

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 28 JULY 1864

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 28 July, 1864.

Maranoa Election.—Personal Explanation.—Additional Members Bill, read 2^d.

MARANOA ELECTION.

Mr. COXEN, the chairman of the Elections and Qualifications Committee, brought up the report of the committee upon the petition of William Miles against the return of the sitting member for the Maranoa electorate, Mr. W. F. Kennedy. The report declared the election to be null and void, on the ground that it "was conducted under the electoral roll for 1862, whereas such roll should only have been used in part, that is, in so far as it applied to that portion of the electorate for which the roll for 1863 had not been regularly made out and perfected." In moving that the report be printed, he took the opportunity of stating it had been reported out of doors that he (Mr. Coxen) had made an application for the post of Commissioner of Emigration for the Colony in England. He had never by act, word, or deed, signified his desire to obtain that situation, and he could assure honorable members that he certainly should not think of undertaking such arduous and responsible duties unless the salary were raised to £2,000 per annum.

The report was then read and ordered to be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. BELL said he also wished to make a personal explanation. (A laugh.) Some misconception, it appeared, existed out of doors with regard to the motives which induced him to place on the paper his amendment on the motion for the adoption of the report of the Immigration Committee. He denied that he had been animated by any party motives, although it had been imputed to him that he wished to sit upon those benches occupied by the present Government; indeed, his name had been mentioned in connection with every office except that of Attorney-General. That was the only office, it appeared, for which he was not fit. He had, so far from being actuated by party spirit, brought forward the amendment simply because he thought it was one which both sides might be willing to consider. He certainly did not consider himself blamable for the party feeling which had crept into the debate; he had simply wished to act as a mediator.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the second reading of a Bill to provide for additional members of the Legislative Assembly, said it was not his intention at that stage to discuss the details of the measure, as it had been the subject of a lengthened debate on a previous occasion. He felt convinced that the country at large, as well as a majority of the House, were agreed upon the main principle, viz.,

that it was desirable to give increased representation to certain parts of the Colony, at present inadequately represented. He hoped honorable members would lay aside all acrimony and party feeling, and consider the measure in a temperate and dispassionate manner; and, however much they might feel inclined to cavil at the apportionment of seats, or other provisions, they would waive all such considerations until the Bill was committed. He would again remind the House, that unless two-thirds of its members could be found to agree on the question of additional representation no legislation upon the subject could take place. He hoped the honorable member for Port Curtis would see the desirability of supporting the Bill, and would endeavor, instead of opposing the motion, to get as much representation as he could for the northern districts. There would be no other chance of doing justice to either the northern or western districts; and he trusted, therefore, the Bill would pass its second reading without a division, for he could not conceive that any objection could exist against increased representation. The details of the measure would be discussed in committee, and the Government would be willing to entertain any alterations which might be proposed, upon good reasons being shown for them. If the House did not take the opportunity of meeting the claims of the northern and western districts now, they would have no increased representation during the present year, and in all probability not during the next, as it was scarcely probable that there would be a more temperate House next year. If this matter were not now settled, he should not, as he had stated before, be able to answer the demands for separation which the present inadequate representation had created in the northern districts. He would again urge upon honorable members the desirability of assenting to the second reading of the Bill. It might be the opinion of some members that the Government had not done justice to some districts. If that were shown to be the case, the Government would be willing to listen to any suggestion with regard to the apportionment of seats. He thought, however, the Bill showed a fair distribution amongst the northern and western districts. He would not enter into any further details, as he had no desire to raise any discussion upon the Bill. He would leave it to some other honorable member, if he chose to do so, to throw down the apple of discord.

Mr. BLAKENEY disclaimed any desire, in the course of his remarks, to throw down the apple of discord—as the Colonial Secretary had termed it. But there was one observation of the honorable gentleman's which he could not indorse, viz., that the Government, in this Bill, had exhibited a desire to act *bonâ fide* in rectifying the injustice at present sustained by some of the districts of the Colony, with regard to representation.

