

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**WEDNESDAY, 7 AUGUST 1867**

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together; and the honorable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly having been summoned, and attending at the bar of the Council;

His EXCELLENCY delivered the following Speech:—

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

“1. I have much satisfaction in meeting the Third Parliament of Queensland at the earliest convenient period after the General Election; and in now inviting you to enter upon the important duties entrusted to your hands under our Constitution.

“2. It has been officially announced that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Australia in the course of the present year; and it is confidently expected that His Royal Highness will receive a cordial welcome in this, as in the neighboring colonies.

“3. Several important measures, for which the people of this Colony are anxiously looking, will be submitted to you without delay. Taught by experience of the unsatisfactory working of the Land Laws passed by previous Parliaments, my Responsible Advisers, with a desire that the alienation of the public lands may be set free from the obstructions which now exist, deem it necessary that Parliament should at once be invited to pass a law, having for its leading principles: First—the withdrawal of portions of the Crown lands from the category of Unsettled, in which they have hitherto been classed, and the addition of such portions to those districts which are now recognised as Settled; and second—the throwing open the whole of the extended Settled Districts to Free Selection, both before and after survey, in blocks of from forty to six hundred and forty acres, with conditions of residence and cultivation. It is also proposed that these lands shall be disposed of by lease for eight years, at two shillings and sixpence per acre, the rent to form the purchase money. The lands intended to be dealt with in the manner just mentioned will be the districts known as East and West Moreton, the greater part of the Darling Downs, the District of Wide Bay, all lands within reasonable distances of navigable rivers, and those portions of the Port Curtis and Kennedy Districts within thirty miles of the seacoast, and extending northerly to Rockingham Bay. A measure

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Wednesday, 7 August, 1867.*

The Opening Speech.—Address in Reply to Opening Speech.

#### THE OPENING SPEECH.

The House being assembled,

At twelve o'clock, His Excellency the GOVERNOR came down in state to announce the reasons for calling this Parliament

to effect these objects will be immediately submitted to you.

"4. The Representation of the People in the Legislative Assembly is a subject to which at an early date your attention will be invited. Our population at the present period, as compared with that existing in Queensland when a separate Constitution was granted to the Colony, would in itself warrant a re-consideration of the basis upon which the representation was originally founded; while the anomalous position occupied by a number of the present electorates shows that if the influence of public opinion is to be regarded in the deliberations of the Assembly, the time has now arrived when it becomes necessary to re-adjust the electorates, and to increase the number of representatives.

"5. The laws at present in force in this Colony for the Registration of Electors, and the conduct of Elections, have, in the opinion of the Government, been found unsatisfactory. These laws have not proved sufficient to ensure that the names of all persons entitled to votes at Parliamentary elections are placed on the rolls; while it is feared that in too many instances they have facilitated frauds, and have afforded no adequate protection against personation. A Bill has therefore been prepared, intended to secure a more correct registration of electors; and, while providing for each elector the exclusive exercise of his political privileges, it will have the effect of checking, if not entirely preventing, the offences to which we have alluded. To this measure your earnest attention will be asked.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"6. The Estimates will be laid before you without delay. It will be found that large reductions are proposed in some of the departments of the Government, and increase avoided in the others, in the hope that the efficiency of the service will not be impaired. The Estimates have been framed with a view to bring the gross expenditure within the anticipated revenue, and by this means to render all additional taxation unnecessary.

"HONORABLE GENTLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN,—

"7. In accordance with a desire expressed on several occasions during the last Parliament, steps have been taken towards a

consolidation of our Statute Law. A large number of Consolidation Acts have already been carefully prepared, and will be shortly brought under your consideration. Several other measures of considerable importance will also be introduced to your notice.

"8. Your attention is invited to a few remarkable results exhibited by the *Statistical Register of Queensland for 1866*, just compiled. On the 1st of January, 1866, our population amounted to 87,775. During the early part of that year immigration was checked, while large numbers of the unsettled portion of the people were induced to leave the Colony. In the face of these facts, our population, at the end of 1866, amounted to 96,172, showing an increase over the previous year of 8,397. Our exports were also, during the same period, largely increased, and various new industries were developed and made permanent. During the same year, the quantity of land under cultivation had increased from 14,414 acres, on the 31st of December, 1865, to 24,433 acres, on the 31st of December, 1866; in the latter year, the land under wheat crops alone in one district had increased from 1,792 acres in 1865, to 2,260 acres in 1866; while the growth of cotton, which in 1865 covered but 447 acres, in 1866 occupied 2,884 acres. These articles are selected as being the most conspicuous; but the statistical returns show a considerable increase in every article which the soil and climate of Queensland are capable of rearing. And yet it is to be regretted that, in 1866, the Colony had occasion to import grain, and other agricultural produce of those descriptions that are now being grown in the Colony, to the value of £370,157; an amount the retention and circulation of which in Queensland, would, no doubt, have been attended with great advantages to this community.

"9. I trust that, by judicious legislation, you will be enabled to promote and consolidate, under the blessing of Divine Providence, the advancement and prosperity of Queensland."

His Excellency then retired, and the Legislative Assembly returned to their own chamber.

The Council adjourned to a later hour of the day.

Upon re-assembling, shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon, the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, *pro forma*, presented a Bill, which was advanced a stage.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO OPENING  
SPEECH.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved—

That a select committee be appointed to consider and propose an Address in answer to His Excellency the Governor's Opening Speech, and that such committee consist of the Honorable J. Gibbon, the Honorable W. D. White, the Honorable D. F. Roberts, and the mover.

