

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 1874

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 1 July, 1874.

Parliamentary Librarian. — Navigation Bill. — Customs Duties Interpretation Bill. — Claim of P. F. MacDonald. — The Petition of W. Coote. — Board of Education Scholarships. — Encouragement to Manufacturing Industries Bill. — Grant to Dr. Lang. — National Education. — Fire from Locomotive Engines.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIAN.

The SPEAKER, referring to the vacancy in this office, said: I have to announce to the House that the President of the Legislative Council and your Speaker have nominated Mr. D. O'Donovan, of Melbourne, to the office of Parliamentary Librarian.

NAVIGATION BILL.

Mr. MORGAN, as Chairman of Committees, in pursuance of a resolution of the Committee of the whole House on the Bill, referred the following point of order for the ruling of Mr. Speaker—

"That the Bill is a Money Bill, and ought not to have originated in the Legislative Council—the 153rd clause imposing a burden on the people by the imposition of fees or dues which, when collected, are to be paid to the Consolidated Revenue of the colony."

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that the only point to which he would call the attention of the honorable the Speaker, before he gave his ruling was, that the clause of the Bill now brought under his notice did not propose to impose any new tax or imposition, but simply to continue the imposition of taxes already in force.

The SPEAKER: My opinion is, that this is a Bill that imposes a burden on the people; it seems to me, all through, to do so. Therefore, it is a Bill which ought only to have originated with this House.

CUSTOMS DUTIES INTERPRETATION
BILL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said the object of it was to define and set at rest any doubts that might exist as to articles which were

exempted under the head of machinery in the Customs Duties Act of 1874. Since that Act had been in force, the Customs authorities had been asked almost daily by importers as to whether certain articles were exempted under the head of machinery or not; and, although it was true that the Collector of Customs had power to make regulations and settle the definition of these terms, it was thought it would be more satisfactory to the House and the country if the matter were settled by this Bill, instead of each case in which any doubt arose having to be referred to the Collector of Customs. He had looked up some authorities as to the meaning of the word "machinery," which he would read to the House. "Machinery," as defined by Dr. Johnson, was—

"Enginery; complicated workmanship; self-moved engines."

And in the Imperial Dictionary the definition given was—

"Complicated work, or combination of mechanical powers in a work designed to increase, regulate, or apply motion and force, as the machinery of a watch or other chronometer. 2. Machines in general."

He did not think that either the Collector of Customs or importers would get much information from such authorities to guide them on the subject; the difficulty was not decreased by these definitions. The Bill provided for agricultural, mining, and other machinery, and also for a large number of things which were introduced into the colony, which did not come within the category of machinery, as generally understood. For instance, the honorable member for Wide Bay raised the question, a short time ago, as to whether ploughs, seed drills, and other articles of that kind were embraced in the term "machinery for agricultural purposes"; but it was the opinion of the Collector of Customs—and he, the Colonial Treasurer, agreed with him in that opinion—that these were not exempted under the head of machinery; but, at the same time, he was aware that it was the opinion of a majority of the House that seed drills and other similar articles, for the assistance of those engaged in farming pursuits, should be admitted duty free, and he thought it advisable to include these things in the Bill. The loss to the revenue through the passing of the Bill would be trifling—he did not suppose it would amount to £500; and the measure would set at rest the vexed questions arising from the meaning attached to the word "machinery." He might state that when the *ad valorem* duties were first imposed in 1866, a similar difficulty was found to exist, and about a fortnight after a repealing Bill was introduced to define what should be exempt under the head of machinery. The schedule to the Bill had been prepared by the Collector of Customs, with the assistance of some of the leading importers in the colony,

and he believed it would be found to include everything that could fairly be considered as coming under the head of machinery. Then there was another difficulty that presented itself. For instance, machinery coming from England came out in parts; and he believed it was intended by the House that all the component parts of machinery, such as gauge glasses, steam whistles, and minor things of that nature, which were of very great importance to the manufacture of machinery, should be admitted free; because, otherwise, persons engaged in certain industries would be very heavily handicapped, and he had therefore included them. He thought honorable members would admit that, although the Government had power to make regulations exempting all these things, it was better that the opinion of the House on the subject should be clearly laid down by means of this Bill. He moved—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Hon. B. B. MORETON said, on looking through the Bill, he found there were several articles named in the schedule, from which it seemed hard to know whether the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had framed the Bill with the intention of deciding what was the meaning to be placed on the word machinery, or for the purpose of assisting the manufacture of machinery in this colony. If he introduced it merely for the sake of fully explaining what was meant by "machinery," he had not so much to say about it; but, if it were for the purpose of assisting the manufacture of these things, he thought there were other articles that might as well be included in the schedule. He held in his hand a list which had been sent to him from a very large foundry—he believed one of the largest in the colony—in which there were several things which he thought ought to be included. The items had been mentioned to him as being of great importance in the manufacture of machinery in this colony, and which, if not allowed to come in free, would handicap the manufacture of machinery at a much greater rate than it should be; that, in fact, they would be letting in the manufactured articles free, and imposing a duty on the same articles in an unmanufactured state. The articles in the list he had referred to were mostly things which could not be manufactured in the colony, such as bolts and nuts, cast iron pipes, angle iron, rivets—which were largely used in the manufacture of machinery—engine-packing, and sheet india-rubber. He did not know whether these items would make any great decrease in the revenue if they were admitted into the schedule, but their omission would interfere materially with the carrying on of several industries in the colony, and he would like very much to see them inserted. He did not know what was meant by "parts of machinery which cannot be used except as parts of machinery"—whether that would allow the

articles he had mentioned to come in free or not, or to what extent it would be carried. He would not occupy the time of the House longer, but, in committee, he would endeavor to make some alterations in the schedule.

