

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
3rd September 1863**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 4th September 1863

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past three o'clock, and read the usual form of prayer.

MESSAGE.

A message from the Legislative Council was received, bringing up the Railway Bill without amendment.

ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS.

On the motion of Mr. COXEN, leave was granted to the Committee of Elections and Qualifications to adjourn their sittings until the 15th instant.

CROWN PROSECUTOR.

Mr. MACKENZIE asked the Attorney-General—"1. Whether it is his intention to apply to the legislature for a salary for an officer to undertake the duties of Crown Prosecutor, seeing that the immense increase in his public duties has prevented him, from of late, attending the various circuit courts? 2. And if not, whether he intends to continue the present practice of feeing barristers to undertake these duties, when not convenient for him to perform them himself, making such fees a charge on unforeseen expenses?"

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in reply, stated that it was not his intention to apply to the legislature for the appointment of the officer referred to and he hoped, except when there was a great press of business, to be able to discharge the duties himself. It was his intention to apply to parliament for a sum of money to defray the expenses already incurred.

GLADFIELD RESERVE.

Mr. DOUGLAS asked the Secretary for Lands and Works—"Whether it is the intention of the government, under any circumstances, to entertain any applications for pre-emptive right purchases within the original area of the Gladfield Reserve?"

The SECRETARY for LANDS stated in reply that it was the intention of the government to call for a further report on the matter, until the receipt of which they did not intend to depart from the usual mode of dealing with the public lands of the colony.

THE SURVEY OFFICE.

Mr. PUGH asked the SECRETARY for LANDS,—Whether the government are aware that considerable delays occur in the issue of Crown grants from the survey office, and whether they intend to take steps to remedy the evil?

The SECRETARY for LANDS stated in reply that he was not aware that considerable delays took place in the office referred to, the usual time being three months for the issue of grants, and it would be very expensive indeed to expedite the work. If special application were made for the issue of any particular grant, efforts were made to get it out as speedily as possible.

LOAN BILL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER postponed the following motion, standing in his name, until the next day,—for leave to bring in a bill to authorise the raising of loans on the security of the consolidated revenue of the colony, for the execution of certain public works, and further to provide funds for immigration.

ALIENATION OF CROWN LANDS BILL.

The SECRETARY for LANDS moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend “An Act to provide for the Alienation of Crown Lands,” so far as relates to agricultural reserves.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded the motion, which was put and passed.

The bill was read a first time, ordered to be printed, and its second reading made an order of the day for Tuesday next.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The resumption of the committee of Ways and Means was postponed until the next day.

QUARANTINE BILL.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the above bill was read a third time and passed.

MR. CHAMBERS.

Dr. CHALLINOR moved that the papers laid on the table of this house, in reference to the dismissal of the Mr. Chambers from the Colonial Architect's Department, be printed.

Mr. GROOM seconded the motion, which was put and passed.

BRISBANE INCORPORATION BILL.

Mr. COXEN, in the absence of Mr. Raff, whom he stated had met with a severe accident, moved—“That the hon. Minister for Lands and Works and Mr. Mackenzie being desirous of being relieved from attendance at the Committee on the Brisbane Incorporation Bill, be so relieved and the hon. Attorney-General and Mr. Stephens appointed in their stead.”

Mr. PUGH seconded the motion, which was put and passed.

RAILWAY GAUGE.

Mr. MACKENZIE moved that the resolutions of the Legislative Council, relative to the railway gauge, be taken into consideration by this house on Tuesday next.

Mr. DOUGLAS seconded the motion, which was put and passed.