The Hon. W. WOOD said he would not oppose the appointment of the committee; but he wished to have a distinct understanding in this matter:—According to what was laid down during the late Parliament, the Council were to proceed with the Address entirely in accordance with the rules of the Imperial Parliament. He had consulted his honorable friend, the President, who coincided with him; though, perhaps, there was no need to go through all the formalities. First of all, resolutions as the basis of the Address should be submitted to and considered by the House, and then the question be put whether there should be an Address presented. In fact, before the committee were appointed, the Address should be considered paragraph by paragraph. Honorable members were aware that when he, on a former occasion, attempted to move an amendment on the Address, he was prevented moving it, owing to the rule that when once the question was put, That an Address be presented, no honorable member could bring forward an amendment. He was inclined to waive the preliminary formality, and let the committee go out; but, when the Address was brought up, it should be read by the Clerk a first time, short; and then read a second time, at length, on question put; and then considered paragraph by paragraph, so that his (Mr. Wood's) amendments could be put. After that, the question would be finally put: there might be no amendments in the Address. If this course were adopted he would be satisfied; otherwise, he should be inclined to move that the Address be read first of all; because it was quite absurd to think that honorable gentlemen could understand, at a moment's notice, an Address which they had never seen. In fact, he trusted that the honorable gentleman representing the Government, after the Address was brought up, would see the propriety of postponing its consideration to a future day, to enable honorable members to become acquainted with it.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL asked for the ruling of the President with respect to the practice of Parliament on the question.

The PRESIDENT observed that he thought there could be no difficulty in meeting the views of the honorable member, Mr. Wood. The practice of the House of Lords was, that a resolution was first proposed, That an Address be presented in answer to Her Majesty's Speech; and then certain resolutions were adopted *seriatim*. Those resolutions formed the substance of the Address.

Then, a committee was appointed to draw up an Address in accordance with them. The Address was brought up and debated; and when it had been thoroughly discussed and the question put, That the Address as brought up by the committee be agreed to, no further amendment could take place. He thought the House would have every opportunity of discussing the question. The Address, when brought up, would be first read by the Clerk, short; then it would be read a second time, at length; and, on the motion of any honorable member who chose to make it, the Address could be read paragraph by paragraph; and, thereupon, the discussion could take place.

Question put and agreed to.

The committee retired, and after a short absence, returned to the chamber; when

The Hon. J. GIBBON reported that the committee had agreed to an Address, which he laid on the table.

The Clerk of the Council read the Address in brief; and, on motion put and passed, read it a second time, in full, as follows:—

“To His Excellency Sir GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

“1. We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled, desire to express to your Excellency our affection and loyalty to the Person and Government of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the first Session of the Third Parliament of Queensland.

“2. We receive with pleasure your Excellency's announcement that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Australia in the course of the present year; and we feel confident that on that occasion His Royal Highness will receive in Queensland a loyal and cordial welcome.

“3. The important measures which have been announced by your Excellency as about to come under our consideration shall receive our best attention; and we anticipate great advantages to the Colony from the introduction of that one especially which proposes to deal with the alienation of the public lands.

“4. In conclusion, we cordially reciprocate your Excellency's hope that our legislation

may prove permanently useful to the people, and that the Third Parliament of Queensland may largely contribute to the advancement and prosperity of the Colony."

The Hon. J. GIBBON, in moving the adoption of the Address, said he thought that there was really nothing in it to which any honorable member could take exception. With reference to the expected visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, he was sure he might say, on behalf of the colonists generally, that they would all be extremely glad to see him; and he had no doubt that, as far as their means would enable them, they would give him as cordial and fitting a reception as His Royal Highness would meet with in any other of the Australian colonies. In the third paragraph of the Governor's Speech, the determination of the Ministry was announced, to make an alteration in the mode of disposing of the Crown lands. All must hail with satisfaction the proposal to throw open the lands of the colony to unreserved occupation by the inhabitants of Queensland; and, although there might be differences of opinion on matters of detail, he cordially agreed with the principle that lands contiguous to the great centres of population should be open for free selection. Certainly, the scrub lands on this side of the Range were most suitable for what he might call "working farmers," men of limited capital; and he thought that, perhaps, twenty acres of such land would be more valuable to a man without large means than one hundred acres of forest or "Downs" land. He hoped provision would be made for giving small farmers, and other industrious working classes, the rich scrub lands. With regard to the land more distant, the land on the Downs, he thought six hundred and forty acres was scarcely sufficient for respectable middle class persons with families, who desired to settle and combine grazing with agricultural pursuits. The land should be surveyed in larger blocks, say, of two thousand acres: but all this was matter of detail which, no doubt, would be adjusted satisfactorily. The great principle of free selection before survey would prove the salvation and mainstay of the colony. Indeed, he could scarcely understand why there had been any other mode of alienating the land. Large tracts should be offered for sale—intending farmers and settlers should be allowed to choose for themselves the lands which were best suited for them. With regard to the fourth paragraph of the Speech, in which His Excellency referred to the desirableness of making an addition to the House of Assembly, by increasing the representatives of the most populous constituencies and sub-dividing the larger electorates; that, he (Mr. Gibbon) thought, would meet with the approval of every colonist. No one need go out of Brisbane to see how great had been the

progress and increase of population and wealth, since the existing electorates had been formed. In East Moreton especially, the increase of population had been very large, and the progress in material prosperity very great, indeed. It would, probably, be found desirable to sub-divide that large electorate. Again, there was Rockhampton;—he was told that during the last three or four years the increase of population in that electorate, also, was very large. And, from the accounts received of the gold discoveries in the northern part of the colony, he had reason to believe that the population would go on increasing rapidly. It was not at all too soon to have a fresh apportionment of the electorates. The fifth paragraph of the Speech referred to the registration of electors and the management of vote by ballot; and, he believed that experience had satisfied all persons that some reform in those respects was necessary, so as to prevent personation at elections. Every possible care should be taken to guard against that evil, because, under the system of voting by ballot, it was impossible to remedy it when it occurred. In reference to the seventh paragraph of the Speech, he was extremely glad that the statute law was to be consolidated: one Act, he thought, might be vastly improved, and that was the Insolvent Act. In fact, to do away with it altogether, would be a great improvement on the present state of things. Imprisonment for debt was not the law in this colony; and it might be fairly left to the debtor and creditor to settle their accounts in their own way: let the creditor take what he could get and give his debtor a discharge, without the machinery of the Insolvent Court. He was very pleased to see by the concluding paragraph of the Speech, that the progress of the colony in population and production had been so great, notwithstanding the recent monetary crisis; and he hoped and he believed—in fact, he had every reason for so doing—that during the next year or eighteen months Queensland would enter upon a fresh career of prosperity. The gold discoveries that were taking place almost daily to the north, would do a great deal; and the production of sugar and cotton, the extension of agricultural industry generally, would materially conduce to the revival of the prosperity of the colony. With these observations, he moved—

That the Address, as read by the Clerk, be adopted by this House.

