

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 24 JULY 1866**

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ney-General; the Kennedy, the Honorable George Elphinstone Dalrymple, Esquire, Colonial Secretary; Eastern Downs, the Honorable John Donald McLean, Esquire, Colonial Treasurer; Western Downs, the Honorable John Watts, Esquire, Secretary for Lands and Works.

The motions were severally put, and agreed to.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. HERBERT said that, in consequence of the course of action that would have to be taken owing to the adoption of the resolutions he had moved, it would become his duty—unless the House was of opinion that another course should be adopted—to move the adjournment of the House for some time. But before he made a motion to that effect, he would like to ask the House—and he would place himself in the hands of the House to that extent—whether both sides of the House were so far agreed on the measure introduced by the late Government for the leasing of lands for agricultural purposes, as to render it expedient under present circumstances to take steps, before adjourning, for the passing of that measure. It was evident that honorable members on the Opposition side of the House would, if there was no adjournment, have a majority in dealing with the measure; as to the details of which, honorable members on both sides were mostly agreed. And as there was a general feeling that there should be a prompt decision come to upon it, as it was considered calculated to promote the speedy settlement of the people on the land, it might be the wish of the House that the measure should be gone on with before any adjournment. He might mention that honorable members on the Government side of the House were willing to go on with it. But he was wholly in the hands of the House; and if it was the feeling of honorable members opposite that no business should be done at present, he would move the adjournment of the House. He might also state that he had no desire to introduce the measure in any other form than that in which it was proposed by the late Government to introduce it.

Mr. MACALISTER said the observations of the honorable member who had just sat down had come upon him with something like surprise, because he considered the only object of the meeting of the House that evening would have been the declaration of the vacancies of certain seats, and the adjournment of the House till the gentlemen, by whose acceptance of office those seats had become vacant, were re-elected. He believed that was the course, according to parliamentary practice, usually pursued on similar occasions; and to some extent it was in accordance with the objection he took himself, the other day, to the House proceeding with the measure for the issue of Treasury Bills. As he mentioned to the House on that occasion, he was perfectly prepared, and was

#### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Tuesday, 24 July, 1866.*

Message from the Governor (Assent to Bills).—The new Ministry.—Adjournment.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR (ASSENT TO BILLS).

The SPEAKER acquainted the House that he had received messages from His Excellency the Governor, announcing that His Excellency had been pleased, on behalf of Her Majesty, to assent to the Waterworks Act Amendment Bill, the Admiralty Jurisdiction Act Amendment Bill, Issue of Treasury Bills Bill, and Registrars of District Courts Bill.

#### THE NEW MINISTRY.

Mr. HERBERT, in pursuance with what he believed to be the custom in cases such as the present, submitted a series of motions proposing that the seats for the following electoral districts be declared vacant, by reason of the acceptance of office of profit under the Crown by the gentlemen by whom those seats had been occupied:—Ipswich, the Honorable Ratchiffe Pring, Esquire, Attor-

willing, if the new Ministers had been sworn in, to go back to the Government side of the House and proceed with the Bill as it was introduced. He did not expect, however, that the honorable member would have proposed to proceed with any other business. At the same time, so far as he was concerned, he was desirous that the Leasing of Lands Bill should be carried in its integrity; and if the honorable member did not see that the House would object to it, he, for his part, would be most willing to do whatever was in his power to assist in carrying it through that day. But, while he made that admission, he would point out to the honorable gentleman that there was an irregularity in proceeding with Bills of this nature, during the period when those gentlemen who filled responsible departments were not in the House. He made those observations that he might not be held as agreeing with any course of irregularity that might be adopted; but so far as the importance of the Bill referred to was concerned, and the desirableness of carrying into law, the honorable member had his entire concurrence.

Mr. STEPHENS said he believed the course now proposed by the honorable member at the head of the Treasury benches was, to say the least of it, not in accordance with what was the ordinary practice; but he believed there were precedents for it. He looked upon the Leasing Bill as a most important one. Honorable members were all aware that the Land Bill was looked upon as the most important measure of the present day, and that the leasing clauses were regarded as the most important part of that measure. He thought, therefore, that it was advisable no time should be lost in passing the Bill as soon as it was practicable to do it. He thought the offer that had been made was a very good one; and the supporters of the late Government were obviously in a majority. The offer that had been made was a very fair one, and he would suggest that the measure, which was urgently required, should be proceeded with at once, in order, as soon as possible, to put an end to the stagnation that existed in the way of the Government dealing with land. He thought the passing of the measure would have a very desirable effect, in assisting the Government with funds, in settling the land, and in providing employment to many who were now without it. He was therefore in favor of the Bill being proceeded with at once.

Mr. BELL said he was surprised to hear the partial consent that was given by the honorable member who preceded him to the course suggested by the honorable member for West Moreton. He thought that the view taken, that the Leasing Bill was an urgent measure, was not any excuse for the House departing from the legal and regular custom, which he hoped would be confirmed

as the custom for the House to follow. He hoped those honorable members who thought fit on a late occasion to object to the course now proposed, and which was proposed on the same grounds, of necessity—he referred to the passing of the Treasury Bills Bill,—would not consent to the adoption of that course on the present occasion. The excuse of necessity put forward now for the passing of this measure, existed to as great, if not to a greater, extent for the passing of the Treasury Bills Bill; but if honorable members did not consider it sufficient then, to justify them in breaking through the ordinary custom, he held they could not consider it sufficient to justify them in doing so in respect to the Leasing Bill. He hoped there were honorable members in the House who would object to any course which, however urgent the circumstances might be, would have the effect of continuing the irregularity of practice which seemed to have become inevitable in the conduct of the business of the House. While he admitted that the Bill was an important one, that it was urgently required, and that the sooner it was passed into law the better, he considered it was more important and more urgent that the practice of Parliament, and the established custom of proceeding with public business, should be strictly upheld; and that those precedents that formed the rule of procedure should not be departed from under any circumstances. He hoped, therefore, that honorable members would not allow the Bill to be proceeded with at the present time.

