Queensland

Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 1872

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 29 May, 1872.

Supply.

SUPPLY.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved—

That the Speaker leave the chair, and that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. MILES said that he did not rise for the purpose of opposing the motion, as he thought the time had now arrived when the Government should agree to the proposition which had been made to them at the commencement of the session, namely, that they should ask his side of the House for further funds with which to carry on the business of the country. It was now the end of the month, and if the Government did not ask for some money, they would be unable to pay the salaries of the civil servants; and he thought, therefore, that they should come to some conclusion, so that no impediment should be thrown in the way of business. It was quite true that some efforts had been made by honorable members to effect a compromise between the two parties in the House, but they had failed, and he could now see no other way open to the Government than their accepting what would be sufficient to carry on the business of the country. He could not understand why the Government, if they really had the interest of the country at heart, should set up the dignity of themselves or their supporters, and allow that to impede the business of the country, which they did, by refusing to accept a vote to carry on the departments of the service. He felt quite assured, from the offers which had been made by honorable members opposite, that the concession they proposed was all on one side, and was one which it would be impossible for the Opposition to accept. He would, therefore, strongly advise the Government to accept a vote on account, so that the business of the country might be carried on properly If they did not accept it, whatever might be the result, the fault would fall upon the shoulders of those honorable members who attended that House day after day and refused to go on with any business whatever, but insisted upon having all the Supply for 1872 granted before they would allow any other business to proceed. It had been an understanding come to by both sides of the House at the close of last session—that the Government would accept a vote of three months' supply, to enable them to prepare and bring in a Redistribution Bill; and he maintained that they were bound to carry out that engagement and go on with such Bill. The way to do that would be to accept the offer he had made, and thus allow business to go on in the usual way. He trusted the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government would see his way clear to accept such a proposition.

The motion was carried and the House was put into committee.

The CHAIRMAN put the question—

That there be granted for the service of the year 1872 the sum of £1,124, for defraying salaries and contingencies in connection with the establishment of His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. STEPHENS moved—

That the Chairman report no progress.

Mr. GROOM said it was no doubt very much to be regretted that the committee should still be enacting what had been termed by the honorable member for the Kennedy on the previous day, a farce, without doing any good to themselves or to the country. The same things had been said over and over again, and he did not suppose that anything he might say would have much effect in deciding the question. It should be considered, however, that the salaries of the civil servants would require to be paid at the commencement of June, and that they were now at the end of May without any provision having been made for so doing. He had no doubt, that by-and-bye, when the shoe began to pinch, and those people who supplied the civil servants with goods could not get their money, an attempt would be made by honorable members opposite to make out that the onus of non-payment rested with the Opposition. Now, however that might be, he did not wish for one moment to deviate from the course of action which had been taken by the honorable members with whom he was associated, more especially after the strong expression of opinion of which he was a witness, an evening or two ago, at a very large and intelligent public meeting which had been held in the town of Toowoomba. He wished that some of the honorable members who were now supporting the Ministers had been present at that meeting, as he was sure that it would have done them good. That meeting was addressed by men of intelligence—by men who also had a a large stake in the colony, not men like hon-

orable members opposite, who came to the colony, and after they had got as much as they could, went home again—but men who had formed their homes in the colony, who had their families growing up around them, and who intended to remain in the colony. He rose more particularly, on the present occasion, for the purpose of referring to the action taken by the honorable member for Rockhampton. On the previous day, honorable members had had the opportunity of seeing that honorable member, by the vote he then gave, eating all his previously expressed principles, and voting with the Government. He was sorry the honorable member was not now present; but he had been told that the honorable gentleman had gone home, at the instance of the honorable gentlemen opposite, to consult his constituents on the change that had taken place in his political opinions. He was of opinion that the petition which had been presented by that honorable member, and which was signed by 400 and odd people, had evidently been bought. Whatever might have been the justice of charges of log-rolling brought against previous Governments, it was proved by what had appeared in the newspapers, in the present case to be true; that the signatures to the petition were literally bought by money grants promised to the Municipality of Rockhampton. Now, times after times, applications had been made to that House for money by honorable members representing municipalities, and the reply made had invariably been, that they had the power of raising money by local taxation; that they had their endowment, and one-half of the proceeds of their land sales, and, therefore, were not entitled to come to that House to ask for money. Yet, in the face of that, they found that the people of Rockhampton had an undertaking from the Government that they should have £35,000 or £40,000 expended on a bridge across the Fitzroy. It had also been mentioned in an article published in the newspapers, that they were to have a distinct loan of £4,000 to the Corporation, which would be paid as soon as Supply was passed; £4,000 for erecting public buildings, £300 for another bridge, and another sum, £100, for the Botanical Gardens. If that was not bribing a constituency, he did not know what it was. They had been told on the previous day, by the honorable member for Rockhampton, that the people were leaving that place. But that was not surprising; it was not surprising that the great and important mineral discoveries which had been made in the southern part of the colony, should cause an influx of people to that part. It appeared that each steamer from the North was crowded with men—with miners who had more faith in tin than they had in gold mines, as the former metal was more easily found, and mining for it was of more certain and less hazardous occupation. If it was true, however, that the Government had promised those sums of money to the Municipality of Rockhampton, was it, he would ask, astonishing that a petition should be sent down asking the honorable member for that electorate to vote for the Government, and put a stop to the dead-lock, in spite of his promises and in defiance of his previously expressed political opinions. He had not the least doubt, that if such promises were made to the municipality he represented even, namely, Toowoomba, a similar petition could be got up—as it was well known, that in most towns, unfortunately, the expenditure of public money was anxiously looked for. That, no doubt, was a very bad feeling to encourage, and the sooner it was extinguished the better it would be for all parties—both for the colony and the municipalities themselves. The plan adopted in the colony of Victoria was much better. By it all grants to municipalities were stopped, but they were allowed to borrow as much as they pleased, provided, of course, they first obtained the sanction of the Legislature, and the rates went to pay the debts they contracted; but in this colony there was too much dependence altogether upon the Government. He had no doubt, himself, that to that fact was owing, to a very great extent, the result of the late general election; certainly, the establishment of the road boards had much to do with it. He did not think, for one moment, that the 400 signatures, attached to the petition from Rockhampton, would have much weight with honorable members on his side of the committee in the course they were about to adopt; but he agreed with the honorable member for the Kennedy, that it was time the Government should come to some conclusion as to what they intended to do, and inform honorable members of it. He had heard, that morning, from some honorable members, whose tongues went farther than their wit, that it was the intention of the Government to prorogue the House and call it together again at some other place; and, if such was the course of action they had decided upon, the sooner it was made known to honorable members, and the public generally, the better it would be. Some exception had been taken to the remarks of the honorable member for the Kennedy, and he had been accused of referring to the strong arm of violence being called in to settle the present difficulty; but he (Mr. Groom) considered that the conduct of the honorable gentlemen opposite was more calculated to provoke that violence than anything else. They were aware that cases had occurred in the colonies where violence had almost been necessary: that in New South Wales the people had once been driven to the extremity of putting the Governor there on board a vessel and sending him home; and who knew that some extreme step might not have to be taken in this colony. It was well known, also, that in Victoria, all the liberal institutions of that colony, and its liberal land laws, had