The Hon. D. F. ROBERTS seconded the motion, and observed that he considered himself in no way bound by the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. The third clause of it, referring to free selection of land before and after survey, opened up a question which had caused great excitement and discussion in the older colonies; and he, for one, though seconding the Address in reply, would not pledge himself to any such idea as giving the people the right to take up land as they

chose—certainly not before survey, whatever he might be willing to do after survey. Of course, the Council would be happy to consider the alterations to be proposed in the land law, for it was of great consequence to the colony that the land should be opened up, and every facility given to *bonâ fide* agriculturists. But it was for them to take care that, in interfering with the law, for the promotion of an agricultural interest, they did not injure the pastoral interest, by needlessly disturbing the squatters, who were now producing wool and other valuable exports of the colony. With regard to increasing the representation of the people, there could not be a doubt that the gold fields, especially, had arrived at such a stage as to require additional representation. On this subject, however, it would be for the consideration of the Council whether too many members in the Assembly would not be objectionable;—he, for one, was not for crowding that House. It had been found in Victoria and in New South Wales that they had too many members in the lower branch of the legislature; and the cry in the colonies was universal, that, since the extension of representation their legislatures had retrograded very much. Nobody, who knew the present Parliaments of Victoria and New South Wales, could say that they were at all equal to the first legislatures. He could not see that Brisbane was not sufficiently represented. Of course, it was very wise of the Government to propose an Electoral Bill which should have the effect of checking the evils of the present system of election; but, he was sure, no matter what the law was, that there would be some little irregularities in personating and informal voting; and he could not see that there would be much good in that Bill. The most pleasing part of the Speech was clause six:—

“The Estimates will be laid before you without delay. It will be found that large reductions are proposed in some of the departments of the Government, and increase avoided in the others, in the hope that the efficiency of the service will not be impaired. The Estimates have been framed with a view to bring the gross expenditure within the anticipated revenue, and, by this means, to render all additional taxation unnecessary.”

He was sure that, if the Government would carry out their idea of bringing the expenditure within the revenue, all would have reason to rejoice. No doubt the Insolvent Act would be included in the consolidated statutes. There was room for great reformation in that law; and, when it came before the House for consideration, he hoped, from his experience, to be enabled to bring forward amendments to remedy a great many defects. In many particulars, the existing law almost amounted to a farce.

The Hon. W. WOOD moved—

That the Address be read paragraph by paragraph.

He suggested, at the same time, that as it had only just been put into honorable members' hands, the further consideration of the Address be postponed until next day. If the Postmaster-General would not consent to a postponement, he (Mr. Wood) was prepared to keep him up all night.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he would certainly not consent to a postponement. Of course, the honorable gentleman could put his motion to the House; but as he had thrown out a threat, to keep him there all night, he (the Postmaster-General) was quite prepared to listen to his eloquence till three or four o'clock in the morning. He protested against putting an end to the business of the day in the way suggested, before the debate had proceeded to any length. After the honorable member had spoken for three or four hours, and the House had dined, and got tired, it would be time enough to talk about a postponement. He (the Postmaster-General) would not oppose the reading of the Address as proposed.

The motion for considering the paragraphs of the Address *seriatim* being assented to;

Paragraph 1, read, as above.

The Hon. W. WOOD observed that he had hoped the postponement would have been agreed to, because the honorable member representing the Government must be aware that several members of the Council had not yet arrived in town; and, to ask the House to go on now with the debate on the Address, was taking them unawares. It was very hard to go on in this way, and to be prepared with amendments on every clause of an Address which had only just been presented to them. He moved, by way of amendment on the first clause,

That all the words after “Gracious Sovereign” be omitted, and that the following be inserted in lieu thereof:—“Whilst thanking your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the First Session of the Third Parliament of Queensland, we regret to observe that no mention is made of the railways of the colony, of its financial policy, of the gold fields, or of the circumstances which led to the late dissolution—namely, the re-appointment of a sixth Minister; and we are, therefore, constrained to express our utter want of confidence in your Excellency's present advisers, who could so deliberately omit topics of such vital consequence to the welfare of the colony.”

He thought the House would agree with him, that the Opening Speech was one of the most meagre that the Governor of Queensland had ever been obliged by his advisers to deliver to Parliament. With regard to the formal portions of it, that His Excellency alone had to do with, there could be no discussion;—of course, everybody would be glad to see the Prince of royal blood, whose intention to visit Australia had been officially announced. The third paragraph of the Speech was the one on which the Ministry pinned their faith; it shadowed forth the great measure

which, during many months, the public was informed they were prepared to bring in—the measure which was to secure their return with triumphant majorities throughout the colony. He was afraid that, notwithstanding all that had been said, the Ministry would be in a much better position than they now occupied, if they had not taken the technical advantage of dissolving Parliament; because, in the general election, they had found that members who had repeatedly supported them had lost their seats, and not one of their opponents had lost his seat. He confessed that he was utterly unable to see from the Speech what the Ministry really proposed to do. He could not, of course, disagree with the proposal for the introduction of a measure to deal with the alienation of the Crown lands of the colony; but that was nothing at all—it bound nobody. But the third paragraph of the Speech contained an expression—he doubted the expediency of using it—that there would be submitted to the House “several important measures, for which the people of this colony were anxiously looking.” This, he thought, like a threat. The Government might well state that they had been “taught by experience of the unsatisfactory working of the land laws.” However, it was not the laws that were unsatisfactory, but the regulations framed under those laws by the honorable the Premier, and late Minister for Lands and Works; and it was his administration that had ruined the colony, and brought it to its present low position. The measures passed by Parliament were good, if left to themselves; but all the harm had been brought about by the abominable land regulations framed by the Government and never submitted to Parliament. He wondered the Ministry did not blush to put such a clause in the Speech, well knowing they were to blame for the “unsatisfactory working” of the land laws. He must do the honorable the Postmaster-General the justice to say that he was not in the Government when the harm was done; but, then, he must take his share of the responsibility as a member of the Ministry. The alienation of the public lands was to be “set free from the obstructions which now exist.” There would be no obstructions whatever, if the Acts of Parliament had been carried out in their integrity. The essence of the proposed alteration by the Ministry appeared to be—the extension of the settled districts; the throwing open of the whole extended settled districts to free selection, both before and after survey, in blocks of from forty to six hundred and forty acres, with conditions of residence and cultivation; the leasing of the land at half-a-crown an acre; and the applying of those changes to the districts of East and West Moreton, the greater part of the Darling Downs, the Wide Bay district, and all lands within reasonable distances of navigable rivers. Why they should not

