

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 7 JULY 1874

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 7 July, 1874.

Charges against Mr. Gordon Sandeman.—Dalby School of Arts.—Mrs. Sophia Morphy.—Claim of Mr. John Buhôt.—Immigration from British India.

CHARGES AGAINST MR. GORDON SANDEMAN.

Mr. BELL, pursuant to notice, moved—

1. That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, and to sit during any adjournment of the House, to inquire into, and report on, certain statements made in this House on the twenty-second of May last, reflecting upon Gordon Sandeman, Esquire, of Burenda, formerly for many years a member of this House.

2. That such committee consist of the following members, viz.:—Messrs. Griffith, Fraser, McIlwraith, Dickson, John Scott, Ivory, and the Mover.

In addressing himself to the motion he had just read, he might state that his great desire was to avoid saying a single word that would provoke any lengthened, or, indeed, any discussion, with reference to the merits of the case connected with it. He simply wished to ask the concurrence of honorable members with it, and to consent to the appointment of a committee of inquiry into the correctness or incorrectness of certain statements which had been made respecting Mr. Sandeman by an honorable member of that House. It behoved them to guard against any statements being made in that House respecting the character of any person, which were not correct, and to prevent the great privileges they possessed being made the medium of hardship or injustice to any individual in the community. More especially should it be the case, when the individual reflected upon had once been a member of that House, that every opportunity should be afforded to that gentleman of pointing out the incorrectness of the statements which had been made regarding him. He would not attempt to express an opinion as to whether the honorable member who made those statements, made them with a malicious intent, nor did he wish to say that the honorable member made them believing that they were true or otherwise; but the fact of their having been made in that House against the character of Mr. Sandeman was sufficient ground for his motion. He thought, therefore, it was only fair to Mr. Sandeman—if the honorable members he had named as a committee were willing to act—that the House should not have any objection to grant the appointment of that committee. He did not think that the correctness or otherwise of the statements made was a question which should be gone into at the present time, and he was sure that the honorable member who made the statements would be the very last to object to the appointment of the committee. He might confess that he felt that he was himself particularly unsuited to move for the committee, as, at one time

of his life, during the heat of an electioneering contest, he had unwittingly done the same injury to Mr. Sandeman as that now complained of. He had, at the time, thought that what he said was true; but he found it was not, and, consequently, he endeavored to make every reparation in his power. He had no doubt that when the honorable member who had made them in that House discovered that they were not true, he would be man enough to say that he was mistaken; that was all that was required by Mr. Sandeman.

Mr. MORGAN said he could not see what good could be expected to arise from the appointment of the committee at that period of the session. Already a committee had been appointed to inquire into certain statements made by an honorable member of that House, from which no good was likely to arise. He was in the House at the time the honorable member for Carnarvon made the statements complained of by Mr. Sandeman, but he had often noticed other honorable members, in the heat of debate, use much stronger language. He wanted to know what good the honorable member for Dalby expected would arise from his motion. He failed to see any, and, therefore, he thought the motion was unnecessary.

Mr. PALMER said he thought the appointment of a committee would have the effect of teaching honorable members of that House, that they must not go there to libel people outside of that House; but that they must be prepared to prove the correctness of the statements made by them. He thought the mere fact of an honorable member having libelled a gentleman who was a member of another branch of the Legislature, should be sufficient to prove to the House, that it was their business to grant a committee of inquiry.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY objected to the arguments of the honorable member for Port Curtis, that it was the duty of that House to inquire into statements made by honorable members respecting parties outside; although it certainly was their duty to inquire into statements made by one honorable member reflecting on the character of another honorable member.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE expressed his regret that such a motion should have been brought forward, as from his experience of thirty years of the gentleman in question he knew that he would be incapable of doing anything like that alleged in the statements complained of. The appointment of a committee would be of no service whatever; and as to the remarks which were made, they could be of no detriment to Mr. Sandeman; nor did he think they were made with the object of injuring that gentleman in any way. The committee might possibly have time to bring up a report, which would amount to nothing, and would therefore be perfectly useless. He hoped, therefore, the honorable member would withdraw his motion.

Mr. NIND thought that when statements were made in that House injurious to the

character of any person outside, they should either be withdrawn or substantiated: and that the only proper way of ascertaining the correctness or otherwise of such statements was by the appointment of a committee.

Mr. BUZACOTT thought it was only right, after a petition had been presented by Mr. Sandeman, asking that the truth of the charges made against him should be inquired into, that a committee should be appointed for that purpose. He thought the adoption of such a course would be more satisfactory to the House and to the public outside.

Mr. STEWART said he should support the motion, as he considered that an opportunity should be afforded to Mr. Sandeman of rebutting the charges which had been brought against him.

Mr. MILES said that the House must not forget that at the time he made the statements about Mr. Sandeman, they had been dragged from him, as he had been attacked by that gentleman for making a statement. At all events, those who knew him were aware that he was the last man to make an apology unless he thought there had been a mistake on his part. If he had made a mistake, he made it on the authority of another person. He might say that if any person attacked him he would retaliate.

Mr. ROYDS thought that if the honorable gentleman had wished to retaliate, he should have done so without availing himself of the privileges of that House.

The question was put and passed.

DALBY SCHOOL OF ARTS.

Mr. BELL, pursuant to notice, moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1874, the sum of £300 for the School of Arts, Dalby.

In doing so, he might safely say that there was no community, small as Dalby was, that could show greater spirit towards the erection and maintenance of a School of Arts than they had shown. That institution had been of great benefit to them, and he could speak personally of the great use it had been to the working men of that town, and also to travellers passing through the place. That building had, however, been peculiarly circumstanced, so far as the people of Dalby were concerned. It was built originally in that part of the town which was the centre of business until the completion of the railway, when people were attracted from the end of the town where the School of Arts was, to the opposite end. It was then found necessary to remove the building, but, in consequence of the ravages which had been made by the white ants, the building, whilst in course of removal, fell to pieces, and as the contractor who had the job of removing it was a man of straw,

the people had no remedy; so that after obtaining a new site, they found themselves without a building. Notwithstanding that, however, they exerted themselves and managed to erect a very creditable building, but in doing so had somewhat involved themselves in debt; and he now asked for £300, which would have the effect of relieving them and placing them in a comfortable position. He, for one, thought that there was no money that was better voted than that for the erection of schools of art, and he would remind the House that he was now only asking for what had been voted for Too-womba, a few evenings ago. He would undertake that a list of subscriptions should be furnished to the House which would show a sum subscribed equal to that now asked for; and he hoped, therefore, that there would be no objection to the motion he now asked the House to assent to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not exactly understand the position taken by the honorable member for Dalby, as he did not think that the removal of the building to a site near the railway station, which was no place to take it to, was a very good argument in favor of the motion. If, however, the honorable member furnished a list of subscriptions equal to the £300 now asked for, there would be no objection on the part of the Government to place that sum on the Estimates, as it had been stated by the honorable member that the money was required to pay for the cost of the building.

The question was put and agreed to.

MRS. SOPHIA MORPHY.

Mr. FRASER, in moving that the petition presented by Mrs. Sophia Morphy, late matron of the Immigration Depôt, be printed, said that he believed the petition had been presented by the honorable member for Port Curtis at an early period of the session, but, through some informality, had been rejected. He might state that the lady in question had been employed in the Government service for a period of twenty-five years, during which time she had discharged very arduous duties, with great success. She had been compelled to retire in consequence of ill-health, and as the amount to which she was entitled was a very small one, the object of the petition was to appeal to the House for such an allowance as would form a competency for her in her old age. He would not say more at present, but would move the motion standing in his name.

CLAIM OF MR. JOHN BUHOT.

Mr. GRIFFITH, in moving the adoption of the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the petition of Mr. John Buhôt, said, he believed he was right in stating that there was not a member of that committee who had any knowledge of the matter, except from the evidence brought before them; and the fact that they had agreed to the report

unanimously on that evidence, said more for it than could be said for many reports that were brought before the House. With regard to the recommendation that a free grant of land to the extent of 500 acres should be made to Mr. Buhôt, it would be seen that, as the value of land was supposed to be about ten shillings per acre, it amounted in effect to a grant of £250 worth of land orders, and that he thought honorable members would not consider a very startling amount. As he said before, the only knowledge he had on the subject was derived from the evidence adduced; and, without referring to the evidence of the petitioner, he would call the attention of honorable members to some portions of the evidence of Mr. Edmondstone, Mr. Brookes, and Mr. Coxen, which went to corroborate the statements contained in the petition. Mr. Edmondstone said:—

"I recollect Buhôt, shortly after his arrival, applying to several parties to assist him in the introduction of sugar manufacture. I also recollect his exhibiting some sugar, said to have been manufactured by himself, some short time after his arrival. At that time it was quite a curiosity to us, inasmuch as many years before a Mr. Thomas Bowden was introduced by Dr. Lang for the purpose of commencing sugar-cane-growing and the manufacture of sugar; but he was not successful in the manufacture. Mr. Buhôt having produced good sugar, it caused considerable attraction to the matter of sugar-growing and sugar-manufacture, which had been allowed to linger for a considerable time. I recollect Mr. Buhôt taking very active steps with the view of thoroughly establishing a sugar-growing industry in the country.