been wrung from the squatters there entirely by the people themselves—but it was by a constitutional violence. The people there had a Parliament of their own; although they had a Legislative Assembly under the constitution of the colony, they had a Parliament of their own where delegates elected by themselves met, presided over by Mr. Wilson Grey; and such was the power of that people's Parliament that they not only carried a Land Bill of their own through the Legislature, but had always since ensured to themselves a preponderance of power. He believed thoroughly that if something was not soon done by the Parliament in this colony, a similar course would have to be resorted to, and that the people must take the law into their own hands; must have a Parliament of their own and ignore that House altogether. The honorable the Attorney-General, he saw, laughed at that, but that would have very little effect upon him (Mr. Groom), and far less upon the people outside. He would remind the honorable gentleman of a line of Goldsmith's:—

"The loud laugh betokens the vacant mind."

He thought the sooner it was decided by the Government what course they intended to pursue, the better. It was an earnest conviction of his mind that they did not desire legislation, and he would illustrate what he meant in the following way:—That legislation was most earnestly required in connection with the newly-discovered tin mines; that during a recent visit to those mines, an honorable member of the Government had promised that if the House would give its sanction, he would allow one-acre selections to be taken up, so as to give the working men a chance against the large capitalists. Now, what was there to prevent the honorable the Minister for Lands coming down to that House with some such legislation as that—legislation which was most wanted? The honorable member for Warwick was present, and also the honorable member for Eastern Downs, and he was sure they would be willing to give the honorable gentleman every support in their power in legislating for the new mineral district; and, again, there was no disposition on the part of the Opposition to obstruct such legislation, but, on the contrary, they had, over and over again, asked the Government to take Supply on account, in order that they might go on with the most pressing business. He would say again, that the fact of the Government not doing so was a proof of their wish to have no legislation; and, in regard to the tin mines, that they wished to shew to the capitalist the same preference they had always given to the large monopolists of the lands of the colony. Now, he might state, that the policy of the Opposition had been greatly distorted by some portions of the press, and the reports of their speeches had been garbled to a very great extent; in fact, by some, the theory of the honorable member for the Mitchell had been propagated that—

"God made the country, but the devil made the towns."

When they found that portions of the press were so liable to misrepresent facts, it was the duty of representatives to see that their constituents were properly educated, so that they might be able to form correct opinions of their own. He thought, from what he had seen and heard, that honorable members on the side of the committee on which he sat, were pursuing the proper course—that they had both justice and right on their side, and that they were supported by the majority of the country. They knew from history—even from that of the colonies—that a cause which was just and right was sure to win. And he was confident that they would win. They might be a long time over it—probably years; but that they would win eventually he felt as sure of, as he was sitting in that House that afternoon. Violence might be resorted to—he would not say it would not, as there were occasions when it was necessary. Honorable members opposite must be aware that, when once it was provoked, it was very difficult to check; and therefore he trusted that it would not be provoked, but that some other means would be found to get rid of the present difficulties.

Mr. THORN said that the remarks which had been made by the honorable member who had just sat down, in reference to the petition from the people of Rockhampton, were so similar to what had appeared a few days ago in a leading article in the *Darling Downs Gazette*, that he could come to no other conclusion than that the honorable member had written that article——

Mr. GROOM rose for the purpose of giving a most emphatic denial to the statement made by the honorable member. He did not write for that paper, nor was he connected with it in any way.

Mr. THORN: If the honorable member did not write the article, he was connected with it in some way. The honorable member contributed to that paper.

Mr. GROOM would again deny that he had any connection with it.

Mr. THORN said that even that very day he had heard that the honorable member wrote for the *Courier*. He was pretty conversant with the style of the honorable member; and he certainly believed that he, and also some other honorable members opposite, were in the habit of contributing to the newspapers. In regard to the article to which he had referred, it was all moonshine; as the petition presented by the honorable member for Rockhampton was signed by a much larger number of people than had voted for that honorable member at the last election.

Mr. KING: No.

Mr. THORN: He might inform the honorable member opposite that he only made

statements in that House which were strictly in accordance with facts, and therefore his assertions might be relied on. For instance, some time ago, he had mentioned that Mr. Pugh had been sent by the Opposition party into the country to stuff the electoral rolls; and although that was denied at the time, he saw by the papers afterwards that he was correct, and that that gentleman had been visiting various parts of Wide Bay for that purpose. Why did not the Opposition give their true reason for not allowing business to proceed?—for that reason had never yet been given. Why did not the honorable members for Wide Bay and South Brisbane—who were the real obstructionists—come forward boldly, and state their reasons for the course they were pursuing? He would ask, whether it was not that they were afraid that the Redistribution Bill would be passed, or that that Bill would be so altered in shape in committee, that it would not be acceptable to them? They were afraid to go into committee on that Bill, for they knew that it might be altered in such a way that they would not like; and, therefore, they did not want to pass the Estimates, but wished to keep them to fall back upon, unless they could shape the Bill strictly in accordance with their ideas. Let those honorable members contradict him in that respect if they could. Now, what was the Opposition composed of? There were seven members for Brisbane, including East Moreton, which was the hamlets of Brisbane—for he could not insult that constituency by saying that the two honorable members in that House represented the people of it. Then there was the honorable member for the Kennedy, who was a resident of Brisbane, and he believed that honorable member would not get a very good reception from the diggers of Ravenswood the next time he went amongst them, after he had stated that South Sea Island labor was indispensable to his district. He certainly had been rather surprised at an honorable member of the Opposition, which professed to be the friends of the people, getting up and advocating the introduction into the colony of black labor. He was afraid that the honorable member's speech, as reported in the *Ravenswood Miner*, which was the only journal opposed to the Government in the Kennedy district———

An HONORABLE MEMBER: No.