He did not wish to be accused of holding to the principle that population alone should be the basis of representation; he would wish to combine it with property and revenue, and if this basis was taken he would challenge any person to show that the Darling Downs district exceeded the two Moretons on this combined principle. The honorable member had deprecated any party discussion, and as far as he (Mr. Blakeney) was concerned, he would at once state that he agreed to the second reading of the Bill. He admitted that certain districts of the Colony required increased representation, but he took exception to the Bill, on account of two of the proposed new electorates; and he thought the creation of those electorates so undesirable that he hoped the Government would withdraw that portion of the Bill when it came on in committee. They were all agreed upon the necessity of affording increased representation to certain portions of the Colony, which at present did not possess their fair share; and he thought if the Government, in their Bill, had made a proper re-cast of the electorates, over the whole Colony, such a measure would have been of a very different character to the Bill now offered for the consideration of the House. But whilst the main object of the present measure professedly was to give increased representation to those parts of the Colony which had arisen into importance since separation, and which were consequently at present imperfectly represented—what did they find was the actual case? Why, the Darling Downs district—the representatives of which were chiefly ministerial supporters—had, by this Bill, two additional members to counterbalance the increased representation given to the north. He argued that this was very unfair. The population statistics of the last census demonstrated that the districts of the Darling Downs and West Moreton had a very unjust preponderance of representation, as compared with the metropolitan districts of the Colony, and the new districts to the northwards. The entire population of the Darling Downs district, on the first of January last, numbered 11,173 souls, who were represented by six members; while the district of Moreton, including the City of Brisbane and Ipswich, which had a population, in round numbers, of 30,000—almost a moiety of the entire population of Queensland, had but thirteen representatives. He defied the Government to show that the Darling Downs district had any claim to additional representation. He trusted the Government would not, therefore, when the Bill came into committee, press the question of additional representation for Drayton and Dalby, and the Condamine. If they looked at the census, they found that the population of Drayton was 594 persons. Yet they proposed to give a separate member to this town, whilst Rockhampton, with a population of 3,622 souls, was placed simply on the

same political footing as Drayton, and was to have but one member. In the face of this, the Government would have the House to believe that this was a *bonâ fide* measure to rectify the present irregularities of representation. The town of Drayton with 600 inhabitants, was to have the same representation in that House as the rising town of Rockhampton, with its 3,000 and odd inhabitants. They next came to an equally glaring instance of the injustice of this Bill. It was proposed to give a member to the electorate of Dalby and Condamine. The township of Dalby numbered 685 inhabitants, whilst that of the Condamine numbered 201 inhabitants, making in the aggregate 886. It was proposed to give this electorate the same voice as the growing and rising township of Rockhampton. In the face of these facts, he was justified in doubting the assertion of the Colonial Secretary, that the Government had brought forward this Bill with a real desire to award justice to the unrepresented constituencies. As there was some difference of opinion upon the general question of a re-distribution of the electorates, he (Mr. Blakeney) urged that the Government and the House should simply confine themselves to awarding a fair additional representation to those towns and districts which had greatly increased in relative importance since separation. If the measure was to be one of mere temporary expediency, he would advise the House to confine themselves to the question before them. Let them content themselves with giving increased representation to those townships to the north, which had sprung up in a most remarkable manner since separation. Maryborough had now a population of over 2,000. Previously to separation it had but six hundred inhabitants. Rockhampton had a population of 3,600 inhabitants. Surely that town should be allowed two members, if Ipswich, with a population of 4,579 persons, had three members. If the Government were sincere in their desire to have a Bill passed for the extension of northern representation, he would urge upon them not to press this matter of increased representation for the Darling Downs district. Let them leave the re-adjustment of representation in the Downs constituencies and the metropolitan districts to another time; and confine themselves under the present Bill to giving the north additional representation. If the Government did this their Bill would meet with but little opposition. They were all agreed, for instance, that, as embodied in the Bill, it was desirable to give an additional member to represent the Kennedy district, in which was the rising town of Bowen, which hereafter might have a member of its own. It was also desirable to give a member to the districts of Mitchell and Warrego. He also observed that there was an electoral district of Clermont which, as it embodied an area of

land containing mineral wealth, and a continually increasing population, would no doubt be deserving of a member. The map presented to the House was defective, and he thought the boundaries of this district should be altered. However, that was a matter of detail. Let the Government withdraw the additional electorate of Drayton, and that of Dalby and Condamine, and the House would assent to the motion. If that were done, and additional members as proposed by the measure given to Maryborough and Rockhampton, the Bill would pass and give satisfaction as a temporary measure. He for one should vote for the second reading, and would endeavor to make it into shape in committee. He considered that, while the district in which Ipswich was situated had virtually at present six members, Rockhampton had scarcely its meed of justice under the Act. The inhabitants of Rockhampton increased in number every day to a greater extent than those of Ipswich, whilst the municipal valuation of the latter town was less than that of the former. He desired to see the northern towns more fairly represented, and he would, therefore, support the Bill, although for the reasons stated, he disagreed with some of its details. He hoped, with the Colonial Secretary, that some amicable arrangement upon this measure would be arrived at. The north should not be allowed to say that the Legislature had supported a policy of centralisation. He was as anxious to do justice to the northern towns, as to forward the just representation of the metropolitan districts. He trusted the Bill would be discussed in committee without bickering, and that any alterations which might be proposed would be met in a calm and temperate manner.

