

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
15th September 1863**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 16th September 1863

THE SPEAKER took the chair at twenty-five minutes past three, and read the usual form of prayer.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table of the house certain returns with reference to land orders granted to discharged soldiers.

ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS.

Mr. LILLEY brought up a report of the Committee of Elections and Qualifications, which stated that a majority of the members of that committee had declared the recent election for East Moreton to be null and void.

The report was ordered to be printed.

ROCKINGHAM BAY.

Mr. SANDEMAN asked the Colonial Secretary, whether, it being contemplated by certain residents in the district of Kennedy to establish a settlement at Rockingham Bay, the government will be prepared to afford them any assistance in their object by sending up a Surveyor to report on a site for a township, or otherwise to assist in the formation of a settlement.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply, stated that if the residents at Rockingham Bay established a road to that place from the interior, the government would send a party by sea to report upon the capabilities of the district.

IMMIGRANTS PER WINTERTHUR.

Mr. MACKENZIE asked the Colonial Secretary whether land orders have been refused to certain parties paying their own passages who have lately arrived by the ship Winterthur.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply, stated that land orders had been refused in certain cases where the applicants had failed to produce the necessary documents, and the matter had been referred to Mr. Jordan, for his report.

RETURNING OFFICERS.

Mr. PUGH asked the Colonial Secretary whether the government intend to take any steps for securing the services of competent Returning-officers at future elections.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply, said that the government took every care to secure proper Returning-officers; but the fact that there was no emolument attached to it, the office was not in very great request.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

Mr. DOUGLAS asked the Attorney-General whether it is his intention to communicate with her Majesty's Crown Law Officers, with the view of ascertaining their opinion as to the general

powers possessed by the Legislature of this colony, under the 22nd clause of the Order in Council, bearing date 6th June 1859.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in reply, stated that a communication would be sent to the Crown Law Officers in England asking for their opinion upon the matter referred to by the hon. member.

BRISBANE DRY DOCK.

Mr. RAFF asked the Colonial Secretary—As the government do not intend to undertake the construction of a dry dock in Brisbane, will they be prepared to entertain any application for a free grant from the present reserve, to any person or persons who may be willing to construct such a dock?

The SECRETARY for LANDS, in reply, said that upon parties applying being prepared to show that they were in a position to construct a dry dock they would receive a grant.

POLLING PLACES.

Mr. BLAKENEY moved—“That in the opinion of this house no additional polling-place should be proclaimed in any electorate after the issue of a writ for the election of a member of the Legislative Assembly.” He said that in bringing the motion before the house he thought he would be able to show that it was in accordance with the spirit of the Electoral Act; he hoped therefore that it would not receive any opposition at the hands of the government. It would certainly relieve the government from a great deal of pressure at present existing, and would prevent a deal of confusion. By the 34th section of the act he had cited, which was endorsed by the 37th section, it was enacted that on the day of nomination the polling-places should be named; and he believed that the spirit of the act required that the polling-places should be confined to those which existed at the time when the list was issued.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that for a second time it became his duty to inform the house that one of its resolutions could not override an Act of parliament. If the motion were to be passed it would be impossible that it could be acted upon by the government. The 34th section of the Electoral Act gave the government power from time to time to proclaim polling-places—and he denied that that section was in any way controlled by section 37. It must be apparent to hon. members that until the poll was demanded there was no necessity for the declaration of polling-places. Not a single thing was said in the Act with reference to those polling-places in the manner inferred by the hon. member—the day was certainly referred to but not the place. As a matter of absolute law, he must oppose the proposition of the hon. member.

Mr. RAFF could not altogether agree with the law of the hon. Attorney-General; but admitted that the 36th section of the Act gave the government power to proclaim polling-places after the issue of the writ.

Mr. KENNEDY thought that the law at present existing was fraught with much injustice, and considered that there was too much power in the hands of the government.

Mr. TAYLOR did not think it was desirable that the power should be taken out of the hands of the government, and he should therefore oppose the motion.

Mr. BLAKENEY, seeing that it was the wish of the house, would consent to withdraw the motion, but he hoped that the government would use the power placed in their hands with more discretion for the future.

HEALTH OFFICER.

Mr. BLAKENEY moved—“That this house will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider of an address to the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for the years 1863 and 1864, a sum not exceeding £100 for each year, to supplement the salary of the Health Officer at Brisbane.” He said that the motion would require little from his hands to recommend it to the favorable notice of the house. Hon. members must admit that the salary of £100 per annum was very small remuneration for the performance of the duties connected with the office. The same salary was

paid when only about three ships arrived in the year, and now there were about twenty or thirty. He did not think that the officer would be overpaid if his salary were to be increased from £100 to £200.

Mr. LILLEY seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY was sorry that for one or two reasons he was compelled to oppose the motion. The gentleman who filled the office of Health Officer certainly had no claims over and above those other public servants the increase to whose salaries had been cut out of the estimates. He received altogether about £230 per annum from the government; and although perhaps it might be considered desirable to give the increase asked for in 1864, it certainly could not be entertained at the present moment.

Mr. MACKENZIE was surprised to hear the hon. Colonial Secretary objecting to the motion, seeing that the salary of one public officer had been increased from £750 to £900 after the government had pledged itself that such should not be the case.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY explained that the hon. member who had just sat down had misrepresented the case altogether. The government had never pledged itself to pay the Clerk of the Executive Council the whole of the salary.

Mr. MACKENZIE would not withdraw his statement.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY regretted that that statement was incorrect.

Mr. RAFF recollected that it had been stated that the salary of the Clerk of the Executive Council would be only £150 per year.

The SECRETARY for LANDS considered that if any gentleman performed the duties of two offices well, he was entitled to receive the two salaries. The gentleman, whose salary was then under discussion, received £230 per year for services which would perhaps take him about two hours in the week to perform. It was possible that when a ship came in he might be detained from his practice for some time; but as that happened only occasionally, he (the Secretary for Lands) thought there could be no objection to allow the matter to remain over until next session.

Dr. CHALLINOR thought the health-officer was paid much better than the coroners were. He should oppose the motion.

Mr. CRIBB was of opinion that the gentleman received a salary of £230 per annum for services which there were plenty of other persons willing to perform for a similar sum. He should oppose the motion.

Mr. TAYLOR must object to the motion. If the gentleman who at present performed the duties of Health Officer was dissatisfied, let him resign his office. He (Mr. Taylor) had no doubt but that if tenders were to be called for they would be able to get a person to do the required duties for a much smaller sum, in fact, for about half the money. He must acknowledge that he had never heard the Colonial Secretary give a distinct pledge that the Clerk of the Executive Council should only receive half of the sum voted as the salary for that office. He (Mr. Taylor) was sorry to hear that it was the intention of the government to propose the addition asked for during the next session, and should certainly vote against it, as he considered that the Health Officer was well paid already.

Mr. LILLEY, whilst agreeing with the hon. member for the Western Downs in most of his ideas of economy, certainly could not see the force of the proposition of that hon. member, that tenders should be called for the performance of the duties of Health Officer. They might just as well call for tenders for persons. If the duties of the office had increased it was not inconsistent to believe that an increase of salary should be granted.

Mr. PUGH thought, to carry out the proposition of the hon. member for the Western Downs, it would be advisable to call for tenders for under-secretaries. It appeared to be acknowledged that the duties of the Health Officer had increased, and as the salaries of other officials had been raised upon that plea he did not see why an exception should be made in the case of that officer.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL thought it would be much more satisfactory if the Health Officer were to be paid by fees. If under the present arrangement he was under-paid, it was, of

course, a hardship to him; on the other hand, if he were over-paid, it was unfair to the country. At all events, he thought the matter might be discussed next year.

Mr. BELL expressed his decided intention to oppose the motion.

Mr. BLAKENEY, in reply, said he believed that the proposed increase was opposed merely for the reason that the Health Officer refused to be regarded as a political sycophant of the government. The salary of that gentleman was the only one that had not been increased since separation, and he would challenge any hon. member to prove otherwise. The government members had asked why if he was not satisfied he did not throw his situation up. No doubt that was all they wanted. If he threw up the situation, they would be able to put into his place a pet who would doubtless prove more pliant. He (Mr. Blakeney) would leave the resolutions in the hands of the house.