Mr. THORN: Yes; all the other journals, from north to south, in that large and rapidly growing district, were in favor of the Government. As he was saying, he was afraid that on reading the honorable member's speech in favor of Polynesian labor, the honorable member's constituents would alter their opinion of him. As regarded the honorable member for Wide Bay, that honorable member had never yet done anything for the mining portion of his constituency—he had never introduced any legislation for the diggers, but, on the contrary, had, by his obstruction, prevented many useful measures for the benefit of the miners from becoming law. All the honorable member had done was to represent the large capitalists, with whom he was associated, against the diggers of Gympie; and had, since he had been in that House, done all in his power to obstruct that legislation which would remedy the evils now complained of by the mining population. Next he came to the honorable member for Toowoomba, who talked about educating his constituents; and he must say that that honorable member had altered the tone of the people of that town, as he (Mr. Thorn) had noticed that the only persons who had spoken at the "great and intelligent public meeting" to which the honorable member referred, were place-hunters. In the same way, at Brisbane, the persons who spoke at the last public meeting were men who were seeking for billets from the Government—at least, so far as he had been informed, that was the case. If, however, there was another public meeting called in Brisbane, he should be prepared to go before the people and put the case at issue fairly before them, and he was quite confident that, if he did not carry the meeting, he would have a large minority in his favor. The people who did not go to those public meetings were the thinking portion of Brisbane, and, from what he had heard, he could say that they were in favor of the Government. They had, therefore, only the rest of Brisbane against the whole colony. There were only two other honorable members who were opposed to the Government, and who did not reside in Brisbane—the honorable member for Warwick, and the honorable member for Maranoa; and thus, with the exceptions he had mentioned, they had Brisbane against the whole colony, on the present question—or, rather, the members representing Brisbane at the present time. He did hope that honorable members opposite would allow the Goverument to go on with Supply. He thought that there had been quite enough obstruction;—the thing must come to an end, and surely the minority could never expect the majority to give way to them. He had noticed that there had not been a single advance at reconciliation made by any honorable member of the Opposition—not a single attempt to shew how to get out of the present dead-lock—not one; but the only advances had been made by honorable members on his side of the committee. He did hope that some honorable member opposite would say what they really wanted—whether they were to proceed with the business of the country, or to shut up shop and have the constitution taken away from them. He considered that, at the present time, the capital had too much representation in that House; and he recollected that that great man, Sir William Wentworth, who died in England a short time ago, and who was the framer of the constitution of the New South Wales Parliament, when the Bill was passing advocated only one member

for Sydney, which at that time had something like thirty thousand or forty thousand inhabitants. That gentleman said that two members would make it over-represented. He (Mr. Thorn) therefore maintained that, according to Sir William Wentworth's dictum, the metropolis of this colony should only have two members.——

Mr. MILES: How many should Ipswich have?

Mr. THORN: He did not think there would be much use in remaining longer there, that afternoon. During the last three years there had been no business transacted, owing to the obstruction of place-hunters; and he believed that that would be the case until there was payment of members, and Ministers were only paid the same as members were paid. Payment of members in Victoria, he looked upon as a failure, and likely to be so until Ministers received only the same as ordinary members—that, at least, was his opinion. And so long as the present state of things continued in that House, the place-hunters would continue their Opposition. He would like, as he had said before, to hear some proposition made by the honorable members opposite; he would like to know what they really wanted. Advances had been made from his side of the committee, but none from honorable members opposite. If the present state of things was to go on much longer, he thought the only thing the Government could do would be to remove the place of meeting to Ravenswood, or some other part of the colony.

Mr. MACDEVITT said he did not rise for the purpose of replying to any of the remarks made concerning himself, by the honorable member for West Moreton, although that honorable gentleman had accused him of being in favor of introducing a certain class of people to the colony, which, however, perhaps were not so objectionable as some white colonists. The honorable member had, however, thought proper to endeavor to give a stamp of veracity to what he had stated, and as there was one fact by which he could assist the committee in arriving at a conclusion in respect to that veracity, he would give it. The honorable member had stated on a former occasion, that he had endeavored to get into the Town Hall on the evening on which a public meeting was held there, and that if there was another meeting he would attend it, for the purpose of putting both sides of the question fairly before the public. Now, all he could say was, that he (Mr. MacDevitt) attended at the door of that meeting on the evening referred to, and seeing the honorable member, had asked him to go on to the platform, but ball never went swifter out of a gun, than the honorable member disappeared down the stairs of the Town Hall. So that if it was true, as the honorable member stated, that he never made any assertions which were not founded on fact, he must point that instance out as an exception.

Mr. THORN was understood to explain that he remained outside for some considerable time after the honorable member left.

Mr. MACDEVITT had merely stated that when he asked the honorable member to go in, the honorable member immediately decamped.

Mr. THORNTON said the honorable member for West Moreton had gone to some trouble to attack the honorable member for Toowoomba, but he thought there was not an honorable member of that committee who tried more to influence some of the electors of Western Downs, and by use of the wire, the electors of the Kennedy, than the honorable member himself had done. He only hoped the honorable member would next try to do something in his (Mr. Thornton's) district. There was no doubt that the present state of affairs in the colony was very much to be regretted, and he could not help thinking that the very one-sided reply which His Excellency the Governor gave to the memorial presented to him by the representatives of three-fourths of the population, had had a great deal to do with the creation of the present difficulty. He thought that if His Excellency, instead of acting in that partizan manner, had prevailed upon his advisers to adopt some middle course, there would have been, before now, some chance of getting out of the difficulty. Every thinking man must admit that the existing state of things was very detrimental to the interests of the whole colony; and he was sure that the squatters would feel it more than any other class of the community. If there was no legislation very shortly, and no provision made for the resumption of immigration, the squatters would, before twelve months were over, have to pay three times as much for their sheepwashing and shearing as they paid now. The decrease of the population in the outside districts, owing to the attraction caused by the late mineral discoveries, would, undoubtedly, lead to a demand for more immigration. He believed that immigration was at the present time one of the chief necessities of the country, in order to keep up a supply of labor to enable the profitable development of resources of all kinds. It was well known that the scarcity and high price of labor created a fictitious kind of prosperity, and he had no doubt that if immigration was entirely stopped, there would be a crisis something like that of six or seven years ago, in the colony. If they looked at the eight hours labor movement which was now promulgated by working men, and then came down to Brisbane, where they were kept awake by the hammers of Tubal Cain repeating away all night, which was a proof that men had more work than they could do in their regular hours, they would find that there was a scarcity of labor. In fact, if the inquiry was made why they worked at night, the answer was, that it was impossible to obtain sufficient artisans to carry out the work, and that, therefore, the

men had to work overtime, and sometimes all night. Therefore, the stoppage of immigration, through the action of the Government, was a great grievance. The locking up of the lands of the colony from the people, in every possible way, not only now, but in times past, was another serious grievance against the present Government. Now he, as one of the representatives of the people of Queensland, did not mean to budge one inch from the position he had taken; he meant to fight out the battle to the death; and he had received advices from his constituents to sit there and fight as long as he had a leg to stand upon. Honorable members opposite seemed to forget that they were bringing a hornets' nest about their ears by their treatment of the people, but they would soon find it out, and that the day would come when they would have to beg for mercy on their knees from the representatives of the people.

