

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 22 DECEMBER 1870

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ERRATA.

Page 280, column 1—Pilotage Rates Bill—for “COLONIAL SECRETARY,” read “COLONIAL TREASURER.”

Page 290, column 1, line 30 from bottom, *between* the words “Downs” and “and,” read “in order to leave out his own station.”

Page 306, column 1, line 18 from top, for “two hundred,” read “fifty-two;” line 19 from top, for “four hundred,” read “five hundred and twenty-eight.”

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 22 December, 1870.

South Sea Islanders.—Appropriation Bill.—Northern Railway Extension.—Dam at Goodna Creek.—Reports of Parliamentary Debates.—Manubar Sheep Destruction Bill.—Parliamentary Library.—Cunningham Street, Dalby.—Water Supply, Dalby.—Pastoral Country Abandoned.—Hospital at Tambo.—Public Buildings, Mitchell.—Improvements of Roads, Mitchell.—The Case of Denis Devany.—Standing Orders Committee.—The Agent-General for England.—Appropriation Bill.—Passengers' Land Orders Bill.—Gold Fields Act Amendment Bill.—Northern Separation.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

Mr. JORDAN asked the Colonial Secretary, pursuant to notice—

1. What ships have come with Islanders since August, 1869? 2. To whom the Islanders and ships were consigned? 3. Number of Islanders? 4. What islands they came from? 5. The number of Islanders returned home since August, 1869? 6. When, how, and where they were sent, and at whose charge?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the honorable member should have adopted the usual course and moved for a return conveying the information he sought for. The Government were quite willing to supply all the information in their power, but they could not do so unless due notice were given, and those questions had only been put on the business paper the previous day. He might inform the honorable member that it was the intention of the Government to send an agent

with all ships sailing to the islands. He believed they had power to do so under the Act.

Mr. STEPHENS: At whose expense?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: At the expense of the importers.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means,
The COLONIAL TREASURER moved—

That there be granted to Her Majesty for the services of the year 1871, a sum of £496,663; that towards defraying the supplementary charges for the year 1870, the sum of £79,424 7s. be granted; and that for defraying similar charges in respect of 1869, a sum of £27,537 5s. 1d. be granted.

Mr. BELL protested against the passing of the Appropriation Bill until the private business on the paper had been disposed of. His experience told him that, when once the Government had got this Bill through the House, there would be no chance of getting anything more done, and the remaining business would be shelved until next session. He hoped the honorable member at the head of the Government would at least consent to postpone the third reading of the Bill until, at any rate, a later hour of the day.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was very important that the Bill should be passed through the House without delay, as it would have to be transmitted to the other House, and returned while the Assembly was sitting. If it were not passed at once, it might happen that there would not be a quorum to-morrow, and the Bill would come to grief. He would give his pledge to the honorable member that, as long as a House could be formed, the Government would remain, and endeavor to get through as much of the business as was possible. There was one important measure on the paper—the Elections Bill—which the Government were anxious to have discussed. They did not propose to pass it through the House, but they wished the subject to be well ventilated, in the hope that they might, by eliciting the opinions of honorable members, be enabled to bring in a more complete measure next session. In the meantime, it was very important that the Appropriation Bill should be passed through both Houses with as little delay as possible.

The question was then put and passed, and the Chairman having reported the resolution to the House, it was adopted. The Appropriation Bill was then introduced, and, on the motion of the Colonial Treasurer, passed through all its stages, and transmitted to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

NORTHERN RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Mr. DE SATGE moved, pursuant to notice—

1. That, in the opinion of this honorable House, the present means of traffic between the

port of Rockhampton and the extensive pastoral districts of the Comet, Nogoa, Mitchell, Warrego, Barcoo, Belyando, and Peak Downs, including the rich mines of Copperfield, are in the highest degree unsatisfactory, and continue to be detrimental to the progress of these districts, and, therefore, of over one-third of the settled portion of Queensland.

2. That this House views the subject of the extension of the present Northern Railway from Westwood to the Expedition Range, not only as one of paramount importance to the cordial understanding so necessary between the Southern and Northern districts of the colony, but as a public work due to Northern Queensland since and from the date when the Warwick extension was commenced in the south of the colony, and for the benefit exclusively of extreme Southern Queensland.

3. That this House do urge the immediate invitation of companies or private individuals, to undertake the extension of the Westwood Railway to Expedition Range, by offering terms especially favorable to this undertaking, before any other railway extension in Queensland.

4. That these resolutions be communicated to the Legislative Council for their concurrence and approval, by message in the usual way.

The honorable member said he felt that in the present embarrassed state of the country, and the heavy taxation under which it labored, this was not a time to bring forward a general motion for the establishment of railways in the interior; but he thought he should be able to shew that the extension of the railway to Expedition Range, would be, not like the Southern and Western Railway, a costly and unremunerative work, but a work which should be undertaken as soon as the country was in a position to undertake public works at all. The present line from Rockhampton to the Dawson was utterly useless; it did not benefit the inhabitants of that part of the country in the slightest degree—in fact, it was a loss to the country of about £500 per month; but it might fairly be expected to be remunerative if it were extended so as to embrace the traffic of the Warrego, Clermont, Mitchell, Springsure, and a portion of the Taroom police districts. He had been at some pains to ascertain the amount of stock depastured in these districts, in order to be able to shew the proportion of produce which would be sent down by this line of railway, and the following figures were the result of a careful calculation, viz.:—Horses, 14,026; cattle, 151,004; sheep, 2,504,702. Now, the total number of sheep in Queensland was 8,646,243, so that the number grazing in these districts was two-sevenths, or nearly one-third of all the sheep in the colony. The produce of these 2,504,702 sheep, calculating it at 2½ lbs. each—which was its proportion of 22,386,650 lbs. wool, the total amount exported from the colony in 1869—would be within a trifle of 3,000 tons. He estimated the fencing wire, supplies for the different townships, iron for furnaces, articles for

station requirements, and other descriptions of loading, at 4,000 tons. In addition to that, there would be certainly 3,000 tons of copper, and in all probability that amount would be largely increased in 1871, in consequence of the number of additional furnaces which were being constructed at Copperfield. On the whole, he thought the Government might fairly calculate upon 10,000 tons being sent along the line during the first year if it were extended to Expedition Range, and he calculated the carriage at the minimum rate of £5 per ton to and fro, that was to say from Rockhampton to Expedition Range and back. He believed that the carriage of pastoral produce, and copper to Rockhampton, and supplies in return, if the line were extended, would amount to something like 10,000 tons per annum; which, at a charge of £5 per ton, would produce a revenue of £50,000; and estimating the passenger traffic at £5,000, the revenue would amount to £55,000 per annum. The railways in the South had cost about £10,000 a-mile, and the railway in the North between £7,000 and £8,000 a-mile—which was about double what he believed would now be required. He understood that the northern line could be extended at a cost of £4,500 a-mile. It had been stated that the extension could be constructed at a cost of £2,500 a-mile, but he had some doubts about that. He had heard that in South Australia the cost of railways passing through similar country was £4,500 a-mile, and taking that as a basis, the expense of extending the railway to Expedition Range—a distance of sixty-two miles—would amount to £279,000, including surveys and rolling stock. The cost of the abortion of the line of thirty miles, now in existence, was about £300,000; so that the whole expense of completing the line from Rockhampton to Expedition Range would amount to £579,000. If the railway were so extended it would secure the traffic of a very large district in the North. He had ascertained that settlers in the district would willingly pay £5 a ton for the carriage of wool and other produce by railway, in order to make sure that their produce should not be kept for months before being shipped, which was frequently the case at present, on account of the drays being stopped from the state of the roads in wet weather. If the district he had the honor to represent did not receive, to a reasonable extent, the advantages of railway communication that had been extended to the Darling Downs, the settlers there must cease to endeavor to develop the important resources of the district. In consequence of the delay that occurred occasionally in the transmission of goods to and from Rockhampton, some large storekeepers in the district had lost thousands of pounds; and the result was, that they had had to pass through the Insolvent Court. The cost of maintaining the line, when completed, taking the cost of maintaining the existing line as a guide, would amount to about £20,250 per annum.

Deducting that from the estimated revenue of £55,000, would leave a balance of £34,750 to meet the interest on the loan. The Warwick railway had been carried along a very circuitous route in order to obtain traffic, but the result was, that the revenue derived from that line did not pay one-seventh of the interest on the cost of construction. Now, such being the case, he thought the amount required for the extension of the line in the North should be granted; especially as such an extension would greatly tend to the development of the great mineral and other resources of that district of the colony. If there was a surety as to the carriage of goods to and from the interior in the North, Rockhampton would become one of the principal ports in the colony. He was sure that if the extension of the railway was carried out, the cry for separation would be staved off for many years. Large sums of money had been spent by private parties and by public companies in the improvement of property in the northern districts. He observed there were on the notice paper some motions for the exaggerated desideratum of a railway between Brisbane and Ipswich, notwithstanding that there was a good road and good river communication between the two places. Now, if there was as good means of communication between Rockhampton and the northern interior, a railway would never have been asked for. For the reasons he had given, he now moved the resolutions.

Mr. SCOTT, in seconding the motion, said, that after the able manner in which the honorable member had sustained his resolutions, it was not necessary for him to say much on the subject. He believed that if any railway in existence in the colony would pay, directly or indirectly, it would be the one now asked for. In a letter addressed to the late member for Clermont, by the Secretary of the Peak Downs Copper Mining Company, under date the 28th of June last, it was stated that at that time the company were giving permanent employment to 400 or 500 men, and were paying, for the carriage of copper, machinery, tools, &c., £16,800 per annum, to which had to be added the cost of carriage of 1,000 tons of supplies for the men employed. The latter item amounted to £10,500; so that the company paid altogether for carriage, £27,300 per annum. Now, he thought that circumstance alone shewed that there was a great necessity for some speedy action being taken at once. The proposed extension of the railway would greatly affect the district he represented. The Leichhardt was far distant from any port, and there was great need for a sure means of speedy communication with a seaport. For some time past the communication with the sea-coast had been very irregular; and he believed that some merchants in Brisbane had suffered severely in consequence. Not long ago there were about a hundred drays stopped on the road to Rockhampton, because

of the heavy clayey nature of the soil in wet weather. He had been informed that, from this cause, in some instances, it had been impossible to clear the sheds of the wool of one year, before the shearing of the next year commenced. He might add that the secretary of the Peak Downs Mining Company also stated, in the letter he had referred to, that if railway communication was extended to the Peak Downs District, the company would immediately extend its operations, and provide employment, at once, for about 1,000 men. Now, taking the production and requirements of 1,000 men at only double that of 400 or 500, it would entail an outlay at present rates of about £54,600. Making, however, a liberal allowance for the difference of rates of carriage, as by railway and by drays, he thought it might fairly be estimated that £35,000 would be expended in the conveyance of goods by the Peak Downs Copper Mining Company alone. Now, £35,000 represented a capital of £700,000, which would be sufficient to construct a line of railway 230 miles in length—or, in other words, from the present terminus at Westwood to the Peak Downs—estimating the cost at £3,000 per mile. But some contractors had offered to construct the line at a much lower figure. Now, it should be borne in mind that, in addition to the Peak Downs Copper Mining Company, a very large amount of traffic would be derived from the pastoral districts in the neighborhood of the railway route. He was sure there were many other sources of revenue that would be opened up in the district if the extension of the railway, as asked for, was constructed. He did not wish to raise the vexed question of injustice to the North. In his opinion, it had been too often raised. He only asked for the extension of the railway as proposed, because he considered it would be of great benefit to most of the important portions of the northern districts.

