

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 30 APRIL 1874**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, 30 April, 1874.*

Adjournment—Dam at Roma.—The Governor's Salary.—  
 Insolvency Bill.—Legal Practitioners Bill.—Civil List  
 Amendment Bill.—Dr. Lang and Separation.—Poly-  
 nesians Landed at Maryborough.

## ADJOURNMENT—DAM AT ROMA.

Mr. MILES moved—

That this House do now adjourn.

He stated that his object in doing so was, in order that he might draw the attention of the honorable Minister for Works to an advertisement which appeared in the *Darling Downs Gazette*, and which emanated from the Public Works Office, at Toowoomba, calling for tenders for the erection of a dam at the rear of the residence of Mr. G. L. Lukin, the Police Magistrate at Roma. He was sorry that some other honorable member had not drawn attention to the matter, as having represented the district in which Roma was situated, for a considerable time, it was rather unpleasant that he should have to bring under the notice of the House what he could only term a glaring job. He was not aware that the House had sanctioned the

erection of a dam and reservoir at Roma, and if it had, he trusted the honorable Minister for Works would inform him at once, so as to save his taking up the time of the House unnecessarily; he certainly wanted to know upon what authority the honorable member was going to expend the public money in that way. They knew perfectly well that in all other municipalities, where it had been considered necessary to make dams, application had been made to the Government for a loan for the purpose, and upon the amount borrowed they had to pay interest. It had been laid down by that House that such works should not be made in municipalities except upon those terms. He might say that on two occasions the municipality of Dalby had borrowed money for the erection of dams for storing water for the use of the inhabitants, and he believed he was correct in saying that the Government deducted from the endowment of that township the interest due upon the money so advanced. If that was the case, he was astonished that the Minister for Works should attempt to expend public money without the sanction of the House for such purposes. He thought he was correct in saying that he believed the honorable member had commenced trading at Roma, and whether he had spent money there broadcast for the sake of making business, he could not say. A few days ago the House, when in Committee of Supply, had passed a sum of £1,500 for dams and water supply in the western districts; that vote he had no objection to, as it was passed by the House; but so long as he was a member of that House, and he saw anything irregular, he should not allow it to pass unnoticed.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said he did not know whether he was exactly in order in answering the question put by the honorable member for Carnarvon, but he would do so. That honorable member asked by what authority the advertisement referred to appeared in the *Darling Downs Gazette*, but if the honorable member had attended to what had gone on when the House was in Committee of Supply, he would have known that an item of £1,500 was passed for dams and water supply in the Western Districts, and the dam referred to was one of the ways in which it was intended to expend the money. The reference made by the honorable member to his private affairs at Roma he simply looked upon as a piece of impertinence.

The question was put and negatived.

#### THE GOVERNOR'S SALARY.

Upon the Order of the Day being read for the resumption of adjourned debate on Mr. De Satgé's motion, viz. :—

1. That, in the opinion of this House, an addition of £2,000 should be made to the salary of His Excellency the Governor, and an addition of £100 to the salary of the Governor's Private

Secretary; such increase to take effect during and from the present year.

2. That an Address be presented to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause the necessary measures to be adopted to give due effect by legislative enactment to the foregoing resolution.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he rose for the purpose of moving a reduction of the amount proposed as an addition to the salary of the Governor. He believed that the object of the motion was not so much to give an increase to the salary as to place the Governor on a footing with first-class Governors, so that, on his retirement, he would receive the pension of a first-class Governor. With that view, he thought the House might support an increase; but he thought that, as the object would be gained by voting a smaller amount, and as £2,000, in addition to the sum of £1,500 already passed for allowances and expenses, would be unwarranted, an addition of £1,000 would be sufficient. He would therefore move—

That the word "£2,000" be omitted, with the view of inserting in its place "£1,000."

Mr. PALMER said he should support the amendment, as he thought the Governor of the colony should be put in the position of a first-class Governor, for which an additional vote of £1,000 would be quite sufficient.

Mr. DE SATGÉ said that he had no objection to the amendment of the honorable member for Burke being accepted.

The question, as amended, was then put.

Mr. W. SCOTT wished to move a further amendment. He saw no reason why they should make "fish of one and flesh of another"; and as there was an addition of £100 proposed to the Private Secretary's salary, he would move that £100 should be added to the salary of the Aide-de-camp. With that view, he moved—

That after the word "Secretary" the insertion of the words "and Aide-de-camp respectively."

Mr. STEWART would be glad to know from the honorable Colonial Secretary whether any understanding had been come to that the allowances and expenses voted to His Excellency would cease, if the addition to His Excellency's salary was agreed to. If it was only an addition to the £4,000 salary, he would support it, but if there were to be allowances as well, he should most certainly oppose it, even in its amended form.

The Hon. B. B. MORETON wished to know whether, if the proposed increase of £1,000 was granted to His Excellency, the vote of £300, which had been passed for a country residence for His Excellency, would be still required.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the present was not a Government question, and he did not know whether he was called upon, any more than any private member, to address the House on the subject. When the matter was last before the House he had expressed

his opinion upon it, which was, that it would be better to get rid of the contingencies for His Excellency's household, which appeared every year on the Estimates, and grant a lump sum as an addition to His Excellency's salary, for that purpose, which sum should be mentioned in the motion now before them. Of course, if it had been a Government question, they would have considered the matter carefully, and have gone into other matters besides; but they had received no communication on the subject to induce them to do so. At the same time he was perfectly prepared to support the amendment of the honorable member for Burke. In order, however, that honorable members might not labor under any mistake in the matter, he would state that the motion had nothing whatever to do with the vote for allowances which had been passed in Committee of Supply; it was merely an addition to the Governor's salary. The idea he had expressed on a former occasion was that a lump sum should be voted in full of all demands; but if the present motion was carried, it must go on as an increase to the salary of the Governor alone.

