

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1868**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Wednesday, 18 November, 1868.*Presentation of Speaker.—The Opening Speech.—Address  
in Reply to Opening Speech.

## PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the Assembly proceeded to Government House to present the Speaker elect to His Excellency the Governor.

Being returned,

The SPEAKER said: I have to report that the Assembly have been to Government House, and there informed His Excellency the Governor that it was thought courteous to acquaint His Excellency that the Legislative Assembly had, in the exercise of their undoubted right, elected their Speaker, and to present him for His Excellency's approbation, as the member for the fourth time chosen for that high and honorable office; and His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

“ Mr. Speaker—

“ I approve on behalf of the Queen, the choice which the Assembly has made in your person, and I congratulate you on the distinguished position in which the confidence of the House has, for the fourth time, placed you.”

After which, on behalf of this honorable House, I laid claim to all the undoubted rights and privileges of the Legislative Assembly, and prayed that the most favorable construction might, on all occasions, be put upon their words and acts. To which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

“ Mr. Speaker—

“ I further recognise on behalf of the Queen, all the lawful rights and privileges claimed by the

Legislative Assembly of Queensland, in as full and ample a manner as they have been heretofore granted or allowed by Her Majesty."

#### THE OPENING SPEECH.

Shortly after twelve o'clock the Usher of the Black Rod being admitted, delivered a message, informing the House that His Excellency the Governor desired the attendance of the Assembly in the Council Chamber; and the House went accordingly. Being returned, the sitting was suspended until half-past three o'clock.

Upon re-assembling, a Bill was presented to the House by the COLONIAL TREASURER, and read a first time.

The SPEAKER then reported that the House had, this day, attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency delivered an Opening Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which, for greater accuracy, he had obtained a copy, which he then read to the House at length. [See p. 3.]

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY TO OPENING SPEECH.

On the motion of Mr. THOMPSON, it was resolved:—

1. That a select committee be appointed to prepare an Address in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor in opening the first session of the fourth Parliament of Queensland.

2. That such committee consist of the Honorable R. R. Mackenzie, the Honorable R. Fring, the Honorable A. H. Palmer, the Honorable A. Hodgson, Mr. Samuel Hodgson, Mr. F. A. Forbes, Mr. Archer, and the mover.

And Mr. Thompson having brought up the Address prepared by the committee, the same was read by the Clerk of the House, as follows:—

"To His Excellency SAMUEL WENSLEY  
BLACKALL, Esquire, Governor and Com-  
mander-in-Chief of the Colony of Queens-  
land and its Dependencies.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"1. We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, 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 fourth Queensland Parliament.

"2. We coincide with your Excellency in the opinion that it would be desirable to confine the business of the present session within reasonable limits, so as to enable future sessions of Parliament to be held at a more convenient season of the year.

"3. We are gratified to find that the financial position of the country continues to improve, and

that there is a reasonable prospect of a reduction in the public burdens.

"4. The measures referred to in your Excellency's Speech, as well as the provisions for a further loan, will receive our careful consideration.

"5. In conclusion, we earnestly trust that the anticipations indulged in by your Excellency, as to the recurrence of more favorable seasons, may be realised; and that the legislation of the fourth Parliament of Queensland may be conducive to the prosperity of the people."

Mr. THOMPSON said he had been requested to move the adoption of the Address in reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech. In doing so, he might say he felt that he had undertaken a very responsible position, and he had some doubts as to the manner in which he should fill it. At first he was opposed to moving the Address; but there were so few new members in the House, and this being a usual duty for a new member, that, upon consideration, he agreed to do so, and did so with pleasure. At the same time, he might be allowed to observe, that it did not pledge him to an unconditional support of the measures of the Government. It might be that, in some matters of importance, there would be a difference of opinion between them. The Government might not bring forward measures which he should consider for the good of the country. As far as he knew, the Government were entitled to general support; still, on some matters of general importance, he should not be inclined to support them. In regard to the subject matter of the Address, he thought there could be but one opinion as to many of the points dwelt on. Upon that part which stated that it would be as well if Parliament met at a more convenient season, there could be but one opinion—it was no party question—that they should meet, instead of in the summer, in the winter time. If honorable members could be made to see that they should approach the public business under cooler auspices than now, it would be for the good of the country. As to the "measures of most pressing importance" mentioned, the House must pass those; yet, it did appear to him, that they might get through the most pressing business before Christmas, and Parliament could meet again early in April next. The reference in the Speech, to the permanent progress of the colony, would be concurred in. He was sure that both sides of the House must agree upon one thing—that the colony had emerged from a period of unparalleled depression; Queensland had shown a head over what appeared at one time to be an overwhelming calamity. The beginning of prosperity was not in one direction only. It so happened that there was a gold field in this colony which bid fair to rival any hitherto discovered;—its present richness, great as it was, being no criterion for what might be anticipated

in the future. It was also encouraging to see cotton and sugar cultivation established as colonial industries; not only because they produced wealth, but because they promoted the settlement of population. In the district to which he belonged, West Moreton, the population had settled down in a manner not before seen; farmers on their own land devoting themselves to cultivation—partially living on what they produced, and producing an article which found a demand in the market of the world. He might remark that, this year, at a very low calculation, the cotton crop would be worth about £40,000. The cultivators had the advantage of the bonus—not in the way of money, but in land; and, it appeared to him, although a free-trader, that the bonus had been of signal advantage in promoting the experiment of cotton-cultivation, and bringing about the present successful position of that industry. It was well known that the Indian Government had spent an enormous sum of money in promoting the cultivation of cotton; and he found that John Stuart Mill, a high authority on political economy, was of opinion that it was right and proper that new industries should be encouraged at the outset, even if the experiment were expensive. The bonus could, therefore, be justified on the highest grounds. With regard to what had been done in Queensland, it was an established fact that cotton could be grown in this colony as well as in the States of America. The only question was, Would it pay? He thought that those honorable members who came from cotton-growing districts would bear him out that it would pay under two conditions:—One was, when cotton was grown by the farmer himself, on a small scale, assisted by his own family; and, the other was, when cultivated on a large scale, under a system of cheap labor. They had tried it, in West Moreton, on both systems; and both were found to pay. Some gentlemen might say that the cotton bonus had done it all. He denied that that was a fact. The cotton bonus had supported it, he allowed. The history of it was, that the cotton cultivation had smashed the first company started for the purpose: he was one of the shareholders and had lost a large sum of money over it. If the bonus was suddenly taken off, it appeared to him that such a damper would be thrown on the industry as it might not soon recover from. He thought the wisest and most politic course to pursue would be, so to speak, to taper off the bonus. It was good for one year certain—one year at the original rate, and from that time forth it should be tapered down to nothing—so that no bad effects to those engaged in the cultivation of cotton might result from its cessation. The House must remember that they were dealing with ignorant people, largely; and that, if the cotton bonus were taken off suddenly, they would fail to understand it, or to recognise their independence of the bonus

—and the consequence might be injurious to the industry. Perhaps he was detaining the House too much on the subject of cotton; but as it had come under notice, he could not but look upon its success as a sign of prosperity, and a proof that a settled population was coming on the land. They were told in the Speech that “the returns from the Southern and Western Railway continue to be maintained.” He was glad to see that; and he hoped that the Government would soon be able to pay something like the interest on the gigantic expenditure upon that undertaking—as, no doubt, the returns would improve with the anticipated opening for traffic of the extension now in progress. That railway he looked upon as a gigantic advantage for a small colony like this. No doubt it had cost too much, but we had it now, and must make the best of it. With regard to bringing it to Brisbane, he should decidedly object to that. One ground of objection would be this:—The Parliament and the country had experience of what borrowing money was. The idea had been that the burden of debt would be cast on posterity; but every one in the colony now felt it. Every additional penny borrowed would be an additional burden on the colonists, and would perpetuate the *ad valorem* duty, and the stamp duty, which was almost as great a nuisance. He was glad that the Government saw their way to dispensing with a portion of the *ad valorem* duty; and he hoped the day was not far off when the whole would be swept away. He hoped the stamp duty would follow. With regard to “the alienation of Crown lands under the new Act,” he considered that the growing industries of the country, satisfactory as they were, would not have been sufficient to have settled the population on the land, had they not been supported by that Act. The Land Act was a very peculiar Act. Those who had taken the trouble of studying it well knew that it was a very difficult one to understand. But it had been passed by the House, and it was the law of the country, and the Government were not responsible for it. He could not see how the Government should be responsible for it, or how their position before the country could be affected because that Act stood on the statute book. It appeared to him that the Act was a compromise effected between all parties, and, perhaps, the only one possible at that time. For himself, if he had been in the House, he should have opposed any departure from the auction system, which was the best preventive of fraud. People who were desirous to get land under the Act were led into the “dummying” system; and such would always be the case where artificial restrictions were imposed on the acquisition of land. Capital would always command the market, spite of restrictions. It had been found so with non-transferable land orders; it had been found so in the stringent conditions of the previous land legislation. The various

complaints against the Land Act which he had seen from time to time had suddenly ceased. There were no complaints now. The fact was, that it took some time for people to understand the Act. Those complaints had not been made in isolated instances; they had come from all quarters, which showed that the Government had not been influenced by partiality for any one class of persons. There was the Act. There was no way of going back from it. Having made that advance, no retrograde step could be taken. But he could see that the time would come when debts under that Act—the deferred payments—would be repudiated. That had been the history of such concessions in the sister colony. The old quit rents in New South Wales were never paid; and it would be so, here. The only remedy was, that if land was obtained for less than its value from the Crown—there must be a land tax! If land was got for nothing, it must pay something! The depression of the pastoral interest was certainly a matter with which the Government would have to deal. The serious losses that had occurred through bad seasons rendered that necessary. The House would agree that it was desirable to prevent, if possible, the desertion of the interior country that would otherwise take place. He should be disposed to support a very liberal measure for that object. As to the outside runs ever being wanted for agriculture, that was out of the question; and he thought that the party who supported the agriculturists, as well as the party who supported the squatting interest, were all of one mind on that subject. Though a large revenue might not be derived directly from those runs, their occupation would enhance the revenue indirectly. Upon the question of "improved postal communication" he had very little to say. If any improvement could be made, and the colony could afford it, let the House make it; but it was entirely a question of expense. What he should endeavor to aim at in his career in this Parliament, would be to stop all expense that could possibly be avoided. Another very important matter was the unequal representation of the country in the House. There were great difficulties standing in the way of remedying it. In the first place, there was the two-thirds clause of the Constitution Act, which would have to be abolished. He, for one, should hesitate to repeal or suspend that clause, unless he understood what was to be done thereafter. Therefore he thought that the question would resolve itself into an Increase of Members Bill. That would be a measure of simple justice, which the House were likely to carry. It struck him that it would be a measure which would serve the colony for many years; and, when all parties had settled down a little under it, the House could then think over the question of a redistribution of electorates. As to the proposed loan, he said, Do not, if possible, go

in for it. It appeared from a speech to a former Parliament, that an Additional Loan Bill must be passed for the purpose of taking up the Treasury Bills. He should hardly consent to that Loan Bill being increased for the introduction of immigrants. The history of immigration in Queensland had been this: that expense had been incurred by this colony for immigration for the benefit of the other colonies; and, if the other colonies were more attractive than Queensland, it would be so. If we could attract immigration from the other colonies, well and good; but care should be taken that parties introduced from Great Britain at the expense of the colony, were such as would be likely to stop here. For this reason, he should be in favor of something like the remittance system. It was quite useless for this colony to be made a means of passage to the other colonies; which appeared to be a result of all forced systems of immigration. Now, with regard to the better management of the gold fields, he knew very little about it; but he was sure the House would be glad to see the regulations put upon a simple footing. In providing for the management of the gold fields, they should bear in mind the desirableness of simplicity in all regulations for business people. He should be willing to sacrifice much to assure simplicity in that respect. He had very little experience of Provincial Councils, which it was proposed to establish; but it appeared to him that if they were to add to the expenses of the country, the House had better say, No. If, however, those Councils were for the purpose of raising local rates in the respective districts, for local purposes, he was sure no objection would be made on either side of the House. The increase of revenue was to him a very cheering feature in the affairs of the colony; because they all knew that that increase had been derived principally from the consumption of goods paying Customs duties. The people must have had something to pay for the goods consumed. With regard to the minor alterations in the tariff, it appeared to him that a very desirable alteration might be made by taking off the duty on colonial wine. No doubt it would be very good, if the colonists could grow their own wines, and put down the excessive use of spirits; but, as a measure of policy, until that desirable consummation was achieved, in so warm a climate as this, it would be well to admit the wines of the other colonies. There appeared to be some difficulty in the matter, by reason of sections 31 and 32 of the Constitution Act, by which certain restrictions were thrown in the way of imposing duties. The first of those clauses simply prevented the Legislature imposing duties in violation of any treaty with any foreign power; the second provided against imposing any new duty unequally as regards the country importing, but there it stopped. But he saw no difficulty in taking off an old duty.

