

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

TUESDAY, 23 AUGUST 1864

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affecting the constitution of the Upper House, but he had failed to do so. He had desired to see such a Bill discussed, as there were certain defects in the constitution of the House which were generally admitted, but it appeared that a sufficient number of members could not be obtained; and even if there were the requisite fourteen members present, all of them would have to be unanimous, in order to pass the second reading of the Bill. With the members in the House at present this would not be probable, and he had no alternative but to move that the Bill be discharged from the paper. He was sorry to adopt this course, as there were one or two evils in connection with the constitution of the House, admitted by all honorable members. For instance, it was very undesirable that any body of men should have power—by making extra appointments to that House, in spite of the wishes of the House—to pass any measure. Last session the opinion of the House was elicited upon this point, and was in favor of the view which the Government supported. This was one feature which the present Bill would have remedied, and on this point honorable members would no doubt have been unanimous. But there were other points upon which discussion and disagreements would have occurred. He had done his duty by introducing the Bill, and he regretted that a sufficient number of members could not be got together for its discussion.

The Hon. W. WOOD thought they might read the Bill a second time, and then subsequently consider it in committee. The session might not be over so soon as honorable members opposite thought, as that House desired to do their work, and to do it carefully—their presence would otherwise be useless. The session could not be over before a fortnight, and in the interim there would be plenty of time to discuss this Bill without discharging it from the paper.

The Hon. W. HOBBS expressed his disapproval of the Bill, and said he should vote for its discharge from the paper.

(Two honorable members here entered the House.)

The Hon. F. E. BIGGE said that there were fourteen members now present, and he moved, therefore, that the Bill be read a second time. He and other honorable members had come down from the country, at great inconvenience to themselves, to discuss the Bill.

(The Hon. W. Hobbs here retired from the House.)

The Hon. J. BRAMSTON pointed out that there were not fourteen members present. Moreover, if the member who had retired were present, he had already expressed his opposition to the Bill, and some other members would, perhaps, go with him. Therefore, it would be waste of time to move the second reading of the Bill on that day. He, however, would withdraw his original motion, and move the second reading for Thursday

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 23 August, 1864.

Constitution of Legislative Council Bill.—Additional Members Bill, read 2^d.

CONSTITUTION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BILL.

The Hon. J. BRAMSTON rose to move that this Bill be discharged from the paper, instead of being read a second time. He had endeavored to obtain the presence of a sufficient number of members to consider the Bill

next, on which day more members might be present.

After some further discussion, the proposition for the second reading of the Bill on Thursday next was agreed to, and the notice was given in due form.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS BILL.

The Hon. J. BRAMSTON thought that no member would state that the Colony did not require additional representation in the Assembly; he, therefore, did not anticipate any opposition to the second reading of this Bill. The gist of it was contained in the first clause, which set forth that there should be six additional electorates, viz., those of Kennedy, Mitchell, Warrego, Clermont, the town of Rockhampton, and the town of Maryborough. The honorable member pointed out the increasing pastoral importance of the first-named districts, and also the increase in wealth and population of the towns of Rockhampton and Maryborough. The proposed electorate of Clermont was, in addition to its other sources of wealth, becoming the centre of a large gold district. The Government, in framing a Bill, had not taken as a strict basis either wealth alone or population alone. They had regarded the future; and the present Bill was a temporary measure to a certain extent. He begged to move the second reading of the Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time, and its committal set down as an order of the day for to-morrow.
