

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST 1864

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Committee on Reformatory Boys. At the present time, when there was a determination manifested on the part of all the colonies to refuse anything like convict labor, he thought that Queensland should not be called upon to receive even a small quantity of boys of the character mentioned in the report. He had been informed by some friends who came out in the "Legion of Honor" that the boys referred to had come out in that ship, and that their dispositions and general behavior were anything but calculated to make them good colonists. He had upon that felt it to be his bounden duty to move that a select committee be appointed to enquire into the matter. He considered that instructions should be given to Mr. Jordan not to allow any persons whatever with the slightest blemish on their character to come out as colonists,—to whom land orders should be given. He (Mr. Watts) believed that, if the character of the Colony was kept up, not the slightest difficulty would be experienced in obtaining a class of immigrants who would benefit both themselves and the Colony. The honorable gentleman proceeded to read a portion of the evidence taken before the committee, and urged that it quite justified the report, which was worded in a manner that could not possibly give offence. He thought that if the evidence and report were sent home, it would prove a strong weapon in the hands of the emigration agent, who would be in a position to refuse all characters of the description to which the report referred. There was no doubt but that the refuge boys consisted of the very scum of London, and were worse even than reformatory boys. It would be much better to accept a boy who had been imprisoned for a short time for stealing a turnip or an apple in the country, than the scum and offscourings of the city of London. He would move the adoption of the report.

The Hon. ST. G. R. GORE supported the motion. He considered that refuge boys were, as a rule, infinitely worse than reformatory boys.

The Hon. E. I. C. BROWNE thought that the Colony was much indebted to the honorable gentleman who had moved for the committee, and afterwards so materially assisted its action. He (Mr. Browne) would support the motion.

The Hon. W. WOOD supported the adoption of the report.

The Hon. the PRESIDENT cordially agreed with the honorable gentleman (Mr. Browne), that the Colony was much indebted to the honorable gentleman who had moved for the appointment of the committee. He (the President) did not consider that under any circumstances such characters as refuge boys should be allowed to come to the Colony.

The Hon. J. BRAMSTON thought that the report would be of great use in strengthening the hands of the emigration agent, and he had much pleasure in supporting the motion for its adoption.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 25 August, 1864.

Report of Committee on Reformatory Boys.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REFORMATORY BOYS.

The Hon. J. WATTS rose to move the adoption of the report of the Legislative Council

The motion was then put and passed, and it was resolved that the report should be embodied in an address to His Excellency the Governor.