Mr. DOUGLAS said his honorable friend who had just sat down, in his opening remarks to the House, stated that he did not, even in part, concede the principle of representation by population. He (Mr. Douglas) was not anxious to forward any extreme doctrine of that nature, and he had no doubt his honorable friend was actuated by a good motive in adopting such a course at the present juncture, because he did not wish needlessly to urge what, under that principle, might be considered the claims of the metropolitan district. He believed the honorable member was anxious that full justice should be done to the northern and western districts, but even that was hardly likely to be the case if the question of population was admitted as the starting point. But the honorable gentleman had gone on to say that he preferred to combine the question of revenue and of property with that of population, and that the two taken together were really the best on which they should try any scheme which it might be desirable to give effect to by law. Now, he would just point out to honorable members a very remarkable

paragraph which he found in the report of the Registrar-General for this year. It bore upon this question, and, therefore, he should quote it in full:—"In most civilised countries of modern times, whose inhabitants are sedentary, where the increase or diminution in numbers is mainly dependant on natural causes, and where the annual proportion of births and deaths is ascertainable with tolerable correctness from the records of a registry office, a close estimate of the population can at any moment be made; but in this rapidly rising Colony, with a population doubled every three or four years, where the increase from natural causes forms but a very small per centage of the total increase, and where a large portion of the inhabitants are as yet without fixed homes, a periodical census affords the only opportunity of arriving at anything like a correct idea of their number, their social or domestic condition, or their distribution. Moreover, our population is so nearly synonymous with our wealth—that is, our property,—“and its increase with prosperity, that collecting and compiling a census of the former is equivalent to counting our riches and to collecting materials for an estimate of our present means and future prospects. This intimate connection between population and revenue is strikingly illustrated by the following comparison between the mean population of each year since the foundation of the Colony, and the amount per head of the population received each year as revenue by the customs.” The document referred to was one which showed the relation between the customs receipts and the population, by which it appeared that they bore an almost exact proportion in each of the years 1860–1–2–3; and that the receipts per head of the population, in those years, varied very little. In 1860, the receipts of the customs revenue were £2 3s. 9½d per head; in 1861, £2 5s. 7d. per head; in 1862, £2 7s. 4½d.; and in 1863, £2 6s. 4½d.; showing an average for the four years of £2 5s. 10½d. Now, this was really a very favorable statement, and he supposed that the honorable member at the head of the Government could not be ignorant that such was the generally admitted principle of political economy in the present day. It was even admitted in England, where large masses of people were collected together, and where the difference between poor and rich was very much greater than here; in this country, it also held good. Although he did not now say that in all instances it was desirable to block out the country in so many squares, with such a population and so much wealth, and to say that they should have so many representatives to so many hundreds or so many thousands, as the case might be; still he asserted, and it would be necessary hereafter, over and over again, to assert that when we had a re-distribution of representation—as we should

have—the only sound basis, the only one we had to appeal to in reason and experience, was that of population. He always admitted the exceptional case of the metropolis—that ought to be an exceptional case. In the metropolis of the country, wherever it might be—the political capital of the country, for that constituted the metropolis—there was a large amount of interest brought to bear upon it; it was the peculiar care, next to the Colony itself, of the representatives of the Colony; and more than any other city, it was likely to receive adequate attention to its deserts from every representative. He would, therefore, never be prepared to push this principle to its extreme, as applied to the metropolis. He hoped he should not, on this occasion, be committed, and he hoped he never should be committed to a course different from that which he now stated. The honorable member at the head of the Government, who had moved the second reading, had said that he hoped the apple of discord would not be thrown down this evening; he (Mr. Douglas) hoped that he should not throw it down; but he was there to enunciate his distinct opinion, and to enforce upon the House the enunciation of definite opinion, and therefore he hoped it would not now be said—as it had been said before—that he made this a party question. This was not the time to temporise—it was now time that we should shape out for ourselves a policy, based upon experience and principle. Without such, we could not claim the respect to which we were entitled as a rising Colony. It was not well in a young community that we should keep out of sight those principles which ought to guide us in all our political relations. Although the course he took this evening might not be borne out by any other member of the House, still he must bear his testimony to the principle he enunciated. He trusted he should not make a personal quarrel of it, because he had no desire that such should be the case. Still he should not shrink when the occasion required it, to appeal to party, for he was certainly of opinion that in politics the maintenance of a principle was often dependent upon party prejudice. It was a twice told tale, this, about population and the census. He did not wish to refer to it in detail, but the history of the past two years was intimately connected with it. Two sessions ago, the honorable member at the head of the Government brought in what was then adopted by the Government themselves, and what was called an Additional Members Bill. He (Mr. Douglas) had no hesitation in saying that that measure was a much more favorable one, and would be more favorably received by the outside districts, and that portion of the country which he represented, than the measure now before the House. He believed the gentlemen who formed the administration then, and who now

