

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 1865**

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Thursday, 7 September, 1865.*

Selectors Relief Bill.

## SELECTORS RELIEF BILL.

The Hon. W. WOOD said he rose to do a thing which, except under very particular circumstances, he should be very loth to do—a thing that was not done often in that House. He rose to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of obtaining the opportunity of explaining, not only his own views and those of other honorable gentlemen, but of many gentlemen throughout the country, and, generally, the views of the pastoral tenants of the Crown, with respect to the Selectors Relief Bill. He considered it was perfectly open for him to say that

honorable gentlemen who held the same views as himself, and others throughout the colony, had been very much misrepresented in another place, and that the views he and others held had not been fully given forth to the world at large. Now he intended to give notice that day that on the following day he would again introduce the Bill for the relief of selectors on agricultural reserves, with a slight modification. He was prepared to bring in that measure with the latter portion of the first clause left out, which, as honorable gentlemen would remember, related to fencing; and that, he thought, should be sufficient, for residence and cultivation at least should be insisted upon, otherwise the reserves would not be applied to the purposes for which they were intended. With respect to those cases where the persons had resided so long on the land, he thought forfeiture of land should not be enforced as regarded the past. Supposing the comprehensive measure on the land question, which they were promised next session by the honorable the Secretary for Lands and Works, did not become law, they could go on under the old Act, but for the past the selectors should have a bill of indemnity. So far from the pastoral tenants being actuated by selfish motives in this matter, their wish was to see if there could not be a conjunction effected of their interests and those of the agriculturists and the town people—whether they could not have a Bill which would be for the benefit of all three classes, and for the benefit of the country at large. That was what they wished. It might be thought marvellous by some that such should be the case, but the pastoral tenants had agreed to give up all sorts of rights and claims they might be said to have had, and all they could be asked to give up. But, on the other hand, they asked certain benefits to themselves, while they gave benefits to others. He should not have moved the adjournment of the House but that he felt it necessary to take that course, as being the only one he could adopt, to enable him to bring the views of the squatters before the country, and which had not been properly put forward. The honorable gentleman who held the management of the lands department, instead of being the first to sow dissension between the different tenants of the Crown, should rather have chosen the first opportunity of conciliating them whenever they were at variance; but so far from his doing so, he had held up those who proposed the fencing clause as being a thoroughly selfish body, desirous only of benefiting themselves. Now, he could assure honorable gentlemen that the large body of the squatters were not actuated by such motives.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had seen the observations referred to by the honorable gentleman, and so far as he (the Attorney-General) was concerned, he must say that he could not have conceived they would bear the interpretation that had been put upon them.

There were, no doubt, individuals in that body who considered that no other person could prosper except at their expense, but such he felt was not the opinion of a large number of gentlemen who occupied the pastoral lands of the colony, from whom much of the wealth of the colony was derived, and from whose exertions the greatest amount of property had been derived. So far as the measure which the honorable gentleman proposed to introduce went, if the other measure had been finally withdrawn, he should accept it as a sort of instalment, feeling it was impossible to hope for more this session.

The Hon. W. LANDSBOROUGH said he merely rose to state that it had been represented that honorable gentlemen of the Legislative Council had selfish views in passing the fencing clause of the Bill. Now, so far as he was concerned, he begged to assure the House that he had not the slightest interest in the matter personally, and, so far as he knew, those who voted with him had no selfish interest in the matter. He merely proposed the clause, because he thought nothing else would be done this session.

The Hon. W. WOOD said he had hoped to be able to bring forward the Bill again at the stage of its second reading, but he now understood that he must re-introduce it. He would, therefore, withdraw the motion for the adjournment of the House, and give notice that next day he would move for leave to bring in a Bill for the Relief of Selectors in Agricultural Reserves.

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