Mr. MACKENZIE said he should like to see the Leasing Bill pass, though he must say that he did not see any urgency for it for a month or six weeks; nor did he see that it could have much effect on the stagnation which existed as to the Government dealing with land or the stagnation that existed in respect to business generally. Though he would like, as he had said, to see the Bill pass this session, yet, when he saw the House without Ministers in it—when he saw a Bill of such importance brought in by a gentleman who sat on the Treasury benches as Premier of the colony—an office which was properly one of profit, and the honorable gentleman holding it had, therefore, no right to occupy a seat in the House without going before his constituents for re-election,—when he saw the Bill brought in by a gentleman who held the office of Premier without going before his constituents, and that he was assisted by another honorable member who also ought to have gone before his constituents for re-election,—when he saw that, he held it would be most irregular to go on with the Bill. To go on with the Bill, under such circumstances, would be an irregularity that the importance of the measure or its urgency would not justify; and he would not lend himself to anything so irregular as the passing of a Bill without all or any of the

real members of the Ministry being present. The Bill, it was true, was brought in by the honorable the Premier, but the gentleman who held that position should also hold a responsible office. Now, the honorable member for West Moreton, who held the position of Premier of the colony, did not hold a responsible office, and, therefore, though a Minister, he was an unreal Minister. To go on with the Bill under existing circumstances would, in his opinion, be most irregular; and he, for one, would not consent to go on with any business till the members of the new Ministry—the real members—were in their place. If the House were to go on with this Bill, it might, on the same principle, and with as good an excuse, go on with the Estimates.

Mr. MACALISTER thought the House had better adjourn.

Mr. HERBERT thought he must understand, from the views expressed by honorable members, that the feeling of the House was not in favor of proceeding with the Bill at the present time. He did not desire to press the measure in any way; but only mentioned the matter in order to consult the feelings of the House on the matter. He felt the exigencies of the country were such as to justify a departure from the ordinary course of practice, so long as a course of strict legality was observed; but, from what he had heard, he would not further proceed with the measure; and he would, therefore, now move that the House adjourn till Tuesday, the 18th day of September next.

Mr. BROOKES said he would wish to state, on his own behalf, and, he thought he would be expressing the opinion of other honorable members, when he said that he regretted the honorable member for West Moreton had proposed to introduce the Leasing Bill at the present time. The Bill, he admitted, was an important one; but the proposal to introduce it at this time was another of those obnoxious attempts to infringe parliamentary practice, of which there had been so many in that House. He rose, however, for another purpose. He rose for the purpose of preventing the possibility of its being represented that he, and those with whom he had acted, had delayed the passing of the measure—a measure which was introduced by the late Government, and which he and the other supporters of that Government were willing to support and to pass into law, as far as it was in their power to do so. But he thought it was desirable that an end should be put to the course the Government seemed disposed to pursue. What he and other honorable members wished to know was this—what were the measures of the late Government which the present Government were to introduce, and what were the measures of their own that they were to introduce to the House? The present Government seemed to be attempting the old game that used to be so popular at home at one time. They found

the late Government bathing, and were running away with their clothes. He was very glad there was a feeling in the House opposed to anything like a temporising policy; and he must say that he did not agree with what had been said by the honorable member for South Brisbane—that the passing of the Leasing Bill would remove the stagnation that existed in the disposal of land by the Government; for the Bill, he believed, was one that could only be taken full advantage of in times of prosperity—in times when the people, being possessed of money, would have time and leisure to think of something else than how to get their daily bread; which was the engrossing subject with them at the present time. He did not think the House should go on with the Bill till they could do so in a proper and legitimate way, which they would only be able to do when the members of the new Ministry were re-elected, and could again occupy seats in the House. He objected to any Government business being gone on with so long as the responsible members of the Ministry were without seats in the House. He was glad to find that the honorable member for West Moreton, who seemed to be armed with a kind of authority, was willing that the Bill should not be gone on with, as he did not know if the honorable member had any right to represent the Government in the House, or to take charge of the Government business in the House at all.

Mr. R. CRIBB confessed that he also was quite taken by surprise by the proposition that had been made by the honorable member for West Moreton; and he was equally surprised at no mention having been made of another subject. The honorable member for West Moreton, on the occasion of the last sitting of the House, when the Treasury Bills Bill was passed, said there was only one or two other measures—not one for leasing lands—which the House would be asked to consider before its adjournment; and those were measures for imposing additional taxation to meet the interest on the Treasury Bills. The honorable member also stated that the Bills were not then ready, but would be distributed to honorable members before the next sitting, in time to be considered. Now, he had not had a copy of those Bills sent to him, nor had the honorable member on the present occasion made any allusion to them. The Bills had not been distributed yet, and he had not heard a word about them. The honorable member for West Moreton, who he might say had usurped the office of Premier, had not kept his promise in the matter, as he had not had the Bills distributed. He should have liked to see the Bills, and it was the duty of the honorable member, after promising the House that they should be distributed before the next sitting day of the House, and be in the hands of honorable members in time for their consideration—it was his duty to have had them circulated to