BRISBANE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. STEPHENS, in rising to move the second reading of the Brisbane Water Supply Bill, said that the importance of this measure depended entirely on the fact of its being a sanitary measure. He presumed that he need not detain the house by arguing the necessity and importance of an abundant supply of water in populous cities or in a place like Brisbane, where a numerous population was rapidly concentrating. Most hon. members were, no doubt, aware of the water-hole—as it was generally called, but mud-hole would be a better designation for it—under the Windmill Hill, which was at present the only source of supply for the city. Some eight years ago, when the town of Brisbane contained a population of only two or three thousand people, that source was amply sufficient. About four years ago, just previous to separation, when Brisbane became a municipality, one of the first subjects to which the attention of the council was drawn was the necessity for a large and sufficient supply of pure water. They spent the sum of £600 in clearing out and enclosing the reservoir, which answered very well for a short period. But during last season, when we were eight or nine months without rain, the inhabitants of the city were reduced to very great straits indeed; for the supply of water that was sufficient for three or

four thousand people was, or course, quite inadequate to the requirements of ten thousand. The expenses of living were greatly raised for want of water. But that was not the only evil. Indeed, it demanded a great stretch of courtesy to call the liquid with which they had to be satisfied water at all. It was certain that should such another drought occur, as we had every reason to think it would, the present supply of water to the city would prove lamentably insufficient. He would point out that Brisbane was not in the position of many other towns and that the water supply question must not be considered merely as a question of expense; for, in the event of any such disaster as the drought of last season, we were not within reach of any other source of supply, which could even be approached by drays. If something was not done speedily, the inhabitants of the city would be left entirely without water. All the tanks in the city went dry last season; and even large as the tank at the gaol was the authorities had to pay an enormous sum, he forgot what, for a supply for the inmates of that establishment. Every one was aware that water was the greatest essential to health as well as to comfort, and he based the present measure entirely on the importance of that consideration. Although the city was so badly circumstanced as regarded a natural supply, the corporation had, after giving a good deal of attention to the subject, discovered a site within a comparatively short distance, half-a-dozen miles, that by artificial means could be made available for all requirements, and ensure to the citizens a permanent supply of water. The place he referred to was admirably suited for the storage of water. At present there was a small running stream there which dried up in summer. The works that were required to be constructed for the storage of the rainfall would necessitate an expense which was far beyond the resources of the council. Therefore the council had applied to the government for assistance in this important undertaking. In doing this they were only following the course adopted in the other colonies. In Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, and the capitals of all the other colonies, the government had come forward and assisted the corporations in providing a good and sufficient water supply for the inhabitants, because those corporations had been utterly unable to do the work themselves. Although the money would be expended for the supply of water to Brisbane only, he thought that the rest of the colony was interested in the work. Should a scarcity of water in the metropolis cause disease to break out amongst the inhabitants, that disease might spread to all other parts of the country, for through Brisbane our new arrivals and all supplies reached the westward directly, and they went hence to many other parts. In initiating this question of securing a permanent supply of water for the city, the council made application for aid to the government, and the government admitted the necessity for it, and cordially cooperated with the corporation. He might here state that the corporation had engaged an efficient surveyor, or rather a hydraulic engineer, who had examined the place to which he (Mr Stephens) had referred, and had taken the levels from that position—at the head of Breakfast Creek, six or seven miles distant—into the town. The head of the water supply would be two hundred and forty-five feet above high-water mark at Brisbane; the highest point of Spring Hill was only one hundred and seventy-seven feet. The reservoir would be amply sufficient for a twelve months' supply without rain. He would not go into the whole figures, nor the question of cost—because that might more properly come on when the loan bill was under consideration—but he merely mentioned those facts to show that it was not a make-shift work that was proposed, but one that would ensure to the city a supply of water that would meet its requirements for years to come. The cost was estimated at about £50,000. From calculations made there was very little doubt that the revenue would be, in the first year, about £10,000; and this was calculated upon the basis that the water would be supplied to the citizens at one-third of the price that they now paid. He thought that if the citizens could get water at one-third the present cost they would be glad to take it. He would not further refer to the question of providing the funds for the works than to state that an application had been made by the council to the government for a loan for the purpose. They considered that it should be done under this form—that the government should be the party to borrow—that no corporation should go into the money market as a borrower; in other words, that all loans should be in the name of the government. The report of the water supply committee recommended that application be made to the government to guarantee the interest on a loan for this purpose, “and also to procure an Act of Parliament during the ensuing session giving the requisite powers for raising the loan and for the execution of the various works, such expenditure to be under the control of this council, or of a board nominated by the government, as they may decide. The water works to be, when completed, the property of, and under the control and management of this corporation,

