

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 1870

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mistakes which had been made by some honorable members with respect to the proposed new tariff. It appeared to him there was a very general idea that the fixed duties were new duties. Now, he thought he had made it quite clear in the course of his speech on the previous day that those duties were merely a removal of certain duties from the *ad valorem* list. In some of the new duties there would be a very small increase, but in others there would be a decrease; while in others there would be no change whatever.

Mr. GROOM said he had had much pleasure in reading the speech of the honorable the Treasurer, as reported in the Brisbane papers. It was well known that he was a strong advocate for protectionist principles; and he had come to the determination of approving of those principles after a full consideration of the subject. When he first had the honor of occupying a seat in the House, he was as strong a free trader as any one could possibly be; but, after mature consideration, he had come to the conclusion that a limited measure of protection would be beneficial to the colony. He understood that the protectionist tariff in Victoria had worked well; and he believed that the tariff now proposed by the Government, which was of a protectionist character, would be equally beneficial to this colony. He knew that the honorable the Treasurer did not wish the tariff now laid before the House to be regarded as a protective tariff, but he was sure that the adjacent colonies would regard it in that light. For his own part, he did not think that the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had gone far enough in the matter of protection. During the crisis of 1866 he endeavored to have the duties now proposed embodied in the tariff which was then submitted to the House, but his propositions were objected to; and he must say that it was gratifying to him to find that the honorable the Treasurer now came down with a policy embodying the very propositions which, in 1866, he advocated, and which were then rejected. He could not agree with the proposed duty on onions, and the other articles of agricultural produce classed with them. He thought the duty should be higher, because he knew that large quantities of onions produced in the colony were rotting from want of a market, because of the large importations from other colonies. He thought it would be well to increase the duties on onions, barley, and maize. As to the production of maize, a very large number of the constituents of the honorable the Treasurer were greatly concerned—as well as in other agricultural products. Now, that being the case, he thought that the honorable the Treasurer, instead of imposing a duty that would only produce eight hundred pounds per annum to the revenue, would have proposed a duty that would have produced at least double the amount. Taking all costs and charges into consideration, he found that maize could be brought from the Manning

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 23 November, 1870.

Ways and Means—Financial Statement.

WAYS AND MEANS—FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The House having gone into Committee of Ways and Means,

The COLONIAL TREASURER said, that before the debate was resumed as to Ways and Means, he wished to say a word or two in explanation of what he considered to be some

and Clarence River districts at a less cost than it could be brought to Brisbane from the Darling Downs and other interior districts of the colony. He certainly could not think that the honorable the Treasurer could have taken such matters into consideration when drawing up the tariff now submitted to the House. As to the tax on flour, he believed it was not received with favor out of doors, because it was generally believed that the honorable the Treasurer had taken so much of the duty off salt and put it on flour. He would, however, support the proposed duty on flour; and if the honorable the Treasurer had proposed a higher impost on imported flour, he would have supported it. If the duty had been fixed at forty shillings a ton instead of twenty-five shillings a ton, he would have supported the proposition. The Darling Downs district was considered to be one that was most beneficial for the growing of wheat; and on that ground many persons had been induced to go there and enter upon wheat growing. Well, he was happy to be able to inform the House that a large quantity of country had been taken up in the Darling Downs district, and placed under wheat cultivation. As regarded the reports that rust had set in, he could assure the House that such a visitation had taken place in only a few districts of the colony. He should certainly consider it to be his duty to support the honorable the Colonial Treasurer in proposing a duty of twenty-five per cent. on flour, because he believed it would be a step in the right direction. The tax was one that would not fall heavily on the public generally. It had been said that the tax would fall unfairly on the northern districts, such as Rockhampton, inasmuch as it would be a tax upon them for the benefit of the southern districts. Now, he denied that such would be the case; and if they were to take the opinions of J. S. Mill and others, they must come to the conclusion that the case of individual communities were not to be considered when it was necessary to raise a general revenue. Now, he maintained that the best way to raise a revenue was that by which the impost would be made to fall as equitably as possible upon the whole of the community. What surprised him most of all was that the honorable the Treasurer should propose a tax of ten shillings per ton on potatoes, onions, hay, and chaff, and yet leave out green fruit. He understood that the Colony of Victoria would not allow a dozen of bananas to be landed in that colony under a duty of fourpence a pound. He might be wrong, but he believed that he was right in making such a statement. In 1860 there was imported into this colony £3,000 worth of fruit from the neighboring colonies; and, in 1869, the quantity of fruit imported amounted in value to £12,000. He did not, therefore, understand why green fruit should be exempted from the tariff. When the items in the tariff came to be discussed, he would

bring under the notice of honorable members that green fruit should not be exempted—for he did not understand why green fruit should be exempted. It struck him that imported green fruit could very well bear an impost for revenue purposes. The production of green fruit was becoming one of the principal national industries of the colony; and he must say that it appeared to him very strange that a duty should be placed upon potatoes, onions, hay, and chaff, and that green fruit should be exempted—seeing that so much fruit was imported, while, at the same time, so much fruit was grown in the colony. He observed by the tariff that it was proposed to place a duty of three-half-pence a pound on unmanufactured leather. Now, for his part, he would prefer that the unmanufactured article should be admitted duty free, and that a higher duty should be imposed upon boots and shoes. He believed that, under such a policy, many workmen would be able to obtain a greater amount of employment, and would, consequently, be able to supply boots and shoes as cheaply as those which were imported. He fully agreed with what had been stated by the honorable member for Wide Bay, Mr. King, as to the advisableness of a land tax. He thought it would be not only easily collected, but that it would add greatly to the revenue. While saying so, however, he was of opinion that the revenue so derived should be expended upon local works, such as roads and bridges; and in that opinion he was fully borne out by the honorable member for South Brisbane, Mr. Stephens, who had stated that the system of centralisation, in respect to the general application of such taxation, had given rise to a great amount of dissatisfaction. Very much inconvenience and delay had been occasioned in the completion of district works, in consequence of the routine formalities that had to be observed, under the present arrangements, for the carrying out of local public works. He fully approved of the system in Victoria, of shire boards, for the carrying out of local works. In the colony of Victoria £100,000 was voted for such local works, and the repair of the devastations occasioned by floods; and an additional sum of £60,000 was voted for general application. He was sure that the landowners in any district would consent to an equitable land tax over the whole district, if they were assured that the proceeds of such a tax would be applied to the improvement of the roads and bridges in the district. The honorable the Colonial Treasurer proposed to increase the duty on kerosene oil. To that proposal he must decidedly object. The increase of duty, though small upon that article, would not be felt in large and populous towns where there was gas; but it would be felt to be a very heavy tax, and a very great burden, on the inhabitants of inland towns where there were no gas works, and where kerosene was used for the purpose of ob-

taining a cheap light. The honorable the Treasurer, in the course of his financial statement, referred to the falling off in the receipts from the railways; but he did not submit to the House any statement that would enable honorable members to understand why there had been such a falling off. Now, it seemed to him that a very good reason could be found for that in the fact that the squatters had adopted the system of fencing in their runs; which enabled them to carry on their ordinary occupations with fewer hands than formerly. Mr. Zeiman, the head partner of a large squatting firm, told him not long ago that since he commenced fencing in his runs, the expense for the conveyance of provisions for the persons employed on the stations had been reduced from £100 to somewhere about £20. Mr. Zeiman himself had told him that there could be no conception of the falling off in population since the system of fencing in runs had been commenced. Now, the only way in which he thought the falling off in the revenue thereby occasioned could be made good would be by the continuation of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane. He was the more disposed to say so because he found that the honorable the Treasurer did not seem disposed to take the same disparaging view of the circumstances of the colony as honorable members of previous Governments had taken. He hoped the honorable the Treasurer would also give the House some information with respect to the question of border duties. He understood that large quantities of goods, especially tobacco, manufactured in Maitland, New South Wales, were brought into the colony by way of Goondiwindi. He thought it was right that he should mention this circumstance, because he did not think it was right that tobacco should be allowed to be smuggled into the colony across the borders, while tobacco brought coastwise was subjected to a very heavy duty. The honorable the Treasurer had also omitted to give the House any information as to the plan to be pursued with respect to municipalities in refunding loans that had been advanced to them by the Government. He knew of some instances in which very large sums had been advanced by the Government to municipalities under the provisions of the Act empowering the Government to make such advances; but, strange to say, the Government had not put in force the provisions of the Act for the repayment of such loans. He thought that all municipalities that had received loans from the Government, should be assessed at the rate of sixpence in the pound for the gradual extinction of the debt. The town of Ipswich had not only received from the Government a loan of £8,000 for local purposes, but also a further loan of £2,000, to disburse the mortgage on the School of Arts. Now, he certainly thought that some steps should be taken to have such advances refunded. There was one subject which he thought there was some reason to have mentioned in the

Estimates, and that was, water supply to municipalities. It would be remembered by honorable members that Mr. Brady, C.E., had been required to report upon the matter, and a Bill had been actually prepared by a late Treasurer, the honorable member for Northern Downs, to deal with the subject of local water supply; and it was understood to appropriate £110,000 for that purpose. He (Mr. Groom) supposed that, judging from the Estimates before the House, the Government did not intend to introduce any Bill this session to deal with that subject. He regretted that very much, because in the town of Drayton, the other day, action was postponed, pending the decision of the Government in reference to water supply. The municipal authorities there must now take action themselves. It had been said that honorable members ought not to go into the question of retrenchment in the present discussion; but he could hardly see how they could avoid it when considering the adoption of a new tariff. He somewhat admired the moral courage of the honorable the Colonial Treasurer in attempting to deal with the question of reducing the salaries of the civil servants. The honorable member deserved the thanks of the House and the country for so doing—for his endeavors to reduce the expense of Government, when the need was felt; but, at the same time, he (Mr. Groom) could not recommend the giving effect to the action intended to be taken by the Treasurer. The House would pardon him if he read an extract from a speech of the Right Honorable Edmund Burke, whose words would apply to the present case, and that expressed exactly what he felt:—

“If I were to give my judgment with regard to this country, I do not think the great efficient offices of the State to be overpaid. The service of the public is a thing which cannot be put to auction, and struck down to those who will agree to execute it the cheapest. When the proportion between reward and service is our object, we must always consider of what nature the service is, and what sort of men they are that must perform it. What is just payment for one kind of labor, and full encouragement for one kind of talents, is fraud and discouragement to others. Many of the great offices have much duty to do, and much expense of representation to maintain. A Secretary of State, for instance, must not appear sordid in the eyes of the ministers of other nations; neither ought our ministers abroad to appear contemptible in the courts where they reside. In all offices of duty there is, almost necessarily, a great neglect of all domestic affairs. A person in high office can rarely take a view of his family house. If he sees that the State takes no detriment, the State must see that his affairs should take as little.

“I will even go so far as to affirm, that if men were willing to serve in such situations without salary, they ought not to be permitted to do it. Ordinary service must be secured by the motives to ordinary integrity. I do not hesitate to say, that that State which lays its foundation in rare

and heroic virtues, will be sure to have its superstructure in the basest profligacy and corruption. An honorable and fair profit is the best security against avarice and rapacity."

He did not believe in the reduction of salaries as proposed by the Government; he believed in the reduction of officers, and in paying those well who performed their duties properly. As an illustration, he would take the district in which he resided:—At Toowoomba there was a police magistrate with £400 a year; at Dalby, there was a police magistrate with £450 a year; and at Warwick, there was another police magistrate, with £500 a year, and £50 a year allowed for forage, in consideration of some imaginary duties he was supposed to perform in connection with the Talgai gold field; and there was a police magistrate at Leyburn, with £300 a-year. He was convinced the whole of their duties could be performed well by two police magistrates, when regard was paid to the facilities of railway communication. He did not wish to say one word against the police magistrate of Toowoomba; he believed he was a very estimable gentleman, and that he performed his work efficiently. But he was half his time idle, having little to do except to go on the bench to fine a drunkard five shillings; and the country did not expect to have to pay £400 a-year for that, at a time when the House talked of reducing the salaries and expenses of the Civil Service. Then, he contended that it was the duty of the Government to see that the honorary magistrates discharged the functions of their position. In the colony of Victoria the Government insisted upon it, to a large extent; and, there, the justices of the peace were called upon to attend to the duties of the bench. He thought that the honorary magistrates could arrange for the performance of a large portion of those duties at Toowoomba and Dalby; and, then, one police magistrate would be sufficient for those towns named, and another to attend to Leyburn, Warwick, and Talgai. That would be a better way of carrying out retrenchment than by what he must consider the unfair proposal of reducing the civil servants' salaries five per cent. If the Government had come down with an income tax on all absentees, as Mr. Samuel, the Colonial Treasurer of New South Wales, had proposed—and the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, last night, referred to the sister colony—and Queensland had her absentees who drew the proceeds of their property hence to spend elsewhere, it would have been much better than singling out the Civil Service for special taxation. He (Mr. Groom) had no objection to a proposition to impose an income tax upon all persons, but he did object to it upon one class; and he did not believe in that part of the Treasurer's financial scheme, because it would fall unjustly and inequitably. The recipient of a salary of £100 per annum would lose £5, which would be a serious matter to him, with a family to keep; whereas the