Mr. WIENHOLT said the committee had been treated to a long theory from the honorable member for Eastern Downs; but he would like to ask that honorable gentleman, whether he thought that a rise in the price of wages would be a very dreadful thing for the laboring classes in Queensland, at the present time; and whether, if the squatters had to pay three times as much for having their work done, it would be a bad thing for the colony? He should think that the working men would be glad to see such a change. He was rather surprised that the honorable member, who professed to be a champion of the working men, should avow such a doctrine. He looked upon it that the large employers of labor would be glad to see a rise in wages, and that was what a great many honorable members on his side of the committee wished to see; but what he was quite sure that the honorable members opposite who were the representatives of the mere trading classes of the country were not anxious to see, as they had no feeling for the working classes. No man, he contended, who looked upon a rise in wages as being bad could have sympathy with the working classes.

Mr. THORNTON explained that the honorable member had completely misunderstood him. What he had sought to prove was, that when men were working what was known as two ordinary days' work in the twenty-four hours, they could not stand it, and that an increased supply of labor was wanted for the development of the industries of the colony. There was plenty of work for men at eight or ten hours a-day, without working overtime, if others came to the colony; and, as to his objecting to a rise in wages, why, he should not care if they went up to ten pounds a-week.

Mr. HEMMANT quite agreed with the honorable member for Western Downs, that a rise in wages would be advantageous, although he did not mean to say that he should support that. If that honorable member was sincere in what he had stated—namely, that he would be glad to see an increase of wages, he certainly did not represent the feelings of his constituents; because, in no part of the colony were more consistent advocates for the introduction of Polynesian, and other cheap labor, to be found. Yet the honorable member went to that House and said that he looked upon a rise in price of wages as the greatest blessing. The honorable member accused the trading classes of being opposed to high wages, and, in so doing, displayed his ignorance of political economy; as there was no class like the trading class which benefited so much from high wages as they did, as they sold more goods. All the cry in favor of cheap labor had come from the honorable gentlemen opposite, and those whom they represented, and from the sugar-growers. The honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, had repeated the time-honored, but oft-refuted argument, that East Moreton was not represented by its present members, and the honorable member had been pleased to call that electorate the hamlets of Brisbane. Now, such a statement came with very bad grace from the honorable member, because, if East Moreton members only represented the hamlets of Brisbane, the members for West Moreton must be placed in a similar position as regarded Ipswich. The honorable member had also accused Mr. Pugh, who was formerly a member of that House, with travelling about the country for the purpose of stuffing the rolls; but he might state that, on the contrary, Mr. Pugh was engaged in a very praiseworthy work, which was—to instruct all those who were duly qualified how to secure their names being on the electoral rolls. He quite agreed with the statement which had been made by the honorable member for the Kennedy, in reference to the honorable member for West Moreton being at the last public meeting in Brisbane; inasmuch as he had seen the honorable member there, and had offered to go and take care of him. He believed that the honorable member would take good care not to go to any public meeting in Brisbane; if he did, however, he would find himself in a minority. Again, the honorable member for West Moreton had informed the committee that the thinking portion of the citizens of Brisbane were in favor of the Government; but he (Mr. Hemmant) was convinced that the honorable member was the very last person whom any of the thinking people in Brisbane; would select as a confidant. A great many persons liked to poke fun at the honorable member, no doubt; but that any portion of the thinking population would seriously confide in him, was a thing not to be supposed. The honorable member had asked the Opposition what they wanted; their answer was, that they wished to go on with the Redistribution Bill, and other measures that the Government had mentioned in His Excellency the Governor's Opening Speech;

and that, in order not to inconvenience the public business, the honorable member the leader of the Opposition had offered the honorable the Treasurer a vote on account, which was a course which should have been suggested by that honorable gentleman himself. As to no efforts having been made by honorable members of the Opposition to bring about a compromise, such a statement was altogether incorrect, as the honorable member for Brisbane, Dr. O'Doherty, had made an attempt in that direction only a few days ago, and it was treated with sullen silence by the honorable the Premier, in the same way that that honorable gentleman treated everything that came from that side of the committee. He might say again that it was the most earnest wish of honorable members of the Opposition to get on with the business of the country as quickly as possible.

Mr. WIENHOLT, in reply to what had fallen from the honorable member who had just sat down, said that it was most certainly from the trading classes that the cry for immigration proceeded, in order that they might have more customers for their goods. The trading classes had congregated in Brisbane to such an extent, that competition was so great that they could not live, and then they cried out for buyers and said, "Give us more immigration." He meant to say that the trading classes were the curse of the country; it was those people who were careless of the working classes—it was those people who were careless of the prosperity of the country generally. It was the attempt made to get thousands of people in the colony by representing that there was work for them all, that caused so much distress in the country.

Mr. MILES said that if there was one honorable member of that committee who had done more than another to force the people to congregate in the town, it was the honorable member who had just spoken. Let them look at the vast territory which that honorable gentleman, and others near him, held on the Downs—he would not say by what means, but it was by the action of his class—and they would find it was they who compelled the people to congregate in the towns, because there was no other place for them; and therefore the statement which the honorable member had just made came with bad grace from him.