subject to the provisions of the proposed Act of Parliament. The revenue derivable to be devoted in the first instance, to payment of the interest on the loan and the maintenance of the works—the surplus to form a sinking fund for the repayment of the loan until the whole is repaid; after which the entire receipts to be for the benefit of the corporation.” The bill had been drawn in accordance with that recommendation. The first clauses he would draw attention to were the second and third. The first simply gave the Governor power to grant to the Municipal Council the land required for the purpose of the undertaking. In respect of that, he would point out that those lands were utterly valueless for any other purpose. They were situated beyond all the sold land in the locality, and consisted of broken gullies and steep ridges, and so covered with timber of all sorts that they were utterly useless for any other purpose. The owners of cattle whose animals got in those gullies gave them up for a bad job. The corporation would not, therefore, be taking away valuable land from any other party. They had been informed by their engineer that the soil, so bad for other purposes, was well suited to the purpose of securing and storing a supply of beautiful water. The second clause gave power to the Governor to require the plans to be laid before him and the Executive Council for approval. He might mention that the government were applied to with a view to ascertain in what form they would like the bill drawn; but before their answer was received the bill had been drafted in the form that gave the corporation power to carry out the work. The government preferred that the work should be done by a commission; and he (Mr Stephens) understood that the Colonial Secretary would propose an amendment to that effect in committee. The third clause would require alteration also; for, as it stood, it was that the Municipal Council should receive the money raised by loan. From the fourth to the tenth clauses, they simply gave the corporation authority to lay pipes, open up the streets of the city, and, if necessary, to go through private lands for the purposes of the act. It would interfere very little with private property;—there were two or three places where it would be inconvenient to go over hills, and where it would be better to go round the bottom of them through private property. From the eleventh to the seventeenth, the usual provisions with regard to compensation for lands taken during the execution of the work, and the usual arbitration provisions, were included;—they were copied from other and similar acts. The next three clauses had reference to the supply of water to the city, and he might state that the bill had been drawn in such a manner as to make the rate general on the inhabitants of the city. It was considered, for sanitary purposes, that every possible inducement should be held out to the citizens, occupiers and owners of houses, to lay the water on to their premises themselves, and thus to secure an adequate supply to every house. There were several narrow and unhealthy places in the city, and the eighteenth clause compelled the owners of houses in private streets or alleys to take the water on to their premises, one-half of the expense of laying the main pipes to be borne by the owners and one-half by the corporation. The twenty-second and twenty-third clauses provided that the whole of the moneys received from rates charged for the supply of water should, after defraying the expenses of maintaining and preserving the reservoir and waterworks, be, “paid to the consolidated revenue in liquidation of the advance of any sum or sums of money made to the council in pursuance of section four of this Act;” so that the entire surplus for the water supply would be devoted to the repayment of the loan until it was all paid off. The twenty-third clause provided that such accounts should be kept that the provisions of the previous one should be certainly and effectually carried out. The twenty-fourth clause gave the council the usual power—he believed it was the usual power—to make bye-laws for preserving and regulating the water works, the carrying of pipes through the city, the way in which they should be laid, the levying of rates, and all other matters likely to arise under the act. The remaining clauses directed the manner of proceeding at law against persons offending against the provisions of the act. The bill had been carefully drawn, and he believed it was calculated to meet the wishes of the inhabitants of the city and the suburbs of Brisbane. (Hear, hear.) He trusted, therefore, that there would be no objection to the second reading of the bill.

Mr. PUGH seconded the motion.

