

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 1874

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 2 June 1874.

Petition.—Postponement.—Immigration.—Evidence Further Amendment Bill.—Land Orders Bill of 1874.

PETITION.

Mr. HODGKINSON presented a petition from certain residents in the neighborhood of Rockhampton against the provisions in the Crown Lands Sale Bill, and moved that it be read.

Question put and passed.

The Clerk having read portion of the petition,

Mr. PALMER said he thought it was taking up the time of the House unnecessarily by proceeding further, as, it appeared to him, the form of the petition was irregular.

The SPEAKER said the petition was in such a form that it could not be received by the House. The 201st Standing Order provided—

“No reference shall be made in any petition to any debate in Parliament, nor to any intended motion.”

It therefore seemed to him the petition was irregular and could not be received.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he had some doubt himself, with regard to whether the petition could be received, and taking the advice of an older member than himself, he moved that it be read. He did not approve of the language in which it was framed, and he would withdraw it.

Petition withdrawn.

POSTPONEMENT—IMMIGRATION.

Mr. DeSATGE moved the adjournment of the House with a view of placing it on record, as one who drew the attention of the Government to the class of immigrants they were introducing at such heavy expense into the colony, that the class of immigrants who had arrived in the town of Brisbane within the last few days were a perfect disgrace to any civilized community. The country was paying very heavily for their introduction, and yet they were not to be compared even with the South Sea Island laborers, who were introduced at the expense of private individuals. He thought it was the bounden duty of those who consistently opposed the waste of public money for forced immigration, when it was patent to every honorable member, and to the public generally, and to their visitors, that the immigrants who were arriving were a disgrace to the

colony, in any small way they could, to draw attention to the fact. He had always consistently opposed, and he would continue to oppose, the wasting of public money for the introduction of labor of any description until they wanted it; and to force into the colony such batches of immigrants as they had seen within the last few days, was a disgrace to the colony. He would like to know what would be the impression made on the minds of distinguished visitors in the colony at the present moment, on seeing such a drunken set of vagabonds about the town? In fact the town, in the neighborhood he lived in, had hardly had a moment's peace since the arrival of the “Nourmahal.” He therefore drew the attention of the House to the subject in the hope that they would get some intimation from the head of the Government that steps would be taken to remedy this state of affairs. They had voted £75,000 for immigration, and if this was the class they were to see introduced he should say, those who backed up and supported immigration ought to feel that it was a disgrace to the colony that they could not introduce a better class of labor. Those who opposed it had this to say—that their argument against the system was true. They were taxing the whole of the colony to introduce a class of people who were a disgrace; a set of ruffians who assaulted the police, and even the Commissioner of Police; they were drunk at almost every street corner, and the licensed victuallers of the town were kept up, he believed, mainly by the introduction of this class of immigrants. He could now see, as one who lived in the interior, what supported the coast towns; it was this class of reckless men, who, when they had anything to spend, spent it in a manner most disgraceful. Was that the class of men they introduced to settle on the lands of the colony? Was that the class they made Land Acts for, and legislated in that House day after day? He said this state of things was a perfect disgrace, and the Government would be only doing small justice to the colony by taking some active and stringent steps to remedy it.

Mr. STEWART said he quite agreed with the honorable member for Normanby in his remarks as to the character of the immigrants who had arrived here lately, and he hoped the honorable the Colonial Secretary would take steps to prevent many of the same class from coming to the colony. He understood that some new arrangements were being carried out in connection with the management of the office in London, and if such were the case, unless they got a better class of immigrants than had arrived lately, they had better stop further immigration until those arrangements were completed. He did not agree with the honorable member for Normanby that those who persistently opposed immigration were right simply because a bad batch happened to arrive now and again. It was the system that was

wrong, and not immigration itself; and, as the system could be altered, he did not think they should sweep the whole thing away because there had been bad management in London. That honorable gentleman also said the licensed victuallers of Brisbane and the coast towns were mainly kept up by the class of immigrants who had recently arrived; and that he thought was a libel on those persons, for he considered the licensed victuallers of Brisbane were, on the whole, a very respectable class, and that they would bear favorable comparison, as was suggested by the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, with those in the country districts.