The house divided on the motion with the following result:—

Ayes, 9.		Noes, 13.	
Mr. Douglas		Mr. Sandeman	
Coxen		Taylor	
Blakeney		Cribb	
Pugh		Challinor	
Mackenzie		M'Lean	
Lilley		Stephens	
Kennedy		Royds	
Edwards	} tellers.	Pring	
Raff	}	Bell	
		Moffatt	
		Wienholt	
		Herbert	} tellers.
		Macalister	}

The question was therefore resolved in the negative.

SOUTH BRISBANE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BILL.

Mr. STEPHENS rose to move the second reading of the above bill. He said that the object of the bill was precisely similar to that of the Ipswich School of Arts Bill, which had been introduced by the hon. Secretary for Lands, and the necessity for its introduction had arisen in a similar manner. He could account for its introduction at that late period of the session by mentioning that its projectors had waited to see what reception the Ipswich bill would meet with; and as that bill had received the concurrence of both branches of the Legislature, it was thought that the bill then before the house could be introduced with propriety. The circumstances under which the South Brisbane Institute applied to the Legislature were nearly identical with those of the Ipswich Institution, the difference being that the latter institution was not in debt, whilst the former was in debt to a small amount, and required money to pay for fencing the allotment upon which it was built, and for completing sundry other portions of the work. He might state that a substantial brick building had been erected at a cost of £900, £300 of which had been granted by the government, £250 had been subscribed, and a further grant of £150 having been voted, there was therefore upwards of £200 yet remaining to be paid, for the whole of which one member of the committee was liable; and the members of the institution desired to remove that liability by means of a mortgage. The bill was not an exact copy of the Ipswich bill, inasmuch as the property of that institution was vested in trustees, whilst the South Brisbane Institute had been incorporated under the provisions of the Religious and Charitable Institutions Act of 1861. That had been done in the belief that the committee would have the power of mortgaging the building; but it was subsequently found that the deed of grant was of such a stringent nature as to render the contemplated course of action impossible. Under the circumstances there was no other course open than to appeal to the legislature. He might state that there were two other provisoes

in the bill before the house which were not contained in the bill which he had before referred to—one was that the committee could not under any circumstances mortgage the property for a sum exceeding £500; and the other was that it was not competent for a mere vote of the committee to legalise a mortgage; but it required that a vote of the general body of the members of the institute should be taken previous to the consummation of a loan. He thought that he had fully explained the object of the bill, and he did not believe that hon. members would oppose it; and should conclude by moving its second reading.

Mr. CRIBB contended that the principle on which the present bill was introduced was different from that on which the Ipswich School of Arts Bill was based. He objected to the rushing of bills through the house, and leaving hon. members no time to examine them. (Hear, hear,) Still he would not object to the second reading of the bill—the amount proposed to be raised was small; but he objected to the bill on principle.

The question was put and passed.

The house then went into committee and considered the bill in detail. The bill was reported to the house without amendment, and the third reading was ordered for next day.

THE IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE.

The SPEAKER said, before calling upon the Colonial Secretary, he begged to inform the house that the record copy of the report of the committee which had been laid on the table of the house had been taken off by some one—he did not know who—and the consequence was that the copies now before the house had not been compared with the original.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY apprehended that, although the original copy of the report laid on the table had been removed for the custody of the clerk, nevertheless there need not be any doubt in the minds of hon. members that they held in their hands correct copies of the report (hear, hear) of the committee on immigration. He had no doubt that some hon. member had inadvertently taken it away to read it, and neglected to return it. In rising to move the adoption of the report it was necessary that he should, in the first instance, explain to the house how it came that he, not having been chairman of the committee, should do so. Hon. members would easily perceive the cause of it when they observed that the report as originally prepared by the chairman had been considerably amended by the committee when it came under their consideration. He might state that he was not able, and the committee were not able, to agree sufficiently with the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Raff), who had introduced the question of the appointment of the select committee, to enable him to take charge of the report as was the ordinary course. He could, with justice to that hon. member, say that he had gone through the long enquiry with much attention and patience, and worked with the committee to the very last in obtaining information on all matters connected with the subject referred to them. (Hear, hear.) As he (Mr. Herbert) had understood from the first, the hon. member's views on the question of immigration, particularly one or two of the questions that formed part of the enquiry, did not accord with his own. He did not, and could not expect that he should be able to coincide with him in framing a report, the details of which they both would agree with in bringing it before the house. The report had been amended, partly by himself (Mr. Herbert), and partly by other members of the committee, to something like what he wished; and he was therefore prepared now to remove its adoption. If the report bore on the face of it some inaccuracies of style, and a somewhat patchwork appearance, they were due to the manner in which it was mutilated by the committee, and to the practice of select committees in not revising the clauses after they had once made amendments; as regarded its form the report was a very good report at first, and the hon. the chairman must not be credited with any present defects. He (Mr. Herbert) had already troubled the house during the present year with a long statement on the subject of immigration, setting forth generally the views of the government as to what should form, in future, the immigration policy of this colony; and the report in the main embodied the propositions which he had made to the house on a former occasion. He did not consider that the report was to be accepted in every one of its clauses as exactly correct with reference to the views of the government and the proposed policy of immigration; and he would notice several clauses of it in order that he might be able to give such explanation as he considered desirable. The first clause that required detailed

notice from him was the third. It explained that under the peculiar circumstances of the 19th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act, the Assembly had very little option but to repeal that clause. He had laid on the table certain papers in which Mr. Jordan represented that the clause was not operative. In the Agricultural Reserves Bill, now before the house, steps had been taken to repeal the clause; and, for himself, he could not see why special advantages should be given to retired soldiers and sailors settling in the colony over other classes of immigrants. The fourth clause of the report recapitulated the terms and conditions under which land orders were granted to immigrants coming to the colony. The fifth clause affirmed that it would be inexpedient to abolish the land order system, as with some modifications it would answer well for the colony. This was one of the questions on which he had sought information from Mr. Jordan and others at home, and he was given to understand that the land order system of Queensland was one of the best systems of immigration brought before the country; but he was also given to understand that they did not understand why the transfer of those orders was permitted, or why the recipients of them should have the privilege of transferring them. It was therefore proposed to retain the land order system, but substituting for it in a considerable degree another system of assisted passages. By the sixth clause it would also be seen that the government proposed to have the power to purchase, "at a fixed rate, land orders issued to shippers, and to prevent their transfer in all other cases. This proposition, if carried out, your committee submit, will be the means of checking the traffic in land orders which has been carried on, to the prejudice of the immigrant and the consolidated revenue." This was what he had proposed to do; this was the chief part of the policy of the government immigration, which he called attention to and asked the house to affirm. The various evils which had arisen in this colony from the transfer of land orders were well enough known, and they were such as to justify the house and the government in, at once and for ever, putting an end to the transfer of land orders, and by the simplification of the system—by doing what he believed and maintained was simply carrying out the spirit of the clause in the Alienation of Crown Lands Act—inducing persons to settle on the crown lands of the colony. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member enumerated some of the evils which had resulted from the transfer of land orders, which, under the false representations of persons interested, had been sold for £5 before the parties entitled to them had left the ship, and in other cases, for little less on their coming ashore. The credit of the government had been affected in England, because stories that the land orders, valued there at £18, had a much less value here, had gone home; and people there had been disposed to estimate the land orders at the price interested parties chose to fix on them. The revenue itself had lost. Although it might be admitted, to a certain extent, that land sales had increased in extent, the number of acres sold had increased, yet the money received into the revenue was very much less, because large purchasers had paid in land orders who, in many cases, would have been able to pay in cash. The government desired to see the land order system restricted entirely as regarded private persons. He might observe that from the tenor of Mr. Jordan's communications the generality of persons who presented themselves at his office as intending emigrants did so under the belief that they would get eighteen acres of land for their £18 land order. He believed, therefore, that the actual grant of land to the person emigrating would be an improvement upon making the land order negotiable. But, then, there was another class of persons to deal with—the shippers who brought the immigrants to the colony. Hitherto they had received £18 transferable land orders, which they could negotiate as best they liked, and for whatever value they could realise for them in the land order market. This had been a matter of much uneasiness, on account of the fluctuating market, the holder having to wait a considerable time before their agents could negotiate them so as to get a return of their money. It would be as well for them and the government if those land orders could be replaced by money; it was worth while for the government to pay the shippers a sum of £16 each for those land orders up to a certain amount—which was not only the rate of passage from England but a very fair average of what land orders would fetch in the market. The sixth clause recommended "that the land fund should continue to be devoted to immigration, and that no loans, except those of a temporary character, and to be repaid from such fund, should be contracted for immigration. The law, as it at present stands, establishes a direct relation between the introduction of immigrants and the alienation of land; and your committee think it extremely desirable that this relation should be continued—that the alienation of land should continue to be closely connected with the introduction of immigrants." He said that the amount spent on immigration should not exceed