extend it to all lands within reasonable distances of lines of railway and good roads, he (Mr. Wood) could not understand; nor why any portion of Darling Downs should be left out at all. What did the Postmaster-General’s colleagues mean by offering all lands in the Port Curtis and Kennedy Districts, within thirty miles of the seacoast? Were they serious in that? But, after all, their land measure was one which they had taken from, and which had been shadowed forth long ago by, the Opposition: that was the only way they had of making their ground tenable. Yet, the Ministry ought to make the measure perfect. The squatters never desired to throw any obstacles in the way of agriculture; they were always perfectly willing to give way whenever required to do so, for the extension of agriculture. They wanted, only, in certain remote districts, security of tenure for themselves; while they were perfectly willing that, around towns or wherever there was a chance of people doing well at farming, large reserves should be proclaimed for agriculture, and that within two miles on each side of the railways the land should be reserved for the same purpose and should be thrown open to free selection before or after survey. But the Government were not content with that; they wanted to “out-Herod Herod” in liberality. He had always been an advocate in the cause of the agriculturists—and the Postmaster-General would do him the justice to admit that;—but he was never in favor of sacrificing one class of persons for the advancement of another. The honorable gentleman representing the Government was not fortunate in the seconder of the Address, who did not wish to injure one class for the sake of another. If the Government were prepared with a simple measure, to give land for agriculture wherever it was possible for agriculture to exist, and to afford every facility for the prosecution of that industry, and, at the same time, to give security of tenure to those pastoral tenants of the Crown who occupied lands in parts of the colony where agriculture was not likely to extend for years, he (Mr. Wood) would be happy to support them. But the House could see nothing of the sort—nothing but an *ad captandum* appeal to catch the popular eye and arouse the feelings of those persons who regarded the land of the colony as the “patrimony of the people.” The land of the colony belonged to those who paid the best price for it, and those who paid for it had the best right to it. There was plenty of land for both squatters and agriculturists, without obstacles in the way of either class. He could hardly believe it, but he had heard it stated as a fact, that numbers of persons had come up to this colony with large sums of money ready to pay £1 an acre for land, that their applications had been refused, and some £12,000 or £15,000 had been sent away, which might have gone into the Treasury.

That was one of the obstructions to the alienation of land which he was afraid the Government did not intend to do away with. While he was prepared to see the agriculturists, and any other persons who came to this colony from the mother country or the other colonies, settled on their own freeholds, he must deprecate the attempts that had been made in various quarters to cast odium on the tenant farmers, who, he maintained, were as respectable and prosperous a class, at home, as the yeoman, or those persons who owned the lands they occupied. No doubt, there were circumstances in this country which would enable persons to get on better, by the cultivation of cotton and sugar, than men at home, on their own land. But he held the same opinion as had been shadowed forth by two or three honorable members in another place, that agriculture would never succeed in this country unless the farmer had sufficient land to combine the grazing of sheep with cultivation. Of course, six hundred and forty acres were now offered; but, he did not believe in agriculture alone, and he was certain that those persons who took up forty acres would never succeed. He would not, however, stand in their way; he would give them a chance. A person who would spend £20,000 for twenty thousand acres of land, would not be so foolish as to allow that land to remain unproductive: he would, of course, cut it up, and let it; and he (Mr. Wood) was sure that his tenants would be better off than those who held lands of the Government. If the Government made a calculation of the interest, they would find that it would be better for them to take £20,000 at once for the purchase of land, than to allow payment by a number of persons to extend over a period of eight years. Free selection before survey had always been the cry of the Opposition, and those gentlemen with whom he (Mr. Wood) acted; but, of course, he was glad to see the Government taking it up—it was really gratifying to find that they were becoming more liberal than they used to be. Although the Council had nothing to do with the other branch of the Legislature, they should be allowed to express their opinion on the question of representation. No doubt the people were not properly represented, more especially those in the north;—indeed, the north had never been represented in the Council as it ought to be. Although the Government of the day had had many opportunities of appointing gentlemen to that House representing northern interests, and although he had repeatedly urged it upon them, they never made such an appointment. Some of the towns were properly represented, though the members might not think so; but some of the country districts were not—for instance, East Moreton, in which were populous places such as the Logan. He would be happy to support a measure for making the representation more equitable.

The most amusing part of the Speech was the fifth paragraph, and he was surprised that the Ministry had penned such a paragraph. From what he had heard and seen in the public prints, it appeared that the colleagues of the Postmaster-General were the great culprits. He had heard that the servant of the highest of the honorable gentleman's colleagues had voted three times, and was only found out in a fourth attempt to vote. There was a petition against the election of one of his colleagues for personation, bribery, corruption, intimidation, rescue of prisoners, and all sorts of crimes and misdemeanors. Perhaps the Postmaster-General, who had no constituency, but who only took part in addressing the electors—returning thanks for one of his colleagues—and, may be, doing a little bit of canvassing; perhaps, that honorable gentleman had been induced to frame the fifth paragraph. The sixth paragraph contained a very meagre announcement as to what was to be done with the finances of the country:—

“The Estimates will be laid before you without delay. It will be found that large reductions are proposed in some departments of the Government, and increase avoided in the others, *in the hope* that the efficiency of the service will not be impaired,” &c.