Mr. HANDY said he had great pleasure in supporting the resolutions brought forward by the honorable member for Clermont; because he believed the railway was a most necessary work—and a work to which the North was justly entitled—and that it would be a highly reproductive work. He held that it was a most necessary work, because the only way to the seaboard from the vast interior was the main western road from Tambo to Rockhampton by way of Springsure. He had on a previous occasion proved that railways ought to be constructed on the principle that they should take the place of roads and not on the principle that they should be reproductive works. A loan of £90,000 had been authorised for the roads of the colony, and was there an honorable member in the House who could for a moment maintain that that amount expended on roads would be reproductive? If the whole amount were spent on the Springsure and Rockhampton road alone it would not render

that road traversable in wet weather, nor would it be reproductive. It was an admitted and well-known fact that the road he referred to was the worst road in the colony, and yet it was the only road to Rockhampton from the Mitchell district and the northern part of the Warrego. There was a vast extent of country occupied on the Angellala, Hogenthulla, Nive, Ward, Warrego, Paroo, Barcoo, Alice, Aramac, Thompson, Wilson, and Langlo rivers; and the only outlet thence was by the Rockhampton road. It was well known that £17,000 had been lost to the revenue last year because the settlers in the interior could not bear up against the heavy rental to which they were subjected, besides the tax on station machinery which the House had refused during the present session to remit, and also from the inconveniences to which settlers were subjected by the almost impassable thoroughfare to the seaboard. He maintained that if a railway were constructed to the Expedition Range, the country in the district which was abandoned would be re-occupied, and new country would also be taken up. It was quite impossible to render the road traversable in wet weather. Instead, therefore, of spending money foolishly in repairing the road, let a cheap railway be at once constructed, and they would never again hear of the melancholy fact that over 100 drays were stopped for months in one spot, unable to move. A railway was a necessary work in the district, and therefore he advocated it, not only for his constituents, but because he considered it would be beneficial to the revenue of the colony. Besides that, the railway, he considered, was a work to which the North was entitled; and the concession of the request now made would tend materially to allay the feeling of dissatisfaction that obtained in the northern part of the colony. As a *quid pro quo* the North obtained the Westwood railway, after the South had secured a railway from Ipswich to Dalby; but on the very day that the House approved of the plans and surveys of the Northern Railway, Mr. McLean gave notice of, and subsequently carried, a resolution empowering his Government to expend £329,467 13s. in the construction of another railway from Toowoomba to Warwick. Now, the North, he held, was entitled to some equivalent. For those reasons, he maintained that the resolutions before the House should be adopted without hesitation. He believed the work would be highly reproductive. The honorable the Colonial Secretary had said that a cheap railway could be constructed for £2,000 a mile. Supposing that it cost even £4,000 a mile, the line asked for, which would extend to about 150 miles, would cost only £600,000, the interest upon which would not exceed £60,000 a year; and he could shew that a far larger amount would be derived from the railway when constructed. Mr. Joubert's letter of June last stated—and there could

be no higher authority, so far as the Peak Downs Copper Mining Company was concerned, than their secretary—that the company paid for carriage of copper to port, and tools and machinery up to the company's works, the sum of £25,200; and that the storekeepers at Copperfield paid for the carriage of merchandise £10,500, which, in all, amounted to £35,700. Mr. Joubert added that if the railway was constructed, the company would double their operations; so that twice the quantity of copper and merchandise would require to be carried; and consequently twice the amount would be payable to the railway, which would amount to a sum of £71,400 per annum. Now, Clermont was nearly as large as Copperfield, and there was Springsure also; and the traffic from those places would largely increase the railway receipts. Then, if the immense quantities of station supplies and machinery up, and wool and other station produce down, by that railway from that vast interior could be estimated, which was over four hundred miles square, the railway in question would be seen to be most highly reproductive and profitable. For those reasons he had great pleasure in supporting the resolutions before the House; but he had little hope that the present Government would confer such a benefit as was asked for the North. His reason for thinking so was, that he had made applications for small favors for the district he represented, and they had been refused. For instance, he had applied that a punt should be placed on the Bowen River, at the main crossing-place between Bowen and Bowen Downs. The first answer he received was to the effect that it would be done. Well, in answer to a second communication, he was informed that the Government had not yet made up their minds as to whether there should be a punt established or not at the place mentioned on the Bowen River. Now, to-night, on repeating the question, he had been informed, that the Engineer of Roads for the northern district had not yet sent in his report on the subject; but, that as soon as his report was received, an answer would be forwarded. Another instance was this, that he applied, by letter, to the Colonial Secretary, three weeks ago, that Aramac should be proclaimed a place at which courts of petty sessions might be holden, because it was a central position between Blackall on the South, and the Flinders River district on the North. To that letter he had not yet received any reply. He repeated the application, and still he had not received any reply. Now, from those instances, it seemed to him that the present Colonial Secretary, or the present Government, did not mean to extend common courtesy to any representative of the northern districts. He had expressed his views of the Minister for Lands on previous occasions, and the honorable member did not want him, now, to speak of the public grievances.

The SPEAKER interposed and said the honorable member must keep to the question.

Mr. HANDY: This was a question of public policy. The policy of the Government was involved in it. And he said now, as he said a moment ago, that although he did not expect the Government to concede such a favor to the North, yet he supported the motion. He was proceeding to give his reasons why he did not expect the Government to grant a favor to the North;—because they had not granted the most paltry favor that he had asked at their hands, and he instanced one case which he had represented to the Colonial Secretary and in regard to which that honorable member had not the courtesy to answer him. He should make that known to the people of the North.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Oh, dear!

Mr. HANDY: Several other things he had to complain of;—promises made to him by the Minister for Works had not been kept—promises to make provision on the Estimates, but he found therein no provision.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Question.

The SPEAKER: The honorable member would do well to keep to the question.

Mr. HANDY: He was keeping to the question; and he was stating the reasons why he did not expect Ministers would give effect to it. He had called on the Minister for Works—another reason why he did not expect the Government to do justice in the matter of the railway—and received a promise that certain matters would be put on the Estimates; and he found that that honorable man, who was generally remarkable for keeping his word, had not put anything on the Estimates. The honorable member, when asked about it in the House, referred to the Colonial Treasurer, who said there was no provision made, and he (Mr. Handy) was forced to put a motion on the paper. He had called on the Secretary for Public Works to request him to put a punt on the Bowen River, and the honorable gentleman said he had been spoken to on the same subject—

The SPEAKER: The honorable member was out of order. There was a motion on the notice paper on that subject, and when it was called on he could discuss it, but he could not do so on the motion now before the House. The honorable member must keep to the question before the House, now.

Mr. HANDY: He was not discussing any question other than the one before the House. He was giving his reasons why he believed the motion before the House would not be agreed to; and, he repeated that he was entitled to give those reasons. He wanted to provide means of transit from the western part of the colony to the seaboard; and he was now supporting a motion for a railway for the same object. Much less than a railway had been refused him by the Government, and they would not grant the railway. He had put two questions on the paper; he had waited a fortnight for an answer, and

when the answer came it was—"The Engineer of Roads had not yet reported." That was the satisfaction accorded to him in connection with an important work. For those reasons, and for several other reasons, he had not the slightest hope that the Government would grant the railway for the North. He was quite sure that the extension of the railway westward was essential, and justly due to the North.

Mr. GROOM said he did not suppose that the honorable member for Clermont anticipated that, after the Appropriation Act was passed, any satisfactory conclusion would be come to upon his resolutions, or that they could be adopted, or that they would be considered with that degree of importance which attached to them. The general extension of railways was a question which deserved the most careful attention of the House; but whether the proposed extension could be conceded to the North, on the present occasion, he was very much inclined to doubt. He had listened attentively to the speech of the honorable member for Clermont, and had hoped that before the honorable member sat down he would have given the House some idea of the course he wished to be taken to accelerate the extension of the northern railway; or, rather, that, he would have stated what inducements should be offered to those who were expected to do the work. He said, in one of his resolutions—

"That this House do urge the immediate invitation of companies or private individuals to undertake the extension of the Westwood Railway to Expedition Range, by offering terms especially favorable to this undertaking."

Now, he (Mr. Groom) had been waiting to hear the honorable member state to the House what were the terms that he wished to be offered to companies or individuals—whether by grants of land, or the terms upon which the Great Pacific Railway, in America, had been constructed. If the honorable member had come down with a resolution of that kind, the House might have had some basis upon which to argue the question of the northern railway extension; but, on the present occasion, he had not supplied them with any work. It was perfectly true that the honorable gentleman had quoted a number of figures, but those figures had been delivered to the House by the late member for Clermont, and descanted upon with equal force, on a former occasion. The House were very much struck with the necessity for the railway when Dr. Benson propounded the question; and he (Mr. Groom) submitted that the present honorable member for Clermont should have come down with full information—with a complete scheme—if he expected them to go farther. His objection to the motion was its impracticability. He challenged the honorable member to tell where a company had been successful in forming railways. He might be told that in America it was so. But, there, the great railway across

the continent had been constructed on a different plan from that sketched out by the honorable member in his resolutions. If he came to more local instances, in the Australian colonies, there had been the railway between Sydney and Parramatta; but that was a standing example of the impolicy of private companies constructing railways.

Mr. THORN: The Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway.