No doubt it was the same thing in effect, but the clause only confined the powers of the Legislature in respect to the imposition of new duties. It would be about the most disagreeable part of his duty to assist in passing a Loan Bill. Whichever side of the House were in power, it would have to be passed—especially, if they wanted the Brisbane railway, which he should oppose. He should say no more, but that he sincerely hoped the anticipations of prosperity held out in the Speech would be realised. The colony possessed vast resources, and it only required time and capital to develop them. He moved—

That the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech, as read by the Clerk, be now adopted by this House.

Mr. S. HODGSON seconded the motion. The Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech was short, but it contained all that the House wished to have conveyed; and he believed if an addition to it were made, such as that proposed by the honorable member for East Moreton, last session, on a similar occasion to the present, it would spoil its effect. He sincerely trusted that, meeting as the new Assembly did, in considering the reply to the Speech of the Governor, who had so lately arrived on our shores, and the deep interest His Excellency manifested in the welfare of the colony, they would put party feelings aside for a season, and give all the support possible to the policy of His Excellency's responsible advisers. To do this would show wisdom on the part of the House. It was not necessary for him to make any remarks upon the first five paragraphs of the Speech, which contained facts that spoke for themselves. With regard to the sixth paragraph, he thought every honorable member must see the advisability of the measures therein named. The Bills for the re-distribution of electorates and the increase of members, and for the relief of the pastoral tenants of the Crown in the unsettled districts, were the most important that could be brought under the consideration of the House. Within the last year the lands of the colony had become settled, and the life of the colony was quickening, owing to the liberal Land Act, and the discovery of the gold fields; and he trusted that in the consideration of the measure for enlarging the representation of the country in the Assembly, justice would be done, and, especially, that the claims of Rockhampton, Wide Bay, and East and West Moreton, would not be overlooked. With regard to the pastoral tenants in the unsettled districts, their claims required immediate attention, or the country they held would be deserted. Their stock was unsaleable, and their wool, shorn in the grease, brought little in the market,—the price of the principal product of the colony had fallen very much. He hoped a long tenure would be granted to the outside squatters; also, some reduction of rent; and that dams

would be constructed on the main roads of the colony, which would give cheaper carriage. The statement in His Excellency's Speech, that "the favorable condition of the revenue continues to be maintained," must be satisfactory to all. It appeared to him (Mr. Hodgson) that the state of the colony, notwithstanding the recent difficulties, was one of rapid progress. The revenue was increasing, and Queensland debentures had risen in the English market, within the last six months, some £15. The population, notwithstanding the cessation of immigration, had increased. The gold fields and the agricultural capabilities of this colony were attracting attention throughout the neighboring colonies. Honorable members were bound to take those things into consideration, and to do the best they could for the good government of the colony, which, he considered would be best done, under existing circumstances, by supporting the present responsible advisers of His Excellency.

Mr. FITZGERALD: Those honorable members who sat in the Assembly through the sessions of 1867 and 1868 would not be surprised to see him, now, rise on the Opposition side of the House to propose an amendment, which, in plain language, amounted to a vote of want of confidence. In place of dealing with the Address itself, he would state on what grounds he, for one, had little confidence in the present administration. That administration had come into office with, he thought, four principal things to be done:—The first was, an immediate reduction of the excessive expenditure of the colony—excessive, as was admitted on all sides. Another important piece of business they had to perform was, to bring about a re-distribution of the electorates, and to pass an Additional Members Act; and, thirdly and fourthly, they were to introduce a Land Bill and a Pastoral Leases Bill. Well, in coming to the House as a new member—they had, then, had an increase of members for the north—on that occasion, he looked about, and came to the conclusion, together with the honorable member for Rockhampton, that they could bestow their confidence better on the present Government, who promised so fairly, than on those honorable gentlemen who had preceded them, who had been judged, and who had not shown, at any rate, economy in the administration of the affairs of the country. The present Government started very fairly, certainly, he would admit. They said they would not only reduce the public expenditure, but that they would begin by reducing their own salaries, first; and a Bill to reduce them was introduced. That, it was patent to every one, was a mere farce. It was pretty well understood that honorable members in another place would not pass the measure, if it was passed by the Assembly; and though he did not know then, he knew now, that the Government understood that the Bill would be thrown out—that the farce was being played. He, in his innocence,

thought that, after giving that example of their desire for retrenchment, they would carry reductions throughout the service, especially in those branches where unnecessary officers were engaged. The honorable the Colonial Secretary would probably get up and say the Opposition were the very persons who, when the Ministry wished to make reductions, opposed them. Their Salaries Reduction Bill was thrown out in the other House. If the Ministry had acted like men, if they had determined to govern the country as a Government ought to do, what would their conduct have been? They would have come down to the House and said—"There are our Estimates, and we require them to be passed, in order to carry out the reductions that are necessary, to save the people of this country from the enormous taxation which bears them down, and to bring the expenditure back to something fair and reasonable;—we expect you to support us in our policy of retrenchment, and that you shall agree to carry on the reductions proposed." And, if the House would not agree, they should be able to tell the House to get some other set of men to carry out their wishes. That would have been a manly course, and that was the course which any Ministry deserving the respect of the country, ought to carry out. They should not, in taking office, have placed themselves in the position of slaves, to be kicked from one side to the other, as they had been; nor tools, to move at the bidding of any one. But, he knew honorable members on the Ministerial benches would get up and say—The House not only did not make reductions, but added to the expenditure £60,000. If the Ministry were men of any firmness, who wanted to command the respect of the country, they would have opposed those increases as much as possible. When honorable members saw what a farce it was with regard to the Ministerial salaries, and that there had been no serious intention to have them reduced, why, of course, one member after another brought forward items of expenditure. But what position was that for a Government to be in? They were willing to do anything, so long as they could stop in place. He would not say anything about the false economy and reckless extravagance of the Government; but this, which occurred in his own district, was an instance:—There was a gentleman performing the duties of Police Magistrate, Crown Lands Agent, and several other offices; and who was, besides, a good officer for many years under the Government. He (Mr. Fitzgerald) had heard from the Collector of Customs a very good account of the officer—that he was one of the officers whose annual returns had never been refused. But that officer was overburdened with work, and, meantime, though applying for assistance, got so thoroughly sick—became so bodily ill, by having so much on his mind—that the consequence was, he left his place, and was

then removed. What followed? Immediately, no fewer than four gentlemen—two in the Customs, one land agent, and a clerk of petty sessions, were sent up to do the duties which were formerly done by one officer, and which ought to have been done by two. Now, he (Mr. Fitzgerald) meant to say that appointments had been made without the slightest reference to the needs of places. He knew for a fact that there should have been no appointment of a land agent at Gladstone, or at Mackay, or at Bowen, until the Land Act was brought into operation. Another reason why he had lost confidence in the Government was—a great matter they had paraded before Parliament and the country at the beginning of a former session—that they could not go to work for improving the representation without a Census Act. They got such an Act, yet before the forms for taking the returns under it could have reached the districts, the honorable the Colonial Treasurer brought in a Bill to repeal that Act. Nothing could be more certain, as that showed, than that the Ministry had no intention, as a Government, to pass a Re-distribution of Electorates Bill. With reference to the Crown Lands Act, he should say nothing. Honorable members all knew that the Land Act ought to have been passed in a very different shape from what it was.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: You would not let it.

Mr. FITZGERALD: He meant as regarded the details, which had given a very great deal of trouble. But its natural parents had abandoned the Bill, and left it to be adopted by anyone who liked. The honorable and learned Attorney-General was not consulted about the bearings of the different clauses, and the consequence was that there was considerable confusion. Yet the Ministry claimed it as a Government measure, and took all the credit they could get in connection with it. The Attorney-General ought to have been consulted as to the legal effect and working of particular clauses. But he was not consulted; and every honorable member was allowed to add whatever he liked. There was no doubt that a Pastoral Leases Bill might have been passed last session, as the leading members of the Opposition were not averse to it, if the Government had shewn any real interest in the matter. He well recollected the way in which the House was treated on that occasion, and the manner in which the time of honorable members was wasted day after day, and when he considered how the Government had shuffled out of one promise after another and evaded their responsibilities, he confessed that he had no confidence in them, and should hesitate to trust them with any important interests. They could not at any rate rebut the charge of extravagance. Another subject on which he felt called upon to express his want of confidence in the present Government was with reference to the administration of

the Land Act. When the Bill was passing through committee the last time, a schedule was omitted, he believed at the instance of the honorable member for South Brisbane, which made provision for large reserves to be proclaimed around Clermont, Nebo, and other interior towns. He was not in the House at the time, but the then Minister for Lands, the late member for Clermont, Mr. Fitzsimmons, and the member for Rockhampton, were present, and the Secretary for Lands promised, in the most positive manner, that directly the Act came into operation, proclamations should be made of reserves in those places. The honorable gentleman had led them to understand that the proclamations were ready to be issued directly it was legal to do so by the Act, but up to the present hour this had not been done. The consequence was, that people who had been in the colony for years, and wished to invest money in the purchase of land in the neighborhood of these towns, were prevented from doing so. To be sure they had an opportunity of purchasing ironbark ridges at a long distance away, but that was not the sort of land they required. The Government had fulfilled none of their promises. He was not present during last session, but he objected to the manner in which Ministers had wasted the time of the House by repeated adjournments, in order to put off a defeat, and what was it that they now asked?—that the House should pass the Estimates, and adjourn again. He had suggested last year that Estimates for only six months should be passed, and he was sorry that they had been passed in full. The Government would now have to hurry them through, and in order to do so they would be ready to promise anything. Ordinarily the adjournment would be till April; but he had no doubt honorable members would find it a much longer period. He warned honorable members that the Government would be lavish of promises, and then if those promises were not carried out, they would fall back upon the excuse, that they had done all they could, but they had not been supported; what a position was that for a Ministry? The only proper course open to the Government, if they found themselves unable to carry out their own policy, was to resign. Then with regard to the Provincial Councils Bill—a most important measure, for which the whole country had been crying out for years past—when honorable members found that the question was dismissed, for a second time, in about six words, they could very well imagine the sort of measure which would be introduced. Some little petty arrangement was probably contemplated, something like an extended Municipalities Act; but that was all the House need expect. He warned honorable members that the time would soon come when they would hold the same opinion as he did. From the very first, he had objected to the way the business of the country was conducted by

the present Government; he had objected to the way in which they threw their Bills on the table for the House to do as they liked with, not adhering to one single line of their own policy. He found it necessary to say a few words with reference to the position he had taken last session. Being new to Queensland politics, he and the honorable member for Rockhampton had consulted together on first coming down, and agreed that nothing important could be done until there was a new land policy initiated. To carry out such a measure he had put aside all other considerations, although he had been much disgusted with the extravagance of that session. That was never attempted by the Government, and he now charged them with having broken the promises they then made. They had lost his confidence, and he therefore felt it his duty to sit on the other side of the House. He owed something to the persistent representations of the honorable member for Clermont on the subject. It was objected, on the last occasion of a motion of the kind being made, that the Opposition had not enunciated any policy; he had therefore obtained a distinct expression of opinion as to the line of policy the Opposition intended to pursue, and it was comprised under the four following heads:—“First, the removal of all obstacles to the full and free representation of all classes in the community in the Parliament of the colony; secondly, an equitable system of taxation, by which the public burdens should be fairly borne, as in Great Britain, by those for whose benefit they are incurred; thirdly, large powers of local self-government to be granted to the residents in all parts of Queensland, such as we are entitled to as free subjects of the British Crown; and, fourthly, large reductions in the expenditure of the colony, to ease the excessive burdens now being borne by every class of residents in the colony.” That was the platform agreed upon by the Opposition, and it was on that he joined them. It might be said—the honorable member for Rockhampton would probably say—that they could get these terms from the present Ministry, without the necessity of turning them out; but after the experience of the last two sessions, he did not think they were justified in placing any reliance on their pledges. With regard to the new Pastoral Relief Bill promised by the Government, there would be no Bill of the kind come from their side of the House, and it would be most unwise to allow such an important measure to be introduced by them as, after all, they did not represent one per cent. of the population of the colony. He believed the Ministry had no serious intention of carrying out a measure for the relief of outside squatters—if they had, it was not one which they would adhere to at the risk of losing their places. He would therefore move,—That all the words after the word “occasion” in the fifth paragraph of the

Address be omitted, with the view of inserting the following:—

We beg respectfully to submit to your Excellency that it is essential for securing satisfactory results to our deliberations, and for the proper transaction of the public business, that the Government should possess the confidence of this House and the country; and we deem it our duty respectfully to represent to your Excellency that such confidence is not reposed in the present advisers of your Excellency.