Mr. WIENHOLT agreed with the honorable member who had just sat down, that the system of forced immigration was bad; they could never expect to get a proper class of people to come to the colony when they forced them out by paying the whole of their passages, and providing them in many cases with an outfit. The hardworking, really industrious and respectable people at home, who desired to come to the colony, would pay their own passages, and by letting them come of their own free will they would get a very different class of immigrants to those who were coming out. He thoroughly agreed with the honorable member for Normanby, that the people they saw brought out under the present system were a disgrace to any civilised community; and it was a disgrace to find that they, as a legislature, were spending the money of the people to introduce the class of men they saw reeling about the streets and filling every tap-room in the town. They had been told that America had been made a great country by the immigration of a class of men who brought a thousand dollars a-piece in their pockets; but the class introduced here, under this forced system, certainly did not bring a thousand dollars a-piece, and, whatever they did bring, they took precious good care to spend in the public houses in Brisbane and the other towns at which they arrived. As an opposer of forced immigration, considering, as he did, that it was most unjust and unfair to the people of this colony, he must protest against the present class of people being introduced.

The Hon. B. B. MORETON said he could not agree with all the sentiments expressed by the honorable member for Darling Downs with regard to what that honorable member termed forced immigration. The class of immigration that was now coming to the colony was not the fault of the system, but of the officers at home; and he thought some change was absolutely necessary before the evil complained of could be remedied. He agreed with the honorable members for Normanby and Brisbane that the class of immigrants who were arriving, as shown by those who arrived by the "Nourmahal," was not desirable in any shape or form, and he hoped a change would be made which would have the effect of introducing a better class.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was well known that the honorable member for Normanby was personally opposed to immigration, but he (the Colonial Secretary) was not opposed to it. On the contrary, he was a strong advocate of it, but he should like to see it carried out on such a system as would give a much better class of people to the colony than they had lately arriving amongst them. He must also say that this question of immigration had given the Government for some time—in fact ever since they came into office—a considerable amount of uneasiness; and it was no later than to-day he had a Cabinet meeting for the purpose of seriously considering the whole system; and he quite agreed with those honorable members who first addressed the House, that they had better give up immigration than continue a system which introduced the class of people they had lately had arriving amongst them. As he had always said, it was not quantity so much as quality the colony required, and in place of receiving 1000 a month, he would rather see only 250 a month arriving, if they could get them of the right stamp. He might state, also, that the alterations lately made by the Government in London had nothing whatever to do with the question of immigration. He had dealt with that question, ever since he had been in office, with great care and consideration. He had received information which led him to believe that the Agent-General had been in bad health for some time, and he had never charged that gentleman with any personal responsibility in the matter he had alluded to; but he must state he could no longer hesitate to say that as Agent-General of the colony, receiving a high salary, he was personally responsible for the class of immigration coming to the colony; and the Government meant to act upon that, and to see that alterations were made which would secure a better class of people than were coming to the colony at present. There was no concealing the fact that they were paying a large sum of money for immigration—certainly not less than £100,000 a-year, and probably this year it would amount to much more; and if they were to use that money in importing people such as they had seen arriving lately, he thought they had better keep the money themselves, and leave the people at home. The lockups in Brisbane had been full since the last ship arrived, and it seemed to him it was simply preparing individuals for accommodation in their gaols, lunatic asylums, and benevolent institutions. He believed there would be no great difficulty in making some improvement in the management of the system in England, by placing it in the hands of people who would take a personal interest in procuring suitable persons to send to the colony, and in promoting a sound and advantageous system of immigration. At present such was not the case, and he was exceedingly sorry to say so.

Mr. DE SATGE wished to state in reply, and before he withdrew the motion, that he merely attacked the system of immigration, and had not the slightest intention of casting any reflection whatever on Mr. Daintree. There could be no doubt that if Mr. Daintree was required to send out 1,000 persons per month, or any large stated number, he could not help himself. It was the system, and not the man—not the Agent-General who was to blame, because he could not help himself. When they had a system which provided that a certain number of immigrants should arrive by a stated time, he defied any Agent-General, whoever he might be, or whatever health he might be in, when he had to cram ships in this way, to provide any other class than were now seen arriving in the colony. He would withdraw the motion.