"7. What steps, in particular? Well, writing in the newspapers; writing articles to the various newspapers, and lecturing, and giving every possible information to parties on the subject."

"12. Can you say if the sugar produced by Mr. Buhôt was the first sugar you saw produced in the colony? Yes; certainly.

"13. Are you aware at all of any other being manufactured, though you did not see it?—Did you hear of any other having been manufactured? Not before Mr. Buhôt's. Many attempts had been made prior to Mr. Buhôt's, but none of them were successful."

That was a very important statement, and no doubt Mr. Edmondstone's recollection was perfectly accurate. Sugar-cane had been grown in the colony for many years, and attempts were made to manufacture sugar, which resulted, as appeared in the evidence, in simply making molasses; and it became the general belief that, although sugar-cane could be grown, it would be impossible to manufacture granulated sugar. What was then wanted was some one to come in and show that it was possible to make granulated sugar, and Mr. Buhôt gave that proof. Mr. Brookes, who was a member of the Legislative Assembly at the time, said:—

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, having made some inquiry, I think that Mr.

Buhôt was the first person who ever did make granulated sugar in Queensland. All other persons who had been making experiments on an equally small scale had never gone beyond the boiling of the juice, and producing a thick treacley substance. They never produced granulated sugar. I remember the sugar Mr. Buhôt produced at the time was looked at with remarkably great interest; and I have reason to believe that Mr. Buhôt's success in that experiment tended very much indeed to engender, and warrant the belief, where it previously existed, that the cultivation and production of sugar might be regarded as likely to become valuable in after years to Queensland; and, so far as that goes, I cannot but regard—and I have always regarded since that—Mr. Buhôt's experiment as having marked a kind of era in the history of sugar cultivation in this colony."

Then, further on, he said:—

"I am quite prepared to believe that the sugar regulations grew entirely out of the interest created on the question by Mr. Buhôt. He was alone in urging sugar cultivation for some time, and he was regarded by a great many as a false prophet; and as time elapsed, and others came with more or less knowledge, Mr. Buhôt seemed to pass out of sight. There came others beside Mr. Buhôt; but I think he is fairly entitled to the credit, that he was the first person to produce the sugar of commerce; and, if he had not done so, sugar cultivation and its manufacture would not long have possessed any public interest."

If that were correct, Mr. Buhôt had certainly as much right to obtain a reward as many other persons in the colony who had been from time to time rewarded for their services. Mr. Coxen gave evidence to the same effect:—

"Had there been any sugar manufactured and sold in the colony before that (1864)? I do not think so; I am not aware of it. I know that from time to time, up to a very recent date, Mr. Buhôt has been engaged in the manufacture of sugar and the cultivation of cane, off and on, on various plantations, from that time, and I believe his exertions from 1862 to 1865 tended very much to develop the sugar interest; in fact, it may fairly be assumed that, but for Mr. Buhôt's exertions, the development of the sugar industry would have lingered for many years."

That, coming from a gentleman like Mr. Coxen, seemed to him to be a very strong fact in favor of the petitioner. He was then asked—

"In what particulars? By his experiments he proved to those interested in sugar-growing that the cane might be grown in the colony with advantage. There had been great doubts in the minds of many parties that the climate was not suitable to the growth and manufacture of sugar; but, by the repeated experiments made by Mr. Buhôt, and the knowledge diffused by him throughout the small plantations, the thing became more generally known and believed in as a probable success."

They had therefore the fact that Mr. Buhôt was the first person in the colony to make granulated sugar; and immediately after that an impetus was given to sugar growing; and these three gentlemen said that, as far

as they could judge, that was caused by the exertions of the petitioner. With reference to those exertions, he gave details of them himself. He said he devoted a great part of his time in assisting persons desirous of entering upon sugar growing. Of course, anything he did as a paid servant was between him and his employer; but, as to any service he rendered to the colony—if he rendered any—in either introducing or advancing, in point of time, the sugar industry, which was now one of the most important in the colony,—if they adopted the principle of granting rewards for such services, rendered under disadvantageous circumstances,—he was certainly entitled to some recompense. He had no doubt that if Mr. Buhôt had done all that he did two or three years ago—and the matter was fresh in the minds of the House and the community—and if he were claiming encouragement under the Encouragement to Native Industries Act, it would be then thought that he made out a very strong case indeed; but now, as the matter had been going on for several years, and the industry was well established, they, of course, naturally forgot the man who did the first service. In fact, Captain Hope had been treated as the original introducer of sugar cultivation, although he believed that gentleman did not even venture on the cultivation of sugar-cane until it was proved by the experiments of Mr. Buhôt that it could be grown and manufactured here; so that on the evidence before the committee, he did not see how they could come to any other conclusion than they did. He believed the case had been brought before the House on previous occasions, but it had never before been referred to a select committee, and no evidence had been taken on the subject; and under the circumstances, he thought if rewards were to be granted at all for services rendered to the country, he had shown a very strong case for granting some reward to Mr. Buhôt for his services, which, according to the evidence, were rendered at considerable loss to himself. He therefore moved—

1. That the report of the Select Committee, appointed to examine and report upon the allegations contained in the petition of Mr. John Buhôt, presented on the 24th day of April last, be adopted.

2. That a copy of the report and of the evidence taken before the Select Committee be transmitted to the Legislative Council, with a message, inviting their concurrence in the recommendation of the committee.

3. That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider the desirableness of introducing a Bill to authorise a grant of land, not exceeding 500 acres, to Mr. John Buhôt.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he should have to oppose this motion. He did not think the honorable member for Oxley had made out a sufficiently strong case to induce

the House to grant 500 acres of land to the second discoverer of the means of growing sugar in the colony. He believed, a few years ago, a grant of 2,500 acres of land was given to Captain Hope for the establishment of the cultivation of sugar in the colony, and here was another application for a grant on the same grounds; and he was perfectly satisfied that, if the House acceded to the proposal, next session they would have a dozen different persons laying claim to having made out a strong case for reward for precisely the same thing. There were one or two points in the case which he thought ought to induce the House not to assent to the proposal. When an individual expended his own money in an undertaking of this kind, and ran certain risks, he might have some shadow of a claim; but, when he looked at the petition of Mr. Buhôt, he found that nearly the whole of the time he had been in the employment of other persons, and that he had been speculating, to a great extent, with their money. He was employed on the Cleveland estate, the property of Captain Hope; and the Oaklands estate, the property of Mr. C. B. Whish; and in the service of Mr. Petrie, and various others, and he (the Colonial Treasurer) presumed that during the whole of his time he was being paid for his services. He could not see, under the circumstances, on what ground the House could agree to the report and bring in a Bill to grant Mr. Buhôt 500 acres of land. They had had several applications of a somewhat similar kind this session, and with regard to those brought in under the Encouragement to Native Industries Act, even those honorable members who did not approve of the principle had their hands tied; because, as long as the law was in operation, those persons were entitled to make claims under it. But, in this case, the committee said that Mr. Buhôt's claim did not come under that Act, and they asked the House to go outside of it and pass a Bill giving him a grant of land. He thought it was time they set their faces against grants of this nature; because, if they did not, he was satisfied they would be inundated with similar applications next session.

Mr. BAILEY thought it was a matter of regret that the committee did not examine two or three sugar planters instead of the gentlemen whose evidence he found attached to the report. They would then, he thought, have arrived at the real truth as to the claim, and he believed they would have heard nothing more of it. His chief object in rising was to refer to the statement made by Mr. Buhôt in his petition with respect to Maryborough and the Mary River. He said:—

"He lectured publicly in the School of Arts, Maryborough, and manufactured sugar in Maryborough, 1864; which caused, he believes, the establishment of sugar cultivation upon the Mary River."

Now he (Mr. Bailey) knew this: that cane was grown in the Maryborough district before

ever Mr. Buhôt came there; and he knew that when he did come, he taught the growers to plant out their cane in such a way that nearly every one who followed his advice was ruined. And if he had been correctly informed, the same course he pursued on the Mary River, so far as those who employed him were concerned, was the course he pursued elsewhere. They found that he wandered from one plantation to another, teaching the owners what he considered was right, and then let them go their own way. He thought he had taught very little they did not know before with regard to sugar cultivation. The sugar he made in Maryborough and on the Mary River was not marketable, and, as he said before, those who followed his advice, both in planting and crushing, were nearly ruined. If that would give him any claim to consideration, he was welcome to it.

Mr. FRYAR thought it was very remarkable that no sugar planter had been called to give evidence before the committee. Mr. Brookes, Mr. Edmondstone, and Mr. Coxen were examined, but not one of them testified to having spent a shilling in the cultivation of sugar, or of having any knowledge whatever of the matter. With regard to Captain Hope, he could state that that gentleman had grown cane before Mr. Buhôt came to the colony, although he did not manufacture sugar. In the letters laid before the committee by Mr. Buhôt, that from Captain Hope, under date November 17, 1872, merely said:—

"In dispensing with your further services at Cleveland, it is due to you to say that I believe you to be perfectly conversant with the cultivation of the sugar-cane, and the manufacture of sugar, as far as I have had the opportunity of judging."