Before he sat down he would point out to the House that, in taking the course he had, he was only following out the wishes of a very large body of his constituents, and he believed the constituents of the honorable member for Rockhampton held much the same opinions. He knew that when they met the electors some very clear and explicit explanations had to be given for their continuing to support the present Ministry, after they had shewn themselves so incompetent. At any rate, his constituents expected him to act in the manner he had that day done.

Mr. GROOM said he considered it his duty, representing as he did one of the largest constituencies in the colony, although sadly unrepresented in proportion to its population, in seconding the amendment moved by an honorable member, whose constituency were also sadly deficient in representation, to explain his reasons for taking such a course. If nothing else were brought forward to shew that the Government did not possess the confidence of the country, there was quite sufficient proof in the fact that the Government, being dissatisfied with the vote upon which the House divided last session, considered it necessary to appeal to the country; and he contended that if a majority of the constituencies were not in favor of the Ministry, that in itself amounted to a virtual defeat. He contended that in every independent constituency the vote had been decidedly adverse to the Government. He had heard something that afternoon about the settlement of land which had taken place in West Moreton under "The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868," and he was not prepared to deny that, so far, it might have produced good results. But however successful the Act might have been worked in West Moreton, he could assure the House that the loss to the revenue under its working in the Darling Downs district had been such that it would take years to recover from it. If the Government had honestly and faithfully administered the Act in the Darling Downs district alone; there would have been no need for them to have come down now and ask for another loan for public works. He could give a number of instances in proof of this. Some land on the Felton run was applied for by a Mr. Davenport, and Mr. Tooth, the reputed lessee of the run, and as there was some dispute in the matter it was taken to the Supreme Court, after which the Government, very wisely and properly, as he contended, decided upon

putting the land up to auction. The consequence was, that instead of obtaining £500 for the land, the payment being extended over ten years, they received £3,000 in cash. In the Beauaraba run, for the 45,000 acres resumed, £100,000 might have been realised if the land had been properly dealt with—a sum sufficient to have completed the railway to Warwick. In no one instance was there only a single applicant for any of the land on the resumed half of this run; but there were two, three, four, and as many as half-a-dozen applications for the same piece. In one case, 12,500 acres, put up as agricultural land, at 15s. an acre, were bought and paid for in non-transferable land orders, the purchaser only having to pay the Government a single 2s. in cash; and the man afterwards went about the streets of Toowoomba boasting that he should make £500 by the transaction. It was said that these land orders were non-transferable, but in this case they proved transferable; and no doubt were purchased in Brisbane for one-third their actual value. He was certain he should be within the mark if he said that in the Darling Downs district alone, the country had been defrauded of £200,000 by the maladministration of the Land Act. It could not be said that the honorable member for the Mitchell, Mr. Lamb, was to blame for this Beauaraba affair, as he was out of office at the time. With respect to the promise to bring in a measure for giving additional members, and for the re-distribution of the electorates, he should like to know on which Minister's statement he was to place confidence. A short time ago, when the honorable the Premier was at Toowoomba, he stated in public that the constituency of Drayton and Toowoomba deserved additional representation; but the honorable the Minister for Works, only a very short time ago, when a candidate for the Warrego, stated that, with the exception of Rockhampton, every town in the colony was adequately represented. How could he put confidence in a Ministry, when he found one of its members asserting one thing, and another the very opposite? The introduction into the Vice-regal Speech of the sentence promising to reduce the *ad valorem* duty, was merely an *ad captandum* mode of trying to catch a stray vote or two. If Ministers really intended to do anything of the kind it ought not to have been mentioned until the Colonial Treasurer made his financial statement, because it could not fail to be injurious to the revenue. There were two ships now in the bay, and if merchants got the idea that a reduction of the *ad valorem* duty was about to take place, they would put the whole in bond, and not take it out until the lower scale of duties came into operation. There could be no doubt that in new countries, under certain circumstances, it was desirable to adopt, to some extent, a protective principle, and to put a

much higher duty upon articles which could be produced on the spot. The proposal, therefore, to make a uniform reduction of two and a half per cent. on the *ad valorem* duties appeared to him, to be paltry in the extreme. He charged the Government with neglecting to attend to the wants of those constituencies whose members were opposed to their policy. That had been the case in his own district, until the present Minister for Works came into office. The Government would do nothing for it, however necessary and important the work might be. If anything could induce him to vote for a Provincial Councils Bill, it would be the conduct of the Government in this respect; but if he were to support such a measure, it must provide against all interference on the part of the Government. The Ministry had appealed to the country, and that appeal had not answered their expectations. He thought he was perfectly justified in supporting the amendment, and pressing it to a division. He had no object to serve except to promote the general good, for he had never asked the Government for anything whatever, and could give an independent vote. When he considered the grievous loss which the colony had sustained through the maladministration of the Land Act; when he saw 40,000 or 50,000 acres given away for a mere song, paid for by land orders of little or no value, he felt that a state of things existed which ought to be put a stop to at once. Then as to immigration: the House had been told that an Immigration Agent was to be sent to England to induce people to immigrate, some to settle on the gold fields, but the majority to occupy the agricultural reserves. But of what use would be an immigration agent, when long before he could reach England the very pick of the land would be gone, and the result would be that the immigrants would have to compete in the labor market with Polynesian laborers. He repeated that he felt quite justified in supporting the amendment. The Government, on a former occasion, pleaded that there was not a full House, and they had appealed to the country. A general election had taken place, and as they could not command a majority, they were virtually defeated.

The COLONIAL TREASURER congratulated the honorable member for Kennedy for having expressed himself so decidedly, and honorable members on the opposite side of the House, in the change of opinions in that honorable member. He could only say that he hoped the next Ministry would enjoy that honorable member's confidence. When the previous amendment on the Address had been passed, on the motion of the honorable member for East Moreton, the Government had had to complain that it was not backed up by sound arguments and direct charges; but, in the present instance, the charges preferred against the Ministry were still more puerile and namby-pamby. Charges upon

which a vote of want of confidence could be based, ought to be specific accusations directed against the general policy of the Ministry. The honorable member for Kennedy had accused the Government of delaying the business of the country, but he maintained that the principal delays in the passing of the Land Act were caused by the interference of the honorable member himself; so much so, that it became imperative upon the House to adjourn, and the business promised by the Government had to be held in abeyance until a future session. He maintained that the opposition to the present Government was purely a party faction, and that if the amendment had not been moved, the Government would have been prepared to do all that was necessary. If a Government took office—particularly after a great many changes had taken place in a short time, they ought not to be ready to give it up again lightly. The honorable member had also charged the Government with being insincere in the proposal to commence retrenching by reducing their own salaries. He denied this *in toto*. Ministers did not know that the Bill would be rejected in another place, and they were perfectly sincere and conscientious in their desire to see the Bill pass. The greatest, in fact the only, opposition to it in that House came from the Opposition. With reference to the charges brought against the Government, of making new and injudicious appointments, he contended that that was not the time for bringing them forward. When the proper time came, he should be quite prepared to answer them. The honorable member had also spoken about the settlement of accounts between the southern and northern portions of the colony, but he should like to know how it was to be done. Even supposing there were to be separate accounts kept, and the colony came to be divided into two, how was the balance to be made up, supposing the account was disputed? It was well known that the colony of Victoria claimed a large amount from New South Wales; but it had never yet been paid, nor was it likely to be. The honorable member had blamed the Government for putting the Provincial Councils Bill in a sort of secondary position in the Speech, and, with regard to that question, he could only say that he had devoted a great deal of care and consideration to it, and had been willing to meet, as far as he could, the views of the honorable member. The only objection he entertained to the measure introduced last year by the honorable member for Rockhampton was, that he considered it, to a certain extent, impracticable. He had, however, endeavored to introduce a measure which he thought would meet with the approbation of the House, for it would be useless to bring in one which would be sure to be thrown out. He hoped that when that question came on for discussion, there would be sufficient good sense among honorable members to induce

them to pass such a Bill as would benefit all districts alike, without adding materially to the expenditure of the country. What the Government wished to do was, to give to the North a financial separation, and all the privileges which they had to expect; but they did not propose to go so far as the honorable members on the opposite side of the House. He doubted whether the honorable member for Kennedy would be able to obtain better terms from the party he had joined. [The honorable the Colonial Treasurer proceeded to quote from the report of a speech of the Honorable A. Macalister, at Allora, to the electors of the Eastern Downs, in which he had objected to the Provincial Councils Bill introduced by the honorable member for Rockhampton, in which the speaker had stated that Mr. Archer, in addressing his constituents at Rockhampton, had drawn the long bow to considerable extent, &c.] He had not inquired into the truth of this assertion, but he had seen it stated in the *Courier*, and therefore he took it for granted that it was correct. In the same way, the honorable member for Kennedy charged the Government with mismanaging the gold fields, not because he knew anything about gold fields, but because he had taken up the *Nashville Times*, and seeing some letters there, written by diggers over their liquor, concluded that they must be correct. No accusation could be more ridiculous or false; and another charge brought against the Government was the proposed reduction of the *ad valorem* duty. This was not, as had been unfairly urged, for the purpose of catching votes, but because it was a most desirable reform, and no injury could accrue to the revenue from announcing it, because the reduction would not take place this year. With respect to the resignation of the late Minister for Lands, it had been said that the Ministry threw him overboard to strengthen their position—they did nothing of the kind. The honorable gentleman did not retire on political grounds. For months previous to the acceptance of his resignation, the honorable member for the Mitchell had expressed his wish to leave the Government, if his presence affected its stability, and the answer invariably returned to him was, that they would stand or fall together. After the attacks which were made upon him—unjust and unfounded attacks—he said he could not retain office any longer, and it was with great regret to all his colleagues that he resigned. As a colleague, he could say that he never had one who was more assiduous in the discharge of his duties, one of greater experience in the department under his charge, more devoted to his office, or better acquainted with its duties, than the late Minister for Lands.