Mr. STEWART hoped the honorable the Colonial Treasurer would see his way clear to adopt the suggestions of the honorable member for Wide Bay. He thought engine-packing, and bolts and nuts might just as well be admitted as some of the articles enumerated in the schedule. He observed that "copper sheet, perforated for centrifugals," was inserted, which was as much a part of machinery as bolts and nuts; and he thought engine-packing would come in the same category as "leather belting," which was inserted—the same arguments would apply to one as to the other. With regard to "ploughs and cultivators of all kinds," he would point out that a question was asked in the House some time ago, as to what a cultivator was, and they had yet to define what that word meant. He thought a hoe and spade were as much cultivators as ploughs, so that it would seem that they would have to introduce another Bill to define the meaning of this Bill. There was the item of "flour mills, and all machinery in connection therewith;" he thought they ought to define what the "machinery connected therewith" was. He was of opinion that if they brought in a Bill to define what machinery was, it should define it fully.

Mr. FRYAR was of the same opinion as the honorable member for Brisbane—that this Bill would be far from settling the question as to what was machinery. It appeared to him that if it were possible to take the view that nothing was machinery except what was driven by steam power, the matter would not be so difficult; but he believed he was correct in saying that ninety-nine articles out of every hundred introduced into the colony as machinery were not driven by steam. There was hardly an article that could be mentioned that was in common use that was driven by steam, and the construction put upon the Customs Duties Act by the Bill would include articles more commonly in use amongst the small farmers of the country, such as corn-shellers and the like. He did not think this Bill would settle the question, for where it was most clear it followed very closely the words of the Customs Duties Act; but he observed that while it included "quartz machinery of every description," and "mining machinery of every description," and one or two other items of the same kind, it did not include agricultural machinery of every description; certain articles of agricultural machinery were enumerated, while on others duty would have to be paid. For instance, it had been considered necessary to insert "rice mills," but it did not appear to have been considered necessary to include arrowroot mills, which he certainly thought were as likely to be required for agricultural purposes as rice

mills. He believed the idea that machinery was not machinery unless it was driven by steam was entirely erroneous, and that anything that was driven by any of the six mechanical powers, or used for the concentration of power, was a machine to all intents and purposes; and, in that view of the case, he believed that a traction engine or a steam cultivator was not more a cultivator than a spade or a wheelbarrow, because in each case the principle was exactly the same. But it was quite unnecessary to go beyond the words of the Customs Duties Acts to define articles of this description, because sawing and sewing machinery were about as opposite as it was possible for different kind of machinery to be, because sawing machinery was work for a powerful steam engine, while sewing machinery could be brought into operation by the slightest movement of the slender foot of the servant maiden. The honorable the Colonial Treasurer had referred to the Imperial Dictionary; but he had referred to that and twenty other authorities he could mention, and he did not find a single authority which said that machinery was not machinery unless driven by steam power. All the authorities on agricultural machinery classed nearly all agricultural implements as machines—such as spades and harrows, and other articles, which the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had declared, in answer to the question put to him by the honorable member for Wide Bay, were not agricultural machinery within the meaning of the Act. He might state that, so far as he had come in contact with machinery in the colony, nearly all machinery, properly so called, was driven by hand or horse power, and in comparatively very few instances indeed by steam. There were several articles not included in the schedule which were likely to be introduced into the colony. He had already mentioned arrowroot machines, and there were boring machines, which did not appear to be included. No doubt, by a strain of terms, boring machines might be included under the head of mining machinery; but, when they were used by the agriculturist for the purpose of obtaining water supply, that could not be considered mining, and consequently they would be excluded. Machinery for irrigating purposes was also omitted; and, while machinery for oil-cake was included, machines for oil were not, and he believed that in most cases in this colony oil would be attempted to be made before oil-cake. On the whole, he thought the Bill was far from settling the question as to what constituted machinery.

Mr. BAILEY said he thought the agriculturists of this colony ought to be extremely grateful to the honorable the Colonial Treasurer for having introduced this Bill. The deficiency in the Customs Duties Bill was, perhaps, that honorable gentleman's own fault, but he believed this measure would fill

up the gap; and, while they were paying such large sums of money for immigration, he thought they ought to utilise the labor in the colony as far as possible, by affording facilities for the introduction and manufacture of improved machinery. He felt sure that his constituents would be very grateful for this Bill.

Mr. PECHAY said he thought he heard the honorable the Colonial Treasurer make a remark, a few minutes ago, that "cultivators of all kinds" did not include spades and shovels, and other articles of that description; and he certainly thought that if these were not to be included, they were no nearer arriving at a decision on the point than they would be without the Bill. He hoped they would be able to arrive at a clear definition of these things, because he believed that under the present tariff the Collector of Customs was allowed to use his discretion to an enormous extent; and if he was to be allowed such discretionary power as to say that a spade was not a cultivator of any kind, they might just as well not pass the Bill at all. He hoped in committee that would be altered, and that other amendments would be made.

The question was then put and passed, and the House went into committee to consider the Bill in detail.

CLAIM OF P. F. MACDONALD.

Mr. BUZACOTT, pursuant to notice, moved—

That the Report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the claim of Mr. P. F. MacDonald, laid on the table of this House on Thursday, the 18th instant, be now adopted.

He thought it was quite unnecessary for him to make any remarks on the subject, as there had been already considerable discussion in that House respecting it. A Select Committee had been appointed to inquire into the circumstances connected with it, the report of which committee had, together with the evidence taken, been in the hands of honorable members for some time past, and they had, no doubt, made themselves thoroughly acquainted with the recommendations contained in that report. Honorable members were, many of them at least, well aware that the committee were quite unable to take all the evidence which was adduced at the trial that took place some years ago, as it was impossible to call witnesses before them who were then examined. Still, he thought the committee had been able to procure such evidence as to enable them to come to a satisfactory conclusion, and that the recommendation contained in their report, would be considered a very moderate one. He would reserve any further remarks until his other motion came on, for the House to go into committee upon the resolution he had prepared.

The question was put and carried,

THE PETITION OF W. COOTE.

Mr. DICKSON moved, pursuant to notice—

1. That the Report of the Select Committee appointed by this House to consider the Petition of Mr. William Coote, in the establishment of Sericulture within the colony, and to whom was referred, on the 28th May last, the message of that date from the Legislative Council, with resolutions upon the same subject, be now adopted.