Mr. PALMER said the motion came upon him quite unexpectedly. He never expected that any motion of the kind would have been brought forward by the honorable member who introduced it for the purpose of making charges—for he certainly considered them charges—against Mr. Daintree, and playing the game of the Colonial Secretary. It was nothing more nor less than playing the game of the honorable the Colonial Secretary to damage Mr. Daintree. It was well known, and must be known by the honorable the Colonial Secretary, that before he came into office, Mr. Daintree officially reported himself as ill, and he had never been near the office since. He (Mr. Palmer) liked to see fair play for everybody. He knew nothing about these immigrants referred to by the honorable member for Normanby; they were said to be “rough diamonds,” and that with a little polishing they would become good members of society. But he could say this much, that even if these men did go about the town and indulge in a little hilarity, it showed they could not be paupers, such as were introduced under a former system of immigration, and they were likely to become valuable members of society. He thought nothing of their indulging in this way after a long sea voyage; he thought rather it said a good deal for them, and showed they were not the poor, miserable, wretched paupers who had been previously sent out—who came here off the parish, and landed without a shilling in their pockets, and never knew scarcely what a shilling was. He thought the course pursued by the honorable member for Normanby was a great mistake; it was an attack upon Mr. Daintree, who had done more to advance the colony in the eyes of Europe, and in the eyes of the world, than any Colonial Secretary who ever existed in Queensland had ever done, and he objected to that gentleman being brought to book in an irregular manner like this. If there was anything to be said against him, let a motion be brought forward for his suspension or dismissal, and if his friends in that House could not defend him, or if he could not defend himself, dismiss him by all means.

But he was astonished; he was astounded that a motion like this should have been brought forward without notice—without his, the supposed leader of the Opposition—being informed of it. He scouted such a proceeding. It was playing the game of the Colonial Secretary—

Mr. DE SATGE: I deny it.

Mr. PALMER: Who, in a memorable speech, called their Agent-General a showman. He repeated that the Agent-General was a gentleman the colony might well be proud of; he had done more to advance the interests of Queensland and bring it before the world, than any Colonial Secretary, or all the Colonial Secretaries who ever existed.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said he was glad to see the indignation of the honorable member for Port Curtis turning to the right side at last, against his own supporters, instead of, as usual, being directed against the present Government. The honorable member for Normanby was apparently under the delusion that he was attacking the present Government; he had not the slightest idea that he was attacking the late Government—

Mr. DE SATGE: I attacked nobody.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: And it now fell on his own shoulders. He believed, although the honorable member for Normanby objected to immigration, he was in reality one of the strongest supporters of the late Government in introducing the present system of immigration; all the arrangements under which immigrants were now arriving were made by the late Government. So far as the present Agent-General was concerned, he thought he had little occasion to grumble, and that there was not the slightest reason for any friend of his in the colony to complain about the manner in which he had been treated. He had been treated with every consideration by the present Government, and no doubt he would continue to be treated in the same way. But the honorable member for Port Curtis—he would not include the honorable member for Normanby, whose ideas appeared to be astray from his own party—must see that the Government must take some action when they saw that the whole business of the Emigration Office had gone wrong; both as regarded the sending out of materials required for the public works of the colony and the selection of a proper class of emigrants. To whom, he would ask, were the Government to look to see that these matters were properly conducted, if not to the Agent-General? No steps had yet been taken by the Government with regard to the present Agent-General, but they meant to take steps which would be perfectly justified by the action that gentleman had taken himself. He must stand or fall by his own action; and if he was unable to discharge the duties of the office, he must make room for some one else.