Mr. DOUGLAS said the debate, up to the present time, had not been of a very striking character, but, if there was any doubt as to the spirit with which it had been conducted, he felt that there was no

shirking the question before the House. It was really one of the highest and gravest character, and under the present circumstances of the country, it ought to be approached on all sides with the most sincere desire to consider it with the view to secure the good government of the colony. At the outset he confessed that the course adopted, of moving a direct vote of want of confidence on the Address from the Crown, was not a usual one. There were rare occasions in the Imperial Parliament on which such a course was pursued; yet, there could be no possible reason why it should not be adopted; and he supposed that the strong convictions of those gentlemen who had previously brought forward the vote of want of confidence, were, that it was desirable at the earliest moment to meet the Address from the Crown in that way, and had led them to adopt a similar course of procedure on the present occasion. He refrained from commenting upon the policy of it; as it had been brought forward in that form, he had no other course than to express his convictions, and state the grounds upon which he felt bound to take the course which had no doubt been anticipated for him. He could quite understand how some honorable members might not exactly approve of the present mode of procedure. They might not like, at the first moment of the assembling of the new Parliament, to be asked to express so very decided an opinion upon matters of public import. It was not exactly the way, he could quite imagine—it was not a question which some members on the cross-benches, for instance, would wish to answer in so very definite and decided a manner. Some honorable members might wish to linger a little longer on the brink before taking the final and irretrievable plunge. It had, however, the advantage of amounting to a very distinct and definite expression of party opinion. The appeal to the country had, no doubt, been made emphatically upon party grounds. He should not attempt to deny what had been asserted by the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government, who had, previous to the dissolution, stated that parties were so equally divided in the House that there appeared to be no prospect of doing business;—the dissolution of the late Parliament had been rendered necessary from parties being so nicely balanced, and the appeal had been made on the personal merits of the Government, as a Government capable of administering the affairs of the colony; and the issue placed before the country was distinctly one of confidence or want of confidence in the present administration. He did not know what the honorable gentleman, at the time, thought would be the result of that appeal; but, he was afraid that the anticipations which had been formed by him, were not likely to be realised. Honorable members were in the House to fight out the

case in very much the same condition as they were before the appeal to the country. If the honorable gentleman felt satisfied that he was right in advising His Excellency to dissolve, he (Mr. Douglas) was not there to say he had done wrong. The members of the Government had contested their seats on the ground, that they had administered the affairs of the country with satisfaction to the people, and upon those grounds they now appeared before the House. On the other side, there was the very decided and contrary opinion, that during their administration the present Ministry had failed to satisfy the conditions of a body of men fitted to carry out the Government of the country, in accordance with the spirit of its legislation. The House were assembled to try that distinct issue. He thought that he should hardly have to apologise to the House, when he explained the reasons why he had come to the conclusion to support the vote of want of confidence. He had never concealed from the Government or from himself the opinion he had formed of the manner in which they had administered that great question—that question which must always be of vital importance—the land question. The day after they entered office, they commenced a series of what, in his opinion, amounted to illegal acts of administration. An interpretation was put upon the law which that law did not justify. He must take exception to the remark made by the honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Thompson,—that stringent conditions must always inevitably result in an avoidance of those conditions. He denied that. For several years there had been in force a Land Act which necessitated a strict adherence to very stringent conditions, and yet it was administered with satisfaction to the country. It was quite a mistake to suppose that necessarily those conditions must result in the law being evaded. The necessary avoidance of conditions was not incidental to the law; but willing instruments were found in the administration of it, and thus it came about that the law was diverted from its original intention. He felt alarmed from the first moment of finding out their principle of carrying out the Government; and the same spirit actuated them now as at first. Under the administration of the present Government the largest illegal latitude was given to a system of fraud and collusion which had been unparalleled in the history of a colony. That was followed up by legislation framed in the very same spirit. The honorable member at the head of the Government, who had long opposed him upon the land question as a vain theorist—who had pointed him out as the exponent of revolutionary principles, which would result in universal bushranging—eventually granted much more than he had asked for. His attention had been merely directed to those eligible portions of the country where he

believed the people could be accommodated with land suitable for their purposes. He found unwilling listeners, until at last the Government of the honorable member assumed office, and announced that the matter had now to be dealt with in a sufficient manner. At that time the honorable gentleman had characterised it as possible that it might result in something rather too liberal. However, a Bill was brought under the notice of the House. He (Mr. Douglas) need scarcely revert to the very remarkable history of that remarkable piece of legislation, the Land Act. Several honorable members had borne testimony already to the inevitable necessity of some changes being made in it. This was the manner in which the honorable member at the head of the Government treated the greatest piece of legislation that came under the notice of the House.—Having brought the Bill before them, it was handed over, with the honorable gentleman's consent, and against his (Mr. Douglas') protest, to a select committee—and the honorable gentleman thereby escaped a certain amount of responsibility—to the honorable members for Rockhampton and Kennedy, who thereby became responsible for the measure. It was carried, ostensibly, with the support and weight of the Government; and they were, no doubt, proud of it. He had taken occasion to point out how materially the revenue would suffer; and on what he conceived to be the vital points of the Bill, he found himself voting on the Opposition side of the House. There were many honorable members who ought not to have viewed the Bill with such complacency as they had manifested; but it did not therefore follow that they should not desire its amendment and its proper administration. The administration of that measure had confirmed him in his belief of the incapacity of the Government; it had not satisfied the House that, on a late occasion, was dissolved. The dissolution had been caused by the defective—to use no stronger term—administration of it by the honorable member for the Mitchell. On the same grounds that he had voted in the division which had led to the defeat of the Government, last session, he should continue to give effect to his opinions by dividing against the Government. But, supposing that he could have overlooked that, he felt that, viewing all the circumstances of the country, they were not such as to justify the House in stretching a point in favor of the Government now in office, or permitting them to remain. Turning to the future, and taking the test of the policy in the Speech from the Throne, there was nothing in that but what confirmed the Opposition in the opinions they held. The Speech did certainly present a contrast, by its summary style, to the flowing and rounded periods which the House had been used to, and which on the last occasion filled three pages of the *Gazette*. It was, however, a change in the right direction, for

he did not object to putting such things as concisely as possible; and it was an improvement upon the lengthy expositions which had been in vogue, and which really meant very little. In the opening paragraph it was again stated that Parliament was called together "at the earliest possible time after the recent general election." On the last occasion they had some reference to "the earliest possible period," and that was in August last, the latest possible period at which any Parliament had been called together in Queensland, and two months after the period in which the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government had promised he would call honorable members together. There was no real reason why on this occasion the House should not have met a month earlier than it had. They might, in the first instance, have called the House together earlier, and then, if a further prorogation became necessary through contests in the outlying districts, a proclamation to that effect might have been issued. On a former occasion, when the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government appeared in his place in Parliament, several of his colleagues had not been elected. The honorable members for Port Curtis and the Kennedy were not in their places when the House then met. It appeared to be almost a normal condition in nearly all the Australian colonies, that the Parliament should be put off as long as possible, so that, he presumed, the Estimates might be forced.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Oh, no.

Mr. DOUGLAS: The honorable gentleman at the head of the Government could hardly profess to be independent of the logic of facts. It was now November, and he had been in office nearly all the year without calling the House together. Opposition was originally based upon his not calling Parliament together earlier. The corollary to the first sentence was found in the second, which stated that by curtailing the present session they might be enabled to re-assemble at a "season of the year more convenient for the despatch of business, and for your personal attendance." The requirements and exigencies of the country ought to be consulted before the convenience of honorable members. Thus, at the very commencement of the Speech, the Government seemed to indicate a higher opinion of what conduced to their personal convenience than of what was requisite for the benefit of the country at large. All members who had the good of the country at heart would make it convenient to attend at any time the exigencies of the country required it. The second paragraph referred to the gold fields. He was happy to find that that great bugbear, the Gympie road, of which his honorable friend the member for Rockhampton had said so much, was settled; and he hoped to the satisfaction of honorable members for Brisbane. He acknowledged that it was done by the

honorable the Colonial Secretary without any serious inroad upon the finances of the country. He was happy to think that there was a regular line of intercommunication along that road. He need scarcely refer to the third paragraph, about the railway. The House would have the opportunity of discussing that ere long.

"The alienation of Crown lands under the new Act, is progressing as favorably as could be expected. Papers on this subject will shortly be laid before you."

That might be the opinion of the Ministry, but there were large portions of land now being alienated for much less than their worth, on conditions which would not be complied with. They would hear, before very long, the advocates of the system of cash payments suggesting that those conditions should be done away with. He never believed in those conditions; they were bad. The result possibly, might be, that they would be done away with; but, as far as he was personally concerned, he would give no assistance to such an attempt. He would hear of no repudiation—that word had been used in the debate;—if the conditions had to be commuted, an equivalent in cash must be paid. There was, as usual, a reference to a Pastoral Relief Bill. At the present time, when a large and important interest was suffering severely from the depression in the price of wool, that class must meet with the best sympathies of the House. He had always been opposed to these Pastoral Relief Bills, because he believed them bad in principle. A bargain was a bargain all the world over, and those bargains had been made with a knowledge of all circumstances on both sides. If, on one occasion, a bargain in favor of the Government were upset, it was quite possible that on another occasion a bargain against the Government would be treated in a similar manner. In that way, it was quite possible that some day the tenants of the Crown might find themselves in a more serious predicament than if they adhered to the terms of their original agreement. It might be possible to meet the whole question upon its merits, if it had to be re-considered. He was totally opposed to any piecemeal dealing with the squatters of some districts, and leaving other squatters undealt with. There could be no question about the squatters in the unsettled districts suffering severely, but were not those in the settled districts suffering also? It would not be fair to give relief to the squatters in the Kennedy and Warrego districts, and refuse it to those in the Burnett and Darling Downs, for on some portions of the Downs the squatters were suffering as severely as in either of the other districts.

Mr. MILES: No.

Mr. DOUGLAS: Well, he would say Maranoa. He appealed to the honorable member for Maryborough, if it was not so in the district he represented. If the House were

to consider the question as a whole, and frame again a law which would place the pastoral interest on a different foundation altogether, well and good; but they should not, simply because there had been a severe drought, because a number of squatters were suffering severely from the effects of over-speculation—it would be unworthy of them as legislators—to draw a distinction which the circumstances of the case would not justify. He preferred the first Pastoral Leases Bill introduced by the honorable member for the Mitchell, to the one introduced by him subsequently. Had the latter Bill been carried, it would have affected the revenue seriously, and instead of there being any surplus, there unquestionably would have been a deficit. In respect to that measure, he was at issue with the honorable member for the Kennedy. He was glad to see the question of improved postal communication with Europe and the Northern Ports referred to. There seemed to be some prospect of the project in which he had some share a few years ago being carried out eventually. He referred to the transmission of the mails *viâ* Torres Straits. If, as seemed very probable, the contract for the Panama mail service was abrogated, the New South Wales Government might have some inclination to work with the Government of Queensland on that very important question. If the New South Wales Government would really go into the matter, the service might be carried out at a very slight increase of expenditure. It might then be possible to establish a fortnightly mail service between Great Britain and the whole of the Australian colonies: a monthly packet from Melbourne, as at present, and one from Brisbane, through Torres Straits. That was not a Government matter, but simply one of money and management, which any Government might carry out. The sixth paragraph of the Speech shewed that in spite of the late period of the year, some measures would be introduced. A Re-distribution of Seats Bill was promised, but such a proposal could not come seriously from the Government. It must surely be understood by this time that there could be no effectual treatment of this question until the two-thirds clause was repealed. There were a few highly intelligent but strictly conservative gentlemen in the House who were determined to hold fast by that anchor of the constitution. He was inclined to claim higher grounds for the consideration of this question;—he believed that the people were strong enough in their social and political position, to be trusted to secure what they thought was for the benefit of the country, and to do nothing antagonistic to the constitution, any more than to their financial or land policy. The immigration question was also alluded to in the Speech. Of course they must, by every means they could, attract population directly or indirectly to the colony, but anything like

the extravagant, foolish, and ill-considered expenditure which took place during the latter portion of the old immigration system would be highly improper and very undesirable. He was very glad for the sake of the country, to hear from the honorable gentleman who managed its finances that the revenue was in such a prosperous condition. He was far from believing that was entirely owing to the able management of the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government, whose views on financial questions were not of a very far-seeing character, although he might be quite competent to fulfil the duties of his office. It was satisfactory to learn that the revenue was in such a favorable condition, but really, good luck had contributed to it more than anything else. The gold fields had improved the circumstances of all. They had attracted a considerable population, and although it was receding, there were good grounds for believing that the pursuit of gold-mining was fairly established. The result was that there were large importations from England and the colonies, and therefore a considerable augmentation of the revenue; and we were now able to face the public creditor with a small surplus, instead of a deficiency, which the colony had been obliged unfortunately to confess to for years past. The honorable the Colonial Treasurer would, he hoped, if he had the opportunity of making a financial statement—which appeared to be somewhat doubtful—be able to give the House a good *resumé* of the state of the country; or, if he was not so fortunate as to do so, that he would leave in his office the statement he had prepared, for his successor. The paragraph in which the Government announced their intention of proposing a reduction in the *ad valorem* duties from seven and a half to five per cent., removed any lingering vestige of hesitation in their favor that he might have had as to the course he should adopt. If the question were touched at all, it ought to have been treated in a far larger manner than that. But the burdens of the country could not be seriously reduced at the present time. As his honorable friend and colleague, Mr. Francis, had remarked with a good deal of *naïveté*—it was nothing but “humbug,” unmitigated humbug—to say the *ad valorem* duties could be reduced two and a half per cent. If the Government had inserted a paragraph to the effect—that the whole question of the tariff would be re-considered and submitted to the House, he could have understood it; but for the Government, in the face of the statement respecting the proposal for an increased loan, to say they were going to reduce the revenue of the colony in the manner named, marked them as unfit for office, if nothing else had done so. The primary condition for obtaining money and credit in the home market, was for them to show that they would hold on like grim death to every sixpence raised, and faithfully meet