formed it, were justified in bringing in that Bill. He believed they were not justified in complicating it and connecting it with the railway question, which was thereby prejudiced, and making it a stalking horse to a continued tenure of office. Then, having raised a false issue before the country, they came to the House, and told honorable members in a speech, which His Excellency delivered, that they would not during that session bring in an Additional Members Bill—that it was shelved—that they were now prepared to meet the great question on a basis deserving of it; and that they were prepared to incur a further delay, until the census of the Colony was taken. They stated, and rightly stated, that without that they could not arrive at a just decision as to what should be the allocation of the new members for the proposed electorates they said they intended to create. The House were content—the country were content for the recognition of the principle, but only for the recognition of the principle—to accept the delay; to accept what was deemed to be a necessary delay. What was the result? They found that the census had been taken, and that the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government, he (Mr. Douglas) presumed, not being satisfied with the result of the census totally changed his tactics:—“Oh, no: it will never do to adopt it now; we shall be ruined. It will never do to adopt the principle which we have fathered, and we pray to give it up. I offer a contemptible travesty of a reform bill, which is even worse than that which I offered to the country two sessions ago, when the necessities for it were not so great.” That was the effect of the measure before the House now. He (Mr. Douglas) dared to say that honorable members would remember a very amusing and charming character in a work of fiction which was well known in the present day, in which a young lady was depicted as having entered upon the married state at a very early age, and without having received that education in matters of worldly import which it was so necessary that every lady who took upon herself domestic responsibilities should receive. There was a very charming little character which honorable members would recollect in “David Copperfield”—Little Dora. Little Dora was incompetent to take upon herself the administration of domestic affairs; she always found it a matter of distracting severity. When it came to figures—when it came to totting up the butcher’s and baker’s bills, it was a desperate affair to make them come right. (A laugh.) They would not add up in any way—they would not come right—they always gave her a headache. He imagined that was something of the position that the honorable member at the head of the Government was now in. (Laughter.) He was quite sure that the labors of the census had given him a headache. (Renewed laughter.) After all,

the figures would not add up—he could not bring them to what he liked.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS: I don’t understand it.

MR. DOUGLAS: The honorable gentleman said he did not understand it; but he (Mr. Douglas) presumed that on the comprehensive principles of 1863 the result of the census would have been arrived at by a simple process of addition and division. If the honorable member could have brought his energies to bear on the subject, he would have succeeded in arriving at an arithmetically correct result. He (Mr. Douglas) just wished now to refer to a few matters in connection with the details of the Bill. There was one particular locality which he found had been objected to by his honorable friend who had spoke before him, namely, the electoral district of Drayton. He appeared to feel a very great repugnance to the creation of a new district in that direction. Well, he (Mr. Douglas) could not say that he felt a very great repugnance to it. He found, on referring to the census, that the population of Drayton and Toowoomba and Callandoon amounted to 4,917—that was, the police district,—and was at present represented by three members in the Assembly. The population, divided by three, gave a proportion of 1,639 to each member. Well, he did not think that that was a small proportion at all. It would bear a fourth member, if they were to judge of it by certain other electorates which were to be created by the Bill. If they gave that district four members, as was proposed by the Bill, it would show a proportion of about 1,220 for one member. He did not think that there was much to object to in that proportion. He objected in this case to the division of the district. If it was thought desirable to create a new electorate there, it was clearly desirable to have left Drayton and Toowoomba in the vicinity of the Condamine—Western Downs—and to have gone down to Callandoon and Moonie, and to make the new electorate there. That would be in accordance with the resolution of the honorable member, and would be an entirely separate district. It was cut off from the proposed electorate; had different interests, a different market; and, in the case of a nomination at Drayton, that town was at too great a distance for the electors. He would take the basis of that favored district of the Government, and which now showed the proportion of one member in the House for 1,639 of the population—and he would remark now that he should not raise the question of adult population, which he might claim—he would take the case of the absolute population, women and children included. Reverting then, and taking as a basis for his calculation the proportions of the favored district to which he had before alluded—Drayton, Toowoomba, and Callandoon, one-