He believed Captain Hope had no machinery at that time, and he said, "as far as I have had the opportunity of judging"—so that that went for nothing. He thought that, whatever claims Mr. Buhôt might have in the matter, the House had done quite sufficient in the way of encouragement to the sugar industry. They had granted four square miles of land to Captain Hope and without expressing an opinion as to whether that grant was due to that gentleman, or whether it was judicious to give any such grants, he would state it as his opinion that if such grants should be made, it certainly went to the right man on that occasion. He believed the cultivation of sugar would have been equally successful in the colony, if it had never received the assistance of Mr. Buhôt, and he would therefore oppose the motion.

Mr. NIND said he would oppose the motion, and he was very glad indeed that claims of this kind were now brought to a crisis; because it was probable, when they disposed of this report, they would hear no more of them. Captain Hope, of course, got credit for introducing sugar cultivation into this colony; but

the man who really introduced the industry into Australia was Mr. Scott, of Brisbane Water, and he was sorry to see that that gentleman's claims had never been recognised, either in New South Wales, or in this colony. Perhaps it would have been better that they had been recognised in this colony, seeing the important position the industry now occupied. He saw by the report, that Mr. Buhôt claimed to have made sugar from sugar-cane at a time when it was supposed, or it was not known that granulated sugar could be made; but he would ask any person who knew anything at all about sugar-cane, and who saw the manner in which it grew here, if he would not know in a moment that granulated sugar could be made from it? When they could make sugar from sorghum, it would be strange indeed, if they could not make it from sugar-cane, which grew from fifteen to twenty feet high in some portions of the colony. He had heard a great deal about Mr. Buhôt from various quarters; he had not had the pleasure of meeting him, but his name was spread abroad from Mackay, in the North, down to the southern border. That gentleman was in charge of a plantation in the neighborhood of his (Mr. Nind's), and he certainly did not acquire any great reputation with regard to the growth of sugar-cane. At all events, he left the plantation, and the system then introduced was one adopted in the old country in growing certain cereals, and it was far better than the system introduced by Mr. Buhôt. He did not think the claim was a strong one, although it had been ably urged by the honorable member for Oxley, and he could not vote for it.

Mr. PALMER said it struck him forcibly, in looking over the minutes of evidence taken before this very unanimous committee, as being passing strange, that they did not call all the witnesses suggested by Mr. Buhôt. He saw that he proposed to call Mr. Brookes, Mr. Edmondstone, Mr. Walter Hill, and Mr. Coxen; but they did not call Mr. Walter Hill, who, he supposed, was about the only man of the lot who could give any really important evidence upon the subject under inquiry. Mr. Buhôt also said, "I do not think it necessary to call Mr. Raff," and he quite agreed with him that it was not necessary to call that gentleman. He believed he had nearly ruined Mr. Raff; he (Mr. Palmer) had heard Mr. Raff say something to that effect. He thought it exceedingly strange that the committee did not call even one of the gentlemen with whom Mr. Buhôt was engaged. He did not know Mr. Buhôt, but he believed that if the committee had called any one of his employers, they would never have brought up the report now before the House. He had heard him spoken of as the terror of sugar growers; he had made most miserable failures; and he (Mr. Palmer) thought it a pity that a committee of the House should unanimously bring up such a report without going a little further

into the matter. He could not vote for the adoption of the report.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE hoped this claim would be the last that would be brought forward for remuneration, not only in connection with sugar growing, but other similar industries. As to the remarks that had been made with respect to the gentlemen who were called to give evidence before the committee, he presumed it was not their fault that they were not sugar growers, and perhaps it would have been better if the chairman had called some gentleman connected with sugar growing to give evidence. But, still, nothing had been shown to deny the fact that Mr. Buhôt was the first person in Queensland who succeeded in making granulated sugar. The experiment had been frequently tried by many small growers of sugar-cane; and he believed it was tried in the Botanic Gardens, but it was found utterly impossible to succeed. It had not been denied that Mr. Buhôt lectured at Maryborough, or that the statements in his petition were correct; and there could be no doubt that Mr. Buhôt was the first man who manufactured granulated sugar in Queensland; and if he possessed a large quantity of property, in all probability he would get 2,000 acres of land, instead of which some honorable members now objected to his obtaining a grant of 500.

The Hon. B. B. MORETON said the honorable member for Port Curtis had made some remarks about the committee not calling Mr. Walter Hill, but the fact was Mr. Hill was unwell, and could not attend before the committee. He was not very strongly in favor of grants of this kind, but he believed in the report brought up by the committee, because it was clearly shown by the evidence that Mr. Buhôt was the first to manufacture sugar in Queensland. As for saying that there should have been sugar growers on the committee, he did not see that that was necessary, because the committee had merely to decide whether Mr. Buhôt was the first to show practically that granulated sugar could be made from sugar-cane grown in the colony, and it was only on the portion of the evidence bearing on that point, that the report was framed. With regard to the observation of the honorable the Colonial Treasurer that the claim was not under the Native Industries Act, and the committee should not, therefore, have recommended the granting of land orders; if that honorable gentleman would look at the petition, he would see that it did not refer to that Act in any way, and it was only in its present form that the committee were able to bring the report before the House at all.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he would oppose the motion, and he was led to that conclusion chiefly by what appeared in Appendix A, which, he thought, so far as the petitioner was concerned, would have been better left unprinted. He could see nothing in the

testimonials in that appendix which at all indicated that Mr. Buhôt had done much—or, in fact, anything to warrant the House in giving him the grant proposed. It appeared to him that these letters, which honorable members could read for themselves, damned the petitioner with very faint praise. He was sure there was nothing in Mr. Walter Hill's testimonial that would warrant the House in agreeing to the proposed grant. It merely said :—

"I beg to certify that Mr. John Buhôt made the experiments in sugar manufacture, as stated in the *Courier*, June 2nd, 1862."

Then the next one, from Mr. George Wight, the then proprietor of the *Guardian*, said :—

"Mr. J. Buhôt, to my certain knowledge, was one of the first and most successful writers in favor of the introduction into, and cultivation of the sugar-cane in this colony."

"Ten or twelve years ago he was the successful competitor for the Prize Essay on Cultivation of the sugar-cane, given by the then proprietor of the *Guardian* newspaper, and was one of the principal contributors to that journal, on this subject, Tropical Productions, &c., &c."

For all they knew that might have been a plagiarism on the part of Mr. Buhôt; he might have got the information from other sources, and known very little about the matter himself; and he thought these were not at all substantial grounds to come down to the House, even with the unanimous concurrence of the committee, and ask for a grant of 500 acres of land for Mr. Buhôt. The witness also produced a large number of letters from other persons, which were not published, and he presumed they were not of such a powerful character as those to which he had alluded. The evidence that had been called was, to his mind, quite sufficient to damn the case; no sugar planter or gentleman of any experience in that industry had been called, and he thought the report was one that had been bolstered up, and which ought to be rejected almost unanimously by the House. He could hardly expect that the members of the committee would vote against it; but still he thought, as they were men of intelligence, that if they reconsidered the grounds upon which they framed it, they would turn round and oppose it.

Mr. GRIFFITH, in replying, said it had been asked why the committee did not call sugar planters as witnesses; but he would point out that they were appointed to inquire into what took place in 1862, when there were no sugar planters in the colony; and how anybody who started sugar growing several years afterwards, in 1868 for instance, could know anything about services rendered to the colony in 1862 in connection with that industry, was not so obvious to his mind as it appeared to be to some honorable members who had spoken on the subject. That, he thought, was an answer to the whole of the arguments that had been urged against

the report. The committee confined themselves to what took place in 1862 and about that period, and he had no hesitation in saying the report was perfectly justified by the evidence adduced.

Mr. IVORY said it appeared to him that this gentleman did not go into the industry in question at his own expense; he was paid to go into it by others who employed him, and as far as his information went, it appeared that he did not, in any way, benefit them. Consequently he thought that if any thing was to be given, it ought to be given to the parties to whom he had caused losses. He thought it was high time that a stop was put to this everlasting cry about introducing new industries. He considered that Queensland was quite far enough advanced at this time to encourage, by the ordinary course of trade, people who entered upon the development of new industries, without obtaining any gratuity from the State for so doing. He thought, to come forward in 1874 and propose to give a gentleman remuneration for something that he did in 1862, was simply absurd. Moreover a gentleman had already been rewarded for the introduction of sugar culture, and as far as his information went, he believed that gentleman—Captain Hope—was the real introducer of that industry, and that he spent large sums of money upon it, and in his opinion he was justly entitled to reward. But Mr. Buhôt was in the employ of that gentleman and others, and the case reminded him of one that occurred in his own history, where he and others employed a man to open up a road and paid him for doing so, and he afterwards applied to the Government for remuneration. He thought this case stood in precisely the same position, and he would oppose the motion.

Question put and negatived on division.