Mr. MACDEVITT said he only rose to advert to what he considered a most extraordinary remark of the honorable member for Western Downs. He thought that honorable gentleman was generally sincere in his speeches, and that what he stated was generally the utterance of his thoughts; he was, therefore, very sorry to hear him sneer at the honorable members of the Opposition as being merely a section of the trading classes. He (Mr. MacDevitt) disputed that as being true—because, if they took the colony from north to south, they would find every interest in it represented on the Opposition benches. The professions were represented, the commercial interests also, the mining interest, and even the squatting interest. Why, then, should it be said that they only represented the trading community? Could it be said that the honorable member for Maranoa only represented that community—or that the honorable member for Wide Bay only represented it? Why, both in the Wide Bay and Kennedy districts there were populations located which had never before been seen, and there was a prosperity hitherto unexampled. He trusted it would be the last time that any honorable member opposite would have the bad taste and commit himself to the gross untruth, of saying that honorable members of the Opposition represented only a section of the trading community. He quite agreed with the honorable member for East Moreton in questioning the accuracy of the statement that the class represented by the honorable member for Western Downs, Mr. Wienholt, were in favor of high wages. He would put it in the same form as the honorable member, Mr. Hemmant, had done—that if the honorable member for Western Downs was in favor of high wages he did not represent his class—for he had yet to learn that wire fencing and other substitutes for the employment of labor, had a tendency to be beneficial to the interests of the working man. Why, they all knew that it was the darling object of every gentleman who held a squattage in the country to have his run surrounded by wire fences, and by the employment of Polynesians and other means, to relieve himself as much as possible from the necessity of employing white labor. About four months ago, as he had been informed, two trains passed up the line from Ipswich conveying blackfellows to the west and north-west, to look after those runs where the laboring classes were prevented from obtaining occupation, or from taking up lands for settlement. Now, he would leave it to the honorable member for the Western Downs to say if that shewed a desire to look after the welfare of the working classes. If the honorable member, and those who acted in unison with him, were actuated by a sincere desire for the welfare of the working classes of the colony, there would not, he thought, be so much wire fencing as there was, or dummying by those who could be employed for little, if more than their bare rations, in order to keep intending settlers from being able to obtain possession of any portion of those runs that might be suitable to them for agricultural or other purposes. As to the subject of Polynesian labor, he would now repeat what he had stated elsewhere, seeing that it had been alluded to by an honorable member opposite; and in the first place, he desired to say that if there was any one who, more than any other, regretted the introduction of an inferior class of labor into the colony, that man was himself. He thought it was in every way objectionable

that labor should be degraded by the introduction into the colony of an inferior class of laborers. But, while he said that, he must also say, that from what he had seen in the North, it was, he believed, impossible or almost impossible, to carry on the work of the sugar plantations there without the assistance of Polynesian laborers, especially for field work, because the exposure to the sun and the other asperities of the severe climate of the North that were unavoidable in connection with sugar cultivation at the outset, was more than the European constitution was fit to bear; and therefore, he maintained, that those who had risked their capital in the development of the sugar growing capabilities of the North, should be allowed to employ black labor some time, and until their enterprise was established. One of the greatest objections to the introduction of Polynesians into the colony, consisted in the abuses connected with the present system, by which they were brought and employed here; and it had been his intention, for some time past, and it still was his intention, to bring in some measure to prevent those abuses in future. He had stated a little ago, that two trains passed up the line in January or February last—so he had been informed, for he was not personally aware if such was the case or not—carrying a large number of Polynesians, who made their way to the West and North-west to be employed on squattages in the place of white laborers. Now that, he thought, was what ought not to be tolerated, for if there was anything more akin to slavery than another, it was the employment of those Polynesians as shepherds. It was well known that they were people who were gregarious in their habits; that they were brought up on the sea-coast or beside rivers; that, in fact, it might be said, they almost lived by the water, and could obtain a livelihood, and maintain their independence, by fishing and kindred pursuits. Now, to take those men and make them shepherds in the interior of this colony, where they could not associate with each other, but would have to live to a great extent a solitary life; where they would be far from the sea-coast, and would not have the opportunity of fishing; where they would have nothing to live upon but salt beef and damper, by which the scrofulous diseases to which they were naturally subject would be increased, could be attended with no other result than to make them down-hearted, and to lose all their native spirit of independence, and so fall into a low and abject condition, mentally and physically. It was to the correction of such abuses as he indicated that future legislation on the subject of Polynesian labor in the colony, should be, in a great measure, directed; and if the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, was as earnest upon this question as he seemed to be, he would, no doubt, help him with any measure he might bring in to put down those abuses. He also thought that the permission to employ Polynesian laborers was greatly abused, by the indiscriminate way he had seen them employed in the North. It did not prevail to the same extent in the South, nor had he seen so much of it in Brisbane as elsewhere; but such indiscriminate employment was also one of the abuses which required to be corrected.

Mr. BUCHANAN said that the honorable member who had just sat down had altogether perverted the meaning of the honorable member for the Western Downs in what he said on the subject of immigration. What the honorable member for the Western Downs said was that there was a small section of the trading community, represented by honorable members opposite, who were in favor of immigration for their own interests. He did not mean all honorable members opposite, but only some of them.

Mr. WIENHOLT said that the honorable member for the Kennedy had characterised what he had said as untrue. Now, he thought, the honorable member must have wholly forgot himself when he made use of that expression; and he (Mr. Wienholt) had always maintained that honorable members should not take advantage of the privileges they possessed, to make use of language in the House that they would not make use of outside. In the remarks that he (Mr. Wienholt) had made just now, he did not refer to honorable members sitting on the Opposition side of the House, as a body. He merely said that a small section of the trading classes of the country, who were in favor of immigration, were opposed to the true interests of the working classes, and that they were represented by honorable members opposite; but he did not, by that, refer to honorable members opposite as a body.

Mr. MACDEVITT said the honorable member seemed to forget that he made two speeches, and it was to the first of those that he (Mr. MacDevitt) made allusion. He rose at the time to reply to it, but was forestalled by another honorable member. Now, he must say, that he distinctly heard the honorable member, in the course of his first speech, say that it was the representatives of a small section of the trading community that sat on the Opposition side of the House, that were opposed to the interests of the working classes.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: No, no, and Yes, yes.

Mr. MACDEVITT: He repeated that he distinctly heard the honorable gentleman say so. As to the opening remarks of the honorable member, when he last rose to address the House, he must say that he was not aware that it was any departure from the conduct of a gentleman to describe that as an untruth which was not a fact; and he would say again, that if what he had stated was what was said by the honorable member, it was a gross untruth—that honorable members on the Opposition side represented only a small section of

the trading community, who were opposed to the interests of the working classes. He should be very sorry, indeed, to say or do anything whatever that would give personal offence to the honorable member for the Western Downs, of whose deportment as a gentleman he held the highest opinion. He should be sorry to do anything in that House, and especially towards that honorable member, that would be unbecoming of a gentleman; but any statement that might be made by an honorable member, whether sitting on the Government or on the Opposition side of the House, if he knew it not to be consistent with fact, he would consider it to be his duty to expose it, and would expose it. If the honorable member said what he understood him to say, then it was, he would repeat, a a gross untruth. If he did not say so, then he (Mr. MacDevitt) was mistaken; but he maintained, nevertheless, that he had a right to expose the fallacies of the honorable member for the Western Downs as freely as he had a right to expose the fallacies of any other honorable member of that House.

MR. WIENHOLT said he did not think that any honorable member would suppose he would state what he knew not to be in accordance with fact; and he was well aware that some honorable members on the Opposition side of the House represented only a small section of the trading community.

