

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
22nd July 1863**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 23rd July 1863

The SPEAKER took the chair at a quarter to eleven o'clock.

ADJOURNMENT TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said: I have to inform you, Sir, and the house, that his Excellency the Governor will come down to the Legislative Council chambers at 12 o'clock this day, to open parliament; and I have now to move that this house do adjourn to Government House for the purpose of presenting the Speaker to his Excellency.

The SPEAKER, before putting the question, said that after his return from Government House he would resume the chair at a quarter to twelve o'clock.

Dr. CHALLINOR wished to know whether sufficient time would be allowed to those members who would go to Government House on foot?—because on the previous occasion he took the trouble to go down on foot, and he found that everything was at an end before he arrived. (Laughter, and hear, hear.)

The question was then put and the house adjourned accordingly.

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At ten minutes to twelve o'clock the Speaker resumed the chair.

PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER TO THE GOVERNOR.

The SPEAKER rose and said: I have the honor to report that the Assembly have been to Government House, and have there informed the Governor that it has been thought courteous to acquaint his Excellency, that the Legislative Assembly have, in the exercise of their undoubted right, elected their Speaker, and to present him for his Excellency's approbation as the member chosen by the Assembly for the second time for that high and honorable office. And his Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

"Mr. Speaker,—I approve, on behalf of the Crown, the choice which the Assembly has made in your person. It is with great satisfaction that I, for the second time, receive you as Speaker, and congratulate you on the distinguished position in which the confidence of the house has again placed you.

"G. F. BOWEN."

After which, on behalf of the house, I laid claim to all their undoubted rights and privileges, and requested that the most favorable construction might, on all occasions, be put upon their proceedings. Thereto his Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

"Mr. Speaker—I further acknowledge and recognise, on the part of the Crown, all the lawful rights and privileges claimed by the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

"G. F. BOWEN."

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The USHER of the BLACK ROD was introduced, and making due obeisance, delivered the following message: Mr. Speaker—I have to acquaint you that it is his Excellency the Governor's pleasure that this honorable house do attend his Excellency immediately in the Legislative Council chambers.

The SPEAKER then left the chair and, accompanied by hon. members and the officers of the house, proceeded to the Council chamber, where his Excellency the Governor read the "opening speech." After which hon. members of the Assembly returned to their own chamber.

COMMITTEE OF ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS.

The SPEAKER appointed the following hon. members to be the committee of elections and qualifications for the present session:—Charles Coxen, Esq.; Charles Lilley, Esq.; George Raff, Esq.; Charles James Royds, Esq.; Henry Challinor, Esq.; Robert Ramsay Mackenzie, Esq.; and John Donald Maclean, Esq.

The house adjourned till a quarter-past three o'clock, and resumed at that hour.

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATHS.

The SPEAKER reported that his Excellency the Governor has been pleased to issue a commission, under the Great Seal of the colony, empowering him to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to such members as may hereafter present themselves to be sworn, which commission was then read by the Clerk.

PETITION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command, laid upon the table a petition from William Brookes, of Brisbane, praying that the recent election for the electorate of East Moreton may be declared null and void.

Ordered to lie on the table.

PAPER.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table certain *Regulae Generales* of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

RAILWAYS.

Mr. DOUGLAS presented a petition from certain landed proprietors, pastoral tenants of the crown, merchants, and others, urging upon the house that they should not entertain any project for the construction of railways, until a further degree of representation has been awarded to the Northern districts; or, in the event of any scheme of railways being adopted, that a line from Rockhampton to Peak Downs may be proceeded with, mile for mile, with the proposed line from Ipswich to Dalby.

Petition received.

GERMAN IMMIGRATION AGENT.

Mr. GROOM presented a petition from certain German freeholders and residents of Toowoomba and Drayton, praying for the appointment of an agent in Germany, to propose emigration thence to Queensland.

Petition received.

LIENS ON YEARLY CROPS BILL.

The MINISTER for LANDS moved that this bill be read a first time; that it be printed, and that the second reading stand an order of the day for Thursday week.

Carried.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER reported that the house had this day attended his Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council chamber, when his Excellency delivered an opening speech to both houses of parliament, of which, for greater accuracy, he had obtained a copy, which he then read to the house at length.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. WEINHOLT rose and moved—"That a select committee be appointed to prepare an address in reply to the speech of his Excellency the Governor at the opening of parliament; and that such committee consist of Mr. Herbert, Mr. Pring, Mr. Macalister, Mr. Moffatt, Dr. Challinor, and the mover."

Dr. CHALLINOR seconded the motion.

The question was put and agreed to.

The committee retired, and, after a short absence, returned to the house with the address, which was read by the Clerk, as follows:—

"To His Excellency Sir GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

"We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, desire to express to your Excellency our affection and loyalty to the person and government of our most gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session.

"The important measures which have been announced to us by your Excellency shall receive our earnest attention, and it will be our endeavor to promote the welfare of the colony as a whole, without overlooking the special requirements of the several districts. We fully concur in the opinion that the present main roads throughout the colony should be replaced by inexpensive railways, so soon as the population and produce of each district will warrant the construction of such works.

"We receive with satisfaction your Excellency's announcement that the Estimates for the coming year have been framed with that economy which we are bound to observe, and we shall cheerfully vote such supplies as may be necessary to secure efficiency in the various branches of the public service.

"In conclusion, we cordially reciprocate your Excellency's hope that our legislation may not be unproductive of permanent good to the community, and that the second Parliament of Queensland may be found to have contributed its share of that Colonial prosperity for which we have so much reason to be thankful."

Mr. WEINHOLT then moved—"That the address in reply to his Excellency's opening speech, as read by the Clerk, be now adopted by this house." He said that having been applied to at the eleventh hour to move the address, he felt some reluctance in doing so. (Hear, hear, from Mr. Herbert.) But persuaded by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary—(hear, hear)—to do so, as he was the junior member—(hear, hear, and laughter)—he now came forward to propose this motion; not, however, as a government candidate—as he did not at all identify himself with the government, and should be exceedingly sorry to do so. ("Don't," and "Hear, hear.") He had been returned by a constituency, and he considered it his duty, and the duty of all other hon. members, to adhere to that constituency; and to do as much as he possibly could for the benefit of Queensland at large. (Hear, hear.) He had no hesitation in saying that they would never see him side with the government unless their opinions coincided with his own. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. Blakeney.) Nor would he coincide with any factious opposition against the government that might be in. (Laughter, and "Hear, hear.") His Excellency the Governor mentioned that no delay had been caused in bringing forward this second parliament. They were all aware that no delay had