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 24.
Mr. Buzacott	Mr. Palmer
" Edmondstone	" Bell
" Macrossan	" Macalister
" Moreton	" Stephens
" Griffith.	" Fraser
	" Fryar
	" Hemmant
	" Bailey
	" MacIlwraith
	" MacDevitt
	" Beattie
	" J. Scott
	" Stewart
	" Royds
	" Morehead
	" Low
	" Wienholt
	" Hodgkinson
	" Ivory
	" Lord
	" J. Thorn
	" Morgan
	" Nind
	" Miles.

IMMIGRATION FROM BRITISH INDIA.

Mr. FITZGERALD said, in rising to move the motion standing in his name, he had to express regret that it had remained so long on the notice paper from one cause or another; but he trusted that by this time honorable

members had fully considered it, and he understood from the honorable member at the head of the Government that it would not be looked upon as a Government measure, and that members would be free to take whatever side they pleased with regard to it. He trusted that the long consideration which honorable members had been able to give to the question, had enabled them to clear their minds of any prejudices they might have labored under, and that they would see that on this occasion he and those who held the same views as himself were not asking for anything more than was fair and reasonable, or for more than they could expect the House to grant. They were asking for no money; they were merely asking to be allowed to pursue an industry which had been fostered and encouraged by the Government at an early period of the colony, and they were quite prepared to pay all the expenses connected with it, because they admitted that the immigration they were seeking to promote would not add permanently to the population of the colony. It amounted simply to putting the necessary machinery in motion in order to procure a certain description of labor which they found absolutely necessary in order to successfully carry on the very important industry of sugar cultivation. He would not occupy the time of the House at any length by commenting on the question, because no doubt it must have engaged the attention of almost every honorable member, and he had no doubt they had made up their minds. But he would remind honorable members that in 1862, almost immediately after the formation of the colony, it appeared to the then Government necessary to make provision for the introduction of colored labor, in order that certain districts of the colony well adapted for the cultivation of tropical products might be used with advantage and profit to the persons who were coming into the colony. In 1862 the Act was accordingly passed which was generally known as the Coolie Immigration Act. Under that Act the Governor in Council was empowered to make such regulations as might be considered necessary to give effect to the general spirit of the Act, the object of which was to allow the introduction of these people on certain conditions. Then, in 1864, regulations were promulgated which were afterwards approved by the Indian Government, and there the matter stopped in consequence of a serious difficulty arising in the way of carrying out the regulations. That difficulty was that a salary had to be voted by Parliament for the Emigration officer at Madras, or whatever port in India it was proposed to take these people from; and owing to the rapid influx of Europeans, and also to the lull in the progress of the colony at that time, he supposed they thought they should do nothing which would have the effect of bringing in competitors against those who were coming here from Europe. At that time the

sugar planters had already invested very largely in different parts of the colony, on the faith of the Act of 1862, and the apparent willingness of the Government to forward their interests and provide the necessary labor to enable them to carry on their operations; and in 1865, 1866, and 1867 they got a great number of islanders from different islands in the South Seas, whose services they obtained at a much cheaper rate than Indian coolies could be introduced, and therefore they did not press the matter, or make much noise about it. Then, as honorable members were aware, in 1868, the Polynesian Laborers Act was passed, and, under that, certain regulations were made, which had always been carefully adhered to, and the sugar planters had been able to get a certain proportion of labor almost sufficient to meet their requirements. However, it had been found that dealing with these islanders was a very troublesome matter. They were brought from so many different islands, and spoke so many different languages, that it was very difficult to manage them. In fact, it was notorious that on a large plantation, there would be found as many as four different languages spoken amongst about 80 or 100 islanders, which rendered it exceedingly difficult for overseers and managers to carry on with them. Although he believed that these islanders were far better laborers than the coolies of British India, still, having in view the difficulty to which he had alluded, and also the fact that it was very difficult to procure them without spending a great deal of time and money in going from island to island for that purpose, they would rather have laborers from British India, because they could be more certainly calculated upon, and would not entail so much trouble and annoyance as there was with islanders. In order to carry out the Coolie Immigration Act and the regulations that were made under it, a Captain Roland, who, he believed, was appointed by the Indian Government, was approved by the Queensland Government, under the administration of the honorable member for Port Curtis. But although the planters at that time were perfectly willing to find all the necessary funds for carrying out these regulations, it would appear that an insuperable obstacle was caused by the fact that the Indian Government refused to allow the person who acted as immigration agent to receive payment at so much per head for the immigrants sent, but required that a fixed salary should be voted and sent for such person in the first instance, before he would be allowed to act at all. What they now asked was that a sufficient salary should be voted for this officer, and at the same time they were quite prepared to guarantee the whole of the expenses—not only his salary, but whatever contingent expenses might be incurred in carrying out the system. They were prepared to pay the money beforehand, if

necessary, and they did not ask for a farthing to be taken from the revenue of the colony. Looking at the very large amount of capital—which could be very little short of a million sterling—which had been invested in the industry, and the certainty which existed in the minds of those interested in it, that unless they obtained assistance of this kind to enable them to carry on their operations it would certainly go to decay; he thought it was nothing more than fair to ask the House to accede to their desires, and provide for such steps being taken as would enable the Act to be carried out. He believed the Government had full power to make all necessary regulations, and perhaps they would require such special payments as would meet the salary of the immigration agent, and contingent expenses; in fact, that they would place it on a somewhat similar footing as the expenditure connected with sheep farming. As he mentioned at the commencement of his remarks, he understood from the honorable member at the head of the Government that the question would not be treated as a Government measure; that it would be left for honorable members to vote in whatever way they thought fit; but he would put it to that honorable gentleman, and the other members of the Ministry, that it was their duty to take an interest in the matter, in order to foster, and to preserve, an industry of so much importance to the colony as this industry now was. At the present time, as they all knew, it was free for employers of labor to import Chinese to any extent, but they did not wish to do that, because he believed there was a great antipathy on the part of the digging population of the colony to the introduction of Chinese, and they would prefer having those who were already their own fellow subjects as laborers. He, and those who were with him, therefore, claimed it as a right that the Government should take whatever measures were necessary to secure that labor, in order to prevent such a very important industry from going to decay. It was also known that some very rich tracts of country had been discovered along the north-east coast, which were admirably suited for tropical products, but which it would be very difficult—in fact, almost impossible to work with European labor, in consequence of the moist heat which was so likely to engender fever, to a greater extent than they had hitherto experienced in more southern portions of the colony. No doubt a good deal would be said about the objections which Europeans might have to the importation of labor of this description, but whatever objections of that kind might be entertained by those who had not resided within the influence of large plantations, he was certain that those who had seen work carried on in places where Europeans and islanders worked together would have a very different view. In fact, when he offered himself as a candidate for the

Bowen electorate, he took care to state fully and clearly to the working men of the district his opinions on this subject, and to announce that it was his intention to bring the matter before the House if no other honorable member did so, and there was not one dissentient voice, or a word of disapproval. And the reason was this:—Europeans who were acquainted with the matter admitted at once, that without a large proportion of colored labor it would be impossible to find employment for Europeans. They knew that there were some kinds of work which it would be impossible for Europeans to do under the broiling sun of the tropics. In fact, he tried the experiment himself about the year 1870, when a new place was established where no islanders were employed. It went on very well up to the time it was necessary to cut and carry the canes, and then, although contracts very favorable to the contractors were given, it was found utterly impossible to execute them—although they gave men very high wages—thirty shillings a-week and rations;—they gave it up after a few weeks, and preferred taking a very much lower rate for indoor work, so as to be from under the burning sun. He hoped the question would be treated in a fair and business-like manner, and would not be made a party question in any way; and he would impress upon honorable members who had to pass judgment upon it, that it involved the prosperity or ruin of a large section of the community who were settled in the coast districts. There was no doubt that unless labor of this description was ensured, the sugar-growing interest in the North must fall into decay; there was no escape for those engaged in that industry if this were not carried out. They had now to compete with the markets of the world—with countries which were quite as capable of producing sugar as this colony; and unless they had a fair supply of labor, it would be impossible to carry on with success. He therefore moved—

That to promote the growth of sugar and other tropical products along the north-east coast of Queensland, especially within the tropics, by allowing cultivators of land to obtain, at their own expense, Laborers from British India, the Act of 1862 should be brought into force, and provision made by the Government on the Supplementary Estimates for 1874 for the salary of an Emigration Agent, under the Indian Government Regulations; provided the amount of such salary, and other "expenses," be recouped to the Queensland Government by *pro rata* contributions of persons taking advantage of this Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the motion which the honorable member had proposed was that the Act of 1862 should be brought in force, but that Act was in force at that moment.

MR. PALMER: Nominally.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In reality it was in force at that moment, except that no

application had been made to the Government under it. The honorable member also proposed that "provision be made by the Government on the Supplementary Estimates of 1874 for the salary of an Emigration Agent under the Indian Government regulations."