2. That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider the following resolutions:—

- (1.) That, by the enterprise of Mr. William Coote, the new industrial pursuit of Sericulture has been commenced in the colony, with reasonable prospects of its permanent establishment.
- (2.) That such enterprise entitles the said Mr. Coote to encouragement, under the Act of the Legislature, 33 Victoria, No. 1, intituled "*An Act to authorise the Grant of Waste Lands of the Crown and of Land Orders for the Encouragement of Native Industries.*"
- (3.) That the sanction of this House be given to the issue to the said Mr. William Coote of Transferable Land Orders to the value of £2,000, on the following terms:—£1,000 worth of Transferable Land Orders on the passing of these resolutions, and £1,000 worth of Transferable Land Orders conditionally, upon proof being given, to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council, at any time within two years, that produce (silk and silk grain) to the value of £1,500 has been shipped prior to applying for such balance.
- (4.) That the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Legislative Council by message, accompanied with a copy of this Report, and the minutes of the additional evidence taken by the committee, and inviting their concurrence in the foregoing modification of the resolution No. 3 of Legislative Council on the subject.

He had merely to observe, in moving those resolutions, that, as chairman of the committee, he could assure the House that the decision of the committee had been arrived at after considerable deliberation. It now remained for them to say whether they would adopt the report, and afterwards, when they went into committee, to deal with the resolutions he had just read.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he regretted that he could not support the motion in its present form, although he would be quite willing to see a moderate amount of recompense awarded to Mr. Coote for the outlay he had incurred in his enterprise. But having visited that gentleman's plantation—and he thought that most persons who had seen it would agree with him—he must say that he thought the amount recommended was altogether out of proportion to the outlay incurred. On the occasion of his visit he asked a member of the committee, who was experienced in such matters, what amount of out-

lay he considered had been made, and that gentleman gave it as his opinion as something between £300 and £400; that was the total amount, he thought. It was quite true that since the committee had commenced its sittings a good many extra men had been employed, but he regarded that as an additional proof of the mischievous nature of the working of the Native Industries Act. It had worked most mischievously, and he hoped that when they arrived at the Order of the Day for the second reading of a Bill to amend that Act, the amendment would be its repeal, and that a stop would at once be put to any more committees like the one in question. There was no doubt that the establishment of sericulture would be of benefit to the colony; but he would ask any unprejudiced person, whether he could see anything in the plantation of Mr. Coote to warrant the House giving that gentleman £2,000? He certainly did not, and therefore he could not give a silent vote. Apart from the question of amount, he thought that the third resolution was open to considerable objection—that a certain proportion of transferable land orders were to be given to Mr. Coote on the passing of the resolutions, and the balance within two years' time on certain conditions being fulfilled. Now, according to the Act 33 Vic., it was provided that—

“Whensoever such sanction as aforesaid for any such purpose as aforesaid shall have been given for the issue of land orders whether such sanction shall have been given previously to the passing of this Act or subsequently thereto it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council from time to time to issue land orders in such sums to such amounts either transferable or non-transferable and subject or not subject to conditions as by such resolutions shall in each case have been or be specified.”

It appeared to him that if they passed the resolutions in their present form the holder of those land orders could go and take up town lands; and that, he thought, was never contemplated by the Act. So he thought that if the House were disposed to grant the recommendations of the committee, a clause should be inserted that the land orders should be available only for the purchase of suburban and country lands. He certainly thought that if the suggestion of the chairman of the committee had been accepted by the committee, and they had recommended a grant of £500 of land orders, Mr. Coote would have been amply recompensed; and he thought it would be well to take the sense of the committee, when the House went into committee, upon that point. He did hope, and he knew that he was expressing an opinion that would be endorsed by a great many persons, that the Act would be altered in some way or other, as they were positively outgrowing themselves with bonuses to new industries. He knew that some of the most important industries had prospered without any bonuses, and he could also say further that he knew as a

fact that many of the most successful sugar planters had looked upon the grant made to Captain Hope as having done an injury to the sugar-growing industry for years. Captain Hope was never entitled to that grant, but the land was given to him on the same ground that it was now proposed to give £2,000 of land orders to Mr. Coote. He believed that if ever silk culture flourished in the colony it would not be by being bolstered up with bonuses; but as there was an Act in force for the encouragement of new industries, any person starting one, no matter of what description, considered he was warranted in going to that House and asking for recompense. He thought that the suggestion of the chairman of the committee might be carried out, subject however to the proviso that the land orders should only be available for the purchase of suburban or country lands. If that was done, he considered that Mr. Coote would be well compensated for any outlay he had incurred.

Mr. GRIFFITH said he did not think it was necessary for the House, at the present time, to commit itself to the exact amount to be awarded to Mr. Coote, if anything. If there was any difference of opinion among honorable members on the subject, he thought that the resolutions should be taken *seriatim*; as, after all, the mere adoption of the report of the committee was a formal matter. He thought they might adopt the report, and then go into committee, as then the resolutions could be amended, and afterwards adopted by the House; but it would be a misfortune if, from any difference of opinion as to the report itself, the whole matter were to be shelved. He thought that since the Act of 1869 had been in force, many persons had made certain efforts to establish new industries, placing reliance on the inducements held out by that Act, and hoping to obtain some encouragement under the provisions of it. So that, however much honorable members might disapprove of the working of that Act, as it had been held out as an inducement to enterprising men, they were fairly bound to carry out its provisions. As long as that Act remained in force they ought to fairly treat those who had brought themselves under its operation. As to the amount that should be given, he thought that as the House would probably go into committee to consider the resolutions, the maximum amount should be stated in the proposition now before the House, because in committee there could be no objection to reduce it, although there might be to increase it; and that was one of the reasons which operated in his mind, when the matter was before the Select Committee, in supporting the proposal of £1,000 as the amount. He thought upon the evidence—especially the evidence given before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council—there could be little doubt that Mr. Coote had made considerable efforts to establish sericulture; and the object of the Native Industries Act was