He (Mr. Wood) could hardly understand that: he supposed it meant a hope that the increases would be avoided for the future. Perhaps it was an accidental misprint—it was decidedly ungrammatical. If the House were to take, as a specimen of the reductions Ministers contemplated, the wholesale removal of the police magistrates at the public expense, they would not amount to much. When Mr. White and Mr. Rawlinson were removed, it was stated elsewhere that their expenses would be paid by the Government; and, of course, the expenses of transfer of other public officers from place to place would be paid. It was very gratifying to find that no additional taxation would be necessary. Something about railways ought to have been put in the Speech. The honorable gentleman at the head of the Government had utterly ruined the colony by his railway policy, for which he was responsible; and the people felt no confidence in him as Premier. The present Minister for Lands, he (Mr. Wood) feared—though he did not wish to say anything against the honorable gentleman—had been worked upon by the Premier and late Secretary for Lands and Works; and though that Minister might really have been trying to make up for leeway, he found the office in such a state that he was unable to accomplish anything effective. As the late Minister for Works was not now in Parliament, it was not likely they would ever get at the bottom of what had been going on; that gentleman (Mr. Watts), it was well known, had a “bone to pick” with the Premier. The Speech might have stated whether the railway was paying

a dividend, or if there was any chance of the line to Dalby being finished, or how the contracts were going on, or if there was another arbitration, and what current expense was incurred. Of course, the Treasurer declined saying anything, because it was best to do so when he knew he could not say anything pleasant. There was nothing to be objected to in the seventh paragraph of the Speech. On a former occasion, when the honorable Dr. Hobbs moved the Address, he treated the House to a large extract from the *Statistical Register*. That document turned up again in the eighth paragraph of the Speech. It was very gratifying to find that the gentleman who had compiled the Speech had seen the *Register* before it was laid on the table, this afternoon; but he (Mr. Wood) was at a great loss to find reason for congratulation on the condition of the colony. Still, if the House were to believe the statements made, he would only suggest that, as no census had been taken, he could not quite see how the population had increased by 8,397 during 1866. He should like to know if the whole population, now, was as large as stated; and if it was, whether it was not owing to what had not been mentioned in the Speech, the gold fields? He had expected two or three flowing paragraphs about the gold fields. There was not a large increase of agriculture, so that it was high time there should be a great alteration made in the land laws. He was perfectly prepared to support the Government in any measure which would throw open the whole of the colony to the highest bidder; he did not wish to confine the acquisition of land to one class. If the Government measure recommended itself to the Parliament, the colony would, he supposed, be exporting grain instead of importing it. He was glad to find that the produce of cotton had increased, though he had expected more: perhaps, the largest increase was during the present year. He supposed the Postmaster-General would explain to the House the reason why one of the most important matters to Parliament had not been mentioned in the Speech, the re-appointment of the sixth Minister. The colony had been suffering, during the last three months, from the delay and confusion brought about by the late absurd dissolution, which followed the expression of opinion by the Assembly, that the honorable gentleman appointed should go to his constituents; yet the Speech was as silent on the point as if the late Parliament had expired by effluxion of time. Doubtless, the other branch of the Legislature would take that matter in hand; but, still, the Council had a right to say that there should not be six Ministers in a Parliament numbering fifty-two members. Five of them to sit in the Assembly, were too many for that small body. If Parliament must go in for retrenchment, Ministers ought to show the way, and abolish the extra office. He was not prepared to accept the dictum that one

Minister could not do the work of the Lands and Works Departments. If, as in England, Ministers were only Parliamentary officers, there was no reason why he could not do it, with two active under secretaries; but, then, here circumstances were different—here were no drones—Ministers, like other men, must do their work. He thought, although it might be trenching on the Treasurer's department, that it would be good to know whether the reports were true which had reached the colony, of our debentures having sold for a much higher price than had been expected; for that would, indeed, be a subject for congratulation. But Parliament had been told nothing really about the land question, nothing about the dissolution, nothing about the finances of the country—about immigration; indeed, not the slightest inkling was given of any measures the Government intended to bring forward. He (Mr. Wood) could only conclude that the Postmaster-General and his colleagues did not think it worth while to trouble themselves, as their Government would not last long enough for them to pass any measures. It was prudent of them.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he was disposed to hail, as a step in the right direction, the very uncomplimentary manner in which the honorable gentleman opposite had thought proper to bring his amendment before the House. There could be no mistake about it. The honorable gentleman did not beat about the bush; he boldly came forward and stated that he had no confidence in the Ministry, and that he hoped the Council would be induced to adopt his opinion. That was right and straightforward, and certainly relieved him, as representing the Government, of a great deal of difficulty; for the issue was so plain, that unless the House were prepared to say boldly that the Government had no ability and were not worthy of support, they must reject the amendment. It did not fall upon him to go minutely into the very long and discursive speech they had just heard; he doubted if he should not act wisely for himself and his colleagues to let the question go to the vote at once; but if he were to do so, it might be very agreeable to the honorable member, who would, no doubt, say that he was afraid to meet his statements in the arena of the Council. One of the honorable member's great charges was, that the Speech was a meagre production. When was a Queen's or a Governor's Speech anything else? It was supposed to be a number of generalities indicating the features of the policy of the Ministry—whose production it really was; and it would be followed up in a few days by one or two of the measures shadowed forth in it, which would be laid on the table. To express more than the general policy of the Government in the Speech would be premature; and he could not see that the Governor should be kept for two or three hours, on his

first visit to the Parliament, reading a manifesto to please the Honorable W. Wood. The only document that would meet what the honorable member required was a President's Message; but he (the Postmaster-General) confessed he never had the patience to read one through; he, like most other persons, just ran his eye over it, to learn its general features, so that for practical purposes it was reduced to the dimensions of a Governor's Speech. The honorable gentleman had referred to the contested elections which had been convulsing our little society lately, and assumed that the new members returned were of his way of thinking: they might or might not be; but that was the issue the Government had to try. The assumption that it was already settled, was unwarranted. There were so many new members returned to the new Parliament, that it was very difficult to say in what way the expression of their opinions in the present struggle would result; and, certainly, nothing had come before the country that could be absolutely taken as adverse to the Ministry.

The Hon. W. Wood explained that he had meant that all the Opposition had been returned, and not one of the Ministerialists, except the Ministry.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL contended that the honorable member, in characterising as a threat the allusion in the third clause to the people of the colony "anxiously looking" for certain proposed measures, dealt with the Speech in a very illiberal way. That paragraph stated a fact which no other honorable member would controvert: the people of this colony were in anxious expectation of an amended land law. The Government did not say that theirs would be the particular land law required; and it was very unreasonable to say the paragraph implied any threat.