their engagements. That could not be done if they gave up taxation in the reckless manner proposed. In defiance of all rules affecting taxation, a direct and positive announcement was made in the Speech of the amount of the proposed reduction in the *ad valorem* duties. It was an invariable rule in all legislative bodies who dealt with questions of taxation, that those who were responsible for any alteration did not announce the decision they had arrived at until the time had come for carrying it into effect. After such an announcement, any mercantile adventurer who had confidence in the stability of the present Ministry would not be in a hurry to pay seven and half per cent. *ad valorem* duty on goods, when he was led to expect that in a few weeks he would only be called upon to pay five per cent. Such an intimation exhibited a want of common sense—a want of the ordinary discretion which was expected from any Government. The paragraph went on to say that authority would be invited for raising another loan. Without confessing to any elaborate knowledge of such matters—he was not supposed to possess any very great financial ability—he must say he should be ashamed of himself, as a politician—if there were any competition—if he did not think his own opinion sounder than that held by the honorable gentleman at the head of the Treasury. He might startle honorable members if he said that he thought there was no necessity for a loan at all! The House had been dragged into loans on previous occasions, whether wanted or not. The time had now arrived when they might stand still. He did all he could during the few months he was in office to reduce the expenditure then going on; and still more was done by his honorable friend, the member for South Brisbane, who had succeeded him in the Treasury. The present Government had not, however, carried out the spirit of the reductions and the reforms which had been instituted under the administration of their predecessors. This was not the time to go into the question touched upon by the honorable member for the Kennedy, who had spoken of the case of some officials at Mackay. Those were little matters upon which to found an indictment; but larger might be found. He was not one of those who believed that it was possible to effect any very considerable reductions in the public service. Certainly, he did not think that reductions could be made suddenly. The principles of economy and retrenchment recognised by the late Government had not been given effect to by the present administration. Several unnecessary appointments had been made since the present Government took office. For instance, it was quite unnecessary to appoint Mr. Western Wood, Police Magistrate at Bowen, though it was quite reasonable that he should have been appointed elsewhere.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: There was one, there, before.

Mr. DOUGLAS: That was justification! Having had an opportunity of doing away with the office, the Government had failed to do so. He might mention other instances. He did not think it good policy to discharge public servants without recognition. But he thought that the Sub-Collector of Customs at Ipswich might also very well have discharged the duties of Police Magistrate, in addition to his own; and the office of Land Agent at Warwick might have been combined with that of the Police Magistrate there. In the last paragraph of the Speech there was a remark which had certainly attracted his attention, as he had never seen anything of the kind introduced into a Speech from the Throne. He did not mean to cast any slur upon the honorable member at the head of the Government in consequence of the lamentable visitation of drought upon this colony, but really to announce in the Opening Speech that the weather indicated some great meteorological changes throughout the whole continent of Australia, was altogether unprecedented. He could only ascribe such an announcement to a peculiar sensitiveness of temperament in the honorable member, which enabled him, by watching the clouds, to foretell the destinies of the country, and to predict a favorable change in its affairs. Possibly the honorable member might have persuaded himself that such a delightful indication was to be attributed, in some way, to the admirable conduct of the Government, in the same way that other great statesmen had taken to themselves credit for abundant harvests and similar tokens of prosperity. The Government had not gone so far as that yet, but he should not be at all surprised to hear something of the kind. And now, having glanced at one or two minor questions, he wished to say a word or two about the present political situation, and he did not consider it a very satisfactory one. The effect of a vote of want of confidence was primarily, of course, an affirmation of distrust in the existing administration. He thought there could be no doubt that on the present occasion a large majority of members believed in the maladministration of government by the present occupants, though a portion of them would not, probably, commit themselves to such a decided opinion. He could not, however, disguise the fact, that the question must be looked at from two different points of view. Honorable members must first be satisfied, as he was, of the incapacity of the present Ministry, and then they would have to consider to whom they were to entrust the government of the country, if the present occupants were ejected from office. That was a question about which he had, he must confess, felt considerable hesitation. He was not prepared to say that in the event of the combination of any four members in the House, who might be chosen by ballot or by lot to undertake the government of the country, any irreparable injury would follow, because he really believed that there was an influence at work

throughout the country for its general good, and that there was confidence felt in the subordinate officers of the Government. But a great deal would necessarily depend upon the sound administration of good laws, and it was clear that a great many of the evils which had occurred lately, had resulted from the maladministration of the Land Act by the present Government. If, therefore, the reins of Government were held by gentlemen who possessed no adaptability for office, no habits of business or previous experience, it was clear that many important interests must seriously suffer. It must always be a matter of serious consideration, which Members of Parliament should be placed in such a responsible situation. In connection with that question he must confess that, although the honorable member for Kennedy might be quite competent to form a Government, yet from what he knew of that honorable member's opinions, and from what he had been able to gather of his intentions, he (Mr. Douglas) should seriously object to see him in office. He repeated, that he had felt great hesitation on this subject, and had shrunk from coming to a decision upon it. The position of things was now materially changed since the House last met, honorable members on that side knew and understood the views of the party with whom they had acted before, but they could not say that they were aware of the views of the Opposition, as represented by the honorable member for Kennedy. That honorable member had referred to some resolution, which he stated he had submitted to the leader of the Opposition, but he (Mr. Douglas) had never had the privilege of understanding the principles upon which the combination it proposed was to be effected. Those principles were entirely unknown to him, and though as abstract principles they might be very admirable, he was not aware that they had received the consideration of any considerable number of members who were represented as the Opposition. There was really something very remarkable in the way in which the honorable member now came forward and moved a vote of want of confidence in the Government. He had, hitherto, found the honorable member a firm supporter of the Ministry; he had a vivid recollection of that honorable member last year, presenting himself in the House, and characterising the Government, of which the honorable member for Eastern Downs, Mr. Macalister, was head, and of which he (Mr. Douglas) was a member, as a "besotted Government," whom the honorable member considered unfit to hold the reins of Government. He would indulge the House with one or two statements made by the honorable member, and recorded in *Hansard*. He had attached but little weight to them at the time, but now that they had become history, and the honorable member had come forward as one of the leaders of an Opposition party,

they became worth listening to. In a speech on Ways and Means, which the honorable member made about twelve months ago, he had first referred to the Government as a "besotted Government," and then referred to the members of the Government individually. In speaking of the honorable member for South Brisbane, all he had said against him was, "that he had got into bad company." Then, he had spoken of the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Bell, as having "allowed himself to be seduced into wearing a livery which he ought never to have worn;" and in reference to himself (Mr. Douglas), the honorable member had stated that "he might not only have been at the head of the Government, but had the support of three-fourths of honorable members," if he had not "listened so attentively to the voice of the charmer." But now he (Mr. Douglas) had to listen to another charmer; and he supposed that, if he listened sufficiently, he might again have a chance of joining a Government. But the honorable member for Kennedy had reserved the peculiar merits of his eloquence for the then honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Macalister, whom he recognised as the great chief of the besotted Government. He had recognised that honorable member "as a great chief who had swayed the destinies of the colony for evil and not for good, who had had long years of rule—or, rather, he should say, of misrule;" and then he had gone on to describe him as "the incarnation of evil," "the real evil genius of the working man, and not only of the working man, but of the whole colony." That was said about twelve months ago; and all he (Mr. Douglas) had to say on the subject—and he said it without any acerbity of feeling towards the honorable member, whose many admirable qualities he fully recognised, but simply to shew that in spite of his conspicuous ability, and the calm benignity of his presence, the honorable member was not a consistent politician. The honorable member, at that time, placed every confidence in the present Government; and, of course, he (Mr. Douglas) could only conclude that he had now found the error of his ways, and that the trustworthy members of the House were opposed to those with whom he then sided. He merely called the attention of the House to these statements, to shew that there must be some moderation and consistency upon questions of so much importance. For his part, he had never called any member of a Government "the incarnation of evil," though he had sometimes felt that the occupants of the Treasury benches would be the better for a short seclusion on the opposite side of the House. He thought he had said enough to justify him in expressing some little hesitation in the prospect of the formation of a Government by the honorable member for Kennedy, for that was the logical inference from his motion. The motion was an important one, and made by a prominent

member of the House—for no one could deny the honorable member's ability—and, therefore, he was entitled to, and could fairly demand, every consideration, as the mover of such a resolution. But, apart from that, he could not say that he admired the policy of the honorable member. He held him responsible for many of the evils connected with the Land Act. It was brought about by his advice, and had been connected with such a waste of public money and public credit, that he could not hold the honorable member entirely free from responsibility in the matter. He had not formed a high opinion of his sagacity, nor could he view with any satisfaction the Estimates of the country handed over to the control of the honorable member, and still less the measure upon which the honorable member placed so much reliance, and upon which, he was given to understand, he staked his position in the country. His (Mr. Douglas's) convictions tended to the establishment of some system of local government, but any measure at all resembling that which had obtained in New Zealand, would he believed, if applied to Queensland, be found both dangerous and impolitic. Although the Land Act had proved so defective, and the country had suffered so much from what he must term empirical legislation, no such injury had been effected as would be caused by the introduction of a Provincial Councils Bill, such as the honorable member for Kennedy had expounded. He had felt compelled to draw the attention of the House to these matters, but he was not, strictly speaking, a party man. The whole tendency of legislation had been to force members into a party, and he was, therefore, obliged to express his opinion of the defective administration of government by the present occupants of office, but he must say that he should be equally opposed to substitute for them a Government formed by the honorable member for Kennedy. During the time that he had been connected with the Government of the country, it had been under the administration of the honorable member for Eastern Downs. He was far from assenting to the opinions expressed by the honorable member for Kennedy that he was the "incarnation of evil."

Mr. FITZGERALD said he had not made use of that phrase as an expression of his own opinion, but as the opinion of some of his constituents.

Mr. DOUGLAS: No doubt the honorable member spoke under excitement and expressed himself somewhat rashly, but it was not long afterwards that the honorable member found occasion to retract his opinion. In spite of all that had been advanced, he still maintained that the country might compare favorably with what it was four years ago. No doubt there had been great expenditure. The honorable member for Eastern Downs, when head of the Government, had carried out an extensive scheme of public works and

immigration, and there was no doubt that it involved considerable expenditure, but the revenue now exceeded the expenditure.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Not without taxation.

Mr. DOUGLAS: And yet the House were told that that taxation was to be reduced. He would ask whether, if those public works had not been undertaken, if no enterprise had been shewn, the colony would have been in its present position? He affirmed that in all essential attributes the colony was abundantly blessed, and that honorable members could not look at the policy of the honorable member for Eastern Downs as one which had been destructive to the interests of the country. It was possible that some of the undertakings which were entered into by his Government were a little in advance of what might be termed prudent, but that remark would apply to the Government of every colony worth calling a colony. Had there not been a large expenditure in Victoria? Was New South Wales free from debt, or New Zealand? Had not they all contracted debts for public works? And it was only in that way that full scope could be given to the enterprise of a country, and its resources properly developed. Were not the representatives of the people equally responsible? Was it not their policy to spend money upon public works, and upon immigration? He was not one of those senseless political economists who were of opinion that it was not right for a colony to avail itself of borrowed capital so long as the revenue was equal to the demands made upon it. He maintained that the whole spirit of the policy of the honorable member for Eastern Downs was directed to promote the prosperity of the country; and that the honorable member might, even now, turn with pride to the results of those enterprises. The revenue was now more than equal to the demand upon it; and he denied that the colony was groaning under taxation. That was a fiction—although it might turn out to be no fiction if the scheme of the honorable member for Kennedy were carried out. With regard to the railway expenditure which had given rise to so much dissatisfaction; was not that dissatisfaction common to all the colonies? He could tell the House the reason for it—they had paid too much for them. The railways in Victoria, now constructed for £10,000 per mile, cost, in the first instance, something like £40,000; and the same thing occurred in New South Wales, and in a much less degree, in Queensland. But now the colonies had all cut their eye-teeth and gained experience upon these points, and were not likely to commit similar mistakes. The same thing had taken place during the railway mania in England, where there was a class of people who preyed upon the projectors of these schemes and made money out of the pockets of the shareholders. There was no reason to suppose that the honorable member for Eastern Downs had not

profited by his experience, and become aware of the defects which had become apparent in the system to which he had given birth. It was no disgrace to him to find that certain defects had been found incidental to that sort of enterprise for which he was no more responsible than others. It was impossible that the honorable member for Eastern Downs could fail to take up a high position in the consideration of a question of such importance. That position he had in fact accepted when the vote of want of confidence was passed last session; and he should have been glad to see his honorable friend the exponent of the motion now before the House. He presumed that it would be carried; for if the Government did not command a working majority after their appeal to the country, they would virtually be defeated. He rarely trusted himself to quotations, but the present occasion inspired him, somewhat, he supposed, in the same way in which the honorable member at the head of the Government was inspired when he composed that meteorological paragraph in the Speech. He could believe that when the honorable member retired that evening into the Ministers' room abashed, but he hoped not disheartened, he might address his colleagues in the words which he remembered as a schoolboy, spoken by an old Roman, and addressed to some demonstrative tribunes of the people who did not quite take a right view of public matters. He enjoined them, as the honorable gentleman might enjoin his colleagues, "to go to their houses." "Go to your houses, fall upon your knees, pray to the gods to intermit the curse which needs must fall on such ingratitude"—the ingratitude of the honorable member for the Kennedy. Then he could imagine the honorable member for Kennedy going home and pondering with some satisfaction over the vicissitudes of his brilliant career;—how, having ejected from office the "besotted Government," he maintained in office the instruments of his policy for one whole year, and how he constructed on their foundation a new administration, of which he himself was the good genius, and which will hand down his name to future generations.