in amount the sum received for land sales. The second alteration proposed by the government in the land order system was the withdrawal of the second land order, and was thus put in the seventh clause:—"Your committee believe that it has been clearly shown by the evidence that an immigration sufficient for the wants of the colony can now easily be procured without the promise of the second land order; and they are of opinion, therefore, that the law should be altered by withdrawing this promise." He was of opinion that the law should be so altered; and although he denied that there was a promise, still he thought it would be well that there should be no further mention in the Land Act of the land order. Although the Land Act said that the government might issue land orders, it was not compulsory on them to do so if the people did not demand the second land order. ("Oh, oh," from the opposition.) He maintained that instead of being censured as he had been by the newspapers of Ipswich and hon. members opposite, the proposal deserved praise. He believed that the hon. member, Mr. Raff, would rise presently and say that he was a malefactor, and that he had broken the law. (Laughter.) He did not think that what he had done was a breach of the law. If persons were found—and Mr. Jordan was clear on that head—willing to emigrate and forego the second land order, those who did not wish to forego the claim must wait until the others were provided for. Unless hon. members on the other side proved that he had been guilty of a violation of the law, common candour demanded that they should abstain from such silly imputation, He had no interest in breaking the law; and, talking of his alleged unconstitutional conduct, he stated that he should have been perfectly prepared to do anything short of a breach of the law, and to present himself to the house for judgment. He had not the least idea that he was not responsible to the house for whatever he did when the house was not sitting. If he could save the public money, whenever he had an opportunity of doing so, he would do it. Clause eight—"Your committee highly approve of the arrangements carried out by the government for assisted immigration, by which the twelve pound land order, as well as a portion of the cost of the passage of the immigrant, is saved to the colony." This referred to a third kind of immigration now proposed to be introduced. There were large numbers of persons in England and Ireland, in the position of small farmers and others, who were prepared to pay a considerable sum towards the cost of their passage to this colony. It must appear plain that the government should take advantage of this state of things. The Queensland Immigration Society had received a sum of money from each immigrant they introduced, which they declined to call a portion of the passage money, but a donation—he would not quarrel with the term:—but they had received this money, and they had also received the land orders of the immigrants. Taking Bishop Quinn's statement, they had received £6 on an average from each immigrant. Now he (Mr. Herbert) proposed that the government of Queensland should enter into that highly profitable business; and he proposed that the government of Queensland should receive from persons, on account of passages, a sum, which they had fixed at £8 for an adult male and £6 for a single female—in consequence of the great demand for them. Those immigrants would cost the government £8 or £9 a head, instead of costing two land orders; and instead of what the Queensland Immigration Society had cost them, two land orders. On this subject Mr. Jordan had written as follows:—"I have now to present a plan, which I have laid before the Colonial Secretary, which will effect a saving to the government of upwards of fifty thousand pounds a year over the present plan, in the introduction of three thousand (3000) emigrants, and would sustain an emigration of the best description of the laboring class, all carefully selected, at a cost of thirteen pounds (£13) per head (adult), while the land order system may be retained in its integrity for keeping up the emigration of a middle capitalist class, now promising so much benefit to the colony." He (Mr. Herbert) might explain that £3 out of the £8 would go to expenses connected with the shipment of the people. "I should have no difficulty," continued Mr. Jordan, "in sending out from three thousand to five thousand (3000 to 5000) a year of such persons—the best class of honest, industrious, hard-working men, of good character and provident habits—who would care nothing at all about any land orders, if they could only obtain assistance to about half the cost of passage, and who would on those terms cheerfully pay eight pounds (£8) per adult towards it themselves. It will be apparent that this would at once give, in the first place, three thousand (3000) twelve-pound (£12) land orders, amounting to thirty-six thousand pounds (£36,000) on the number proposed. There would also be a revenue derived from the emigration amounting to about five pounds (£5) per adult, or fifteen thousand (£15,000) pounds more, from its operation, effecting a saving together of upwards of fifty thousand pounds a year

on the present plan." Now his (Mr. Herbert's) only doubt was—and he did not gravely entertain it—whether the Emigration Agent had been too sanguine in saying that he could find plenty of persons willing to pay part of their passages in the way proposed; but he continued to receive constant assurances from that gentleman on the subject. (Hear, hear.) It was obvious that by the government taking the three thousand instead of the Queensland Immigration Society doing it, they would save the colony £50,000 a year. By the ninth clause of the report it would be seen that the government proposed to "continue the second land order to intermediate and cabin passengers, as it is thought desirable to encourage the immigration of persons likely to be possessed of some amount of capital, and to settle down on the land. Your committee so far agree with the proposal; but, instead of giving land orders, would allow them to select 30 acres of land, to which, after two years, they would be entitled to a grant." He thought that a very good recommendation indeed of the committee; and he pressed it strongly on the consideration of the house. The persons referred to would be entitled to what would make a tolerably-sized farm to which an immigrant could go immediately he arrived. The reason why the government proposed this was, that intermediate and cabin passengers paid so much more than steerage passengers, to whom an £18 land order would be ample remuneration. The tenth clause said—"It appears from the evidence that the different restrictions placed by the parliament on the transfer of land orders, whilst they entirely failed in preventing their sale, caused a further depreciation in price, and proved to be the means of depriving the immigrant of a great portion of the value of his land order, instead of being the means of protecting him, as was intended by the regulation imposing them." That met what he had already said. The only way by which the abuses could be avoided was by making the land orders non-transferable. The eleventh clause had reference to the proportions of emigrants to be taken from different parts of the United Kingdom, and set forth that whereas the number of applicants for passages exceeded the number required for the colony, some rule was necessary. The rule proposed by the government was the best that could be adopted—that the immigrants should have passages in proportion to the population of the divisions of the United Kingdom. If we wished to have an English colony in Queensland, it ought to be composed on the principle of the proportions of population at home. While in England, he was informed that the Queensland Immigration Society were prepared to send out this year thirteen thousand souls from Ireland; and he had no doubt they would have proceeded to do so. He was happy to say that, unless the Parliament otherwise ordered, they would not send out thirteen thousand from Ireland. He thought that, instead, six or seven thousand should come from England, and two or three thousand from Scotland. By clause twelve, it was proposed that the immigration from the continent of Europe should be composed of "the relations or friends of those Germans now in the colony who may provide for their passage, and to any smaller number, not exceeding one-fourth of the whole, that may be necessary with these to fill a ship." This question was discussed by the committee, and decided after long consideration on this ground—that there were so many of our fellow-countrymen applying for passages to Queensland, they had a higher claim than the Germans. It was considered, too, that private enterprise might do a great deal for German immigration, because the German worked for much less wages than the British immigrants. Clause thirteen:—"Your committee, whilst satisfied with the reasons given by the hon. Colonial Secretary for the arrangements entered into with the owners of the Black Ball line of ships for the conduct of their assisted emigration, recommend that immigration to this colony should not be exclusively confined to one line of ships, if the conveyance of emigrants could be as satisfactorily secured by the employment of the ships of other firms." That also was subject to much consideration on the part of the committee. His opinion was in accordance with it. He thought it was worth while for the colony to throw open the traffic to tender, and by competition do away with what some persons seemed to think a monopoly. (Hear, hear.) But the house had to consider whether the immigration could be conducted at a lower cost by them and with equal satisfaction to the present arrangement. He had stated to the committee that he would communicate with Mr. Jordan as to whether other shipping firms could not take up a portion of the traffic. This referred to steerage passengers only. The government could not undertake to control cabin passengers. He had instructed Mr. Jordan, in no instance, to refuse persons land orders who were proceeding by other ships, unless for very strong reasons. He was of opinion that no ground whatever existed for the complaints that had been made of the insufficiency of the accommodation of the ships of the Black Ball line. On the contrary, being clipper ships, making