not to reward a man who had made his fortune, or a man who had successfully established a new industry, but to encourage new industries that were attempted to be established, and had not yet been proved to be successful. That was the way he read the Act, and so far from the fact that it had not been proved that the industry had been established—as the Legislative Council appeared to think it had—being a reason for refusing encouragement to Mr. Coote, it was a reason why they should give it. The Legislative Council, he observed, said that the establishment of the industry of sericulture had been conclusively proved, but he did not believe that anything of the kind had been done. But he thought it had been proved that attempts had been made to establish it, and that there were reasonable prospects of its being successful. The enterprise was attended with considerable difficulty, as being one of which very little was known at present, and there could be no doubt it was desirable that it should be established in the colony, and that, if carried on *bona fide*, encouragement should be given to it. He hoped if any honorable members objected to the report as a whole, they would say so; so that, if necessary, the first part of it might be withdrawn, and the House might go into Committee of the Whole to-morrow to consider what resolutions they would agree to. He really thought it would be a pity, after so much trouble had been taken, that the matter should fall through. Efforts were being made to establish the industry in Victoria and New South Wales; in Victoria, assistance had been given to Mrs. Bladen Neill, and Dr. Brady, he believed, was likely to obtain assistance from New South Wales; and he considered it would be a pity, when they saw these colonies recognising the importance of the industry, and when they found it being established here with just as much prospect of success as in those places, that they should refuse to go into committee to consider the matter at all, especially as it had been introduced to their notice by the Legislative Council. He hoped, therefore, that the motion would not be negatived; and he repeated that if there were any objections to the adoption of the report, they should be stated at once, so that honorable members would not be taken by surprise.

Mr. PALMER said, if he opposed these motions *in toto*, he would be only acting consistently; because he took credit to himself that he, and the honorable member for Carnarvon, were the only two members in the House who opposed the grant of land to Captain Hope, for establishing the sugar industry. But, whatever his individual opinion might be, as the honorable member for Oxley had put it, there was a law recognising the promotion of new industries in the colony; and he presumed that under that law Mr. Coote would be entitled, if he proved to the satisfaction of the committee that he had estab-

lished a new branch of industry, to some compensation. He must confess that when he read the report of the Select Committee of the other House on the subject, he was rather astonished at the amount proposed; but he came to the conclusion that as the other House had not been in the habit of dealing with the public funds, as it was almost quite new to them, they were disposed to be liberal. But, when he came to read the report of the Select Committee of this House, which was supposed to look carefully after the money of the colonists—for land orders were money to all intents and purposes—and saw the amount that was recommended, he really was amazed. Putting it in the fairest possible way for Mr. Coote, he would like to know whether any member of that committee, or the committee combined, would give £2,000 for the purchase of the whole establishment. That was the way to put the question, in a practical form. He went out to the establishment for the purpose of seeing it himself, and he would no more think of giving £2,000 for it than he would dream of throwing it into the river. He believed, however, that Mr. Coote had made very great efforts in connection with the industry, and that to a certain extent he had been successful; but, he maintained that the Act was never intended to be used for the purpose of reimbursing a man for the whole of his outlay, or to give him the value of the fee-simple of the property. It was intended to mark the sense of the community—to show the feeling of the House and the country—at the establishment of a new industry. He agreed with the honorable the Colonial Treasurer in thinking that £500 in land orders was a very liberal proposal on the part of the chairman of the committee; and if he thought he would commit himself or the House to the granting of £2,000 worth of land orders by agreeing to the adoption of the report, he would vote against it *in toto*. He had, however, no objection to going into committee and assisting to grant what he considered, or the committee might consider, a fair sum for the outlay and the results; but if the adoption of the report meant that they were to adopt the recommendation of the Select Committee, he thought the sooner the House refused to adopt the report altogether the better. He also agreed with the honorable the Colonial Treasurer that it would be a great improvement to amend the Native Industries Act by repealing it. Why, before long, they would have people coming forward and asking for a bonus for having established a new store in the interior—in the far Warrego and other places—as a new industry! In fact, he thought, if the industries of the colony could not go on without assistance of that sort the sooner they came to a standstill the better. He did not believe that encouragement of that kind had fostered one single industry in the colony;—he was never in favor of the Bill, and he would have much pleasure in assisting

to repeal it. He would not vote for the adoption of the report unless it was fully understood that in committee they should be at liberty to reduce the amount to whatever sum they thought fit.

Mr. PECHER said, as one of the members composing the Select Committee on this matter, he would like to make a few remarks on the subject. He quite agreed with the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, that the sooner the Act for the Encouragement of Native Industries was repealed, the better. He had several reasons for thinking so. He had the—he was going to say the misfortune of being on two or three of these committees during this session, and he never expected before he became a member of the House to have such duties imposed upon him. He thought it was altogether outside the province of members of that House to decide matters of that kind; because, in carrying out what they believed to be right and just, they laid themselves open to suspicion, and perhaps accusations, of unfairness. He certainly thought that if anything of the kind was to be done, it should, in the first instance, take its rise from the Executive of the day, and not have members of the House subjected to what must be considered by any right-minded man an insult, in having people importuning them to gain votes on questions of this kind. He trusted the fact that this Act had been reduced to an absurdity this session, would lead to its repeal. He did not believe that it had done any good at all; he did not believe that a single person had entered upon any industry in the colony through the existence of this law, who would not have done so if it had not been in existence. He would vote for the adoption of the report, on the understanding that he did not in any way commit himself to voting for the resolutions attached to the report. He certainly thought that this gentleman, whose claim was under consideration, deserved well of the colony, in so far that he had shown a considerable amount of enterprise in starting the industry of sericulture, which, no doubt, if it ever came to anything—if the labor required to carry it on was to be obtained in the colony—would prove of immense benefit. But he had very great doubts as to whether the industry could be carried on at the present time with a profit in this colony; he doubted very much that labor of the description required existed in the colony; but, notwithstanding that, there was no doubt Mr. Coote deserved well for his attempt to establish a valuable industry, and he would therefore vote for the adoption of the report.

