

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 1864

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 31 August, 1864.

Reform of Aborigines.

REFORM OF ABORIGINES.

The Hon. J. BRAMSTON moved the adoption of the resolutions of the Assembly relative to a grant of land to responsible persons who desired to effect the reform of the aborigines. He explained the circumstances which led to this motion being introduced. Bishop Patterson, a missionary from one of the islands of the Pacific, desired to found an institution for the reclamation of some of the young inhabitants of the particular islands in which he was interested. Missionaries were at work there, but the climate was not so suited as this to the European constitution, and it was also thought desirable to take the youth for purposes of education from their old associations. In conjunction with this scheme, the Bishop of Melanesia had offered to attempt the reclamation of some of our own aborigines if a grant of land were offered. The object was of such a character that he anticipated no opposition from the House.

The Hon. R. J. SMITH had no objection to the motion, but thought that the House should be informed of the amount of land to be given and its situation.

The Hon. F. N. ISAAC rose to express his entire concurrence in the motion. Although the labors of those who desired to ameliorate the condition of the aborigines had hitherto not been so successful as could be wished, yet it would be uncharitable to desist from these attempts on that account. He was not amongst those who believed that no benefit could be conferred upon the aborigines, as he was aware, from observation, that an institution for the reform of the aborigines at St. George's Sound, in South Australia, had been very successful in its mission.

The question was then put and passed.