half of the Darling Downs—he went to Rockhampton, and he found there the town population amounting to 3,621. He claimed for that population representation by, at any rate, two members, which would give an average of 1,800 of the population to each—a larger proportion than was enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Darling Downs. He claimed, therefore, for Rockhampton, on that basis, two members; and, if the electorate of Drayton was created, he should then claim three members for Rockhampton. He went on to Port Curtis, the district he represented, and he found the country population, irrespective of the population of the town of Rockhampton, was 3,609 souls, and a very large population—much larger than in most districts—were adults. Now, he claimed for that district two representatives. Besides himself, there ought to be another, and if there was another, the population would only be represented in the ratio of one member to 1,803 inhabitants of the district—a larger ratio than in the district of Darling Downs. He found that the district of Port Curtis had a line of coast of about three degrees of latitude—an enormous district—and extended in one part, about one hundred and twenty miles to the westward—a territory of the Colony in itself; yet he found that no justice had been done to that district; not a very shadow of justice.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS: There is one member.

MR. DOUGLAS: There was one member. The representation of the country population was not proposed to be increased. Then he took West Maranoa, Condamine, and Roma, which, he supposed, formed the two electorates of Warrego and Maranoa, which it was intended to create. He had no objection to them, but as far as the population went, it only showed the average of 1,300 to each representative.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, *sotto voce*: This is only begging the question.

MR. DOUGLAS: The honorable member said he was begging the question; he took the honorable member's own basis, in his favorite district, the Darling Downs, and he contended for nothing less. Then he found the Dawson (? Leichhardt), which was represented by two members in the House—the police district of Taroom, Springsure, and Peak Downs. He found that the total population of those districts, which were now represented by the two honorable members for the Leichhardt, was 2,978. He felt sure that the population of the Peak Downs was very much under-estimated in the census. It was asserted by the inhabitants of that district, and admitted by the Registrar-General; and it was highly probable that the census could not be collected there, from what he had seen of the scattered nature of the population, living in tents and in gullies which the collectors would not know anything

about. The probable population was 2,978; yet the Bill proposed to give to the district an additional member. That was right—it showed an average of 993 to each representative in that block of country. He would here remark that the district of Clermont, as marked out on the map, was very badly selected; one of the “lines” completely intersected it in the very centre. It included the Belyando, but as far as he could make out, it did not include a large proportion of what was strictly speaking the Peak Downs country, of which Clermont was the centre.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS: Only the mining population.

MR. DOUGLAS: Well, if it was only the mining population, why take in the Belyando? If the Government were desirous of making another squatting district, then go further westward. He was acquainted with the country: It was absolutely absurd that the district should be divided as proposed. It left the diggers in the immediate neighborhood of Peak Downs to go five hundred miles to Taroom whenever a nomination took place. These people had no communication with Taroom. Their interests were different. If they were included in the Leichhardt, and not Clermont, they were virtually disfranchised. He said, therefore, that the district was ill-advised, and that whoever advised the Government was ignorant of the formation of the country; and the honorable member at the head of the Government should possess himself of the best information. Now, Kennedy North and Kennedy South were, under this Bill, to have one member. Those districts, according to the census returns, he found contained a population of 1851. That, again, was a larger population than the average division of the Darling Downs; yet there was a district of five or six hundred miles from the capital, which ought rather to be over represented than under represented, and he said that for that district there ought to be two members; and even then the average population which each member would represent would be nearly a thousand. There ought to be two, probably it would be better to have one for Bowen and one for Kennedy. Since the census had been compiled, there had been considerable additions of population and capital in the district, and to Port Denison. The interests of the Burdekin were increasing every day. A new settlement had been formed at Rockingham Bay, and that was included in the Kennedy electorate. In a few months there would be two or three hundred people at Rockingham Bay, and in its immediate vicinity a large and rapidly increasing pastoral population. That district would be absolutely unprovided for unless they went a-head a little, and provided for what they saw would be the inevitable result of the increase. In a case like that, they ought to anticipate. They might