Mr. GROOM: That might be an isolated case. That railway was in a large shipping port, yet, he believed he was right in saying that it was the most expensive line formed in Victoria. It was well known from the utterances of the House of Commons that public opinion in England was favoring the purchase of the whole of the railway lines by the Government on the same principle that the Government had purchased and held control over the telegraph lines. He thought it would be extremely injudicious, therefore, for the House to assent to a resolution which would commit the country to giving up the railways to private companies. He did not think it requisite to occupy the time of the House in discussing the resolutions when there were more important motions which might be satisfactorily disposed of; and he did not think he need repeat to the House what had been said times without number to shew that the line to complete was the existing Southern and Western Railway: that the line between Ipswich and Brisbane should be proceeded with as early as possible, or that the railway would not pay as it ought to pay until that extension was completed. He disagreed with the resolutions before the House for two reasons, in particular. The honorable member made an assertion which he could not admit—that the extension of the Northern Railway was due to Northern Queensland,

"since and from the date when the Warwick extension was commenced in the south of the colony, and for the benefit exclusively of extreme Southern Queensland."

He (Mr. Groom) took exception to that, because, in point of fact, it was like a vote of censure on the proceedings of a past Parliament—that the Warwick line had been formed for the benefit of two or three individuals. Whatever anxiety might have been felt two or three years ago about the success of the line, it was likely now to be profitable. Already the trade from New England, in New South Wales, was tending over our border; the squatters about Tenterfield were already contributing to the traffic. The other reason why he could not agree to the resolutions was, that they affirmed that northern extension to Expedition Range should be undertaken

"before any other railway extension in Queensland."

He could not admit that. He was quite prepared to say, as the honorable member for

Clermont's predecessor had made out a good case for the construction of a cheap line of railway to Expedition Range, that the work was desirable, and should be undertaken. But he was going to move an amendment that would enable the honorable member to carry out that railway much more profitably than by a private company. He did not say that he thought any of his resolutions would be carried—he should like to see them carried, and to see the Government come down to the House next session with a comprehensive scheme for the progression of railways throughout the colony. Further, he thought it would not be at all injudicious on the part of the Government to send engineers from this colony to America to see for themselves the Great Pacific Railway, and to examine the plan on which it had been constructed. The House had been told that the most expensive part of the Queensland railways, the ballasting, was, in America, not carried out, until the working of the line shewed defects and where ballasting was most necessary; and that the rails were laid simply upon the sleepers, and carried across rivers upon trellises. If that plan could be adopted here, it would save this colony several thousands of pounds. But let engineers go hence and see how cheaply railways could be constructed. There was a good deal of timber used in the American works;—this colony possessed abundance of it. The House had seen the extravagance of former undertakings; and it would be well to see, now, if a million of money would not go as far as three millions which had been expended on the present lines. He moved, by way of amendment—

That all the words after the word "Queensland," line 4, in the second Resolution, be omitted, with the view of inserting in lieu thereof, the following Resolutions:—

3. That, equally with the Northern Railway Extension, this House recognizes the extreme importance of extending the Railway from Ipswich to Brisbane, not only because such extension will render the present lines more profitable to the revenue, but also because such extension will largely assist in developing the varied industries of the Southern and Western Districts of the Colony.

4. That, in order to give practical effect to the foregoing Resolutions, this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause provision to be made in the Loan Estimate of 1870, for the sum of £500,000 for Northern Railway Extension from Westwood to Expedition Range, and the sum of £200,000 for the extension of the Railway from Ipswich to Brisbane.

He might observe that he mentioned the sum of £200,000 for the Railway to Brisbane upon a basis formed from the report prepared by Mr. J. Thorneloe Smith. According to that report, the construction of the line would cost only £153,000; and the land to be purchased, according to the plan prepared, would raise the total cost to £183,000. He believed

that there was an amount of rolling stock in the possession of the Government sufficient for the extended line and the additional traffic; there was also a large station at Ipswich which had been intended for Toowoomba, and which had cost £60,000, and which was ample enough for the city of Brisbane. He mentioned those particulars to shew how economically this extension could be carried out.

Mr. JORDAN seconded the motion, and said he would not speak upon it to take up the time of the House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said: I think it is unfortunate that these resolutions could not be brought forward at an earlier period of the session. I feel that debating them, to-day, is almost a loss of the time of the House, who might devote themselves to some practical measures which may have a chance of passing this session. I am sure that every honorable member will agree with me, that there is not the slightest chance of any action being taken on the resolutions, even if they pass. I will put it to the honorable movers that the time is past for them to be brought forward, that our time will only be wasted discussing them, which may be well occupied in dealing with a few practical subjects that can be disposed of. The honorable member for Clermont's motion has been so long on the paper that, finding an opportunity at length to bring it before the House, he doubtless felt it his duty to do so. He is to some extent justified in bringing it forward at this time as a simple matter of right, and having his chance to speak upon it. It would be desirable, however, after the honorable member has stated his case, to allow the matter to drop, and not to go further into it, now. With respect to his particular resolutions, I think that any honorable member who knows anything about the state of the roads of the country must agree—there cannot be any doubt about it—it is perfectly certain—that

"The present means of traffic between the port of Rockhampton and the extensive pastoral districts of the Comet, Nogo, Mitchell, Warrego, Barcoo, Belyando, and Peak Downs, including the rich mines of Copperfield, are in the highest degree unsatisfactory, and continue to be detrimental to the progress of these districts, and, therefore, of over one-third of the settled portion of Queensland."

I am, at all events, and the Government are prepared to endorse that. It is perfectly correct. With respect to the second resolution—

"That this House views the subject of the extension of the present Northern Railway from Westwood to the Expedition Range, not only as one of paramount importance to the cordial understanding so necessary between the Southern and Northern districts of the Colony, but as a public work due to Northern 'Queensland' since and from the date when the Warwick extension was commenced in the South of the colony, and

for the benefit exclusively of extreme Southern Queensland."

I agree with that, too. I remember a specific promise being made in the House by the Minister for Works, that the next railway undertaken in the colony should be the extension from Westwood to the Dawson. I am still of opinion, the Government are of opinion, and a great many honorable members of this House are of opinion that, if any extension of railways is undertaken, it is our duty decidedly to see that the Northern Railway shall be taken from Gainsford, across the Dawson, and continued to the westward. I distinctly heard the promise made in the House by the Minister for Works, and the House agreed with it. That was in the debate upon the extension of the railway to Warwick. There is no doubt about it, that the North is entitled to it. Even as a matter of policy, that extension should be made. It is the only one, after all, that will pay its working expenses; and, as a matter of policy, it is the very first railway work that should be undertaken in Queensland. Coming to the third resolution—

"That this House do urge the immediate invitation of companies or private individuals, to undertake the extension of the Westwood Railway to Expedition Range, by offering terms especially favorable to this undertaking, before any other Railway extension in Queensland"—

I cannot go so far as this. I cannot admit that the House ought to give an immediate invitation to "companies or private individuals" to undertake this work. It would be folly on my part to consent to it, because we have not provided for it. Our financial scheme does not comprehend railway extension. It would be an absurdity on the part of the Government, now, to accept this; because we have not made proper provision. In the opinion of the Government, we have gone far enough at present with railways. Railway extension will take place, we fully believe. It is a mere question of time. That a railway from Ipswich to Brisbane will be eventually made, I never heard a member of this House dispute. What we say, is, that this is not the proper time for it. That is the point. There is no doubt it will yet be carried out. But, we are not in a proper financial position to undertake such works. We are not in a position to borrow money for those extensive works; and we think that we must go on pretty quietly for some time longer. And, I think the House have by all their divisions shewn that that is the opinion of the majority of honorable members. It would, therefore, be suicidal on the part of the Government to admit the third resolution. There is a certain vagueness, too, about that resolution, as to how it should be carried out; and it will be better to have something to consider more specifically stated than that. I may tell the House that the Government were quite willing,

and will be, now, to receive proposals from private individuals and from any companies, to carry out any railway work, provided they will take payment in land. They are not going to make any agreement in the recess, I need not say, with any company. They are prepared to receive proposals, and to submit them to the House, either with or without the approval of the Government. This morning, my honorable colleague, the Colonial Treasurer, has received proposals on the subject of the telegraph lines. Before this, the individual who has made them was in communication with him in reference to railway lines: he has contracted with the Tasmanian Government for the construction of a railway from Launceston. We, therefore, suppose from that, that he is in a position to make proposals to this or any other Government. We have never received any proposals from him which we thought it worth while to submit to the House. He or other persons may make proposals to the Government, which the Government will be always happy to entertain and to submit to the House, either with or without their sanction—saying what they think of any proposal. Having said so much upon the third resolution, it is hardly necessary for me to say that the Government will oppose the resolutions of the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba. They are out of place. The feeling of the House during the session has been shewn to be against the expenditure of a large amount of money on railways at present. I will recommend the honorable member for Clermont, having now provoked a discussion of the subject, to withdraw his resolutions. It is impossible that the Government can agree to the third. I will also point out to him that, lower down on the paper, there is a motion which was carried with the consent of the Government, for the appointment of a commission, to sit during the recess, upon railway matters.

MR. DE SATGE: That is with regard to the Ipswich railway.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I know that that does not apply to the northern railway, but in assenting to it on the part of the Government, I believe we shall get some useful information on the subject of railways, which will help us in their consideration generally. But the Government are prepared to take action on this northern railway. The time is not now—the present is not the time to urge the "immediate invitation" of private companies or persons to undertake the work. I am, also, aware that, even accepting the whole of the resolutions, it would hardly pledge us to anything—it would commit us to nothing. In accepting the amendment of the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba, I think we should be committing ourselves to a decided course of action. I hope that, as discussion has been evoked, both the motion and the amendment will be withdrawn.

Mr. ATKIN said he had a plan to propose, which, of course, he knew could only be put if the amendment of the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba was substituted for the honorable member for Clermont's motion. He should never think of putting such an important motion before the House just at the end of the session;—it was a perfect farce to go into the discussion of such a question in a thin House, and at such a period, when there was a certain amount of other business to be done which might be got through, if this were dropped. One remark had been made by the honorable member for Clermont, that if a company were prepared to construct the line from Gainsford to the westward, they could get land in payment. He (Mr. Atkin) should like to know from the honorable member where the land was to be obtained that would pay for the construction? There was only a small portion of that section surveyed that could be got. No doubt, if part of the Darling Downs should be set apart for the purpose of recouping companies for the construction of railways, companies could be got to do the work, and it might be a very economical way. He thought, however, that when the question of extending the railway in the North came under consideration, the extension of the railway in the South, also, must be taken with it—not only from Brisbane to Ipswich, but westward to Roma; and it might also be considered whether the northern line should not be extended to Springsure.

Mr. THORN : Log-rolling.