Mr. MOREHEAD would ask, why this turmoil and tumult? He had not seen or heard any of the rows in the streets by these new arrivals, and he thought the charge of being a little self-indulgent immediately on their arrival in the colony, was a very small one indeed. He defied the honorable member who introduced the motion to say that if he turned his shearers, who were acclimatised and colonised, out into a township, even after they had been six weeks in his employment, they would not conduct themselves much more disreputably than those immigrants who had come off a long sea voyage; and he believed these people would soon settle down into good colonists. He had seen nothing in their conduct to lead to the belief that they would not. With regard to the remarks respecting the Agent-General, it could easily be seen how things were tending. They had already seen a political partisan hoisted into an important position in a manner which, he said before and he would now repeat, was most unfair to the civil servants of the colony; and now he was to be sent home to a position in the Emigration Office, and no doubt the next step would be to appoint him Agent-General. God help the country when such a state of things was allowed to exist! He said the outcry against the immigrants by the "Nourmahal" was improper and uncalled for, and he was astonished that the honorable member for Normanby should have taken this course, and by a side wind lead an attack on the Agent-General of the colony. He had very little now to say on the subject, except that he thought the honorable the Minister for Public Works was wrong in taking this opportunity to hold out a threat as to the manner in which the Agent-General was to be treated by the Government.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: I used no threat.

Mr. PALMER: It was very like one.

The question was then put and negatived.

EVIDENCE FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in moving—

That the Bill be read a second time,

said that, on a former occasion, the same Bill had passed through the second reading in that House, and on another had gone through committee, but unfortunately had not become law. It had now passed the other branch of the Legislature, and had been sent down to the Assembly for its approval. Under those circumstances, he did not think it would be necessary for him to detain honorable members by going into the details at any length. It was simply a copy of an English amendment upon a previous extension of the law of evidence. The effect of it was, that parties to any action for breach of promise of marriage, and that parties and their husbands and wives in suits of adultery should be able to give

evidence. It had been found that disability inflicted upon husbands and wives in giving evidence in suits of adultery, had been productive of great hardship, and there was no reason why the principle which applied to other cases should not be extended to them. The law had been in effect in England for some time past, and he did not anticipate that there would be any objection on the part of honorable members to let the Bill pass.

Mr. GRIFFITH said, he thought it was one of the most useful measures which had been introduced into that House for a very long time. It had been the law in England for some years, and the fact that it was not the law in this colony had had the effect of rendering some proceedings nugatory. He believed the Bill had been thrown out on a former occasion through some extraordinary crotchets honorable members had as to allowing blackfellows to give evidence on oath; the clauses relating to that, he noticed, had been expunged, and, he believed, there was now in the Bill nothing that had not been assented to over and over again by that House.

The question was put and passed.

LAND ORDERS BILL OF 1874.

The COLONIAL TREASURER, in moving—

That the Bill be read a second time,

said that it was intended to remedy certain grievances which had been suffered by immigrants under the Crown Lands Act of 1860 and the Immigration Act of 1869. The first part of the Bill, as honorable members would perceive, authorised the Government to give in exchange for the forty-acre non-transferable land orders issued under the Act of 1869, a transferable land order to the extent of £20. It had been found that those forty-acre land orders were in the hands of many persons as so much waste paper, inasmuch as they could not comply with the personal residence, which was one of the conditions attached to those orders. During the course of the session of 1872, a Bill was introduced to authorise the Government to place the immigrants coming out under the Act of 1860 in the same position as those who came out under the Act of 1864, and it was then proposed to include those persons who came out under the Act of 1869; but the honorable member who was at that time at the head of the Government, did not see his way clear to assent to that proposition. He thought, however, that it was only an act of simple justice to those people. He might mention that the present Bill was drafted by the late Premier, and was found by the present Government on their taking office. Its object, as he had said, was, to place people coming out under the Act of 1869 in the same position as those who came out under the Act of 1864, and that was only right, as he considered that persons had almost been defrauded by having land orders given to them which were perfectly useless to them on their arrival