MR. STEPHENS said the honorable member for the Western Downs seemed to have brought a charge against the trading portion of the community, to the effect that they did not want to see the wages of the working classes increased, and he based that conclusion upon this—that they were in favor of immigration. Now, what those who were in favor of immigration desired, was the prosperity of the colony by settlement and occupation. He heartily believed the honorable member when he said he would like to see the wages of the working classes increase, and express himself as opposed to immigration; for there was no surer way of increasing wages, than by stopping immigration; but that was also the surest way of preventing the settlement and occupation of the colony, and consequently its general prosperity. Now, if they kept population out of the colony, by stopping immigration, the honorable member would have little cause to fear that the Crown lands which he now held possession of would be taken up for settlement. The honorable member had always been so persistent in keeping people from settling on the land, that he believed he would be glad at any cost to keep immigrants from coming to the colony, especially as he could get Polynesians at a very low rate of wages to perform the services be required.

MR. HEMMANT said he wished to direct attention to a misapprehension on the subject of wages into which the honorable member for the Western Downs had fallen. It was this, that those who were in favor of immigration were, consequently, in favor of a low rate of wages. Now, an article in the *Westminster Review*, of January last, very clearly explained the question as to wages. The writer, after describing what were the principles affecting wages, went on to say:—

"It is for the interest of mankind that commodities should be cheap, that is, that men should be able to procure them with little exertion. We justly consider it an advantage to America, that corn is there cheap, and an advantage to Newcastle that coal is cheap. But if we use the expression 'cheap labor,' the mind is naturally led to suppose that this too is an advantage to a country. There cannot be a greater mistake; labor is cheap when the laborer receives little to reward him for his toil, and what diminishes the comforts of the great majority of the people ought not to be considered as a benefit to the country. Yet a great deal of reasoning on the subject of emigration is based on the assumption that cheap labor is a benefit. Even so judicious and unprejudiced a writer as Mr. Herman Merivale recommends the English Government to encourage the emigration of free laborers into Demerara and Trinidad, on the ground that it would 'bring down the enormous rate of wages by fair competition.' Now wages are high in Demerara, because there is an immense supply of unoccupied, fertile land, and the laborers do not work for less wages than they can produce for themselves. However large the number of the emigrants, they would not bring down wages by fair competition, so long as there remained an abundant supply of land as good as at present. If they came in such numbers as to render it necessary to resort to inferior lands, then, indeed, wages would fall; but who would be benefited? Not the laborers, for they would be worse off—nor yet the capitalists, as a body; for though they would pay less, their workmen would produce less. Only those persons would benefit who possessed the superior lands; that is, either landlords, or a few capitalists, at all events an insignificant portion of the people. In fact, colonial capitalists know that it is useless to expect that European laborers will reduce wages by mutual competition. It is for this reason that they import Africans or Asiatics,——"

or Polynesians—

"who are prevented by their ignorance of the language and of the country, from either setting up on their own account, or from knowing what they could get if they did so. As a further security, their employers take care to bind them to work for five years,——"

here it was for three years—

"or some other long period, and thus fix a lower rate of wages than would be established by 'fair competition'; that is, that state of things in which the laborer is able to choose between the comparative advantage of working for himself and working for a master. When we remember the important post formerly occupied by Mr. Merivale, we may reasonably suppose that his opinion has had great weight in inducing the Government to introduce coolies into our colonies. The system is merely advantageous to a few capitalists; whatever they gain is lost by the coolies. It is not of course a mere intellectual error which has caused its introduction. So long as our colonies submit to our

rule, their interests will be sacrificed to the interests, real or supposed, of the governing classes in the mother-country. The Government of the United States, carried on by the people, and for the people, has never lavished its resources on importing emigrants for the unattainable object of making labor cheap. It is to be hoped that that Government will refuse to enforce any contracts by which a coolie binds himself to serve a master for more than a few months. The laborers of South Australia refuse to tax themselves in order to bring over emigrants to swell the capitalist's profit. But when a young country is governed, not by its own inhabitants, but by rulers at a distance of many thousand miles, economic fallacies have a great effect in hindering its prosperity, and there would have been fewer persons in favor of supplying the colonies with slaves, convicts, and coolies, if it had been clearly understood that dearness of labor is the greatest benefit to the mass of the people, and it proceeds not from the small number of laborers, but from the fertility of the soil."

Mr. GROOM said that the honorable member for West Moreton, Mr. Thorn, had stated that the chief speakers at the public meeting which was held at Toowoomba lately, on the subject of the present political difficulty, were all place-hunters. Now, he must give to that statement the most emphatic denial; and, if he were not to do so, he would be guilty of permitting him to censure one of his own. Mr. Thorn's, relations; for one of the chief speakers at the meeting was Mr. Hancock, an uncle of the honorable member, who was one of the oldest and most highly respected and independent residents in the colony. That gentleman was one of the principal speakers at the meeting; and, when the meeting was over, he came and said to him (Mr. Groom) that he was ashamed of the conduct of his nephew in the House. The honorable member for Western Downs, Mr. Wienholt, had said, that he would be glad to see an increase in the wages of the working classes. Well, that might be, because he could afford it; and he would venture to say that the honorable member might depend upon yet having to pay the high wages he had mentioned, because those unfortunate men, who had been ground down so much and so long by the squatters in the western districts, would leave their employment and betake themselves to other localities where they would be able to get higher wages than they had received from the squatters. The honorable member also spoke about people congregating in towns, but people were obliged to congregate in towns, because there was no sufficient opportunity for them to settle upon the lands. They were driven, in fact, to the towns; and it was a well known fact, that many people in the country districts, who were able to purchase land in large quantities, were obliged to settle down upon half-acre allotments, because they could not get the lands they wanted to purchase on account of their being held in large blocks by the squatters at a small annual rental. He very lately received a letter from a gentleman who was frequently employed in travelling fat cattle from a station in the western district by way of Oakey Creek, informing him of the hardships which he had now to encounter in travelling along that route, and not one of the least of them was the pollution of the creek by the refuse of a boiling-down establishment on a station in the neighborhood, by which the water was rendered unfit for use. Now, it was impossible that settlement could take place where that was the case, and where it was allowed to be continued. It was a well known fact, and one that was evident, even to strangers in passing over the country, that the best lands on the Darling Downs were all monopolised by squatters. The Minister for Railways in Victoria, for instance, in travelling from Toowoomba to Warwick during his recent visit to this colony, spoke of the country he passed through as the best he had seen in the colony for agricultural purposes, and asked, where were the farmers?—remarking at the same time that there must be something wrong in the legislation of the colony on the land question. Now, it was wholly owing to the influence the squatters on the Darling Downs had in the legislature that the country there was unoccupied by farmers; and it was owing to their influence that the colony was in debt, and that there had been a stoppage of immigration; and it was owing to their influence with the present Government that the dead-lock which now existed had been brought about. The question of immigration was one that had recently been agitated in Victoria; and at Ballarat a great anti-immigration meeting was held, but on the following evening the Attorney-General, at that time Mr. Michie, who was one of the members for Ballarat, addressed his constituents on the other side of the question, and thoroughly converted them to his views on the subject. He, in particular, urged that in every young country a steady flow of immigration was of vital importance to its growth and prosperity. Now, he had heard an honorable member on the opposite side of the House say here that he considered a steady flow of immigration would give new life to the colony; and any reasonable person could not but admit that they must have a renewal of immigration. It was useless to say that because wages were lower at present than they were some time ago, they ought not to have a renewal of immigration, for it was admitted to be a sound principle in political economy, that labor produced labor, and he believed immigration would be productive of an increase of labor on the station of the honorable member for the Western Downs and on many other stations throughout the colony. It had been said that two or three years ago the colony was rushed with immigrants; but he maintained that, at that time, there were no more immigrants came to the colony than were