Mr. ATKIN : Of course, the one idea of the honorable member for West Moreton was to prevent the extension of the southern railway. The same arguments applied to both the northern and southern extensions. The northern extension was due to the people of the North. But if there was any part of the railways of the colony which had been really paid for by the residents of the district through which the line ran, it was the Warwick extension. The amount of land that had been sold on that part of the Downs, and the increased value obtained for it, had paid for the railway over and over again; so that the people had paid for it themselves. He should not go on with the discussion, nor put his amendment. He hoped that both the motion and the amendment before the House would be withdrawn.

Mr. MACDEVITT said he cordially agreed with the resolutions of the honorable member for Clermont; but the circumstances under which they were moved did not admit of that full discussion which their importance demanded, and, perhaps, it would be best to accede to the recommendation of the honorable member at the head of the Government. He might point out to the notice of the House that the Minister for Works had not brought up for prompt consideration the subject of inviting capitalists to undertake railway works, as promised at an early period of

the session. That part of the Government programme was, he supposed, shelved. He presumed that it would have some attention bestowed upon it when Parliament met next session.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS stated that he felt bound on the part of his constituents to bring to mind the distinct promise which had been made by Sir Robert Mackenzie that there should be a railway between Maryborough and Gayndah. That seemed to have been forgotten. That was a very important district, and the one above all others in the colony, except West Moreton, that would pay for a railway. The argument of the honorable member for East Moreton, Mr. Atkin, in favor of the Warwick railway, applied equally to the Maryborough district. A great deal of land had been sold there. However, he thought that the present was not the time for discussing such an important subject. He hoped that the railway commission which was promised would come to some conclusion to guide honorable members.

Mr. ATKIN : The honorable member would see that in his amendment, which was on the notice paper, he made provision for the expenditure of money in the various districts.

Mr. FIFE said he thought this discussion would do good; the outside world would know that honorable members were desirous that railways should be constructed. The resolutions of the honorable member for Clermont would not be carried this session, the Appropriation Act having been passed. He had received some information from a gentleman who had lately come from America, as to how the railways were constructed in that country; it was after a style which made them far less costly than the Queensland lines. For instance, one item of saving was, that the lines were not fenced. He urged upon the House the absolute necessity of Government inviting companies who were desirous of undertaking the construction of railways, to tender, if they would take land in payment. In America, the contractors for the Great Pacific line had accepted a section of land in every twenty miles—that was to say, for every twenty miles of the line constructed—relying upon the increased value of the land for payment for their work. He threw that out as an idea for the Government. If the resolutions were not withdrawn, he hoped a vote would be taken on the question. He thought the North was to be congratulated on having so many champions as had come forward in this debate.

Mr. DE SATGE, seeing that there was no use in pressing his resolutions, said he would bow to the expressed wish of the House and withdraw the resolutions. He regretted that the honorable member for Drayton and Toowoomba had raised the question of the North against the South, against which he had studiously guarded himself; and he would not, for a moment, pledge himself to such a

scheme as was set out in the amendment. He gave his support to the present Ministry distinctly on the understanding that the line of railway from Ipswich to Brisbane was to be opposed. There were two lines of communication already between those towns. He asked for the railway to Expedition Range as due to the North, since the Warwick extension was authorised. With regard to the proposed commission, he was very sorry that the honorable member for Brisbane did not include, in its inquiry, the northern railway. He would have suggested the granting of large quantities of land, as was done on the Great Pacific Railway, to parties undertaking the construction of railways in Queensland, and in the particular case indicated in his resolutions. If the words of the Colonial Secretary were placed on record, they would shew the people of the North that there was a desire on the part of the Government and the House to deal with a work so urgently required next session. He trusted that something would be done during the recess, with Captain Coote, to ensure the subject being brought before the House early on the re-assembling of Parliament. He begged, with the leave of the House, to withdraw his motion.

Mr. GROOM expressed his willingness to withdraw his amendment.

Motion and amendment, by leave, withdrawn accordingly.

DAM AT GOODNA CREEK.

Mr. THORN moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1871, a sum not exceeding £300, for the purpose of erecting a Dam at Goodna Creek, in order that the inhabitants in that locality may be provided with fresh water.

He reminded the House that when the motion was brought forward for the erection of a dam at Moore's Creek, for the supply of water to North Rockhampton, he stated that, if the motion was carried, he would ask that a similar work should be constructed at Goodna Creek. Now, this dam was as much required for the supply of water to the inhabitants of Goodna and Redbank, as the dam at Moore's Creek was for the supply of fresh water to the inhabitants at North Rockhampton. A petition had been presented from the inhabitants of the district, praying that such a work might be carried out. He did not ask that the money should be granted at the present time, but that the sum he considered necessary for the work should be placed on the Estimates for next year.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said that the Government would oppose the motion. He considered that, at this late

period of the session, it was trifling with the Government and with the House, to bring forward such a motion.

Mr. THORN said he was very much astonished to hear such a statement made by the Secretary for Works, seeing that he had himself several times applied for grants for the supply of water to Maryborough. For his part, he thought the question of water supply to several townships and districts of the colony should be taken up by the Government.

Mr. FORBES supported the motion. He believed that the dam could be constructed for a very small amount. He thought the work was a most necessary one. If the Government considered they could not now assent to it, he hoped that some officer from the Works Department would be sent during the recess to examine the locality, and report upon the subject.

Mr. ATKIN opposed the motion. The honorable members for West Moreton did not seem to be satisfied with the preponderance of influence they possessed in the House, in respect to obtaining benefits for their district. He was sure that if the present motion were carried, larger grants would be asked for the district next year.

Mr. GROOM said he considered it to be his duty to support the Government on the present occasion. He had understood that it was the intention of the Government to bring forward a general measure for the supply of water to several districts of the colony.

The motion was put and negatived without a division.

REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Dr. O'DOHERTY moved—

1. That, having in view the partial and unreliable reports of the parliamentary debates appearing in the newspapers, this House is of opinion that steps should be taken to secure, for the information of the public, an authentic weekly publication of the reports of such debates.

2. That the above resolution be transmitted to the Legislative Council for its concurrence.

He said he did not think there could be a more appropriate time than the present for the consideration of this subject, seeing that next session many important subjects would be brought before the House. He thought the House ought to take steps to induce the Government to enable honorable members, as regarded their speeches, to be placed in a more favorable position than they were at present through the press. An inquiry as to the publication of "Hansard" took place in 1866, and also last year. On both occasions a large amount of evidence was taken. It seemed strange to him that the evidence taken last year was not laid upon the table of the House. He believed that in the inquiry held last year a large mass of evidence would be found, which would enable

the Government to see the purpose he had in bringing forward this motion. Honorable members, he considered, were in a most unfair position in being placed at the mercy of one paper—namely, the *Brisbane Courier*, which was the only paper that professed to give anything like full reports of the debates that took place in the House. He believed he expressed the opinion of most honorable members when he said that the reports in that paper had frequently been exceedingly incorrect. For his own part he did not care how briefly his speeches were reported, so long as they were correctly reported in substance. Now, though it was known by the public that “Hansard” could be purchased at the Government Printing Office, he believed that not a single copy had been purchased. The object of the inquiry last year was to ascertain if it was not possible to enlarge the sphere of information to the public as to the proceedings in the House. He understood that in South Australia a plan was adopted by which the reports of debates appeared in the daily newspapers as for “Hansard.” Now, if such a course could be adopted here, he thought it would be highly advantageous. In the evidence given before the Select Committee, in 1866, Mr. Byrne, one of the Parliamentary Shorthand-writers, said:—

“In South Australia, much the same plan has been in vogue for many years; and, at the present time, an official record of the debates in Parliament is furnished in this way:—The proprietors of the *South Australian Register*, a daily newspaper, and of the *Observer*, a weekly newspaper, both published in Adelaide, have entered into an agreement with the Colonial Treasurer, on behalf of the Government, to provide a “Hansard” for the Parliament. A contract has been concluded for three years: it commenced sometime in 1865. The terms of the agreement are to the effect, that the reports published respectively in the newspapers named, and subsequently in the “Hansard,” shall consist of a fair abstract of all speeches occurring in ordinary debates, and a complete and accurate report of all speeches upon matters of general public interest, so often as the same shall arise. The day on which the report appears in the daily paper, members are supplied with slips of their speeches for revision or correction—the slips to be returned to the printer the next day by noon. If the printer objects to corrections or alterations as unreasonable, or on account of the expense involved, or on the ground that the speech has been faithfully reported, an arbitrator, appointed under the agreement—but as to whose precise functions I am not clear—is called on to decide between the disputants. At the end of the session, the whole debates are made up in large octavo, and bound in cloth and lettered, with indices and proper references, and the Government are supplied with 250 copies. The remuneration which the publishers get from the Government for this service is £5 for each sitting day of Parliament, and £250 at the end of the session, upon delivery of the 250 copies of the debates. In the event of two sessions occurring in any year, the same amount is paid for every

sitting day, but only £175 is given for the 250 copies of the debates for each session. It is left to the discretion of the newspaper proprietors to print the debates in briefer, nonpareil, or emerald type.”

According to such an arrangement, the publication of “Hansard” was much cheaper than the course adopted here; and there was the advantage that the reports appeared in the papers every morning. The evidence given before the select committee on “Hansard,” last year, was to the same effect. Now, he thought they ought to adopt either the course that was pursued in South Australia, or that which was pursued in New Zealand, where the “Hansard” was published, weekly, in such a form and at such a price as induced a large sale. It had occurred to him, in thinking over this matter, that it might be well to have the “Hansard” tacked on to the *Government Gazette*. If that were done there would be an extensive issue of “Hansard” secured, and a great many of the newspapers throughout the colony would copy the reports. He had brought forward this motion in order to obtain a strong expression of opinion by the House on the subject, for the guidance of the Government in the matter. As the House did not, last session, vote any sum for the publication of “Hansard,” the Government had taken the publication of it into their own hands. So far as he saw from the reports in “Hansard,” there was no reason to complain of their accuracy; but, as there were no “proof” copies now furnished to members to afford them the opportunity of making corrections, he considered the present system was a wrong one. He thought that members ought to have the opportunity of seeing if there were any errors in their speeches, and, if so, of correcting them.

Mr. FYFE said he would rather see the speeches left to the mercy of the reporters, than that honorable members should have the opportunity of re-writing them. Of course, everyone was liable to make errors; and there might be some clerical errors made by the reporters. The Parliament was a deliberative body, and the whole of the proceedings ought to be reported—the debates in committee, as well as the debates in the House; because the practical wisdom and knowledge of honorable members came out chiefly in committee.