been caused, and that it could not have been accelerated. His Excellency also stated that owing to the late period of the year there would not be many measures submitted for their consideration. He (Mr. Wienholt) only hoped and trusted that such might be the case. Many members of the house were squatters, and at this particular season of the year—or, a short time from this, say, in another six weeks—it was absolutely desirable that they should be attending to their own profits. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, if it was necessary that they should attend to the duties of the house, they would consider it their duty to do so at the greatest inconvenience. (Hear, hear.) It appeared that the bill upon which the late parliament was dissolved was the Railway Bill. (“No, no,” from the opposition, and “Hear, hear,” from the ministerial side.) It was that bill. At all events, he could safely state that it was the opinion of the country that it was on that bill (hear, hear); and the country generally appeared to be exceedingly delighted that parliament was dissolved on such a bill, and was exceedingly annoyed at the opposition—(laughter)—more especially as people considered it a factious opposition. (Laughter, and “Hear, hear.”) It was unnecessary for him to make any allusion regarding the first portion of the Speech. They were told that—“First among the proposed enactments is a bill to authorise the construction of a light but permanent railway through those populous and long-settled districts from which much the largest portion of our revenue is derived. The report and estimates of an engineer, who has successfully executed similar works in a neighboring colony, will serve to prove the feasibility of this undertaking at a moderate cost; and the great saving in public and private expenditure that will result from its completion. A paper will also be laid before you showing the contributions of the several districts to the revenue of the past year, and the amount of public expenditure to which each of them should consequently be held entitled. For the proposed railway, being in the strictest sense a reproductive work, you will be invited to make provision by way of loan.”—There was no question that if we had a railroad at all we must have a loan for the purpose, and a loan to a large amount. (“Hear, hear,” from Mr. Macalister). He did not believe we should find any difficult in obtaining the loan from England. At present there was plenty of money in Great Britain which could be borrowed at a very low rate of interest—four or five per cent. If we could only give proper security for the investment of that money in our railway, the people at home would be only too glad to give us that money. He could say for one thing, that he disapproved of—paying the interest on the loan and the principal likewise. Now, he would have very great objection to paying any portion of that principal—we should confine ourselves to paying the interest of it. He believed that if we could explain to the people at home our position, they would give us all the money we would require; he would not say any fabulous amount of money, but a sufficient amount to enable us to construct the railways that were now required. He need not point out the advantages that attached to railways, but would state that common sense must tell all the necessity for having them. How was it that England was intersected and subdivided by railways in every direction?—and the continent of Europe? See what railways they had, and what immense tracts they went over, not only in Europe, but in America! The railways of Asia (a laugh), and of Africa (laughter), and the railways of the whole four quarters of the globe! (Continued laughter.) Then, not only in the four quarters of the globe, but in the fifth—Australia. (Renewed laughter.) Take the Australian colonies. Look at Victoria—how they were forming railways in Victoria. Look how they were forming railways in New South Wales and in South Australia. (Hear, hear.) Did the house think that they would have railways in other colonies if it was not necessary to have them? (Hear, hear.) Then, why should we be behind? We had as good a position as any of the sister colonies. He believed that we had a good position—a better position at home than any other of the British colonies. Why then should we be behind-hand with those necessary improvements? Take it in another light—the expense of roads. He had no doubt that Victoria had found out that a mistake had been made in having those large macadamised roads, which, no doubt, cost nearly as much as railroads. They made roads, and after making good macadamised roads they made railroads. We had their experience before us, and he trusted and hoped that we would make our railroads before we attempted to do anything with macadamised roads. (Hear, hear.) There was only one difficulty that he saw attaching to the railways: that was the Main Range; so soon as we got a railway over the Main Range it was all easy and simple. The railway would then, he hoped, be put forward to Warwick. Warwick was the granery of Queensland. (Hear, hear.) It was the centre of an agricultural district which was daily increasing. Not only could we obtain the produce from Warwick—the wheat and flour, and all other agricultural produce—but by making a railroad to

Warwick, we should obtain a large portion of the New England produce, which would come down and be shipped at Brisbane. No doubt the New South Wales government saw those things. And he saw by yesterday's paper that an additional £1,000,000 was to be spent for the extension of railways in that colony. Was it likely that the other colonies would go into such expenses for railways if they did not answer? If this colony was to be behind-hand, let there be no railways. Therefore, he repeated again that the government went out upon the most glorious bill possible. (Ironical cheers.) And he had no hesitation in saying that the government came forward now much stronger than they went out. ("Oh, oh," cheers, and laughter.) The hon. member expressed his regret that the hon. member for Port Curtis had brought forward a petition against railways; but he did not blame him, for the petition emanated from his constituents. The railway must have a commencement; and it should be in the older places, where there was most traffic. He was quite sure, from what he had heard from the Colonial Secretary that the Northern districts would not be in any way neglected. (Laughter.) The people of the North did not give the money with which the first railway was proposed to be constructed; and they were not wanted to pay for it. The people of the Southern and Western districts had spent money. He instanced the Darling Downs, where Messrs. Marshall and Deuchar had spent £20,000, and Messrs. M'Lean and Beit £15,000. What had the North expended? —not £20,000 altogether. Therefore he hoped the Northern people would not object to the Southern people having the first railway. The government would extend the railway, which would ultimately reach Rockhampton, and, in the course of time, beyond Rockhampton. He believed it was usual to take the census every five years; and that next year would be the expiration of the five years. (No, no.) He might be mistaken—(a laugh)—perhaps he was ignorant of the thing. (Hear, hear.) The Electoral Act should not be at all interfered with until a new census was taken. If anything was then to be done he believed that a few additional members would be required to the North. Whether the electoral law would be carried out or not he did not know; but he believed it would not be interfered with in any other respect. The Impounding Act required great modification. He should be in favor of one by which the squatters who impounded the cattle of the people of the interior towns, should obtain nothing beyond driving expenses; and that these should be brought before the bench of magistrates; and that the damages should go to some charitable institution. (Hear, hear.) The Quarantine Act he certainly did not know much about; but he should be sorry to see any of his unfortunate brethren kept down in the Bay too long, and still more sorry to see any disease introduced amongst us. The Scab Act would, no doubt, be dealt with properly. With regard to the Supreme Court Act, he was not so presumptuous as to have anything to do with it. An Occupation of Crown Lands Act would be introduced. Nothing could be fairer than occupation, to establish a claim to pastoral lands. Any person taking up new country and stocking it, should, after a certain time, be entitled to hold it. The Lien on Crops Bill was an exceeding good one, especially for his constituents; it would just suit. (Hear, hear.) He should do as much as he could for them, without being an obstruction. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) There was a surplus of the revenue; he was very glad to see that. (Laughter, and hear, hear.) He believed it was the intention of the government to carry the telegraph up to Rockhampton, which would be very beneficial for the people of the North and for the South likewise. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. Herbert.) He thought he had gone through most of the items of the address. In moving the address he did not come forward on the part of the government in any way. Certainly the government did ask him to move the address—certainly he had been a very strong supporter of the government as far as he had seen; he had mentioned it before his constituents, and he lost no opportunity of stating it. (Hear, hear.) It was the opinion of a great many persons that if the house had not the talent and ability of the hon. the Colonial Secretary, the parliament would not have been so successful as it had been. The success of the first parliament was, he thought greatly owing to that gentleman—(hear, hear),—and the hon. the Secretary of Lands and Works. (Cheers, and counter cheers, and prolonged laughter.) Well, he did not think they would get so good a one in the opposition. The reason why Queensland attained her present high position was because the government worked so well together. He compared her with advantage to the other and older colonies. If any factious opposition should be carried on we should lose our high reputation that we had at home. He believed in an opposition, but a wholesome and good opposition. (Hear, hear.) And he had no hesitation in saying that if there were any measures of the government that he did not consider right he should join the opposition. (Hear, hear.) But he firmly believed in the present ministry. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. CHALLINOR seconded the motion, and in doing so, stated that it was not at all necessary that he should make any very lengthy observations in support of the address. However, he was desirous of saying a few words on one or two points. And, first, with regard to the railway policy of the government. As he had voted for the second reading of the Railway Bill in the past session, it could not but be that he heartily approved of the policy of the government in bringing forward prominently a similar measure in the present session. As to the desirability of railways, he did not think there could be a doubt; and, indeed, when he referred to the election speeches of the ministerial opponents, he found that almost to a man they approved of railways, and that where there was a difference of opinion, it was only as to the time when and the place where the railway should be commenced. (Hear, hear.) For himself, he did not think that the time had arrived when the construction of railways in the Northern districts was requisite and absolutely called for. And, in placing a sum of money on the estimates for a survey for the Northern districts, he did not think that the government had done all that the inhabitants of the Northern districts, or their representatives, could require at their hands. If the present agitation that we heard about, and read about, for separation of the Northern districts, should eventuate in their formation into a new colony, there was no fear that they would be debited with a portion of the cost of the construction of railways in the Southern districts;—because it was perfectly clear that this colony would not be debited with the cost of the railways made in New South Wales before separation, or of the sewerage of Sydney. With regard to electoral reform, he thought that the government had acted wisely in declining to take any steps in that matter until a new census was taken. For himself, he was quite willing that a longer time should be taken than the government proposed to take; because if we had not in name, we had in effect, universal suffrage. He begged to state that he was not now more conservative than he had ever been, and that his opinions were as much with the people as ever they were. He would not, he was sure excite surprise that he expressed his pleasure to see the government prepared to do away with the Native Police. (Hear, hear.) One other point he had to refer to. In the speech of his Excellency the Governor, in that part referring to a loan, it was merely mentioned that it was for harbors. He found, however, in conversation with members of the government, that there was an omission, as in the estimates the loan was put down in specific sums, and that a part of it was for clearing "rivers and harbours." ("Hear, hear," from Mr. Moffatt.) In conclusion, the hon. member stated that he was prepared to give the government a liberal support, but that the circumstance of his seconding the address did not interfere with his independence as a representative to support measures, no matter whence they came, which he thought beneficial to the country at large; and he would act independently. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MACKENZIE said, before referring to the subject matter of the address, that it must be a source of regret to the supporters of the government, as it was to their opponents, that the hon. the Colonial Secretary still appeared to be subject to a baneful influence which led him totally to ignore all idea whatever of constitutional usage. Should he continue to do so there was no doubt but that such conduct would seriously affect his reputation. He referred most particularly to the indecent haste and unconstitutional mode of the late dissolution. The proper course would have been—if the government felt themselves defeated—to have resigned; and to give a chance to some members on the other side of the house to form a government. It was quite possible, as had been urged by one of the members of the government, that that Ministry might not have lasted a week. But that could not be considered to be an argument adverse to the adoption of the proper constitutional course, because if unable to carry on the business of the country, it would be the duty of the last formed ministry to advise his Excellency to dissolve the house. He (Mr. Mackenzie) remembered that during the first session, after the inauguration of responsible government in New South Wales, Mr. Donaldson, the then Premier, sustained a defeat, and advised the Governor to dissolve the house. Sir William Denison refused to do so, urging the desirability of giving the other side a chance of forming a ministry. Accordingly Mr. Cowper had formed a ministry, and not a very long time afterwards had appealed to the country. He (Mr. Mackenzie) must also remark upon the very discourteous manner in which Mr. Herbert had thought proper to dissolve the house. It was the custom in England, when a dissolution was contemplated that notice to that effect should be given, so that all business which might be on the paper not of a party nature, might be gone through previous to the dissolution. That custom had not been adopted here, and the consequence was that a very important measure—he referred to