needed, if they could have obtained lands for settlement; but there was such a hue and cry got up against them by the squatters on the Darling Downs, where they wished to take up land, that they had to go elsewhere, or take up lands that were not fit for settlement. Now he could state that he saw a man go into the Lands Office to apply for certain lands, and he was rushed out of the office by the holder of the run upon which he wished to take up land. It was now three or four months since an immigrant vessel arrived in the colony, and it might be as many months longer before another arrived; and nothing was being done to remove the dead-lock that now existed, and so make way for means being provided for a renewal of immigration. He was not so much opposed to the Government as he was to some of their supporters, who came to the honorable members of the Opposition and insidiously endeavored to persuade them to do this and do that, and all would be right; but at the same time he maintained that all the evils that might follow from this dead-lock would rest solely upon the shoulders of the Government and their supporters.

Mr. BUCHANAN said that his experience of the effects of the country being rushed by immigrants, was not from what occurred in towns, but from what occurred in up-country districts, where men came in crowds to the stations begging for shelter and rations.

Mr. STEPHENS said he was quite well aware of the hardships which many of the men who were previously employed on stations had to undergo when their services were no longer required, on account of the fencing-in of runs; and that they had to travel about the country in quest of employment till they were under the necessity of begging for rations; and many of the men who were travelling the country at that time were men who were travelling up from New South Wales. Now, they might again have a similar state of things as they had a few years ago, unless there was some means provided for enabling every one who wished to do so to settle upon the lands. He had heard of a lecture, in which it was recommended that immigrants, on their arrival, should at once go into the country districts and get employment; but the lecturer forgot to state that the squatters were fencing in their runs at the time, and that there would be very little chance of their meeting with employment on the squattages. The probability was, that any one following that advice would soon find himself ruined. There was no doubt that the great fear the squatters had of immigration was, that if people came here they would desire to settle upon the lands, and that a demand would arise for the opening up for settlement and cultivation of much of the lands that were now held by the squatters in the dog-in-the-manger fashion on the Darling Downs. But, even at the present time, if the rich unoccupied lands on the Darling Downs were thrown open for selection, there would very soon be a large agricultural community settled upon them; and that was what ought to be done, not only for the purpose of enabling people now in the colony to settle upon the lands, or for the purpose of raising wages, but, because it would make a large opening for immigrants, as there would be increased employment for them. But honorable members on the Government side of the House would not allow that to be done, because some of the lands which they now occupied, but did not use, would be taken up by those who would use them.

Mr. MILES said that, as far as his experience went—and, he believed, he was as well informed upon the subject as most other honorable members—there had been little or no want of employment in the colony, except for a short period in 1866, during the time of the crisis. Now, that was a crisis that was experienced over the whole world; and it was not only in Queensland that many people were out of employment at that time, but in the populous cities and towns in every country in the world there were large numbers of people out of employment. Now, it would be quite absurd for any one to say that, because of the state of things that followed upon the crisis, they should not bring any more immigrants to the colony. At the time of the crisis there were many who were not able to get money in the English market; and, in the colony, the honorable the Treasurer, who was also Treasurer at that time, was not able to get a cheque cashed for £10. But, because that was the state of things then, it was no reason why they should not have a renewal of immigration when the country was in a more prosperous and improving condition.

Mr. GRAHAM said, that as to the immigration question, he would state his views upon it when it came before the House, rather than at the present time; but he would merely allude to it now so far as to say that it was because he wished to see that question, and also the land question, proceeded with, that he asked the Opposition no longer to continue to obstruct the business of the House. He was told by several honorable members on the Opposition side of the House, when he came here, that the reason they would not consent to go on with Supply was, because the withholding of Supply was the only guarantee they possessed for the passing of the Redistribution Bill. But the Government and their supporters had now given a guarantee for the passing of the Bill, by pledging themselves to do all in their power to pass it. The honorable member for Rockhampton had come to be convinced that the Government would pass the Redistribution Bill, and he had, consequently, come over to the Government side of the House upon that point. The honorable member had not said that he would support the Government in all cases, but only that he would support them as to the question now before the House, in

order that business might be gone on with. He had expected to have seen the honorable member for the Kennedy also on this side of the House to-day, because yesterday he seemed to be so satisfied that the Government would go on with the Bill that he said the idea of the Government throwing the Bill over now was quite laughable; and he went on in a long speech to shew that it was something else than the Redistribution Bill which the Opposition were fighting for. He was astonished, when an honorable member on this side of the House asked what it was the Opposition really wanted, that the honorable member for the Kennedy did not get up and state what it was the Opposition wanted. He thought that every reasonable man must be satisfied that the Redistribution Bill was now safe, even though Supply was granted.

HONORABLE MEMBERS on the Opposition side: No, no.