short passages, they were enabled to afford superior accommodation for passengers. It was observed in the fourteenth clause "that the arrangements made by the government for the remuneration of surgeons-superintendent and other officers were such as seemed to be sufficient to secure the services of men of good professional qualifications and high moral character; but they regret to find, from the evidence of Mr. Manning, that they have failed to secure good men as surgeons-superintendent in all cases; they also regret to find, from the evidence of the health officer, that the observance of cleanliness has not been so well enforced on ships of the Black Ball line, as on those chartered by the commissioners." He feared that was inevitable. The commissioners had a strong hold on their surgeons, because they raised their fees to a very considerable remuneration according to the number of voyages they made, and their large experience in the conduct of the ships. Mr. Jordan had been particularly unfortunate with the men he had placed on board the ships, in spite of all his care in selecting them. All he (Mr. Herbert) could recommend to the house was that the system should get a fair trial. Clause fifteen was as follows:—"It is much to be regretted that the immigration department has hitherto not been placed on a more efficient footing, when it must be admitted that the duties of that department have been increased in such a manner, and have acquired such a degree of importance. It appears that the salaries of the Health Officer and Immigration Agent are the same in amount now as they were several years ago, when their duties scarcely exceeded one-tenth of what they are at present; indeed, the latter gentleman appears to be in a less advantageous position now than formerly, as previous to separation he was provided with a house in addition to his salary; according to the evidence, until very lately he has not received proper assistance, although he appears to have performed his responsible duties faithfully and satisfactorily." Well, he would take the Health Officer first. He believed he had stated to the committee that the time would come when he thought it would be advisable that that officer should have an increase of salary; but he had said that he had other emoluments and his private practice, so that as far as the present year he could remain as he was. With respect to the Immigration Agent, although he had not demurred to the report, he must say that the "satisfactory" part of it required some qualification. Both that officer and Mr. Manning gave evidence before the committee, and he found Mr. Kemball's evidence selected for special remark by the committee. He did not like to stand, as the responsible head of the department, in the light of the Immigration Agent in the committee; but he could not say that he was a satisfactory officer. From his want of temper and judgment, he was the most unsatisfactory officer in the service; and from his incivility to the public he had given a great deal of trouble. He called him a conscientious and an honest officer, and he thought he did his duty faithfully. But there was no more unsatisfactory officer as regarded temper and demeanour to the public and to the officials connected with him; and he gave a very great deal of trouble in the department. He thought it right to bring this forward; but he should press it no farther, but content himself by calling Mr. Kemball a faithful and conscientious officer. Comparing the fifteenth and sixteenth clauses, in which Mr. Kemball and Mr. Jordan were named, it would appear that Mr. Kemball was the most efficient officer. But to Mr. Jordan alone, above all other persons, were the thanks of the colony due for the way in which he had carried out our system of immigration. (Hear, hear.) Though he had never written to him informing him that no increase to his salary would be put down this year, if Mr. Jordan's salary was increased £1 per annum for every £1000 he had saved to the colony, he (Mr. Herbert) was sure that Mr. Jordan would have a very large increase of salary. In the sixteenth clause there was some truth, but he confessed that the more he saw of immigrants the less attention he felt disposed to pay to their complaints. All the manly immigrants got to work immediately, and put up with the ground-floor of the depot, and took their meat uncooked, without complaint; and for all the grumblers he did not care a snap of his finger. (Hear, hear.) As regarded the accommodation at the depot—referred to in the seventeenth clause—he certainly did not think it was all that it should be, and it must be in some way amended. Some provision should be made for sending them and their families up the country (hear, hear), and as to the country depots, he thought they should be tried experimentally. Instructions had been issued to the agent at Maryborough to ascertain what carriage could be obtained for to convey the families in the depot there to Gayndah. With respect to the twelfth clause of the draft regulations—which were approved by the committee in the nineteenth clause of this report—for the introduction of "remittance immigrants," it would be seen that a lower rate was charged than the amount to be paid in England for assisted passages. It

was desirable to encourage persons here to send home for their friends and relations, and to pay the money here instead of sending it home, and therefore an advantage was offered to induce them to pay here. Yet the rates were much higher than they were before—£6 instead of £4 for married women under 35 years of age and men under 40; and £8 instead of £6 for men and women over those ages. They must prevent the continuance of what he was sorry to say had been done before—persons coming to Queensland to make their way to the other colonies. (Hear, hear.) The colony had not lost on the whole, because the arrivals coastwise from the other colonies exceeded the departures. Next he came to clause twenty-first of the report, which referred to the Queensland Immigration Society. He had cheerfully taken on himself the odium attached to this question. He knew there were many persons in the colony who would shrink from touching it. It had been his duty to enquire into it and to recommend to the government that the operations of the society should be brought to a close. He need not go into the history of the formation of the society, nor to the part the government had taken in it—that was all in evidence. The hon. member briefly reviewed the correspondence on the subject which had taken place between himself and Bishop Quinn. The Bishop desired to bring out a number of his countrymen who, as he stated, were in great distress in their own country. The government declined to be compromised, and he (Mr. Herbert) stated in a letter to the Bishop that he would not exactly interfere with the society any more than with a private person, yet that he could not pledge himself or the government to any of the details of the society, and he stated further that the government would watch with great interest the proceedings of the society. The government had watched them with great interest—more painful interest than he had expected; because from time to time great complaints had been made by persons coming out under the society. The government had been compelled to come to one conclusion—that they could do more good to the inhabitants of Ireland or England, or any other part of the United Kingdom whence immigrants came to Queensland, than the Queensland Immigration Society could; they could bring them out at a very much lower cost to the immigrants themselves than the society, and at a very much less cost to the government. It was impossible that the government could have any control over the immigrants brought out by the society, or over the operations of such a society. In the Roman Catholic Church there was very great difficulty in procuring—he might say, for example—baptismal certificates; and they had nothing but the affidavit of a second person that the infant was of the proper age. They had no means of knowing what donation the immigrants might make to the Queensland Immigration Society. He knew that in many instances immigrants had paid more than £8 to the society, and the society got their land orders. The question resolved itself into this:—What was the use of the government giving the Queensland Immigration Society land orders worth £18, and the society receiving an average of £6—thus receiving £24 for each immigrant they introduced—when the passage of each immigrant costs only £16. Instead of doing this, why should not the government introduce the immigrants, and have the money? (Hear, hear.) The society had done some of their work well—though he ought not to say so, because it would not be received well by the promoters of the society. Not only the land orders, but promissory notes had been given by some of the immigrants, in addition to the sums paid before their departure from home; and, indeed, some of those immigrants had been hardly used. He did not say it might not be proper for the welfare of the society; but he doubted very much whether it was necessary that the society should receive all that money in order to keep up immigration from Ireland. The clause, as it originally stood in the report, adverted to the complaints of the Bishop, the promoter of the society, and the conduct of the government. It was probable that the chairman of the committee held the same opinion still; and he (Mr. Herbert) had no doubt the hon. member (Mr. Raff) would speak upon it. He would state briefly under what circumstances he advised the Rev. Dr. Quinn, of Dublin, why he could not continue to carry on the system of Irish emigration. On his arrival in England, a letter from his own office reached him notifying that regulations had been published in the “Gazette” to the effect that all emigration must be conducted through the Queensland agent in England (Mr. Jordan). Those regulations could not have come at a more opportune time. Preparations were being made to ship a number of immigrants from Ireland. He was never more satisfied in his life to have his hands strengthened as they were then. He communicated to Dr. Quinn, in Dublin, that he was not in future to continue to send out immigrants unless through Mr. Jordan. The rev. gentleman remonstrated with him, and stated that he was placed in a position of great inconvenience—that his credit was pledged to a large

number of persons to provide passages for them to Queensland, and that the untimely action of the Queensland government took him by surprise. He (Mr. Herbert) immediately called upon Dr. Quinn to state how many passengers he had engaged to provide passage for; and in his answer, the number was stated to be from four hundred to four hundred and fifty. He took upon himself, spite of the regulations, to send that number out; and he authorised Dr. Quinn in that matter. Instead of being thanked for this concession, he had been roundly abused. Dr. Quinn had made many ingenious suggestions to induce him (Mr. Herbert) to suspend action regarding the society; one was to wait until the whole matter was referred to his brother in Queensland, from whom he received all his instructions. He (Mr. Herbert) told him he had no such latitude, but would take so much upon himself as to allow the number named to go out under the society's arrangements. Of course, it was a very mortifying thing for the promoters of the society, but he (Mr. Herbert) was not disposed to flinch one iota from the responsibility of what he had done. The society were an irregular excrescence on our immigration system. If the society had conducted their business in the way he firmly believed they had done it, they must have several thousands of pounds from the promotion of the immigration of the friends of the people they had already brought out. They had large grants of land, having made large purchases, he perceived, on the part of the society. They were left in a position to bring out very many persons, but those persons would not be entitled to land orders. The concluding clause of the report recommended the repeal of the 20th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act, it being understood that the government would issue the grants of thirty acres of land as already suggested, and make due provision for the conduct of immigration. In concluding his remarks he said he had not anticipated the charge that might hang over his head, but he should have an opportunity to reply.