Mr. MORGAN said he felt considerable interest in this matter, because, if these resolutions were agreed to, he had several of a similar character to bring forward. He had presented a petition from a tobacco grower at Warwick, but he had taken no further action in the matter, because he was waiting to see the result of the inquiry held by the

Select Committee on this particular industry; and there were several others, he believed, who had a right to come down to the House under the same Act. He thought the sooner the Act was repealed the better, and he hoped that some old member of the House would come down next session, if no member of the Government did so, with a Bill for that purpose, because it was of such a nature that it led to very unfair demands upon the resources of the country. With reference to the report now under consideration, he would be glad to see Mr. Coote relieved from any serious loss in the matter, but he thought the amount that had been recommended, £2,000, was something extravagant. He did not mean to oppose the adoption of the report, but it was on the understanding that the evidence taken, and the whole question, would be thoroughly examined in committee.

Mr. MILES said the honorable member for Oxley, lawyer like, had endeavored to explain to the House that the object of the Encouragement to Native Industries Act did not provide that it was necessary that a man should be successful in a new industry—that all it provided was, that assistance might be given to new industries; but he took it that what was intended by the Act was this: that whoever went into the establishment of a new industry must be in a position to prove to the satisfaction of honorable members of that House that he had succeeded in doing so; because, if they were going to follow the rule laid down by the honorable member for Oxley, they would have dozens of persons coming in and asking for assistance to commence operations, and it appeared that Mr. Coote was one of the first. He had seen some very extensive plans of working plant in connection with the establishment, but he found that they only existed on paper; not a single stick of them was up. He did not think it was worth while taking up the time of the House at any length, because he believed it would be unwise to offer any opposition to going into committee; but he, for one, would then object, even to the proposal of the honorable the Colonial Treasurer. He would like to have some information as to how the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had come to the conclusion that this gentleman was entitled to land orders to the amount of £500. He had not gone to examine the place, but in passing by it he saw a few twigs there growing amongst long grass—perhaps there was something more out of sight—and no doubt some little money had been expended; but the idea of granting £2,000 worth of land orders was perfectly monstrous. He had never heard of such a proposition; he thought it was downright robbery. Until he made inquiries, he was under the impression that the place in question was the remains of an old cotton field, with a few twigs growing up which were covered with grass; and now they were asked to give land orders to the amount of £2,000 to assist the industry.

He thought a more monstrous proposal was never tried to be palmed on that House or on any man of common sense. According to the evidence, only a very small quantity of produce had been exported, and he thought it would be better for the House to throw the resolution out and let the industry go on for another year, in order that substantial proof should be given that something had been done for this bonus. He did not believe in voting public money in that way; he did not believe the whole establishment was worth £500. He did not, however, suppose that there could be any harm in adopting the report, but he would do so on the understanding that he should take whatever course he thought proper in committee.

Mr. GROOM said it seemed to him that honorable members attached a great deal more importance to the Native Industries Act of 1869 than there was really any necessity for. That Act had been in force for five years, and it was only in 1874 that the first petition was presented under it, and altogether only four or five had been presented—the one now under consideration, one in connection with tin-smelting, one presented by the honorable member for Port Curtis, with reference to the manufacture of salt; and one on behalf of Mr. John Buhôt. The honorable member for Warwick made reference to a petition relating to the cultivation of tobacco, and he might state that he had been requested to present a similar petition, but he refused to do so, because it seemed to him that it did not come under the Act, because tobacco had been grown and manufactured in the colony for the last sixteen or seventeen years. As far back as 1860, the Parliament of this colony affirmed the principle of encouraging the establishment of industries by giving grants of land. The Act passed in that year provided:—

"It shall be lawful for the Governor with the advice aforesaid to grant or otherwise dispose of for such public purposes as are specified in clause 16 of '*The Unoccupied Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1860*' or for such other purposes as may from time to time be previously sanctioned by the Legislature any waste lands of the Crown in the said colony."

From 1860 to 1869, when Mr. Lilley introduced the Bill for the Encouragement of Native Industries, there was only one solitary application made, and that was to assist sugar-growing. He therefore thought there was not much ground for honorable members being alarmed with regard to the number of these applications. He could quite understand the honorable the Colonial Treasurer being alarmed, because he anticipated a certain surplus, and he appeared to think honorable members might take advantage of their position to make an onslaught upon that surplus by applications under this Act. With regard to the repeal of the Act, he might say that he had no very serious objection to it, although he still believed in the principle of

bonuses. He did not mean that they should be given to every person, but that certain industries should be named in the Act in connection with which bonuses might be granted, and those only. As far as the particular case now under the consideration of the House was concerned, he did not think there was anything at all to be alarmed at, because the industry was one which, he hoped and believed, would result in great good to the country, although it was only now in its infancy. On that point it was probable some honorable members would have doubts. No doubt, honorable members had read the examination of Mr. Brady before a number of gentlemen in Mr. T. S. Mort's rooms, in Sydney, and those who had done so, and had read the replies of Mr. Dangar to that gentleman, would, he thought, have their eyes opened considerably with reference to the industry of sericulture. Whether it was or was not going to be a great industry he should not pretend to say; but he must confess that his mind received a considerable bias from the information he gleaned from reading the proceedings at that meeting, and also from the report of what took place when a deputation subsequently waited upon the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales to seek assistance for Mr. Brady of something the same nature that was now sought by Mr. Coote. He hoped, however, that the chairman of the committee would consent to take the resolutions *seriatim*, so that honorable members might decide for themselves as to the amount of remuneration Mr. Coote ought to receive. He believed, with the honorable member for Port Curtis, that as there was a law in operation—and whether it was a good or a bad law was not the question now—and as an applicant had appealed to the House under it in the ordinary way, it was for the House to decide what he was entitled to. At the same time he agreed with the honorable the Colonial Treasurer that the land orders should not be available for town lands, because, if they were, land in a municipality might be taken up. He would vote for going into committee on the resolutions, and as a member of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the matter, he should feel inclined to leave it in the hands of the House to decide.