Mr. FORBES said he thought it must be quite patent to honorable members that the press was of no advantage to the colony. Most of the evils the colony suffered from had arisen from the press; and yet the House was now asked to give a further license to a set of cowardly assassins, who took every opportunity of traducing those who gave their services to the public. He hoped that, if the House determined to have the speeches of honorable members published, it would be in a way that would

protect honorable members against partial reporting, or personal spleen, on the part of the press, and from the slanders to which misreporting gave rise. The press, at the present time, produced great injury to the colony, and seemed to be directed with a view to the degradation of everyone in the colony. He must say that he fully concurred in the opinions lately expressed by Judge Lutwyche as to the way in which the public press of the colony was conducted. To the opinion expressed by that learned gentleman, there had been no answer returned by the press. The reports of speeches, as they appeared in the press, were altered so as to indulge private spleen. He considered that the object of the motion was a good one, and, if it could be carried out honestly, it would, he thought, be beneficial. Public opinion, as expressed in the House, was generally condemned, and turned into ridicule by the press. A gentleman in New South Wales had informed him that, by the reports which appeared in the Brisbane papers, a wrong opinion was formed as to the views of honorable members here. The House, he hoped, would carefully consider the details of the motion now before it, so that honorable members might be relieved from the aspersions that were cast on the whole of the proceedings of the House, through the press. If the press here took up such a position as it did in New South Wales, it might be regarded with honor; but unfortunately it did not do so. If the press in this colony was properly conducted, it would be looked up to as an honorable institution, and one that was calculated to raise the standard of legislation. However, he regretted to say that such was not the case. For the reasons he had stated, he would support the motion of the honorable member for North Brisbane, and he hoped it would be carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he agreed in the opinion that "Hansard" should be more widely distributed throughout the colony; and what was more, he considered they should have a much improved "Hansard." He thought that during the present session the reports in "Hansard" had not been so correctly reported as formerly. A great deal of abuse had been heaped upon the press for mis-reporting, but he thought that, during the present session, the reports in the only newspaper in Brisbane that attempted to report the proceedings of the House any way fully would compare favorably with the reports in "Hansard." He had found that some of his own speeches had been more correctly reported, though condensed, in the columns of the newspapers than in "Hansard." He did not wish to cast much blame on the reporters, either for "Hansard" or for the press, for those inaccuracies; because he had himself been occasionally in the gallery, and had found that it was almost impossible there to hear what

honorable members said. He thought that some arrangements should be made by which the Parliamentary Shorthand-writers should, next session, be on the floor of the House, and take a seat at the table—they being officers of the House. He did not, however, see that the same privilege could be extended to the reporters for the press. If such a course was adopted, the Parliamentary Shorthand-writers might then be held responsible for accuracy though not for full reports. As to the proposition for a daily publication of the debates, he doubted very much if it could be carried out. He did not see how the debates could be published daily in full; nor did he think that either of the Brisbane papers would make a sufficiently liberal offer to justify the Government in entering upon the course proposed by the honorable mover of the resolutions. As to the publication of "Hansard," the Government had only made themselves responsible to the extent that it should be continued, and that was because the House took no action for its continuance. Many honorable members did not re-write their speeches, and he was one who did not; but there were others who did re-write their speeches, or so altered them as to shew what they meant to say, instead of what they had said. He had had a proof of a speech of his sent to him in the course of the day; but he did not like to look at it, and, in fact, he did not think he would correct a word of it. He understood that the cost of the publication of "Hansard," as at present, was twenty-five per cent. less than it was under the former arrangement. He could not certainly agree with the proposition that it should be issued along with the *Gazette*. The Government Printer had suggested to him that the circulation of "Hansard" might be greatly increased, if, being published in weekly parts, those weekly parts were forwarded to the various public institutions throughout the colony. It had been suggested to him, however, that there might be some difficulty in adopting this course, because honorable members might render themselves liable to actions for libel in some cases, if they revised their speeches. He thought that if the House again took up the publication of "Hansard," it should be on the understanding that the copy of reports should be handed to the Government Printer immediately after the debates, as in the case of the newspapers. He agreed in the opinion that speeches delivered in committee should be reported in "Hansard." He looked upon the debates that took place in committee as being of far more importance than some of the long-winded speeches that were delivered when the Speaker was in the Chair. He thought it was quite absurd that the most valuable reports should be left out of "Hansard." Now, considering that the "Hansard" reporters were remarkably well paid, and that their work was not so heavy as that of news-

paper reporters, he thought that they might give fuller reports than they did. During the present year, the first session lasted only six days; the second, five days; and the third, twenty-two days—making a total for the year of thirty-three days: but still the Parliamentary Shorthand-writers were paid their full salary for the year. He thought that, if "Hansard" was issued weekly, the object of the honorable member for North Brisbane might be fully attained; because the newspapers throughout the colony could then copy the reports from "Hansard" instead of from the newspapers. As to the *Government Gazette*, which had been referred to, he thought it would be well to cut off the free list. The number of subscribers was about two hundred, and the number of the free list was about four hundred; and he believed that many of the free-list copies were never looked at; but everyone who was appointed to the commission of the peace, immediately on such appointment, applied to be furnished with a copy of the *Government Gazette*.

Mr. ATKIN said he thought it was impossible there could be correct reports, either in the newspapers or in "Hansard," so long as the reporters had to occupy the disadvantageous position in which they were placed. It was well known that honorable members sitting on the back benches could not distinctly hear an honorable member who might be addressing the House from the bench immediately before him. It was only the reporters for "Hansard" who could be admitted on the floor of the House, because of their being officers of the House. Now, he could inform the honorable the Colonial Secretary that it would be impossible for his idea, as to a weekly publication of "Hansard," to be carried out, and for this reason—that the "Hansard" reporters had to write out members' speeches more fully than the newspaper reporters would be allowed to do. The newspaper reporters were not responsible to the House, but the "Hansard" reporters were, and that feeling of responsibility occasioned much more carefulness, and consequently much more time in the transcription of notes. He knew that many members complained of words being, as it were, put in their mouths by the reporters which they did not utter, but he believed that the severest infliction that could be placed on such complainants would be to report their speeches exactly. Besides that, he could inform honorable members that it was sometimes impossible for a member on the one side of the table to hear what was said by an honorable member on the other side of the table.

Mr. LILLEY said he thought the best course that could be adopted would be not to report the speeches of honorable members at all. His impression as regarded "Hansard" was that it was simply a nuisance. He

thought it would be better to burn the previous copies than to continue it, because it seemed that "Hansard" only furnished a fund of information for useless debates. More than that, he would go a step further, and would propose the exclusion of reporters altogether, and let the proceedings be evidenced by the statutes and resolutions passed by the House. His impression was that much good would be done by having "Hansard" done away with. The reporters on the press, and on "Hansard," no doubt, sometimes fell into errors, but in the main he thought the speeches of honorable members were accurately reported. The trifling errors that occurred could be very easily corrected, if an opportunity was afforded honorable members to do so, by the issue of proof copies—but for correction only, not for the purpose of re-writing speeches. He did not believe in making quotations from "Hansard" several years back, for a man might, and very likely would, change his opinions in ten years, because he might become much wiser in the course of that time. His opinion was that a man should express the thoughts that occurred to him at the moment. If an honorable member at any time changed his opinion, let him get up and say so like a man. He thought that the sooner they got rid of "Hansard" the better, inasmuch as if it were done away with, there would be fewer long-winded speeches delivered by some honorable members. In fact, he believed, there would be more real work done if there was no reporting allowed at all.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said he considered that "Hansard" was one of the most valuable institutions they possessed. The honorable member for Fortitude Valley, however, might perhaps have found the possession of such a record somewhat awkward at certain times. Some honorable members were always changing their opinions, just as it suited their purposes; and hence it was necessary to have a "Hansard," for the reports in the press could not be trusted to; and, even, if they could, some politicians would deny what they had stated. With regard to the reports that appeared in the press, he found that words were frequently put in his mouth that he never uttered; and that made him appear as having given expression to sentiments he never entertained. Upon those so-called reports, articles appeared in the papers quite in opposition to what they would have been if his speeches had been correctly reported. "Hansard" was the only protection they had against mis-reporting in the newspapers. He also considered that the whole tendency of "Hansard" was to improve the debates in the House. For his own part, he considered that "Hansard" was one of the most precious privileges the House possessed, and he hoped it would be found he was not alone in that opinion.

The motion was then put, and the House divided, as follows:—

Ayes, 18. Mr. Palmer " Ramsay " Thompson " Walsh " MacDevitt " Moreton " Forbes " Thorn " De Saigé " Scott " Atkin " King " Wienholt " Royds " Fyfe " Groom " Jordan Dr. O'Doherty.	Noes, 9. Mr. Lilley " Haly " Miles " Stephens " Ferrett " Handy " Edmondstone " Pring " Bell.
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MANUMBAR SHEEP DESTRUCTION BILL.

Mr. HALY moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of considering the desirableness of introducing a Bill to enable the Board of Sheep Directors for the Sheep District of the Burnett to eradicate the disease known as catarrh in the sheep from that district.

He wished, with the leave of the House, to alter the motion, so that they might "now" go into Committee.

Mr. MILES objected to the amendment. The honorable member must proceed in the usual way.

In answer to Mr. ATKIN,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the question was one affecting the sheep-owners themselves, and, at the same time, one of public policy. The carrying out of the Bill would be paid for out of a fund provided by the sheep-owners themselves, and the disease in the sheep of Manumbar would be eradicated from the colony.

The SPEAKER expressed his opinion, that under the circumstances of the near close of the session, the amendment might be made.

Mr. MILES said he decidedly objected.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Standing Orders were suspended.

Mr. STEPHENS asked whether the Standing Orders were suspended for any purpose except the passing of Bills.

Mr. HALY remonstrated with honorable members on the Opposition for objecting to his proceeding without delay.

The SPEAKER said he could do anything with the concurrence of the House, and he hoped they would not object to the amendment.

The original question was put and passed.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY.

Dr. O'DOHERTY moved—

1. That, in the opinion of this House, all ex-members of the Executive Council, ex-members of Parliament, Judges of Supreme Court, Judges of District Court, and Heads of Departments, shall be, henceforth, honorary members of the Parliamentary Library.

2. That the above Resolution be presented to the Legislative Council for their concurrence,

He said that, since he had put the motion on the paper, he found that the Library Committee had granted the permission he sought to a portion of the gentlemen named. Still, he thought that permission might be fairly extended to all embraced in his motion. From the discussion he had heard in reference to the motion, he proposed that the permission should be granted only during the recess, and, with the leave of the House, he proposed to add, at the end of the first resolution, the words—

"except when Parliament is sitting."

