

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

THURSDAY, 8 JANUARY 1874

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 8 January, 1874.

Chairman of Committees.—Suspension of Standing Orders.—Resignation of the Ministry.—Appropriation Bill.—Adjournment.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved—

That the Honorable Daniel Foley Roberts be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House for the present Parliament.

Question put and passed.

The Hon. D. F. ROBERTS said: Honorable gentlemen—I have to thank you again for appointing me to this honorable office. I trust that in future, as in days past, we shall have no trouble or difficulty in the discharge of its duties.

SUSPENSION OF THE STANDING ORDERS.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said, with the view of facilitating public business, as it was likely that the Appropriation Bill would come up to the Council before very long, this day, he would move, as an unopposed motion—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as will enable this House to pass the Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day.

Question put and passed, *nem. diss.*

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said: Honorable gentlemen—Yesterday we were stopped rather short by the statement that the Ministry purposed resigning. Now, we are aware of the cause of that resignation—an adverse vote on the appointment of the Speaker in another place. Ministers, as all honorable gentlemen are aware, consider it a duty they owe to the country to stand firm and fight to the last; but, on the present occasion, it has not appeared to my colleagues, or to me, that, even if a victory was gained in another place, we should be enabled, under existing circumstances, to efficiently carry on the public business;—therefore, we have thought it our duty to resign office, to allow others to show whether they can do so. We have done what we thought it right to do; and I doubt not our action will meet with the approval of honorable gentlemen. Believing this, and after having had the honor of being in the position of representative of the Government in the Council so many years, I must thank honorable members for the great kindness and consideration which they have shown me in the past. It will be some little time, perhaps, before the Appropriation Bill is brought up to us; and if the House has no objection it will, I think, be beneficial to adjourn for a short time, until the Bill comes up from the Legislative Assembly.

There being no objection, the sitting was suspended until half-past four o'clock.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

A Message was received from the Legislative Assembly transmitting, for the concurrence of the Council, 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.

On the motion of the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, the Bill was passed through all its stages, without amendment, and ordered to be returned to the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Hon. H. G. SIMPSON moved *pro forma*, the adjournment of the House; because, as he observed, he found that it was almost impossible that he could have the opportunity of saying what he wished to say in any other way. It was not a very serious political matter—it was merely a personal matter—he wished to allude to at present. It would have been better, possibly, that he had taken an earlier period to speak;—when his honorable friend, the Postmaster-General, announced the decision of the Government—or, the late Government, he (Captain Simpson) supposed he must call them now. The honorable gentleman had thanked the House for

the manner in which they had treated him, as the representative of the Government. He (Captain Simpson) thought that the House ought to acknowledge the manner in which the honorable gentleman had done his work in the Council. The honorable gentleman had been for more than three years carrying on the Government in the Council; and, for a time, he had rather a difficult position; and yet, he (Captain Simpson) ventured to say that the honorable gentleman never made an enemy, and never gave cause for bad feeling in the Council. His (Captain Simpson's) object in rising was to say that he thought it was only just and fair to acknowledge, on the part of honorable members, that the honorable gentleman had conducted the Government business in the Council in the most courteous and gentlemanly manner, and that no one could find fault with him. The Postmaster-General had done honor to his position. He (Captain Simpson) had disagreed with the honorable gentleman, and many other members had disagreed with him; but their disagreements had been but agreements to disagree, to a great extent. He thought the time had arrived to say these few words, and that the House should not be adjourned for several weeks without some acknowledgment being made to the honorable gentleman who represented the late Government.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The motion was withdrawn, and the sitting was again suspended for a quarter of an hour. At the expiration of that time,

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved the adjournment of the House until the 25th of March next, which, he said, appeared to be the day fixed by the other House.

The Hon. H. G. SIMPSON said he should like to ask the Honorable Mr. Prior a question—Whether he had any information whatever as to who was the gentleman likely to succeed him in his position in the Council? He thought this was a point on which the House ought to be informed when adjourning for so long a period.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL, in answer, said he was really not likely to know who was to be the new Postmaster-General. He was not in the secrets of office: he was certainly no longer Postmaster-General, his resignation having been accepted. What he had done, had been entirely for the convenience of the House, and from no other motive whatever.

The Hon. H. G. SIMPSON: He had not wished to question the Honorable Mr. Prior's action or motives in any way whatever. He thought that the information he had asked for ought to be before the House. As there was no one interested in the new Government to give the information, he had thought that, possibly, it might be given by the representative of the late Government.

Question put and passed, and the House adjourned accordingly.