Mr. DICKSON, in replying, said he was quite prepared to accept the suggestion made by the honorable member for Port Curtis and other honorable members who had spoken, that the adoption of the report should not in any way commit honorable members to support the resolutions as they now stood in committee. As the members of the Select Committee were aware, he reserved to himself the right to discuss the matter, and to express the views he held in pressing the sum of £500 in lieu of £1,000. He was not going to discuss the merits of the Encouragement to Native Industries Act, and he was not pre-

pared to say whether it should be repealed or not. But if the comfort and convenience of honorable members would lead him to express an opinion on the subject, he should be very much gratified to see it repealed, as it would save honorable members a great deal of trouble, which they necessarily incurred by being placed on select committees, to inquire into matters in which they had no interest, but in connection with which their duty was simply to say whether the applicant was entitled to what he claimed. He could not take it as an argument against the Act, that there were several applications made under it at the same time. If the Act had been wholly inoperative up to the present time, that would be a better argument against it than the fact that there were several claims before the House which select committees had taken the trouble to analyse, in order to see if they came within the scope and meaning of the Act. He thought it would be rather premature to repeal the Act, which might result in a great deal of good, but no doubt great discrimination should be exercised by the House in dealing with applications under it. He could hardly accept the views put forward by the honorable member for Port Curtis, that because no person might feel inclined to give £2,000 for the fee-simple of the property belonging to the petitioner, his claim to that extent should not be recognised; that was hardly a fair basis to put it on. When he submitted his original report to the Select Committee, he suggested that a reasonable amount should be made immediately available, so as to afford assistance to the petitioner, and as showing that it was the intention of the Legislature to recognise his claims under the Act, by a deferred payment. He thought that was a very fair proposal, inasmuch as while it would not be immediately available, yet it would hold out to the promoter of the industry not only encouragement, but might also enable him to obtain assistance from private sources, which would place him in a position to conduct the enterprise to a successful issue. He thought the sum he originally mentioned, £500, was very fair, and that it was not in any way opposed to the provisions of the Act for the encouragement of native industries. In asking the members to consider the matter, he did not wish to induce them to give a larger amount of assistance than the merits of the case deserved. As would be seen by the division list attached to the report, he was not supported in his views with regard to the amount he considered sufficient; and he was not now prepared to contend for a larger sum than he then proposed. With regard to the land orders proposed to be granted being applicable for the purchase of town, suburban, or country lands, that was a matter which could be dealt with in committee; and he thought they should be confined to the purchase of land outside town and suburban allotments.

He wished to impress this on the House, that in moving the adoption of the report, he did not in any way intend that they should be bound by the sums mentioned in the resolutions, but that in committee they might deal with the matter as they thought fit.

The question was then put and passed, on the following division:—

Ayes, 18.	Noes, 5.
Mr. Macalister	Mr. Morgan
" Hemmant	" Fryar
" MacDevitt	" Foote
" Palmer	" Lord
" Griffith	" Beattie.
" Edmondstone	
" Dickson	
" Pechey	
" MacDonald	
" Buzacott	
" Stewart	
" Macrossan	
" Groom	
" W. Scott	
" Miles	
" Stephens	
" Low	
" Moreton.	

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS.

Question (*interrupted by the House being counted out on the 26th ultimo*) upon Mr. GRIFFITH'S motion—

(1.) That the opinion of the Legislative Council "that the recent action of the Board of Education in granting scholarships of £50 to scholars of primary schools, is inadvisable, and should not be continued," as conveyed by their Message of date 8th April last, be concurred in by this House.

(2.) That such concurrence be communicated to the Legislative Council by Message in the usual way,—put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 14.	Noes, 7.
Mr. Macalister	Mr. Palmer
" Hemmant	" Lord
" Miles	" Moreton
" Stephens	" Buzacott
" MacDevitt	" Pechey
" Morgan	" Beattie
" Low	" Groom.
" Foote	
" Stewart	
" Dickson	
" Edmondstone	
" Fryar	
" Griffith	
" Scott.	

ENCOURAGEMENT TO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES BILL.

Mr. GROOM said, in the present temper of the House, he did not think he would meet with much encouragement in connection with this Bill, which had been before the House for some time, especially as one or two ardent supporters of it were absent. He therefore thought it would be advisable to defer the consideration of the Bill to a future session, and with that view he would move that the Order of the Day be discharged from the paper.

Mr. PALMER said he thought it a pity that the Bill should not be proceeded with, as he intended to move an amendment, that the Act of 1869 on the subject should be repealed.

He did not, however, wish to take the House by surprise, and he would therefore take this opportunity of stating that next session he would introduce a Bill for that purpose, if the Government did not do so.

Question put and passed.

GRANT TO DR. LANG.

Upon the Order of the Day for the resumption of adjourned debate on Mr. Edmondstone's motion, viz. :—

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. MORGAN said he should certainly most cordially support the resolution. He remembered that when he arrived in the colony, some five-and-twenty years ago, Dr. Lang was the foremost man in it, and did a great deal to lay the foundation of its success. He had read the works written by that reverend gentleman, and, although he was willing to admit that he had many faults, he believed that no man had done more for the colony than Dr. Lang had done. The money now asked for had been voted some years ago, and whether Dr. Lang then refused it or not had nothing to do with the question; he considered that, having once voted it, the House was in duty and fairness bound to vote it again.

