

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 14 AUGUST 1867

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 14 August, 1867.

The Governor's Answer to the Address.—Resignation of the Ministry.

THE GOVERNOR'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.

The SPEAKER announced that he had been to Government House, and there presented to the Governor the Address of the Assembly in reply to His Excellency's opening Speech, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make thereto the following answer:—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN,—

“I thank you, in the name of the Queen, for this renewed assurance of your loyalty and affection to Her Majesty's Person and Government. I am confident that you will co-operate with the other branches of the Legislature in all measures calculated to promote the general welfare and progress of Queensland.

“G. F. BOWEN.

“Government House,

“Brisbane, Queensland, 14th August, 1867.”

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said: At the adjournment this morning, sir, I intimated that I should, this afternoon, make a statement to the House. Honorable members are aware that on the division that took place on the amendment to the Address to the Governor in answer to his Speech, the Government found themselves in a majority of two in a House of thirty-one members. Under ordinary circumstances, sir, that majority would be considered a good working majority; and, with united action on the part of that majority, the Government might carry their measures in this House. But it became my duty, and the duty of my colleagues, to examine the lists of that division very carefully, to pay considerable attention to the varied opinions which were expressed by honorable members when addressing themselves to those subjects which they conceived to be embraced within the question before the

House; and having regard to those opinions, in looking at that division, we arrived at the conclusion that, with the policy which we had announced in the Governor's Speech at the opening of Parliament, it was out of the question for us to expect that this House, as at present constituted, are at all likely to carry that policy into law. Looking at these circumstances, sir, and having regard to the fact that the people of this colony are now anxiously looking for a land measure, we felt that we were not justified in delaying the course of action which that division compelled us to adopt. With the concurrence, therefore of my colleagues, I waited upon His Excellency, to-day, and, having stated the circumstances very nearly in the words which I have now offered to this House, I tendered our resignations, which have been accepted. I did not, on that occasion, suggest to His Excellency any name; I felt that it was scarcely my duty to do so, seeing that the Government were retiring, not because they were defeated on the question before the House. I believe, sir, that His Excellency is in communication with Mr. Sandeman, as representing the Opposition members of this House. I am not aware that the honorable member has yet been able to complete his arrangements. If he be not in that position, I would move the adjournment of this House till to-morrow, to allow his arrangements to be completed.

The House accordingly adjourned.