Now, under the Act itself there was no necessity whatever to make such a provision as that, and the proposal of the honorable member, therefore, made a very important change in the position of affairs. As had been stated, the question was one upon which the members of the Government were perfectly at liberty to vote as they pleased; but he believed they would all vote together upon it, and that they could not agree with many of the reasons given by the honorable member for asking the House to assent to the motion. He could easily understand that it might be to the interest of the honorable member for Bowen and a large number of persons on the sea-coast to urge upon the country the necessity for the introduction of labor of a cheap description; and it might be that coolies were cheaper than Europeans; but, while he could scarcely venture to express an opinion, he might say that he had heard the reverse stated. He had heard it argued that coolies were the most expensive description of labor that could be introduced. But the honorable member had put forward one argument which, in the eyes of the Government, was quite sufficient, if there were no other reasons, to justify them in opposing the introduction of labor of this description. He said that it would, no doubt, be objected to by Europeans; and there could be no doubt whatever that if they established a system of coolie immigration, by recognising it, not only by an Act of the Legislature, but also by voting a sum of money to defray the salary of an Emigration Agent, it would at once have the effect of stopping European immigration to the colony. If it were once known in England that this colony was not a place for labor except that of the black man no white man would think for one moment of coming here. There was another objection to this system. The honorable member had not informed the House, whether it would be possible to keep labor of this description within the bounds he proposed that it should be applied, if it were introduced. He believed that would not be possible, and the consequence would be, that these black men would be allowed to roam all over the colony; and he would ask, would that be a proper state of affairs? Was that a position in which this colony should be placed? He certainly thought not. But there was a still further objection, and one of a very serious character. It would be observed that when the Act of 1862 was passed, it was not only passed with expressed conditions, but the regulations that were passed, and placed upon the table of the House at the time it was passed, contained this:

"The salaries or fees payable to such agents shall be provided for by payments to be made by

the persons introducing immigrants, and not out of the colonial revenue."

Now one of the proposals contained in the motion was, that the salary of the Emigration Agent should be paid out of the Supplementary Estimates for this year; but that was a course of action never contemplated by the Government at the time the Act was passed, and at the time the regulations were adopted. Under these regulations an officer, Lieutenant Roland, was appointed by the Indian Government, but he did not appear to have been appointed by the Queensland Government, although he was gazetted, and nothing was done by him. But, if this resolution were adopted, another difficulty would arise, because one of the clauses of the Act passed by the Indian Government provided—

"The Governor-General of India in Council may from time to time by notification published in the *Gazette* of India declare that the emigration of natives of India shall be lawful to any place other to the places mentioned in the last preceding section."

The places mentioned were Mauritius, Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Vincent, Natal, St. Kitts, and Seychelles, and the Danish colony of St. Croix.

"Provided that every such notification shall contain also a declaration that the Governor-General of India in Council has been duly certified that the Government of the place to which the notification refers has made such laws and other provisions as the Governor-General of India in Council thinks sufficient for the protection of natives of India emigrating to such place."

So that honorable members would observe, that whatever resolution they came to, it would have to be referred to the Governor of India in Council, and it might be that that Government would require some further laws to be made for the purpose of satisfying them, before they agreed to a single man leaving India for this colony.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: No.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: He said, yes. He found in the 12th clause it was distinctly stated—

"The remuneration to be given to Emigration Agents shall not depend upon or be regulated by the number of emigrants sent by such agents but shall be in the nature of a fixed annual salary."

The fixed salary was, he believed, from £800 to £1,200 a-year, and he contended that when the Act of 1862 was passed, nothing of that kind was contemplated. The employment of an agent, and the introduction of these coolies was to depend entirely on the fees paid by the individuals who introduced them, and nothing in the way of salary or expenses was to be voted by that House. He said, therefore, that from the regulations to which he had just referred, it would require that another Act should be passed by that House, and that fresh regulations should be made, in

order to enable the agent to be paid by salary instead of by fees, and that would have to be submitted to the Indian Government for its approval. The motion was therefore entirely in opposition to the spirit and intention of the Act. The honorable member had stated that, unless something of this kind were adopted, the result would be that the cultivation of sugar in the North would be completely stopped; but he did not agree with that honorable member on that point. He thought the labor now being imported in the North from Polynesian islands, and from the number of Chinamen who were now coming down to the colony, a sufficient guarantee was held out to those engaged in sugar growing that they would have an abundant supply of labor; and he considered that it would be a great mistake on the part of the House to agree to a resolution, in the hope that the introduction of labor of this kind would not have a most damaging effect on the future prosperity of the colony. It was now free to any employer of labor to introduce any description of labor he pleased; but to ask the House to legislate, or to give authority for the introduction of a description of labor foreign to that for which it was established, would not only injure it in the eyes of the Australian colonies, but also in the eyes of Europe, and have a most damaging effect upon its progress. Upon these grounds he must oppose the motion.

Mr. BUZACOTT said that he rose to speak on the question under some difficulties, but he should have no hesitation in voting for the motion. He thought that so long as they were not called upon to vote money for the introduction of the particular class in question, there was no cause for complaint. At present they could introduce any class of persons, as the colony was free to all, and, therefore, it would be undesirable to legislate for the introduction of any particular class. He was also prepared to admit that the Indian Government would take good care that no undue hardships were imposed upon emigrants from that country, and that they would not allow them to come unless a responsible agent was appointed to watch over them. By the resolution before the House he imagined that it was not proposed that there should be any pecuniary outlay, but that a responsible agent should be appointed in India who would be responsible for the persons sent from there, and whose salary would be paid by the planters and others who required that class of labor. He believed that the heat in the North was too great to permit of Europeans being employed in the sugar fields, and the sooner that was acknowledged, and the sooner facilities were given for the introduction of colored labor, the sooner they would see the northern districts prosper as it was wished they should do. He did not agree that by the introduction of the class of labor proposed, they would reduce the emigration from the mother country; on the contrary, he thought that instead of injuring European immigration, it

would assist in providing European immigrants with profitable employment, which they could not otherwise obtain.

Mr. BAILEY sincerely hoped that the House would agree to the resolution of the honorable member for Bowen, which was one which had been before the House on a previous occasion, but not in the same spirit, perhaps. He might say that the sugar planters in the neighborhood of Mackay were a most enterprising class of men, but, after having expended their capital in that industry, they found that it was absolutely necessary that they should ask the House to give them some kind of relief, by allowing them to introduce the description of colored labor proposed, which would be more suitable for them. They merely asked that the same privileges which were granted to people in the South, should be granted to them, namely, that as if there was a scarcity of labor in southern Queensland, the Government would be called upon to expend money for the encouragement of European immigration, the same assistance should be given to them. They did not, however, ask for an outlay of £60,000 or £70,000, but merely that facilities should be offered to them for obtaining labor at their own expense, and they had not asked for that until they found other means had failed. There was another colony which, in respect to climate, was similar to Queensland, where the same question had been brought forward—he alluded to Port Natal. There, the Government, on finding that the two classes of labor were not suitable to the sugar industry, did not hesitate to raise a loan of £300,000 for the purpose of introducing laborers to assist the planters. The result of that was, that in that colony, the sugar growing industry was thriving; here, however, it might be termed a dying industry, as men were yearly being ruined by it. He trusted the House would agree to the resolution; it was the slightest modicum of justice that could be shown to the North, and he should be sorry that the House, by negating the resolution, should in fact tell people who had spent their capital and energies, and risked their lives in prosecuting a new industry, that they must go elsewhere.

Mr. NIND said he wished to speak with regard to sugar growing on the north-east coast of Queensland, and with the view of doing justice to a class of people who could not get on without the assistance of colored labor, he should support the resolution of the honorable member for Bowen. In the South the planters were content to let things go on as they were, as for a long time they had been working with a kind of mixed labor; and, as honorable members were aware, there had been a great outcry against that. He thought that, apart from that, those in the South were rather differently situated from those in the North, as they could get labor from ships which were now constantly coming in; in fact, within the last three or four weeks, he

had seen more men tramping about the country, in search of work, than he had ever seen before. Wages were coming down, and planters found no difficulty in getting what labor they required. Again, it must be remembered that sugar could not be cultivated in the same way in the South as in the North, but was principally grown as an adjunct to other crops. He had been very much gratified at hearing the honorable member for Bowen explain how, from an early time in the history of the colony, a want of colored labor had been felt by those persons who wished to promote the growth of tropical products in the colony; but when he listened to the remarks of the honorable the Colonial Secretary, he was rather troubled to know what the honorable member meant, as he said that the introduction of colored labor under the auspices of the Government would very much impede the introduction of white labor from Europe. He had heard that remark many years ago, but he thought that the great number of persons now coming to the colony was sufficient to disprove it. They knew that last year an agent of the Agricultural Laborers' Union sent out a large number of people from the central counties of England; not only that, but that gentleman came out with those people and travelled over Queensland, and he had evidently not seen any difference between the black and white labor, as, on his return home, he advised others of his countrymen to come to the colony. The honorable Colonial Secretary also said that the planters on the north-east coast could introduce Chinamen, but he (Mr. Nind) did not believe in those people, as they went contrary to white men; in California, for instance, they not only competed with white men, but in some cases actually drove them out. It was well known that white men were unsuited for out-door labor in the tropics, whilst there were races particularly adapted to that class of work. In Jamaica, the only place for white men to be employed, was in the mountains; and in Panama, where white laborers were introduced to make the railway, people said that every sleeper was laid upon a white man's grave. He did not mean to say that Jamaica was such a deadly climate as Panama, but still white men could not be employed in the field in that colony. He believed that the north-east coast of Queensland was not suited to white labor. He knew of cases where men had gone to the North, to the Herbert River, for instance; and, although they had not shown any apparent disease, there had been a failure of power, and those white men who tried to work as they would in the South had to leave off in the middle of the day. Those men would have to be paid ten shillings a-week more than they would be paid in the South, whilst they could not do half as much work as they could do in the South. He would ask honorable members to consider what that meant in carrying on any enterprise. An