Mr. DICKSON said he was sorry that some understanding had not been come to when the vote for allowances to the Governor was under consideration; because, although he had concurred in the vote for those contingencies, he felt it his duty to oppose the present motion. He knew it was rather an invidious thing to do, but he did not think that for the short time His Excellency had been Governor of this colony, he would have any reason to complain, if honorable members considered that his present salary was sufficient. He had voted for the contingencies on the understanding that they would be sufficient for all purposes, as he was under the impression that from time to time the necessity arose for such expenditure, and that it should be provided for; but he must say that he could not see his way clear to vote an addition of £1,000 to the Governor's salary. At the same time he was in favor of the additions to the salary of the Private Secretary and the Aide-de-camp.

Mr. PETTIGREW thought that the reason assigned by the honorable member for Burke, in moving his amendment, was most extraordinary—it was to enable His Excellency the Governor to obtain a higher retiring pension than he would now be able to claim. What a position was that in which to put His Excellency? He stood up for His Excellency in the matter, as he was sure that His Excellency would not ask the taxpayers of the colony to contribute towards an increase to his salary, in order that he might obtain a higher pension. He thought they should not insult His Excellency in such a way, who was an estimable gentleman and an excellent Governor. Why, His Excellency ought to feel that the honor of governing a colony like Queensland was quite sufficient without coming upon the taxpayers for an increase. He

was very glad that the honorable Colonial Secretary had stated his mind on the subject, and he hoped that the Government, as a Government, would oppose the motion in all its stages. If they were to vote the Governor an additional £1,000 to enable him to get a higher retiring allowance from the over-taxed people in the mother country, they certainly should not tax the people of the colony to the extent of voting £1,500 for allowances to His Excellency. At the present time the country was in a state of prosperity, but they might rely upon it that adversity would some day come, and then what would be the result? Why, that they could deal with every other salary on the civil list, but that they could not reduce. He had not so much objection to the increase proposed, but he most decidedly objected to its being granted on the grounds put forward by the honorable member for Burke.

Mr. GRIFFITH submitted that the amendment of the honorable member for Mulgrave had not yet been put by the honorable the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I have put the question three or four times, and several honorable members have since spoken upon it.

Mr. GRIFFITH submitted that the honorable the Speaker had not put the amendment in the usual way—"That the words proposed to be added be so added."

The SPEAKER: I did so most distinctly.

Mr. GRIFFITH: Then, he must vote against the whole resolution, and for the following reason—that the salaries of the Governor and the Private Secretary were provided for by the Constitution Act, and consequently the House had nothing whatever to do with them; whilst the salary of the Aide-de-camp was voted at so much per diem by that House: consequently he did not see how they could be included in the same motion.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The honorable member for Oxley said he had not heard the amendment put by the honorable the Speaker, and he himself would submit that the question had not been put in the usual way—"That the words proposed to be added be so added." As no honorable member had said "No," the question had been put as if the words were added.

The SPEAKER: I think the honorable member for South Brisbane is not right—I remember putting the words most distinctly, when I said, "It has been proposed, after the word 'Secretary,' to add the words 'and Aide-de-camp respectively.'"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he certainly had not understood the honorable the Speaker to put the motion in the manner stated, because the increase of £100 to the salary of the Aide-de-camp, small as it was, was a sum that ought to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates, as it could not be voted with the other amounts which were voted out of the civil list.

Mr. FRYAR said that like the honorable member for Stanley, he had no compunctions in opposing the motion. He was under the impression that the allowances to the Governor had been passed on the understanding that the addition to the salary of the Governor should not be granted. With respect to the remarks of the honorable member for Enoggera, he thought they could be set at rest by moving the omission of the figures and words following, viz.:—"£1,000 should be made to the salary of His Excellency the Governor, and an addition of."

Mr. W. SCOTT said that as he found he had not proceeded in the proper manner, he would, with the permission of the House, withdraw his amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question, as amended, put.

Mr. STEWART said, that the amendment of the honorable member for Mulgrave having been withdrawn, he would move—

That all the words after the words "addition of" in the first line, to the word "£100" in the second line, be struck out.

The SPEAKER: I may inform the honorable member that he cannot make that amendment, as it has already been agreed that the sum of £2,000 be reduced to £1,000.

The question was then put—"That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question," and the House divided with the following result:—

Ayes, 20.  
Mr. Macalister  
" Stephens  
" Mellwraith  
" Graham  
" Ivory  
" Buzacott  
" Fitzgerald  
" Thompson  
" Nind  
" MacDonald  
" J. Thorn  
" De Satgé  
" Hodgkinson  
" Lord  
" Morehead  
" Royds  
" Wienholt  
" J. Scott  
" W. Scott  
" Palmer.

Noes, 17.  
Mr. Beattie  
" Stewart  
" Moreton  
" Bailey  
" MacDevitt  
" Miles  
" Morgan  
" Griffith  
" Pechey  
" Hemmant  
" Pettigrew  
" Foote  
" Edmondstone  
" Macrossan  
" Fryar  
" Dickson  
" Fraser.

On the question, as amended, being put,

Mr. PECHÉY moved—

That the House proceed to the consideration of the next Order of the Day.

Mr. J. SCOTT rose to a point of order: the motion of the honorable member for Aubigny was not in order.

Mr. PECHÉY said, as he believed it would facilitate business, he would, instead of the motion he had moved, move the previous question.

The SPEAKER said: I think it was competent for the honorable member to put the motion in this way, and the question now is—That this question be now put.

Mr. PALMER: Which question?

The SPEAKER: The question relating to the proposed increase of the salary of His Excellency the Governor.

The Question—That the motion be now put—was then put and carried on the following division:—

Ayes, 19.  
Mr. Macalister  
" Mellwraith  
" Palmer  
" W. Scott  
" Graham  
" Wienholt  
" Royds  
" J. Scott  
" Lord  
" Hodgkinson  
" J. Thorn  
" MacDonald  
" Fitzgerald  
" Nind  
" Thompson  
" Buzacott  
" De Satgé  
" Ivory  
" Morehead.

Noes, 18.  
Mr. Dickson  
" Moreton  
" Stephens  
" Fraser  
" Hemmant  
" Griffith  
" Morgan  
" Miles  
" Fryar  
" Macrossan  
" Edmondstone  
" MacDevitt  
" Foote  
" Pechey  
" Beattie  
" Stewart  
" Pettigrew  
" Bailey.

The original motion having been put,—

Mr. MILES said he had an amendment to move.