Mr. GRAHAM: Honorable members might say "No, no," but yesterday the honorable member for the Kennedy ridiculed the idea that it would not be passed. Honorable members on the Opposition side of the House had referred to the statement that was made by him and other honorable members on the Government side of the House, to the effect that if, after obtaining Supply, the Government did not go on with the Redistribution Bill, they would not only no longer support them but would cross the floor and join the ranks of the Opposition; and the honorable member for South Brisbane said that he would make a similar offer to the Government side of the House, which was to the effect that if the Redistribution Bill were passed, and there was any reluctance on the part of the Opposition to grant Supply, he would cross the floor and take his seat on the Government side of the House; and he also said that if his proposition were accepted, the deadlock would no longer be continued. Now, this assurance of the honorable member was, it seemed, not correct. The honorable member for Rockhampton had come over to this side of the House; and the honorable member for the Kennedy, judging by his speech of yesterday, should have been here also. Now though that honorable member and the honorable member for South Brisbane were to come over, there would still be a few honorable members remaining on the opposition side, and so long as a few remained on that side of the House they could go on as they had done, and continue the dead-lock. So the assurance given by the honorable member for South Brisbane was not correct. Supposing that matters eventuated in a fresh election, and the formation of a new House, and that the honorable member at the head of the Opposition came in with a majority, what would honorable members now on the Government side of the House do when they sat on the Opposition benches, when the honorable member brought in his liberal measures? Why, they would, of course, in all probability, repeat the tactics of the present Opposition, and then there would be another dead-lock. As a liberal member, and one who represented a large and populous constituency—comprising miners, tradesmen, squatters, and a variety of interests—he would earnestly call upon honorable members opposite to discontinue their obstruction, and allow business to be proceeded with.

Mr. KING said the honorable member for Clermont commenced by stating that it was the Opposition who were obstructing business. Now, he maintained that that was a gross misstatement, for the Opposition had not obstructed the business. They were only exercising a constitutional right when they said that until the Redistribution Bill was granted, Supply should not be granted. It was not of the slightest use for the honorable member for Clermont, or any other honorable member, to attempt to fix on the Opposition the stigma of obstruction. The Government had said that they considered their dignity was at stake in this matter; and, therefore, he maintained that the real reason why business was stopped, was because the Government felt their dignity was touched by the position the Opposition had taken up. Now, honorable members on the Opposition side of the House regretted as much as the honorable member for Clermont, or any honorable member on the Government side of the House, having to come there day after day, without being able to do any business. If the honorable member had continued to be actuated by the principles he professed when he came here, he would have acted differently on this question from what he had done. He did not at first declare himself to be a thick and thin supporter of the Government, as he appeared to be now. He was then prepared to support concessions being made on both sides of the House, in order that this difficulty might be got over; but he had since receded from that position. The honorable member had not attempted to get the Government to make any concessions to the Opposition, and if the Government had made concessions, the Opposition, on their side, might also have made concessions that would have conciliated them. Now, he also thought that taking the course he had taken, the honorable member should shew honorable members on this side of the House, at least, a precedent in any country or in any colony, where the head of the Government came to the House of the representatives of the people, and said to the members of it, that they should do as he chose, or they should not be allowed to do any business whatever. Honorable members on this side of the House were prepared to go on with the business of the country, but the Government would not consent to do so in the only way by which the interests of the people could be secured in the matter of the Redistribution Bill. On the occasion when the dead-lock first arose, the Redistribution

Bill stood at the head of the Orders of the Day for a second reading, but on the motion of the honorable member at the head of the Government, it was postponed till after Supply. The honorable gentleman, in fact, refused to proceed with the measures in the order in which he himself had placed them upon the paper. The honorable member for Clermont had said that they might now regard the Redistribution Bill as safe, even though Supply were granted, after the pledges the Government and their supporters had given, that they would do all in their power to secure its being passed. Now, he could not agree with the honorable member in that opinion, for it was possible that the Bill might be allowed to go so far, and then a number of honorable members might walk out of the House, and leave the Bill to its fate. Besides, as the Government had a majority of six, and as there were to be several amendments proposed by honorable members on the Government side of the House, those amendments, whatever their nature might be, could be carried, without modification, if they accorded with the views of honorable members on that side of the House, and so they might have a measure passed that would be injurious to the welfare of the country, instead of one that would be beneficial to it. Now, if the Government would not make any concessions, and if they were not to do any business, he thought it would be as well that honorable members should be allowed to go home. He would impress upon honorable members opposite to remember that there was not the slightest intention on the part of the Opposition to give in to the Government. If honorable members opposite were sincere in their desire that this difficulty should be brought to an end, he would suggest to them that the best course for them to adopt, in order to bring about such a desirable consummation, would be to go to their homes, and leave the House without a quorum. If they would do that, the Government would soon see the urgent necessity of resorting to some such other course than the one they had pursued that would open a way for the business of the country to be gone on with. If they would do that, they would more efficiently serve the interests of the country, than by coming here, day by day, and, by giving a partizan support to the Government, enable them to go on doing nothing.

The question, that the Chairman report no progress, was then put and negatived, on a division, by a majority of 16 to 11.

Mr. KING moved—

That the Chairman leave the chair.

The question was put and negatived. Ayes, 10; Noes, 16.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, which was agreed to, the Chairman left the Chair, reported no progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Tuesday next.

Mr. JOHNSTON then moved—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn till Tuesday, the 11th of June.

The SPEAKER informed the honorable member, that the motion, as a motion of precedence, ought to have been made before the Orders of the Day were called on; and that it could not now be put.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. JOHNSTON said he begged to move as an amendment—

That the House adjourn till Tuesday, the 11th of June.

It was, he said, a time-honored practice for the House to adjourn for the Ipswich races; and he thought they should observe the practice on the present occasion. There were two instances of the House not adjourning for the Ipswich races; but on both occasions there was a very small attendance of members in the House. He hoped the amendment he proposed would be agreed to.

The SPEAKER stated that according to the practice of the House, the amendment could not be put. If the question proposed had merely been that this House do adjourn, it would have been competent for the honorable member, on its being put, to have moved that it should be amended as to the time to which the House should be adjourned. The motion —that this House do now adjourn—being a motion to supersede a question, no amendment could be made to it; but the question —that this House do adjourn—the word "now" being omitted—was a substantive motion of itself, and an amendment could be moved upon it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he must oppose the amendment. It was one the Government could not consent to.

Mr. JOHNSTON having again risen,

The SPEAKER said he would suggest to the honorable member, that he should wait until the motion for adjournment was put, and he might then move that the words of his amendment should be added to it, and so form part of it.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: No; that could not be done, because the House would have adjourned, and consequently there would be no House to deal with the question.

The SPEAKER: Yes; for it would be immediately after the question was put, and before it was carried. He would read what was the practice of Parliament in such a case—page 1737, volume 193 of the "Imperial Hansard":—

"Moved that the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Monday. Objected: That the Motion for Adjournment must be put before a motion for fixing the adjournment to a particular day. Mr. Speaker said, that the Motion was in Order, though the course mentioned was the one usually pursued."

The question, that the House do now adjourn, was then put and carried; and the House, accordingly, adjourned until the usual hour on the following day.