argument had been used against the employment of colored labor, namely, that if miners could work on the Palmer and Etheridge, they could do so on the coast; but such an argument was wrong altogether, as men might work on a high elevation from the sea, when they could not work between rows of sugar-cane, on the flat lands near the coast. He had also heard that, if stockmen could work in the North, and be exposed, as they were, to the extreme heat, there was no reason why men could not work on plantations; but it was a very different thing to be riding, when there was some breeze, and to be working on a plantation with a tropical sun shining on them. The honorable member for Wide Bay had very properly stated that the resolution only asked for justice to those who had ventured their lives, their energies, and their means in the prosecution of a new industry; the Government were not asked to do anything—either by expending money or by interfering themselves with the movement; they were merely asked to recognise it. As regarded the salary of the agent, there would be no expenditure of public money, as it would be recouped by the employers of that particular class of labor named in the resolution. It appeared to him that those honorable members who intended to negative the motion put themselves into the dilemma, either that they did not wish to encourage that particular branch of industry in the North, or else they would give to the North a grievance which might lead to separation. He should vote for the resolution.

Mr. STEWART said that as the motion at present stood on the paper, he should be compelled to oppose it, but if it was made to apply to the tropical coast line alone, he should be inclined to vote for it. The honorable member who had just spoken had given a very strong argument why it should be confined to that line, and he (Mr. Stewart) took it, that if once they introduced coolies into the southern part of the colony, they would have very little white immigration.

Mr. IVORY thought that the remarks of the honorable member who had just spoken sufficiently showed the meagreness of the arguments which could be adduced against the resolution. He certainly had thought that the honorable member at the head of the Government would have given some good cause for opposing the motion; but it appeared that the honorable gentleman's arguments were grounded solely on a prejudice against the colored races. For his part, he did not think the white race had any reason to fear competition with any other race, and therefore, as he said, the opposition to the resolution must proceed solely from prejudice. The honorable member for Brisbane said that if the importation of coolies was confined solely to the coast line in the tropics, he could support it, but he could not support the introduction of coolies into the southern parts of the colony. If that was the case, it

was very evident that there must be separation—if they could not go in for immigration for one part of the colony without injuring the other. Of course, everybody would be sorry to see European labor give place to colored labor; but he believed himself that the resolution would not have that effect, but that it would be actually beneficial to white labor in the colony. He was firmly convinced that if they had had labor similar to that proposed, they would now see the cotton industry thriving, instead of going to the wall as it was doing; and he believed that, until they got a cheaper class of labor in the South, they would see the sugar industry go the same way. The honorable Colonial Secretary stated that Europeans objected to go to a colony where there was that class of labor employed, and that the effect of its introduction would be to check European immigration. The honorable member must recollect, however, that there was a great outcry, not very long ago, against slavery—as the importation of Kanakas was termed by certain people—and that that was at a time when the tide of European immigration was slow; but instead of immigration failing, he believed that the introduction of Kanakas had given a great impetus to it. It had been frequently stated by that honorable member, and other honorable members on the Government side of the House, that population was the wealth of the colony; but it now appeared from the honorable member's remarks that evening, that it was only population of a particular color. He (Mr. Ivory), however, maintained that population of any color was a benefit to the colony, and that any person who pandered to the popular clamor about the introduction of any particular class, was not promoting the prosperity of the country. He thought that they had nothing to do with the technicalities of the Act, as stated by the honorable Colonial Secretary, but merely to affirm the principle contained in the resolution. If that resolution was carried, he conceived that they would be giving expression to opinions that would result in good, and that would be one thing gained so far in the controversy. As regarded all that had been said about the inferiority of race, he would ask any honorable member who had noticed the orderly manner in which the Kanakas might be seen walking about the streets on Sunday, whether they would not compare most favorably with some of the late European importations—he would ask, which was the most respectable of the two? He could state that he had not seen a drunken Kanaka since he had been in the town, but he was sorry to say that he had seen many of his own countrymen behaving in a most disgraceful manner. Honorable members opposite seemed to think that by opposing the resolution they were supporting the cause of the small farmer; but he believed that those persons, above all others, would be benefited by the introduction of cheap labor. By the intro-

duction of Kanakas they would have had their farms improved, but owing to the cry being kept up of confining the colony to only the British laborer, an injury had been inflicted upon them. They had been told that Chinamen were very much objected to by diggers; that he would grant, and they were, perhaps, somewhat disposed to be insubordinate; but, at the same time, they made splendid colonists. The same remark applied to Scandinavians, who were not, as a rule, good servants, but who, when acting for themselves, were admirable colonists. The advantage of the Coolie was, that he was a quiet docile creature, one that would come into the country and benefit every man who employed him. He would like to know what plantation could afford to employ two hundred white men; yet he knew of one, where two hundred Kanakas were employed, independent of a large staff of white men—mechanics and others, whose employment was rendered necessary by these Kanakas. He would warn honorable members opposite that they were cutting the ground from under their feet if they continued to oppose the outcry for cheap labor, and he believed the time would come when even the small farmers would find the employment of colored labor to their advantage.

Mr. MOREHEAD thought that there was one very important point which had hardly been touched upon, which was, that by the resolution nothing was asked for from the country or that House. Those who wished to introduce coolies under the Act were prepared to pay the passage money of those people to the colony, and also to pay *pro rata* towards the support of the immigration agent who would necessarily have to be appointed. He would ask honorable members to consider the difference between the proposition of the honorable member for Bowen, and the position they now occupied in regard to the introduction of immigrants from the United Kingdom. In the latter case the country had to pay for the introduction of every man; whilst by the resolution, all that was asked for was, that a person wishing to introduce that particular description of labor might do so, and at the same time pay his quota towards the expenses incurred by the appointment of an agent. Supposing, again, that the European immigrants were put into the northern sugar plantations, they would not be equal in value, as regarded work, to those introduced at no cost to the State, as proposed by the honorable member for Bowen. He should have thought that the Government would have been glad to support the motion, for, even taking colored labor in the light of a machine, was a machine not for the benefit of the country? And then, as regarded the cry which was raised against Kanakas, he could inform honorable members opposite, that had it not been for the introduction of those people, some of the outlying stations must have been abandoned long ago; and he believed, from all he had heard, that

if the planters in the North were not allowed to import a cheaper class of labor, they could not keep on their plantations. As to the remarks which had been made about black men competing with whites, why, he considered it was something like cowardice to say that white labor could be put down by black labor; he believed, on the contrary, that the employment of the colored labor proposed, would be the means of employing thousands of white men in the future, as industries would become more rapidly increased than they otherwise could be. He should support the resolutions.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he should have to oppose the resolutions, which appeared to him to be contradictory in themselves. They were first of all told that it was advisable to promote the growth of sugar and other tropical produce along the north-east coast of Queensland, by allowing people to obtain, at their own expense, laborers from British India; and then further on it was asked that a sum should be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for the salary of an Emigration Agent and other expenses, to be recouped to the Government, by *pro rata* contributions of persons taking advantage of the Act. Now he wanted to know how that was to be carried out. They had had the same thing before, when the Act was first passed to introduce Indian labor; but under that Act, not one single application had ever been made. If the resolution was passed, and a salary was given to an agent, the Government would, of course, have to pay such salary, and then there was the strong probability that they would never get it back again: in fact, their chance of doing so would be very problematical indeed, for, as he had said, there had been an Act in force for years, and an agent had been paid for years, and yet not one application for immigrants under it, made. A great deal had been said about how much better it would be to allow the planters in the North to introduce their own labor than to pay for the introduction of European labor; but he had not heard any honorable member using that argument say, that when they introduced Europeans they paid for the introduction of their wives and children also—for men with their families, who came to settle in the colony and to make their homes in it. That fact had been lost sight of entirely by those honorable members who drew a comparison between the two classes of labor; they merely wished to introduce a class of people who would remain for a few years only, and be of no permanent use in settling the country. Then again, it was said that the resolution was only intended to apply to northern Queensland; but it was, in fact, for the whole of the colony. He thought that if a matter of that sort was introduced, it would be a great deal better that it should be at once clearly stated whether it was to apply to the whole colony or only to the north-east coast of Queensland. Another argument—

one used he believed by the honorable member for the Burnett—was that the people were quiet and docile and very cheap; also that they would not attempt to improve their position as Chinamen and Scandinavians did. In reply to that he would say, that he should most decidedly prefer to introduce people who would endeavor to improve their position—people who, in so doing, would help to colonize the country. The arguments which had been adduced were, he must say, precisely the same which had been used in all parts of the world in favor of the negro race; but he objected totally to the Government mixing itself up with the employment of an inferior race, because the people of that race happened to be docile and easily contented. He had also a farther and stronger objection—he thought that their laws should be to give fair and equal justice to all—to allow any man of any country to come to the colony and to enjoy equal freedom. But the resolution would not do that; there was to be a special Act of Parliament for those people, who were not to be under the same law as other colonists, but under a law which was to be subject to the approval of the Indian Government. He considered that the Government should not be a party to the introduction of a class of people to be kept here as laborers under a separate law, to be approved of by some distinct Government elsewhere. They were to pay an officer directly under the Indian Government, and when the people arrived here, they were to be treated in accordance with the law approved of by that Government; and if that was not done, then their immigration would be stopped by the same Government. The whole thing was exactly in accordance with what they had heard of when boys, in connection with negro slavery; and he must say that he objected to any legislation which provided for any particular class of labor, or for the introduction of any particular race.