The SPEAKER: The honorable member cannot move an amendment. The 49th Standing Order provides—

"If the previous question be resolved in the affirmative, the original question shall be put forthwith without any amendment or debate."

The question cannot, therefore, be either amended or debated now.

The original motion was then put and carried, on division, by 19 to 18, members voting on each side as in the previous division.

#### INSOLVENCY BILL.

Upon the Order of the Day being read, the Speaker left the chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, further to consider this Bill in detail.

The House having resumed, the Chairman reported the Bill with amendments, and with an amended title.

Mr. GRIFFITH then moved—

That the Bill be re-committed for the reconsideration of clauses 1, 3, 7, 30, 44, 87, 107, 109, 112, 122, 143, 149, 156, 167, 177, 192, 207, 208, 221, and for the insertion of new clauses.

He said he believed these were all the clauses honorable members had expressed a wish to have re-committed.

The question having been put and passed, the Speaker left the chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole accordingly.

The House having resumed, the Chairman reported the Bill with amendments, and the report was adopted.

Mr. GRIFFITH said, before making a motion in connection with the third reading of the Bill, he desired to know whether there was any desire on the part of honorable members to have the Bill again re-committed. If not, he should like to fix the third reading for Tuesday next; and, although he would not be able to be present on that day, some

other honorable member could move the third reading in his absence. He moved—

That the third reading of the Bill stand an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

Mr. DE SATGE said, before the question was passed, he desired to make one or two observations. He thought the thanks of the creditors of the colony were due to the honorable member for Oxley, for the very energetic and painstaking manner in which he had carried this Bill through the House and through committee.

The question was then put and passed.

#### LEGAL PRACTITIONERS BILL.

On the Order of the Day being read for the consideration of this Bill in committee,

Mr. THOMPSON said, he intended to move that the consideration of the Bill in committee stand an Order of the Day for that day fortnight. His reason for doing so was, that he found a set of amendments in connection with another Bill had been circulated, and it might be unnecessary for him, when these amendments were seen, to press the Bill. He thought it was necessary to make this explanation in justice to those who had supported him on the Bill, and who were anxious about it. He begged to move—

That the Order of the Day be postponed until this day fortnight.

Mr. GRAHAM seconded the motion.

Question put and passed.

#### CIVIL LIST AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. DESATGE said he did not think it would be necessary to take up much of the time of the House in moving the second reading of this Bill, as the principle of it had already been assented to. Whether the salaries named in the Bill would meet the views of the House he did not know, but there would be an opportunity of amending it in that respect, in accordance with the wishes of the House, when in committee. As he said before, the principle had already received the sanction of the House; and every honorable member must admit that, considering the important and responsible duties Ministers had to perform, they were very much underpaid. In consequence of the special reasons which caused the reduction of their salaries from £1,000 to £800 a-year, they now only received the salaries of chief clerks in the other colonies; and, under these circumstances, he did not think it necessary to say much more on the subject. He would merely point out that, owing to some error in his reading of the previous motion on this subject, it was necessary for him to make the Bill only for the current year, 1874. He proposed to amend that in committee, so that the Bill should come into force as soon as it was passed, and probably some other honorable member would then think it necessary to make the measure applicable to Ministers of the Crown generally; that was, that if the

Government should appoint another Minister, he should receive the same salary. He believed a proposition to that effect would be moved in committee. He now moved—

That the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. MILES would support the Bill with the amendment referred to by the honorable member for Normanby with great satisfaction. It was a great anomaly that Ministers of the Crown should be receiving the same salaries as Under Secretaries, and with the alteration the honorable member proposed to make in the Bill he would give it his support; and at the proper time he should move that the salary of the Postmaster-General should be the same as the other Ministers'.

Mr. MACROSSAN said he would oppose the Bill, because he considered it had been brought forward at a very inopportune time; and he thought that the Ministry, if they would look to their own dignity and the position they ought to occupy, would oppose it also. He thought that if they would look at the side of the House from which this Bill emanated they would regard it as a complete gift, and as one which contained a great deal of poison in it. Ministers might suppose that people outside would consider that the Bill did not emanate from them—that they did not raise their own salaries, but they were mistaken. The people would not care to inquire who brought forward the measure; they would only know that the late Ministry, who were supposed to be conservative, and professed to be economical, reduced their salaries in consequence of what they alleged to be the extravagance of former Ministries who were supposed to be liberal, and that those salaries were again raised on the acceptance of office by a liberal Ministry. He would oppose the Bill to the utmost, in the interest of the Government, and in the interest of liberal and progressive measures. Honorable members on the other side of the House objected to rushing legislation through, but at the same time they were endeavoring to rush the Government into a most extraordinary degree of extravagance. It was only that afternoon they passed a motion to increase the salary of the Governor, and now they had a Bill to raise the salaries of Ministers, while at the same time they refused to grant £100 to a poor widow;—they counted the House out, and they spoke against time for hours in order to oppose it. He maintained that this was a most absurd measure to bring forward at this moment, and he hoped the members of the Ministry would set their faces against it. Not that he believed they were well paid; they were not paid perhaps half as much as they ought to be; but, he thought it would be more consistent with the liberal and progressive measures they had always professed to advocate, if they deferred the acceptance of any increase until a more opportune time arrived. He would oppose it, and he hoped

other honorable members would assist him in doing so.

The Hon. B. B. MORETON agreed with the honorable member for the Kennedy in opposing this Bill. He had opposed the increase to the salary of His Excellency the Governor, and he would certainly oppose the proposed increase to the salaries of Ministers at the present time. He thought, after the large amount of money that had been already spent this session, they would do well to pause before rushing into further expenses. There was another feature in connection with this Bill to which he would call the attention of honorable members; and that was, that the Attorney-General would receive £1,000 a-year, the same as other members of the Ministry. Now, he believed, when certain returns were laid on the table, it would be found that the Attorney-General, during the existence of previous Governments—he did not say the present Attorney-General, because he had not had the same opportunity—ever since Separation, had received a great deal more than any other Minister. He believed the Attorney-General received fees for every civil case the Government was engaged in in addition to his salary, and this, he thought, almost amounted to—he would not say a bribe, because that would be a strong expression—an inducement to give an opinion that a civil case referred to him ought to be gone into. He thought there ought to be some arrangement by which the Attorney-General should receive the same salaries as other Ministers, and that he should not receive fees in civil cases. He suggested this in the event of the Bill going into committee, but at present he felt inclined to oppose it.