Mr. FORBES said, that from the peculiar position in which he was placed as a newly elected member, he thought it was due to those honorable members with whom he had acted before, to explain his reasons for the course he intended to pursue in reference to the question before the House. As the present Parliament was not bound to follow the acts of the preceding one, so also was he not bound to identify himself with the party warfare which brought about the late dissolution. Were he to merge his opinions into a struggle for place and power, and to identify himself with feelings which were not consistent with a due consideration of the best interests of the country, he should feel that he was not doing his duty as a representative. No great constitutional principle,

in fact no great principle whatever, was at stake in the present contest, which, if he might be allowed to say so, was merely a struggle for power and place, or he might even say for the emoluments of office. He felt therefore bound to take up the position he took up in the first Legislature of the colony. At that time each member of the Assembly had but one object to serve—to promote the general welfare of the colony—and party feeling did not exist. That was shewn in the divisions on the greatest questions of the day, where the same names were frequently found on different sides of the lists. Honorable members had first of all seen the honorable member for Eastern Downs called over from the other side of the House, and made a cat's-paw for the Government, for the Ministry at that time adopted the principle of strengthening their position from time to time, by taking into their ranks some leading member of the Opposition. They, in fact, maintained their position by a sop and a threat, going from one step to another of a corrupt principle. The sop was held out to one of their opponents, and the threat was the threat of dissolution. Was that a just principle for an honest Government anxious to serve the colony. The dissolution on the railway policy, he contended, was both unconstitutional and illegal. Nothing would ever satisfy him that there was any ground for it at the time. It was brought about with the view of strengthening the Government, by enabling them to go from constituency to constituency, to corrupt not only the members who represented them, but the constituencies themselves. He knew that in the electorate from which he had been returned, the electors themselves were demoralized. But the time had now arrived for re-distribution, and although during previous Parliaments, he had scarcely been able to lift up his voice without being put down by the tyranny of the Government of the day, he hoped a different state of things would exist. Well, what followed next? He had afterwards obtained a seat in the House, and had acted in concert with the honorable member for East Moreton and the honorable member for Maryborough, he believed, and they got the Government in such a position that they could do what they liked with them, and in fact they allowed them to close the session. No sooner was that session closed than the honorable member for East Moreton was decoyed to the Government side of the House. Those were the tactics adopted by the predecessors of the present Government, and he would ask the House could they expect gentlemen who had once proved themselves faithless to their trust, to be faithful in future—men who had over and over again deceived their own followers. How could he trust himself to be the follower of a gentleman like the honorable member for Eastern Downs, or the honorable

member for East Moreton or others, who had clearly shewn that they had no policy whatever, except a popularity-hunting policy to serve their own interests only, at the expense of the country? He could not compare those gentlemen with the present occupants of the Treasury benches; and considering dispassionately what had been done by one party and the other, he did not think any administration formed from honorable members on the Opposition side of the House would be sufficiently strong to govern the country. The honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Douglas, had charged one of his own party, who had moved the vote of want of confidence, with all the evils which had resulted from the Land Act, and had advised the House not to be led by that honorable member. Now, where there was no political consistency, there was not likely to be political honesty; and the honorable gentlemen on the Opposition side had, when in power, shewn an utter want of consistency, and continual vacillation, as if they were always afraid of being turned out. They had not waited to be turned out, but had resigned with a majority of two on their side. He hoped the present Government would not resign their places so easily, but that they would remain in office, even although there should be an equal division of votes, and they had only the casting vote of the Speaker in their favor; for, for his part, he would rather bear with their independence and honesty of purpose, than revert to the evils which their predecessors had made honorable members so familiar with. Though there had been much said about the meeting of the House at so late a period of the year, he was astonished the honorable member should have referred to that circumstance in the way he had done; for he must be aware of the inconvenience to which the owners of stations were subjected in having to attend to Parliamentary duties at the present time, especially, when, owing to the recent bad season, their presence was more required at their stations at the present time than it had been at any corresponding period of any year since Separation. He thought that if the House would adopt the course that had been taken in other colonies, under somewhat similar circumstances, and merely pass the Estimates, with the view of meeting again in April next, they would better serve the interests of the colony, than by debating abstract questions, and passing measures not required at the present time. He was one of those who believed that there should be an increase in the number of members of that House, and a re-distribution of the electorates; and he believed that almost every candidate at the recent elections put it forth in his address as a *sine qua non* that measures for both those purposes should be introduced into Parliament with the view of securing a just and equitable representation of the people on the basis

of population. He did not remember, however, that any candidate made any proposition as to how such reform should be brought about. The consideration of such measures would, however, occupy a very great portion of the session during which they might be brought forward, as they could not be passed hurriedly; and, therefore, he thought it would not be advisable to introduce them during the present session, as every honorable member, so far as he could judge, was anxious that this session should be as short as possible. The honorable member had also referred to the difficulty in which he felt himself placed because of the quarter from which the amendment had come; but the honorable member might easily relieve himself from that difficulty by acting on the advice given to an honorable member of the British Parliament when he found himself in a position of difficulty in respect to the interests of his constituents, and that was, to bear in mind that he was not a member of the House primarily for the interest of his constituents, but primarily for the interests of his country. Now, taking that view of his position in the House, the honorable member would see that if he had made any promise to his constituents, it would be his duty to consider whether it would in the first instance be more advantageous to the country that he should vote for the amendment or support the Ministry; and following up the reasoning of the honorable member, he did not see that any other inference could be drawn from it than that he felt it would be his duty to vote against the amendment proposed by the honorable member. The question of electoral reform was one which he thought must be regarded as an open question so long as the two-thirds clause existed. Until that clause was repealed no measure on the subject could be looked upon as a Government measure. That being the case, he thought it would be the better course only to deal with the question this session to the extent of repealing the two-thirds clause: and next session, when opportunity had been afforded by the recess, of considering the subject of reform more fully than he apprehended any honorable member had yet done, a measure for the increase of members of the Assembly and the re-distribution of the electorates might be passed that would be acceptable to the colony. He hoped, therefore, that whatever might be the result of the vote on the Address, that for the remainder of the session, honorable members would confine their attention to measures that were absolutely necessary. He would not take upon himself to propose that they should pass the Estimates *in globo*, for he did not believe in such a proceeding; and though he was to vote with the Ministry on this occasion, he would watch carefully the passing of the Estimates. As to the amount of support he was prepared to give to the Ministry, he could

only say that so long as their measures were of such a character as he believed would be beneficial to the colony, they would receive his support; but in respect to any of their measures which he believed would not be beneficial to the colony, he would vote against them; and he might state that he would hold himself free to pursue the same course with regard to measures that might be introduced by private members of the House. Before sitting down, he wished to say that he did not think it was a wise thing of the Government to make any allusion to the *ad valorem* duties in the Opening Speech. He did not himself altogether approve of *ad valorem* duties, but thought it would be better, as in other colonies, to have a tariff of dutiable articles. It was most objectionable that persons coming to the colony should have their property—even their implements of trade—seized till the duties *ad valorem* upon them were paid; and those who came from the other colonies, being subjected to such an annoyance, must form a very obnoxious opinion of the colony. He hoped that when the honorable the Treasurer made his budget speech, he would deal with that matter. He thought he had now said enough to explain to those honorable members with whom he acted when formerly a member of the House, why he had taken his seat on the present occasion on the Government side; and he hoped the explanation would be satisfactory to them and to the Government with whom he intended to vote on the question now before the House.

Mr. WALSH moved that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. DOUGLAS seconded the motion.

Mr. ARCHER, on the motion for adjournment being put, rose and said, it would be in the recollection of those honorable members present who were members of the House at the commencement of the last session, that, during the discussion on the amendment that was then brought forward on the Address, he twice endeavored to try, if possible, to induce the Opposition to state the reasons, if they had any, for moving the amendment. But on that occasion he failed to obtain from the Opposition any reason for their doing so; and he found that, on the present occasion, it would be equally impossible to obtain from them any sufficient reason for bringing forward the amendment that was now before the House. At present he observed that the Opposition benches were almost entirely deserted. Now, he could assure the honorable members who sat on the Opposition side of the House that, by refusing to give any reasons for the amendment, and by leaving the House during the debate, they were losing every chance they might otherwise have of obtaining his support. That morning, in the Ministers' room, he informed the Ministry that he reserved to himself the right of voting on either side, according as he was satisfied with the arguments that might be brought

forward, for he believed that a coalition might be formed, with the honorable member for the Kennedy at its head, that would be able to carry those measures which he desired to see carried. But, what did he now find? Why, he found that no arguments were put forth by the Opposition in support of the amendment, and that they treated the supporters of the Address with such disrespect as not to remain in the House to hear what they had to say. That being the case, he must say there was little probability of their having his support. The only honorable member who had yet spoken from the the Opposition side of the House since the amendment was submitted, had denounced the policy of the honorable member for the Kennedy, by whom the amendment was proposed. He believed he gave some offence when he told the Ministry, in the morning, that he would reserve his vote and give it to those whom he might in the course of the debate think it best to vote with, and whom he thought would be best able to bring forward and carry through the House those measures which he believed to be necessary for the good of the colony. He had heard there was to be a combination; and he thought it was to be a combination of the honorable member for the Kennedy and the honorable member for the Eastern Downs, for he knew that without that honorable gentleman's consent no combination could be formed of members on the Opposition side of the House that would secure those measures being carried which he desired to see carried. He had been handed the papers that were referred to by the honorable member for the Kennedy; and he now found that his expectation about a combination was an entire delusion. The honorable member who last addressed the House from the Opposition side, and who was loudly cheered by honorable members on that side of the House when he resumed his seat, denounced the measures which it was his desire to see carried; and that circumstance satisfied him that there was such a disagreement amongst honorable members on the Opposition side, that he could not join any party that might be formed from amongst them. It was with considerable regret that he would vote on an important question on a different side of the House from the honorable member for the Kennedy. He knew that that honorable member desired to carry out those measures which he himself would desire to carry out if he were in office. He was not sure that the fact of their having strong convictions as to certain measures that they thought should be carried had not made them more diffident than they would otherwise have been in accepting office. The questions to which he alluded had not, perhaps, yet received that attention from other honorable members which would secure sufficient support to measures for carrying them into effect; but, so strong were his own convictions as to the necessity and policy of

such measures, that, on account of them, he would, he felt, have broken up any Ministry he might have joined in, in no time; because he would not have been able to co-operate with any Ministry that would not consent to introduce the measures that he desired to see carried. The establishment of Provincial Councils he looked upon as being absolutely necessary, not only for the purpose of preventing feelings of insubordination arising in the outside districts against the Government, but also as absolutely necessary for the thorough development of the resources of the colony. He did not mean that those Councils should have large general powers given them, except as administrative power, such as the right to look after the wants of the district, to look after roads and bridges, and the administration, locally, of the Land Act. Till the remote districts of the Colony received Provincial Councils with such powers, and did not in consequence require to apply to Brisbane for every petty thing they wanted, it would never be possible to carry on the business of the country in Parliament satisfactorily. There was nothing more calculated to weaken a Government than the necessity of their having to deal with every petty local subject throughout the colony. For example, what was the great question that was brought before the House in the session before last. Was not the subject, an entirely local one,—that of a road to the Gympie gold fields. It was those comparatively petty and purely local subjects that embarrassed Governments, and delayed general legislation. It gave him a great deal of pain to find that the honorable member for the Kennedy had been to some extent at sea in his calculations as to the support he would receive to his amendment. He had not the slightest doubt that when the honorable member rose to move the amendment he was thoroughly convinced that he would have the support of the previous leader of the Opposition side of the House, and of every other honorable member who usually sat on the Opposition benches. Now, if the honorable member had obtained that support, and if it had appeared that he would be able to form a Government that would carry out the measures which he, as well as the honorable member for the Kennedy, desired to see passed, he would have claimed to himself the liberty he claimed in the Ministers' room in the morning, and would have voted with him. But what was the conduct of honorable members opposite? When honorable members on the Government side of the House had addressed the House, and when they waited for some honorable member on the Opposition side to reply, they waited in vain, for no honorable member on the Opposition side rose to address the House. He had expected that the honorable member for the Eastern Downs, or the late Attorney-General, would have risen to address the House, but neither of those honorable gentlemen had thought proper to