officer at the head of a department, who had a salary of £600 a year, would feel the loss of £50 as a comparatively small one. He (Mr. Groom) would not support such a proposal. He agreed with the honorable member for South Brisbane that it would be much better for the Government to trust to honorable members, whose representations and whose actions would be a better guide, from their better knowledge than was possessed by the Government of the requirements of localities, for the manipulation of salaries;—without going to extremes, the House should exercise their judgment of the rates of salaries to be voted. He mentioned his own district as an illustration of how reductions could be made. He thought that all sorts of persons, squatters, storekeepers, and others in business, had to retrench; and the Civil Service must not complain if the Government had to move in the same direction. But the way for the Government was not to reduce the salaries, but the number of officers employed. What he had said about the police magistrates was borne out by the papers both at Warwick and Dalby. The business of the District Courts afforded a pretty good indication of the amount of work which the police magistrates had to do; and at the last District Court sittings at Warwick, there were only two cases, and the same at Dalby, to be tried. Those facts shewed pretty closely the amount of duty the police magistrates had to perform during the past three months. There was one other question to which he would refer before sitting down—that was, immigration. He entirely agreed with the Premier that when the House consented to the appointment of the Agent-General for Emigration, it was not thought that the expenses of the office in London would be £5,000 a year. He had supported it with the firm belief that the office expenses would be very little in excess, except for the salary, of what they had been before the Agent-General was appointed. He believed that lectures would be delivered by that officer in the agricultural districts. He had had some conversation with immigrants who arrived in the colony lately, and those parties had informed him that in writing to the Agent-General they had very great difficulty in finding him or getting any information from him—that they were referred to his subordinates. However much honorable members may have deprecated Mr. Jordan, there was some reason to be dissatisfied with Mr. Douglas, who could not be said to have acted in the way most desirable, whatever the motives of his action. They may have been feelings of high-class gentility that prevented him from going amongst the right sort of people who wanted to emigrate—the laboring and farming classes—to induce them to come to this country and make their homes here. At the same time he said this, he had a very high respect for the gentleman who held the office of Agent-

General at home. Though he did not know whether the Premier intended to submit anything to the House on the subject, he did not wish it to be supposed that he spoke because he was opposed to immigration. He heartily agreed with an observation made by a Minister in Victoria, that a continuous flow of immigration to a young colony was the very vital essence of its growth. This colony would not be in so advanced a position as it had reached but for the stream of immigration which had poured into it under the auspices of the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Jordan. He congratulated the honorable the Colonial Treasurer that he had not to contend with the violent hostility, on the Opposition side of the House, of the honorable member for Maryborough, with his advocacy of the wrongs of the North; he also congratulated him that, in the Estimates laid on the table of the House, great care had been taken of Maryborough. Instead of, on this occasion, there being a reduction of expenditure for that part of the colony, there was a very large addition proposed. The sum of £8,771 was in the Estimates-in-Chief for that district. If every one of the thirty-two representatives in the House received the same amount of consideration as that honorable gentleman had secured, the expenditure would amount to over a quarter of a million. He (Mr. Groom) noticed amongst the increased items of expenditure an addition to the medical officer's salary; and he could not understand why that was fixed upon—whether it was because of the extension of the Contagious Diseases Act to that district or not, he should like to know. In that and other respects, Maryborough received an amount of consideration to which probably the distinguished position in the House of its representative at the present time entitled it. He (Mr. Groom) hoped that when other representatives brought forward the claims of their districts, they would not be met, as they had been met by the late Treasurer, the honorable member for South Brisbane, by the statement that the Government had made up their minds to oppose all motions for votes of money which did not appear in their Estimates. The Government might rest assured that the representatives possessed more accurate local information than themselves; and they should not, as of necessity, oppose propositions to make provision for wants other than those set forth in the Estimates-in-Chief. He thanked the House for the patient hearing they had accorded to him; and he trusted that the temperate way in which the question before them was being debated was an earnest that they were settled down to work, and that the colony would receive the benefits connected with it.

Mr. STEPHENS suggested that the question should be put so as not to include the whole tariff, but each item be put separately. Many honorable members wished to speak to par-

ticular items; and, if there should be no delay, as there would be by the course he suggested, certain influential members of the House not then present in committee could not be heard.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said it was only right that the items should be put *seriatim*; and he was glad to consent to the suggestion of the honorable member.

Question—

Spirits.—Brandy of any strength not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater or less strength than proof, per gallon, 12s.

Mr. JORDAN said he did not think the honorable member for Toowoomba was quite in order in calling upon the House, or making any remarks about the House deprecating the conduct of the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Jordan. He was not aware that the House had ever been called upon to pass any censure upon the late Agent-General for Emigration. When, on two occasions, the House were formally called upon to express an opinion on his conduct, he was glad to say their opinion was favorable to him.

Mr. GROOM protested that he had not spoken in terms derogatory of the honorable member, but rather of approval.

Mr. JORDAN: The honorable member said that "however much the House deprecated" the conduct of Mr. Jordan: but he did not take offence at it; he only wished to protest against the right of any honorable member to bring before the House, in such a way, his conduct while an officer under the Government. He had listened with pleasure to the statement of the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, and he was most gratified to hear him state confidently that "our financial position may without question be retrieved." He was glad, also, to hear him speak of "signs of returning prosperity;" of "a revenue from land alone nearly equal to the annual charge for the interest on the public debt;" of the railways likely to yield eighty-five thousand a year—covering working expenses, and leaving sufficient to pay one per cent. towards interest of cost of construction; of good promise from the gold fields; of our position gradually mending, as proved by the customs returns, and that in a way likely to be permanent; of better times in store for the producers of wool; of a fair season, fat stock, meat preserving companies about to be established—with the eloquent picture that the honorable gentleman drew of those places employing numbers of men, butchers, fellmongers, carpenters, tinsmiths; of carriage to our railways, freight to our shipping, business and profits in various ways to our merchants and traders, and increased trade and commerce throughout the colony generally. After his clear statement of the colony's liabilities, and his scheme for retrenchment, even the proposal to reduce

the salaries of future Governors, and the salaries of Ministers themselves—the reduction to extend from them down to every person in the Civil Service—then came his scheme for increasing the revenue by a new tariff, which was to yield £50,000 a year to the Government.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: I never said so.

Mr. JORDAN gathered from the financial statement that, with the additional receipts from brandy and spirits, £11,000, from flour, £21,000, and from other sources, which it was calculated would yield an increase, the amount would be about £50,000. He was gratified, in listening to the speech, to find that the whole question was grappled with boldly and courageously to meet the exigencies of the colony at this time. With reference to the reduction of salaries, however, he should like to say one or two words. He thought, with the Premier, that Ministers were not overpaid, and that if gentlemen, who had sufficient ability for such a position, discharged their duties faithfully, a salary of £1,000 a year was not more than they ought to receive. But, if the circumstances of the colony were such that it was scarcely able to pay its way, and Ministers voluntarily cut down their salaries, the House ought to be obliged to them. He was not so sure as to the advisableness of their further proceeding. There might be some necessity for reducing the expense of the Civil Service, but he was not, himself, much disposed to reduce salaries, for he did not think the civil servants were overpaid. Perhaps, there were rather too many of them; and therein he agreed with the suggestion of the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba, to carry out which might be very wise. He was disposed to find fault with the mode in which the Government proposed to deal with the question of retrenchment, by making the gentlemen of the Civil Service pay an income tax. He thought it would be very hard, especially upon those who were receiving a very small amount from the Government, and who, perhaps, found it very difficult to maintain themselves and their families respectably upon their salaries. If it could be so adjusted that—Ministers proposing to reduce their own salaries twenty per cent.—a sliding scale of reduction could be adopted, so that those who received the small salaries should pay, say, two per cent., it would be preferable. He fancied, if they must carry reductions into effect, the House should do it on some such principle. It was his opinion that the tariff should be such as to encourage native industry. The Premier said he did not believe in protection; that it was an exploded doctrine. He (Mr. Jordan) should like to ask him what were the mere nominal rents which had been put upon the pastoral tenants of the Crown, but a kind of protection for occupation when their interest needed it? He did not say that they ought to pay any

more. What, he should like to know, was the bonus for cotton growing, by which that industry had been successfully established, but a kind of protection? Why, those who, like himself, grew sugar, had protection to the extent of £5 a ton. What was the allowing of sugar machinery to come into the colony duty free but a kind of protection? These were the means by which sugar growing was established in Queensland, and without which it would not have been successful. The principle of protection was admitted by the Colonial Treasurer in the change that he contemplated by reducing the duty on salt, and allowing tin to come in free in order that tin canisters might be made here for the preservation of meat. Surely in those modes the principle of protection might be very safely recognised; and especially in such an extensive colony as this, with a small population, and boundless resources to be developed. He should like to see a tariff that would have the effect of encouraging native industry, and not so much for the purposes of revenue. And there were many industries that could be carried on successfully with a little temporary assistance. Such a tariff would have the effect, as stated by the honorable member for South Brisbane yesterday, of making things a little dearer for a time; but the ultimate beneficial effect would be the establishment of a great many new industries, with products as cheap as now. It was very important that this colony should have immigration, and he trusted that it would be continued and not checked. There was a great number and variety of employments to be filled here, for which immigration should be encouraged; not only by settling people on the land, but in other ways. There was always a large number of persons who would not go on the land, or who would not succeed as farmers; they would remain in the towns or large centres of population. They could enter upon the manufacture of boots and shoes, the spinning of cloth, the making of hats, the manufacture of leather, and a variety of things of that kind, which would afford employment otherwise not obtainable. What was to be done with our children—what for our sons? There was no employment in the colony for them, unless they were sent into the bush or to sugar-growing. The House would do wisely in considering this subject, and providing for additional means of industry in the colony. There was no class in the community who had benefitted more largely by a moderate amount of protection than those engaged in the pastoral interest. He did not blame them; he should be ready to protect them, whenever they required it, and he would assist them whenever he found it necessary; but the House ought to have other interests in view. He should very greatly like to see a larger measure of protection in the tariff to the farming classes. He thought, with the honorable member for Drayton and Too-

woomba, whose views were generally very sound, especially on this question, that the House could well afford to raise some revenue on farm produce imported, which cost this colony £600,000 a year; most of it could be grown profitably in Queensland, if there was a sufficient quantity of land available, with a large farming population settled on it, and facilities for carrying produce to market. By increasing the duties slightly on wheat, maize, hay, barley, and such things, they could be profitably grown here. The omission of green fruit was an oversight on the part of the Treasurer, and he should be prepared, after the information given to the House, to propose that it be included in the tariff. He objected to the mere idea of taxing flour. Although it would assist the farmers' interest, flour was the one thing that there should be no tax upon; it was the one thing that was absolutely necessary for the sustentation of life in this colony. Unlike the mother country, there was scarcely any poverty here that did not arise from idleness or intemperance; but if there was the slightest possibility of any single individual suffering from want, absolute want, he never could consent to put a tax on flour. He was glad to see that the Treasurer had the same prejudice to the imposition of the tax on flour, though it was considered a duty by him to propose it. He was not satisfied with the scheme of the Government as a whole, as it had been propounded in the admirable speech of the Treasurer. He did not think the emergency of the colony demanded anything so unsuitable as a tax upon flour, or that it had been properly met. The Treasurer told the House that railways could never pay in a country like this, where only one or two trains a day could be run. He (Mr. Jordan) understood that to mean that railways could never be made to pay in this colony; for if they were to wait until there was a large population before railways did pay, and if immigration was to be put a stop to, as the House were told was absolutely necessary, the railways never would pay. On the other hand, if railways were established, and a large population was secured, they would pay. Queensland never could become, in any sense, a prosperous and wealthy colony without population. It had vast resources, an enormous stretch of territory, a beautiful climate, a vast seaboard, great mineral wealth—but population was wanting! The way to get population, all knew—the means were at command; but railways were required immediately for population. Population and railways were Siamese twins—they must go hand in hand. Immigration must bring labor and capital, and railways must be made to give them employment—to put the people on the land. That was the way America had gone ahead, and become the greatest country in the world, though almost the newest; because enterprise was stimulated, and railways were extended energetically with the opening up