Dr. CHALLINOR had no doubt the measure before the house was a very desirable one, but the question in his mind was whether it ought not to go before a select committee, like any other private bill, to ascertain whether the preamble was proved.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that if any hon. member on his side of the house, more especially a member of the government, had come forward and introduced a bill involving an expenditure of £50,000, hon. members on the other side would have stated at once that it was an unnecessary expenditure, or that it could not be considered at this late period of the session. (Hear, hear.) But as it came from an hon. member who consistently voted with the opposition, the vigilance of those rigid economists on the other was asleep—not an observation upon the bill. He did believe that although those hon. members on the other side had neglected the duties they assumed to themselves so prominently whenever the government brought forward any measure, on this occasion there was some ground for bringing the bill forward. (Hear, hear.) Yet he did not think the preamble was proved, and it might be considered whether the course suggested by the hon. member (Dr. Challinor) was not the proper one for the house to adopt. The gentlemen selected by the corporation, were of one opinion, and the Surveyor-General was of another opinion, respecting the site for the proposed reservoir for supplying the city with water; and he (Mr. Herbert) might say that the latter opinion was more favourable to the exchequer of the country, inasmuch as the Surveyor-General could bring the water from a nearer point than the one proposed by the corporation. Whether the house could amend the bill sufficiently in committee he was not prepared to say; but as it stood the government could not vote for it. The hon. member for South Brisbane had pointed out some part of the bill that the government would amend. The government could not consent to borrow money on the credit of the consolidated revenue and place it in the hands of any board or corporation not immediately responsible to the parliament. As for granting the reserve which was proposed to be the head of the water supply, to the corporation, that would be a most undesirable course. There had been a great attempt lately on the part of the corporation to get into their hands deeds of grant: which there was no necessity for, because if the government caused to be reserved for certain purposes, and from all other purposes, any lands, he did not think it could be regarded as a hardship that deeds of grant were not issued to the corporation for the water-shed. If the house carried the bill—and he did not pledge himself or the government to it—a board of commissioners should be appointed by the government, consisting of engineers and such professional men as they might select, with members representing the city, and that board should decide how to expend the fund. At the same time, he did not disguise his opinion that boards were extravagant, because of their irresponsibility; but officers of the Executive were also extravagant, so that he could not resist the measure on that account. (Hear, hear.) He could not see in the twenty-second clause any adequate provision for the repayment of the loan:—“All moneys derived from the rates charged for the supply of water shall be placed to the credit of a separate fund and after defraying the expenses of maintaining and preserving the said reservoirs and water works shall be paid to the consolidated revenue in liquidation of the advance of any sum or sums of money made to the said council in pursuance of section four of this Act until payment of the same and thereafter such moneys shall be appropriated to the use and benefit of the said council.” It would be perfectly competent for the corporation to present to the government accounts showing that, owing to the expense of keeping in order and preserving the reservoir and other works and the smallness of the receipts, there was nothing left. He considered that it would be necessary for the government to retain larger powers in their hands. It was better, he believed, that the government should borrow the money than that the corporation should go into the money market. (Hear, hear.) He thought the government could get four or five pounds higher premium than the corporation. It was, however, for the house to consider what amount they would authorise for the water supply. If it was to be £50,000, that was a very large sum to pledge themselves to vote away, by assenting to the second reading of the bill without further information. But even if it were a less sum, £35,000, which was the amount the Surveyor-General considered the work could be done for, it was a question how far the representatives of Brisbane were entitled to the consideration of the house. If the members for Brisbane would persistently oppose the borrowing of money for important public works in other districts, they were scarcely entitled to the consideration of other representatives when they brought forward schemes of expenditure for their own districts. If they refused and threw obstacles in the way of the development of the country in other districts, by loans or otherwise, then he would say that the house should decline to assist them in their selfish steps to provide for themselves. The hon. member concluded by saying that he had no objection to the second reading of the bill, though he could not pledge himself to get it out of committee

without some important changes. He was not sure that they could effect all that was required in committee; but he would go into committee upon it.