in the colony. The next part of the Bill referred to grievances of older date, namely, to those experienced by persons coming out under the Act of 1860. By that Act, it was provided that land orders of the value of £30 each should be issued to all persons paying their full passages on the condition of two years' residence in the colony; but, in 1863, a series of regulations were passed, restricting the issue of such land orders; one of the regulations being, that they should not be issued to a man unless he was under forty years of age, or to a woman unless she was under thirty-five years of age, or to an unmarried woman unless she was accompanied by her parents or relatives. Numerous cases of hardship had occurred through that alteration, to persons who, having broken up their homes and sold everything to come out here, found, on their arrival, that an alteration in the law had been made, by which, if they were honest people, they would be deprived of land orders. Those who chose to be dishonest, and who gave the wrong ages, of course, got their orders, and, therefore, it was an encouragement to dishonesty. There were a certain number of persons affected by those regulations, but as it was fourteen years since the Act passed, of course, the number of persons now in the colony who came out under it, and suffered from the grievance complained of, was comparatively small, and he thought that it would be found that few persons would present themselves who had been affected by it. Still, however, it should be never too late to remedy an act of injustice. The fourth clause provided that land orders should be issued to single females, who, under the Act of 1860, were debarred from having them; and he must say that he could never understand why, because a single female was not accompanied by her relatives, she should not have a land order. The fifth clause referred to steerage passengers who paid their own passage money, and who, under the Act of 1860, were entitled to a land order after two years' residence. But, for some unaccountable reason, the Government refused to grant those people a second land order, although he should have thought that that was a class to whom land orders would have been particularly useful. The clause provided that in addition to the £15 land order already given to those persons, a further transferable land order of the value of £20 should be issued. Clauses 6 and 7 referred to general provisions in reference to such land orders being paid as available as land orders issued under the Act of 1873. He thought that if the House passed the Bill, they would then do away with all grievances respecting non-transferable land orders, and only transferable orders would remain, which would have a specific value. There was no doubt that unless they dealt out justice to those persons, they would have matters of the same sort constantly brought forward, and for that reason the Government had considered it

desirable to deal with the two causes of grievances—those under the Act of 1869, and those under the Act of 1860, in the one Bill.

Mr. THOMPSON said he had no objection whatever to the second part of the Bill, commencing at clause 3, and he presumed that the Government would take care that they were not imposed upon. He knew himself that there were many cases of hardship that would be met by the Bill, as he had made inquiries and found that the agents in England had led people to suppose that although the regular papers could not be issued to them there, they would receive their land orders on arrival in the colony. He had also inquired of Mr. Jordan if that was correct, and he ascertained that the agents were authorised to make such statements. He mentioned that to show that there must be some caution used by the Government. He knew that the late Premier, the honorable member for Port Curtis, was in favor of the first part of the Bill; but he himself was opposed to it, as he had known the Land Orders issued under the Act of 1869 to be sold for 2s. 6d. each; the parties purchasing them speculating upon the probability of some legislation by which they would reap the full benefit. The principle, he considered, was essentially a bad one, as it offered a premium to dishonesty; and he had been surprised at the honorable the late Premier, and the present honorable Colonial Treasurer, advocating such a thing. He knew that at Ipswich those land orders had been sold at from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a piece—

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: If the honorable member would look at the fourth line on the second page he would find that a statutory declaration would have to be made. It appeared to him that the Bill would not apply to cases where the land order had changed owners.

Mr. THOMPSON thought that difficulty could easily be got over.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: That might be so, but he failed to see how any person buying one of those land orders would be able to avail himself of the Bill. He would first have to hunt up the person from whom he bought it, and that would not be an easy matter. It appeared to him that as the persons coming out under the Act of 1869 received land orders different from any which had been issued either previous to the passing of that Act or under any Act subsequently passed, it was only common fairness to put them on the same footing. If it was merely a question of letting people have the benefit who had bought land orders for 2s. 6d. or 3s., he should certainly agree with the honorable member for the Bremer; but he thought that with the statutory declaration required, there would be a sufficient safeguard against imposition of that sort. He thought that if honorable members refused to pass the two first

clauses of the Bill they would be doing a great injustice to a large number of persons.