of the lands. It was useless to talk of settling an agricultural population unless they had the means of sending their produce to market. Queensland wanted both population and railways. He (Mr. Jordan) believed the honorable the Colonial Secretary was mistaken when he said that we wanted no immigration—he had laid it down very distinctly—except such as could be sent out by the clerk in charge before Mr. Douglas went home. He was surprised to hear that a sum of £55,000 was required to enable the Government to carry out the present Immigration Act; and he did not understand it: that required some explanation. When that Act was passed it was thought that there would be a large immigration. About two hundred and fifty immigrants were to be brought out in each vessel, and there were to be twelve ships—to convey, say, three thousand persons—in the year to this colony. It was proposed that they should consist of equal proportions of those who paid their own passages; those who came out as assisted immigrants, who paid eight pounds towards their passage money; and those who came out free. One class cost the colony nothing; the assisted immigrants cost £8,000; and the others, who paid nothing, £16,000;—£24,000 in the year. He thought that an expenditure of £27,000 in the year ought to cover all expenses of such immigration as was proposed; and he was confident that the colony could get three thousand persons, in those proportions, to come here, if proper means were taken for that purpose. He regretted very much that Mr. Douglas had not lectured, at home; but he thought the House should not be in a hurry to upbraid Mr. Douglas, who was sixteen thousand miles away. It was very possible that they might make some mistake, if they came to a hasty conclusion that that gentleman was not performing his duty properly. There might be some reason why he had not commenced to enlighten the emigrating public in Great Britain. On this question, it must be borne in mind that Mr. Douglas had not to promote emigration, in the ordinary acceptance of that word, in Great Britain. He had to deal with facts—that there were something like two hundred and twenty-nine thousand persons going away from Great Britain every year. During the last twenty or thirty years there was a regular emigration of the farming classes, who were turned out of their small farms, for conversion into the large farms, which system now obtained at home; or who could not get farms of their own; or who had saved a little money;—they nearly all went away to the United States, and took with them their intelligence, their knowledge and experience of farming work, and their money, too; and there were millions of money taken away every year by the emigration population from Great Britain. Mr. Douglas had to do with that emigrating people who were always casting about as to

where they should go. Those were the people who were always wanting information. If a placard appeared on the walls in any town, stating that information would be given gratuitously by any person, he would get a large audience. In any large audience there were always some persons who wanted to go somewhere. There was nothing derogatory to the position Mr. Douglas held as the Agent-General of this colony in his lecturing gratuitously. He might do so consistently with the highest position that he might wish to have at home. He (Mr. Jordan) did not think things were going on in the right way; perhaps immigration was in some way discouraged on this side; and it was on that ground he had asked for the correspondence between the Government and the Agent-General in England. He did not think the Government could have selected such another man, or one so well qualified for the office he held, as Mr. Douglas—a man who had held a high position here, and whose manners, education, and qualifications in every way so admirably fitted him for the high office he maintained. If Mr. Douglas were given to understand that it was the wish of the House that he should lecture, he would do so. Instructions should be sent home to him that he should at once lecture, and that the persons sent out should be about 3,000 in the year, in about equal proportions of the classes mentioned; all would be well. The Premier said, in reply to some questions which he (Mr. Jordan) had put, that orders had been sent to the Agent-General to put a stop to free emigration. He regretted that such a step had been taken, for the reason that it would be impossible for Mr. Douglas to send out the ships regularly once a month unless he was able to fill up with free passengers; and if the persons who intended to pay their own way to this colony, found that there was little regularity in the despatch of ships, it would discourage them from thinking of Queensland. Persons would not give up their farms or business and go to London or Liverpool with the prospect of having to wait a month there for a ship. Those instructions might greatly interfere with Mr. Douglas' usefulness. Apart from the great advantage which this colony would derive from the extensive settlement of an agricultural class here, they would grow those articles which now cost the country £600,000 a year. The House did not agree altogether on this question, because there was a very strong prejudice still existing in the minds of many honorable members against the settlement of farmers on the land. He was happy to say that it was wearing out, and would wear out rapidly. He was told yesterday, by the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, that if he were to go up to visit that district he should be delighted to see how many persons who came out many years ago to settle on the land were now very prosperous. After

being for years in England, engaged in promoting the immigration of that class, and being now settled in the country, he found himself surrounded by persons who had come out under his auspices, and who invariably told him—he often had conversations with them—that they were delighted they had heard him at home, and that they had come to Queensland. There were numbers of farmers settled on the lands who were successful; he did not mean that they were successful in having money in the bank, but in providing themselves with homes, and with food and clothing; in improving and increasing the value of their property, and getting horses and cattle on their farms, they might well be said to be prosperous. And it was such a class of people that would make Queensland a prosperous country; when it would not be necessary for the House to consider by what scheme they could make ends meet—by what mode of taxation the expenses of the country could be provided; as, with such a population—and it was to be had—there would be abundance. The land revenue now yielded almost enough to pay the interest on the public debt. What would it be if other interests were established in the colony, such as he had enumerated? That was one reason why he was in favor of extending the railways. He believed it would be a grand mistake if the railway system were not proceeded with moderately; and it would be a mistake if the existing lines were not continued from Ipswich to Brisbane, and, in the North towards Gainsford and the Dawson River; and, westward, he was quite sure the House might set about the extension of the railway even to Roma. He understood that a line could be made to Roma for £2,000 a mile, and that, once it reached that town, there was a splendid country at command, admirably adapted to the establishment of meat-preserving on an extensive scale in the district, which would have an important bearing on the line in regard to its paying interest on the outlay. He (Mr. Jordan) was confident that recent circumstances had had a wonderful influence on the minds of honorable members on the Ministerial side of the House; gradually they had been coming over to the views that had been for a long time held by what were sometimes called in derision the “great liberal party.” They believed at length in population; they believed in cotton growing—

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: No.

MR. JORDAN: They believed at length in persons making a living on the land; they saw that agriculture need not interfere with the pastoral interest; they were almost ready to admit that railways would pay, if the colony got population;—and they had helped the members on the Opposition side of the House to send an Agent-General to England, although they now said they had opposed it. To put a stop to immigration would be to put a stop to every interest in the colony: it was our life's

blood, and, as had been well said, the country hungered and thirsted for population. The country wanted money; it wanted labor, and intelligence together, and industry; and, with its great natural resources, if it got population possessing those qualifications, Queensland must prosper. He was delighted to hear that the country was to get a great measure of parliamentary reform from honorable gentlemen opposite. He was almost ashamed of his partisans, who did not go far enough now. The Tory Government, in England, had given household suffrage; and what he would call the Tory Government here, had promised manhood suffrage! That was delightful. And the two-thirds clause was to be repealed! That would satisfy him very much. He was prepared to accept such advances; and if only the Government could be got to see the thing correctly, as far as the making of the railway to Brisbane was concerned—and, of course, the northern and western extensions—he was prepared further to give the Government his hearty support. But he was determined to stick to those points, because he believed them essential to the well-being of the colony.

Mr. CRIBB was understood to say that he was disappointed with the tariff, and that he thought there was no need to increase the duty on spirits. Some measures should be taken to stop smuggling. If the duty on brandy were increased, there would be an increase of smuggling. It would increase the price of all brandy, and that below proof would not be worth taking out of bond. With regard to the second item in the tariff, he remarked that, owing to the previous increase of duty, gin had been reduced in quality, and imported considerably below proof; whereas, before that time, it was imported something over proof invariably. He did not think the revenue would be improved by the additional duty on spirits. No doubt, many firms had sent orders home for spirits of low strength to be sold, here, at a certain price, to meet the public demand, who required the article at a particular figure. Unless the Government should make some arrangement so that a certain portion of the low spirits in bond could be taken out at the old duty, persons would suffer very heavy loss. Why should the merchants and commercial men be injured any more than any other interest? He did not speak for himself, because his firm were not large dealers in spirits; but he thought it would affect larger dealers. He hoped the Government would take the matter into serious consideration. He was sorry to find that no reduction was made in the duty on wine. The present high rate of duty which was imposed a few years ago caused a very heavy loss to the country; one-fourth less in quantity was consumed than before the duty was raised, yet the population was largely increased. The honorable the Colonial Treasurer admitted that he would not insist

strongly on the wine duty. One result of the previous increase was a great demand for ardent spirits, which was very injurious to the people. When the duty on wine was three shillings a gallon, many persons could take their small keg of wine, and enjoy themselves in their own homes in a proper manner. As the consumption of wine went down, the consumption of rum set in; and colonial rum was now largely used in quantities for mixing with spirits which were sold to the consumer as an imported article. He should be glad if something could be done to reduce the duty on tobacco. Large quantities of tobacco were brought over the southern border of the colony, on which no duty was paid; and the consumption was thus supplied in an illegitimate way. Not more than two-thirds of the quantity of tobacco was sent up the country now that was necessary before the duty was increased; and to put a higher duty on it, would not enhance the revenue but would lead to further smuggling. He knew orders for tobacco to have been countermanded because the article could be obtained so cheaply coming over the border. Opium, too, was smuggled over the border, and nothing would be gained by an increased duty. He agreed with the propriety of making the duty on raw coffee less than on ground coffee; and he thought that raw cocoa should be rated less than the prepared, as it would promote the use of a pure article rather than one which was often of doubtful quality. He was glad to see salt reduced. He would offer no objection to an increase, nor to the duty put upon flour; because he did not see how the Government were to raise revenue unless they taxed articles of general consumption; but for any other reason than for revenue, he would object to taxing flour. The same remark applied to the duty put upon butter, cheese, bacon, and other articles; for the purposes of revenue he would support them, but not for protection.

Mr. JOHNSTON objected to a duty of twelve shillings a gallon on brandy, to which, as the articles of the tariff were to be discussed *seriatim*, he would confine his remarks. It was the highest duty proposed, and it would fall upon one class of the people, the retailers of brandy. It was not sufficient to justify them in increasing the price of drinks; but, if three shillings more per gallon were put on, it would enable them to do so. He suggested, therefore, that the Colonial Treasurer should increase the duty on brandy to fifteen shillings a gallon, for revenue purposes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said, with reference to the question of border duties, the Government had not lost sight of it. A proposal had been submitted to the Government of New South Wales—which it was undesirable for him to explain, now—which would render it unnecessary for the Government of Queensland to maintain police on

the border: they would, if it were agreed to, get a lump sum of money in lieu of the estimated sum of customs duty. To a proposition of that sort no reply had been received from Sydney. He had written, the other day, to Mr. Cowper, telling him that if his Government did not choose to reply, this Government would consider it necessary to send revenue police to the border; and the Government would be prepared to take action in the matter. It was known that this colony was losing a great deal of revenue. The several Ministries who had been in office knew well that this was going on; but all felt a dislike to moving in the matter, because it was a delicate task to interfere with people of the same race who were divided from us by an imaginary line only. He thought it could be done without any great expense; because, though the frontier was enormous, yet there were comparatively few crossing places or main roads where drays came along. He thought that after a season or two, smuggling would be put a stop to. If the duty on flour was passed, that would be an additional reason for protecting the border, because enormous quantities were consumed in the interior which were supplied over the border from New South Wales. Several honorable members who had addressed the House had strayed from the subject of the tariff into the Estimates. He did not propose to follow them or to answer them at present. He thought the proper time for those debates would be when the House went into committee on the Estimates. In allusion, however, to what had fallen from the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba, he might say that every honorable member, especially those who had been in the Government, knew that it was impossible to do away with an officer of the description named or any other officer. Somebody was sure to object to it. A Minister was tormented by the friends of the officer, he was worked upon by honorable members of the House. He remembered having been called upon by fifteen members of Parliament to request that he should put a man back into an office which had been done away with. Every Minister had to put up with the same thing. If, however, the Government were fortified in their position by the House, and honorable members voted with them to do away with offices, he should be very glad to have their assistance. If an office should be left off the Estimates, it would be useless, for the House would ask the Ministry to restore it. But if the House now assisted the Government in making reductions on the Estimates, surely honorable members would not ask them to restore them again.

Mr. MORGAN said, that in making a few observations upon the important question before the House, he must compliment the honorable Colonial Treasurer for the clear and explanatory statement he had made, and he must also compliment him for having

adhered so closely to the policy put forth by the Opposition previous to the late dissolution. His principal object in addressing the House was to offer a few remarks upon a statement made by an honorable member—the honorable member for the Burnett, he believed—in reference to the falling off of agricultural prosperity on the Darling Downs. The Statistical Register for 1869 shewed that there was a decrease in that industry, but there were plenty of reasons to account for it. It was not because of any deficiency in the soil or natural capabilities of the district, but in consequence of the wretched administration of the land laws, that this result had taken place. Along the whole line of railway there was a total absence of settlement. Here and there were to be seen a few miserable hovels inhabited by laborers, which with the snug and comfortable residences of the graziers, were the only signs of habitation. It would be a libel upon the character of the soil to say that this district was not quite capable of supporting a large agricultural population, for, at the few stations and at some of the huts he had spoken of, patches of cultivation could be seen in which vegetables were growing in the greatest luxuriance. That was sufficient to shew the natural advantages of the country, and that the absence of a thriving agricultural population was due not to the quality of the soil but rather to the corrupt system—he could use no other term—of administering the land laws. He could well understand the cry put forth by the people of the northern districts against the foul play they had received at the hands of those who represented the southern provinces, and it was only necessary to look along the line of railway, and to note the absence of all settlement, to arrive at the conclusion that those gigantic and costly undertakings had been constructed for the benefit of some eight or ten individuals. He maintained that it was unfair to tax the whole of the colony for the benefit of those few persons. So it was, however. There could be no doubt that immense sums of money had been spent upon these lines of railway, and that the people of the colony at large were tied down to pay the interest upon the money expended upon them. He contended that if the Government were sincere and honest in their intentions to do justice to all, it was their duty to come down to the House with some system of taxation which would compel those persons for whose benefit these lines were constructed, to contribute something, at any rate, towards the interest on the loans contracted for them. He thought it would be only fair if the reserved lands, now reduced to three miles on either side of the lines, were taxed at the rate of one shilling per acre, except township reserves, and the proceeds devoted to the payment of this interest. With regard to immigration, he believed the present Agent-General was a very capable man, and well

suited to his office; and although he did not conceive it would be desirable, in the present state of affairs, to flood the colony with immigrants, he was of opinion that the system should be kept up, so as to meet the requirements of the country, and to settle an industrious population on the lands. He had no amendment to make upon the motion before the House, but he had considered it his duty to make these few remarks.