Mr. RAFF must be permitted to compliment the hon. the Colonial Secretary upon the able and clear manner in which he had spoken on the question before the house, which had evidently been characterised by a wish to give no unnecessary offence to those hon. members who differed from him in opinion. He (Mr. Raff) might state that the imperfections of the report were attributable more to the draughting of the amendments into it than to himself, by whom it had been originally draughted. Many persons had expressed themselves as being surprised that the report had not made its appearance much earlier, in fact, some weeks ago, and he would wish to explain that the members of the committee had made every effort to bring up the report as speedily as possible. One of the principal causes of delay was the fact that there were many committees sitting at the time, and hon. members must be aware that there was a very small staff of shorthand writers, whose exertions, he must admit, had been indefatigable, but from whom it would be useless to expect an amount of work beyond their power. Delays had also occurred in the printing, which, from the large amount of work on hand, was frequently behind. As a proof of the anxiety which he had felt to get the report out as quickly as possible, he might state that he had dictated it under very unfavorable circumstances, some time previous to his having seen the printed evidence. He hoped, therefore, that no complaint of there having been any delay on the part of the committee would be entertained by the house. Hon. members would doubtless recollect that at the time he had moved for the appointment of the select committee he had disavowed any desire that it should be made a party question. That he had not altogether succeeded in effecting his object with regard to the appointment of the committee was, perhaps, partly owing to the fact that the majority of its members had a strong leaning to the government view of the question. He might state, in fact, that the greater part of them were chosen from the government side of the house. He sincerely hoped that it would not be made a party question of that evening. As the Colonial Secretary had treated the question in a very temperate manner, he (Mr. Raff) in explaining to the house the one or two points in which he differed from that hon. gentleman, would endeavor to do so as temperately as possible. He might state that there were many clauses of the report to which he agreed, but on the other hand there were others to which he was opposed. When he first draughted it he had endeavored to keep in view the ideas on the different points of the subject held by the members of the committee. On one or two of those ideas he felt rather strongly, and in conversation he had hoped to be able to get over the adverse opinions held by the committee. Unfortunately he had not succeeded in doing so, and he would endeavor to explain some of the material points upon which he had differed with the hon. Colonial Secretary and some other members of the committee. That hon. gentleman had challenged him (Mr. Raff) to show that the withholding of the second land order was contrary to law and justice,

and he was quite prepared to answer that challenge. The hon. Colonial Secretary had given a reason that evening why the land order referred to should not be issued which he had certainly never before stated, in arguing that there was no actual promise given, but that the clause of the act was merely permissive, and did not bind the government to give the land order even if the conditions contained in the clause were to be complied with. As that was an entirely new objection, he (Mr. Raff) would not pretend to give a decided legal opinion on it; but he thought he would be able to show that the Colonial Secretary had admitted the legality of the claim provided that the conditions were complied with, when he argued that it was quite justifiable on the part of the government to get the immigrants to renounce their claim by asking them to sign a certain declaration. He (the Colonial Secretary) had argued in the committee—perhaps very properly—that it was a much more straightforward mode of procedure that notice should be given to parties that the second land order would not be given, than that when they came out they should find themselves disappointed. But it appeared that government had also refused to grant passages to persons who would not renounce that land order, whilst at the same time the legality of their claim is admitted. The Colonial Secretary distinctly stated that much in his evidence as follows, the questions being put by him (Mr. Raff) as chairman of the committee:—“19. I understand you that it is perfectly legal and justifiable to dictate terms to the immigrant, if he, agreeably to the Act, pays his own passage? I take it, the regulation applies to all parties paying their own passage, as well as to parties voluntarily surrendering their land orders. The object was, as I think, explained before—that persons willing to forego their second land order should have priority of ship; if we could not get persons willing to do so, we should have to give them their second land order; but as there is an unlimited number of applicants for passages on condition of receiving only one land order, it is a saving to the colony of thousands of pounds to take those first who voluntarily forego their second land order.—20. Just so; but the question I now ask is, does not this regulation amount to a repeal of the Act? Assuredly not; it is not a regulation of any authority whatever; it is a brief instruction to intending immigrants, and is of no legal value, unless they consent.—21. You mean to say that after they arrive, notwithstanding this regulation, these emigrants will be entitled to demand their land orders, agreeably to the promise of the Act? Unless they have signed a declaration to the effect that they will forego their second land order.—22. But do you consider it right for the Emigration Agent to request passengers paying their full passage to sign any declaration, foregoing their right to part of the promises contained in the Act? Yes; I think it very right—very desirable.—23. Then the present working of the scheme, as I understand from what you say, is that not only all parties receiving assisted passages are required to sign the declaration, but that no certificates are given to steerage passengers, paying their full passage, unless they sign it? Yes, so long as there are a sufficient number forthcoming willing to sign it. It amounts to this—that neither I, nor Mr. Jordan, could see the colony put to thousands of pounds unnecessary expense, if the persons entailing that expense were willing to save the colony so much.—24. But don't you think it of more consequence to save the promises and good faith than even the cash of the country? Certainly; the promises and good faith of the country are fully saved; the arrangement gives ample satisfaction to parties dealing with the government.” In his (Mr. Raff's) opinion it appeared to be very clear from that evidence that the immigrants had a perfect legal claim to the second land order, unless they chose to forego it in the manner pointed out; and it was equally clear that the government had said to intending immigrants “that there was a second land order promised, but as we can get plenty of people, who are anxious to emigrate, to forego that order, we cannot grant you a passage unless you consent to do the same.” Of course, different people entertained different ideas of honor and honesty, but if the hon. Colonial Secretary considered the course of action just referred to, to be right and honorable, he (Mr. Raff) must confess to differing in that opinion. He could not agree that in so doing they were acting in a proper or legal manner, and he would just put a parallel case. Suppose that an individual had a large number of promissory notes about to fall due, and that by some means or another he manages to get beyond the reach of the law, and tells the holders of these promissory notes when they fall due he will pay fifteen shillings in the pound if they like to take it, if not, they may just wait and take their chance of getting any. (Hear, hear.) He should not find fault with such a system if applied to the applicants for assisted passages, for the government would have a perfect right to call upon those parties who were assisted to forego a portion of their claims. But he must demur to the justice of such a condition being exacted from