Mr. FOOTE said he believed the House, some years ago, voted the same sum of money as was now asked for, and, as Dr. Lang had not received it, he was still entitled to it. As to whether the reverend gentleman was deserving of it, was a question on which of course there might be a division of opinion. Dr. Lang had, however, left his mark on the colony very plainly, by the great impetus he had given to the establishment of its trade, through the introduction by him of some of the best class of immigrants that ever came to it. The other colonies had already marked their appreciation of Dr. Lang's services, and he was quite sure that the colony of Queensland was considerably indebted to him for the exertions he had put forward for the benefit of it; in fact, he was quite sure that if that gentleman's scheme for populating Queensland had been carried out, there would now be a very much larger population than there was. That scheme, however, like all others, had its fault, and from some cause or other, it fell through. He believed that the credit and honor of the House were pledged to a considerable degree with reference to the proposed grant; in fact, he would have liked to have seen the amount much larger, to make up for the delay that had occurred in paying it since it was first voted. Dr. Lang, he believed, had spent a fortune in his endeavors to promote the interests of this colony, and it

would only be an act of justice to vote the sum proposed, as a comfort to him in his declining years.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said as the present was a question of finance, he would have preferred that the opinion of his honorable colleague, the Colonial Treasurer, should have been given upon it; yet, as the honorable member was not at present in the House, and as he believed he was in favor of the proposition, he would say at once that he would support the motion that the House go into committee. On looking over the records of the House in reference to the very question now before them, he found that on the 30th August, 1864, a motion to the same effect was moved by Mr. John Douglas, and was put and passed; and he might say that during the same session there were a number of votes of a similar character passed, on which the money was actually paid. On the 24th August, 1865, the matter was again brought forward, and was negatived—the division being ayes 8, noes 12. His name appeared with the ayes on that occasion, and in the previous year, he, whilst a member of the Cabinet, had supported the proposition; so that, on principle, and to vindicate what he considered the honor of the House, he should vote for the present resolution. It was said at the time, and he believed with some reason, that the cause of the resolution not being passed in 1865 was, that there had been considerable correspondence on the subject, which had produced some irritation of feeling on the part of honorable members; but that had all passed away, and he could see no reason why the motion should not now be agreed to. He would say nothing about Dr. Lang, except that he had claims on the colony, inasmuch as he was very instrumental in bringing about its separation from New South Wales; and, what was of more consequence, had, at an early stage of its existence, introduced into it a most respectable class of immigrants.

Mr. FRYAR said, that of the many demands made upon that House, the present was one that he should feel the most pleasure in supporting. As a rule, he had been very averse to supporting anything of the kind; but he believed, as had been stated by the honorable the Colonial Secretary, that Dr. Lang had a claim against the colony. He believed that the honor of the House was pledged to give that gentleman the amount now moved for; and seeing that ten years had elapsed since Parliament had voted £1,000 for the same purpose, he thought that the honorable member for Wickham would have been perfectly justified in coming forward and asking for double the amount. Dr. Lang had, no doubt, been of very great service to the colony, and there was nothing which proved the interest he took in it more than the first visit he made to England, after his visit to the colony in 1855, when, by dint of letters in the newspapers, he managed to disseminate information res-

pecting it throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, which had hardly been equalled by any Immigration Agent since then. Dr. Lang had also sent out three shiploads of immigrants, who had been instrumental in laying the foundation of what had since become one of the most prosperous of the Australian colonies. He thought, moreover, that Dr. Lang was entitled to the grant in consequence of the efforts made by him in obtaining the separation of the colony from New South Wales, and he might inform certain honorable members in that House, that if they had had Dr. Lang to advocate their claims, there would now be no occasion for them to be constantly applying for redress of northern grievances. The claims of that gentleman had been admitted, not only in the mother country, but also wherever he had travelled. He should support the motion.

Mr. GRIFFITH regretted that he could not support the resolution. In the first place, he did not believe in the principle of rewarding, by giving sums of money, services rendered in times gone by; but the strongest reason he had for opposing the vote, was the publication of a pamphlet which had recently been circulated among honorable members, by the Rev. Dr. Lang. He found that that reverend gentleman based his claims upon three things—upon the discovery of the suitability of cotton and sugar-cane to this colony; upon the introduction of immigrants into the colony, and upon his instrumentality in procuring separation. As to Dr. Lang's having discovered the suitability of the land of this colony to sugar-cane and cotton, the fact was that the reverend gentleman, whilst on a visit to the colony, had seen both those things growing in a garden in the colony; so how he could have introduced it, he (Mr. Griffith) was at a loss to understand. As far as regarded the immigrants introduced by Dr. Lang, from all he could understand, he offered certain persons in England areas of land in the colony, and he received the purchase money and sent them out; but when they arrived in the colony they found that the Government were not bound by any arrangements Dr. Lang had made, and they could not get the land. For those reasons and others, he could not support the resolution; and although a vote had been carried by the House on a former occasion, he thought such a matter should be now discussed apart from that and solely on its merits.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he should support the motion, and without going into the question of Dr. Lang's claims; because he considered that the House having, on a former occasion, by resolution, granted a certain sum of money, it was their duty to see that resolution carried into effect. He might inform the House that on the former occasion it would have been perfectly competent for the Government of the day to have paid Dr. Lang the money on the morning following the passing of the resolution, as it

was not necessary for the Government, in such a case, to wait until a Supplementary Estimate was brought forward; but because Dr. Lang wrote some injudicious letters the money was not paid. That, however, was no reason why the House should now repudiate a principle which had been agreed to by a former House, and he thought the best thing they could do was to agree to pay the money with all despatch.

Mr. PECHÉY said he did not know what was the nature of the claim that Dr. Lang had upon the colony, but it appeared to him, after what had been said in favor of the motion, that some of the arguments used were hardly tenable. He did not, for instance, see that the fact of a former House having passed a resolution giving Dr. Lang £1,000 rendered the colony a debtor to that gentleman, or that it was repudiation if the House refused to endorse what they considered an unwise act of their predecessors. There was another matter on which he would like to have some information from the honorable members supporting the resolution. He had been given to understand that the reverend gentleman entered upon the introduction of immigrants as a speculation. If that was the case, and he had heard it was, he did not see that that gentleman had any more right to ask for a gratuity than any other person who entered into a commercial speculation. Furthermore, he was given to understand that Dr. Lang made it his business, and exerted himself very much, in order to introduce a number of negroes from the Island of Jamaica to this colony—almost, in fact, to reestablish in it a system of slavery which had been put down in that island and elsewhere, by the Imperial Government. He would like to know whether there was any truth whatever in that report; if there was not, it ought to be contradicted. If there was, then Dr. Lang was not the sort of immigration agent he (Mr. Pechéy) would like to give £1,000 to.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE merely rose to say that the statement made by the honorable member for Oxley was a great mistake. The honorable member stated that Dr. Lang had received money from persons who came out to this colony, as the purchase of land; but those persons were to have the land, and their passages also. In consequence, however, of some misunderstanding with the Government, the passengers by the two first vessels sent by Dr. Lang lost their land.