the Scab Act—which in a day or two would have become the law of the land was left in abeyance until the present time. He would also mention the fact that the parliament had not been prorogued in a proper manner—it should have been prorogued by his Excellency in person; and as regarded the Upper House, he could state that in consequence of the absence of a quorum on the day of prorogation the Governor's proclamation had not been read at all in the Upper Chamber—therefore he believed he was right in expressing his belief that the Legislative Council had not been prorogued at all. Then there was the withdrawal of the Attorney-General from that body, which was a most unconstitutional proceeding. No doubt the hon. gentleman referred to had begun to discover that the air of solemn grandeur which prevailed in that chamber was altogether unsuited to his mercurial temperament—that in his opinion the members of the Legislative Council were a set of old ladies, whom he looked upon as legitimate objects for him to take rises out of. He (Mr. Mackenzie) was quite prepared to hear the government state to the house that it was all right—that any rule whatever might be set aside if good cause therefore could be shown—in fact, there was no doubt that all sorts of arguments would be used to prove that the presence of so doughty a champion of the government had been secured in the Assembly in a perfectly constitutional manner; and there was equally little doubt but that hon. members on the ministerial benches would be quite prepared to denounce all who might object to such an unconstitutional course of action as being members of a crazy, factious, and imbecile opposition. (Hear, hear.) He would proceed to read the resolutions which had been passed by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly affirming the desirability that a member of the government should be present in the Legislative Council to conduct the business of the government in that chamber. [The hon. member here read the resolutions referred to.] Hon. members would perceive that a fourth minister of the crown had been agreed to by that house, on condition that one of the ministry should be a member of the Legislative Council. The salary of the hon. the Minister for Lands and Works was then passed, but the money to be paid for the overgrown and extravagant department initiated by that hon. gentleman had yet to be voted. In moving the Attorney-General from the upper house, the government had taken upon themselves to make another member of the Executive Council in the person of Mr. Bramston. He (Mr. Mackenzie) had a great feeling of friendship towards that gentleman, and respected him very much. But still, when it was remembered that in his capacity of Parliamentary Draughtsman he must be looked upon as being, to a certain extent, the servant of both houses of parliament; it was for the house to decide whether or not the appointment was a judicious one, or in accordance with constitutional usage. He remembered that upon previous occasions the name of Mr. Bramston had been mentioned with reference to the appointments to the Upper House, but had been rejected. He (Mr. Mackenzie) could not regard the late appointments to that house in any other light than that of a desire on the part of the government, by placing their own friends and adherents therein, to swamp it completely. He could refer to another rule which had been violated by the government. That no person who had been rejected by a constituency should be nominated to a seat in the Legislative Council until at the least one year had elapsed since his rejection. An exception had previously only been made in favor of one man—Mr. Roberts—who had been defeated only by one vote. The Legislative Council Bill also was merely a sort of compromise, and it was asserted by its framers, in defence of several of the objectionable clauses, that, after all, the members of the council were indirectly elected by the people—a very specious piece of sophistry, indeed. The result of all the manoeuvring mentioned by him, however, appeared to have been to make the hon. the Attorney-General a proud and happy man, thanks to the assistance of his hon. friend, who deserved to be termed the Admirable Crichton. It was quite refreshing to hear of the absurdities indulged in by the former honorable and learned gentleman in the elation of his victory—he (Mr. Mackenzie) referred to the equine osculations—(laughter)—which was performed by the hon. gentleman before an admiring audience. He hoped it was not intended as an exhibition of “that pride which goeth before the foe,” and that nothing should take place in the Assembly that would be calculated in the least to disturb the hon. gentleman's equanimity. It would be seen that, perhaps by accident, most probably by design, nearly the whole of the members of the government had been returned for what might be considered as one electoral district; and it would be found among the post-prandial orations at a banquet, which, whatever might be said about it, was evidently got up as a sort of celebration of the ministerial victory in that particular district, that the hon. gentlemen to whom he had before particularly referred, had

stated that the chief town of that district would not long "continue to be the second town of the colony."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY would interrupt the hon. gentleman for one moment. He was sitting near the hon. Attorney-General at the banquet, and that gentleman certainly did not say the words quoted by the hon. member (Mr. Mackenzie). It was bad taste on the part of the hon. member to quote from a report compiled by parties who were generally understood to be adverse to the government.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL denied having made use of the words as quoted.

