

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

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**Legislative Assembly
Opening of Parliament
21st July 1863**

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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 22nd July 1863

The house was opened at noon, by the CLERK reading the proclamation which had been issued for that purpose by his Excellency the Governor. Shortly afterwards the Usher of the Black Rod made his appearance, and announced the desire of the three Commissioners who were appointed by the Governor that the members of the Assembly should proceed to the Council Chamber. In accordance with that request the members present proceeded to the Upper Chamber, when the Clerk of Parliaments was called upon by the PRESIDENT to read the commission and proclamation authorising himself and the other Commissioners, the hon. D. F. Roberts and the hon. John Bramston, to open the parliament. This having been done, the members of the Assembly retired to their own chamber to elect their Speaker. There were twenty-two members present, all of whom were sworn in as follows:—The hon. R. G. W. Herbert, the hon. T. de L. Moffatt, the hon. R. Pring, the hon. Arthur Macalister, and Messrs. Raff, Pugh, Blakeney, Stephens, Lilley, Douglas, Elliott, Edmondstone, Warry, Groom, Bell, Mackenzie, Sandeman, Coxen, Wienholt, Royds, Challinor, and Cribb.

The house then proceeded to the

ELECTION OF A SPEAKER.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the first duty he was called upon to perform was to propose a gentleman as Speaker, and he therefore rose with the intention of proposing that Mr. Gilbert Elliott be chosen by that house to fill the office. He did not make the proposal on account of the gentleman named being a supporter of the government; on the contrary, it was well known that they did not agree on many questions of policy; but, however much the various sections of the house might differ in their opinions on other matters, he believed that Mr. Elliott had succeeded in obtaining the respect of all. He was not presented to the house as an untried man—inasmuch as he was a man of high character, and had for many years past possessed a stainless reputation. (Hear, hear.) His election to the high and honorable office of Speaker to that Assembly would, he (the Colonial Secretary) believed, reflect well upon the members of the house. There was no doubt but that, from the very great ability displayed by Mr. Elliott during the previous sessions of parliament in presiding over the deliberations of that house, his election on the present occasion would be regarded with much satisfaction by the hon. members of that house and the colony generally. (Hear, hear.) He had much pleasure in proposing that Mr. Gilbert Elliott be elected Speaker.

Mr. RAFF said: Mr. Bernays—I have, Sir, very much pleasure in seconding the motion which has just been put to the house by the hon. member at the head of the government; that Gilbert Elliott, Esq., the hon. member for the Burnett, do take the chair of this house. As the first parliament of Queensland had so much, and such very important work to perform, and as the duties of representatives were entirely new to most of the members of the Assembly, it was a matter of the greatest consequence that a gentleman should be found to preside over its deliberations well qualified in every respect to perform the duties of Speaker—duties of great importance under any circumstances, but doubly so under the circumstances existing at the time of the election of Mr. Gilbert Elliott to that office. It was, indeed, fortunate for the members of the

Assembly, and fortunate for the country, that a gentleman was chosen possessing in so eminent a degree the qualifications necessary for such an office. It must be admitted by every member of this house that the gentleman referred to possessed the knowledge, the experience, the talent, the industry, the firmness, and the urbanity of manner necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the office. The gentleman who has hitherto filled the chair, and who, I hope, will long have the health and the ability to fill the chair, not only possesses those qualifications, but—it must be a matter of congratulation to every member of this house to know—he is as much esteemed in private as he is honored and respected in his public capacity. (Hear, hear.) I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

After a pause, during which “Mr. Elliott” was called by the Colonial Secretary and other hon. members,

Mr. ELIOTT (who occupied the last seat on the cross-benches on the opposition side of the chamber) rose and said: Mr. Bernays—it is, Sir, with feelings of deep gratitude that I rise to return my most sincere thanks to hon. members for the high honor they now propose to confer upon me by placing me for the second time in the honorable position of the Speaker of this house. To my hon. friends who have proposed and seconded me on this occasion my thanks are specially due for the complimentary terms in which they have mentioned my conduct during the four sessions I had the honor of presiding in this house. But, Sir, far be it from me to take the credit to myself which my honorable friends have so kindly awarded me; for no one knows better than I do that whatever success has attended my exertions as Speaker of this house has been mainly due to the forbearance and consideration of hon. members of this house, to whom I must feel always indebted for the support they gave me in the preservation of the honor and decorum which it is so necessary should be observed in all deliberative assemblies. (Hear, hear.) In this parliament we are now entering, I venture to hope it will be the constant aim of all, in our respective relations as members and Speaker, to endeavour to maintain the high character for gentlemanly conduct in all its proceedings, which, I think, this house has so justly earned for itself. (Hear, hear.) And I am sure it will be apparent to all hon. members that they should conduct themselves in debate, however animated and warm they may become, without having recourse to any unbecoming language which gentlemen ought not to use to each other. (Hear, hear.) And it must be ever remembered that any improper language used by any hon. member to another, is not only an offence against that hon. member to whom it is addressed, but is so in a much greater degree to the house itself, and, as such, must be taken notice of and treated accordingly. Happily, Sir, however, we are strangers to anything of that kind; and I think I may safely say that in no legislature in all the Australian colonies has there been so little cause for the interference of the Speaker as in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland; and, judging of the future by the past, and in looking around this house, I think we have much good ground to hope that such will still be the case. And in this parliament we are now entering, I believe that we will go on so to the end, and be able to look back with the same satisfaction that we do to that which preceded it. (Hear, hear.) With these remarks, I beg to submit myself to the house. (Cheers.)

The colonial secretary and Mr. Raff then conducted Mr. Elliott, amid the cheers of hon. members, to the chair, proceeding up the ministerial side of the chamber.

The SPEAKER, who remained standing on the dais at the right hand of the chair, said: Before taking the chair, it now becomes my duty to return my grateful thanks to hon. members for having again done me the honor to elect me as Speaker of the house, and to express the sincere obligations I feel for this proof of its confidence. And I trust that an earnest desire on my part to discharge impartially and faithfully the responsible and important duties that now devolve upon me, will meet with the indulgence as well as the support and co-operation which I have ever received from hon. members. (Hear, hear.)

The MINISTER for LANDS and WORKS rose and said: Mr. Speaker—As a member of the government I have the greatest pleasure in congratulating you upon the high and distinguished honor to which you have for the second time been elected; and it only remains for me to state that his Excellency the Governor will receive this house to-morrow, in order that you may be presented to his Excellency, at eleven o'clock, at Government House. And, in order that the

house may be able to attend to this invitation, I now move that this house do adjourn until half-past 10 o'clock to-morrow.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion.

The SPEAKER said: Before we separate I would remind hon. members that it is absolutely necessary that we should have a quorum to-morrow, and that they be punctual in their attendance.

The motion was then put and passed, and the house accordingly adjourned at ten minutes to one o'clock.