Mr. MACKENZIE said, for himself, that having seen in the schedule of loans provision for Brisbane water supply, he presumed that some arrangement had been made between the government and the corporation, that the money should be borrowed. He quite agreed with the Colonial Secretary that the bill was a very important one, and that even apart from the second reading it had better be sent to a select committee. He should not object to the second reading; but he wished it to be understood that he should oppose any of the loans being gone into until there was a full house—not only all the members of the opposition present, but all the members on the ministerial side. He was sorry to hear the Colonial Secretary make certain observations which he thought that hon. member had no right to make. He had himself grave misgivings as to what hands the spending of the money should be entrusted; but he thought the hon. member for South Brisbane should allow the bill to go before a select committee. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DOUGLAS was inclined to pass the bill, but at the same time he was not so well informed upon it as he would wish to be; and he thought that it might be referred to a select committee on the understanding that the principle was recognised.

Mr. PUGH agreed with the hon. the Colonial Secretary respecting the control which the government should exercise over loans granted under the circumstances proposed. He pointed out, however, that according to the report of the water supply committee of the city council, the corporation did not consider themselves the best authority to have control of the expenditure.

The question was then put and passed, and the committal of the bill was ordered for Tuesday next.

SUPPLY.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the house resolved into Committee of Supply, for the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates for 1863.

TREASURY.

The sum of £100 was voted for contingencies for the Treasury department.

CUSTOMS.

The following items were voted without opposition:—

Brisbane, 4th clerk, £175; 2nd locker, at £200, from 1st April, £150. Rockhampton—Lockyer and warehouseman, at £150, from 1st July, £75; rent of store for Customs' purposes, 9 months at £300, £225. Maryborough—Contingencies, £40. Pioneer River—boatmen, at £96 (to act also as constables) from 1st June, £112; incidental expenses, including the erection of temporary customs premises, £350. Port Denison—Subcollector, from 1st January, £125; messenger and office keeper, at £100, from 1st April, £75. Broad Sound—Boatmen, at £96 (to act also as constables), from 1st June, £112; incidental expenses, £50. Border Customs—Contingencies, £750.

MARINE BOARD.

Salaries—Fees to engineer and shipwright surveyors, £80.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

Brisbane—Salaries—Clerk 2nd class, from 1st January, £250; letter carrier, £120. Rockhampton—Postmaster, from 1st January, £50; letter carrier and sorter, £120. Conveyance of mails—subsidy to A. S. N. Company for the conveyance of the English mail, Brisbane to Sydney, £750; subsidy to A. S. N. Company for the conveyance of the English mail from Sydney to Brisbane, when despatched within four hours after the arrival of the royal mail steamer, £1690.

HARBORS &c.,

Moreton Bay, Harbor department—Salaries—Assistant pilot at £150, from 1st February, £138; boatman at £96, from 1st February, £88. Contingencies—Fitting out new river pilot vessel, £200; sales for Spitfire, £100; one 16-foot buoy for Smith's Rock, £112; one 12-foot buoy for Ship Channel, £75; one 10-foot buoy for South Entrance, £65; two 6-foot buoys for River, at £45, £90, nun buoys ordered from England for the various ports, £100; moorings for new buoys, £55; fees to boatmen pilots, £20; allowance to pilots unavoidably detained at Brisbane, at 5s. per diem, £20.

Light-house, Moreton Bay—Incidental expenses, £110.

The sum of £1177 was proposed for the following services:—Maryborough—Salaries—Pilot, at £175, from 1st October, £44; acting ditto, at £120, from 1st January, £120; boatman, at £96, ditto; boatmen, at £96, from 1st October, £72. Contingencies—Sea pilot vessel, £700; whaleboat, complete, £65; dingy, £30; stores for pilot vessel, £50.