The Hon. R. PRING said that, in offering a few remarks upon the financial statement of the Colonial Treasurer, he did not propose to himself the task of going into figures and questions of detail in reference to the new customs duties. That he would leave to honorable members more conversant with the subject than he was. He had no intention of combating the truth or accuracy of the honorable Treasurer's statement, for the honorable member had done what every Treasurer had done before him, and he had, perhaps, gone a little further—he had placed the House in possession of facts in reference to the financial position of the colony, which the information he had obtained enabled him to furnish. But the honorable member had, of course, been guided in his estimate of the probable revenue and expenditure by information given to him by other persons. Still, it was, no doubt, obtained from the proper sources, and he had no intention of disputing its correctness. He was glad to hear from the honorable member's statement that the colony was not in such a bad position as it had been represented to be for some time past. He well recollected that some months ago the financial affairs of the colony were said to be in a very deplorable state. It was said that the people had been deluded; that the revenue had been over-estimated by too sanguine Treasurers, and that the expenditure had exceeded their calculations. In this respect, every Colonial Treasurer appeared to have found himself in the same position as his predecessor. Accepting the statement of the Treasurer as far as regarded his estimates of the probable revenue and expenditure, he would make a few remarks upon the financial policy of the present Government. It was clear that, in order to increase the revenue, a new or an amended system of taxation was proposed, and it would be the duty of honorable members to judge whether that system was suited to the requirements of the colony or not. It was one thing to impose a tax for the purpose of aiding the revenue, but it was another thing to tax them justly and equitably, and that was the object which every honorable member should lend his assistance to attain. He did not think this question ought to be made a party question. No doubt the suggestions of honorable members would be received by the Government, even if they should have the effect of altering or amending the tariff, if necessary. He apprehended that the Government were disposed

to deal with the question in a liberal spirit. With regard to the policy of the Government, he was sorry to observe that one of the principal objections to it, which had been for a long time held by members on his side of the House, had not been removed by including in the proposed public works the extension of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane. That omission appeared to him to be the weak point in the financial statement, because the Government had exhibited in their tariff, so to say, the policy of the previous Government. ("No, no!" from the Government benches.) Well, he thought they had, to a certain extent. He was induced to say so because he understood that, during the late elections, the protection to native industry asked for had been opposed by the supporters of the present Ministry, on the ground that the representatives of the people who were opposed to the Government were protectionists proper, and the Government cry was, therefore, "Free-trade *versus* protection." Members on his side of the House had strenuously resisted that cry, and had asserted that the only protection they wanted was a limited sort of protection, such as might more properly be called encouragement to native industry. He could not say that he had ever seen the tariff prepared by the honorable member for South Brisbane; but he had sufficient intimation of the nature of the tariff that honorable member intended to have introduced, if he had been allowed to remain in office, to perceive that almost every proposition he would have submitted had been taken up by the present Government. ("No, no!" from the Government benches.) Well, to a great extent;—at all events, to this extent, that a certain amount of protection was given in the shape of encouragement to native industry. He need only point out that he had been a strong advocate for a similar duty upon articles which could be produced here, such as maize and hay especially; and he had given his reasons fully at the time. He had shewn that large quantities of this produce were imported from New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, to the northern portions of this colony. He had also asserted, and he asserted now, that the northern portions of the colony did not grow this produce for themselves, and that, therefore, a slightly protective duty would be a great boon to them, as it would enable them to obtain their supplies of hay and corn from the southern districts at a lower price than they had to pay for the imported article. He had also contended, and he still maintained, that the country would be doubly benefitted by such a duty. In the first place, the consumers would get supplied at a cheaper rate; and, in the second place, encouragement would be afforded to the producer. But although the Government had put on a protection duty—as the tariff shewed—upon wheat, barley, maize, oats, and malt, that duty by itself

would be no protection whatever, and would afford no encouragement to the grower, unless some cheaper and more expeditious means of transit were given to him, so as to enable him to compete with the importers of this produce. At present the cost of transit was so great, that it was cheaper to purchase the produce sent from the other colonies. He held it absolutely indispensable, therefore, so far as this kind of produce was concerned, that the extension of the railway to Brisbane should be carried out; in other words, the duty was worth nothing at all without it. There could be no doubt that this great work would be a great benefit to the country. He was not, however, going to impart any acrimony into the debate, by entering into the question of the desirability of this extension; he only introduced the subject in support of his argument in connection with a productive duty on hay and corn. He could not, however, pass over the remarks of the Colonial Treasurer, who—if he had been correctly reported—expressed his opinion that the continuance of this railway to the metropolis at the public cost would not be remunerative, and that, therefore, it would be inexpedient at the present moment to undertake it. If he were correct in assuming that to be the honorable member's opinion, he could only say he was sorry he could not agree with him, because he had long been convinced that this work would be a reproductive one. He would not go into the question at length, because it would take too much time. It had been argued in the House before, and he had not in the least degree altered his convictions on the subject. He must say, however, he was surprised that when the Government came down to the House and asked for a Loan Bill, which embraced the sum of £170,000 for public works, they did not include this line. He presumed they intended to leave it out, from what had taken place on a previous occasion, when the Premier, referring to the proposed Loan Bill, said it was only intended for the completion of existing lines. He thought the Government should have included this great and necessary work in the Loan Bill, so as to have taken the sense of the House upon it. He did not propose to go through the different items enumerated in the tariff, or the adjustment of the tax upon dutiable articles. It had, however, been represented to him that some little injustice might be done by the duty of ten shillings per gallon upon spirits or strong waters, except brandy of a certain strength, mentioned in the second paragraph. The honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Cribb, had pointed out this defect, and he agreed with the remarks of the honorable member, and should have been glad to hear him suggest a mode of remedying the possible effect of the tax upon this particular article. As it appeared to him, the present holders of stock of this kind, which, as he was informed, consisted chiefly of gin and whisky in cases, if

they had a large quantity in bond, and had contracted with their customers for large orders—supposing the tariff to come into operation to-morrow, and the increased duty to be levied—would be unable to fulfill their engagements, and would suffer considerable hardship. Viewing the question in that way, he would express a hope that the Colonial Treasurer would devise some means of assisting this class of persons, who had no champion in the House to advocate their cause. It had been suggested to him that a kind of remedy might be afforded them by giving them four months to clear out their stock on hand at the present rate of duty, and then to put the increased duty in operation. Whether that would meet the case or not, or whether it would interfere with the Colonial Treasurer's position, he could not say. He simply brought the matter under his notice, and he hoped honorable members, in discussing the item, would give it due consideration. There was also another point on which the honorable member for Ipswich had touched, and that was the duty upon wine. It was stated that a fixed duty of 10s. upon all kinds of wine would be unfair, and that some distinction should be made between the different kinds. That was a question which he would also leave to honorable members who were more conversant with such subjects than he was. He observed that the honorable the Treasurer, in his financial statement, had touched upon the question of immigration, in a financial point of view of course, in reference to the expenditure which had been incurred, and the cost of continuing the system. Now, although he did not wish to enter into this question, he would take the opportunity of putting himself right with the House in reference to certain remarks he had made which appeared to have been misunderstood outside the House. He believed it was understood outside the House that he had expressed an opinion that immigration to this colony ought to be stopped. He could not charge his memory with having said anything of that kind, but he had certainly complained of the inauguration of the system of immigration by the present Bill, and had stated that it was not a Bill of which he could approve, but he was in favor of continuing a system of immigration suited to the requirements of the colony. He never said he thought immigration should cease; he said just the contrary—that now the Immigration Bill was in full working it would be very injudicious to put a stop to immigration at present. He was not one of that class of politicians who assist in passing a measure one day and strive to render it useless the next. At the same time it might be worth the serious consideration of the Government to see that the working of the present Act should be as economical as possible. He could not quite understand why the tariff had been brought before the House in its present form. He did not know whether

there was a precedent for such a course, but he hardly fancied so. When a new tariff was determined upon, it was usual to close the Custom House for the day, and, of course, very properly so—to prevent persons from taking their goods out of bond; and then the tariff appeared in the form of a schedule to a Bill which was passed through all its stages in one day and became law, so that the additional duties came in force at once. But the tariff now proposed by the Colonial Treasurer would not compel persons to pay duty in accordance with the amended tariff as long as the present Act existed; because it did not appear as a schedule to a Bill, and a simple resolution of the House could not set aside an existing Act of Parliament. It might be very well to say that the House would indemnify the Government; but the enforcement of the new duties would not be legal, and it must be remembered that the country would have to pay the cost of the lawsuits which would arise. There seemed to him to have been no occasion for the Colonial Treasurer to depart from the usual course. As it was, it was clear that if the holder of any stock went to the Collector of Customs and asked for his goods, tendering the present rate of duty, he must obtain them; and the Collector of Customs, if he refused him, would commit a breach of the law. Under what authority could the new tariff be collected?—not by Act of Parliament, but by the arbitrary authority of the Government, acted upon by its officers. He could not see what occasion there had been to bring forward the tariff in this way, but he presumed it was done to enable the Treasurer to give honorable members every information in his power in reference to the revenue he estimated for the next year. He would not, therefore, say that the Government had done wrong, or that they had even acted indiscreetly; but he thought it as well to point out that serious consequences might ensue. If he were wrong in this opinion, he should be very glad to be set right; but he could come to no other conclusion, and he would venture to hope that, if the tariff passed through the committee, it would be put into the schedule of a Bill, and passed through both Houses at once.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: It is quite ready.

MR. McILWRAITH said he believed the debate had elicited as far as possible the general principles upon which the financial policy of the Government was framed. So far it had been of great advantage to the House. It was, however, to him a matter for regret that the speeches of members on both sides the House, instead of referring to matters of detail, all of which would come separately before them, had not been confined to the principles of the Government policy, so far as it was shewn by the financial statement of the Colonial Treasurer and the draft of the proposed tariff. In order to shew where he considered this policy defective, he

would refer to two statements made by the honorable Treasurer on a former occasion. One was that, ever since '64, year after year, the expenditure had exceeded the revenue; and the other was that the growth of the colony involved an increase of expenditure quite as much as an increase of revenue. Now, he quite admitted the truth of those statements, and the honorable member had shewn by the clear and lucid explanation he had given of the financial position of the colony, that he fully understood the causes which had brought about the yearly deficit and rendered it necessary for the Treasurer for the time being to bring forward a Supplementary Estimate. He should, therefore, have expected that the honorable gentleman, who was so fully alive to the evils from which the colony had suffered hitherto—for the want of punctuality in meeting the liabilities incurred at home had injured the credit of the colony more than anything else—would have shewn in the Estimates which he prepared some indication of an intention to remedy this state of things; and that if it were found necessary to bring in Supplementary Estimates, they would have been as small as possible. But, after examining the Estimates-in-Chief, which had been laid on the table of the House, he could see no evidence of such intention, or any evidence to induce him to think that the Supplementary Estimates would not be as large, if not larger, than those of any previous year. He had arrived at this conclusion because, in looking over the Estimates, he saw very little attempt at reduction upon any of the items of expenditure for the previous year. Taking the Colonial Secretary's Department, for instance, he found there was an actual decrease, but that was chiefly taken from the contingencies of the Penal Establishment and Colonial Stores, and miscellaneous votes; and the probability was that, as long as the same officials were employed, the same stores, if not a greater number, would be required. There was, therefore, no guarantee that there would be any decrease.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY explained that the Police would have to find their own clothing, and that the cost of that item was taken out of the estimates for colonial stores.