Mr. MACKENZIE resumed: He had no desire to put words into the mouth of any hon. member. However, it would be ridiculous to suppose that all the reports which had been made of the speeches of the ministers were untrue, and he would therefore call the attention of the house to a statement made by the hon. the Minister for Lands and Works ridiculing the assertion made by many hon. gentlemen that the ministry had no policy. The hon. gentleman referred to appeared to smile, and seemed quite oblivious to the fact that he had himself, before becoming a member of the government, asserted that that government possessed no policy whatever.

The MINISTER for LANDS here rose to order. He wished to know if the hon. member was justified in using the word "oblivious."

The SPEAKER did not think Mr. Mackenzie was out of order.

Mr. MACKENZIE resumed. He could at any rate congratulate the government upon their change of policy with reference to the Railway Bill, upon which in its integrity they had previously expressed their determination to stand or fall; also upon their somewhat quaint ideas as to electoral reform. With regard to the estimates, no one could doubt but that since the dissolution they had been cut down to the lowest possible limits. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he would assure the government that the members of the opposition had not the thirst for office imputed to them by the occupants of the ministerial benches. If the government were content to be guided by the suggestions of the gentlemen who sat on his side of the house, there would be little fear of any repetition of the accusation that factious opposition only was the object of himself and those gentlemen who acted with him. In conclusion, he would state that he had not the slightest intention of moving an amendment on the address, and had merely spoken for the purpose of giving his opinion of the conduct of the ministers of the Crown.

Mr. DOUGLAS would hardly have risen at this period of the debate if the government had shown any sign of replying to the speech of the hon. member for the Burnett. There certainly were some allegations in that speech that should merit a reply. He took some cognizance of them, especially as he had the honor to represent a constituency that was materially interested in a particular part of the policy of the government which had been much questioned—its railway policy. His hon. friend for Warwick (Mr. Wienholt), whom he congratulated on the manner in which he had brought forward the address, had stated that he was confident that things were going on very quietly and nicely. He had, at the same time, confessed that he had come down to the house without any intention, without any wish, to support the ministry. No doubt the hon. member at the head of the government, with his fascinating manners, had assured the hon. member for Warwick that everything was exceedingly "serene," (laughter) that there was not a cloud in the sky, nor a ripple on the water of his political existence. He could quite imagine how a pleasant breeze from the west was to waft the state ship on its happy course. It almost realised the imaginative picture which they had all heard of—"youth at the prow and pleasure at the helm." (Hear, hear, and laughter.) No doubt a very flattering view of the state of affairs had been presented; but then the house had to look at the other side, which did not present such a flattering aspect. He believed it was always so in politics. Those of sanguine temperament looked at the bright side of things which first met their gaze; men of more matured intelligence—like his hon. friend the member for the Burnett—took care to look at both sides before they were satisfied. He (Mr. Douglas) confessed that he was one of a doubtful mind, and that he looked with grave misgivings upon the government. The opposition was a thorough organised opposition, and he believed that, in a sense, they were all of one mind. Every hon. member of the house went there, it was presumed, with the natural personal ambition that every man felt who had a desire to serve his country, and

without selfish motives in serving party or individuals. But wishing to concede, as he did, the patriotic motives of gentlemen opposite, he still felt, and so did those with whom he was acting, that they must judge the ministry by their actions and the result of their actions. He believed that those actions had tended to unconstitutional government. He believed that the gentlemen on his side of the house did not believe now that the gentlemen opposite were actuated by constitutional principles. (Hear, hear.) In order to show this, it would be necessary for him to review to some extent the conduct of the government within the last year. They all knew that the hon. gentleman at the head of the government came here under very great disadvantages, so far as knowledge of this country is concerned. At the same time, he came with the advantage of having sat at the feet of some of the greatest statesmen of Europe. There were those who hailed with pleasure the coming of a gentleman with such abilities. On his side, too, he (Mr. Herbert) may have felt an ingenious sympathy with the parliament to carry out the wishes of that parliament. In certain matters of principle—the land law, state-aid to religion, education, and a great many other questions had been satisfactorily settled. On account of those, he thought many people in this colony entertained a sort of deferential feeling for that gentleman. But at the close of last session a change had come over the spirit of that gentleman, who seemed to think that those principles having been settled, he might do as he liked. In looking over the report of the American correspondent of the *Times* a short time back, he (Mr. Douglas) came across a peculiar term, which he thought was appropriate to the present case—“jeremander.” (Laughter.)

Mr. WARRY rose to a point of order, and wanted to know the meaning of “jeremander.” (Renewed laughter.)

The SPEAKER could not see the point of order.

Mr. WARRY persisted.

Mr. DOUGLAS remarked that it was only a humorous expression, the exact meaning of which he admitted he did not know. (Laughter.) When the Colonial Secretary went to England he took upon himself the authority of the parliament, and absolutely altered the law that he had assisted to pass. (“Hear, hear,” from the Opposition; and “no, no,” from Mr. Herbert and other members on the Treasury benches.) He (Mr. Douglas) was not prepared to say that there were not alterations to be made, but he maintained that no executive minister, under any circumstances, had a right to alter the law. (Hear, hear.) During the recess there was another unconstitutional act: the appointment of a Commissioner of Crown Lands and his staff. (Hear, hear.) Why was nothing said about that before? He did not say that there was not such an excess of work that those appointments were necessary; but the making of the appointments was unconstitutional. He thought, however, that the Secretary for Lands and Works could not make the excuse that he had too much work to do, and that he could not get on with it. If this had been the case, there were other commissioners whom he might have appointed *pro tempore*, and then come down to the house for permission to make a permanent appointment. The hon. member (Mr. Douglas) next referred to the unconstitutional manner in which the Railway bill had been attempted to be passed; and he cited the authority of Lord Palmerston on the Thames Embankment Bill, in support of his argument that, simultaneously with the introduction of the bill full information of the proposed expenditure should have been submitted to the house. (“Hear, hear,” and “No, no.” Mr. Pring said the Thames Embankment Bill was a private bill, and not a public measure.) He did not dispute the right or power of the government to appoint a fifth minister; but he did say that a definite compact was entered into by them with the Upper House that, upon the appointment of the fourth minister, a paid responsible minister should take a seat in the Upper House. (Hear, hear.) In altering that arrangement the ministry were guilty of the violation of that compact. He supposed that it would be acknowledged that there was an opposition. (Hear, hear.) The opposition had no objection, if such was the case, to admit that they were in a minority; but as an opposition they were entitled to be considered by the other side. Being accustomed to discuss public matters, they had agreed to look upon his hon. friend, the member for the Burnett, as the leader of the opposition. That hon. gentleman had a considerable knowledge of public affairs—considerable experience in the house, and had on all occasions taken an important part in matters of interest to the colony at large. Knowing also that it was the constitutional and parliamentary practice, application was made to the head of the government for