Mr. HODGKINSON said that the introduction of coolie labor was one of the original portions of the northern programme; and it was not without considerable hesitation that he affixed his name to it. In doing so he considered that he took a wider view of it than that of a member merely wishing to please his constituents; and he was at the time under the impression that his honorable colleague, the member for Bowen, considered that they would be merely giving force to an Act passed in 1862. The honorable Colonial Secretary had told them that evening that, even supposing the resolution were passed, they would require additional legislation, not only in this colony but also in India, over which this colony, of course, could have no control; consequently, they were asked to pass a resolution which would be inoperative. Even if that were not the case, the arguments of the honorable members for the Burnett and Mitchell would have proved to him that it was his duty to vote against the resolution.

He was quite aware that the sugar growers of the North labored under considerable difficulties, and that, as the honorable member for Bowen said, the labor on a sugar plantation was not fit for a white man; and he thought that that difficulty could be met by importing the class of labor proposed, provided it was confined to the north-east coast alone; but when he saw that the honorable members for the Mitchell and the Burnett were grasping at the resolution, what could he think, but that there would be a prospect of a repetition in this colony of those deplorable results which had occurred in the United States through the antagonism of the two races? He did not agree with his honorable friend, the member for Bowen, that the sugar industry was in a declining state, and he had that faith in the permanency of it, that if he were called upon to cite an instance in support of his opinion, he would point to none sooner than the case of that honorable member himself. He believed the sugar industry in the southern portion of the colony was in a very precarious state.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. HODGKINSON: He was happy to learn that he was mistaken, but he would not be at all surprised if it were; because, little as he knew of sugar growing, he knew sufficient to lead him to the conclusion that climatic influences in the southern portion of the colony were quite sufficient to destroy any hope of great success. He was disposed, as he stated before, to meet whatever indignation his vote on this subject might call from his constituents, because he thought they acted upon an unreasoning faculty—an unreasoning instinct, and he now saw a correct indication of what they might expect if this motion, at any rate in its present shape, were allowed to pass unchallenged. Another great motive he had in contemplating the support of the motion was the fact that the importation of Kanakas had, as he believed, almost entirely ceased, or was about to cease; but it was only a few days ago that a vessel arrived in Brisbane with a considerable number of these laborers on board, and therefore that ground for supporting it was gone. He knew there was a large and increasing influx of Chinese, and he observed, also, that a new feature in connection with this class of immigration, so far as this colony was concerned, had been originated; and that was that female Chinese were also arriving here; and, although he had no doubt that the gold fields formed the great attraction to the large majority of the Chinese who came here, he believed, when they found that they would only be allowed to work on gold fields which were abandoned by Europeans—as was invariably the case—they would divert themselves into other branches of industry, and any serious losses, so far as labor was concerned, to those engaged in the sugar industry, would be compensated by that class, and also by the continuation of the Kanaka

labor trade. When that trade was first introduced he was residing in one of the northern ports, and he knew from his own observation that many abuses took place in connection with it; but as the Government had provided that no vessel should sail without a proper inspector, or labor agent, on board, these abuses would no longer exist, and as the colony was becoming known amongst the islands, by reason of the return of islanders after serving their term of engagement, he had no doubt that labor of that description would be obtainable in much greater quantities than it had been hitherto. Sooner than forward by his solitary vote a motion that would cause indignation between North and South, he would forfeit his hopes of separation.

Mr. MORGAN said, if he had any doubt as to how he should vote on this question, it had been entirely removed by the remarks of the honorable member for the Burnett. That honorable gentleman described Kanakas as mild docile animals.

Mr. IVORY: I beg the honorable member's pardon. With all due deference to the honorable member, I certainly did not call them animals.

Mr. MORGAN begged the honorable member's pardon; he certainly understood him to say so.

Mr. IVORY: I believe I called them creatures.

Mr. MORGAN: At all events, he had long since come to the resolution that he would never, by any vote in that House, assent to bringing aliens or people of an inferior race to the colony, at the expense of the country; and he had a still stronger objection to the introduction of people of one sex only. He believed it was injurious both morally and physically. He had no objection to any persons following any industry, whether in connection with pastoral pursuits or sugar growing, or to allowing them to import labor from any part of the world they pleased at their own expense; but he said:—Let those people come as English subjects and as future colonists, and not as people for whom it was necessary to provide special legislation. Although it had been said that the climate of the North was disagreeable and unhealthy for Europeans, owing to the excessive heat and humidity of the atmosphere, still it appeared that the sugar planters managed to exist there very well; and even if it were too hot for Europeans, that was no reason why the whole colony should be put to additional expense to supply labor of a certain description for a few places in that part of the colony. As it was, they had full liberty to import laborers, and he should certainly oppose the motion.

Mr. FRYAR said the more he read the resolution the more he was inclined to think it was a very insidious one. It appeared to him that it was not what it seemed. They were told that in order to promote the growth

of sugar and other tropical products in the north-east coast of the colony, certain things were necessary, but they were not told what part of the colony that north-east coast was intended to include. The resolution certainly went on to say that it was especially necessary within the tropics; but that might be taken to apply to the whole north-east coast, or the whole coast of the colony, and if ever these laborers were allowed to come to the coast, he did not see why those in the interior should be precluded from getting the benefit of their services, if there was any benefit to be derived from it. It did not appear that these people were to be confined to the cultivation of sugar-cane; cultivators of all kinds would be in a position to obtain them, so that it appeared on the face of the resolution, although he thought it was hardly what was intended, that they could be brought in any numbers, for any purpose, into any part of the colony. He was far from thinking that the coolie labor they would be able to obtain would be of any great advantage to the sugar planters, because he believed they were much better suited for employment of a lighter character. They might make stockmen or good domestic servants, or be very useful in any light employment, but he did not think they would prove very useful servants for sugar planters. But there was one point which appeared to have been entirely lost sight of, and that was whether these coolies were really obtainable. From private correspondence from that quarter, he had come to the conclusion that they could not get coolies suitable for the work required to be done. He had heard that well known channels for the absorption of labor of that description were very barely supplied—that Mauritius and other places which imported labor from British India, could hardly get a sufficiency of that labor; and he thought, seeing that those laborers were already accustomed to those channels, they would vastly prefer going to where their countrymen were at work than to opening up a new field, such as would have to be done in Queensland. He believed very great difficulty would be found in procuring these laborers for Queensland; and, consequently, if the Government had to take the initiative, and put a sum on the Estimates for an emigration agent and other expenses, it was very likely they would have to pay the amount incurred without the slightest probability of it ever being recouped; and he believed the more they paid, the more the laborers would refuse to come. With regard to the value of this class of labor, he might state that he had a conversation some time ago with a gentleman who had been managing a large plantation in India, and he said it would take half-a-dozen coolies to make one good Kanaka; and, under these circumstances, he thought they would not be cheap labor in any sense of the term. He was very glad to hear the honorable member for the Logan say, it would

be better to leave things as they were. He considered it was very ill-advised to stir up the question, and run the Government into any expense for the purpose of endeavoring to obtain labor of this description. There could be no doubt that the importation of these laborers would have a very damaging effect upon European immigration. He knew it was one of the first and most important questions put by the emigrating classes at home—whether black labor were employed—whether they would have to come in contact with an inferior race. He should have much pleasure in voting against the resolution.

