

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 1864

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Tuesday, 13 September, 1864.*Prorogation of Parliament.—Address to His Excellency.—
Assent to Bills.—The Vice-regal Speech.

PROROGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT.

This being the day announced for the prorogation of Parliament by the Governor in person, the usual arrangements were made within the House for the reception of His Excellency.

His Excellency entered the House in the accustomed state, and being seated on the dais, Lady Bowen occupying a chair on the left, Mr. Master, the Usher of the Black Rod, was directed to summon the attendance of the members of the Legislative Assembly.

ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY.—
ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. SPEAKER, accompanied by a majority of the members of the Legislative Assembly, appeared at the Bar, and addressed His Excellency as follows:—

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

“We, the members of the Legislative Assembly, beg to offer to your Excellency our respectful congratulations upon the termination of the Second Session of the Second Parliament of Queensland.

“Thirty-one Bills, two of which were Bills affecting private companies, have been passed this session; and it may be truly said that no session of the Parliament of Queensland has been so wholly engrossed with matters of deep importance to the vital

interest of this Colony as that which is now about to close, and we trust the result will prove that the measures which have been passed have received that due consideration at our hands which their importance demanded; and we would indulge the hope that our duties, as faithful representatives of the people of this Colony, and as loyal and devotedly attached subjects of Her Majesty, have been satisfactorily discharged.

“Supplies have been granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year 1865, and for the supplementary service of the years 1863 and 1864, and I have now the honor to present to your Excellency two Bills for legalising the grants of the session, intitled respectively, ‘A Bill to authorise the appropriation out of the consolidated revenue fund of certain sums to make good the supplies granted for the years 1865, 1864, and 1863,’ and ‘A Bill to authorise the raising of loans on the security of the consolidated revenues of the Colony, for the execution of certain public works, and further to provide funds for immigration,’ and, on behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly, to pray that the royal assent may be given to these Bills.”

Whereupon His Excellency subscribed and declared his assent, in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, to the said Bills.

The Clerk of the Council having received certain Bills assented to, then, by desire of His Excellency, read as follows:—

“His Excellency the Governor has assented, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the following Bills, viz.:—‘An Act to extend certain provisions of the Civil Service Act of 1863;’ ‘An Act to amend the Publicans Act of 1863;’ ‘An Act to amend the law respecting the recovery of small debts;’ ‘An Act to amend and consolidate the laws affecting the solemnization of marriage;’ ‘An Act for granting an export duty upon gold, and to facilitate the collection of such duty;’ ‘An Act to provide for immigration into the Colony of Queensland;’ ‘An Act to amend the law of evidence;’ ‘An Act to authorise the closing of roads by licensed occupants;’ ‘An Act to facilitate the assessment of rent of Crown lands leased for pastoral purposes in the unsettled districts;’ ‘An Act to amend the laws relating to municipal institutions;’ ‘An Act for giving additional powers to the trustees of lands granted for public purposes;’ ‘An Act to establish provincial councils;’ ‘An Act to amend an Act, passed in the last session of the Parliament of Queensland, intitled, An Act to make provision for the construction by the Government of railways, and for the regulation of the same;’ ‘An Act to amend and consolidate the laws for the relief of in-

solvent debtors;’ ‘An Act to amend the law respecting the issuing of writs of summons and *capias* in certain seaport towns in the Colony of Queensland;’ ‘An Act to amend an Act, intitled, An Act to incorporate the proprietors of a certain banking company, called The Bank of New South Wales and for other purposes therein mentioned;’ ‘An Act for lighting with gas the city of Brisbane, in the Colony of Queensland, and for that purpose to incorporate a certain company, to be called The Brisbane Gas Company, and for other purposes.’” These Acts have been transmitted to the Legislative Council, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper officer for enrolment in the manner required by law. His Excellency the Governor has reserved for the signification of Her Majesty’s pleasure thereon, the following Bill, viz.:—‘A Bill to establish a divorce and matrimonial causes jurisdiction in the Supreme Court.’”

VICE-REGAL SPEECH.

His Excellency was, thereupon, pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament the following Speech:—

“HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:—

“1. In releasing you for the present year from your attendance in Parliament, I feel much satisfaction in adverting to the care and diligence with which you have disposed of an amount of public business considerably larger than in any preceding Session.

“2. By passing the Additional Members Bill, you have performed an act of justice, which, coupled with the facilities afforded in the new Provincial Councils for the construction of public works under local superintendence, will, I confidently trust, have the effect of securing adequate Parliamentary Representation for every district and interest, and an equitable distribution, throughout the Colony, of the public expenditure.

“3. Among other valuable measures upon which you have bestowed much time and attention, I may especially refer to the Immigration Act, in which, from previous experience in the working of a system already attended with unparalleled success, you have been enabled to make provision for a large increase to our population at a reduced expense to the Treasury. You have further consolidated and amended the existing Acts respecting Municipal Institutions, the Mercantile Law, Insolvency, Grammar Schools, the Savings Banks, the Civil Service, the Collection of Light Dues, the Trustees of Public Lands, the Volunteer Corps, and

several other important subjects, assimilating, as far as possible, the Statutes in force in Queensland to the progressive legislation of the Imperial Parliament.

“GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY :—

“4. I thank you, in the name of the Queen, for the Supplies which you have granted to Her Majesty for the Military protection of this Colony, and for every branch of the Public Service. The quick but steady growth of our Revenue has justified you in making liberal appropriations of money, to be raised by way of loan, for the construction of reproductive public works, and for sustaining the flow of immigration. The contribution of each immigrant to the Customs Revenue will alone, in a very few years, repay with interest the cost of his introduction, while the large number of important works already in progress, or authorised by you, will provide an extended field for his labor.

“HONORABLE GENTLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN :—

“5. I have observed with deep satisfaction that this Second Parliament fully maintains the high character for “wisdom and moderation” which the Imperial authorities have already recognised in the Legislature of

Queensland. It gives me also much pleasure to renew, on this occasion, the congratulations on the rapid but solid progress of this Colony, which I have now been enabled to address to you in closing the Sessions of five successive years. Since the establishment of Queensland in 1859, our population has been almost trebled; while our revenue, our trade (including imports and exports), and the other chief elements of material prosperity, have advanced in nearly equal proportion. During the same short period, a promising commencement has been made towards the development of our mineral resources in gold and copper; cotton and sugar have become staple products; a line of new ports has been opened along our eastern seaboard from Keppel Bay to Cape York—a distance of a thousand miles; and pastoral occupation has spread over an additional area at least three times larger than that of the United Kingdom. The official Statistics, which prove these facts, cannot fail to be instructive to our fellow-countrymen at home, while they must be to us a subject of honest pride and devout thankfulness.

“6. I now declare this Parliament to stand prorogued until the 10th day of January, 1865.”