a copy of the opening speech a day before its delivery ("No, no," from the Treasury benches.) But the hon. member at the head of the government, who infringed all constitutional rule and usage, had refused to grant it. ("No, no," from Mr. Herbert.) It was a courtesy granted to the leader of the opposition in the parliament of Great Britain. ("No, no," and "Yes, yes." Mr. Herbert: "The hon. member did not ask me.") His Excellency was asked for it. ("Oh, oh," from Mr. HERBERT.) But his Excellency, as he was bound to do, referred the matter to his responsible advisers. But little courtesy was received from the hon. member at the head of the government, though he was considered the pink of politeness and propriety. In conclusion, the hon. member remarked that the ministry might put forward measures in their lucid moments of deliberate consideration that he and other members of the opposition might agree with; but he thought he had shown sufficient to warrant them in regarding with great suspicion anything that the ministry might do. For himself he had the greatest distrust of them from their past conduct—the only test he could apply to them; and that had been unconstitutional to a degree unparalleled by any administration he was aware of in the Australian colonies. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY had heard with much satisfaction the able speech in which the hon. mover of the address had introduced it to the house; and he took the first opportunity which was in his power to state that he distinctly understood and appreciated the position he had taken up of entire independence of the government, and the manly and generous way in which he had thought fit to express his approval of the government policy. He was glad to find that there was now in the house an organised opposition. When he said he was satisfied with the terms in which the hon. member who had moved the address spoke of the ministry, how much more must he be satisfied with the two speeches of the hon. members on the opposition, who had failed to take notice of any point of importance in the policy expressed by the government in the opening speech. Those two members had certainly paid him the compliment of making him the subject of a great deal of personal abuse. (No, no, and hear, hear.) He had ventured to hope that, when this parliament assembled, the practice which had heretofore been a subject of annoyance to him—not as head of the government but as an individual—would not have been pursued to such an extent. He knew he was bound to bear it, and he would do so as well as he could; but he put it to hon. members who now formed an organised opposition, if it would not be better and more courteous to the government to treat them as the government and not as individuals. The hon. member then referred to the speech of the hon. member for the Burnett, who, he said, upon his own admission, would never be satisfied with the manner in which he had been disconnected from the government. He regretted that that should still rankle in the hon. member's breast; and that he should think proper, upon every occasion, to make a personal attack upon him. ("Hear, hear," and "no, no.") That hon. member, at the conclusion of his speech, had deprecated the idea of turning out the ministry for the purpose of taking their places. But the burden of his speech was that everything the ministry had done since the dissolution rendered it more difficult to turn them out. He had said for one thing that the government should have come down to the house with the same policy and the same estimates that they had before learning the feelings and opinions of the country. The government would not pay any deference whatever to an opposition that would attempt to tyrannise over them; though they knew what the consequences might be. However, he was willing to believe that the ministry would henceforth have an opposition, but not a factious opposition. In his opinion, the fact of the ministry being attacked as it were indiscriminately upon all points, would render it much more difficult for their opponents to turn them out. The objection which had been made to his hon. colleague, the Attorney-General, becoming a member of the Legislative Assembly, he (the Colonial Secretary) could not conceive to be a valid one, inasmuch as the other house was, in his opinion, the most calculated to find fault with the arrangement; that is, if any fault was to be found at all. The objections of the opposition were simply founded upon the fact that another vote and another speaker would be added to the ministerial benches by the acquisition of the hon. the Attorney-General. He failed to perceive how, in consequence thereof, the objects and policy of the government could fail to be properly represented in the Legislative Council. With reference to the resolution on the subject which had been come to by the house, as to the desirability of the appointment of a fourth minister of the crown, he would state that the inconvenience of there being no member of the ministry in the house well qualified to give answers to questions which might be put by hon. members with reference to matters immediately connected with the Lands and Works Department, it was thought desirable that the fourth

member of the ministry should be appointed. It would be found that in other colonies much larger in every respect than Queensland that members of the executive who did not possess portfolios were appointed to the executive—that it was conceded as a matter of courtesy when it should appear to be inexpedient that gentlemen not holding departmental offices should obtain a seat in the executive council. Under those circumstances, he did not think it was too much of the government of Queensland to ask for the same privilege to be conceded to them. [Mr. LILLEY: You did not ask for it.] He thought it was perhaps as well on the whole that the government had come down to the house prepared to merit the censure of the hon. gentleman who had just interrupted him, than that they should previously have asked for that gentleman's assistance. A great deal had been said by the hon. member for Port Curtis as to the discourtesy of the government in refusing to supply the leader of the opposition with a copy of the Governor's speech twenty-four hours before that speech was to be delivered. He (the Colonial Secretary) was astonished that the request had been made to his Excellency the Governor and not to himself—he was astonished that the courtesy had not been extended to him—that he had not been asked for a copy of the speech. He might state, however, that his astonishment was even greater at the assurance displayed by the hon. member for the Burnett ; and knew very well the strong language which would have been used by that hon. member if a similar request had been preferred to a government of which he was a component part. He (the Colonial Secretary) was not to know, beyond what that hon. gentleman himself might state, that he was the leader of the opposition. Be that as it might, it was perhaps subject of congratulation that at last the opposition had a recognised leader—that the house would no longer be bored by six or seven would-be leaders of the opposition rising and endeavoring to surpass each other in brilliancy—that sort of thing was getting quite fatiguing and wearisome. He would repeat that he felt much pleasure in knowing that the opposition had one good leader who was prepared at all times to expose and declaim against the shortcomings of the government. He must, however, express his surprise that hon. members on the other side of the house should suppose for an instant that the government were so foolish or so green as to comply with the request that had been made to them. He must confess that at the time the request was made he was not aware whether or not compliance therewith was in accordance with parliamentary usage ; and he had therefore applied to a gentleman in a neighboring colony, who possessed a vast amount of parliamentary experience, as to whether such was the case or not. The answer he received by telegram was as follows:—“Certainly not—never heard of such a thing.” That was the answer he received from a gentleman who had for many years been a member of parliament, and whose experience must certainly be worth something.

Mr. MACKENZIE: It is not Mr. Cowper's experience we want. The custom referred to was of the Imperial Parliament.

The hon. member appeared to forget that by an order-in-council the constitution of the Parliament of Queensland was made to be a reflex of that of New South Wales. But, however, for the sake of argument, he would concede the point ; but considering the great inconvenience that might be suffered by the government were they to exhibit an address which might require alteration at the last moment, they must reserve to themselves the right of showing it or not. He did not think that justice was being done them when such a concession was asked for, and he trusted that if the time came when he should be seated on the opposition benches, he would never think of asking for it. With regard to the question of the policy of the government, he thought he might safely defer its exposition to another occasion, and he had no reason to believe that the government would suffer in consequence. It would not be necessary for him to notice the intentions of the government, which were pretty fully detailed in the speech, especially with regard to the question of railways, which he thought might very well be commenced at the place proposed without any injury being done to the other districts of the colony. As there had been no substantive motion made on the address, he considered it would be unnecessary for him to prolong his address further, and would leave the matter in the hands of the house. (Hear, hear).

Mr. LILLEY said, that as a humble member of the opposition, he rose with considerable diffidence to address the house. He would premise his observations by stating that he had found considerable difficulty in discovering who really was the leader of the government. If he were to believe the many cries prevalent outside the house, he should believe that that high position was