do so. The honorable member for East Moreton only—he might say both honorable members for that district, for what the one said the other cheered,—had spoken on the question from the Opposition side, and by what he said he clearly shewed that he was opposed to the measures which the honorable member for the Kennedy and himself were anxious to see passed, and the certain support of which would alone induce either himself or the honorable member for the Kennedy to join any party that might be formed. There was one thing which he thought he took into consideration to a far larger extent than the honorable member for the Kennedy did—and that was the position in which he and that honorable member placed the Government in during the session of 1867. There could not, he felt, be the slightest doubt that during that session no really liberal Land Bill would have been passed unless honorable members on both sides of the House had joined to pass it; and he and the honorable member for the Kennedy did all in their power to bring about such a combination of parties as would ensure the passing of a Land Bill that would be beneficial to the country. To some extent they were successful in their endeavors, and he now looked back with pleasure to the assistance he received on that occasion from honorable members who then sat on the Opposition side of the House. But they placed the Ministry of the day in a position that was detrimental to any Ministry. He did not believe that any Ministry that could then have been formed could have carried such a Bill as was carried by the conjunction that was brought about of both sides of the House. Being aware that the Government of the day was somewhat lowered in the eyes of the country by the action he and the honorable member for the Kennedy took on that occasion, he was not disposed to charge them so severely as his honorable friend was inclined to do. The Ministry had not yet had an opportunity of being tested by their measures—they had not yet had an opportunity of bringing their measures before the House and having them discussed, and adopted or rejected. Of course, it was perfectly legitimate to eject any Government that did not possess the confidence of the House, but he would ask—had the present Government had an opportunity, since they came into power, of showing by their measures, whether they were entitled to the confidence of the House or not. He believed that he had, to some extent, contributed to deprive them of that opportunity, and, therefore, he was not inclined to charge them so severely as the honorable member for the Kennedy charged them. Looking at their measures as he had seen them, he considered they were more liberal than those of the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Douglas, would be, were he to succeed to power. That honorable member denounced

the very course of legislature which he could not help saying would, in his opinion, be productive of the greatest benefits to the colony. Now, how could he be expected to vote with a party who not only disapproved of the measures he would like to see passed, but who denounced those measures as the greatest curse that could be inflicted on the country. He entirely disagreed with the honorable member's opinion as to the expense that would be entailed by Provincial Councils. Local self-government, he maintained, would not involve a large expenditure. Local self-government, as he would like to see it, would effect a great saving of money in the long run to the colony. The honorable member was not aware of the nature of the measure the advocates of Provincial Councils would like to see passed into law, or he would not have spoken of the system in the way he had done. Now, it was impossible for him to support a party of which the honorable member for East Moreton was a leading member, seeing that that honorable member denounced in such strong terms the measures he would like to see passed through the House. The honorable member also made some remarks on the Land Bill, which showed that he was utterly blind to the benefits to the country of the Land Bill; and he did not think that the remarks of the honorable member on that head would be satisfactory to the feelings of the honorable member for the Kennedy. The honorable member, if he apprehended him correctly, and he took down his words at the time, said that the Land Bill had not worked to the satisfaction of the country, and that it was far from being a perfect measure. Probably not; and it would be very difficult to find a Bill carried, as that Bill was carried, by a conjunction of both sides of the House, that would be anything like a perfect measure. A Land Bill, carried as the Land Bill was carried, could not be expected to work so well as a measure that was long and favorably deliberated, and carried, without so much cutting and hacking as the Land Bill was subjected to. Any Bill that was previously presented to the House on the same subject by honorable gentlemen now on the Opposition side, was wholly inadequate to the wants of the country. And he, therefore, saw there was no other way of doing but to bring in some Bill and allow it to be put into proper shape by the House. No one would presume—no one ever presumed—to say that the Land Bill was a perfect measure. It was continually being amended backwards and forwards in every possible way, and therefore it was not likely to be a perfect measure, or one that would work so satisfactorily as a measure that was more favorably dealt with. But he was most of all surprised to hear the honorable member for East Moreton state that the old Land Bill had, on the whole, worked satisfactorily. Now, anything that was more contrary to the facts of the case

he had never heard stated. He was a member of a committee asked for by the honorable gentleman to inquire into the working of the old Land Act, and the report was such that the honorable member could not get a majority of the committee to agree with him in any one particular.

Mr. DOUGLAS: The inquiry was with respect to the working of the old Land Act by the present Government. The maladministration of that Act dated, in his opinion, from the time the present Government succeeded to office. The system of dummying, which formed the main subject of inquiry, dated from the issuing of the proclamation subsequent to the present Government taking office.

Mr. ARCHER: However that might be, the old Land Act, he maintained, worked most unsatisfactorily. He never heard any one speak approvingly of it. No doubt it was an advance on previous unsatisfactory measures; but the advance was so slight that there was but little advantage to be got from it; and where it might have been worked advantageously the country was kept locked up. Instead of finding fault with the present Ministry for the way they worked the Act after they came into office, the honorable member for East Moreton ought to have found fault with the original proposer—with the author of the Bill—for not working it as he ought to have worked it. The honorable member was severe, or intended to be severe, upon himself and the honorable member for the Kennedy, for the part they took in the passing of the Land Bill; but he would tell the honorable member that though he were to sit for twenty years in the House, any part he might take in the passing of any measure could not possibly afford him greater pleasure than he felt on account of the part he took in the passing of the Land Bill. Not only was it the most liberal measure of the kind that had ever been passed in this colony, but it was, he maintained, the most liberal Land Bill that was ever passed in any of the Australian colonies; and no one would be able to make him feel ashamed of the part he took in the passing of it. The honorable member for the Kennedy had no need to be ashamed for the part he took in connection with that measure; and, for his own part, he looked back with pleasure to the time when the House passed the Bill, and thereby conferred a most beneficial act upon Queensland. The honorable member for the Kennedy, in addressing the House, stated that, in his opinion, a measure for the re-distribution of seats was very much wanted. Now, he perfectly agreed with the honorable member in that opinion; but he did not know why the honorable member should have taken it so decidedly for granted that the Ministry were not willing to see such a Bill passed. For his own part he did not take it for granted that such was the case. It had been stated, also, that it would be impossible to pass such

a Bill through the House till the two-thirds clause was repealed; but he begged to differ from that opinion, for he believed that it was perfectly possible to introduce a Bill so fair and equitable that the House would agree to pass it without repealing the two-thirds clause. He had not seen the Bill the Government intended to submit to the House on the subject, and, therefore, he could not now say if it would meet with his entire concurrence or not; but he believed there were other than party feelings in the House, and that a sufficient number of honorable members would be found who would be willing to pass a measure that would be fair to the whole colony, and that without repealing the two-thirds clause. If they did not do so it must, he thought, be, because there was not a majority of the House willing to act fairly, or because the Government Bill must be bad. He had not seen the measure, and therefore he would not express any opinion about it; but at any rate, till he had seen it, he would not condemn it. If it was not a fair measure he would oppose it, but if he found it to be a fair measure, fair to every part of the colony, he would support it; and as long as he found the Government introducing measures that he considered to be fair to every part of the colony, he would support them to the utmost of his power. He had heard the Opening Speech very severely criticised in the course of the day. For his own part he must say he did not think it was a composition that showed anything like genius; but it did contain a promise of some Bills being introduced which, if carried, would be of immense advantage to the country; and he regarded, as the most important of the measures so promised, the Bills for the increase of members of the Assembly and re-distribution of the electorates, and the Bill for the establishment of Provincial Councils. How far the Ministry were prepared to go in for Provincial Councils he did not know. He had not seen the measure, but assuredly it would have his support if it came anything near to his views on the subject. If it did not satisfy him, as it was introduced, he would try to get it amended, and if he failed in that, he would assist in throwing it out. There was another question which had been referred to in the course of the debate, to which he would also like to make some allusion, and that was the question of the Pastoral Relief Bill. He was rather pleased to hear that the honorable member for East Moreton had somewhat changed his views in regard to such a measure since last session. Now that the evil was done, and the outside squatter was ruined, the honorable member was willing to extend some measure of relief to him. But for the honorable member for East Moreton, a Pastoral Relief Bill would have been passed last session, that might have assisted some few of those outside squatters, who were now past the possibility of saving. The honorable member for the Ken-

nedy said that if the measure had been pushed it would have been carried, but the honorable member for East Moreton, on the other hand, said that if any attempt had been made to pass it, there were several members on the Opposition side of the House who would have sat up night after night to oppose it, and, if possible, throw it out. Now, he believed the honorable member for East Moreton was right, for he knew what was in his own mind, and what were the intentions of the Opposition, and that was what the honorable member for the Kennedy did not know. But now that the evil was done, and that a great part of the interior of the country would, as he believed, be deserted, on account of the pastoral tenants there being ruined, the honorable member for East Moreton was not unwilling that a Pastoral Relief Bill should be passed. But he would not consent to one framed on the principles of the former Bill, because, he contended, if they altered an agreement between landlord and tenant, in favor of the tenant, there was nothing to hinder them altering it in the case of the inside squatter in favor of the landlord. Now, he did not believe that any one else held that opinion except the honorable member for East Moreton. He did not believe that if the House granted a lease to the inside squatter, any subsequent House would overturn it. Honorable members, as the representatives of the people, had the right to do what they believed would be for the benefit of the country, and to give relief to those who would otherwise suffer ruin. But he did not believe that any House would overturn a lease that had been granted; because, to do so, would be to commit such a fraud as would make any House be ashamed of itself. There was something in the supposition too low to admit of its being entertained by any Legislative Assembly, let alone the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. The honorable member also stated in his speech, by way of consoling them he supposed for being in debt, that the other colonies were also in debt, and especially that New Zealand was in debt. Now, he could excuse that colony for being in debt. That colony had had to maintain an expensive war for a very long period, and was consequently borne down by a calamity that had never afflicted the other Australian colonies. But he would never consent to receive New Zealand, or New South Wales, or Victoria, or South Australia, as a guide for Queensland. They ought not to take those colonies as affording examples which they ought to follow, but should rather take them as affording warnings against their falling into similar follies. They should regard them as spendthrifts were regarded—as warnings to others, and not as guides, whose examples were to be followed. The legislation of Victoria and of New South Wales was a disgrace to those colonies. The legislation of those colonies, he would repeat, was a disgrace to them. It was a dis-

grace to those colonies that their legislators should have contracted debt to an extent that they were not able to pay the interest upon it without borrowing again for that purpose. In contracting debt till they were not able to pay the interest upon it, they were doing what, in the case of a private individual, would be considered dishonest. Now, he thought it would be better to fall short by being too strict with themselves than to exceed through laxity, because they had the example of laxness in others. They ought not further to increase their indebtedness by entering upon public works, misnamed reproductive, for they were not reproductive. They ought not to launch out into expenditure upon works such as those that had mainly occasioned the present indebtedness, and which had not, up to the present time, answered the expectations that were formed at the time those works were gone into. The reason he had for rising at so early a period of the evening was, that no honorable member on the Opposition side of the House rose till the question of adjournment was put, to state his reasons for supporting the amendment, and that he wished before the question was disposed of, to state his views upon the subjects that had been introduced into the discussion, and the reasons that would induce him to vote for the original motion. He had made up his mind not to vote on the question till he heard the previous leader of the Opposition state what were his views, and what would be his policy if he joined any Government that might be formed in the event of the present Ministry being thrown out. But, the honorable gentleman had not favored the House with any statement of his opinions, or indicated in any way what his intentions were. He had not even seconded the amendment, nor had he informed the House of his policy. Last session, he asked the honorable gentleman to inform the House of his reasons for wishing to carry a vote of want of confidence in the present Ministry; but, the honorable gentleman, instead of acceding to his request, got up and told him that he had no right to ask such a question, and that he would make him speak before he spoke. Well, the honorable member could no doubt do so, but he should remember that such a course was likely to prevent any one having confidence in what he might afterwards state to the House, as the opinions he then expressed might be, to some extent, what were called afterthoughts. Now, he had formed his own opinion about the policy of the honorable member; and his opinion was, that if the honorable member disclosed his own policy—disclosed what was really his own policy,—not even his own followers would support him. That, he believed was the reason the honorable gentleman did not answer his question last session, and it was the reason, he also believed, for his not stating his policy now. He felt perfectly satisfied that if the honorable gentleman stated his