those parties who pay their own passages. It certainly would not have the effect of assisting immigration, and he must say that he could not see that the government had been at all justified in dealing with an Act of Parliament in such a manner. They had been repeatedly told lately that a resolution of that house could not possibly affect an Act of Parliament, and he certainly was of opinion that if such were the case, surely an order of the Executive was not sufficiently powerful to do what a resolution of the house failed to effect. The hon. member who proposed the adoption of the report would not, he thought, advocate their acting in the face of a contract which was guaranteed by Act of Parliament, although his opinion appeared to be that the colony need not be too particular in adhering to Acts of Parliament. The Colonial Secretary had complained of being harassed by the opinions he (Mr. Raff) had delivered on the matter. [The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That never applied to you.] He had certainly given his opinion of the whole question on two or three occasions to the House, and was astonished to find that in doing so he had harassed the hon. gentleman. However, he had determined to deal in the most temperate manner with the question, and only regretted that the hon. gentleman did not see it in the same light as himself. He (Mr. Raff) knew very well that he had many supporters—there were many hon. members, whose opinions were consonant with his own, and he knew at the same time that the hon. Colonial Secretary would carry a majority of the house with him, or he would not have expressed himself as he had done. There was, however, no doubt in his (Mr. Raff's) mind that the proper course which should have been adopted would have been, if it was proved to be desirable, to have abolished the clause in a legal manner at once, instead of going to work in what he conceived to be a very objectionable manner indeed. The next matter of importance in which he differed with the hon. Colonial Secretary was as to the way in which that hon. gentleman proposed to continue the land order system. It was proposed by him that land orders should be issued to shippers transferable only to the government, who would agree to purchase them at a certain fixed price. Now he (Mr. Raff) maintained that by doing so the land order system would be retained merely in name, and from and in answer to questions put by him to the Colonial Secretary as follow, that hon. gentlemen had clearly admitted that such was the case:—"37. In fact, the proposed arrangement amounts to paying cash instead of land orders to the shipowners for the passages of immigrants, and giving a grant of land to the man that pays his own passage? Yes.—38. Well, do you not consider the issue of land orders to the shipowners a useless form, under such an arrangement—a mere fiction? Yes; it may be considered so. I consider that a better plan would be, for a sufficient amount to be voted annually by parliament for the payment to shippers of whatever may be considered a proper rate of passage money for steerage immigrants ; and, I may add, that the shippers would far prefer that course.—39. Then the question seems to me to resolve itself into this—can we afford the outlay of a considerable amount, without reference to the sale of lands?—because there is no doubt that land orders issued by the government, and receivable only in payment for land, are not such a serious liability as actual cash engagements; and if there existed a very large amount of land orders in circulation, their very depreciation would assist very largely their absorption? I may say, in answer to that, that I do think it would be preferable to make cash payments, but that when a large sum, of £100,000 or upwards, or, in fact, any considerable sum, was asked for the purpose of introducing labor, the Assembly might hesitate to incur so large an expenditure out of the consolidated revenue, although they might not hesitate to sanction an unlimited expenditure out of the Crown lands of the colony, from which the consolidated revenue in a great degree is raised. I should say that I have no doubt that the benefit accruing to the colony directly, in the way of custom duties received, and indirectly in its general development, forms a very sufficient interest on the money expended in bringing out steerage passengers." He (Mr. Raff) did not believe that any necessity existed for the continuance of a form, which was, after all, but a mere fiction. He did not approve of an alteration being made in the land order system, the effect of which would be to make a direct cash payment. That system would not have the slightest relation to, or affect the sale of, the crown lands of the colony, and was entirely at variance with what had been adopted by the committee at the end of paragraph 6 of the report, which read as follows:—"Your committee strongly recommend that the land fund should continue to be devoted to immigration, and that no loans, except those of a temporary character, and to be repaid from such fund, should be contracted for immigration. The law, as it at present stands, establishes a direct relation between the introduction of immigrants and the alienation of land; and your

committee think it extremely desirable that this relation should be continued—that the alienation of land should continue to be closely connected with the introduction of immigrants.” He remembered that the house had distinctly affirmed the principle contained in the quotation which he had just read. It had been admitted on all hands that while the land order system worked well there were still many imperfections in it; but he certainly could not conceive that the plan advocated by the hon. Colonial Secretary was calculated to remedy those many evils. There was no doubt but that a deal of discredit was attached to the colony when the news reached home of the value of the land orders. It must be admitted by hon. members that he had always deprecated the many unwise restrictions which had been placed upon the system—restrictions which had altogether failed to carry out the objects for which they had been invented; and they all knew how these restrictions had in many instances been evaded by unscrupulous persons. The effect had been to damage the immigrant, without in the slightest degree adding to the revenue of the colony. The hon. Colonial Secretary had referred to the sum of £100,000 to be spent on immigration, and had appeared to consider that that particular way of putting it would be a means of adjustment for the Colonial Treasurer. A very important point, however, had been omitted. It was generally understood that the land fund of the colony was to be devoted to immigration, and not be absorbed in the ordinary expenditure. He hoped the house would see that fund was devoted to no other purpose. That principle had been decidedly affirmed in the report. It would be found that in paragraph three a very important alteration had been effected with reference to the granting of land orders to soldiers and sailors. Whether the conclusion arrived at had been a correct one or not it was for the house to say. Another important point was the agreement that it would be unwise to confine the issue of land orders to those immigrants who came out in one particular line of ships. He would here state that he thought it would be admitted that in draughting the report he had omitted casting any censure upon the government, and in the particular paragraph referring to the matter he had just adverted to the portion which had been struck out by the committee, and had afterwards been, to a certain extent, replaced. He thought the house would agree in the desirability of issuing land grants, which would, of course, simply be grants of land, to be selected and used by the grantees. The restriction placed upon German immigration, by the twelfth paragraph, was very strict indeed, and in his opinion would have the effect of putting a stop to that class of emigration altogether. He hoped the government would take great care in the selection of surgeons to accompany the ships, as hitherto the regulations with regard to cleanliness and morality had not been in all cases enforced in a proper manner. He felt constrained to make some remarks with reference to paragraph 16, and must say that he scarcely thought the hon. Colonial Secretary was justified in speaking of the Immigration Agent in the manner which he had done. He was hardly warranted in stating that that officer was generally disliked by the public; and there was certainly nothing to show that he was incapable of performing his duties, or was troublesome to the government. He (Mr. Raff) did not believe that such was the case. Mistakes had perhaps occurred, but they were owing to the fact that the agent did not receive proper assistance—the evidence clearly went to show that he neither received proper assistance nor proper treatment. His evidence had been given very unwillingly. [The Colonial Secretary: Unfairly.] He (Mr. Raff) did not think the hon. gentleman was justified in saying unfairly; he had a seat on the committee at the time, and it was quite competent for him to examine the officer. He (Mr. Raff) was certainly of opinion that the evidence had not been given unfairly. The principal under-secretary had, in his conduct towards the immigration agent, displayed great arrogance, and had exercised an undue amount of authority, which he (Mr. Raff) believed the house would not approve of. If the immigration agent was expected to do his duty faithfully, it was only reasonable to suppose that he must be protected from treatment of the character complained of. Some of the correspondence which had been produced clearly proved that the officer referred to considered himself to be not merely principal under-secretary but principal secretary. He would not take up the time of the house by reading it, but it showed that a system prevailed much at variance with that of other colonies; and he would repeat that if the government desired to keep efficient officers those officers must be protected from annoyances of the nature adverted to. The hon. Colonial Secretary must be aware that the complaints of the immigrants were frequently of a frivolous nature, and that every attention should be paid to suggestions made by the immigration officers; and that it was the duty of the government as far as possible to make arrangements for the prevention of causes of discontent. He trusted that the

government would follow out one recommendation of the committee—that of providing a better style of accommodation for the immigrants, and of distributing them as rapidly as possible over the whole of the colony. He could not quite agree with the twenty-first clause of the report. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Brisbane gave very long evidence, and made several complaints—charges of discourtesy, precipitancy in determining the arrangements without notice, and so on. The report was drawn up before the committee received that evidence, and the committee had not, and he had not, made up his mind as to what opinion they could give on that evidence. Without taking further evidence and going into further enquiry, it was impossible for the committee to give any opinion on that part ; and he thought the subject might be got rid of by stating this and leaving the Colonial Secretary to give, in his place, such explanation as he might think necessary. The action of the Government in carrying on the assisted immigration after the same plan which was pursued by the Queensland Immigration Society, had his approval. Of course, he gave no opinion, as he said before, as to the manner in which the government dealt with the society—whether they gave them due notice of discontinuance of the system, or were guilty of the want of courtesy complained of. But, as he said before, he was quite of opinion that it was quite proper for the government to take up the system of immigration themselves (“hear, hear,” from the Treasury benches); and he thought they ought to have done so at an earlier period. They had been shown the way by the society; and he thought the society ought to have been treated with some courtesy and consideration. In his opinion, the Bishop had not spoken so much as a bishop or a member of the society as a colonist. (“Oh,” from the Treasury benches.) He (Mr. Raff) had left many points untouched, and he trusted that the hon. the Colonial Secretary would admit that he had not expressed his opinions otherwise than temperately. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MACKENZIE (who was frequently inaudible) said the conclusion he had come to was, that he could have wished, if the forms of the house allowed it, that the report should be considered clause by clause, so as to make it meet the views of hon. members. There was a great deal in it that he agreed with, and a great deal that he disagreed with. For the expression of his opinion it would be necessary for him to do as other hon. members had done, speak to the clauses separately. He objected to the third clause, and stated that in his opinion those soldiers and sailors who had come out in compliance with the original regulations were entitled to the remission of the purchase money of the land they came out to take up. He perfectly agreed with clauses four and five. When he came to clause six he was very much inclined to agree with the opinions expressed by the hon. member for North Brisbane. The proposition of the Colonial Secretary was a most extraordinary one: first, to borrow a large sum of money for the purposes of immigration—the shippers would absorb two-thirds or three-fourths of it—and then to issue land orders. The land orders would be issued one day representing £18, and the next day they would be taken up for £16. This was a circumlocutory way. Why not make an agreement with the shippers and pay them in cash at once. (Hear, hear, from the ministerial side; and Mr. Herbert: “That is just what I propose.”) Your committee strongly recommend that the land fund should continue to be devoted to immigration, and that no loans, except those of a temporary character, and to be repaid from such fund, should be contracted for immigration. The law, as it at present stands, establishes a direct relation between the introduction of immigrants and the alienation of land; and your committee think it extremely desirable that this relation should be continued—that the alienation of land should continue to be closely connected with the introduction of immigrants.” That he cordially agreed with, but he totally disagreed with the non-transference of land orders. If land orders were issued at all the government could not prevent them from being transferred. Let land grants be given. He also entirely agreed with the seventeenth clause. He thought the promise ought to be withdrawn if a promise existed; but he did not think it should be done away with without the sanction of the house had been obtained. With respect to the eighth clause, he said he had always guarded himself from saying that he disapproved of the alteration in the law made by the Colonial Secretary; but he would say that he disapproved of the clause as it stood. He should have preferred that it read in this form—“That your committee highly disapprove of the arrangements of the government;” or rather, they “disapprove of the arrangement proposed to be carried out by the government.” From the very first he entirely disagreed with the proposal to give cabin passengers land orders of more value than steerage passengers; therefore he did not approve of the ninth clause. In clause ten, regarding the restriction put upon the transfer of land orders, he thought if the word “government” were