held by the gentleman who, to use the expression which had been rendered classical by himself, had pitchforked two of the other members of the ministry into the house. He (Mr. Lilley) referred to the hon. the Minister for Lands and Works. It was his (Mr. Lilley's) intention to oppose the present government, and he thought that he could give good and valid reasons for doing so. He found that when in the house the members of the government were prepared to cringe to any extent, but as soon as they got outside they were equally prepared to set at defiance the wishes and opinions of the house. With reference to what had fallen from the hon. gentleman who had preceded him as to the multiplicity of the leaders of the opposition, he was sorry if at any time he had been the unconscious cause of the gentleman's experiencing any mental anguish; and he also regretted that if in the course of his endeavors to rectify anything which might have appeared to him to have been going wrong in the public affairs of the colony he had caused pain to any individual. It was, however, necessary occasionally that the moral health of naughty boys should be attended to. It had been thrown in the teeth of the opposition that they were alone actuated by a desire to obtain the places of the government—that, in fact, the gentlemen who sat opposite to the government benches were determined to invade the bread and butter of their opponents. As far as he was concerned, he must entirely repudiate that idea—he was a perfectly independent member of that house, and as he was prepared to support any measure which he might conceive calculated to enhance the welfare of the country, so was he fearless in opposing the introduction of any measures which were, in his opinion, opposed to the good of the country. He found that the ministry, after having appealed to the country, had come back to the house with an entirely altered programme. The estimates also had been re-modelled, and bore evidence of the word "fright" being written at the head of every page. The whole tendency of the address went to prove that the ministry had come over to the views expressed by the opposition. It was, in fact, the old story of "placing themselves in the hands of the house. [The hon. gentleman here quoted from the address.] The house and the opposition were quite at liberty to do what they liked so long as the members of the ministry were allowed to retain their £1000 a-year. He was not opposed to the formation of railways, but he was opposed to their being commenced before any accurate estimate had been formed of their probable cost—he was opposed to any policy so adventurous as adopting the estimate formed by persons who had gone up in a balloon, or who in a somewhat similar manner had prophesied what would be the cost of the line proposed. It was well known that even in England the cost of similar works much exceeded the original estimates. Knowing these things, it behoved him as a representative of the people to look after their interests, and for doing so he had been termed a member of a factious opposition. He would again repeat his desire to be acquainted with the gentleman who assumed the position of leader of the ministry. Was it the hon. the Minister for Lands, who, with the natural astuteness generally supposed to belong to his country-men, had taken the whip into his own hands, and superseded the driver of last session, whose rashness had called for the placing of the reins in cooler and better hands. He (Mr. Lilley), however, did not think it would make much difference to the hon. member to whom he had referred whether the coach was upset or not so long as he remained in the dickey. It was not his intention to quarrel with that young man from the country who had moved the adoption of the address, believing as he did that that individual had succumbed to the fascinating influence of the hon. gentleman at the head of the government, by whom he had no doubt been informed that the opposition were a set of rascals, revolutionary ruffians, or something of that sort, to whose assertions he must not pay the slightest regard. What should he say of the incorruptible gentleman who represented Ipswich, and who also had been sensitive to the seductive influence of the hon. member at the head of the government. He was sorry to see that secession was still going on. He had hoped that when the Hon. Minister for Lands joined the ministry he would have imparted into it some of the ardent patriotism which glowed in his bosom at the time he spoke so disdainfully of the white-headed boy who was to be the leader of the government—of the fat pig which came to Queensland to be well greased. He hoped his hon. friend continued to retain those constitutional principles enunciated by him at that time. He (Mr. Lilley) must, however, call the attention of the house to the great farce which was enacted by their being called upon to pass resolutions which were set at naught by the government at will. If such continued to be the case His Excellency might just as well come down to that house and clear them all out, deputing to the members of the government the power of carrying on the business of the country as they might think proper. As to their being a minority of opposition, why he would

sooner be in a minority of men whom he believed to be sincerely moved by a desire for the good government of the country, than sitting with any number, any host that were not so actuated. He believed that all oppositions were minorities:—they ceased to be oppositions when they were majorities. If the ministry persisted in their present course of action, he for one, with his colleagues, would be prepared to take the proper course and put them out. (Hear, hear.)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL confessed that he labored under some difficulty in addressing the house on this occasion, especially after the remarks of a gentleman who was once a colleague of his own, and with whose character he was acquainted sufficiently to give some personal traits without referring to newspaper reports. The great leader of the organised opposition, who had been supported by the great gun from the North—drawn out on the stage for the first time, this evening—had not only attacked him in the public newspapers, when he knew that he (Mr. Pring), as a minister of the Crown, could not reply to him; but he took an unfair advantage, and committed a most unwarrantable act in indulging in personal abuse against the government in general, and its individual members in particular. (“No, no,” and “yes, yes.”) Not only that; but he went to a report taken by a newspaper which was well known to be in opposition to the government, and selected by the opposition for that purpose, in preference to one known to report more faithfully; and he made an improper use of that report. He (Mr. Pring) did not suppose it entered into the hon. member’s mind when he went to address the electors of the Burnett, which paper he put into his pocket. Yet he had made use of that false report to damage the ministry. Such conduct was exceedingly unbecoming in a gentleman who was an ex-minister of the Crown, and who might happen, and who wished to be one *in future*. The result of all appeared to amount to this:—In consequence of a certain line of conduct taken by himself (Mr. Pring) in the position which he held, and because he acted up to his oath as a minister, and for the good of his country, he was made the subject of personal abuse by his late colleague, even up to this night. He asked him (Mr. Mackenzie) was that the line of conduct for a man who came before the house as the leader of an organised opposition? It would have come with a better grace from the hon. member if he had raised his opposition on a better support. Now, with regard to his “equine ocularations” (laughter) what did the house know about them? (Laughter.) It so happened that his hon. ex-colleague had read in the newspapers what happened not to be true. He had read that he (Mr. Pring) had kissed his horse. (Prolonged laughter.) It might be true, or it might not:—assuming that it was true, what had the house to do with it? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He had as much right to kiss his horse as anybody else. (Laughter.) If he liked he could kiss his horse, or his dog; but what had that to do with the house? (Hear, hear.) What had it to do with the Queen’s speech? The hon. member had called him “a proud and a happy man.” He would ask the hon. member if he was a proud and a happy man when he was returned for the Burnett on the shoulders of another man? (Oh, oh.) One would almost imagine that he was not—his idea of happiness must be a queer one. The hon. member had spoken of another speech delivered by him (Mr. Pring) at Ipswich, in which he was reported to have said that the town of Ipswich would be second to none in the colony. Now, the words he used on the occasion in question were—that he thought that the town of Ipswich would be second only to one. (Hear, hear.) The hon. and learned member then proceeded at great length to banter the hon. member for the Burnett as the unhappy man who, in the shades of Kinellan, by a dim rush-light, mourned that he was deprived of a situation, and £1000 a-year. He had experience of that honorable member, who once nearly upset the state coach, instead of acting the part of a careful guard. When the hon. member was in trouble he went down to government house to make his complaint and was turned out of the room and a horse-whip thrown after him. (Laughter and confusion.)

The SPEAKER rose to order.

Mr. MACKENZIE called upon the hon. the Attorney-General to confine himself to facts.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL was sorry if the shoe pinched; but he was stating facts, and the hon. member for the Burnett knew it. (“No, no,” “yes, yes,” and laughter.) The hon. and learned member then proceeded to defend the conduct of the government last session with regard to the Railway Bill, and all the changes which its introduction into parliament involved; and we, at the same time, maintained that the government had a majority of the old Assembly on that bill, and that it would have been impossible for the opposition to have carried on the business of