MR. McILWRAITH said he was glad to be set right; he had spoken of the Estimates as he had found them. That explained the item of colonial stores; but he found the same thing in other departments—reductions taken out of the item for contingencies and miscellaneous services, and there was no guarantee that the money would not be required. In the department of Works the salaries remained pretty much as they were, while the Minister for Works appeared to have made no provision for works which were necessary to meet the requirements of the country. He thought the remarks of the honorable Treasurer that the expenditure must necessarily increase, coupled with the fact that he had

not put forward, either in his financial statement or in his Estimates, any system of progress by which the difficulty might be averted, shewed that he had taken a fallacious view of the state of affairs, and it was clear that if they went on year after year meeting the deficit with a Supplementary Estimate, and the Supplementary Estimate with an appeal to the House for a Loan Bill, in three or four years' time the proposition which had been discussed outside of placing an export duty on wool, tallow, and hides, would have to be considered; such a duty, in fact, would become inevitable. Hitherto all Governments had carefully avoided placing an export duty on wool, tallow, and hides. Now, he thought that if they went on as they had—passing supplementary votes and then asking the House to pass a Loan Bill to meet the expenditure so incurred—a duty on wool, tallow, and hides could not much longer be avoided. He now came to the principal grounds of objection he had to the financial policy of the Government, as set forth in the speech of the honorable the Treasurer. He greatly regretted that there was no such reference made by the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, in the course of his speech, as would enable the House to understand whether or not it was the intention of the Government to introduce measures providing for a liberal scheme of immigration, and for the extension of railways, in the North as well as in the South. The honorable the Premier made some remarks about the enormous expense of introducing immigrants to the colony; and said that every adult cost the colony at least £15 10s. a head. Well, he understood from the way those remarks were made, that the honorable gentleman considered the immigrants were dear at the price. Now, he did not agree in that opinion. The honorable member for Wide Bay, in the course of his speech, referred to the tax upon mining machinery, and stated that if the tax were abolished twice the amount of machinery would be introduced, and, that, consequently, twice the amount of gold would be produced. He fully concurred with the honorable member as to the necessity of admitting the importation of machinery for mining purposes free of duty. The honorable member's expectation as to the increase of gold that would result from the employment of more machinery, was perhaps, considerably over-stated; but there could be no doubt whatever, that, from the addition to the machinery now upon the gold fields, there would be a considerable increase of gold. Besides, the importation of machinery would tend, in an eminent degree, to the progress of the colony. During the last fifty years, from the application of machinery, the white man's labor had greatly increased in demand and value. That was proved by the great extent of railways, steam vessels, and manufacturing establishments, that had been constructed within that time over the world. He under-

stood that it cost £150 to bring up a boy, at home, to the age of thirteen years; and he was therefore astonished to hear the honorable the Premier complain of the expense to the colony of bringing out an adult here at the cost of £15 10s. He thought, however, that some system of legislation should be gone into that would have the effect of retaining immigrants in the colony who had been introduced at the expense of the colony. The present system of immigration was no better than throwing water into a sieve. He believed they might as well hand the money voted for immigration purposes to Mr. Douglas, and instruct him to enjoy himself. What he would propose was, that they should borrow £3,000,000, and expend it judiciously on immigration, and the promotion of public works throughout the colony. If the expenditure of that amount should have the effect of bringing out 20,000 people to the colony, and enabling the Government, by giving those immigrants employment till they obtained colonial experience, the benefit to the colony would be equivalent to having the money in the Treasury; and that the more so, because there would be railways and other public works provided. As to the tariff, he had previously stated that he was a protectionist, and he was so still. Now, he was satisfied with the proposed tariff, because he considered it to be a protectionist tariff. Had he been a supporter of the present Government, he could not have wished that a tariff should have been introduced that went further than the present one. There was another remark made by the honorable the Treasurer, to which he would like to refer. The honorable gentleman said that they ought not to increase their expenditure for public works, until the works now in existence proved to be reproductive. At the same time it was proposed by the Ministry to extend telegraphic communication to Springsure and to Goondiwindi. Now, he would ask if there was any likelihood of those works being reproductive. He did not object to those works being carried out, but he certainly did object to a principle being adopted for the one side that was denied to the other. He would now wish to make an explanation respecting a matter that was personal to himself. It was well known that he had been concerned in the construction of railways for many years, but that was in another colony; and that he had been vilified in a most dastardly manner, because of his becoming a candidate for election. He referred in particular to an article which appeared in the *Dalby Herald*, on the day after the election of the honorable member for the Northern Downs. He did not see the article for some time after, or he would have taken steps to obtain redress elsewhere than here. Now, honorable members of the present or of any former Government could bear him out in saying, that he had never had anything to do with railways in this colony. Some years ago,

when the question of cheap railways, or the provision of some improved means of communication with the interior was being agitated, he called a meeting at Roma, and tried to demonstrate to those who attended, that a railway sufficient for the traffic of the district through which it would pass to a junction with the main lines, could be constructed at a cost not exceeding £2,000 per mile. He found the greatest difficulty in persuading the people that such a sum would be sufficient. Some time afterwards, when he visited Melbourne, he consulted with some eminent practical engineers about the matter; and laid before them a sketch of the country through which the line would pass. Those gentlemen made their own calculations, and expressed their readiness to undertake the construction of the line for £2,500 a mile. On his return to the colony, he shewed the calculations to the honorable the present Premier, in the presence of the honorable gentleman who now held the office of Treasurer, and in the presence of the honorable the former Speaker, and the honorable member for the Maranoa, Mr. Miles. Now, he thought it was not altogether fair that honorable members of the Ministry, who knew all about his proceedings, should not have taken occasion to defend him against the mis-statements that had been made against him in respect to such matters.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he never saw the article to which the honorable member referred; otherwise he would have contradicted the statements of which the honorable member complained.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he might have heard of the assertions that had been made against the honorable member for the Warrego, but he had never seen the article to which the honorable member referred. If he had seen it, he would have denied the accuracy of the assertions of which the honorable member complained. Though the honorable member was a political opponent it would not influence him in allowing undeserved blame to rest upon him. All that he himself had ever said on the subject was, that he had seen tenders, from eminent firms in Victoria, to construct lines of railway in this colony at the rate mentioned by the honorable member for the Warrego.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he wished to take the present opportunity of making an explanation of a statement that was made, on the previous evening, by the honorable member for South Brisbane. That honorable member stated, that, though the present Government professed to be in favor of retrenchment, the Estimates now submitted to the House exceeded in amount the Estimates submitted by the previous Ministry by £16,000. Now, that arose in this way—that it had been the habit previously, in making the financial statement, to shirk the Supplementary Estimates; but that habit had not been observed in the present in-

stance, and hence the apparent—for it was only apparent—increase of the estimated expenditure over that of some previous Governments. Honorable members, in the face of such a statement, should bear in mind that it would be necessary to expend a sum of £2,300 in connection with the steamer "Kate"; £1,500 additional in connection with the working of the Immigration Act; £5,000 on account of the recent alterations in the matter of national education; £1,500, in excess of the sum provided by the last Government, to defray the expenses of witnesses attending the Supreme Court and the District Courts; £2,000 for the maintenance of orphan schools; and £700 for the carrying out of the Distillation Act. Those, and several small items which he would not trouble the House with mentioning, the Government could not possibly help spending. However, he might say that the Government thought they saw their way to effecting considerable reductions in the matter of expenditure, if they remained long in office, and were duly supported by the House. If so supported by the House, the matter would be one of easy accomplishment; but it could not be expected that a Government which had been in office for only a few months could effect any material reductions. At present, the Government were merely feeling their way. The House should also bear in mind that it was not the Government alone that was to blame for what might be considered excessive expenditure, but honorable members as well. The honorable and learned member for North Brisbane, Mr. Pring, stated that the Government was not justified in imposing the proposed new duties until they had been agreed to by both branches of the Legislature, and assented to by His Excellency the Governor. Well, that course might have been pursued, had the House passed the tariff on the previous day; but the honorable member for South Brisbane, who had held the office of Treasurer, suggested that the debate should be adjourned, and that the new duties should be imposed at once, subject to any alterations that might be made. The honorable member was backed up in that suggestion by several other honorable members on both sides of the House; and the Government being willing to afford honorable members every opportunity of fully considering the basis of their financial policy, consented to the adjournment of the debate. The course which had been adopted might be a right one or a wrong one, but it was one that was consistent with constitutional practice, as would be found by reference to "May's Parliamentary Practice." And it was one that had always been pursued by the Government at home, and sanctioned by the Imperial Parliament.

Mr. ATKIN said he was very much disappointed with the speeches that had been addressed to the House by the honorable the Treasurer and other honorable members on the Government side of the House. How-

ever, there would be another opportunity of more fully discussing the question. At the present time he merely wished to express his dissatisfaction with the general policy of the Government, as indicated by the financial speech of the honorable the Treasurer. He could not but express, and that heartily, his approbation of the very clear and lucid statement made by the honorable the Treasurer in the course of his financial statement; but at the same time, he must say that there were many propositions set forth in it with which he could not agree. The honorable gentleman, towards the end of his speech, informed the House that the railway works should not be extended. Well, in one sense, he agreed with the honorable gentleman; but it was only in this respect, that he considered railway works should not be extended on the same principle as had been acted upon hitherto. He thought the system on which the railway works of the colony had been carried out previously was a most objectionable one. He would like to know from the honorable member if he expected that immigrants, consisting of the laboring classes, who might be induced to come out from Europe, would remain in the colony unless they were also assured that they would have full and permanent employment. The honorable the Treasurer proposed that there should be a tax imposed on flour, salt, and some other articles of necessary consumption. Now, he had no doubt whatever that when a change of ministry took place, the honorable gentleman would be found advocating the repeal of such specific taxes. The policy of the Government was to increase taxation and reduce expenditure. The latter proposal was, no doubt, in some respects, quite right; but, some months ago, a policy almost the reverse of that which the House was now asked to assent to was approved of by a majority of honorable members, and he must say he was greatly astonished to find that no protest had been entered by any honorable member who supported the previous policy against the policy with which they were now asked to concur. For his own part, he would prefer to see a reduction of expenditure rather than an increase of taxation to provide for an increased expenditure. The honorable member at the head of the Government had stated that the tariff now before the House was not submitted as a protectionist tariff, and maintained that it was a tariff designed wholly for revenue purposes. Well, it was an old and trite and recognised classical saying, that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Now, the speech of the honorable the Treasurer shewed very clearly that the policy of the Government was of a protective character, and that it was, in effect, the policy of the previous Government, the members of which now sat on the Opposition benches. He regretted to find that some honorable members who, a few months ago, disapproved of a similar policy,

now approved of the present policy. As to the railway question, he would not refer to it at any length. The extension of the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane, he considered to be a most important work; and he further believed that railway extension should be carried out in every quarter of the colony; but on a more economical basis than hitherto. The money of the colony had hitherto been expended in a way which had enabled contractors and others, who had been connected with the carrying out of public works, to leave the colony with large fortunes. Now that clearly shewed that the money voted for such works was not only in excess of what was required, but that due supervision had not been exercised in its expenditure. Well, he maintained, that another system must be adopted; and he thought the most advisable course would be to set aside portions of land for the remuneration of those who might undertake the construction of the railways—such lands being of course along the lines of railway. As to the necessity for increased taxation to provide for deficiencies in the revenue, the only proper way for such deficiencies to be met, without overburdening the community, was, by increasing the population of the colony by immigration. If they were to act upon the principle adopted by the present Government, the House would be asked every year to increase taxation; and the Colonial Treasurer, whoever he might be, would, at no distant period, have to come down and ask that a duty should be placed on the chief articles of export, such as wool, tallow, and hides. For his own part, he must say that he decidedly objected to an export tax; and he would support the honorable member for Wide Bay if he brought forward a motion for the abolition of the export duty on gold. The honorable the Treasurer estimated that the new system of taxation would increase the revenue by £50,000. Now, if it was necessary to do so, other means, he thought, might have been found than that of placing a tax on flour and other necessities of life—means by which the revenue might have been increased by £500,000 instead of £50,000. As to the tariff, he must say that he altogether objected to the proposed reduction of the duty on salt, and the imposition of an increased duty on flour. The latter tax would fall more heavily upon the poor man in proportion to his income—considering the quantity of flour he necessarily consumed—than it would upon the wealthier classes. As to the tax upon machinery, he would like to see it abolished, not only as regarded sugar machinery, but also all other kinds of machinery; and if the honorable member for Wide Bay brought forward a motion, as he had hinted he would, for the repeal of the duty on mining machinery, he would support him, as he believed it would be better for the colony to admit all machinery free that was necessary for general

business purposes. Though he approved of some of the measures which the Government proposed to bring forward, there were few of them which he thought would be of advantage to the colony.

Mr. DE SATGE thought that the reason why so few honorable members on the Government side of the House had spoken on the subject of the tariff was, because they did not see there was any possibility of improving the excellent scheme which had been laid before the House by the honorable the Colonial Treasurer. For his own part, he did not see that any improvement could be made upon it, and, therefore, he thought it was only a waste of the time of the House to discuss it.