He was always of opinion that the Parliamentary Library should not be confined so exclusively as it was at present to members of either House. The gentlemen named should have free access to the only public library of importance that existed in the colony. In bringing forward the motion, he was sure he did all that was required of him.

Mr. STEPHENS said he should like to know by what authority the Library Committee allowed persons to go into the library who were not members of Parliament. The Library Committee had taken a liberty for which he could find no authority.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY asked the honorable member for Brisbane to withdraw his motion. If Parliament had a library, it must be a Parliamentary Library. If they threw it open in the way proposed, they must throw open the Refreshment Rooms, too.

Mr. FYFE said he should go so far with the resolutions as to extend the advantages of the library, as in Victoria, to ex-members of Parliament, but not to heads of departments. Still, it would be better to withdraw the motion altogether.

Dr. O'DOHERTY said, as it seemed to be the sense of the House that he should do so, he would withdraw the motion.

The SPEAKER stated, as a member of the Library Committee, though only for a short time, that he thought the honorable member for Brisbane, Dr. O'Doherty, must be mistaken in supposing that any permission had been given this present session to any person to use the library.

In answer to Mr. ATKIN,

The SPEAKER said that the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the Districts Courts had been admitted to the library during the recess; but, in doing that, the Committee doubted very much as to their power; because, being a joint committee of both Houses, it appeared to him that their proceeding required the authority of Parliament.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

CUNNINGHAM STREET, DALBY.

Mr. BELL moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of considering an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause the sum of £1,500 to be placed on the

Supplementary Estimates for the year 1870, for the purpose of metalling that portion of Cunningham street, in the township of Dalby, which forms a portion of the main thoroughfare between Toowoomba and Taroom on the north, Roma on the west, and Calandoon on the south.

He said, in reference to the technicality which had been disputed by some honorable members, who would not allow the House "now" to go into committee on previous motions, that as a matter of course there would be another sitting, next day—if there should not be, his motion could not go through;—but he felt hopeful in the determination of the House to carry out the whole of the business on the paper this session as fully as possible, and he should proceed, believing that there would be a strenuous effort on the part of honorable members to make a quorum. Among the many reasons in favor of this application for a money grant, the first he should refer to was, that the motion agreed fully with the principle which had been laid down by the House in previous sessions—that all main thoroughfares through municipal towns should receive support from the public funds in their construction. That was a very reasonable principle, because they all knew that municipalities in their early struggling existence could not afford funds to make main roads—their financial position would not allow them to macadamise or metal such roads, however necessary for the public convenience. Dalby was peculiarly situated. It was the terminus of the railway; and, in consequence, there came to the town a great number of carriers from the outer districts, and the traffic created through the main thoroughfare was very extensive. That did not exist formerly. Since the completion of the railway, the traffic had been diverted from what was formerly the main thoroughfare, which had been formed by the grant of a small sum of money, on the same principle which he now enforced; and Cunningham street was now the main thoroughfare. In slightly wet weather the street was impassable for want of being properly constructed. Few honorable members were not acquainted with Dalby, and none who were could deny the necessity for the vote. If the Government did not grant the money, it was impossible that the municipality could provide it; and, if the work was not done, the consequence would be an utter stoppage of traffic. This season was very wet, and he had seen the street utterly impassable—it was a perfect bog—and the railway could not be reached.

Mr. ATKIN supported the motion. If passed, it would benefit some very valuable property of the honorable member for Maranoa.

Mr. MILES: If it would give the honorable member for East Moreton any satisfaction, he would say that he had no property in Cunningham street. He had property in Dalby, it was true, but the creek happened

to run between it and that street. He was not one of those who came forward to cadge or beg money from the House to improve his property. He improved it himself. He did think the Government were bound to do something for the main thoroughfare of the town, which was in a deplorable state; and it was utterly impossible that the corporation could put the street in order. He did not know whether he ought to go with the honorable mover for the whole sum of £1,500, but still he supported him, and he trusted that his explanation was satisfactory to the honorable member for East Moreton.

Mr. BELL asked leave to alter his motion by substituting the word "now" for "at its next sitting."

Mr. LILLEY said he should object very much to concede to the honorable member for Northern Downs what had been refused to the honorable member for Burnett, Mr. Halv.

Mr. FERRETT supported the motion, as the work proposed was very necessary.

Question put and passed.

WATER SUPPLY, DALBY.

Mr. BELL moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of considering an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause a sum not less than £490 10s. to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for the year 1870, being the balance of the sum of £1,000 granted by the late Government to the municipality of Dalby for a water reserve, a bond for the repayment of which sum of £1,000, and interest, the Government of the day exacted from the municipality of Dalby.

The circumstances of the case were shortly these:—The Government of the day found the necessity of granting a sum of money for the creation of a water supply in Dalby, and the Government gave it as a loan to the municipality, and took a bond from the corporation for the repayment of the sum with interest. A portion of the sum had been expended, but the water reserve was not completed. A supply of water had been obtained, but the corporation desired to complete the work thoroughly by the expenditure of the further sum named. He thought the Government had no objection to the motion, if the House saw fit to authorise them to give the money.

Mr. FYFE remarked upon the favor shewn in the matter of the grants asked for Dalby with the refusal of the Government to consent to a vote which he asked, the other day, for Rockhampton School of Arts.

Mr. BELL: This was a matter of urgent necessity.

Mr. MILES said he wished to inform honorable members that the Corporation of Dalby had given the Government a bond to repay the money, and that they paid interest on the loan. That was not like Rockhampton.

Rockhampton asked for a lump sum from the Government, not to be repaid.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said the statement was certainly fair, to some extent. He would point out to honorable members that the Government must not be understood as supporting those motions; the Government strongly opposed them. Meantime, however, they were anxious to see the other business on the paper got through, as they had given a promise to see it through.

Question put and passed.

PASTORAL COUNTRY ABANDONED.

Mr. HANDY moved (as amended)—

That there be laid on the table of this House a Return shewing,—

1. The number and total area of blocks of pastoral country thrown up or abandoned, between the 1st March, 1868, and the 1st November, 1870, in each of the unsettled districts respectively.

2. The total revenue lost by such abandonment.

He made an amendment by substituting "each of the unsettled districts" for "the Warrego and Mitchell," which he took as permitted by the House.

The Hon. B. B. MORETON: Look at the *Government Gazette*. The information was there.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The Government must oppose the motion on the ground that the information was already published in the *Government Gazette*; and the honorable member could obtain it there, without the great expense of preparing the returns asked for.

Mr. HANDY: He could not find the information sought—the loss to the revenue. He had searched for it. What information was given was in a distributed form; and he wanted it in a simple shape. He was surprised at the Government. They would not concede a single request that he made.

Mr. LILLEY said he did not take the same view as the honorable the Colonial Treasurer of this matter. He thought honorable members had a right to ask for information to be furnished to the House. True, they might find a great deal of information in the *Gazette*; but the country had public servants who were paid for furnishing any information that the House required.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: If it was the opinion of the House that they should do so, the Government would supply the information. The only object of the Government was to save the country expense;—it was a great expense printing returns. As to saying that the information was distributed over the *Gazette*, it was in one column following another.

Mr. LILLEY: It might be supplied by the totals, and reference for details to the *Gazette*.

Mr. HANDY said he should be quite satisfied with that.

Question put and passed.

HOSPITAL AT TAMBO.

Mr. HANDY moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1871, the sum of £300, or such smaller sum as shall not exceed double the amount raised by private subscription, towards the erection or purchase of a suitable building for an Hospital, at Tambo, in the Mitchell District.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: To save time, he would inform the honorable member that the Government had no objection to allow the motion to pass.

Question put and passed.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, MITCHELL.

Mr. HANDY moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1871, the sum of £450, for the following purposes:—

1. The sum of £300, for the erection of police quarters, two cells, and a court house room, at Aramac, Mitchell District.

2. The sum of £50 for the erection of two additional cells, at Blackall, Mitchell District.

3. The sum of £100 for repairs to the public buildings at Tambo, Mitchell District.

He would explain, he said, the objects sought to be attained by this motion. A new police station had been formed at Aramac, which was very far in the interior. About one hundred and fifty miles west of that point, there was a den of cattle stealers, a nuisance to the whole district; and hence the necessity of having the police station. There was no timber, or fit material for building, within some distance for the erection of the police quarters. Aramac was a proclaimed township. Thence to Flinders was a distance of two hundred and fifty miles; and from Aramac to Blackall, one hundred and fifty miles. Therefore he moved for provision to be made for the erection of police quarters and a court room at Aramac, and for an addition to the police station at Blackall. A couple of cells at least should be provided at Blackall. It was so far to travel between the stations, one hundred and eighty miles one way, and two hundred and fifty the other, that a superintendent had to leave his station too long, when he had to travel such distances. If the honorable the Colonial Secretary would consent to the holding of a court of petty sessions, it ought to be at Aramac. The money asked for was not exorbitant when it was considered that there was no building material near. At Blackall, the accommodation was very bad. Prisoners had escaped from the station, there, repeatedly, and had not been retaken. He thought it would not be injudicious to have two additional cells there; the cost would be

only £50. The buildings at Tambo were in a bad state. He could assure the Government that he had been there, and seen every part of the building, even the little room in which the police slept on the floor—beds, papers, all the records of the court, everything—thoroughly saturated with the rain. He might add that very little money, indeed, had been spent in the district, and he did not now ask for an exorbitant sum. Since Separation, the sum of £351 10s. only had been spent on public buildings in the Mitchell District. He had asked for a vote for an hospital, because he saw provision made for Clermont, Springsure, and other places. It was a shame that so little money had been spent in Mitchell, when it contributed so much to the revenue of the country.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had no objection to the motion. It was necessary for the Government to take steps to provide quarters for the police; and it should have been done long ago.

Question put and passed.

IMPROVEMENT OF ROADS, MITCHELL.

Mr. HANDY moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1871, the sum of £250, for the following purposes:—£150 towards sinking a public well at a point where the main road from Tambo to Springsure crosses the Main Range; and £100 towards widening the scrub road situate between Clarke's House, at Mantuan Downs, and the Mitchell public house, on the same road.