Mr. THOMPSON thought the Bill ought to be passed. He could not see how the Ministry could be charged with having anything to do with it. The fact that the late Ministry reduced their salaries had nothing to do with the question. They, in consequence of the depressed state of the country at that time, tried to make a general reduction, and the reduction of their own salaries formed part of the general scheme that was considered necessary; but they did not succeed in effecting any reduction except in their own salaries. That depression had passed away, and the necessity for economising which then existed had passed away with it, and this Bill would only bring the salaries up to what they were before they were reduced. He agreed with the proposal to give the Vice-president of the Executive Council £300 a-year in addition to his other salary, because he thought he was fully entitled to something more than other Ministers. He thought there was a good deal in favor of the Postmaster-General being placed on equality with the rest of the Ministry. He could not understand the argument of the honorable member for Kennedy, except it was that Ministers should be kept at the salary they now received, in order to show the people that they

were as liberal or more liberal than their predecessors. But that question, he maintained, did not arise, because, as he had already explained, the reduction he referred to was part of a general scheme; and only that part was carried into effect.

Mr. PECHAY said, at any other time he would support this Bill with the greatest of pleasure. He thought Ministers were fully entitled to the salaries set down in the Bill; but he took the same view of the subject as the honorable member for Kennedy. He looked upon the measure as being rather insidious. He believed that if it went forth to the country that a liberal Ministry, immediately on taking office, carried a measure, or allowed a measure to be carried increasing their salaries, it would cause great dissatisfaction. He thought the passing of the Bill would not cause the same dissatisfaction if the Ministry had done a little of the work that was required from them by the country. When they had a Land Bill passed which would encourage settlement on the lands of the colony, and do away with this pernicious system of dummying; when they had a Gold Fields Bill passed which would remove the obstacles at present in the way of men working gold mines to the best advantage; when they had an electoral Bill passed which would allow the electors of the colony to exercise their rights untrammelled; and when they had obtained a reform in the Civil Service, and got rid of the present system of bureaucracy, then they might bring in a Bill of this kind, and the country would approve of its representatives passing it with acclamation. But, until these measures were carried out, the Ministry would be foolish to allow the Bill to pass; because, by so doing, they would be cutting the ground from under their own feet, and destroying the confidence the country placed in them; and, he thought, justly so. He therefore hoped, as a staunch supporter of the Government, they would not allow the Bill to pass at the present time. Honorable members knew that since the House had met they had done very little business. They had raised the salaries of the heads of departments and some of the civil servants; they had that day passed a resolution which might tend to increase the salary of His Excellency the Governor; and they had been informed by the honorable the Minister for Works that there would be a loss of some £200,000 over the Brisbane and Ipswich Railway, which ought never to have been incurred. Seeing therefore that the colony was placed under these unnecessary burdens, he maintained this was a wrong time to bring forward a Bill to increase the salaries of Ministers. He knew perfectly well, speaking for himself, that if the session went on for six months, and they did as little business as they were doing, and voted money at the rate they had voted it, he should feel ashamed to go back and face his constituents; and he had not the slightest doubt other honorable members would have the same feeling. He

wanted to see some measures passed before they voted more money away; and he wanted some guarantee from the Government that they would carry out the measures the country required, and particularly some measure for the reform of the Civil Service. Until these measures were passed, he sincerely hoped the Government would not allow money to be forced into their pockets. He begged to move—

That the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Mr. J. SCOTT thought a more barefaced attempt at bribery than that enunciated by the honorable member for Aubigny it had seldom been his lot to listen to. He said if Ministers would do as he wished, he would be happy to vote them these salaries; but if they did not do exactly what he desired he held over them *in terrorem*, that they would not have an increase of salary. That was about the gist of the honorable member's speech. With regard to the remark of the honorable member for the Kennedy, in which he held forth that Ministers ought to show themselves fully as liberal, if not more so, than their predecessors, he would point out that his argument came to this: that if the late Ministry reduced their salaries by £200, the present Ministry should reduce theirs by £300 or £400. As to what the honorable member said about the indelicacy of Ministers allowing their salaries to be increased, he would draw attention to what that honorable member did in his own case. He had no delicacy in voting money for himself, but when it came to voting money for other people, he had the strongest objection to it. He would support the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. MILLS said it would be in the recollection of the House that when the question was previously before it, he was opposed to the increase of salaries; but there was a great difference in the position of affairs now. At that time there were no increases to salaries, because this question was introduced before they approached the consideration of the Estimates; but now that increases had been made, he thought it a great anomaly that Ministers should only receive the same salaries as their Under Secretaries. He was quite as much opposed to extravagance as the honorable member for Aubigny; but he could not see how he could, consistently, oppose this Bill, after the manner in which they had voted money in passing through the Estimates. Formerly he looked upon the question in something the same way as the honorable member for Kennedy; but now it was altogether different, and he thought this Bill was only fair and just after the increases that had been made in other salaries.

Mr. STEWART would support the Bill, and vote against the amendment. He thought, if Ministers were worth anything at all, they were worth the sums mentioned in the Bill. He agreed with the honorable member for

Carnarvon, that it was a great anomaly that Ministers should receive only the same salaries as Under Secretaries, and it was an anomaly which should no longer exist. They had voted increases to many of the civil servants, and he thought the increases now proposed should have been voted some time ago. The salaries of Ministers were reduced in times of depression, and he had some doubt that they ought to have been reduced. However, he thought their salaries ought to be quite equal to what was now proposed, and he would vote for the Bill as it stood.