the country with a minority when the government could not then do so with their majority. In the general election, members of the opposition were glad to declare for railways to secure their return; though they had been greatly taken aback by being so suddenly sent before their constituents after voting against railways. The resolutions of the house were only binding for one session, and he had continued a member for that session and for a subsequent one—in fact, until the house had been dissolved. Under these circumstances, he believed himself to be at perfect liberty to resign his seat, and offer himself to any constituency. Adequate provision had been made for carrying on the business of the government in the Upper House by a member of the Executive Council, who was equally well qualified to act as though he were the head of a department. As to what had been shadowed forth by one great luminary on the opposition benches as to the gentleman in question being an employee of the government, he the (Attorney-General) could state that by the constitution his Excellency was enabled to appoint as one-fifth of the members of the Legislative Council gentlemen holding offices under the crown. It was ridiculous to perceive the various frivolous objections which were being made by persons totally ignorant of the constitution of the colony. With reference to what had been stated as to the government having introduced a bill to alter the constitution of the Upper House, he denied that such was the case. The bill had been draughted and printed, it was true; but he had not even laid it upon the table of the house—he had simply given to each member a copy of the bill, with which they could do as they thought proper. The organised opposition, he hoped, would be actuated by patriotic motives—above all ideas of pounds, shillings, and pence, and would most patriotically desire to do all that they could for the benefit of the country. He had, however, listened to the long speech of the leader of the opposition, and found that it, as was the case with the other speeches made from the other side of the house, consisted merely of a series of personal attacks upon the ministry. He had strained himself to find anything in their attacks reflecting upon the policy of the government. He had done so in vain, and believed that they had merely taken the opportunity of emptying phials of wrath which had been bottled up for the past two months. In the fifth paragraph of the speech was the gist of the future policy of the government. Why was not that attached if it was a policy not in accordance with the wishes of the people? The answer was obvious. When it was found that they could not grapple fairly as man should meet man, they had resorted to a trick. He should like to know what was meant by the word, “jerremandering.” Did the hon. gentleman who used it have the slightest idea of its meaning? Of course not ; but he had adopted the old plan of persons who were hard-up for a speech, by making use of words which neither himself or any other person could understand. With reference to what had been asserted as to the wish of the Colonial Secretary, he (the Attorney-General) was yet to learn that anything of the sort had been attempted. It was very easy to make accusations, but it was very hard to prove them. As to what had been said about the appointment of a Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands being unconstitutional, that would form matter for some future occasion better adapted for discussing it than the present, and it was perfectly unnecessary to introduce it into that debate. It had been asserted at the eleventh hour that the Railway Bill had been brought in by the government in an unconstitutional manner. He had never heard of that assertion before, and suppose that hon. members who had got into the house by declaring their intention to support the formation of a railway had arrived at the conclusion that the Railway Bill had been introduced to the house in an unconstitutional manner. However, he did not believe that such was the case. He would conclude by submitting the policy of the government to hon. members. It was a policy sound in itself; and if well carried out, must result in the affairs of the colony being conducted in a proper and healthy manner. If, however, the floor of that house were to be made the arena of party strife, it would tend to the serious deterioration of the colony. He believed that the policy of the government would be found to be a sound and beneficial one, and he was under the impression that the eloquence of the speakers who were to follow him would fail to shake that opinion. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RAFF acknowledged himself to be one of the organised opposition mentioned at an earlier period of the evening. (Hear, hear.) On this occasion he was anxious not only to make his remarks on the vice-regal speech, but also on the general policy of the government; and this in spite of what the Attorney-General had stated when he charged hon. members on his side of the house with ignorance, and told them that they should confine themselves solely to the question immediately before them. He stated plainly that the ministry were unchanged in their changeableness. Their policy was like the barometer, which was affected by the pressure of the

atmosphere,—their policy was affected and changed by the pressure of the opposition. (Hear, hear.) One part of the speech referred to the desirableness of taking the census before proceeding to electoral reform. That was long ago urged by the opposition, who would not, of course, object to this part of the policy of the government. Then, the reference to railways was very carefully worded. It was carefully worded in the opening speech; but much more carefully worded in the address in reply. He must say that the opposition would not object to the manner in which the railway policy was declared in the address in reply. That was the policy of the opposition. Then, as to the withdrawal of the estimate. He was glad that the ministry had withdrawn the original estimates, and intended to introduce new estimates framed with due regard to economy. It was important that the country should be governed constitutionally; and it behoved the parliament to insist upon the ministry adhering to the constitution. Infringements had before taken place; but it was now more than ever necessary that the parliament should prevent the government from disregarding the Acts of Parliament, the constitution of the people, and the resolutions of the Assembly. He twitted the Attorney-General upon his dictum that a resolution passed by the house was not binding beyond the session in which it was passed. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated the Colonial Secretary upon abstaining from abusing the house on the present occasion; it was true, he had indulged in a little irony, but he had not been abusive. The Attorney-General had deprecated personal abuse, but his practise had not been in accordance with his precepts. Referring to that old story of the whip—which was an old story, in which a high personage—

The SPEAKER called the hon. member to order. He had called the hon. the Attorney-General to order on the same subject.

Mr. LILLEY said no name was mentioned.

An HON. MEMBER suggested that “a high personage” had been named.

Mr. LILLEY: That might be the Great Mogul.

Mr. RAFF said that if it was very bad taste of the hon. member for the Burnett to refer to the Attorney-General kissing his horse, it was worse taste of the Attorney-General to refer to other matters. He (Mr. Raff) deprecated the introduction of such matters into debate. The Colonial Secretary stated that the appointment of the fourth minister was not made merely because the council insisted upon it. Well, that was a poor compliment to the council, whose resolution was on the record of the house. The council had insisted upon such an appointment. The Col. Secretary had also stated that in all the other colonies the ministry were represented by an unpaid ministry. That had nothing to do with a solemn compact made between the house and the government. He maintained that the Executive were not guided by parliamentary practice in refusing to give the leader of the opposition a copy of the Governor's speech. (Hon. members on the Treasury benches: “The Executive knew nothing about it.”) The Colonial Treasurer knew it. (Mr. Moffatt: The Treasurer did not know it.)

Mr. MACKENZIE rose and explained that his letter had reached the hands of the Colonial Treasurer to lay before a meeting of the Executive. (“Oh, yes.”)

Mr. RAFF resumed and said that if the Executive did not know their own acts it was the duty of the house to keep them in mind of them. He had no doubt that the ministry would do what the opposition required them to do. (Mr. Moffatt: “Yes; with the majority of votes.”) Referring to the recent appointments to the Upper House he charged the government with breaking faith with the Council. Those appointments might be unobjectionable in one respect; but they were not made in good faith with what they had previously done. (Hear, hear.)

After a few words of personal explanation from Dr. CHALLINOR,

The Hon. MINISTER for LANDS and WORKS had doubted whether he ought to trouble the house with any observations until he had considered the various remarks put forward by the opposition, wherein the hon. member for Port Curtis had put himself forward as an exponent of constitutional principles. As one who had some pretensions to a knowledge of constitutional principles, he had at length determined to make a few remarks, feeling that he could say something to the point. He did not think the Attorney-General had said anything unconstitutional as hon. members had asserted, and those who made so much of his hon. and learned

