILL.

Dr. HOBBS asked the Attorney-General when it is the intention of the government to introduce a New Electoral Bill to provide for the representation of the whole colony.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said, in reply, the government does not consider it desirable to go into the question of the representation of the whole of the colony until the districts at present unrepresented should be placed in a position to have a voice in the matter.

SCAB AND OTHER DISEASES IN SHEEP BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the adoption of the report agreed to on the Scab Prevention Bill in committee.

After a short discussion, in which several hon. members joined, the purport of which was to the effect that all money collected under this act should be specially appropriated to the purposes of the act. The report was adopted, and the third reading of the bill made an order of the day for Wednesday next.

JURY BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of this bill. It was simply, he said, a consolidation bill to amalgamate provisions at present contained in several acts, which were, only in some of their details, applicable to the circumstances of the colony.

The motion having been seconded,

Dr. HOBBS confessed that he had not an opportunity of considering particularly the details of the measure, and therefore could not be supposed to understand it. As the Attorney-General

had offered to give any information that might be required with reference to the several clauses, he would ask that gentleman whether there was any provision made in the bill for preventing persons who had become bail for prisoners from sitting on the jury in adjudicating their cases. He had been credibly informed, that on a recent occasion a criminal case, in which the government were the prosecutors, had been lost in consequence of the influence used as members of the jury of two persons who had previously become bailees for the prisoner. The practice of permitting such procedure was apparently objectionable, and he would like to be assured that there was some provision in the bill against it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said, in reply, that there was no such provision in the bill, and he was only surprised that any honorable member could consider it necessary. Jurors were sworn to do their duty, and whether they had become responsibilities as sureties for prisoners or not, they were equally eligible as jurors. He denied the fact, that in the recent case referred to by the hon. member, the sureties had sat as jurors to try the prisoner. He did not know how information had been conveyed to him respecting the deliberations of the jury; but of this he was assured, that the hon. member had not derived his information from an authentic source.

The bill was then read a second time.

LIENS ON CROPS BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, with a few prefatory remarks, in the course of which he explained the principles of the bill, moved its second reading.

Mr. FITZ said he saw no necessity in the present circumstances of the colony for the protection of and interest which did not really exist, or which was only about to develop itself. He would not oppose the second reading, although he thought that as there was yet no agricultural interest in the colony to foster, the time of the house might be much better expended in protecting other measures of present and more vital importance.

Dr. HOBBS defended the agricultural interest as a reality, and could not allow it to be coolly regarded as a myth. The gentleman who had last spoken had only made his appearance in civilized society from his sojourn in the bush, and he was therefore excusable for the ignorance he had displayed in asserting that the colony of Queensland had no agricultural interests of any importance to protect.

The motion was put and passed.

The house then adjourned at a quarter-past four o'clock until Wednesday next, at three o'clock.