Mr. PERTIGREW said, if he had been the honorable member who brought in the Bill, he would not have been satisfied to have left the figures so low as they were; he would have increased them. There was one thing called extravagance, and there was another called parsimony; and he thought that if the servants of the country were willing to work, they ought to be well paid, and not underpaid. The honorable member for Aubigny seemed to think that the Bill was intended for the special benefit of the present Government, and he said he should not object to it, if they carried out certain measures he had enumerated; but if he expected all those measures to be carried out this year, next year, he might expect the millennium. He had no hope that the amount of legislation that honorable member appeared to expect from the present Government would be carried out, and it was not merely for the present Government that he voted for this Bill. So long as they possessed the confidence of that House, they would be entitled to the benefit of it, but when they lost that confidence, it should be for their successors. The salary of the Colonial Secretary was proposed to be £1,000 a-year. Now, in England, the salaries of Cabinet Ministers were £5,000, and the judges received considerably less than that; but here they reversed the rule, and paid judges about double the salary of the Premier. He thought the amounts proposed in the Bill were too small when compared with what Under Secretaries were receiving. In fact, he believed one Under Secretary was receiving £100 a-year more than the present Ministers, and that was certainly not a proper position for Ministers to be placed in. Under Secretaries had no responsibility, the same as Ministers, and they were appointed permanently; but Ministers might be turned out of office at any moment—the present Ministry might be turned out before honorable members left the House, and, for all he knew, the honorable member for Aubigny might be Colonial Secretary to-morrow morning. Economists must stick to some principle, because, unless they did so, they degenerated into mere obstructionists.

Mr. PECHÉY said the honorable member for Stanley had put words into his mouth he never uttered. He agreed with that honorable member that Ministers of the Crown



would not be at all overpaid at even £1,500 a-year.

MR. DE SATGE would advise the honorable member for Aubigny to withdraw his motion, unless he wished to place himself in the invidious position of acting in direct opposition to what appeared to be the general feeling of the House. With regard to the remarks of the honorable member for Kennedy and the imputation conveyed in the words "coming from that side of the House," he wished to say that imputation of motives was one of the lowest and most worthless kinds of argument that could be introduced into that House. Continual imputations of that kind was one of the worst things any member, and more especially a young member, could be guilty of. He could remember the proneness he once had to do, perhaps, the same kind of thing; but he found out what a great mistake he was making. They must all give and take in legislation; and, above all, they should, as far as possible, give each other credit for good motives rather than jump at conclusions of a different kind. He disclaimed anything like an intention to place the Ministry in any position of embarrassment by this Bill. He introduced it, as an independent member of the House, for the purpose of raising the salaries of Ministers from what was paid to chief clerks to something like what they ought to receive, and he would have done so no matter who occupied the Ministerial benches. The laborer was worthy of his hire, and he thought, considering the responsible duties which Ministers had to perform, and the bullying they had to go through when the Estimates were before the House, the salaries put down in the Bill were rather below their merits than otherwise; and if it were the opinion of the House that they should be increased, he would not oppose it. With respect to the argument that because certain measures had not yet been passed, the salaries of Ministers should not be increased, he thought the honorable member who used it was putting the very lowest motive on the question that could be conceived. What did the argument amount to?—that he had no faith in the Ministry he was pretending to support! Could he be said to be a supporter of a Ministry whose honesty he cast doubt upon? All he could say was, that if the Government had such friends, save them from their friends. They introduced a class of argument which ought never to be heard in that House. This Bill ought to have been passed without scarcely a word of comment. The principle was passed without division when he obtained permission to introduce the Bill, and the only discussion that should have taken place was in committee, upon the smaller question of what the figures should be. He thought that honorable members would only be paying a graceful compliment to Ministers by increasing their salaries, in the present prosperous state of the colony. They were reduced in times of

depression; but circumstances were now changed, and it was well known that £1,000 a-year at the present time was not more than equal to £800 two or three years ago, because everything had increased. The heads of departments had been increased; the civil servants had been placed on a better footing than they were formerly; and he maintained that Ministers should be like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion. He believed they had now got this. He was not a vicious opponent of the present Ministry, and he thought it was hard that, when a measure was brought in with the best intention, improper motives should be imputed. He disclaimed any improper motive whatever in introducing the Bill, which he thought ought to pass almost as a matter of form, as the principle had already been assented to.

MR. MACROSSAN thought there was no doubt about the worth of Ministers or the lowness of the salaries they received; but the question which the House had now to decide was, whether it was proper to increase the salaries of Ministers at this time. Honorable members had brought forward, as an argument in favor of the Bill, that the salaries of Under Secretaries had been increased; but was not that a worthless argument? They first increased the salaries in one case, and they then put that forward as a reason for an increase in the other. The honorable member for Normanby objected to the imputation of motives; but he maintained that men must be judged by their actions and their antecedents, and he asserted that the party who now sat on the Opposition benches had persistently blamed the supporters of the present Ministry for having plunged the colony into an enormous debt. It was all very well for that honorable member to disclaim motives and say he was perfectly pure, and that no honorable member had a right to be suspicious simply because the motion came from that side of the House. But what had been the comments of the conservative Press—the Press which supported the other side of the House—upon the payment of members and the motion now before the House? One of the leading journals, in the interests of the Opposition, actually had the audacity, in commenting upon this question, to use an expression which was equal to saying that the present Prime Minister, if his salary was not raised, would take advantage of his position to raise it himself by dishonest means. Politicians of the Macalister stamp, it said, were not to be trusted. Was not that worse than an imputation of motives? Was it not a direct charge against the honesty of a Minister? And he maintained that honorable members who opposed the Bill, were saving the Government from those who pretended to be their friends, but who, in reality, were their enemies. He hoped the members of the Ministry would not only set their faces against the Bill, but vote against it. The honorable

the Premier had said he would not vote, but he hoped he would withdraw from that position, and take his stand with his supporters who opposed the measure. He might be certain that if he did not do so, he would bring ruin upon himself some day or another. They must not think that because the colony was prosperous now, it would always be so. Reverses were sure to come, and when they were least expected, and when they did come, the very men who now forced the Government into expense, would be the first to throw it in their teeth. He would oppose the measure to the utmost, if he had only one honorable member to support him in doing so.