colleague's horse adventure, should remember another anecdote about a horse-whip. (Laughter.) He had heard a great deal about "policy" and "constitutional rights" from the opposition, but they had not been enlightened as to the meaning of the terms, the cause of their being used, or what bills the opposition expected the government to introduce to the house. (Hear; Oh.) The hon. member, Mr. Raff, had referred to and dwelt much upon the removal of the Attorney-General from the Upper House, but he had entirely failed to show that the present representative of the government in that house was not constitutionally appointed. He did not see that a mere money payment to a member of the executive was necessary to make him a responsible minister, and he asserted that the present representative of the government in the Upper House was as much a member of that government as any member of it, on his (the speaker's) side of the house. (No, no, and hear.) He asserted it, and would show the assertion to be correct. The hon. member for North Brisbane had made a long statement charging the government with discourtesy in withdrawing the Attorney-General from the Upper House; and his argument all through amounted to very little; it seemed that he did not approve of the Governor's speech and would liked to have seen the credentials of the leader of the opposition alluded to when that gentleman made an application for a copy of that speech; but he might tell them that the course which the leader of the opposition had desired his Excellency to take was quite unusual. Who ever heard of a member asking the Queen for a copy of her speech? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) If anything unconstitutional had taken place it had been on the part of the opposition in making such a demand as that ("oh, go on"); he meant to go on and give them the benefit of his experience (hear). The hon. member for the Valley had made a number of very facetious remarks, but unfortunately it was that gentleman's failing to become personal when talking upon any motion made by any other than himself, and he acted on the principle that merit was always modest (Laughter.) No doubt but whatever merit the hon. gentleman did possess required to be hung up very high and blazoned forth. (Hear, hear.) He (the speaker) admired the modesty of the hon. member when talking of crossing over the house, and there was no question but he would walk over when invited. (Laughter.) The hon. member for the Burnett had charged the government with extravagance; that was a general charge and difficult to deal with; but he might say, however, that extravagance did not exist, and any appearance of so far as his department was concerned, was in consequence of the legacy left to him by the hon. member for the Burnett. (Laughter.) He had occasion to congratulate the hon. member for Port Curtis who had succeeded in making a good speech out of nothing; but his only argument, that the hon. the Colonial Secretary, when at home, had set aside the act of that house had failed, for he had not shown that the hon. the Colonial Secretary had tampered with the immigration laws in that respect. In reference to the division of the Surveyor-General's department it had long ago been proposed and agreed to by the Executive Council that the surveyor should be one distinct officer, and that a Commissioner of Crown Lands, and it was known by the hon. member for the Burnett that the latter gentleman's name had been mentioned long before, and that the ministry had unanimously decided on the severance of the office, however backward he might otherwise have felt to take upon himself the authority to say that much yet he did not scruple or hesitate to do so now. When he had introduced a bill to afford additional facilities for the management of crown lands, it was approved and sent by the house to the Legislative Council, and they had sent back a report upon it, and that report was most favorable—agreed to by the president and members—(hear, hear)—he would read extracts to them—(the speaker then read several extracts, after which he went on to remark upon the resolution of the house passed in 1862, to appoint a fourth member of the house, and mentioned that the hon. member for Port Curtis had made allegations in reference to that appointment; but the hon. member must have been misinformed as he must know that all appointments in that house were temporary, and in the particular instance—correct. As to the Railway Bill he could not understand the objection urged, he was told that he ought to have introduced the Loan Bill at the same time as the Railway Bill (hear, hear); well who ever heard of such a thing as a ministry introducing two bills at once? (Hear, hear.) It would have been unconstitutional to do so. (Hear.) The ministry would introduce the Loan Bill at the proper time (oh) ; he pledged himself to that distinctly; he was astonished that hon. members had brought forward the arguments they had on the latter point, it only proved the weakness of the arguments against the policy of the government to do so in advance of the many arguments they would doubtless find to use against the Railway Bill, if that measure were found to be a bad one. He

would not detain the house longer, but would conclude by saying there was not one constitutional point raised throughout all the speeches which would be sufficient to condemn the government, and it only remained for hon. members on the opposition side to move a vote of want of confidence if they believed the ministry ought to retire; the opposition might then cross over the house with pleasure, provided they carried their motion. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MACKENZIE explained that it had always been his wish as a minister to divide the office of Surveyor-General by appointing a Commissioner of Crown Lands to do one-half of the work.

Mr. BLAKENEY intended to act upon the hint of a certain hon. member of the government and would condense his remarks at the same time as he would avoid travelling over the ground already beaten by the leader of the opposition, and his first observations would be addressed to the discourteous manner in which the government had treated that recognised leader and the opposition—the leader who had acted in a manner constantly adopted in the old country—(oh)—that seemed to rile the hon. and learned Attorney-General, (laughter,) but he would read an extract from the *Time's* report of a ministerial dinner speech (laughter) in which he found that the Queen's speech had been discussed before it had been read in parliament. That was a good authority, and he held that the colony was not to be guided in these matters by New South Wales or Victoria. The hon. member then referred to the action of the government in removing the hon. Mr. Pring from the other house, and expressed his belief that such a proceeding was unconstitutional; he also expressed his belief that the gentleman appointed in his stead was a government officer, in receipt of salary, and could not therefore constitutionally retain the seat he occupied. That he believed was also quite unparalleled.

The COLONIAL TREASURER, after having briefly referred to the remarks made by the previous speakers, said that it had been considered necessary by the government to appeal to the country; and he could say that fortunately every member who had gone to his constituency in favor of the Railway Bill had been returned. With regard to what had fallen from the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Blakeney) as to influences which had been brought to bear upon the electors, he (the Colonial Treasurer) was of opinion that the hon. gentleman was one of the last who should have made reference to the matter at all, seeing that if anybody at all had reason to rejoice at the employment of the kind of influence referred to, it was that same hon. member. (Hear, hear.) No one had made use of the influence of sectarianism more than the hon. gentleman in question. As to what had been said with reference to the absence of certain bills in the ministerial programme, he thought it would be found that the bills which were not mentioned involved no political principle. There was the Publican's Bill and the bill relating to the Insolvent Laws, both of which would, in due time, be introduced to the consideration of the house. He might mention that the Publican's Bill was already printed, and would be in the course of a day or two placed in the hands of hon. members. In conclusion, he would state that he had not the slightest wish to advert to the personal quarrel which the hon. member for the Burnett appeared so anxious to maintain with the government; but he did hope that that hon. member, after having taken the opportunity so often of first and foremost introducing to the house his personal grievances, and having delivered himself upon the subject so often, would cease to do so for the future. For his own part, he (the Colonial Treasurer) thought that the hon. gentleman looked much lighter and easier in his mind than the hon. and learned gentleman whom he had taunted with presenting so happy an appearance. He trusted, therefore, that that was the last occasion on which the matter would be brought before the house. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WARRY expressed his intention of supporting government measures when he thought they would conduce to the welfare of the colony, and of opposing them when he thought they would have a contrary effect. He concluded by expressing his dissent to the appointment of Mr. Bramston to the Upper House, and of the appointment of Mr. Lamb to the Chief Commissionership of Crown Lands.

Mr. PUGH spoke at some length, stating that he had not the slightest desire to deny his intention of acting with the opposition, and that he recognised Mr. Mackenzie as the leader of that opposition. He objected most decidedly to the arguments which were brought forward by that opposition being characterised by the government as contumacious, or that the opposition of men

who were doing what they considered to be best for the good of the country should be termed factious. They had been called by one of the members of the government a set of crazy individuals; but he could inform that honorable member that it was quite possible that on some future occasion he might be compelled to recognise the fact that there was a method in their madness.

Mr. WEINHOLT, in reply, said that the lateness of the hour and the castigation which the opposition had received from the members of the government, would prevent him from referring to his very voluminous notes. He then proceeded, in a peculiarly amusing manner, to expatiate upon the merit of the government, and the demerits of the opposition. The hon. member for Fortitude Valley had called him "the young man from the country." He was sorry he could not return the compliment; but he would call him the "old man for the Valley." (Laughter.) The hon. member made a few further observations, and concluded his reply.

The question was then put and passed.

SUPPLY.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved—"That so much of his Excellency's speech as is addressed to this house, be taken into consideration to-morrow."

The motion was put and passed.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was commanded to state that it would be his Excellency's pleasure to receive the address in reply to his Excellency's opening speech, at twelve o'clock to-morrow; and he accordingly moved the adjournment of the house till to-morrow, at half-past eleven o'clock.

The house adjourned at twenty-five minutes to ten o'clock.