say that even at this date it would be a wise liberality to give a representative to Rockingham Bay. Before the Act could be brought into effect, there would be a considerable population there; and, no doubt, before another year was over our heads it would be a very important place. And surely they should not be alarmed at thus giving a representative to a small population. He found that in 1861, when the Colony started in political life, Warwick contained only 300 inhabitants, yet a member was accorded to it. And, referring to Warwick, he did not understand the principle on which Warwick was precluded from increased representation. If a new electorate was to be created at Drayton, Warwick had higher claims. The population of the town and police district of Warwick, which had two members in Parliament—including the honorable member for the Eastern Downs—was 3,891; therefore each member might be said to represent nearly 2,000 inhabitants. Here was decidedly a greater claim for Warwick than for the new district which it was proposed to create. He trusted that the honorable member for Warwick (Mr. Wienholt) would forgive him, but he presumed that the Government had quite enough of the honorable member for Warwick, and that they would really be alarmed that their position might be imperilled if there were two members for Warwick—if the second member in any way approached to the present member, it might really be damaging to the cause they ought to uphold. (Laughter.) He only accounted for it on the principle that they were afraid that the inhabitants of Warwick might send to the House another member of the character of the one who now represented them. Having called attention to the anomalies of the Bill, which defied all calculation, he said the honorable member at the head of the Government must either be very defective in his arithmetic; he hoped it was in his arithmetic. If the Bill was the policy of the Government—if it was what they thought was necessary—they did not deserve that it should be considered by the House. It might be considered expedient; on the ground of expediency, of course, it would be considered desirable to carry the measure. It was only an expedient, but not a matter of principle; and he could not accept it as a matter of expediency. What was the light in which it would be looked upon by the whole population of the north? It would be regarded as an insult to their intelligence—an insult to all principle—and one which they would indignantly, in his person, reject. It was only a short time ago that he had an opportunity of coming into contact with a number of very intelligent residents of the northern districts; and he could assure honorable members that, although he was identified with what they chose to call "a very rowdy lot of customers," he enjoyed the confidence of many men of very high

principle and very high intelligence. And the principles to which, by his conduct in the House, he had attempted to bear testimony, were participated in by a number of very intelligent and high principled gentlemen.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I don't know where they are.

Mr. DOUGLAS: Perhaps the honorable member might find it very difficult to find them; in order to find them and recognise them it would require some intelligence on his part. Well, as he had said, he had come into contact with those gentlemen to whom he had alluded, and they agreed with the principles which he had, he thought, brought before the House with the utmost deference, and with a calmness of demeanor which the honorable member at the head of the Government had prayed him to endeavor to maintain. He had promised his constituents that whenever a Bill was brought in by the Government, if it could be entertained on any just principle at all—if even it did not recognise all they could justly claim—still he would think it his duty to vote for the second reading; that even if they could not gain all they desired, they should gain something. He said now, by the present Bill they had gained nothing. The northern people wished to restore the balance of power which had been misapplied by false, and bad, and unjust legislation. But it seemed that it was considered necessary to counteract the effect which gentlemen coming into the House from the north would have, by duly apportioning the representation elsewhere, where the Government could command supporters. Judging from his constituents—and not from them alone, but from the opinions of gentlemen connected with various districts to the north, he had come to the conclusion that they would gain nothing by the Bill, as it now was before the House; and as it had been brought into the House in defiance of their just right, he should divide the House on the motion for the second reading. He thought that he must ask now for all or nothing; they claimed what was just; the Government did not give that. They could not accept anything less; and if they could not obtain from the House what they believed to be their just due—this was the sentiment of the inhabitants of the northern districts—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Of Rockhampton.

Mr. DOUGLAS: Yes, he believed of all. ("No, no," and laughter.) He should be sorry if he was mistaken in this, but he believed he was correct. ("No, you are not!") He felt it necessary now to say that he could not identify either himself or his constituents with the present measure, and that if justice was not to be obtained at the hands of that House, they must seek it elsewhere.

The question was then put, and the House divided:—

Ayes, 19.	Noes, 2.
Mr. Herbert	Mr. Brookes } Tellers.
„ Pring	„ Douglas }
„ Macalister	
„ Moffatt	
„ Groom	
„ Edwards	
„ Sandeman	
„ Pugh	
„ Coxen	
„ Royds	
„ Stephens	
„ Bell	
„ Lilley	
„ Wienholt	
„ R. Cribb	
Dr. Challinor	
Mr. Blakeney	
„ Taylor } Tellers.	
„ McLean }	

The Bill was then read a second time.