Mr. MacDEVITT said that one of the honorable members for East Moreton had expressed his surprise that none of the honorable members representing northern constituencies had spoken upon this question; but he could tell the honorable member that he was very much mistaken if he thought that he was not going to speak upon the subject. The honorable member for Clermont had taken upon himself to state, what he believed to be the reason why northern members had not addressed the House. Now, he could inform the honorable member that he was altogether mistaken. The honorable member had also stated, that the people in the North would not ask for separation if certain railways were constructed in the northern districts. Now there the honorable member was again mistaken; for was it not a fact that the honorable the Colonial Secretary had himself signed the petition for separation? The honorable member for East Moreton had expressed his surprise that the northern members had not come forward to discuss the tariff, seeing the great amount of taxation it would cause to fall upon Rockhampton. The opinions the honorable member had expressed respecting northern interests, should have been carried out by the party to which he belonged, when that party was in power; but such had not been done. Since the establishment of responsible Government in Queensland, a little money had been voted occasionally for expenditure in the North, but even the little that was voted had not in every instance been expended. It was a fact that many of the sums which had been voted for public works in the North had been withheld, and the votes had accordingly lapsed. With reference to the tariff as a whole, he thought it was also unfair to the North. The honorable member for Wide Bay had struck the nail on the head. There were a great many articles absolutely necessary for the well-being of the North and the outside districts—consumed by the gold miner and those employed in sheep and cattle farming on the pastoral runs—on which it was proposed to levy high duties that would weigh most heavily on his fellow colonists there. He referred to farm produce, cordage and rope, and above all, to flour. The Treasurer might very well

address himself to the modification of his tariff, on the principle of acting equitably to the inhabitants of the North. Excepting the small railway from Rockhampton, all the carriage of the northern districts was done by horse and bullock drays; there was little or no cultivation there, with the exception of that of sugar; most of the supplies required were taken from Brisbane or Sydney—even chaff and hay had to be imported: consequently, the industry of that portion of the colony would be materially injured if the duties were insisted upon. The tariff was very illiberal to the mining class, which should have some consideration at the hands of the House, but to whose interest in the past little or no attention had been directed. The honorable member for Wide Bay, yesterday, stated that in his opinion the duty upon quartz crushing machines ought to be abated. As far as he (Mr. MacDevitt) was acquainted with their opinions, that was quite in accordance with the views his constituents generally entertained; and they made a point of it, at his election, that he should insist, as far as possible, upon the removal of that duty. Why? Because all classes felt that the duty having been abated in favor of sugar machinery, other interests should be similarly favored, when other industries could be equally fostered in the colony. He had taken the trouble to make a rough calculation to find the results from one quartz crushing machine on the wealth of the country. An average machine would crush 250 tons of quartz in a week. The average return of gold from quartz was about two ounces per ton. That quantity of quartz would yield 500 ounces of gold, which, at £3 10s. an ounce, a fair average value, would be worth £1,750; thus shewing, for a year, a total of something like £91,000. Now, he submitted that an industry by which such results could be brought about, ought to be encouraged. It was a matter of serious consideration that obstacles ought not to be blindly thrown in the way of an industry that might affect the colony so much. Take a number of machines—say that ten were employed, and what a magnificent return to contemplate, and to publish of the colony elsewhere. Hence, he intended to support most cordially the honorable member for Wide Bay, in insisting upon the abatement of duty from those articles already mentioned. He should be willing also to abate the duty proposed to be imposed on machinery introduced into the colony for the preservation of meat for exportation. He would admit it duty free. While he maintained the propriety of such a course, and that the arguments for it were analagous, still the reasons were most strongly in favor of mining machinery; because, the miner, from the moment he came to the colony, was always paying taxes—his miner's right and innumerable fees in connection with his claim; and all that he consumed was

dutiable. The class in the colony affected by meat preserving was not such a large tax-paying class as the miners. Independently of that, upon the principles of sound political economy, the encouragement of gold mining was calculated to increase the wealth of the colony. Did not the Treasurer give the strongest reason and argument in support of the course that he (Mr. MacDevitt) was now adopting, because among the exemptions from duty in his tariff was block tin? The reason for its exemption was that it would be an assistance to those parties who were entering into manufactures for the preservation of meat for export. The honorable gentleman recognised the principle of encouragement for a new industry; and if that was so in one case, it ought to be in another. The Treasurer, in his budget, had anticipated the raising of the question of a land tax, for which the honorable member for Wide Bay said he did not expect much support; but there was reason to believe that a strong party in the House was favorable to it. Without committing himself to the imposition of that tax, there were reasons why, in particular districts, it ought to be levied; and the Treasurer had furnished the strongest argument leading to that conclusion. The honorable gentleman seemed to think that, as a principle, the land revenue of the colony ought to go in liquidation of the interest paid for the construction of railways. He (Mr. MacDevitt) wanted to know what the lands in the Kennedy District had to do with the railways at Rockhampton or Ipswich, that they should be saddled with the payment of the interest upon the cost of their construction? The railways passed through land, which ought to pay for them. The adoption of a land tax, partially at all events, could not operate otherwise than advantageously for the Kennedy District, and remove from it the imposition of a burden which the lands surrounding the Darling Downs railway ought to bear. In that way, the Government would satisfy the people of the North, by relieving them from paying for works from which they derived no benefit. The tax on flour, as he said before, was objectionable, as one which militated against the fundamental sources of wealth. If the cost of living were increased, the inducements for people to come to the country were diminished. That was sound political economy. A tax on flour would tell against immigration. The Treasurer should have exhausted every source to raise the money he required before proposing a tax on flour. There was not a heavy tax on salt; he (Mr. MacDevitt) was not aware that there had been any outcry about it being a grievous tax; yet it was to be reduced. Until lately the tax on salt in England was much greater in proportion than it was here; England was a salt-producing country, but that was a heavy tax which was as much as three times the value of the article

itself. Here the tax was half-as-much again as the value of the salt. The Treasurer should have hesitated before departing from the course of his several predecessors. The tax upon salt was fair generally to the people, it fell more or less equally upon the population at large, and everybody paid for the amount he consumed; therefore, it should have been retained, and, inasmuch as it contributed to the revenue a certain amount, the tax on flour should to that extent be reduced. The tax on flour would amount to something like half-a-farthing a pound. Well, that was not a very considerable grievance to submit to; it would impose on the poor man—the shepherd or other laborer who consumed an ordinary ration of eight pounds of flour a week—the very magnificent sum of a half-penny. While he (Mr. MacDevitt) did not think that its operation would entail any very great hardship on any one, he must confess that nothing but necessity should induce the Treasurer to adopt it; and he should require to hear more cogent arguments than the honorable gentleman had yet adduced, to make him follow him in supporting it; because he knew that a tax on flour had been condemned by all who had dealt with the subject. For that reason he should just take the liberty of citing to the House the opinion of Adam Smith. He took flour to be one of the necessities of life, and, therefore, in pursuance of that authority, he held that the imposition of a tax on flour was to be strongly resisted—it created an artificial scarcity. There was another question to which reference had been made by the honorable member for Ipswich, Mr. Cribb, namely, the imposition of a high duty on wine. It was not politic to impose such a heavy duty on wine, because thereby the consumption of spirits was promoted, which was not desirable in this country where general use of the lighter liquids should be encouraged in preference. Some means ought to be adopted, if possible, for the introduction of colonial wines, and for popularising them; at all events, there ought not to be a heavy duty charged on them, such as would best apply to the strong wines of Europe. The revenue, instead of being diminished by such a course, would be increased; because, at present, the duty on colonial wine was so great as practically to amount to a prohibition; the duty of six shillings a gallon was considerably in excess of the original cost of the article. It was very hard that, whilst in the neighboring colony a good and wholesome wine could be had for four or five shillings a gallon, here there should be an artificial increase of price by a tax to more than twice that amount. That was the reason colonial wine had not come into consumption in this colony; yet it was an article which was highly recommended, and which he knew the inhabitants of the northern districts would like to be able to introduce in such a manner as to be permitted to use it on ordinary occa-

sions, which they could not. If the tax were such as to enable the people to use the wine as an ordinary beverage, the increased quantity imported would fully make up for the decreased taxation. As to the *ad valorem* duties, of course the abstract question as to the impolicy or the injustice of their imposition must be left to those who were greater financiers than he could pretend to be. He knew that there was a very strong objection to them. He regretted very much to have heard the honorable member for Northern Downs say that, instead of the tax on flour, he proposed to increase the *ad valorem* duties. The Treasurer had referred to the objections to a land tax as impolitic and unjust. For a similar reason, he (Mr. MacDevitt) objected to laws in obedience to which it was difficult to enforce fines against persons for not doing justly that which none but themselves could do, or rather which was left to themselves to do. The value of imports was assessed by the person who was to pay the duty on them; and, therefore, as it had been laid down by a high authority, individuals were induced to resort to fraudulent practices for the purpose of evasion. If it were possible, at all, in the circumstances of the colony, to do away with a duty liable to such serious faults—namely, that it was unjust in its operation, because it enabled the fraudulent trader to get an advantage over him who was disposed to deal honestly with the Government—it ought to be discontinued at once. With reference to immigration he should say a few words; and, without committing himself to the scheme that had been propounded by the honorable member for Warrego, he thought that the apparent derision with which that honorable member's speech was received in certain quarters, was unwarranted, and that it deserved the serious consideration of the House. In fact, it must be admitted that nothing would increase the wealth of the colony so much as the introduction of immigrants generally. He was greatly struck in reading over a review of the official report printed by the Special Commissioner of Revenue of the United States, with reference to the condition of the country, wherein it appeared clearly that, since the war, the recovery of that country from its former depression was something wonderful indeed. If the figures were correct—and he did not suppose they could be denied, for the book came to hand not only with its original authority as a publication by the Commissioner of the United States, but also with the authority it derived from having been printed by the Cobden Club for circulation in England—there had never been such evidence afforded of the advantage of immigration, and it deserved the most attentive consideration. If immigration had been the cause of the rapid recovery of America from the losses sustained during the war, how much more ought it to operate to enable Queensland to recover from the depression which this colony experienced? How much more likely was it to

assist this colony's recovery, than cover that great national disaster? The encouragement of immigration ought to be the desire of every person who valued the advancement of the country, and he for one would do all he could to encourage it. The honorable member for Warrego had stated that the sum of £130 represented the value of the male animal—of a boy of thirteen years, in fact—

Mr. ATKIN: The cost of production.

Mr. MACDEVITT: Hence the immigration of such a one was a clear gain to the Treasury of the amount named. The female animal—if he might use such an extraordinary term, which was justified by the honorable member's statement—was not set down as so valuable. He thought, however, the honorable member was here mistaken, because—if his attention was directed to the production of the article in the colony—in the diggers of the North there was a great preponderance of the male animal; so much so, that it was made an election question that, whoever of the candidates was returned, their representative should exert himself to promote the immigration of single females for that part of the country. Another American authority set down a million dollars as being added to the wealth of the country yearly through immigration. An adult male immigrant was considered to be worth £300 to the country. In a colony like this, where population was so much more required now than in America, immigration would be more valuable still. Speaking of the Estimates before the House, he said it was the most extraordinary thing, as observed by the honorable member for Warrego, that in a northern district of the colony, which had returned so much revenue to the Treasury, the amount proposed to be expended upon public works next year was less than for the current year. He should like to know upon what principle that estimate was framed, and why the Kennedy District particularly got comparatively so little. The whole amount for Rockhampton, Springsure, and Kennedy districts, next year, was £11,050, against £11,350 for this year. He took the liberty of stating that, so far from there being any justification for such a reduction of expenditure, there was every reason why it should be increased, and very much, for the establishing of proper communication between the coast towns and the gold mines in the interior. Every honorable member knew that in the Kennedy District there had been hardly anything done for its communications during the late rainy season, which lasted nearly eight months of the year. Traffic between Townsville and the Gilbert and Ravenswood was almost suspended during the rainy season. He was aware that in the Loan Bill it was proposed to make some provision for those roads; but the revenue which that district contributed to the Treasury ought in justice to have drawn from the Treasurer or the Minister for Public Works a little provision on the Estimates

for its public works. The Treasurer himself stated that the port of Townsville alone had contributed something like £3,000 a month. That was only one port of the district. There were a few others, which certainly did not contribute so much, though they returned a respectable sum in addition—Mackay, Cardwell, Bowen, and Norman. It was very unjust to them so to curtail the expenditure on public works when they contributed over £75,000 a year to the revenue.

The Hon. R. PRING rose to state that he had had some communications with the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, who had been kind enough to inform him that he would be able, owing to his (Mr. Pring's) suggestions, to make some amendment in that clause of the tariff referring to spirits and strong waters, in order to obviate some difficulties that would ensue should the present holders of those commodities be called upon at once to pay additional duty.

Mr. LILLEY: Mr. Speaker—I had not the advantage of hearing the statement of the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, and I regret much that I was not able to be in the House when he made it. I am satisfied, however, from what I saw of it, that it was a clear statement of the actual position of the colony. I think I may congratulate the honorable gentleman and the country that he, with others who surround him, and who are supporters of the present Government, seems to have ceased to regard the colony as in a hopeless state of ruin. He and they have clearly given ground for hope, as they have more confidence in the resources of the country than they formerly professed to have. I think we may augur from that, that we shall gradually advance, and that we shall by-and-bye have something in the shape of public works as still further evidence of their confidence in the stability and soundness of the colony.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Hear, hear.

Mr. LILLEY: I may also, I think, congratulate myself and my colleagues upon the fact that so much of our policy and so many of our measures seem to have recommended themselves to the present Government; for, looking at the Speech of the other day, and listening, again, to the utterances of my honorable friend at the head of the Government, they seem to have adopted almost entirely the views of the late Government. I was almost startled at the extent at which they seem to have taken them, because that very obnoxious two-thirds clause, which we were to have repealed, is in their list, and they are willing to pass a measure to do away with it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

Mr. LILLEY: The honorable member says no; but he seems to have forgotten what he said.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: With the honorable member's permission, I beg to

explain. What I did say was, that if the two-thirds clause could be repealed by other than a two-thirds majority, it was not worth a snap of the finger; but I do not think it can be so repealed.