Mr. GROOM said he thought the Bill was a very good one indeed, and he was very glad indeed that the present Government had introduced it, as he looked upon it as being a measure of justice to a large number of people. In answer to a question put by him to the honorable Treasurer a few days ago, he had been glad to hear that the honorable member for Port Curtis, when in office, had drafted a Bill to meet the case of persons who came out under the Act of 1869. He believed that the bulk of the land orders issued under that Act were in the hands of the original owners; at any rate, that was the case at Toowoomba. In most cases they were in the hands of professional men, who did not know what to do with them. He knew also cases of widows, whose husbands had died since their arrival, who had land orders to the extent of some hundred acres; and he thought therefore the Government were doing only justice to those persons in the Bill they had introduced. He had had occasion, two or three years ago, to bring under the notice of the House the case of a Mr. Adams, and so impressed was the House at that time with the hardship of it, that they authorised his having fresh land orders issued to him. Although many of the persons who would be affected by the Bill had come to the colony a good many years ago, it was never too late to do an act of justice, and he believed it was an act which would have been done some years ago had it not been for the many changes which had occurred. He should support the Bill.

Mr. GRAHAM said that of course he was not able to say what proportion of the land orders under the Act of 1869 were in the hands of the original proprietors, but if what had been stated by the honorable member for the Bremer was correct, there must be a considerable number in second hands. If that was the case, the House, by passing the Bill, would be offering a high premium to people to perjure themselves in order to transfer a valueless piece of paper into an order worth £20. He did not see how it would be possible to tell the original holder from those who had purchased them. He knew that ever since those land orders had been issued parties had been advertising for non-transferable land orders; and there could not, he thought, be a doubt that a considerable number had been purchased by those parties who had been waiting for an opportunity to have some such Act as the present passed. It was impossible to say what agitation had been at the bottom of the measure now before them. He certainly agreed with the honorable member for the Bremer that there was no reason at all why they should take the proposed step; and if it was passed, they would cause great injustice, as men would then be hired to personate the original immigrants. He thought there was no occasion for any part of the

Bill; even the latter part of it was very questionable policy; and it appeared to him that they were offering a premium to people who might choose to come forward and make false declarations.

Mr. PETTIGREW said, he was anxious to see a Bill brought in to assist some parties who held land orders. Whether the Bill before the House would meet the case or not, he was not prepared at present to say. One thing he should like to know, was, the amount that was to be paid. He knew that non-transferable land orders had been used to a great extent in purchasing the Darling Downs district, where, by this means, the land was got for one-half or one-third the nominal price. A new Land Bill had been passed by the House, and he was not clear as to what effect the present Bill might have upon it. The Government should have asked the holders of land orders to send them in, so that it could be ascertained what was to be paid. He believed that if any parties were paid, all ought to be paid. The Colonial Treasurer had just informed him that there was something like £31,000 of land orders out, and to be paid.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: If they were all presented.

Mr. PETTIGREW: There was not the slightest doubt that most of them would be presented. He agreed with the honorable member for Bremer, as to the low value at which the land orders were appraised. They had been offered to him for a one pound note; and he had some of them in his possession for some time, three or four years ago. He gave one back to its owner, not knowing what to do with it, and it was afterwards sold by him to another party for ten shillings; and that party afterwards returned it to the owner. He did not believe the proper parties would get the benefit of the Bill; and he wished to inquire into it further. Why did not the parties take up land?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: They could not live on forty acres.

Mr. PETTIGREW: He was astonished to hear the Treasurer say that. He knew that the best people in the honorable member's district were living on forty acres of land, or less; the very men that returned him to the House. He should not object to vote for the second reading of the Bill, if it was not to go into committee to-night; and he did not promise as to what he should do in committee. He wanted to look at the Bill at home. Members of Parliament might make fortunes out of it, as they had before by land orders. But what he was most afraid of, was, that the land orders had gone from the original holders, and that these would not be benefited at all. Of course, in the opinion of the Treasurer, £30,000 odd was nothing; it was a trifle, like the sum for the dry dock.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE said he intended to oppose the Bill, to pass which was simply playing into the hands of the speculators. There

was only one clause in it which he should feel inclined to support, that which referred to the people who came out under the Act of 1860. Persons who came out first under that Act got their land orders. Then a regulation was made, that male immigrants over forty years of age, and women over thirty-five years, should not get land orders. Meantime, several persons had left home for this colony knowing nothing of that regulation; but they did not get land orders. They were wronged, and they should get the land orders which were promised to them, when they embarked fourteen years ago. But to pay £31,000 on account of land-buyers, who had got the land orders into their hands as a speculation, he should strongly object.