Mr. PALMER said he had listened, with a great deal of amusement, to the various short speeches which had been made during the present debate. The House had been told that it was bound to pass the resolution, because the House, in 1864, voted a similar resolution. He contended, however, that such an argument would not hold water, as the same House had afterwards refused to vote the estimate. Where, then, was the promise gone, or where was the faith and

honor of the colony pledged in any way? The honorable Colonial Secretary said that he was bound to vote for the motion because the colony was pledged to it. But, if that was the case, he would ask, why the present motion had not been brought forward before, as that honorable gentleman had been in office several times since?—why was it left till just the close of a session, when there was only a thin House? He should oppose the motion, as he did not believe Dr. Lang had earned the money, or what was more, was entitled to one shilling. He believed that the way in which immigrants were introduced by that gentleman was simply disgraceful. Did not honorable members know, those at least who had taken the trouble to read the correspondence on the subject, that Dr. Lang brought those people to the colony under false pretences, by promising them what he had no more right to promise than what he (Mr. Palmer) had. If Dr. Lang had advanced those people money, or if he had conferred any great benefits upon them, they were the persons who should compensate him. He would say that the manner in which Dr. Lang had spoken of and libelled those honorable members who voted against him in 1864, was in itself sufficient to induce them to refuse to give him one shilling. He would like to know from some honorable member of the Government, whether he had understood the honorable Colonial Treasurer properly when he said that the carrying of the motion now before the House would justify the Government in paying the money on the next day; because, if so, he did not think it was either the law or practice, as the motion simply was that the House go into committee on the next day.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The honorable Colonial Treasurer was referring to the passing of the resolution in 1864.

MR. PALMER did not understand the honorable member in that way. However, if the House went into committee, on the next day, he should use every legitimate means in his power to oppose the granting of one shilling to Dr. Lang.

MR. DICKSON said he should vote for the motion for going into committee, but for that only; and should not consider himself pledged to vote for the amount proposed.

MR. MACDONALD thought they might safely pass the motion for going into committee, as there was not the slightest chance of the money being voted.

MR. PALMER called attention to the state of the House.

A quorum was formed.

MR. BEATTIE said it was his intention to vote for the motion, and he would simply state that his reason for doing so was that, during his experience of twenty-six years' residence in the colony, he had seen enough of the results of Dr. Lang's exertions to convince him that, although many persons had

been pensioned for various services, there was no man who had done half as much good as Dr. Lang had done for the colony. When the House went into committee he should support the resolutions with very great pleasure.

The question was put and the House divided with the following result:—

Ayes, 16.	Noes, 7.
Mr. Macalister	Mr. Moreton
" Stephens	" Griffith
" Hemmant	" Stewart
" MacDevitt	" W. Scott
" Low	" Palmer
" Foote	" Lord
" Morgan	" Pechey.
" Groom	
" J. Thorn	
" Fryar	
" Beattie	
" Fitzgerald	
" Macrossan	
" Miles	
" Edmondstone	
" Dickson.	

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Upon the Order of the Day being called on for consideration in Committee of the Whole of the desirableness of introducing a Bill for promoting a better system of national education, and to render such education compulsory.

MR. PALMER said that after the fate which had attended the Non-vested Schools Bill in another place, after it had passed that House by a large majority, he had no idea of introducing another Bill on the subject of education at that late period of the session. At the same time he might remark, that he had no doubt whatever—not the slightest doubt—as to the ultimate fate of the Non-vested Schools Bill. It might take a little more or a little less time, but that it would ultimately become the law of the land he was perfectly certain; there was no danger of its being defeated so long as a majority of that House held the opinions they had expressed on the subject. Feeling as he did, however, that until that matter was properly settled—and settled it would be—it would be worse than useless to attempt to pass any Bill for the purpose of improving the present system of education, he begged to move that the Order of the Day be discharged from the paper.

Motion put and carried.

FIRE FROM LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES.

MR. GROOM, pursuant to notice, moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the chair, and the House 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 of 1874, a sum not exceeding £ , as compensation to Mr. George Wecker, of Toowoomba, for losses sustained by the partial destruction of a paddock of wheat, caused by sparks of fire from the funnel of a locomotive.

MR. PALMER thought the House would be establishing a dangerous precedent by agree-

ing to the resolution, as there would be constant claims made upon them for the same sort of thing.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that, if he was not mistaken, the matter had been fully discussed during the present session, and he believed that his honorable colleague, the Minister for Works, had gone into it very fully. The sum asked for was only £15, and there were reasons why it should be voted.

Mr. STEWART would point out that it was one of those matters that should be referred to the law courts. It was not right to come to that House with such small matters. If the claim against the Government was really a good one, they should pay; if not, they should oppose it according to law.

Mr. LORD thought the Government should express some opinion in reference to the remarks which had just been made by the honorable member for Brisbane.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE said that if the honorable member for Brisbane had been in the House when the matter was last before it, he would have heard from the honorable Minister for Works that the Government had no power to defend themselves, and also that there were reasons why the resolution should be carried.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said that he was present when the question was discussed on a previous occasion, and he knew nothing whatever of it beyond what was then stated by his honorable colleague, the Minister for Works—namely, that he had gone into the matter very fully and carefully, and thought that the person named in the resolution had an equitable claim against the Government, but that he did not see his way clear to grant the money without a resolution of that House.

The question was put and carried.