Mr. LILLEY: I must accept the statement of the honorable member. I have, myself, been very much deceived, and a great many gentlemen around me are deceived also, if the honorable gentleman did not state that he had no objection to the repeal of that clause; still, I think we may say that there are hopeful signs at every step. I have not the slightest doubt that I shall live to see every portion of the policy which I announced whilst I was Premier, at the beginning of that session which was cut short so suddenly, adopted and vigorously carried out by the honorable gentlemen who are opposite to me. Now, I have looked over the tariff, and I think I may again congratulate my honorable friend, the late Treasurer, on the fact that the present Treasurer has adopted almost entirely the tariff which he drew up and left in the office when we retired from the administration.

HONORABLE MEMBERS ON THE TREASURY BENCHES: No, no.

Mr. LILLEY: Almost entirely, as he left it in his office! Why should honorable gentlemen opposite be ashamed of taking good things, if they find them? I am not attaching any blame to them for doing so. On the contrary, I glory in them. I honor the honorable member for Maryborough, for coming to his senses—for having found that the colony is not going to ruin—

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Under the present management.

Mr. LILLEY: Why, the honorable gentleman is scarcely warm in his seat, and yet he has the presumption to suppose that the colony has recovered from absolute ruin under—his government! What has the honorable member done to bring the colony from a condition of ruin? Only the other day, he did me the honor to take me to an establishment where he is making a change. There, and there only, he was able to point out to me any portion of his administration. It was at the Lunatic Asylum! That is the honorable member's ambition—that is the whole of his administration. His administration of that establishment has brought the colony into its present good and hopeful state! I say the late Treasurer may well congratulate himself on the good sense of the honorable gentlemen on the Ministerial benches, who have adopted almost entirely his tariff.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: No, no.

Mr. LILLEY: Well, to some extent, I believe; they have altered one or two figures, but, in the main, the tariff is the same. I have looked over the tariff proposed to be passed, and I shall have something to say, probably, if I can be here, upon details, as they are considered. I do not care for myself,

but I think I am at liberty to say this much upon the question of taxing flour: I think it is not sound in principle. It may be a tax easily collected; but I think if the honorable the Treasurer is driven to taxing that first necessary, flour, he is destitute of invention, and must know little about the condition of the colony, if he wishes us to believe that he has looked around and cannot find any other subject of taxation. Now, I would suggest to the honorable member that he will find a ready subject. There is the land, and I am glad to find that there are honorable members who have given that support, and who, although they support the present Ministry, agree with me on this subject. If we are driven so closely—if we are so hard pressed that we must, year by year, have a deficit—some bolder plan than has been proposed by the honorable the Colonial Treasurer must be adopted by the House. I do not entirely agree in the idea that we are to allow the very life-blood of this colony to ebb out—its population to leave, and immigration to cease. Instead of the colony advancing, instead of our making ends meet, instead of recovering ourselves, we shall go farther back, if a bold and decided effort be not made; and, instead of £21,000 a year deficit, this will rapidly increase to very much larger proportions. You must adopt some bolder plan than you have presented. There is a fine instrument in the land, not merely for taxing, but for using, in such a way as shall stimulate and preserve, not merely immigration, but ensure colonization; by bringing people out here under such safe conditions for themselves as shall enable them to secure locations, by placing them on the land, and by letting them have it from year to year at a low rent. That, we must carry out in order that the Government may safely enter upon the continuation of our present public works. We hear honorable members from the North continually asking, why should we be paying the interest on the railway debt, when we have received no benefit from it? Now, sir, on behalf of the members for East Moreton, and Brisbane—and Fortitude Valley, too—I ask, why should we, representing some 25,000 people—nearly one-fourth of the population of the colony—pay one-fourth of the interest of that debt—for a railway which stops at Ipswich? We do not enjoy any advantage from it. What benefit do I get from it any more than any honorable member either for Rockhampton or the farther North? If I am to pay taxation for the railway from Dalby down to Ipswich, let me have it down to Brisbane. The increased taxation will not be much, and if I am content to pay my share of it, the Darling Downs and West Moreton members, who enjoy that railway, ought to allow me to bear a share of taxation for the continuation of the line from Ipswich to Brisbane. Now, sir, I have spoken of immigration; and of the land tax, which I think would be a fair tax. I

have to repeat, over and over again, and I am satisfied from the statement of the Treasurer and from the tenor of the speeches in the House, that I shall live to see, and very shortly, a land tax or rent such as I propose. I believe you will do wisely if you adopt that plan. Let the people have the land at the cost of survey and at an annual rent. If you do that, you will get over your difficulties. I say, try it! Or, should you be afraid to let them have the land, why should you keep its occupation surrounded with those artificial conditions which now obtain? It is well known I have never been in favor of them. I believe myself that if a man will take up 100,000 acres, and pay the stated rent, in letting him have it. Of course, you cannot, with all the existing conditions imposed—doubtless with a view to prevent monopoly. Now, the larger number are stopped from getting on the land; you force men to “dummy,” and to take other advantages of the law to secure the land they want; and those with the largest means get it, and have it, much on their own terms. Let the land at a rent, so that whoever wants it can get it. Near the larger towns, and in those localities where great public works have been executed, let there be a larger tax than for land otherwise situated. And, in all those districts from which you draw the land revenue, let it be returned in the shape of public works. That is the proper policy, and the one that I advocated ten years ago, and have reiterated again and again, but never had the strength to get carried out. By adopting it, you will give an impetus to the colony, and draw population from home and from the adjoining colonies to Queensland; which you profess yourselves anxious to do. The honorable gentleman opposite to me says that to introduce 50,000 people will cost £800,000. Well, that is a very good investment, supposing they pay only £2 a head to the revenue.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: How will you get them to stop?

MR. LILLEY: That is very good interest on the money; and, if they consume dutiable articles to the extent of £1 per head, it is very good interest; and, you have their strength and labor, and their assistance in other ways. If we have a liberal land policy—such a policy as will enable us to retain that population—I am pursuing my argument—my land system and my land tax—the introduction of that population, and the most favorable land system that we can devise to settle them on the land, will put this country in such a position that the Colonial Treasurer need never fear a deficit. Granted that the Treasurer should find himself in a difficulty about the land tax, which he does not like. I can suggest to him another one. We are about to tax, as is commonly said, the poor man's loaf—one of the necessities of life in this country—the thing that enables us to maintain labour after we have got it—the thing without which we cannot have labor. Now,

we have gentlemen in this country—and out of it, too—who are drawing large incomes. There is an excellent tax! Give them an income tax. In advocating this, I think I may claim the credit of speaking with disinterestedness; because a tax on income falls on none more severely than the professional man—it falls upon the sweat of his brain, and also on the accumulated capital of his previous years' study; so he is doubly taxed. There are investments secured here, money in the banks, incomes drawn in respect of the business of those banks; we have wealthy squatters who are spending large incomes abroad, and we maintain police and all the system of Government for the protection and improvement of their property; and why should they not pay?—and why should we, possessing such a splendid resource as this, be driven to get £21,000 a-year from flour? Why should the Treasurer be driven to his wit's-end for revenue? I was led to expect prodigies from the honorable the Colonial Treasurer in dealing with our financial position. The honorable gentleman spoke of the difficulty of collecting an income tax. Well, it is just upon the same system as the *ad valorem* duties. You will find, no doubt, that men do cheat. Men cheat in respect of the *ad valorem* duties; and we find, even in dealing in land, that men cheat—a little. We find persons who, stopping only a night or two in the colony, are willing to sign themselves as residents, and to take up land as if they were settled colonists: their statements are *parole*; they are not strictly true, they are not strictly false. A little deception, perhaps much, is carried on, sir, wherever there is a tax that a man ascertains for you, and that he has to pay. At home an income tax has been found to be not only a safe and proper means of raising revenue, but it has been adopted now in many other countries—in America. The Treasurer thinks it an objectionable tax.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I gave my reasons.

Mr. LILLEY; I do not believe that any sufficient reason can be given against levying an income tax, here; because, though there may be difficulties of collection, they must be overcome. No tax could be more simply or easily collected than the land tax or rent I have spoken of; it will be as easy as the collection of the sixpence a year on leases at the present moment. There would be no very great or insuperable difficulty in collecting an income tax. It is one of the most scientific taxes; and the Treasurer will find that the system of taxation on property and income in England, is the most scientific. If he wants authority, my honorable friend behind me can find it for him, that an income tax is one of the fairest in the world. Of course, with so small a deficit, I believe a land tax for many years to come will be enough, and more than enough, without resorting to that from income. I believe if you adopt the plan I

have mentioned, you will find your Treasury become rich, and your people becoming rich, and better fit to bear any system of additional taxation that you may propose. I commend it, with deference, as at least worthy of consideration. I do hope we are not to have a discontinuance of immigration. Though our present Act is not a perfect one—we should have a bolder plan—imagine the effect of our discontinuing immigration after adopting it for one year! What would be thought at home? We should be laughed at; we should sink in popular estimation; and the public at home would think we do not know our own minds. I do not believe we are getting the best class of immigrants, but I think that could be altered, and the Act administered so that we could get the best. I have a very strong opinion and believe that we ought not to get too many of the artisan class; I believe that we should do all we can for the introduction of labor at the expense of the colony—certain men who are used to work in the fields and who can cultivate the soil. I believe we can get them from England, and from Germany, too, unless they are all used up for soldiers. At the present rate of slaughter on the Continent we may expect that a great number of them will be consumed. But, however, I think we could get from England a great number of agricultural laborers. We must take care to make the colony attractive; we must offer the greatest facilities for the people to settle on the land, and to become rich, as they well may. It seems to me that if we are to give effect to the conclusions of each and every honorable member of the House, the Treasurer will soon be without a tariff; because nearly every member gets up, objects to one item or another, and desires change. I think we shall pass it in very much the form in which it was presented to us; because, of course, we cannot give effect to the views of all. Still, I must say, on behalf of the miners, that I always resisted the imposition of a tax upon gold. I do not think it is justifiable, any more than a tax upon wool or tallow; and I do not think it is good. We not only tax their gold, but their machinery too for procuring it. I think, for a time, at any rate, we might admit their mining machinery free from taxation: we must see clearly, when we come down to the items of machinery, how much of the tariff has been left by honorable members.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said he thought it necessary to assert that none deserved less to be taxed than the inhabitants of Maryborough, because they derived no advantage whatever from the gross extravagance that had left the country in its present state. More than that, they were singular, at the time, in protesting loudly against being subjected to taxation, and against the course which was being pursued by what they called the "Southern Government." They had seen, as clearly as the House saw now, what the Government of

the day were driving at; how they were deceiving the people, and what the colony was drifting to. But, at the same time, he felt bound to say, on their behalf, that when the necessity for this increased taxation had been pointed out to them—and it would be pointed out, owing to the admirable speech of the Treasurer, they would, as good citizens, cheerfully bow to it; and they would hope never to see either a southern or a northern Government repeating the same extravagance as they had before objected to. Honorable members who had addressed the House had asked, what the people of the North—what the people of East Moreton—benefitted by the gigantic railways that had been made? He asked, if any people in the colony had benefitted less than the people of Maryborough. They never used—most of them had never seen—the railways, and they never would derive any advantage from them. He would now return to the subject of the tariff. He thought the Government might congratulate themselves on the way in which it had been received. It was impossible that any tariff could please everybody. No one liked to be taxed, and each person viewed the question in his own light. It was hopeless, he repeated, for any Government to bring in a tariff to please every one, even their own supporters; but he hoped they would be allowed to go on with the business, and to pass it through the House that evening. It was absolutely necessary, in order to remove the difficulties which had been referred to by the honorable member for North Brisbane, and to allay uneasiness in the public mind. The honorable member for Fortitude Valley had complimented the Government upon having adopted the views held by their opponents; but he thought they might well compliment that honorable member upon the change which had taken place in his opinions on various political subjects. He did not think it had ever been shewn, as it had that evening, that the honorable member had advocated a tax upon land. He remembered that when a former member of the House, Mr. Francis, advocated such a tax, the honorable member opposed it, and said it was untimely, and he could not agree to it. Why should such a change come suddenly over the honorable member's mind? A similar change seemed to have occurred in reference to other questions that evening. How was it that this income tax had not been thought of by the honorable member himself, or one of his colleagues; and how was it that the honorable member had fallen into such a blunder as to propose an income tax upon absentees? The honorable member evidently alluded to a property tax, for it was clear that an income tax could not be levied upon an absentee. A man must be seen before he could be taxed, although a tax might be levied upon his property. How was it that while the honorable member was Minister, he did not think of

this tax? It was all very well for those gentlemen who called themselves the "Great Liberal Party," while they sat on the opposite side of that House, to set themselves up as a brilliant and shining light to the country; but how was it that their great liberal measures of reform were never enunciated when they sat on the Government side of the House? On one side there was nothing too progressive or enterprising for them; but when they changed places all they could do was to preach rest and caution. He felt astonished to hear the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, one of their leading lawyers, commit such an egregious error as to propose a tax upon land. He could understand this cry coming from a class of politicians who sought to catch the voices of one section of the community; but he could not understand the proposal as emanating from the honorable member. Did the honorable member propose that the original holders of land, who had, perhaps, obtained an extravagant price for it, should come forward and say to the person to whom they had sold it—"Having paid us our own terms for this land, you must now pay a yearly tax upon it, simply because we are in a position to compel you." As well might his tailor or hatter come to him and say—"I have sold you a coat or a hat, and you must now pay me a tax upon it." He could not understand that such an unfair proposition could emanate from a lawyer. When land was sold, it was then and there redeemed from the payment of any tax. That had been from time immemorial the principle recognized in England—when the land was sold, the tax was redeemed for ever. But if the honorable member, as he had reasonably suggested at the close of his remarks, proposed that a title to the land should be given for the mere cost of the survey fees, then there would be no oppression in a light tax in the form of rent. But it was too late to do this in reference to the lands alongside the railway. The Government had been roundly abused because the greater part of these lands were alienated; but why was not this abuse directed against the Government who were in office at the time, but who were cheering the honorable member who made these remarks? With regard to the proposition of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley to levy an income tax, he did not believe there was the necessary machinery in the colony to collect such a tax, and if it were collected, he did not believe it would answer. It was different with the *ad valorem* duties. There was ample machinery to collect them; but he should be very glad indeed when the time arrived, and the Government were able to dispense with them. The honorable member for Kennedy had complained that his district had not been properly taken care of when the Estimates were framed. Well, he should like to know who was to blame for that. The Kennedy, for a long time, had rejoiced in having for its representative Mr. John

