

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 14 AUGUST 1872

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to lease, as they had done for some years past, Reine Island, which lay off the extreme north-east of this colony; and they had, of course, received a certain rent for it all that time. It would, therefore, be seen that it would be to the interest of the colony that the power which had been conferred upon the Governor by the Home Government to annex those islands should be exercised, and that the jurisdiction of the colony should extend beyond three miles of the coast line, which was the present limit. There were no large islands, such as would be likely to involve much expense in their management. They were principally small islands which this colony had been in the habit of claiming a right over, although they really, up to the present time, belonged to New South Wales.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 14 August, 1872.

Annexation of Coast Islands.

ANNEXATION OF COAST ISLANDS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

1. That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the islands lying within sixty miles of the coasts of the colony of Queensland, should be annexed to, and become part of, the said colony.

2. That an Address be presented to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to exercise the powers in that behalf conferred on him by the Letters Patent of date 30th May, 1872, laid upon the table of this House, by command, on the 12th instant.

In bringing forward this motion, he said that honorable members who had directed their attention to the despatch which he laid on the table a few days since, would see that the Home Government had given the Governor of this colony power over the islands lying off the coast within a distance of sixty miles. Hitherto, this extraordinary anomaly had existed, that the islands lying off the coast of the colony had been under the Government of New South Wales. Very great inconvenience had arisen in the past from that being the case, and much more inconvenience would arise if it was allowed to continue to be the case. However, His Excellency, moved by his responsible advisers, had represented the matter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the result of the representations so made had been, that the Home Government had sent out Letters Patent, giving the Governor power over the islands lying within a certain distance of the coast. Honorable members would see that the Letters Patent gave power to the Governor to annex those islands, if it should be deemed advisable to do so. Now, it was, in his opinion, desirable for several reasons, that those islands should be annexed to this colony. He thought honorable members would admit that it was a most anomalous thing that the Government of New South Wales should have been able