When he first placed this motion on the paper he asked for £500, but he had received reliable information since that £250 would be sufficient. The first item, for a public well, was very desirable. Whether the weather was wet or dry, there was a long stage of seventy or eighty miles to travel, across the Main Range, without water; and that was on the only road from the interior to Rockhampton. Consequently people were very much inconvenienced. £150 was a small amount for sinking the well. If the work could not be done for £150, water could not be obtained at all. The second item was for improving an important public thoroughfare. On the west side of the range there was about a mile and a-quarter of road through a very dense scrub—one of the densest scrubs he knew. The track was only wide enough for one dray to pass, and, for that distance, other teams could not travel if one was on the track, until it was clear; and one team could not get out of the track to let another pass. The scrub came up close to the wheels of a dray on both sides. It was not for his own district he asked the vote; the road was for the convenience of the whole of the Warrego, as well, being the way thence to Rockhampton.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he must oppose the motion, as £600 had already been voted for the road between Springsure and Tambo, besides other sums from the general revenue for the roads of the honorable member's district. He did not think that the honorable member knew much about the want of a well. There was only one season that the carriers were without water on the line across the range, which was no more a range than the table. He (the Colonial Secretary) did not think anyone could tell, without a level, where the range was.

Mr. HANDY: Whatever it was, level or not, it was called the Main Range; and for a distance of eighty miles, from one side to the other, there was no water. The honorable member at the head of the Government knew the distance. He (Mr. Handy) had meant to say that it was not at his own instance he brought forward the motion; it was at the universal request of persons in the district who had asked him to get the well made. It was not much to ask for, he was sure. The only money that had been spent between Springsure and Tambo was £380 2s.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the Government found, on the report of their own officers, that a well was necessary, they would provide it out of the money, £600, which had been voted.

Mr. MILES said the honorable member for Mitchell had resided so long in that district that he was an authority. Had he not been there a long time "lambling down" at the election?

Mr. DE SATGE said if the honorable member for Mitchell had placed himself in communication with Mr. Byerly, the Engineer of Roads, he was sure, from the spirit of that gentleman, he would have acted independently and done what was necessary on the road. Mr. Byerly was ready to receive information, and to oblige anyone in attending to the requirements of the roads, and would have spent £50, or so, on it. That course would have been better than taking up the time of the House with the motion before them.

Mr. ATKIN suggested that probably the Attorney-General would be able to give some valuable information about the road.

Mr. HANDY, finding the sense of the House against him, said he should withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

THE CASE OF DENNIS DEVANY.

Mr. HANDY moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1871 the sum of £2,000, to be paid as a gratuity to the wife of Denis Devany, who is now a confirmed lunatic, from the effects of a brutal assault upon him by a constable.

He said he thought the facts of this case were sufficiently known to several honorable members. The case had been twice before the House during the session, and he did not think he could say any more than what they knew already about it. Devany was a confirmed lunatic. The honorable member for North Brisbane, Dr. O'Doherty, so stated the other night in the House; and he (Mr. Handy) thought there was no hope of the man getting better. His wife and family were bereft of any assistance from him for life, which was a very hard position for any family to be placed in. Though he had limited the amount of the gratuity to £2,000, he should leave it altogether in the hands of the Government to decide what amount should be given. He did not want any more than the House would grant. Under the circumstances, the House should grant some little amount of gratuity to Devany's wife and family.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he must, on behalf of the Government, object, *in toto*, to the motion. As a first objection, he might say that no honorable member had any right to put before the House a motion, affirming as a fact what had not been proved—that Denis Devany

"is now a confirmed lunatic from the effects of a brutal assault upon him by a constable."

That had never been proved. The constable had been tried and, so far, acquitted;—the jury could not agree. It was just as likely that the assault committed on Devany was committed by some of the parties with whom he was fighting on the day he was injured. Nothing had come to the knowledge of the House to justify the honorable member for Mitchell in proposing such a motion.

Mr. MILES expressed his surprise that such a motion was brought forward. It had not been proved that the constable was guilty of the charge laid against him, of injuring Devany. The honorable member for Mitchell should withdraw the motion.

Mr. GROOM said he very much regretted to see the motion on the paper. If there had been a good case for the House to deal with, the honorable member for Warwick would have considered it his duty to table a motion on the subject. He believed that there was a very strong feeling upon the case in the district. The only reason why the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Forbes, moved the adjournment of the House, on one occasion, was, that the Government should take some action in it. The man Smith was under his own recognizances to appear before the court to stand his trial when called upon. When the Colonial Secretary stated that the charge had not been proved against Smith, it had not been proved, as far as he (Mr. Groom) had been informed, because one of the jury—the prisoner's friend, a discharged constable—had stated that he would eat his boots off before he would find Smith guilty for assault. The jury were eleven to one

for a verdict of guilty, but, owing to that discharged constable sticking out as he did, there was a miscarriage of justice. The case had not been proved either way to the satisfaction of the public; and to ask for £2,000 compensation to the family of Devany was improper. He (Mr. Groom) should support the Government.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS remarked on the cruelty of putting such a motion on the paper, and holding out hopes to the wife of Devany that she would get such a sum. It was great cruelty to so raise her feelings when only disappointment could be expected to result. He was surprised that the honorable member did not withdraw the motion after his speech, the other night, on Devany's case.

Mr. HANDY said he had it from the honorable member for Warwick's own lips, that he would not have anything to do, directly or indirectly, with any case in which the police magistrate was concerned. He made this motion without, in any way, reflecting on a case that was *sub judice*; but now that his attention was called to the fact that the motion was a reflection, he should withdraw it.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Mr. KING moved—

That the Report of the Standing Orders Committee, brought up on the 21st instant, be adopted.

In respect to the arrangement of the Business Paper of the House, which had been under the consideration of the Standing Orders Committee, he said the committee had found that some slight alteration would, possibly, be beneficial. They recommended, that those motions which stood over, which were undisposed of, from day to day, should be placed after the motions down for the next sitting day, in the order in which they had been originally placed on the paper. At the present time, the custom was, for postponed motions to be placed at the bottom of the business on the paper for next day, and, if the next day's motions were not disposed of, they were placed below those of the day after. Thus, if a motion, placed on the paper the first day of the session, was not disposed of, instead of getting a higher place on the paper than motions subsequently made, it got further and further down, until all the motions were cleared off.

Question put and passed.

THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR ENGLAND.

Mr. JORDAN moved—

That there be laid upon the table of the House, a return shewing the whole of the correspondence between the Government and the Agent-General for Emigration, Mr. Douglas, from the date of his appointment.

He said, he believed the Government had no objection, and that it would be passed. The

correspondence asked for would enable honorable members to see the relations between the Government and the Agent-General in England. It would not be necessary for him to occupy the time of the House with any observations upon the motion.

Question put and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

A message was received from the Legislative Council returning the Appropriation Bill, as agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved, without previous notice—

That the honorable the Speaker be authorised to present the Appropriation Act to His Excellency the Governor, for the Royal Assent, at Government House.

Question put and passed.

The SPEAKER: It is the parliamentary rule that all Bills of Supply are presented to His Excellency the Governor in the presence of both Houses or in the presence of this House, by commissioners. I believe it is impossible that that can be done in the present instance. It is rendered necessary, therefore, that the Speaker should have the authority to present the Appropriation Bill for the Royal Assent, at Government House.

PASSENGERS' LAND ORDERS BILL.

On the Order of the Day being called for, the

“Consideration in committee of the desirability of introducing a Bill for granting land orders to certain classes of passengers who have not received them under the Alienation of Crown Lands Act of 1860.”

Mr. JORDAN moved the Speaker out of the Chair.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said, if the honorable member who introduced the Bill had any intention of allowing any other business to go through, he should recommend him to withdraw it. He should oppose the Bill at every stage. He could not consent in any way that it should be passed this session. There was not the slightest room for hope that it would become law; and keeping it on the paper would only stop other business. Far rather than agree to this Bill, he would agree to cash payments to those people who were disappointed in getting land orders. The land orders were sold for very little by the holders, and they then came into the Treasury at their full value. The Bill would get no further than the committee.

Mr. JORDAN said he knew that the Premier was so determined against the Bill that he did not suppose there was any chance of its passing; but, he could not consent to say nothing on the subject, because he considered it to be one in which the credit of this colony before the whole world was deeply involved. He could not forget, and he was sorry the Premier forgot, that there was a number of persons, their fellow colonists, who had been

for years here, who were deeply grieved by the fact that certain arbitrary acts by a previous Government, known to be in opposition, in spirit and intention, to immigration, had entailed very great loss and injury, and injustice upon them. On that ground he could not consent to be silent. Also, he had pledged himself to a number of persons who were aggrieved on this subject, to bring it forward. He might premise that he should not be long; because he took into consideration the circumstances of the case, and that honorable members, at such a late hour of the evening, were desirous of getting away from the House. But, a few facts in connection with the subject he might be permitted to state. He asked, the other day, for certain returns, just to shew what number of persons had been deprived of their land orders under certain instructions given. That return had been laid on the table. It shewed that the Colonial Secretary need not be alarmed at what it would cost the colony if those persons were paid in hard cash. It shewed that if the whole of those persons for whom he (Mr. Jordan) asked for land orders—most of them non-transferable—received them, it would cost the colony £24,000. But, half of those persons were not in the colony, he supposed; so that justice could be done to them, and Queensland could be set right before the whole world, and the spirit and intention of the Immigration Act could be kept, at a cost to the colony of £10,000, in land orders—non-transferable land orders. The return included some persons who had no claim whatever. He should like to direct the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the return, as followed:—Persons who were debarred by age—men, 40; women, 35—473. Full-paying steerage passengers, 335. Odd children in families—no claim had been put in for them, most of them coming as members of families of persons who had received free and assisted passages—300. Single females, paying passengers, not accompanied by their parents, 50. This matter was greatly misunderstood. Persons who received assisted passages had no claim whatever, on the ground that it was never intended that they should be brought out. The principle sought to be established was to give land orders to persons who paid their own passages to the colony. A number of persons who were unable to pay their own passages had come out, on the condition that if they were assisted they would forego any claim to land orders upon arrival. It was printed in italics, and in the most prominent manner. It was made to be fully understood that persons proceeding to the colony on such conditions were to have no claims for land orders. They received free or assisted passages on the full understanding that they would have no claim for land orders. They applied for such passages, and it was their own voluntary act in accepting them on such conditions. During last session

the case of John Adams and his family was brought before the House. Now, they were steerage passengers, and had no right to receive land orders. The case of Lieutenant Gardiner was also brought before the House last session by the honorable the present Minister for Works. Those, and other instances, shewed that the House had always decided in favor of the applicant. It was admitted that those were hard cases; and it was further admitted that a short Bill should be brought in to meet all such cases, inasmuch as, though the parties might not have a legal claim, they had an equitable claim. Some honorable members, however, maintained that they had a legal claim, and the honorable the present Secretary for Works was one of those who did so, and, therefore, he hoped the honorable gentleman would agree to the resolutions now before the House. The Executive regulations, refusing land orders to males over forty-five and to females over thirty-five years of age, had a most injurious effect in Great Britain as regarded immigration to this colony. When he first went home as Agent-General for the colony, he had a distinct understanding with the Government that there was to be no restriction as to the issue of land orders on the ground of age. To his astonishment, however, after being at home for a short time, he received instructions containing all sorts of restrictions; and he could assure the House that many of his sub-agents gave up their office because of the frequent, and, as they considered, absurd changes in the regulations. Mr. Herbert, when he arrived home, gave him instructions not to issue land orders to steerage passengers; and, in reply, he informed him that to do so would be to destroy the most extensive branch of immigration, for most of the immigrants at that time were steerage passengers; and he (Mr. Jordan) recommended many persons to come out as steerage passengers, in order that they might have the more money on their arrival here. Mr. Herbert, however, was inexorable, and, on request, gave him a written authority to the effect that steerage passengers were not to receive land orders. In consequence, steerage passengers were, for twelve months, deprived of land orders. Those persons to whom the Bill would apply had a substantial grievance on account of the conflicting regulations that were issued from time to time. Though he took every opportunity of making the alterations known, many persons who had only read the first pamphlet he issued when he arrived at home, knew nothing about the alterations that had subsequently been made from time to time. It was only when they were about to embark that they came to know of them; and very many respectable people, when they heard, at the last moment, of the changes that had been made, declined to come out; and the colony had, in consequence, sustained great injury.