Bright, who had never taken his seat. The consequence was that the Government had to obtain information about the requirements of the district from their own officers, who were not in such cases always the best sources of information. The honorable member should take that fact into consideration; and if the inhabitants of the Kennedy had been neglected, it was to a considerable extent their own fault, and not the fault of the Government. He would do the honorable member who now represented that electorate the justice to say that he appeared quite capable of remedying this defect for the future. He thought honorable members on the Opposition benches might be content with giving themselves credit for what they had actually done while they were in power, without trying to rob the present Government of the credit which was fairly due to them. He was quite ready to acknowledge that the Government and their supporters had still hope for the country. They had never despaired except when they saw what they considered a very bad form of government in office. It was not the country they despaired of, but the government of the country. They felt they had splendid property which had been very badly managed and was going to ruin, but he believed the people in the country were beginning to think that was not the case now. He would reserve for a future occasion the opportunity of exposing what he considered the fallacies of the honorable member for Warrego, and he should endeavor to do so in the same courteous tone which that honorable member had adopted. He must, however, protest against the delusion that this colony could afford to go on spending money at the rate of £50,000 a year on Immigration—in spending money which he did not hesitate to say was wasted in the London office. However some honorable members might shut their eyes to the gross expenditure which was being carried on, he could assure them that the House could not afford it. He felt bound to protest against it on behalf of his constituents, because no corresponding advantage was derived from it. They did not know how many immigrants they got, and they knew that these persons were leaving the colony in great numbers. If honorable members would turn to recent files of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, they would find that the collective wisdom of New South Wales had decided, upon a motion brought forward by a very able man, Mr. Parkes, that they were not rich enough to continue such a system; and they would find the Honorable John Robertson declaring that there was no occasion for them to import immigrants as they could get them from Queensland without any cost to themselves. He had it on good authority that people were rapidly crossing the border, and he again repeated that the country could not afford this annual outlay. An honorable member asked what was there to keep them here? The grand argument used some time

ago was that the expenditure of large sums of money upon reproductive works was necessary to find employment for the immigrants; but what was the result of these large undertakings which had been entered into? Why, it turned out that the reproductive works were non-productive, and most of the people employed upon them, and brought out expressly for that purpose, had left the colony as soon as they were completed, leaving those behind them to bear a burden of taxation something over £200,000 a year.

Dr. O'DOHERTY said that if the whole duty of the Colonial Treasurer were to shew to honorable members, in all its nakedness, the exact indebtedness of the colony, he certainly deserved great praise. But he recollected that the same praise had been accorded to the budget speech of that gentleman's predecessor in office—the honorable member for South Brisbane. He, too, had favored the House with a speech which seemed to be nearly a facsimile of the present one, and had been equally applauded for the clear way in which he had laid bare the position of the country. What he (Dr. O'Doherty) insisted upon was, that the same defect which characterised the speech of the honorable member for South Brisbane, was observable in the speech of the present Treasurer; for although the present Treasurer was more hopeful as to the future of the colony, and did not preach a policy of rest and caution, he shewed no sign of progressive policy; or if there was any progress, it was in the wrong direction, because the honorable gentleman had put on additional taxation, and added to the burdens of the country. He confessed that, representing as he did a very large constituency, he took the greatest objection to the continuance of a policy of this kind, and he sincerely hoped that independent members would exert themselves, and putting aside all class interests, endeavor to do something to rescue the colony from its miserably depressed and embarrassed condition. He should not attempt to criticise the different items in the Treasurer's tariff. He agreed with the honorable member for Warrego, that this debate should be confined to the general financial policy of the Government, and the different items be discussed separately. At the same time, he was obliged to refer to one or two items contained in the financial statement. If he had not misinterpreted him, the Treasurer had informed honorable members that if the present loan were granted, they would have to look forward in 1871 to an indebtedness of, in round numbers, four millions of money, and he called upon them to provide the interest upon that loan, which would amount to somewhere about £245,000, while at the same time he informed the House that £514,000 would be required to cover the ordinary expenses of governing the colony. Now, it seemed to him that it would be very desirable, in treating of financial matters, if they could clearly separate these two

things. The honorable Treasurer had also stated that the land revenue which he expected to receive during the next year would amount to within £2,000 of the whole interest on the debt. That was an extremely interesting fact. Viewed in one light, it must be regarded with the greatest satisfaction; but in another, it must be looked upon with sincere regret. It was a matter of satisfaction to learn, that with the handful of population which Queensland possessed, she could even now give out of her land revenue sufficient to cover the interest of the whole debt. If that were considered by itself, no rational man who reflected what a vast landed property the colony embraced, could look upon the loan of four millions except as a very light burden, especially if a liberal and progressive policy were adopted. The disagreeable part of the business was that this £225,000 which the colony was forced to pay every year, must be absolutely cast away without returning any profit whatever; because the loans of which that sum represented the interest had been, the greater portion of them, expended on imperfect lines of railway which, left as they were, commencing nowhere and ending nowhere, were utterly unproductive. He held the money spent upon them at present to be absolutely a dead loss every year to the country. What provision, he asked, had the Government made when they asked the House to consent to increased taxation for reducing this yearly payment? What guarantee had the House or the country that, next year, or the year after, or even the year after that, if the same policy were pursued, this payment would be reduced by one farthing? It must, on the contrary, he maintained, increase year by year; for these unfinished railways would be going to destruction, and would become a still greater drain upon the resources of the colony. He had been very glad to hear the statements made by the honorable member for Fortitude Valley. A good deal had been said by northern members in reference to the Southern and Western Railway, and the southern members had been charged with reaping the whole advantage of that railway while they paid only a small share of the interest upon it. Now, he had made a calculation during the recess in reference to this question, and he found that no less than from £35,000 to £40,000 of that interest was paid by the residents in Brisbane and East Moreton every year. He asked them, was it fair for Northern members to come down to the House and abuse the Brisbane people who paid the lion's share of that liability, while they did not derive the least benefit from the line? And what was this done for?—simply to uphold the interests of Ipswich, which he maintained were identical with those of Brisbane, and quite as much connected with the completion of the railway. He had been to the further trouble of ascertaining what would be the cost of com-

pleting the railway to its proper termini—Roma on the one side and the seaport on the other. Honorable members had just been informed that the extension to Roma could be constructed for £2,000 per mile, and he believed he was correct in stating that the cost of completing the line to Brisbane would not exceed from £6,000 to £7,000 per mile. He would ask any member of the House to make similar calculations. The railway, as it at present existed, was a theme of ridicule and abuse in the neighboring colonies. They called it a miserable abortion, a mere toy railway, an utterly unproductive work, and quite a mistake; and without doubt, as long as it remained in its present state, it must be considered so. Nearly a couple of millions had been spent in surmounting the peculiar obstacles presented by the Main Range—engineering difficulties which had not been surpassed in any of the other colonies; and now that these difficulties had been overcome, it was left unfinished instead of being carried to its proper terminus on either side. He should be glad if honorable members would make the same calculation which he had made, and ascertain for themselves what the total cost would be of completing it from Dalby to Roma on the one hand, and from Ipswich to the metropolis on the other. If those extensions were carried out, he maintained that they would have the longest and most serviceable line of railway in the Australian colonies, at an average cost of some £5,000 or £6,000 per mile. He wished to express his cordial concurrence in the observations made by the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Atkin, in regard to railway extension. It was continually thrown in the teeth of the Brisbane and East Moreton members, that they had no idea beyond the Brisbane and Ipswich Railway. Now, he might say that as far as he was personally concerned, he would almost oppose the granting of a sum of money for this line alone; but he hoped the time had come when a more liberal and comprehensive system of railways to the different parts of the colony would be considered—a system of which the Brisbane and Ipswich line would only form an important and necessary link, even although the construction of that portion of the work should have to await its turn. He hoped honorable members would give this question the consideration its importance demanded. The line to the metropolis would be a reproductive undertaking, and he thought the northern line was equally necessary. Why then should this great work not be completed, which now in its unfinished state drew out of the colony such a large proportion of its resources, without giving any return whatever? It was upon this question that he was most emphatic in his protest against the policy of the Colonial Treasurer; but, as that policy did not appear to be insisted upon very strongly, he was induced to hope the Government would reconsider the matter, and concede this

point. If he saw that they were prepared to do justice to the country, he was ready to give them every assistance in his power. What would be the result of the policy put forth by the Colonial Treasurer? His constituents, as he had shewn, were paying annually £35,000 as their share of the interest on the railway loan, and what did the Government propose to do to lighten that burden upon the country?—they came down to the House and asked for a tax of five per cent. upon the salaries of the civil servants, and they also proposed to place a duty upon bread. If honorable members would join with him in wisely resisting a policy, which in his opinion was one of ruin, they might be able to join in carrying one which would do equal justice to all parts of the colony.

Mr. MILES said he should not detain the House long, as no doubt the Government were anxious that this question should be decided. With one or two exceptions, he was quite prepared to support the Government in the tariff they had submitted to the House;—it was, in fact, a better one than he had expected. He must also compliment the honorable Treasurer, as other honorable members had done, for his clear exposition of the financial position of the colony; but when he had said that, he had said all he had to say about it. He had been unable, on looking over the Estimates, to find any reductions; on the contrary, there appeared rather to be increases. In reference to one department, he would take the liberty of suggesting to the Secretary for Lands that it would be a great advantage to the people of the colony if the Survey Office were amalgamated with the Lands Department. He believed a great saving would be effected by it. It would be in the recollection of honorable members that these two Departments had been worked together with advantage, for two or three years after Separation, and that the Surveyor-General then filled the additional office of Commissioner of Crown Lands; and that was at a time when the duties of the Survey Office were very heavy, in consequence of the large extent of new country that was being taken up. He merely threw out the suggestion for the consideration of the Government. He would not say a word in reference to the gentleman holding the office of Surveyor-General, but would leave that to some future time. There were now three District Court judges, and, from what he knew of the time it took them to perform their circuits, he was of opinion that one judge would be quite competent to fulfil all the duties connected with the southern and western courts. That would be a very large saving to the country, and he was quite sure it could be easily effected. As far as the Western District was concerned, there were only two places where a court was held once in three months, and they could be held as well with one judge as with two. The Secretary for Works, in referring to the proposed tax upon

land, said it was too late, for the land was all gone. He could assure that honorable member that there was plenty of land in his district quite equal to that on the Darling Downs; and he was glad to find that some additional facilities for taking up land were to be given to the people in that district. He was also gratified to hear from the Colonial Treasurer that he was about to make some arrangement for the better collection of the border duties. He failed, however, to see in the policy of the Government, as expressed in the Speech, any symptoms of progress; and they could hardly expect honorable members to come down to the House next year and submit to further taxation. He hoped they would do something by throwing open the lands to promote the prosperity of the country and bring about a more flourishing state of things. He should give them his support as far as their tariff was concerned; and, with regard to the Bills they had promised to introduce, he should be quite ready to assist them in passing any measures which were likely to benefit the colony. If, on the other hand, they proved themselves to be a standstill Government, he should oppose them.

Mr. FYFE said that as the general financial policy of the Government had now been well ventilated, he thought it would be well to proceed to a consideration of the items of which the tariff was composed in detail. There were some very important questions to consider in connection with the proposed additional customs duties, especially the contemplated duty upon flour.

Mr. BELL suggested the adjournment of the debate until the following day; and, after a brief discussion, this proposal was acceded to by the Government, on the understanding that the debate should take precedence of all other business.

Question of adjournment put and passed.