Mr. FRASER said it appeared utterly futile for him to attempt to force honorable members to carry out some system of economy in the expenditure of public money. They had already increased the salaries of the heads of departments, and many of the civil servants, and they had also adopted a motion for increasing the salary of the Governor; and he presumed that if honorable members who were opposed to that expenditure attempted to oppose this Bill, they would be beaten upon it also. It appeared evident that increases were to be scattered broadcast, and the only reason why he did not feel like the honorable member for Aubigny with regard to facing his constituents was, that upon all these questions he had voted on what he believed to be the right side. His constituents, perhaps, unfortunately belonged chiefly to the industrial agricultural classes, and he knew they would not agree with these enormous increases in salaries. He might say that, as a new member, he was much indebted to the honorable member for Normanby for the lesson he had read to new members, and he hoped other honorable members would equally appreciate his remarks. But, at the same time, he would ask that honorable member, how was it that in this Bill he offered a deliberate insult to the other House by proposing to give the only Minister they had £100 a-year less than any other Minister, and £400 less than one? He thought, at any rate, he would be doing an act of justice by giving that Minister another £100, and knocking that amount off the first item. He would not be a party to any such insult to the other Chamber as was implied by this Bill. He was afraid he would be obliged to support the second reading of the Bill, although it was much against his grain; but he saw no chance of success in opposing it.

Mr. FRASER said he had endeavored as far as possible, during the passing of the Estimates, to arrest the tide of extravagance which seemed to have set in—a tide for which he was disposed to blame honorable members on the opposite side of the House, and the late Government. He was opposed to this motion when it was first introduced, but he could not see how, after what had already been done, he could consistently follow that course any longer. He should have been pleased, with many other honorable members,

if the measure had emanated from a different quarter; but at the same time he did not believe that nothing good could come from the other side of the House; neither did he attribute sinister motives to the honorable member who introduced this Bill. To persist in opposing it after what the House had already done, would be to strain at a gnat when they had swallowed a camel; and, seeing that the increase was not intended for the present occupants of the Treasury benches, but that it was intended for Ministers in succession, a great deal of his objection was taken away. In fact, he never approved of the reduction of Ministers' salaries originally. He thought, at the time, that it was more pretension than anything else—mere affectation, not sincerity. He was not at all sorry when the Ministry of the day were arrested in the progress of their reductions just at their own salaries' because it served them quite right;—he did not believe in their sincerity. He should not further trespass on the time of the House. He felt it necessary to say this much, inasmuch as he opposed the present measure when first introduced by the honorable member for Normanby; but he could not see, now, that he could consistently persevere in a course of opposition to it, and punish the present occupants of the Treasury benches because the movement began on the other side of the House. As to what the honorable member for Kennedy had said, he did not fear to go back to his constituents because he voted for the Bill, because he could put into juxtaposition with that vote his votes against the increases which had been earlier affirmed by the House.

Mr. GRIFFITH said he did not share the suspicion of the honorable member for Kennedy as to the sinister motives of the honorable member for Normanby in introducing the Bill. He might tell the House that he had seriously entertained the notion of bringing in a Bill of the same kind himself. He was aware that it might be an unpopular thing to do; and he was glad when he heard that it was the intention of another honorable member to do it, and because he thought the Bill would come with a better grace from an opponent of the Ministry than if he had moved in the matter. So far as motives were concerned, he discriminated between personal motives and political motives. Political motives were perfectly fair. A measure might be taken by any party for the political destruction of the opposite party. He might have fallen into the error that the honorable member reprobated. Although he had no doubt the motive of the late Government in proposing the reduction of their own salaries was purely one of economy, yet it was partly political he was perfectly satisfied. He was sorry he could not give his authority, but he knew it was one that would command the respectful attention of the whole House, when he said that there was no better means of confining the high offices of the State to a par-

ticularly small section of the community than by under-paying the holders of those offices. But, no matter who the authority was, that the proposition was true, he had no doubt. And, no doubt, the late Government, most of whom did belong to a small section of the community, had that view. That was the reason why he, from the beginning, thought that reduction was an improper one. Being improper, the sooner it was remedied the better. Although he represented an agricultural constituency, and was bound to consider every vote on economical grounds, yet he had not the slightest fear of supporting the present measure: when it was put before his constituents, that it was to enable all classes of the community to share in the Government that the high officers of the State should be well paid, they would not, he was sure, have anything to say against it. There was no constituent of his who had not sufficient sense to understand that argument. He only regretted that the salaries were not larger. He did not intend to answer the arguments of the honorable member for Maryborough, as to the Attorney-General not doing his duty; if there was anything in them the honorable member must know that it would apply to every lawyer in the country as well as to the honorable and learned gentleman.

Mr. GRAHAM said he really thought that if he heard much more, he should be compelled to sit on the other side of the House. The Opposition side was the root of all evil; if what was admitted to be good was done by an honorable member on that side, it was from a bad motive, or in insincerity. The reduction of Ministers' salaries, he always understood—he was not a member of the House at the time it was introduced, but he was of the community—was part of a general scheme for the decrease of the expense of the Civil Service of the colony. He heard for the first time, to-night, that insincerity was at the bottom of it. The House would be told that his honorable friend, the member for Normanby, was insincere. And he did not know whether they would not hear the charge of insincerity against Ministers for accepting salaries. In fact, according to some honorable members, there was no good in anything. He did not think it was a matter in which motives could be questioned at all. With all their ingenuity honorable members had not been able to show to any person with the slightest common sense that the honorable member for Normanby had been actuated by any motives of an improper character. The honorable member had simply taken in hand a subject that was unpopular, that many honorable members thought ought to be taken in hand, and that the honorable member for Oxley himself admitted he had been willing to take in hand, but that he had been glad to allow the honorable member for Normanby to assume the disagreeable duty—to step into

the breach. He knew that his honorable friend's sole reason for moving in the matter was, that he thought every one would agree that the proposal would come with a decent grace only from the side of the House which was now in a very small minority, and in opposition to the Government. The matter required no argument. He was confident that the House would record their decision without a division.