It was only right that they should keep faith with those who came out, on the distinct understanding that they were to receive land orders. The utmost that it would cost to do so would be about £12,000 in the shape of non-transferable land orders. Instead of dealing with every individual case, he thought it would save a great deal of time and trouble, to pass a short measure, which would apply to all such cases as he referred to. He hoped the House would not object to do what he considered would only be a tardy act of justice to many people who had come out here on the full understanding that they would receive land orders.

Mr. GROOM wished to know whether, if the honorable member would consent to withdraw his motion, the honorable the Colonial Secretary would agree to the Bill being introduced next session. It was well known that there were many cases similar to that of the man Adams. As the honorable member for East Moreton only proposed that justice should be done, he hoped the Government would not oppose the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he could make no promise as to what the Government might do next session in the matter.

Mr. KING said he knew there was a large number of people in the colony entitled to land orders who had not received them. He had himself intended to bring forward a motion on the subject; but expecting that a select committee would be appointed to inquire and report on the matter, he withdrew it. He thought that, at this late period of the session, the honorable member for East Moreton should adopt the same course. As the question of immigration had been brought up, he might remind some honorable members that it was at first provided, by the Act, that immigrants should receive £6 on their land orders, at the Treasury, and that the land orders should be returned to the owner, or his authorized agent, on re-payment of the amount advanced. Subsequently a regulation was issued to the effect that the land order deposited at the Treasury could only be redeemed by the owner himself. Now, he thought it was very hard that any man should have to come down the country long distances to redeem a land order on which the sum of £6 only had been advanced.

Mr. STEPHENS said, that at this late period of the session he would not enter into the land order question at all. He thought, however, it was right for the honorable member for East Moreton to bring forward this question at present, inasmuch as he had not previously had an opportunity of doing so. He knew there were good reasons why the House should pass the Bill the honorable member proposed to bring in. As honorable members were aware, several claims had been sent in on petition, and, after inquiry, before select committees, had been granted. Now, as the House had done so, he thought the wisest plan they could pursue would be to meet such claims by a Bill, and deal with

them as a whole. However, he would at present suggest to the honorable member for East Moreton that he should withdraw the motion now, and bring it forward next session, unless the members of the Government should see their way to deal with the question in the meantime. He considered that it was too late to deal with the matter during the present session, as this was the last day the House was likely to sit.

Mr. ATKIN said he would support the motion of his honorable colleague. All he wished further to say, was, that he was astonished to hear from the honorable member for South Brisbane that this was the last day of the session.

Mr. LILLEY said he understood that the regulations, as to land orders, were altered during the early days of the colony, and that many persons had suffered loss in consequence. It would only be a simple act of justice to pass such a measure as the honorable member for East Moreton proposed. Such a Bill would do more to strengthen the position of the colony at home, as regarded immigration, than anything else that could be proposed.

Mr. BELL said he was very glad this matter had been brought before the House, because he was aware that there were many instances in which it was clear that persons had not been fairly dealt with. He regretted that such cases had not been dealt with before in the way now proposed. He knew that many persons felt so disappointed that they had made their grievances known at home. He should have liked that the honorable member had brought this question before the House at an earlier period of the session; as he feared it would not be possible to have it now passed into law. He hoped the motion would be withdrawn, but with the view of its being re-introduced next session.

The motion was then, by leave, withdrawn.

GOLD DUTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. KING moved—

That the Gold Duty Act Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

The object of this Bill, he said, was merely to remedy a technical defect in the existing Act, which required that the escort fees and export duties should be charged upon all gold, whether pure or not. Now, what he desired was, that those charges should be limited to standard gold. Some gold, in bar, as honorable members were aware, contained a large quantity of silver, which was worth only about five shillings an ounce; and, he thought it would be admitted, that in such cases it was not right that the full gold escort fees, and export duty of eighteen-pence an ounce, should be charged. What the Bill proposed was, that the export duty should be charged only on the standard ounce of assayed

gold, and that the Colonial Treasurer should be authorised to enter into arrangements with bank managers, and with the master of the Sydney Mint, so that gold might be exported under bond, and the duty paid after assay.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said he thought it would be better for the honorable member, at this late period of the session, to withdraw the Bill. The measure was one that required a great amount of consideration, and to carry out the arrangement proposed would require a greater amount of machinery than the honorable member was aware of. If the Bill should be passed, the effect would virtually be to hand over to the Sydney authorities all the gold that might be sent to the mint for assay; and, besides, it would be necessary to wait for some months before returns were received, so that accounts might be made up. He thought it would be preferable to reduce the export duty on gold at once, rather than pass this Bill. He hoped the honorable member would withdraw it, for he did not see how it could be worked.

The motion that the Bill be read a second time was then put and passed without division.

NORTHERN SEPARATION.

Mr. FIFE moved—

1. That viewing the vast extent of the colony of Queensland, and the insuperable difficulties presented to its effective government as a whole, from the capital being situated in almost the extreme southern boundary, the time has arrived when, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient that the northern portion of Queensland be formed into a separate colony.

2. That, inasmuch as population has been made the basis upon which Separation has been granted to other colonies, and as the population north of a chain of mountains known as Dawes' Range is considerably larger than that of Moreton Bay was at the time its separation from the colony of New South Wales was first agitated, it is expedient to adopt that natural geographical line as the southern boundary of the proposed colony.

He said that, aware as he was of the importance of the question which was now likely to occupy the attention of the House, and understanding thoroughly from both sides the feeling of honorable members in reference to the separation of the North, during the time he was a member, he thought that, under the present circumstances, he should not allow these resolutions to lapse. This was a very proper occasion to bring them forward, notwithstanding that it was the last day of the session, or the last but one; and notwithstanding that his motion stood last on the notice paper, he thought it was not the least. Before the House understood the question properly, it would be found that its importance had not been considered. The very fact of its being the last amongst all the motions for their consideration, would be one of the finest arguments before the

country in favor of separation at Dawes' Range. He could not disguise, though he would not shew it, if he could help it, that he felt that the House were not true to the cause of Separation. He did not believe that there was any sincerity on the part of the majority of the House in reference to Separation; and he did not believe there was any sincerity in its behalf on the part of the Government for even financial separation. Therefore, the power which the people of the North had in their own hands, to appeal to the Imperial Government, should be exercised. In the position he occupied, this night, he said it was not of the slightest use to speak to the House with the hope of getting anything done for the North. He had seen resolutions passed during the short time he occupied a seat, and he had protested against them; he had seen a Loan Act for £780,000 passed, and he had protested against it; he knew that his predecessors, who represented northern interests, Mr. Archer and Mr. Fitzgerald, wanted provincial councils and local self-government, or separation, and the realisation of their desires was as far off as ever; amongst all the measures passed by the House, there was no sincerity, if desire, to accomplish anything like just legislation for the North. He knew it was an important question to speak upon the last night of the session. He should like another day, to go through his papers, so as to fairly place his views before the House; but he had heard that he should get a quorum for two or three hours, to-night, and he could not afford to let the opportunity pass. It might allow him time to lay his statistical information before the House; but he knew it would be only a burlesque on legislation to expect them to consider it, when he knew that though honorable members were present many of them were only anxious, and determined, to "count out" the House and get away. If there was a full House, depend upon it, he was prepared to advocate and discuss the question; but under present circumstances, it was a burlesque, a parody, on legislation to attempt to force through his resolutions. Yet, he was determined, if there was a House, to divide the House upon Separation, for the very purpose that he might find by the division who were true to their colors: honorable members who were returned in favor of Separation, and who represented the North, would see whether the House were for Separation, pure and simple, at Dawes' Range, or whether they would shelve the question by honorable members leaving the House. If the House were counted out, it would go to the inhabitants of the North, and to those who had signed the Separation Petition, as a substantial ground for going beyond the colonial Parliament and appealing to the Imperial Government. Honorable members would agree with him that it was not desirable to go into the merits of the question,

He could do it; but he must keep the House for an hour or two, and he knew that was not agreeable. He thought he was perfectly justified in moving the resolutions for the purpose of eliciting from both sides of the House, but more especially from the members of the Government and other honorable members who had agreed to separation at Dawes' Range, an expression upon them. At the same time, he wished for a discussion upon the merits of the case. This he could not obtain now, whatever he did; and he desired to interest the feelings of the House in the question, to discuss it as early as possible, next session. He should not sit down without reading to the House that which would shew them that the people of the North had the power to apply for separation thoroughly independently of the House. It was very fortunate for the people of the North that they had such a power, which he would shew by the Imperial Act. When separation was asked for by the inhabitants of Port Phillip from New South Wales—when Moreton Bay, following that example, got separation from New South Wales—there was great excitement; there were many enthusiastic men advocating the good cause; a holiday was proclaimed only a couple of weeks ago because separation was achieved, eleven years since, by the inhabitants of Moreton Bay; but, now, unfortunately for his constituents, he (Mr. Fyfe) was single-handed. He might have an advocate in the honorable member for Kennedy, but, with the exception of that honorable member, he believed that, as far as the North was concerned, he stood alone. They would stand together, and, if they were all, they would stand united.

Mr. FERRETT called attention to the state of the House.

Mr. FYFE: That is it.

The House was counted, and, there not being a quorum, adjourned by the Speaker until next day.