honorable members on their meeting to-day. It was his duty to have done so, not only for the purpose of keeping his promise, but also that he might not have allowed it to be said that the Ministers were going to the country for re-election with their policy kept back. Instead of stating the policy of the new Ministry, the honorable member had asked the House without notice to pass a Bill which he knew was a popular measure. Such a course, he held, was simply for the purpose of bidding for the seats of honorable members of the Ministry, who were going to their respective constituencies for re-election, and nothing else. He was astonished that such barefaced conduct should be committed. The honorable member for North Brisbane, Mr. Raff, he observed was laughing. The honorable member, he supposed, was laughing at his constituents whom he mis-represented, whose interests he endangered, and whose prospects he ruined, by his conduct in the House. If the honorable member wanted to take office, and to have a hand in carrying on the affairs of the country, why did he not go about it in a proper manner? The honorable member was sent for by the Governor to take the office of Premier, and why did he not take it, and go back to his constituents for re-election, and thereby find out their opinion of his conduct since he came into the House? Every one, of course, knew the reason the honorable member had for not accepting office in a way that would require him to go back for re-election. The honorable member knew that it would be no use for him to go back to his constituents. He knew that he would not be returned if he did. Before sitting down, he would briefly advert to what took place on the last day of sitting. There were three honorable gentlemen, who had since been sworn in as Ministers, who occupied seats in the House. They were announced as three of the gentlemen who were to form the new Ministry, and, therefore, they had no right to be in the House, for they had virtually accepted office, and only required to be gazetted in order to be publicly recognised as members of the new Ministry. Those honorable gentlemen occupied seats in the House and took part in the business of the House, which consisted of the suspension of the standing orders and the passing of the Treasury Bills Bill through all its stages in one day. That, he maintained, was a most unconstitutional proceeding. The Bill was subsequently passed through the other branch of the Legislature on the same day; and, to-day, the honorable the Speaker had announced that the Governor had given his assent to it. In the space of three hours the Bill passed through both Houses, and received the royal assent, and became law. But he contended that it was not law, however much appearances might be in its favor. The honorable the Attorney-General, however much he

might know more than he (Mr. Cribb) knew about constitutional law, as he boasted the other night, had, he (Mr. Cribb) could tell him, very much over-stepped the law in the matter of the Treasury Bills Bill, and in advising His Excellency to assent to it. The Bill, he maintained, was not law, and would never be law till an Act of indemnity was passed by a House properly constituted. Until such an Act of indemnity was passed, every man who bought one of the Treasury bills that might be issued under the measure passed on Friday last would do so at his own risk; and he might find, that what he paid £100 for would not be worth a shilling to him. He could assure the House that he, and many other members of the community, were determined to do their utmost to resist one of those bills being paid, as the measure authorising their issue had been passed in a most unconstitutional manner. He thought the House should, before agreeing to an adjournment, call upon the honorable member for West Moreton, who represented the Ministry, to state the policy of the new Ministry in respect to taxation, as the honorable member, who called himself the Premier, had not kept his promise, to have the Bills relative to taxation distributed to honorable members. He ought, therefore, to make a statement to the House explanatory of the policy of the new Ministry.

Mr. PUGH said he would suggest, by way of question, to the honorable member who sat at the head of the Treasury benches, whether it would be advisable to adjourn the House for so long a period as he had proposed—to the 18th of September. It might happen that, by the next mail, more embarrassing intelligence would be received—intelligence which might place them in a worse position than they were in at present, and which it might be necessary for the House to be made aware of, with the view of action being taken upon it. He would, therefore, suggest that it might not be politic for the House to adjourn for so long a period. He should be happy, for his own part, to attend on any day to which the House might be adjourned, for the purpose of making a House to meet any unforeseen necessity that might arise; and he thought it would hardly be wise to adjourn for so long a time as was proposed. Before sitting down, he would like to ask the ruling of the honorable the Speaker, if he would be kind enough to give it, as to whether it was in accordance with the usual practice of Parliament to introduce a Bill when the seats of the actual Ministers of the colony were vacated, and the members of the Ministry were consequently not in the House.

The SPEAKER said he was quite aware that Bills had been brought forward under such circumstances; but the usual practice was that the House should adjourn as soon

as the seats of the gentlemen who had accepted office were declared vacant.

Mr. HERBERT said he thought the suggestion that had been made by the honorable member for North Brisbane, Mr. Pugh, was a wise one, and he would therefore amend his motion by proposing that the House should adjourn to this day week. It might so happen that there would be important information received in the meantime, which it would be desirable to communicate to the House on Tuesday next.

The SPEAKER pointed out there might be this inconvenience in adjourning to this day week, that if a quorum of members did not assemble to form a House, it would be necessary to adjourn the House from day to day. There must be a quorum of members present to authorise the adjournment of the House for a longer period than to the next day of sitting.

Mr. MACALISTER thought it was too long an adjournment—to the 18th of September. Some of the members of the Ministry might be returned by that time. It was not necessary, in order that business might be proceeded with, that they should all be re-elected before the House resumed. It would be quite sufficient if only one was returned, as he could take charge of the Government business. He thought it would be well that the House should adjourn only till Tuesday, the 4th of September, unless the honorable member for West Moreton thought that a necessity absolutely existed for the House adjourning to the longer date. It should be remembered, that it was only necessary to afford a reasonable time for the elections to take place.

The SPEAKER said he believed His Excellency the Governor had power to call the House together at any time, by giving fourteen days notice.

Mr. HALY suggested to the honorable the Premier, that the House should be adjourned to the 10th of September, at least, as that would enable some honorable members to go up country, and make arrangements for their business being carried on during the period they would have to attend the House afterwards. They would be able to go home and arrange matters, and be back by that time; but if a shorter period were fixed, they would be obliged to remain in town, and do nothing; or if they went up country, they would not be able to be back when the House met.

