

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 1868

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of the necessity that some steps should be taken to provide the furniture requisite for the Council Chamber and offices. On the 2nd September last, he had addressed a letter to the Colonial Secretary, enclosing a list of such articles as he considered necessary, and requesting that the Colonial Architect should be put into communication with him on the subject. To that letter he had received no answer, except a formal one, which stated that it had been forwarded to the Secretary for Works. In the interim, a communication had taken place between the Colonial Architect and the Clerk of the Parliaments, and it appeared that the former had been requested to send in a list of the articles which he considered necessary, in order, he presumed, that they might be ordered. In the meantime, the chamber, as honorable members could perceive, had been left in a very unfinished state. Books were lying on the floor, when a few inexpensive book cases might easily have been provided. On the 19th October, finding nothing had been done, he (the President), wrote again to the Colonial Secretary, and he had received an answer stating that his letter had been forwarded to the Works Department, in order that his wishes might be attended to. But up to the present time nothing further had been done. He had, therefore, taken the earliest opportunity, after the re-assembling of Parliament, to ask the House to afford their assistance in carrying out this necessary work. He thought that in order to preserve their rights and privileges, they were bound to see that the chamber and offices were furnished in accordance with what they might consider necessary, and that this duty should not be left to others. The expense was an unavoidable one, and he thought that it would be a pity that the furniture supplied should not harmonize with the character of the building. He would, therefore, leave it to the House to say whether they would take the matter in their own hands, or leave it to the ministerial officer who had charge of the public works of the colony.

The Hon. St. G. R. GORE seconded the motion; he thought honorable members were greatly indebted to the honorable President for the steps he had taken in the matter. The honorable gentleman had always been ready to guard the rights and privileges of the House, and in this matter, he (Mr. Gore), certainly thought the Council should have a voice. From the correspondence which had passed, he thought his honorable friend had been treated with some little discourtesy, and that the Government should not have referred the matter to another department.

The question was put and passed, and the following members were elected by ballot:—The Honorable M. C. O'Connell, the Honorable J. Bramston, the Honorable G. Harris, the Honorable D. F. Roberts, and the Honorable St. G. R. Gore.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 19 November, 1868.

Furniture for Legislative Council Chamber and Offices.

FURNITURE FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND OFFICES.

The PRESIDENT moved—

That a select committee, consisting of five members, to be chosen by ballot, be appointed to supervise and provide for the proper furnishing of this chamber, and the different apartments connected with the Legislative Council.

He said he had considered it his duty to bring this subject under the notice of the Council, as honorable members must be aware