substituted for "parliament," it would be all right. ("No, no;" and Mr. Herbert; "Resolutions of parliament.") Yes; but many of the resolutions were altered by government. He thought there was no use in having restrictions on the transfer of the land orders; that they ought to be as at present. He would have left out of the eleventh clause all reference to proportions of immigrants on the basis of nationality. Alluding to the Queensland Immigration Society, he expressed a hope that the government would be equally energetic in preventing any other society of the same sort being formed, for he had heard of some such society being in progress in England. He was not favorable to German immigration, but he could not see how the changes proposed could be made without an alteration in the act. Reviewing in the same way the remaining clauses of the report, the hon. member said he did not see why Mr. Jordan should have power to tell people they must come by a particular line of ship. According to the evidence of the Health Officer the ships of the Black Ball Line were not managed so well as the ships of the Emigration Commissioners. The officers of the Immigration department had a great deal of extra work, but no extra pay. He asked how it came about that the Immigration Agent, whose failings he knew perfectly well, was not the head of the department, as in the other colonies, instead of being a sort of first-class clerk subordinate to a gentlemen dressed with a little brief authority? (Mr. Herbert: "He must be under somebody.") After all that had been said by the Colonial Secretary against Mr. Kemball, he moved the adoption of the report in which that gentleman was said to "have performed his responsible duties faithfully and satisfactorily." It seemed that that gentleman had come into collision with the government through endeavoring to keep the ships up to the mark; and if hon. members would turn to the correspondence respecting the Conway they would understand what he meant. Mr. Jordan was not faultless, his chief fault was putting everything connected with the colony into too glowing colours. But as regarded the encomiums put upon him by the report, he agreed with them. With reference to what was said about the depot, he agreed with the seventeenth clause. He objected to putting all the powers of the immigration arrangements in the hands of one person, and that person in England. He thought the executive ought to be interfered with in the matter of the petitions that had been referred to the committee; for the denial to persons of land orders to which they were entitled, looked like repudiation. He did not believe in the Queensland Immigration Society; but he thought that it had been put a stop to hastily. The hon. member replied to some of the arguments of the Colonial Secretary, and concluded by stating that he would not vote against the report; at the same time, he maintained that its adoption necessitated the bringing in of a new bill to give the government proper authority for all the changes in the law thereby involved.

After some observations, by way of explanation, from Mr. M'LEAN,

Mr. DOUGLAS rose and reviewed the history of the immigration system of Queensland in its workings, both in the colony and in England. (During the early part of his speech a "sotto voce" observation by an hon. member opposite, to the effect that he was talking, "nonsense," drew from him some trenchant observations touching the sensibilities of members on the ministerial side, and there was a slight diversion on a point of "order.") He was for upholding the law, and he stigmatised the object of the Colonial Secretary's mission to England as principally to upset the law. The law should not be violated, though it might be desirable to alter it. After one or two further remarks, he stated that he could not concur with the views of the government on the question of immigration. He believed that Mr. Jordan, under the authority of the government, was giving more for emigrants than the country should give; and, while agreeing with the principle of assisted immigration, he must object to the amount of assistance. After referring to the schedule of charges in which he found that Mr. Jordan charged even the shippers with an expense of 12s. 10½d. per immigrant, he said that there was a reduction made in the land orders as well, to make the land order £14 odd instead of £18; he also found that £16 18s. 7d. average per immigrant was paid to Messrs. Baines and Co., and this he thought was more than the colony should pay for immigrants. The amount paid by the colony of New South Wales was much less, indeed about £14.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY explained that £2 was to be added for other charges.

Mr. DOUGLAS understood so, but he found that Messrs. Baines and Co. absolutely received £16 18s. 7d. in one instance, and £17 18s. 7d. in another, and an additional sum to

meet the expenses of the immigration department in England, which would add to the cost of each immigrant to the extent of at least 5 per cent. more, and this did not include doctors' fees or gratuities. By a letter from Messrs. Bright, of Melbourne, he found that immigrants were introduced there for something over £13; and despite the fact of Brisbane being an inferior port, he could not see where the difference could arise, besides, the communication stated that a contract could exist for a smaller rate than that charged, and it arose in this way, that Messrs. Mackay, Baines, and Co. chartered their ships from a Liverpool firm, and by that means a double profit had to be paid. In reference to the agent, one of two things was the case; either Mr. Jordan was a bad agent or was not an able one. But one thing was certain, he was a political profligate, such as either of the hon. gentlemen opposite—the Minister for Lands or the Treasurer, who made political capital out of their position—(derisive cheers)—and by them political turpitude. And he would say, that were the country a great power it would be hooted down by the world in consequence of the position it had been dragged into through these immigration regulations. (Hear, hear, and derisive cheers.)

Dr. CHALLINOR hoped that some regulations would be introduced to take effect to prevent leasing under transferable land orders, and went on to review the very long speeches previously made. He then proceeded to illustrate the argument of the desirability of having immigrants brought to the colony by the government, stating that he knew squatters who, having left their stations under the management of an overseer, in the absence of possible instructions and in the face of pressing circumstances, did his best. He felt sure the government had also done their best during the time the parliament was not sitting, and he was certain that if the country condemned the government for so doing it would be an unparalleled case. He could not see that the entire of the land revenue should be expended in immigration, for the reason that the land revenue might be so great that the amount of labor it would introduce would be more than the colony could carry. He would have the assisted immigration system carried on by cash payments instead of by land orders. A proportion of one-fourth of Germans, he thought, would be sufficient, there being plenty of English prepared to come out. The land orders not being transferable should, he thought, be land grants, and as cabin passengers were desirable, because they brought at least intelligence, if not money, he would be glad to encourage them. He denied that the class of immigrants introduced into Melbourne was equal to the class brought to Queensland—and thought great demoralisation took place on board the Victorian ships. As to the stated mal-practices of Mr. Jordan he (Dr. Challinor) did not believe they were entitled to any credit, as if any existed they would have been pointed out before now either by the colonists or by the local press. He could not see what injustice had been done to the Queensland Society, as all their property would be valuable in time. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member for the Eastern Downs no doubt wished the shippers' land orders to be transferable, for if they were he would be the easier enabled to work his pre-emptive right purchases. (No, no.) As a means of shutting up the mouths of those who wished for amended regulations, as to immigration, he would point out that emigrants were arriving in the colony as fast as they could be accommodated;—and as to the hon. member for Port Curtis' idea of the cost of immigration, he (Dr. Challinor) was satisfied that a mistake had been made; as also there had been a mistake in the charge of the Immigration Agent having sold himself. If he did so, it must have been for ambition, not for filthy lucre—seeing that he held an appointment of more value than £600 a year before he was appointed immigration agent.