Mr. HERBERT said that, if the House had no objection, he would move that they adjourn till Tuesday, the 14th of August.

Mr. WALSH said that, before the motion for adjournment was put, he would like to ask the honorable gentleman who represented the Government if precautions had been taken for preserving the peace of the city? This was one of those serious matters which he hoped the honorable gentleman would be able to give the House a decided

assurance upon. There was no doubt that at this moment the colony was in a very frightful state. Embarrassments were not only coming over the Government, but they were also coming over private institutions, and private individuals as well; and the consequence would be that an enormous number of people would be thrown out of employment. He trusted that, under the circumstances, the Government would be strong enough to preserve order; and he trusted that those honorable members who had any influence over the passions—or were supposed to have any influence over the passions—over the turbulent passions of the people, would exert their influence, for the good of the country, to suppress those passions. It must have been a matter of deep regret to all well-disposed persons to have seen the late outbreak that occurred in this town. Nothing had ever occurred in the colony, in the course of his experience, that had caused him so much pain as what happened on Friday night last. He felt it his duty to say that the stain that had come on the colony would not be soon or easily wiped out. It was all but a miracle that the outbreak that took place did not end in the loss of life. It was all but a miracle that it was not attended with murder. He believed that that outbreak was, unfortunately, caused by some honorable members of that House—

Mr. R. CRIBB rose to order. The honorable member was charging honorable members of the House with causing an outbreak, which it was all but a miracle, in the opinion of the honorable member himself, did not end in murder.

The SPEAKER: It is very undesirable that the honorable member should go so far with his remarks.

Mr. WALSH: Those were not the times when they should mince their words, and he would not mince his. He repeated, that owing to the action of certain citizens of Brisbane, an outbreak took place in the city such as had never occurred in the colony before. It was almost a miracle, he repeated, that on the occasion of the outbreak of Friday last, the life of one of Her Majesty's subjects—the life of one of the most important gentlemen in the colony—was not sacrificed. As it was, the life of that honorable gentleman was placed in the greatest possible danger; and had the worst been done that was threatened to be done, there were certain honorable members in the House who, morally, would never have been acquitted.

Mr. R. CRIBB again rose to order. The honorable member for Maryborough was occupying the time of the House in telling some fiction of his own brain, about some outbreak that he had imagined, the like of which had never occurred in the colony before, staining the annals of the country; and was accusing some honorable members of being parties to the outbreak, which it

was all but a miracle, as the honorable member put it, did not end in murder.

The **SPEAKER**: He had told the honorable member that he was out of order in making such allusions, though he did not clearly hear what the honorable member had said just now.

**Mr. R. CRIBB**: He repeated the statement.

**Mr. WALSH**: He hoped the Government would be able to keep the peace, notwithstanding what honorable members might do. The honorable member—

**Mr. R. CRIBB**: Was it the honorable member for Maryborough?

**Mr. WALSH**: The honorable member, and certain other honorable members, left their places in the House on Friday last, while he (Mr. Walsh) and others remained to legislate for the salvation of the colony; and while they were so legislating for the salvation of the colony, other honorable members were spouting for the destruction of it. (Cries of "Order.")

**Mr. PUGH** said he could assure the honorable member that all who were present at the meeting he referred to had a perfect consciousness that he was alluding to them. He did not wish to say anything that would increase the excitement under which the honorable member for Maryborough seemed to be laboring; he would rather endeavor to reduce it, and he could assure the honorable member that no one could deplore more deeply than he (Mr. Pugh) did that there should have been any after occurrence such as took place on Friday evening. It was a disgrace to the city, and he expressed his disgust at it at the time; and if he had imagined that anything of the kind would have taken place, he should have done everything in his small way to prevent it. He denied, however, most emphatically, that the proceedings at the public meeting had anything to do whatever in promoting the occurrence that took place afterwards. The meeting was very numerously attended, and a more respectable assemblage could not be obtained in the city. The meeting comprised almost all the most respectable people in the city; nearly every tradesman was present, and so earnest was the whole community on the subject, that, with few exceptions, every principal shop in the city was closed, that the proprietors, and their shopmen also, might attend the meeting. He hoped that would satisfy the honorable member as to the respectable character of the meeting. The honorable member for Maryborough, however, lived out of town, and he might rest himself contentedly that no disturbance would occur in the city to-night, and that any disturbance that might occur would not reach him. Since the meeting of Friday, in the Town Hall, there had been a large open air meeting of the working classes; and, as he had been told, it was one of the most orderly meetings that could be held. The honorable member for Maryborough need not, there-

fore, have the slightest fear of any further disturbance, and he might calm his fears, if he had any in reality.

**Mr. WALSH** said he held he was perfectly justified in the remarks he had made—except in so far as transgressing the rules of the House was concerned. He was astonished that some other honorable member than himself had not risen in his place and called the attention of the House to the circumstance. He maintained that the outbreak that occurred in the city, on Friday last, resulted from the meeting in the Town Hall; but he had no doubt the honorable members who impelled the people to the act, were as sorry for what took place as he was; for he believed there was hardly a citizen in the whole of Brisbane who was not ashamed of the proceeding. But, when he found that an honorable member, a highly respected member of the House, a highly respectable citizen, was exhibited at the meeting in effigy; and when he remembered what was the usual termination—what was the doom of effigies—when he remembered that they were got up in order to be burned—he could not but consider that such language as was used at the meeting was highly inflammable. Honorable members who would speak in the way that some honorable members spoke at that meeting were, he maintained, responsible for the acts that followed. He trusted the Government would adopt every means in their power to guard against such an outbreak in future; for they might depend upon it, that the seed that was sown on Friday last would frequently appear again; and that when honorable members might, in the discharge of their legislative duties, do what was against the popular view, on any public question of importance, there would be a similar ebullition of passion, and a similar outbreak. He felt that now, and he confessed it, he acted under coercion. He felt that he was in danger, and that other honorable members were in danger, if they went against the popular will. He was only astonished that other honorable members had not taken action in the matter before he did. The late popular Premier, popular as he was, might find it to be his doom some day to be treated in a similar way, should he go against the popular feeling; and he (Mr. Walsh) should be equally sorry to hear of such conduct being shewn towards him. It was in order to prevent such an act of ingratitude towards him, that he was anxious that the Government should take steps to provide against similar outbreaks in future; and he trusted the Government would take special care to provide against them.

