

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 8 JANUARY 1874

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 8 January, 1874.

Suspension of Standing Orders.—Appropriation Bill.—The New Ministry.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, without notice, the House resolved—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as will admit of the immediate constitution of the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means; and of the reporting and adoption of resolutions therefrom, on the same day on which they shall have passed in those committees; also of the passing of a Bill through all its stages in one day.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

The usual preliminary resolutions having been agreed to,

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved the introduction of a Bill to authorise the Appropriation out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland of the sum of £150,000 towards the service of the year 1874.

The motion was put and passed, and the Bill was subsequently passed through all its stages.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

The Hon. A. MACALISTER said: Mr. Speaker—I have to announce to the House, sir, that in consequence of an invitation I received yesterday afternoon from Government House, I waited upon His Excellency the Governor, by whom I was commissioned to form a Ministry. I have, to-day, submitted to His Excellency a list of names, and I have again to wait upon him at half-past four o'clock. I would, therefore, suggest, sir, if it be not asking too much, that you leave the Chair for, say, one hour. I think, by that time, I shall be in a position to announce to the House the names of the members of the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think, sir, this is straying a long way from the usual course. I never before heard it announced in the House by a member that he had accepted office. In fact, I do not think the honorable gentleman has any business in the House. It is beyond all precedent. In every instance where I have known a change of Ministry it has been announced to the House by some member of the party; but I never knew an honorable member, who had accepted office, to come into the House until after he had been re-elected. I think it is exceedingly improper, and a very dangerous innovation.

The Hon. A. MACALISTER: I have not announced any Ministry whatever. A Ministry has not yet been formed, and, until that is done, it is perfectly competent for me to

come into the House. The honorable member states he never knew the members of a Government to come into the House after the Ministry had been formed and before their re-election; but, unfortunately, we have a precedent of that kind in Queensland, where they came into the House after being sworn in. That, however, is a precedent I would not follow.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I never knew of it.

The Hon. A. MACALISTER: It was done in the case of Dalrymple.

The SPEAKER, with the consent of the House, then left the Chair, which he resumed at five o'clock.

Mr. LILLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have to announce to the House that a Government has been formed, consisting of the following members:—

The Hon. Arthur Macalister, Esquire, Colonial Secretary and Premier.

The Hon. Thomas Blacket Stephens, Esquire, Secretary for Public Lands.

The Hon. William Hemmant, Esquire, Colonial Treasurer.

The Hon. Edward O'Donnell MacDevitt, Esquire, Attorney-General.

The Hon. Thomas McIlwraith, Esquire, Secretary for Public Works and Mines.

In consequence, sir, of the announcement I have now made, I have to move that the seats of the gentlemen I have mentioned have become and are now vacant.

The motion having been put and passed,

Mr. LILLEY said: I believe now, sir, it will be necessary to ask, on behalf of the new Government, that the House should adjourn for a reasonable period of time to enable the new members to submit themselves to their constituents for re-election. It has also been customary, and it is only reasonable, to accord to honorable gentlemen who have just entered upon their Ministerial career, sufficient time for maturing their policy and preparing their measures, and I do not think I shall be asking, on their behalf, for an unreasonable period, if I move that the House do now adjourn until the 25th of March. I think that will be barely time to enable them to secure their re-election and to lay before the country their policy. I therefore move—

That this House do now adjourn until the 25th of March next, at three o'clock p.m.

I hope there will be no objection. It is a reasonable time, and I hope it will be assented to without division.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not wish, sir, to oppose the adjournment until the 25th of March, if the Ministry believe they cannot meet the House sooner. It seems a long adjournment, but if they have made up their minds to it I will not oppose it. But, sir, I would like to know, before we part, who is the Postmaster-General. I think another

seat ought to be declared vacant, and another writ issued, if the information given to me be correct. I think the honorable member for Fortitude Valley ought to state whether he knows or does not know who is Postmaster-General.

MR. LILLEY: I can easily relieve the mind of the honorable gentleman. I do not know who is Postmaster-General. I have simply discharged the duties incumbent upon me.

The motion was put and passed, and the House adjourned accordingly.