Mr. BELL felt obliged to make a few observations on the question, and he would state he was not an admirer of the land regulations at all—they were expensive, and it would be better to pay for immigrants in hard money than by alienating the lands of the colony. The system, as hitherto existing, had been well designated as the large advertising placard of Queensland, and as such he admired it, and no further. No doubt it had been successful; but it had been through the world, and was done, and might henceforward injure the colony if used. Immigrants, he believed, were disappointed on arriving in the colony, because eighteen acres of land were promised them at home, and the people at home had a much different opinion of eighteen acres of land there than they had when they arrived here. Disappointment ensued, and the parties wrote home describing their disappointment, and the result was that the colony would gradually get another name than the one now enjoyed by it, in consequence of its large advertising placard.

Perhaps there was scarcely another member in the house of a similar opinion to him when he stated that the land order system, beyond a sort of advertisement, was not a profitable or necessary one to the colony. He considered that the remittance system had been a good one, and that thereby a good bonus was given to immigrants for the services which they were to render to the country. He did not approve of the alteration which had been made in that system by substituting a higher scale than £4 per head. With reference to the general terms of the report, he must state that he felt constrained to give his vote in favor of it. Should he vote with hon. gentlemen who opposed it, he believed that he should be assisting to go to greater lengths still in the expenditure of money on immigration. For three reasons he would state that he should give his unqualified vote for the adoption of the report, on the grounds which he had mentioned.

[We are unavoidably compelled to leave over the conclusion of our Report until to-morrow.]

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
15th September 1863**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 17th September 1863

THE IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE.

[The following is the continuation of our report of Tuesday evening's debate, which was crowded out of yesterday's issue.]

Mr. COXEN, as a member of the committee, could not give a silent vote upon the question before the house. He would not endorse the opinion contained in the report that the second land order should only be given those immigrants who come out as intermediate and cabin passengers, believing, as he did, that there were many persons with large families who came out in the steerage for the purpose of farming, and he did not consider it would be just to deprive any class of bona fide agriculturists of either land order. He held that the land of the colony was of no other value than to be used for the purpose of introducing immigrants into the colony, and they could not be too liberal in bestowing it upon persons who paid their own passages to the colony. He could not agree with the principle of paying from the treasury some £15 or £16 for land orders, seeing that it would be much better the colony should be without eighteen acres of land than that a heavy debt should be contracted for the purpose of paying for the land orders. With regard to the 13th clause of the report he must say that he could not agree with the monopoly granted to one line of ships for the conveyance of immigrants to the colony, and considered that immigrants, come by what ship they might, so long as they paid the whole of their passage money, were entitled to their land orders.

Mr. BLAKENEY would make a few observations before the debate was concluded, and he would aver that a more packed committee than the one whose report was then under discussion he had never seen. He believed that it was by mere accident that he had been appointed on it. He did not agree with the alteration which had been made in the report, originally draughted by his hon. colleague (Mr. Raff), doubtless, at the instigation of the government by Dr. Challinor; and he could allow them to pass without entering his protest against them in the house as he did in the committee. The report was based upon what the Colonial Secretary, as the head of the government, chose to advance, and not upon the evidence which was taken. The Queensland Emigration Society appeared to be the great point of attack of many hon. members on the government side of the house, although it was acknowledged that the immigrants introduced by that society were of a very superior class, whose conduct on board ship and on shore would bear the strictest investigation. Their greatest enemy had failed to bring forward any attack against the moral character of those people. No doubt they were very unpopular in some quarters, as everything appertaining to Ireland was. Mr. Jordan was undoubtedly a first-rate man, but it must be admitted that he had his prejudices, one of which was, a dislike to Irishmen. The sub-agents of that gentleman were really, and in fact, nothing else than agents of the Black Ball line. The principle was being carried out that had been enunciated before, of keeping out of the colony the Irish Roman Catholics. The favored Black Ball line would get not only the £16 for the land order, but £3 besides. He referred to the distress in England while Mr. Herbert was at home, and to the absolute famine existing in Ireland at the same time, and yet the emigration from Ireland had been stopped while that from England, Germany, and other places was continued. Under the circumstances of the opposition being deprived of two votes by the decision of the committee that

night, and viewing the array on the opposite side, he despaired of condemning the action of the government in the matter.

Mr. PUGH took exception to the alteration made in the 10th clause of the report, and thought it an improper and unsanctioned alteration, which gave the government power to alter the system of immigration from time to time. Another restriction he would complain of was that land orders had been refused to parties because they were stated to be over age. He was of opinion that if a man came out here he came under the understanding that he was to receive a land order for £18 on his arrival; but it seemed that was not so unless the individual were consigned to the Colonial Secretary. A law should not exist for one man which would not apply to another. He took exception to the means adopted by the government in giving the monopoly of carriage of immigrants to the ship of the Black Ball line, which he held was not even equal to other lines. The clause in reference to the clause relating to immigrants from Germany, he held that the fact of an immigrant not being enabled to get a land order here on his arrival, unless he travelled by the favourite line of ships, and brought out Mr. Jordan's certificate, was in contravention of the Act. Moreover, an immigrant on arrival was put into a shed, the like of which the hon. member for the Western Downs would not put one of his imported bulls.

Mr. KENNEDY acknowledged to feeling a degree of sweetness in being on the defeated side when honor and truth and justice were on that side (hear, hear), and was surprised that the hon. the Attorney-General did not come forward to express an opinion on the law of the question. He went on to condemn the Cataline style of proceeding on the part of the Colonial Secretary, and assured that hon. gentleman that such conduct would not continue to be successful. It had been said that the Queensland Society had made a profit out of their transactions, but he could positively deny that, and was surprised that the Colonial Secretary should not have taken a similar stand against the assertions of Dr. Quinn, instead of standing with his head hung down. (A laugh.) Indeed, the Colonial Secretary had not been forward enough to state in the committee chamber what he had been bold enough to say in the house. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He read from the evidence of the Very Rev. Dr. Quinn, wherein the rev. gentleman had offered to display the balance sheet of the Queensland Society, which displayed a balance of only £97 12s. 7½ d. to the credit of the society, while their liabilities were counted by thousands, and asked if that was evidence of the society making a profit? And he would like to know whether the Colonial Secretary or any other member of the government would display their accounts relating to the question in a similar open and ingenuous manner? (Hear, hear.) In Mr. Herbert's conduct when he went home—and before he went home, he must have had the plan in his head, although he did not make any resolution in parliament on the subject—he (Mr. Kennedy) found that the hon. gentleman had in the greatness of his clemency permitted 450 immigrants, whose passages he could not legally deny, to come out, and had stated that he would permit none others to come unless they were inspected previously by Mr. Jordan. He (Mr. Kennedy) contended that by the government guaranteeing sixteen pounds for an eighteen pound land order, was adverse to the spirit of the act under which the act was granted. Messrs. Parks and Dalley, who were much more able men than Mr. Jordan, had failed to induce immigration to the colony which they represented, whilst Mr. Jordan had succeeded. And for what reason? Because the latter gentleman had at his disposal a thirty pound land order. Now, however, it appeared that although that inducement was offered it was not to be complied with, and the colony of course was rapidly losing the good name which it had acquired. It was folly to suppose that the Black Ball Line should be entitled to the monopoly which was endeavored to be established by the hon. the Colonial Secretary, when it was well known that other firms than that of Mackay, Baines, and Co. were ready and willing to bring immigrants in a much better and more comfortable manner for a less sum than sixteen pounds. There were some remarks with reference to the celebrated letter of the Rev. Father Dunne which he could not allow to pass without referring to the evidence of the Rev. Dr. Quinn upon the subject. [The hon. member here quoted from the evidence referred to, in which Dr. Quinn had condemned the principles contained in the letter.] In conclusion, he would state that he believed the matter had been put off until some members were absent, and he intended to move as an amendment that the further consideration of the report be postponed until the passage of the Loan Bill.

No hon. member seconding the amendment, the original motion was put and carried.

MESSAGE.

A message was reported from the Legislative Council, bringing up the Queensland Bank Bill.

GOVERNMENT LOAN BILL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved the second reading of the Government Loan Bill, and amid considerable confusion, briefly explained the provisions of the measure.

Mr. MACKENZIE objected to proceeding with the bill that night.

A discussion ensued, in which the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the SECRETARY for LANDS and WORKS, and Mr. DOUGLAS took part, and which was ended by the last-named hon. member calling attention to the state of the house.

The house was counted, and there not being a quorum present (only fifteen members in all),

The SPEAKER adjourned the house at ten minutes to twelve o'clock.