**Mr. HERBERT** said that, perhaps it would save the time of the House, if he were at once to answer the question asked by the honorable member. He might state that the Government did not expect there would be any recurrence of what the honorable member complained of; and had not, therefore, taken

any steps, either by strengthening the police force, or in any other way, to prevent it. The Government was prepared to trust entirely to the good sense, and the good feeling, of the people themselves, that no such occurrence would again take place. He might say that he entirely acquitted those honorable members who spoke at the meeting, of having anything to do with what occurred afterwards. For his own part, he regretted very much that the matter had been brought up, or in any way alluded to; and he thought it was right he should say that, in looking round him during the disturbance, he did not recognise in the crowd the face of a single citizen of Brisbane. He regretted the matter had been brought up at all, and he hoped it would now be allowed to drop.

Dr. CHALLINOR said he wished, in the first place, to refer to the Leasing Clauses Bill. That measure, he thought, was mentioned solely that it might be used as a card to play for the elections. Though he was in favor of leasing clauses, he was not in favor of the leasing of the land to the injury of others; and he would not vote in favor of clauses to enable a certain class of the inhabitants to defeat the real objects of a leasing Bill. He would not, therefore, have been prepared to go on with the measure at present. He was in favor of enabling the small capitalists to go on the land under a system of leasing, provided that could be done so as not to injure the colony at large. In saying that, however, he desired it to be distinctly understood that he was not opposed to a leasing measure. He would not allude to the subject of the Treasury bills. The honorable member at the head of the Treasury benches had said it was possible that between this time and Tuesday next something might arise of importance which it would be necessary to bring under the attention of the House. That remark he believed had reference to negotiations with regard to money matters in Sydney. Such was his impression, and he had no doubt he was correct. It was stated in the House, one day last week, that the bankers in the city had not confidence in the late Ministry, and would not, therefore, advance them any money, but that they were quite willing to advance money to the Ministry that was to be. Now, he had it on undoubted authority—for he had seen the letter,—that a large Sydney capitalist, and a director of a bank, was, with the directors of other banks in New South Wales, desirous that the late Premier and Treasurer should go at once to Sydney and meet them on the subject; and that those directors were quite ready if able to meet the requirements of the colony. They did not express the slightest indisposition to treat with the late Government. On the contrary, they said the Government should have nothing to do with the bankers here, as they had no power to act, and could do nothing without telegraphic instructions. They said

the Government, if they wished to transact business with them, ought to visit Sydney, and treat with the principals, who were willing to meet the late Premier and the late Treasurer on the subject. Therefore, though the present Treasurer might be successful in negotiating financial matters in Sydney to the advantage of the colony, it must not be supposed from that that the bankers there were unwilling to treat and make satisfactory arrangements with the late Ministry. He had seen the letter in which what he had said was stated; and he might almost say he had had the letter in his own hands. He now came to another matter—the promised Bills, which had not been introduced. The honorable member for West Moreton had said nothing to the House about the taxing Bills. The House had not been informed in any way as to the principle upon which the contemplated taxation was to be distributed. Now, he maintained that it was not right or fair to the country that those gentlemen who were administering the Government should go to their constituencies without making known to the country the line of policy they were going to adopt. The country ought to be informed as to the policy of the Government in respect to the taxation measures, and in respect to the various other measures by which the new Ministry might be prepared to stand or fall. As to the question of adjournment, he did not himself see there was any necessity that the House should be adjourned to an earlier day than that on which the gentlemen who had accepted office might either be returned or rejected. Surely, if those ministers were the saviors of the colony—as the House had been told they were—surely if they were the saviors of the colony—and suppose anything should occur between the present time and the 18th of September next which required prompt, decisive, and wise action—surely those honorable gentlemen would be able to act without having to consult Parliament; and if their acts should be such as they ought to be, no doubt the House, on its re-assembling, would willingly pass a Bill of indemnity. He, therefore, saw no reason whatever why honorable members should be put to personal inconvenience, as they would be by a short adjournment, merely in order to save the present Ministers from incurring that responsibility which they should rightfully take on themselves between the present time and the date originally proposed as the period of adjournment. Besides, it would not be right for him and some other honorable members, taking the view they did, to proceed with the consideration of business without the members of the Ministry being in their places. He, therefore, thought they ought not to consent to the adjournment of the House to a date at which it was not certain the members of the Ministry would be able to be present. It was quite possible that some members of the Ministry might be returned within the time; but he did not

think the Ministry would be prepared to go on with business at an earlier date.

The SPEAKER said that, after what had fallen from the honorable member who had last addressed the House, he must say that it had always been the practice to give sufficient time for the most distant electorate to have its member present on the resumption of the House.