The Hon. W. Wood: Another dissolution.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: Well, he should have thought the honorable member was sufficiently versed in the practice of Parliament to know that no other dissolution could take place until at least another Ministry had had an opportunity of going before the country with their policy. He agreed with him to a considerable extent that the land laws of the colony were not altogether bad, but they were sensible of great improvement; and, no doubt, a great deal of the evil which encumbered them had arisen from defective administration. The leading nuisance, the old grievance, had been the granting of the pre-emptive right, which had been largely exercised on some of the best lands of the colony by a few individuals. They all knew that pre-emptive purchases had been made almost exclusively in one district—he did not allude to small purchases—and he did not conceive that the Ministry of the day had acted in accordance with their duty in sanctioning them. He was the only member who had expressed an opinion

on that subject long ago, when he brought before Parliament certain resolutions regarding the pre-emptive right and the undesirableness of permitting its exercise; but he had been over-ruled. Successive Governments had that very strong Parliamentary sanction of continuing what he had always opposed, and of thus running against his particular crotchet. The Honorable Mr. Wood wanted to know why the Darling Downs alone had been proclaimed a reserve for agriculture. Because the Darling Downs would very shortly be intersected by two railways, and because the soil and climate of that district were unrivalled. He had stated that he would be prepared to set aside reserves in the neighborhood of railways, roads, rivers, and towns. What else had the Government done on the Darling Downs, which would be intersected by two lines of railway?—which were as good as a navigable river, and, unfortunately, rather more expensive to the country. The country east of the Condamine was in every way suited for agriculture, and, being made accessible to the main centres of population, was therefore the first selected for the extension of the improved land law.

The Hon. W. Wood asked why were not the whole of the Darling Downs proclaimed? He would give the whole.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL was perfectly willing to answer. The reason was plain; because the rest of the Darling Downs consisted of brigalow scrub, and was impracticable for agriculture. The part to which the new land law was extended was to the east and north-east of the Condamine. He appealed to any honorable member to say whether the country on the other side of the Condamine, even within a mile of the river, was not inferior, and for five or six miles wholly unproductive. The honorable member opposite had also talked of the squatters being sacrificed for the advantage of another class. The Government did not by any means wish to do that; they wished, if they were allowed to have their own way, to give a very protracted tenure to the squatters—that was, to ninety-nine out of every hundred of them. But they did not wish to give the squatters facilities to purchase land which he (the Postmaster-General) believed would ruin them if they got it for a shilling an acre. He believed squatting would pay very well over a large area of country; but when a squatter attempted to convert his holding into fee-simple, unless there was a great fall in the rate of interest, so certainly would he be a ruined man. The Government repudiated the charge of attempting to do away with the squatter; they believed that, if they were allowed to go on as was proposed, the odium now attaching to the name of squatter would be entirely removed. The *bonâ fide* squatter would be enormously cherished and provided for by their policy. He might say that there was hardly any part of the Darling

Downs which they proposed to throw open which was not within ten or fifteen miles of a railway. But, really, he thought he was trespassing too much on the time of the House in meeting, *seriatim*, all the imputations which had been launched against the Government by the Honorable Mr. Wood. The honorable gentleman had talked of being a friend of agriculture combined with sheep farming, and had said that he (the Postmaster-General) was, also. Perfectly true; but his was not by any means the system of sheep-farming that the honorable gentleman proposed. His system could be carried on perfectly well on one hundred to five hundred acres of land; it was the system of feeding sheep on artificial grasses—in lucerne paddocks. But the idea of a small farmer going in for shepherding, even to give his sheep a run out in the middle of the day, was perfectly futile. There was a neighbor of his, a young gentleman, with a hundred acres of land, who had purchased some old toothless ewes from Canning Downs for a few shillings each; and they were fed in lucerne paddocks, and were sold in a short time at a first-rate price to the butcher. With regard to what the honorable member had said about the purchasing of twenty thousand acres, it would be very inexpedient for the Government to sell that quantity of land on the Darling Downs to any one person, even if they got £20,000 down, instead of getting half, as they most likely would, in land orders. A person with twenty thousand acres would have enough to go on with the wasteful and extravagant system of sheep-farming that now prevailed; and which even the panacea for all evils, fencing—which came to only a few pounds an acre—would not cure. What he wanted to see, was, capital, or money's worth in labor, expended on the land. Every man who expended labor on land, in ploughing it, expended two pounds an acre; and if he put in seed for a crop, he expended six pounds an acre. Labor and capital were identical in his sense of the terms. Say, that forty persons took up five hundred acres each, they would be more profitable and beneficial to the country than one person with twenty thousand acres. The sums they would expend in improvements, and their success, would be greater by far than one over-grown proprietor was likely to expend or achieve. The Honorable Mr. Wood had occupied some time in speaking to that paragraph of the Speech which had reference to the present system of carrying out elections; and with his strictures, he (the Postmaster-General) agreed in a great measure. But he resisted entirely their application to the members of the present Government. It was a fallacy to assert that, because a few supporters of the Government appeared to have been guilty of malpractices, therefore the Government were guilty: he believed the very

reverse of what the honorable gentleman had stated would be demonstrated.

The Hon. W. WOOD: Their voters were brought down in a free train.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL denied that. If anybody passed free on the railway, it was not with the consent of the Government. If any trains were secured by one of the candidates, who appeared to have been successful, or by his supporters, that had nothing to do with the Government, but with an opponent of the Government. However, honorable members must be aware that if any one engaged a train for the free conveyance of the electors, that of itself was enough to invalidate the election: but that had not been done by the Government. That part of the Speech referring to the Estimates, on which the honorable member opposite had commented, was not addressed to the Council, but to the Assembly; and it might be considered a breach of privilege for that House to take any action thereupon, and it would be contrary to constitutional usage for the Governor to address them on a matter upon the absence of which from the Speech the honorable member had laid so much stress.