In reply to Mr. PUGH, who expressed a hope that the purchase of the sea pilot vessel would not be entrusted to the officer who had purchased the Julia Percy and the Era for the government,

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that the purchase of the sea pilot vessel would be entrusted to the portmaster. He believed that the question of the purchase of the Julia Percy was not sufficiently understood in the house. As he had stated on a former occasion the purchase of the Julia Percy was not such a losing bargain after all. Nearly the whole cost had been returned to the government by the sale of her stores.

Mr. TAYLOR expressed his entire disbelief in the qualifications of the portmaster, and moved that the vote be reduced by the sum of £845.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that it was not the intention of the government to continue the services of the pilot vessel at Maryborough, perhaps not longer than next year. The district could not absorb many immigrants, and he thought that a couple of ships would be as much as the district would receive. Under such circumstances it would be undesirable to continue the services of the vessel at Maryborough, and she might be sent elsewhere. He considered that these estimates were highly extravagant, in consequence of the irresponsibility of the Pilot Board.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said the vessel was to be built at Auckland, and he contended that the portmaster was perfectly competent to judge whether the vessel would be seaworthy. He defended the officer from the inconsiderate and unwarrantable charges of hon. members who had no professional knowledge. The pilot vessel would afford quarters for the pilot, and if she were not built, the government would have to expend £500 in the erection of a residence for the pilot.

The SPEAKER did not know what reason the Colonial Secretary had for saying that Maryborough could not absorb immigrants. The high rate of wages ruling there and the scarcity of labor showed that the district was capable of absorbing a large population. He was quite assured that a pilot was necessary for the harbor. Already one or two vessels had met with accidents there for want of a pilot. If there was a pilot he must have an establishment; and, apart from the consideration of a lighthouse on Breaksea Spit, a pilot was necessary for the port.

Mr. TAYLOR altered his amendment, by proposing a reduction of £750, being the items for the pilot vessel and stores. He stated that he knew members of the Pilot Board who had stated to him that they were not consulted at all with reference to the estimates; that Lieutenant Heath was the board.

Mr. MACKENZIE supported the expenditure on account of the pilot vessel for Maryborough.

The discussion proceeded at considerable length, and, upon the question being put, the amendment was negatived, and the original motion agreed to.

The following items were agreed to without opposition:—Port Curtis—Contingencies, £25. Rockhampton—Salaries—Assistant pilot, at £150, from 1st February, £138; coxswain, at £120,

from ditto, £110. Contingencies—Sea pilot vessel, £700; river ditto, to replace Satellite, £280; whaleboat, complete, £65; one 12-feet buoy for Cottier's Bank, £75; one 10-feet ditto for Elbow, £65; river buoys, in Fitzroy River, £100; moorings for new buoys, £45; beacons in Fitzroy River, £50; stores for pilot vessels, £50; spouting and tanks for houses, Curtis Island, £65; fees to boatmen pilots, £25; allowances to pilots detained in Rockhampton, at 5s. per diem, £20. Port Denison—Salaries—Extra to boatman, as coxswain and acting pilot, from 1st June, £14. Contingencies—Materials and expense of erecting boatshed, £85; repairs to Santa Barbara, £30; ditto whaleboat, £21. Pioneer River—Salaries—Coxswain and acting pilot, at £120, from 1st June, £70. Contingencies—Buoys and screw beacons, £100; boat, £30. Broad Sound—Salaries—Coxswain and acting pilot, at £120, from 1st June, £70. Contingencies—Buoys and beacons, £100; boat, £30. Water Police—Salaries—Inspector, £200; coxswain, £120; boatmen, at £94, £576.

LANDS AND WORKS.

The SECRETARY for LANDS and WORKS moved the items under this head. £100 was voted for the salary of a third-class clerk in the department of Lands and Works.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS.

The next item moved was £700 for this department:—Salaries—chief commissioner, from 1st January, £600; clerk, 3rd class, from 1st January, £100.

In reply to Mr. MACKENZIE,

The SECRETARY for LANDS and WORKS stated that the salaries for this year had not been paid out of the unforeseen expenses fund, but out of the savings of the department of Lands and Works, by the economy which had been used.