Mr. MORGAN must confess, he said, that he regarded the question with considerable suspicion, as he was inclined to look upon it from the same point of view as honorable members who had preceded him. A great many of the land orders had got into the hands of speculators; and he should be very sorry to be one of a party to help to rob the country still further on their account, and to the extent proposed. There had been enough of that sort of thing heretofore. The three clauses of the Bill referring to immigrants under the Act of 1860 were fair enough, and he should gladly assist in passing them. He believed that there were many persons in his own district who did not know how to utilise their land orders, issued under the Act of 1869. They had had interviews with the Colonial Secretary, but even that honorable gentleman did not know how to deal with them. If any legislation was attempted, such persons should be dealt with in a liberal spirit. But he (Mr. Morgan) had a downright horror of doing anything to benefit the land-sharks. He should not oppose the Bill, but he hoped that, in committee, honorable members on both sides of the House would take good care to shape it in such a way that it should be of benefit to the community.

Question put and the House divided:—

Ayes, 20.	Noes, 4.
Mr. Macalister	Mr. Thompson
" Stephens	" Graham
" Hemmant	" Ivory
" Buzacott	" J. Thorn.
" Pettigrew	
" Morgan	
" Stewart	
" Foote	
" Macrossan	
" Edmondstone	
" Pechey	
" Groom	
" Hodgkinson	
" Beattie	
" Lord	
" Moreton	
" Griffith	
" Dickson	
" Bailey	
" Fryar.	

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved—

That the House resolve into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the Bill.

Mr. PETTIGREW said he did not see the slightest necessity for going into committee.

If the Treasurer insisted, he was much mistaken if he thought he would get beyond the first clause, as every opposition would be offered to the progress of the Bill to-night. He was the only member of the Ministry who forced, or tried to force, the House. This was a slow generation, and honorable members like himself (Mr. Pettigrew) would not be driven. He desired that the Bill should benefit the persons in whose interest it had been introduced; it must not benefit the land speculators. Indeed, he should like to know how it came to have been introduced at all: it must have been brought before the House under pressure. He understood that the late Government had intended to bring it in.

Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. GRAHAM: No, no.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: He had no wish to press the Bill on the Committee, if the House did not wish it. The honorable member for Stanley had not offered a single objection to the Bill; he had had it in his hands over a month; and it was exceedingly unfair to say he wanted time to consider it. The Government did not bring in Bills for amusement, and when they put them before the House they wished to proceed with them. Honorable members should make themselves conversant with the Bills on the paper at the proper time; and the honorable member for Stanley could have got all particulars he required at the Immigration Office. With regard to pressure, the Bill originated in a question put by the honorable member for Toowoomba, whether the Government intended to deal with the subject. There was a Bill in print dealing with the first part of the subject, when the Government went into office.

The SPEAKER said it was not usual to discuss a Bill on the question now before the House. The subject of the Bill had been discussed on the motion for the second reading, which had been disposed of.

Mr. THOMPSON: In answer to the observation of the Treasurer, that honorable members ought to have made themselves acquainted with the matter, he had to say that that honorable gentleman should have told the House in whose hands the land orders were.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. THOMPSON: He had information that a large amount of land orders was in the hands of one man. What that man would make out of the present measure and the instability of colonial legislation might be something enormous. The Treasurer could not complain that the House would not go into committee to-night. He (Mr. Thompson) confessed that, in his anxiety as regarded one part of the Bill, he had even run a risk of not doing tardy justice to those persons who came out under Mr. Jordan's *regime*; but as to the other portions of the Bill, he had not the slightest doubt that he was correct.

The COLONIAL TREASURER offered to withdraw his motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.