Mr. BELL said that, before the question was put, he would like to say a few words in regard to what had fallen from the honorable member for the Burnett, Mr. Haly. Having in view the convenience of country members, he thought the 14th of August would be too early a period for the House to meet again. Those honorable members from the country who took an interest in the proceedings of the House would find it very inconvenient to attend at that time. He could scarcely conceive of any public necessity occurring between the present time and the early part of September which the Government would not be quite able to meet. He thought it would be quite early enough for the House to meet on the 4th or the 11th of September; and he would suggest that Tuesday, the 4th of September, should be substituted for the 14th of August. He would move that, as an amendment.

Mr. MACALISTER said he understood that, when the honorable member at the head of the Government proposed the House should adjourn to the 14th of August, he did not mean the House should assemble on that day for the purpose of going on with the ordinary business of the country, but only for the purpose of meeting any extraordinary matter that might come up requiring the advice of Parliament. He understood that the proposition, to that extent was assented to, but he also understood that it was coupled with another,—that the House should not meet till early in September, to go on with business. He did not wish to throw any obstacle in the way of the return of the honorable gentlemen who had accepted office as Ministers, and would extend to them all reasonable time that might be required for their going before their constituents; but he thought that, in view of any emergency occurring which might render it necessary for action to be taken by the House, an adjournment to the 18th of September was too long. Now, an adjournment to the 14th of August would be sufficient for any contingency that was likely to arise, and they could again meet on the 4th of September to proceed with business. He thought that would be sufficient for all that was required, and would render it unnecessary to carry out the amendment of his honorable friend.

Mr. R. CRIBB said he wished to refer to some of the remarks that had been made by the honorable member for Maryborough. That honorable member had alluded, over and over again, to what he called an out-

break that took place on Friday evening last; and the honorable member for West Moreton, who was the gentleman that was threatened, after hearing the circumstance repeatedly referred to by the honorable member, made a few observations himself in his usual quiet way, and then begged that the matter might be allowed to drop. Now, he (Mr. Cribb), when he was attacked, as he had been by the honorable member for Maryborough, was not prepared to allow the matter to drop without remark. He was one of those honorable members who had been alluded to as having taken part in the proceedings of the meeting. He attended the House in the afternoon, but finding the constitution was to be violated, he left the Chamber and went to the meeting of his fellow-citizens. The meeting consisted of the most respectable people in Brisbane, and was characterised by the utmost good order throughout. There was upwards of a thousand people present. Every one conducted himself in the most orderly manner, and the language that was used by the various speakers was most temperate in its character. It was far more temperate than the language that had just been addressed to the House by the honorable member for Maryborough. After the meeting was over, he (Mr. Cribb) returned to the House to learn what had been done. While he was standing at the rear of the building, he heard some noise in the street, and on going to see what was the cause of it, he saw the honorable member for West Moreton standing in the archway. Some persons were passing at the time, and commenced hissing, as he understood, at the honorable member for West Moreton. The honorable member walked back through the archway, but afterwards returned and walked down the street, and a considerable amount of hissing was kept up by the crowd that followed him; but there was no occurrence to render the honorable member in the least apprehensive of personal danger; and he believed the honorable member would say as much himself. Yet, the honorable member for Maryborough, for want of something to speak about, must take hold of that nonsensical matter, and make a text of it for a sermon about the great requirements that existed in the city for additional police protection. The representations of the honorable member were altogether ridiculous and absurd, and he knew it. How an honorable member could stand up in his place in the House, and use such language as the honorable member for Maryborough had towards other honorable members, was more than he could understand. It was wrong that he should do so, and the language was such as the House should not allow to be used by one honorable member towards another. Now, he might mention another attempt that was made to exaggerate the occurrence, but in a more practical way. He had been told that

the second godfather of the Government—the honorable member for North Brisbane, Mr. RAFF—to make matters look as bad as possible, and to make it appear that he was afraid, and apprehended that his life and property were in danger, had actually had armed policemen sent up to his house night after night—but it was all by way of demonstration. Now, as the matter of the disturbance had been brought forward, he would ask the honorable member for North Brisbane to say if that was or was not the fact,—whether the Government had not pandered to his fears?—not his real fears, for he had none, but his pretended fears. He would ask, if it was not the fact that armed police were sent up to protect the house of the honorable member for North Brisbane, the second godfather of the present Ministry?

Mr. RAFF said that, notwithstanding the insulting way in which the question was put, he would answer it. The question was whether it was true that he felt alarmed for his safety—

Mr. R. CRIBB: No, no. He knew quite well that the honorable member was not alarmed. The question he had asked was, whether it was true that armed policemen were sent to the house of the honorable member night after night last week? He (Mr. Cribb) had expressly guarded himself against saying that the honorable member was alarmed, and stated distinctly that he did not think he was alarmed.

Mr. RAFF said the statement now made by the honorable member was somewhat different from the statement he first made. The honorable member at first said that he (Mr. Raff) requested police protection to be sent up to his house. He was positive the honorable member said so. However, by way of answering the question, he might say that on Friday evening, after leaving the House, he was engaged in business in his office up till eleven o'clock. He then went home, and on arriving there he found, to his astonishment, two policemen outside the house. On inquiring of them how they came to be there, he was informed that in consequence of certain reports that were going about town as to his being in danger of some kind or other, they had been sent from the Police Office to prevent any attempt to injure him. He could assure the House that he had no knowledge as to the policemen being there or being sent there till he reached home. He explained to the men that he had no apprehension of any danger whatever, and that it was altogether unnecessary for them, on that ground, to remain. He never thought there was any danger, and he had not seen any cause to think there was any danger.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS said he was in hopes that this discussion would have been allowed to drop, after the brief statement in reference to it by the honorable member for West Moreton. As, however, it had been revived,

he would take the opportunity of saying that, in his opinion, the speeches of the honorable members who addressed the meeting were such as to direct attention to two honorable members of the House—the honorable member for West Moreton and the honorable member for North Brisbane, Mr. RAFF; and if they were not of that character, it appeared to him to be singularly strange that whatever disorderly conduct took place after the meeting was directed towards those two honorable members. He did not, however, believe that those honorable members who addressed the meeting intended to excite the people to do what they did; but that disorderly conduct did occur after the meeting, and that it was directed towards those two honorable members, there could not be the slightest doubt.