The item was passed.

The following items were passed without objection:—

Engineer of Roads.—Salaries.—3 foremen of works, at £250 (2 Northern division, 1 Southern division) £750.

Roads and Bridges.—Southern District.—Bridge, raising, &c., Three-mile Creek bridge, Ipswich to Dalby, £1665; bridge over Condamine, at Greenbank, £2000; bridge over Lockyer's Creek, Tarampa (to complete) £400; bridge over Breakfast Creek, wedging, &c., £450; culverts, Six-mile Creek, Goodna, £250; culverts at Wetheron Creek, £450; three culverts at Three-mile Scrub Road, near Brisbane, £150; Rosewood Scrub Road, forming, &c., £3000. Northern Districts.—Leichhardt and Kennedy, £1000; cutting through scrub between Westwood and Rio, £500; Fort Cooper to Pioneer River, Kennedy district, £500; bridge at Baramba Creek (to complete) £2100.

PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

The sum of £10,409 was proposed to be distributed as follows:—Toowoomba, toll-bar, repairs to house and gate, £150; Roma, courthouse and lock up, £250; ditto cost of temporary lock up, £40; Maryborough, immigration barracks (to complete) £80; Ditto, additional punt and ferry steps, £700; Knebsworth, punt at, £500; Gladstone, reservoir, £130; Rockhampton, cottages for pilot and boatmen, Curtis Island, £700; ditto. boatshed and store, £200; Ditto, School of Arts, £200; Ditto, morgue in connection with hospital, £200; Peak Downs, courthouse (additional sum), £250; Waverley, Broad Sound, Queen's warehouse and bonded store, £350; Ditto. ditto, Custom House (additional sum), £100; Port Denison, buildings, £3000; Erection of native police barracks, Logan and Albert Rivers, £300; erection of quarters for commissioners, Mitchell district, £150.

A long and desultory discussion ensued upon several of the items included in the foregoing estimate.

Mr. KENNEDY contended that the sum of £250 was not sufficient for the erection of a suitable lock-up and courthouse at Roma, yet it was the only item down for the Maranoa district, which was one of the largest contributors to the revenue of the colony.

Mr. DOUGLAS considered that the £300 for the erection of a native police barrack at the Logan and Albert Rivers was unnecessary, and moved that it be struck out. If the government intended to carry out their expressed intention of sending the black police into the unsettled districts, then no barracks was necessary; for all that would be required in the Moreton District would be a few black trackers to co-operate with the mounted white police or patrol, and surely a barracks was not required for the black trackers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY explained that in the district of Moreton, particularly in the part named, it was impossible to do without the assistance of the blacks. It was well known that the natives were occasionally very troublesome in the neighbourhood of the Albert and Logan Rivers, as well as at other places on the coast; and if there were not black police to hunt them out of the salt swamps where they concealed themselves after perpetrating mischief it would be impossible to keep them in order. He never contemplated maintaining a pure black force in the Moreton District, and on two previous occasions he stated so to the house; but nevertheless the barracks was necessary. He had no objection to striking out the word "native," so that the grant would be simply for "police barracks."

In reply to Mr. PUGH,

The SECRETARY for LANDS and WORKS stated that the site proposed for the barracks was reported to be a most excellent one, and in all respects suited for the purpose.

Mr. DOUGLAS withdrew his amendment.

The question was then put, and the grant was passed as proposed.

The following items, under the head Miscellaneous, were passed after some discussion:—Field battery from England, £500; fencing police paddock, Leyburn, £100; ditto, Gayndah, £100; in aid of the Hospital, Gayndah, £100.

AUDITOR-GENERAL.

The following items were agreed to without remark:—Clerk, 2nd class, increase of salary from 1st January, £100; clerk, 1st class, from 1st July, £150.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the CHAIRMAN left the chair and reported progress.

The House adjourned at 10 minutes past six o'clock till next day.