The Hon. W. WOOD said: If he had been guilty of any breach of etiquette, he regretted it; but he only referred to matters contained in the Speech, and complained of its meagreness.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: The honorable gentleman might have his own ideas of meagreness; if he thought that the Estimates ought to be in the Speech, the House would not agree with him. He had referred to an Ipswich *canard* with reference to the servant of a member of the Ministry personating at an election. He (the Postmaster-General) had heard a much better story than that. A supporter of one of the candidates seeing a person approaching who, he was perfectly satisfied, would vote for another candidate, handed him a paper, with which the intending voter went up to the returning officer;—the paper bore the name of the Honorable R. G. W. Herbert, and the holder of it was ignominiously rejected. The Honorable Mr. Wood had gone into statistics. Of course, the Government did not set up an assumed census of the colony, completed with mathematical precision. The very able gentleman who superintended the statistical department of the public service had no doubt done his best, and it would be found that his return of the population of the colony was a tolerably near approximation to the truth. The appointment of a sixth minister had been attacked, and the honorable member opposite said, rather erroneously, that it was on the question of that appointment the Parliament had been dissolved. With respect to that question, he could state, on behalf of the Government, that they never had an idea of making the appointment of the Honorable Mr. Bell to the Department of Works anything but a tem-

porary one; and he thought the House would be very slow to say that the appointment of a sixth minister was not necessary. There were such large contracts now falling in, in connection with the railways, that they could not be left to the control of a man who could not give all his time and attention to the railway department. Another point was, that the Assembly had voted the salary to the end of this year. If the railway contracts were near completion by that time, it might become a question whether the office of Secretary for Works could not be done away with; but, under existing circumstances, the Government would have acted with great imprudence indeed if they had not made the appointment, which had been suspended merely for a short period. Allusion had been made to Mr. Watts, a late colleague of the Government, who, it was to be regretted extremely, was not in Parliament; for he would have put things correct that had been, and were now, very much misrepresented. He had said before, and he now repeated it, that during the time that gentleman was a member of the Ministry there was not the slightest difference of opinion between him and his colleagues. Although, for himself (the Postmaster-General), he thought some of his measures were of very questionable advantage; still, that gentleman was much more conversant with matters than he, and he could not be so presumptuous as to say definitely that Mr. Watts had done wrong. Mr. Watts was never, in the slightest degree, opposed by, and never received anything more than a suggestion from, his colleagues; if it was in accordance with his own views, he adopted it, and he was ever ready to accept it in good part. Admittedly, there was a little ill-feeling, the result of an unfortunate misunderstanding, at the very conclusion of his ministerial career; but Mr. Watts was too honorable a man not to have allowed it to be erased from the tablets of his mind long since. The Honorable Mr. Wood had talked a great deal about railways. Now, those works had been carried out in the most efficient manner; but, unfortunately, they had cost a great deal more than had been anticipated. The present Government were not alone to blame for that, but several successive Governments. It would have been surprising if the Government had introduced that subject, or the question of immigration, into the Speech. All he could say was that an Immigration Bill was in print, and it was adverted to in the general clause of the Speech, setting forth that "other measures of importance" would be introduced to the notice of Parliament. He need not follow the honorable member's speech further, but would allow the question on his amendment to go to the vote.

The Hon. T. L. M. PRIOR said he did not intend to vote for the amendment, and he thought it would be desirable for the honorable member to withdraw it; but he rose to

express his dissatisfaction with several parts of the Opening Speech. He agreed with the Honorable W. Wood that something ought to have been said about railways and the financial policy of the Government; for those subjects had been very prominent in previous speeches from the Governor. The present depressed condition of the colony was owing to the expenditure on railways; and the fact was, the Government would lead Parliament to suppose that in a very short time there would be plenty of money forthcoming, and that the revenue would be sufficient to cover the outlay. It was very doubtful whether any great reductions in the expenditure of the Civil Service would be brought about by the removal of certain officers named in the last *Government Gazette*; and he would like to ask why the Sub-Collector of Customs at Maryborough had been removed? Had he been inefficient?

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: Promotion.

The Hon. T. L. M. PRIOR: Ask the gentleman himself if he thought it was promotion, to send him to Bowen.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: He must have been dismissed, if he did not go there.

The Hon. T. L. M. PRIOR: General rumour said, before the Maryborough election took place, that if a certain person was returned, the Government officials there would be dismissed.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL did not deny rumour. It was a *canard*.

The Hon. T. L. M. PRIOR: After what had happened, he thought there must have been a great deal of truth in it. Why were all the police magistrates, particularly those of Maryborough and Gayndah changed? Were they to pay their own expenses?

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: Pay their own.

The Hon. T. L. M. PRIOR: How could the Government have efficient officers if gentlemen were to be knocked about the country in that way—from Dan to Beersheba? It appeared to him that the Government wished to have on the Civil Service a set of men so dependent upon them that whenever a hint was given for something to be done, it must be done on pain of dismissal. If a man had no means to live on, and a sick wife, those were very good reasons for a Government appointment—that he might be turned about as they instructed. If an election went wrong, it might be said that the police magistrate had influenced it, when he had nothing to do with it. The Ministry were trying to bolster up their position, but he (Mr. Prior) was afraid they would hardly succeed. Their proposed land law, it appeared, was very similar to what all honorable members agreed on. But if enacted, it was impossible that the present Government would ever carry it out; it was hardly likely they would be in the position to do so in a very short time. It was strange that in the Council the Government could only pitch upon gentlemen to move and second the Address who differed with at least three or four clauses of the Governor's Speech.