Mr. NIND said he regretted the imputations of motives which he had heard, for he had no sympathy with that kind of argument. A Bill was before the House to raise the salaries of Ministers; and it seemed to him that it was but the logical sequence of what had preceded. He could not see why, if the officers of the public service received an augmentation of salary, Ministers should not receive it. If those who administered the affairs of the colony should not receive an augmentation of salary under existing circumstances, a slur would be cast upon them. As the country was in a prosperous state, it was a fair outcome that the salaries of Ministers should be raised in common with the salaries of the Government service. In the first instance, when the increase was proposed, he considered it his duty to oppose it; and he should oppose it now, if he considered that there was any chance of success in so doing. But, having found that the first vote, which he looked upon as a test vote—and since he always voted, after the test vote, in accordance with the will of the majority—was in favor of the increase, he did not think he should act inconsistently in supporting the second reading of the Bill, which would certainly be carried. He had heard it stated that the laborer was worthy of his hire. He did not know whether that was a very good argument in the present case. But, he believed that the main argument was, that there was a surplus of revenue. Although the money might not be in the coffers of the Treasury, yet it was fairly considered that there should be a rise all through the country. The proposal that had been made to give the same salary to the Postmaster-General, who represented the Government in the other House, as to other Ministers, was a good and practical one; and that from the first item on the list £100 should be taken and added to the last. He did not see why the Postmaster-General should receive a less salary than his colleagues. His duties were as onerous as theirs, and his salary should be the same as theirs. If that amendment was put, he should vote for it.

Mr. STEWART: At the risk of wasting time, he had a few words to say to put matters right as far as the House were concerned. The honorable member for Kennedy had said that Ministers ought to take the advice of the supporters of the Government and vote against the Bill. He (Mr. Stewart) had no sympathy with any such expression, nor with the imputation of motives. He thought the

honorable member for Normanby deserved the thanks of the House for bringing the Bill forward. If the Ministry had brought it forward, an imputation of motives would have been made against them; and if any member on the Ministerial side of the House had brought it forward, it would have been attributed to him that he expected some advantage from the Ministry. Nothing could be better than that the Bill had emanated from the honorable member for Normanby; it came from the proper quarter.

Question put and passed.

#### DR. LANG AND SEPARATION.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE 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 1874, the sum of £1,000 as a gratuity to the Rev. Dr. Lang, for his services in promoting, and assisting in expediting, the separation of Queensland from New South Wales, and in founding the said colony.

Mr. THOMPSON observed that perhaps it would not be safe to let the motion go over to the next sitting, as there might be a thin House on Friday, and the address for £1,000 would perhaps be carried. He should oppose the motion. The honorable member who introduced it ought to have given some reason for it.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE said, if it was necessary at the present time, he should do so.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not think it was seriously intended to discuss the matter to-night. Those who would allow the motion for going into committee to pass had not the slightest intention of granting the money. The honorable member might withdraw his opposition for the present.

Mr. MILES expressed his hope that before the motion was passed the honorable member for Wickham would give some reasons for it.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Spoken.

Mr. MILES: Then he should move—

That the debate be adjourned until this day week.

Mr. PETTIGREW said he did not anticipate that the motion would come on to-night; otherwise he should have been prepared to make a few observations upon it. However, he must tell the House that some few years ago a motion of a similar description was carried; but the vote of the money was not made on account of some dispute which was originated betwixt the Rev. Dr. Lang and a gentleman now deceased, who was a member of the Government of the day. Matters got pretty hot, and, both being Scotchmen, he supposed neither would give way. At all events, Dr. Lang never got the money. But the House was committed to the grant—Queensland was committed to it, through its representatives of that time. He considered that the House was bound to redeem the good faith of the country. He might state

further, that gentlemen who now occupied very high places in the colony had had very little to do with bringing about Separation. Dr. Lang had taken a warm interest in getting the Moreton Bay district separated from New South Wales and erected into the colony of Queensland. He had gone several times to England, and by his letters and other representations, through the press and otherwise, had promoted the work very much. He had advocated separation at the 30th parallel of latitude, instead of the 28th parallel, which was effected in the constitution that was granted to this colony. If his proposal had been carried, it would have given us the Clarence River district—we had it not, and it was a very great loss—and, instead of Brisbane being at one end of the colony, it would have been in the centre of the colony; and it was possible that by this time northern friends would have had a capital of their own in another new colony. He (Mr. Pettigrew) did not wish to rake up the feeling that was roused at the time the Assembly passed the former resolution for a grant to Dr. Lang; but he could not help saying that if the gentleman who then occupied the post of Colonial Treasurer was alive now, no one would be better pleased than he to see the money given to Dr. Lang. Instead of £1,000, he thought that, considering Dr. Lang's many acts, works, and deeds in the infant days of this colony, the House would not be doing the venerable gentleman more than justice in voting him £5,000. But for him this colony would not have been separated for many years subsequent to the time when it was gained. He (Mr. Pettigrew) remembered the petitions which were presented to the Parliament of New South Wales by the venerable gentleman, who, by his pocket and his pen, further forced the subject on the attention of the public, as well as by his advocacy as a representative of the people he pressed it upon the legislature. Dr. Lang had spent his own money in the cause, which was a rare thing for parties to do, and he had involved himself to the extent of several thousands of pounds by the exertions he had made on behalf of this colony; and he had been unable to redeem his property, which was very valuable, since. The House would, he (Mr. Pettigrew) hoped, grant the small sum now asked for. Dr. Lang was now an old and frail man; his days in this world would be very short; he had a family, who would most likely survive him. The other colonies had rewarded him, but he had a greater claim on Queensland than even on Victoria. On the grounds named, Dr. Lang was entitled to receive a reward.

Mr. STEWART said, he could not agree with the honorable member for Stanley, and he hoped the money would not be voted. As far as he recollected the circumstances, the honorable member had overstated the case largely. Dr. Lang had made a very serious charge, one of such a nature as tended, or it was intended, to lower a member

of the Ministry in the estimation of his fellow colonists. Had it been true, it would not have been any slur upon the man at whom it was cast; but it was made with that intention. Honorable members would recollect the circumstance, or he (Mr. Stewart) should relate it. He thought he remembered a letter in which Dr. Lang stated that the voting of £1,000 was "very much like throwing a bone to a dog."