Mr. WIENHOLT said he could not allow the opportunity afforded him of referring to the meeting to pass without making a few observations about it. He regretted to say that he was present at the meeting for a few minutes, and he considered the language that was used by some of the speakers was highly objectionable. Some of the remarks he heard were very gross and treasonable, and otherwise very improper; and those remarks emanated from some honorable members of that House. (Cries of "Name, name.") He had no objection to mention names. He referred to the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. R. Cribb, and the honorable member for North Brisbane, Mr. Brookes. He heard from them most treasonable language.

Mr. R. CRIBB: What was the language?

Mr. WIENHOLT: He knew that some of the language was unparliamentary, and he would not repeat it. He should regret to make use of such language. Not only was strong language used against several honorable members of the House, but especially against the honorable gentleman who held the highest political position in the House. He was not previously aware of the meeting being held; and after the House adjourned, he was passing the Town Hall, and hearing there was a political meeting being held, he went in to see what it was like. After being present for a short time, he left, and returned to the House, where he met the honorable member for West Moreton. He told that honorable member that reference had been made to him in very strong language, and that he had better look out, as he thought the meeting, after the proceedings were over, would mob him if there was an opportunity. Some of the people at the meeting were so excited, that he felt sure there would be some annoyance given to the honorable member for West Moreton, and he therefore thought it necessary to mention the matter to him. He did not consider that any additional police protection was required, for he felt satisfied that when the people were acquainted with the true state of things, as they would soon be, they would regret having acted as they had

done. At the time those honorable members were holding forth at the meeting, other honorable members, who were being attacked at the meeting, were engaged in the House legislating for the welfare of the people, and for the protection of their interests—not the interests of the colony alone, but the interests of the working classes in particular. Had not the measure that honorable members who remained in the House that night to deal with been passed into law, the whole business of the city would have been stopped next day, and where would the people of Brisbane have been? The navvies employed on the railway works would have come down to Brisbane in a body, and might have attacked and plundered the stores and places of business. There would not have been police protection found sufficient to prevent that. He believed it was anticipated that some disturbance would take place in the city as the result of the meeting, for, as he understood, the shopkeepers in the principal streets were requested shortly after the meeting commenced, to put up their shutters and be ready at once to close their premises. He hoped that such a disgraceful proceeding would never be witnessed in the city again. The populace were not aware when the meeting broke up of what had been done for them by the honorable members who remained in the House. But for the action taken by the honorable the Premier, the colony would by this time have been in a deplorable state. The whole of the working classes would have been thrown out of employment, and would have been obliged to go somewhere else to look for daily bread.

Dr. CHALLINOR said that the honorable member who had just sat down, was not correct in claiming for the present Government, and those honorable members who supported them, the credit of relieving the country from financial embarrassment. On the contrary, but for the action taken by those honorable members, the country would have been relieved from all embarrassment a week sooner, by the late Government. The Bill authorising the issue of Treasury bills to the amount of £250,000 would have been passed into law a week sooner than it was, and that in a legitimate manner, but for the course pursued by the present Government and their supporters. And, in addition to that, a measure would have been passed, authorising the issue of what were called greenbacks; and though His Excellency might not have given his consent to that measure, he would have given his consent to the Bill for the issue of Treasury bills. It was therefore utterly incorrect, to say that the working men were indebted to the present Ministry for being now employed, for if the present Ministry had not taken the course they had taken, the Treasury Bills Bill would have been passed a week sooner.

Mr. WIENHOLT: Why did you oppose them?

Dr. CHALLINOR: He did not oppose them. The Bills could not have been passed on the same night as notice was given that they would be introduced. The question that was before the House at the time referred to, was the suspension of the Standing Orders, that the measures might be passed through all their stages on the following day. If that course had been agreed to, then, within sixty hours after the receipt of the English news, which occasioned the crisis, one of the measures which the late Government proposed to bring in would have been passed and assented to, and the other would have been passed and reserved for Her Majesty's assent or dissent. That was really how the matter stood, and not as stated by the honorable member for Warwick. With regard to the time the House should be adjourned, he (Dr. Challinor) did not think honorable members ought to be called together till the whole of the writs had been returned. He saw no necessity whatever for an immediate meeting; because, suppose the affairs now occupying attention had happened when Parliament was prorogued, the Ministry would not have called them together until after a certain time; and honorable members should not be put to inconvenience in coming to the House when there might be no business before them, and when the Ministry certainly would not be prepared to go on with any business—in the absence of any of their colleagues. If the present Ministry were the individuals who, alone, could keep the State vessel of Queensland afloat, surely they would be able, in the short space of time that must intervene till the elections were over, to take such measures as would be necessary to keep it from sinking. Before he concluded, he wished to ask the honorable member for West Moreton a question, directly and pointedly, with regard to taxes: What taxes did he intend to bring forward in the House?—so that when the Ministers went to their constituencies the electors might know what the intentions of the Government were in that respect.

Mr. HERBERT: I must at once answer the honorable member, by stating that I am not able to give him the information he requires. It would be an unusual course to answer his question. I have not the slightest intention of doing so, nor do I think I should be acting properly if I did so. He knows perfectly well that matters should not be promulgated abroad about what taxes are to be proposed; not, indeed, until the measures for sanctioning them are brought before Parliament. I hope the honorable member will not think me uncourteous if I say I am totally unable to answer his question, now.