policy fully and fairly, he would be deserted by some of his own followers. He now wished to make some remarks on the latter part of what fell from the honorable member for the Kennedy. That honorable member stated that the majority of members on the Government side of the House was composed of squatters from the settled districts of the colony. Now, there was no doubt that a good many of the squatters in the House were returned by constituencies within the settled districts; but there were also some squatters in the House who represented town constituencies, and he was one of them. The other party in the House, and especially on the Opposition side of the House, by way of distinction, assumed to themselves the designation of the liberal party; but as far as he could observe, that party had no idea of what real liberality was. He believed their only idea of liberality was the liberal expenditure, within a certain radius of Brisbane, of the money drawn from other parts of the colony. Now, he had quite a different idea of liberality from that; and he maintained that he was not only a liberal as regarded his political views, but that he was one of the most advanced liberals in the House, for he desired to secure fair treatment for every portion of the colony. He desired to see removed from the House those continual bickerings that took place in respect to local matters, than which nothing was more calculated to make any Government unstable; and he wanted to remove all local matters to local boards, who would do the work required a great deal better, and relieve the House of those questions that altogether consumed more time than was required for the consideration of what was really the proper business of a Legislature. If his views were carried out in respect of those matters, there would no longer be any disputes in the House about cotton bonuses, or the making of a road here, or the construction of a bridge there, and they would then have only to legislate for the country as a whole. All those paltry questions that led to nothing but extravagance and bad feeling would be eliminated from the business of the House. Now, that was what he would call a liberal policy; and would honorable gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House follow him in such a policy?

Mr. FRANCIS: Hear, hear.

Mr. ARCHER: The honorable member for East Moreton, who now cried "hear, hear," to that, also cried "hear, hear," most emphatically when his colleague was denouncing such a policy. Now, the policy he had indicated was the policy he intended to support, and he would endeavor to support that policy come from whom it might. Honorable members would see from what he had said, that, in a political sense, it was a very feeble observation of the honorable member for the Kennedy when he spoke about the majority of honorable members on the Government side

of the House being squatters. No doubt that was the vocation of some of them, but he could not for the life of him see that squatting was necessarily associated with illiberality. But more than that; it was not only the squatters who were opposed to the policy of certain honorable members on the Opposition side who called themselves the liberal party, for they had seen in the course of the evening that, not far from Brisbane, there were some people who did not like the policy of the men of the capital; and those men should be listened to as well as those who legislated for the capital and who resided in the capital. He had only one other remark to make, and that was with respect to the hint from the honorable member for the Kennedy, that he had to explain to his constituents his reasons for supporting the present Ministry, last session, on an occasion similar to the present. It was quite true that he did so, and he believed he explained his reasons to the satisfaction of his constituency. But it was not under the pressure of any threat that he was in danger of losing his seat that he did so. His constituents knew very well that no consideration of that kind would induce him to change his views. His constituents, he believed, had every confidence in him, and he hoped they would never find it misplaced. But suppose they had not such confidence in him, would they not despise him if they found he would vote, under a threat of losing his seat, in a way he did not think was right? Politically, he looked upon the honorable member for the Eastern Downs as a failure as a statesman, and he could not support him. He looked upon that honorable gentleman as the prime mover, in a great measure, of all those projects that had brought the country, if not to the verge of ruin, at any rate into a condition of great distress. He did not mean to say that the honorable gentleman was deficient in ability, or that, personally, he did not possess many good points; but here he had nothing to do with him as a private gentleman, but had to do with him altogether as a public man—as a statesman. Now, regarding him as a statesman, he believed to-day what he believed of him the day he first entered the House, and that was, that, as a statesman, the honorable gentleman was altogether a failure. He believed that it was he who led the country into that state of indebtedness under which it now labored, and from which it would not either soon or easily be relieved. He believed, however, that when he did so he was moved by good intentions, but that he saw visions of the future that only in the lifetime of his children, or of his children's children, would be realised. He believed that the honorable gentlemen, then, went too much in advance of the circumstances of the time, and that he had, in consequence, put the colony now behind the circumstances of the time, which would not have been the case if the progress of the colony had been ad-

vanced more moderately and more gradually. Holding, as he did, those opinions at the outset of his public career, and never having changed them, why should anyone expect that he should desert a Government who had, at all events, promised to introduce the measures he was anxious to see passed. Those measures the Opposition had shewn they were anxious not to pass; and, therefore, he would give the amendment his most strenuous opposition.

Mr. LAMB said it was not his intention at this period of the debate to have addressed the House, but, as his honorable friend the Premier had, in the course of his speech, alluded to the circumstances that led to his resigning the office of Secretary for Lands, he thought it but due to the House that he should also give his version of the case, which would be very similar to that given by his honorable friend at the head of the Government. It would be remembered by honorable members who sat in the last Parliament, that on the meeting of the House, a vote of want of confidence was proposed, and was carried, in a House of about twenty-six members, by a majority of two. The speeches on that occasion in support of the amendment were, to a great extent, the same as those that were addressed to the House in support of the amendment now before it. The speeches consisted almost from beginning to end of the cry of maladministration of the Land Act. There were no specific charges made till the last moment, when some reference was made to the case of Canning Downs, and the illegality of throwing open to purchase under the system of deferred payments, of lands that had been previously offered at auction and not sold. Now, he thought he answered the charges brought forward on these heads satisfactorily at the time, and honorable members who wished to see his answer would find it in the volume of the debates of last session, but not in the journals of the day; they took very good care not to report it. He felt there was as much responsibility incurred retiring from office as accepting office, and though he felt it to be his duty to disregard the senseless cry while it existed out of doors, yet as soon as it was raised within the House, and by those by whom no doubt it was promoted out of doors, and was made the subject of a vote of want of confidence in the Ministry, he felt there was but one course to pursue. However unfounded and unjust and false those charges were, he felt he should be wanting in political spirit if he continued to hold office, and thereby prove a cause of weakness to the Ministry; and he thought there could no greater curse befall a country than to be governed by a weak Ministry. Not only did their measures miscarry in the House, but it was difficult to say where and under what circumstances the machinery of Government might get clogged. Holding those views, he had

no other course to pursue but to resign the office of Secretary for Lands, though he had tabled a motion for a committee of inquiry into the administration of the Act from the time it came into operation, and felt it was hard to be condemned without having first had an opportunity to rebut the charges. He could not lay claim to all the praise which the honorable the Premier had bestowed upon him, for he felt much that was said as to his steady application and devotion to his duties might better be said of the honorable member himself. The principal reason for again attacking the Government was the same as was urged last session. It was still the maladministration of the Land Act. Now he would have liked to defer the remarks he had to make on the subject until after some other honorable members had addressed the House, because it might be that after he had spoken, a number of frivolous objections might be brought forward which he would not have an opportunity of answering. However, he might say that, so far as honorable members had yet addressed the House on the subject, their ignorance of the law in respect to the working of the Act seemed to be as great as the ignorance shewn by the press on the subject. The honorable member for Toowoomba stated, that because there were sixty-five applications for some 45,000 acres thrown open to selection on Beauaraba Run, the Government should then have put it up to auction, in lieu of letting the land go by "lot." That was the argument used. That it would have sold for £100,000. If the honorable member had known anything of the Act of Parliament he would have known that when the land had been thrown open to selection and applied for, that it was out of the power of any Government to put it up to auction. When the Land Bill was under discussion, the honorable member for Leichhardt moved that the word "lot" should be struck out, and the word "auction" substituted; and, on referring to the division list, he (Mr. Lamb) found that the honorable member for Toowoomba was one of those who voted for the word "lot." If he looked at page 546, of the "Votes and Proceedings," he would find his name in the division. Then he (Mr. Lamb) had been attacked by the honorable member for the Kennedy, who said that it was owing directly to the action that he took in the House, that the Pastoral Leases Bill did not pass. He maintained that it was owing to the opposition of the honorable member himself that the Bill fell through. He had been accused, too, of being the greatest enemy of the squatters. The honorable member for Kennedy was that man: it was owing to his opposition that the Bill did not pass. The Bill referred to was the first that he had brought in. Considerable delay had been caused in discussing the amendments of the honorable member; and then he withdrew the Bill and brought in the second one, as a sort of com-

promise, some legislation being urgently required to afford relief to the pastoral tenants. The honorable member had accused him of breaking faith, in not keeping promises he had made to the House in respect to certain reserves. He (Mr. Lamb) maintained that he had not broken faith in any way. It must be remembered that twelve months notice was necessary to the pastoral lessees before any portion of their runs could be taken for the purpose of making reserves for towns in the interior. In cases where he considered those reserves were urgently required, he had made it his business to see the lessees, and endeavor to get them to waive their rights. He was successful as far as Clermont, and he had made a reserve there of 30,000 acres. It was said that the land was not good. Well, he was not aware of that. He had been informed on good authority that there was 10,000 acres of good land in the reserve; and, he thought, when that was taken up, it would be time enough to extend it. He next came to the town of Springsure. He found some of the lessees objected there, and notice had to be sent to them. With respect to Gayndah, he had been told that a very large reserve had been very recently made, and that no further was required. As to "Nebo," he had made inquiries also, and had been informed that there was one public house and a blacksmith's shop there, and no need for a reserve. Whether his honorable friend and late colleague, the Colonial Secretary, had made one, he did not know. As to the honorable member for Kennedy's remarks about the appointments of the Government, all he (Mr. Lamb) could say was, that the honorable member himself had endeavored to bring pressure upon the Government to make appointments. He had written to him —

Mr. FITZGERALD denied that he had applied for any appointment. He had merely represented the claims of a gentleman already in the Survey Office, at Rockhampton, for promotion or advancement.

Mr. LAMB: Upon making inquiries, it appeared that the gentleman was not in the service, and never had been; he had been taken on as a supernumerary. All he could say was, that there were a great number of gentlemen who had claims before the honorable member's friend. Charges had been made against himself of the maladministration of the Land Act; but he had not heard a good case made out. The one that the honorable member for Toowoomba had pointed out with respect to the division of the Canning Downs run had been answered. Another was that of Tooth's pre-emptives, known as the Davenport affair. No doubt Mr. Davenport considered himself aggrieved because he could not take up certain land by selection. He thought that, as Mr. Tooth had taken up land under the pre-emptive right, that he had an equal right to take up land in the railway reserve.

However, as the land around that was considered valuable, he (Mr. Lamb) considered it should go to auction. The honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba would have had the whole put up to auction. Another time he would argue that it should all go to selection. One accusation brought against the Government was, that they had initiated the dummyming system. All he could say was, that that system originated with the gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House, under their Leasing Act and Agricultural Reserves Act. When he entered office, on the 17th August, 1867, it was established that land, whether surveyed or not, could be taken up under the leasing clause. That was the act of those honorable members, right or wrong; but he had been attacked for it. A select committee had been appointed; the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Douglas, was chairman of that committee. They took legal opinion—the opinion of counsel—upon it, and they found that the Government were right, and they were wrong. He believed that, if any amount of dummyming took place under the present law, it was less than what had been perpetrated under the Act of 1863. He should not follow the speeches of honorable members; it was more fitting that he should now confine himself to the attacks made upon the administration of lands. No doubt, he should have an opportunity to reply to any further attacks that might be made. He was astonished at the extraordinary course adopted by the Opposition. It was laid down by a high authority, he thought it was to be found in Professor Hearn's work, that an Opposition was not justified in making an attack upon a Government, with the intention of ousting them, if they did not feel satisfied they had a sufficient majority to carry on the Government themselves. He looked upon this work as one of the greatest collection of authorities we had.

The question of adjournment was agreed to.