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. STEWART: If a resolution was passed to give him £1,000, and he chose to characterise it in that way, he (Mr. Stewart), for one, objected to doing it a second time. The House might have the statement repeated of themselves, with perhaps something added. It would, he thought, be taking up the time of the House unnecessarily to go into the question, or to send it to committee. Let the House negative it at once. Honorable members who were in the House at the time would recollect the circumstance as well as he did; and he had a perfect remembrance of it from the newspapers of the day. He thought it was a habit of Dr. Lang's, to try to get some money compensation, from time to time; and that gentleman would go on with it as long as possible. As for the House being committed to a grant, it had been voted, and Dr. Lang had rejected it in such a way that it ought not to be voted again.

Mr. FRASER observed that the discussion was rather inopportune, and, he thought, somewhat unusual at this stage of the question; and naturally honorable members were unprepared to take part in it. With due deference to the honorable member for Brisbane, he did not think the objection advanced by him was a very serious one. The real question was, had Dr. Lang ever conferred such benefits upon, or rendered such services to, this colony as entitled him to acknowledgment or compensation? What the reverend gentleman might have said in the impetuosity of his naturally warm temper would not detract in any way from his claims in the mind of any sober man. He (Mr. Fraser) thought Dr. Lang had not only rendered incalculable services to Queensland, but that his services would be always associated with the progress of the Australian colonies. Although long resisted, yet he found that the colonies of Victoria and New South Wales had acknowledged in a substantial form his services. Queensland had pledged itself, and had stopped short of what was intended. Without pledging himself to support it, he thought it would be but fair to let the motion go through the regular course for the calm consideration of the House.

Mr. PECHEY contended that the House ought to go to a division at once, and not further encumber the business paper with the motion. No doubt Dr. Lang had done a good deal for the colony; but was there an honorable member of the House who did not think he, too, had done much for the colony? If the

motion was carried, the House would go in for voting for one another, and they should soon get rid of the surplus that was said to be in the Treasury. He could not agree with the terms of the motion. It was a very open question whether the Rev. Dr. Lang or anybody else who gave

"his services in promoting and assisting in expediting, the separation of Queensland from New South Wales, and in founding the said colony,"

had really benefited the people who inhabited the districts included. He, for one, knew that instead of Darling Downs being now a sheep-walk, a waste, with nothing on it but walking-fences, it would have been covered with smiling homesteads, but for separation. It was only when the pastoral tenants of the Crown in the old colony found that the liberal party was making such head-way, and that under it the land would soon be thrown open and taken up for settlement by the people, if they did not get separation, that they bestirred themselves in the cause; and he (Mr. Pechey) said that it was in consequence of separation that the lands of this colony had been monopolised in the way that was seen. Of course, if separation had not taken place, the magnificent and beautiful building in which Parliament met would not have been erected, also a great many other decorations of the city; but, he believed there would be more solid prosperity now in the country—more yeomen settled on the soil, and they were the pride of a country and best ensured its welfare.

Mr. FRYAR was understood to deprecate the decision of the question at the present stage, honorable members being unprepared to go to a division. After what had been done on a former occasion to grant Dr. Lang £1,000, it would be as well to give a few days to consider the question.

Mr. THOMPSON said he thought it would be unfair to the honorable member for Wickham to take him on the hop, and to go to a division to-night, as his motion was only preliminary to another opportunity for discussing the real question at issue. According to the usual practice, the discussion should not take place until the House went into committee. He should vote in such a way as to have another opportunity of considering the question, whether the faith of the colony was pledged or not. Honorable members ought to have the papers before them to decide that. As to Dr. Lang's merits, he had a very decided opinion adverse to the gentleman.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS expressed his hope that the House would agree to the adjournment. He had a very strong opinion that the faith of the colony was pledged to Dr. Lang. It appeared to him to be an excessively undignified position for any colony to be in, to refuse money under those circumstances. Honorable members knew that a resolution had been passed that £1,000 should be given to Dr. Lang. A larger sum

had been tried for—£2,000. The gentleman was not satisfied with the amount that was agreed to by the House, and he got warm upon it. He might have used the expression attributed to him; but he fell foul of the late Mr. McLean, and the then Government voted against their own Estimates, in which the £1,000 was put down, just to punish him—to mark their sense of his conduct.

MR. MILES: No; they voted for it.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: He stood corrected. He knew that the sum was put on the Estimates, in accordance with the resolution of the House; and he knew that the Ministry of the day chuckled about its rejection. Although they had promised the money, when it came to the actual time of paying, they, in a manner, told the Doctor, "No; we will punish you for the use of your tongue." He (the Secretary for Lands) should certainly support the motion for adjournment.

The question for the adjournment of the debate was put and affirmed on a division: Ayes, 15; noes, 11.

#### POLYNESIANS LANDED AT MARYBOROUGH.

On the motion of Mr. BAILEY it was ordered—

That the Return showing amount of fees paid to the Police Magistrate of Maryborough, by employers, in relation to Polynesians landed in Maryborough during 1873, be printed.

In support of the motion, the honorable member said he wished to draw the attention of the Government to the fact, that some public officers in the receipt of large salaries were in the habit of extorting illegal fees from employers of Polynesians, in addition to the proper fees which the law allowed, and which were already very heavy. He referred to Mr. Faircloth, by name, as having so erred. The fees paid last year amounted to £430, and that individual had taken for himself £50 5s. in what he called gratuities. If a similar system was carried out in other departments for which he acted, no doubt a very handsome increase to his salary was secured. The return furnished to the House he (Mr. Bailey) complained was not complete. He had moved for an account of all charges upon, and the amounts received from, each employer, and that detailed information had not been furnished, by which the accuracy of the statements of the officer could be verified. Instead of the legal fee of half-a-crown being charged for each islander, he knew as a fact that double that amount had been extorted from employers. He called upon the Government to take steps to have those sums refunded.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said the Government had not the slightest intention of opposing the printing of the return. It was quite possible that the officer named might have committed some mistake with regard to

fees. The charges occurred last year, not this. It was to be recollected that under a former Act, he was entitled to charge fees; and, if he had made any demand, it had been under the impression, probably, that he was still entitled to do so. But so far as he (the Colonial Secretary) understood the question, it occurred before he came into office. No demand had since been made. There were gratuities given to the officer for work done in overtime.