Mr. HALY protested against many of the remarks of the honorable member for Ipswich, Dr. Challinor, as not borne out by facts; and said he could not conceive how the honorable member could apply his remarks to honorable members who had voted against, as well as

for, the late Government, on principle. He could assure the House that he was as independent, and had given his votes as fearlessly, as the honorable member for Ipswich; and as long as he was in the House, he would give his vote for the benefit of the whole interests of the colony, and not for any individual interest. He blamed the late Premier for the delay of the session. Had that honorable member not adjourned the House when they were in good working order—if he had opposed the adjournment—the business of the country would have gone on, as they were ready to go on with it. But the House was adjourned without the least notice; very important measures were allowed to stand over; and, when they re-assembled, they had all the work to go over again.

Mr. MACALISTER said he rose to correct the honorable member for Burnett, who made out that it was owing to the consent of the Premier of the late Government that the House adjourned for two or three weeks. He most emphatically denied that it was the fault of the Government. He had most distinctly objected to the adjournment, and he was only overborne in his objection to it by the voice of the House; several honorable members having resolved upon it, irrespective of the public business. Seeing it was the will of the House, and that there was little prospect of doing business meantime, he had consented to it most reluctantly. He, also, if he recollected aright, said that, if in office, the House should not be called together again until a later period of the year; because it always appeared to him to be monstrous that honorable members should have to come down to the House, to adjourn for five or six weeks in the beginning of the session.

Mr. FORBES said he thought, when the House looked at the proceedings of the last few days, and regarded the manner in which the promise of the Government to relieve the difficulties of the country had been met—when they found how the debate on that subject had been forestalled—when they remembered what were the proceedings that took place on the day the late Premier made his motion for going into committee to initiate his measures—they would find that a considerable amount of error had been committed, and that, perhaps, they were drifting from one disaster to another, and that not only the country, but the Parliament itself, was getting into a very disorganised state. It appeared to him that the public had a perfect right to express opinions upon public affairs; and the exercise of that right, instead of being reprobated, should be looked upon as evidence that the people of the colony took a great deal of interest in its welfare. The House should look with pleasure, rather than otherwise, upon the people calling meetings to discuss public questions together. He regarded the late demonstration as having arisen out of the disorderly manner in which affairs were conducted in the Legislature, and

the pressure that was brought to bear on the representatives of the people. If the people of the colony did not rise up on such occasions as that, and offer remonstrance, it would shew that they were in a very low state, and unworthy of the suffrage. He looked upon public meetings, not with horror, as some honorable members did, but with gratification. Every public man, he thought, should expect his conduct to be canvassed, not only by the press, but by public meetings, in every shape and form. Every honorable member who had been any length of time a public man had felt such criticism. Perhaps a new member, entering public life, might wince a little from it; but he (Mr. Forbes) did not think the honorable member for West Moreton would be at all galled by the criticism passed on him at a public meeting. When it was considered that there had been a proposition for increasing the taxation of the colony, the course taken was a usual one in communities that were jealous of their political rights—to assemble in public meeting to consider what would be the effect of levying new taxation; because taxation might be raised to such an amount as would completely capsize the State. Public meetings of that kind should have due weight with the people's representatives. In all matters of legislation the greater the amount of publicity they had the better;—it was in publicity that the strength of legislation lay. The House should regard what occurred at public meetings in the shape of advice. With regard to the several adjournments that had taken place, for the races and so forth, he believed that the honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Macalister, had opposed them; unquestionably they were a waste of time; and, when honorable members returned after them, it was like meeting for another session. He hoped that when the House met again it would be for the despatch of business, and that they would go right through the business. With reference to the present adjournment, he desired that it should be for such a time as would enable those honorable members who had accepted office to get through the elections; and he hoped that they would occupy their seats on the Treasury benches when the House again met. As he hoped the House would then be prepared to discuss the affairs of the country, and to attach due weight to every subject brought under consideration, he agreed with those honorable members who were in favor of not going on with the business until the House was duly constituted. Therefore, he supported the motion of the honorable member for West Moreton.

Mr. B. CRIBB observed that he did not expect any other answer than that given to the honorable member for Ipswich, Dr. Challinor; but, as the House had expected, to-day, to have an outline of the mode of taxation to be carried out by the Government to raise money for meeting the

Treasury bills, and, as they had heard no notice of a Bill on the subject of taxation, he desired to ask—if the Government thought fit, with courtesy, to answer—Whether it was their intention to bring forward a measure of taxation this session or not? He did not want the honorable member for West Moreton to say what mode of taxation was intended; because, there was no doubt that, as the Government comprised one interest only, they would have such a feeling for the good of the country at large, that they would consider it only right first to tax themselves. He would suggest, if they thought of falling back on an old system—assessment on sheep—whether or not they should not at once put a tax on wool. This would be a fairer arrangement than charging for the sheep on a station.

Mr. HERBERT said, as far as he was able to announce what the policy of the Government would be, when they brought their measures before the House, he might state that, in his opinion, there would be some extra taxation; but it would be no greater than was necessary.

The SPEAKER: So much has been said in the House, with regard to the time to which the adjournment should extend, that I may say, in my opinion, derived from former experience, it is not possible that the election for Kennedy can be completed on the 18th September, except under most favorable circumstances. The former election took three months. I merely point this out for the guidance of the House.

The question was then put; the amendment was negatived, and the original motion, for the adjournment of the House to the 18th September, was agreed to.