Indeed, the honorable member who had been asked to second the Address, differed from the Government on every clause of the Speech. That shewed very great weakness on the part of the Government, and that the Postmaster-General had not the confidence of the House. No doubt some alteration was required in the law for the alienation of Crown lands; but it would not be required if the Government had exercised the powers they held, and caused sufficient land to be surveyed to meet all requirements—if they had proclaimed a reserve on any one of the Darling Downs runs, the pet agricultural district of the honorable the Postmaster-General. They might have cut those runs up into farms years ago, and then all those fine Downs lands would not have been taken up by persons who had exercised the pre-emptive right. The honorable gentleman was aware that he was always against pre-emptive right; and why should persons have been allowed to exercise it, when the land had acquired a value apart from their own exertions? There was no reason why the land law should not be very simple. It was easy to proclaim lands open for free selection along the railways. But he did not agree with the conditions proposed. If a man had the capital to pay for it, he should be able to get five hundred or five thousand acres of land, as he chose; just as easily as he could get ten acres. The Postmaster-General had objected that the purchaser of twenty thousand acres of land would not improve it. He must know that the interest or rent on the sum expended would be £2,000 a year; and how any one could, on the natural grasses alone, make sheep pay that rent, he (Mr. Prior) could not see. The only chance for the proprietor was to lay down the land in grasses, and grow good crops of lucerne. It would not, however, be expedient to allow persons to have such large areas of land near railways. Any person taking up six hundred and forty acres and cultivating one-tenth of it, would find that enough for one year. The cultivation of one-tenth would be quite as heavy a restriction as was requisite. However, the time would come when honorable members would have to go into the discussion of the land laws, and it would be useless to discuss the subject further at present. The other subjects touched on in the Speech had been sufficiently ventilated.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL rose to say, in explanation, that Mr. Sheridan was Collector of Customs at Maryborough, with a salary of £400 a year. Subsequently the office of harbor master was given to him, with an additional £100 a year. By some dexterous manipulation, instead of two salaries appearing in the Estimates, the sub-collector was put down with one salary of £500 a year; and, that having been voted, his salary could not be reduced, though for such an office the Government thought it too much. It was impossible for the

Government to reduce the salary, by reason of the Civil Service Act; and, unless they dismissed him for no fault, the only alternative was to remove him to another sphere of usefulness, in order to get rid of the salary of £500 in the Maryborough branch service. The removal was really promotion; and, besides, Mr. Sheridan was gone to a place which would be the nucleus of a new colony, and he, like an honorable gentleman now in the Council, might find himself, by-and-bye, Collector of Customs instead of sub-collector. With reference to the police magistrates, he (the Postmaster-General) might state that it had been known to most honorable members that the air of Maryborough produced a very factious and unpleasant spirit on those who resided there some time; and it was perceived by the Government that the police magistrate, Dr. Kembell, would not be very adequate to cope with that spirit. He was therefore moved to Gayndah, a place of more agreeable disposition, and an officer more capable of dealing with the people of Maryborough was promoted to that town.

With the consent of the House, the amendment was withdrawn, and the first paragraph of the Address was agreed to.

Paragraph 2, read, and agreed to.

Paragraph 3, read.

The Hon. W. WOOD moved, as an amendment, the addition of the following words at the end of paragraph 4:—

Provided that such measure has not to be carried out in its details by His Excellency's present advisers.

He maintained that the unwise course which the Government had pursued from the beginning, and their mal-administration, justified the action he was taking. Though the House was perfectly willing to pass the measures shadowed forth in the gubernatorial Speech, they could not trust the Government to give effect to them. Owing to the manner in which the debate on the Address was hurried through, contrary to previous practice, and the refusal to accede to any adjournment, he was obliged to bring forward a direct vote of want of confidence against the Ministry. He deprecated the conduct of the Postmaster-General in bringing forward in the House the names of public officers who had not been before named by any other honorable member, and condemned the language the honorable member held about persons on every occasion on which he addressed the House, as shewn in "Hansard." And he was proceeding to review the proceedings in recent elections, when—

The Hon. D. F. ROBERTS rose to a point of order, and asked what the House had now to do with elections? The honorable gentleman must confine his observations to the third paragraph of the Speech, which was under consideration. The House had been very kind—too kind—to the honorable member in allowing him to be so discursive in his remarks;

but, surely, he was not to take upon himself the whole conduct of business, to the exclusion of other members. They had borne with the honorable member too long, and he hoped the House would coincide with him in the opinion that the Honorable Mr. Wood must confine himself to the question.

The PRESIDENT having compared the third paragraph of the Address with the third clause of the Opening Speech, to which he considered it an answer, said, if the House were disinclined to admit the discussion of other matters, the Honorable Mr. Wood was out of order in alluding to more than what was particularly under consideration.

The Hon. W. WOOD urged that honorable members very well knew that the House, and not the President, decided on the question of order.

The PRESIDENT: Before the honorable member proceeded any further, he would read what the "Standing Orders" said upon the point:—

"No member shall digress from the subject matter under discussion, or comment upon the words used by any other member in a previous debate, &c."

The next order to which he would call the attention of the Council was this:—

"It shall be the duty of the President to preserve order; taking the sense of the House, nevertheless, on any disputed point."

He should preserve order as long as the House supported him; and, if his ruling was disputed, he would put the point to the Council. The honorable member, Mr. Wood, was wrong in saying that the House were ruled by their own decision, and not by the President. He ruled until the House questioned his decision.

The Hon. W. WOOD: It might be so; but he could only say that, according to the practice of the House of Lords, honorable members addressed the House, and not the President. But he was perfectly willing, and bound, to bow to what the President said; but, in a case of disputed order, the House would decide. He was not going any further; but he would take the sense of the House, if the honorable the President wished.

The PRESIDENT: Would the honorable member put it to the House?

The Hon. W. WOOD: The honorable gentleman had no power to call him to order, unless the House decided that he was out of order. He appealed to the House to say if he had ever disputed the President's ruling; he always sat down, though he might not think it correct—though he had known it to be wrong—

The PRESIDENT said he must put himself under the protection of the House. He could not occupy his position in the chair and submit to observations such as the honorable member had chosen to make. His duty was clear under the "Standing Orders" that he had read;—when his ruling

was disputed, it was for an honorable member to put it to the House. Let the honorable member, Mr. Wood, do so now.

The Hon. T. L. M. PRIOR thought the honorable member was bound in honor to do so.

The Hon. W. WOOD held that, according to the Standing Orders, and the analogy of the practice of the House of Lords, an honorable member could not be called to order by the President except the House indorsed his ruling.

The Hon. D. F. ROBERTS observed that the Honorable Mr. Wood was a little forgetful of what he did. It was only when he found the pressure of the House supporting the President, that his obstinacy gave way. If the honorable member chose to divide the House on the point, he would find himself alone on his bench; for not one honorable member agreed with him.

The PRESIDENT: Would the honorable member continue his address?

The Hon. W. WOOD had nothing more to say.

Question put.

The Hon. W. WOOD rose and asked if he could speak.

The PRESIDENT: No.

The third and fourth paragraphs were put and passed, and the Address was adopted without amendment.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he had it in command from the Governor to say that His Excellency would be prepared to receive the Address of the Council at two o'clock next day, Thursday.