Mr. BELL said the subject matter of these resolutions had to great a degree his sympathy; that was to say, he thoroughly believed in the principle that coolie or colored labor should be introduced into the colony at the expense of those who desired to employ them. That was a principle upon which he could not conceive reasonable men differing in opinion, and which he believed ought to be adopted by the Legislature. He did not agree with the view put forward in opposition to the introduction of coolies or other labor different from European labor, on the ground that they were inferior races; and he thoroughly agreed with the honorable member who stated that the people of this colony were not of that character that they should be afraid of the introduction of any class of labor amongst them as being in any way calculated to supersede them or interfere with their free action as an offshoot of the British nation. But he did think there was an objection to the resolution, which, he was afraid, must be fatal to the principle to which he had alluded—namely, that it referred to the payment of a sum of money through the Estimates for the purpose of enabling the system to be carried on. That interfered with his principle, and but for that he should be glad of the opportunity of voting for the resolution. But, as he put it, the principle was this: that they had no business, as a colony, to vote money for the introduction of coolies, or other labor foreign from their own colonies and from Europe. That was the principle he had always held on this question. He admitted that it was one which had been considered by the previous Government, and that Government, and no doubt the present Government found the same difficulty on that one point. He did not know whether it was possible for the honorable member who had placed the motion on the paper to find a substitute for the system he had proposed; or whether, by withdrawing the resolution, he could again propose it in terms by which the Government would not be required to place any sum on the Estimates. If that were done, he would give the resolution his hearty support; but he was inclined to believe, from what he knew of the policy of the country, that no Government could ever

assent to the motion as it stood. It was not with any view of helping the present Government he said this; but they all knew that that was the stumbling-block in the way of carrying out such a system. He therefore submitted for the consideration of the honorable member who moved the resolution—because it was not impossible that he might be able to find some means by which the difficulty could be got over, at all events in the multiplicity of councillors there might be some wisdom found—that he should amend the resolution; and, if the difficulty could not be got over in that way, it would be better to withdraw it.

MR. WIENHOLT said he was certainly not an advocate for the present system of immigration—of forcing people to come to the colony at the expense of the country; but he was a believer in free-trade, and he maintained that it was wrong on the part of honorable members to oppose this resolution, which would not in any way tax the funds of the colony. They were merely asked to allow certain industries in the country to flourish, by granting facilities for the introduction of labor for that purpose; and all that was necessary was, that the Government should appoint an agent in India, without which this immigration could not be carried on. Certainly, the agent had to be paid; but it was provided at the same time that the amount expended for that purpose should be paid back by the persons introducing these immigrants; and he therefore maintained that it was in no way a tax upon the colony, and was not in any way taking the funds of the colony to import a different class of labor to that now being introduced. And he held that, if they were to keep the colony together as one, they were bound to legislate for the North as well as the South;—that, if they spent enormous sums to pour immigrants into the southern portion of the colony, they were bound, also, to do what they could to assist those who were connected with the great sugar industries in the North to get the labor they required to carry on that industry. He was a strong advocate for doing all they could to keep the colony together, and to do away entirely with the cry of separation that they had heard so much of from time to time. The honorable the Minister for Lands opposed coolie immigration on account of their being a quiet and docile people; but he maintained that quiet, docile people were the very best people they could bring into the country, and why the honorable member should object to it on that ground he could not understand. Did he want rowdy people brought here, or what was his desire? The argument was ridiculous, and he thought some stronger reason than that ought to be put forward for opposing the motion. He maintained that it was the duty of that House to assist, as far as possible, to develop what was really one of the chief industries of the colony, and an industry which, as they

must all know, was giving employment, directly and indirectly, to a very large amount of white labor—artisans and workmen, of various descriptions. He would support the resolution.

MR. FRASER said he concurred to a great extent in the views expressed by the honorable member for Dalby, and he found himself pretty much in the same position as that honorable member. He never had any great objection or prejudice against the introduction and employment of colored labor in this colony; neither had he ever entertained any great fear that it would deter to any great extent the flow of European immigration to these shores. But while he held these views, he must say at once that he could not vote for the resolution. He was as anxious as any honorable member could be, that every consideration and assistance should be given to any industry, and especially to one of such great importance as that of sugar growing both in the North and South; but he thought that if they removed all impediments—if they placed no obstacles in the way of sugar planters obtaining the labor necessary to carry on their operations, that was really all that could be required of them. He did not see why they should be asked to introduce special labor for any special industry. No other industry had asked for anything of the kind, as far as he knew; and why they should be asked to introduce special labor for this industry, he was at a loss to understand. In fact, if an industry could only exist by being bolstered up in that way, the sooner it came to an end the better. But he had not the slightest fear respecting this industry. They had heard forebodings of ruin unless this resolution were acceded to, but he had not the slightest fear of anything of the kind; and, with all due deference to the honorable member who advanced the argument, he did not think they ought to consider it for one moment. They had been told that it was not fair that they should expend money for the introduction of white labor, which was applicable only to the southern portions of the colony, without granting the facilities now asked for the importation of a certain class of labor in the North; but the distinction between the two classes of labor had been clearly pointed out. They had also been told that this system of immigration would entail no expense; but if they appointed an agent, and paid him, and they found in the course of twelve months that but a single coolie had been obtained, how was the colony to be recouped? Who was to pay the colony back the money expended during that period? It would be paying for coolies who did not come. He maintained that there was a vast difference between introducing coolies from India, and Kanakas, and Europeans; because Europeans were colonists, which the others were not. In fact, what was the colony composed of? About nine-tenths of its inhabitants were those who had been brought out

at the public expense, and they had made the colony what it was, and would make it far more prosperous and important. He heard some honorable members opposite expressing astonishment, but he had heard some of the most extraordinary arguments he ever heard in his life, from the other side of the House, that evening. Honorable members on the Ministerial side of the House had been twitted with saying that population constituted wealth, and they were asked to be consistent and admit a large coolie population. They were quite willing to admit these people if they were brought in at the expense of those who employed them; but he would like to know in what way they would constitute wealth. They might constitute the wealth of those who employed them, but he denied that they would constitute the wealth of the colony. One honorable member had pointed to the fact that nature itself indicated the class of labor to be employed in tropical countries; and to a certain extent that might be correct, but he thought it had its limits. In South Australia, where the natives were black, they found the white man could labor with the greatest impunity, and with ease and success, so that the honorable member's argument was only correct to a certain extent. They had been told that in the construction of the Panama railway, white labor was obliged to be abandoned and black labor introduced; but, it was well known that a more unhealthy spot scarcely existed, and that he thought was a sufficient reply to that argument. A great deal had been said about the position of the sugar growers in the southern portion of the colony, and he could only say, that, within the extent of his own knowledge, there were a great many of them doing remarkably well, and they were quite content with the results of their labors at the present time. There appeared to be an idea in the minds of some honorable members that large plantations and colored labor were inseparably connected, and it might be so in the North; but as far as the South was concerned, he could say emphatically that it was the small growers who had made sugar growing a success; and there were honorable members in the House connected with the industry, and he did not think they would contradict him when he stated, that operations had been carried on in those places mainly, if not entirely, with white labor. They had been told that those who had entered upon this industry had embarked a large amount of capital in it, and they had no right to endanger it, but he presumed that those who had done so had taken all the facts and circumstances and probabilities into consideration, and if they made a mistake he did not see what right they had to make application to that House for assistance. What would honorable members think if any merchants, or tradesmen, or manufacturers came to that House, and said they had miscalculated their position and their prospects; that after investing their capital they found

they had made a mistake, and requested relief? Why they would laugh at them; and he thought the sugar planters would think it no compliment to be told that they came to that House asking for relief. For his own part he, like the honorable member for Dalby, had not the slightest objection to see colored labor employed in the colony; he would leave every man free to employ any labor he pleased, but he objected to the Government identifying itself directly with the introduction of labor of this description, by placing money on the Estimates for that purpose.

Mr. MACROSSAN said he thought the subject was to some extent a painful one, while at the same time, it was an important one; and as a northern member, he felt called upon to state to the House, the reasons why he would give his vote in a certain way on the resolution. It was doubly painful to him, as had been expressed by the honorable member for Burke, because he had affixed his name to the document known as the northern manifesto. At the time he affixed his name to that document, he did so with the intention of giving effect to that programme, and even when he came to the House that evening he had the same intention, and he would now briefly state to the House the reasons why he had changed his opinion. But before doing so, he might state that he would give his vote on the question in accordance with his individual opinion. As far as his constituents were concerned, he believed that if he voted one way he would displease one portion of them, and if he voted the other way he would displease another portion of them; and so he would vote according to his conscience, and not according to the opinions of his constituents. When he signed the northern manifesto he did so with the intention of confining the labor which the honorable member for Bowen was anxious to obtain to the northern districts of the colony, and to the sugar industry alone, and he came to the House with that intention; but when he saw the vigor with which the motion was taken up by honorable members on the opposite side of the House, and especially by the honorable members for Burnett and Mitchell—when he saw them contending for the introduction of cheap labor, because it was cheap, and using the arguments they did, he changed his opinion on the subject. He might say that the advocacy of the motion by the honorable member for the Burnett had turned the opinions of some honorable members against it; it had certainly lost the honorable member for Bowen two votes. But what did they see in this question of cheap labor? He was quite certain the honorable member for Bowen was sincere in his desire to benefit the sugar planters in the North by means of this motion. There could be no doubt that owing to the extreme heat Europeans could not labor on the sea-coast in the North the same as they could in southern Queensland; and if the honorable member for Bowen, in bringing

forward a motion of this kind could so manage it as to confine this class of labor to the sugar industry, and to that portion of the colony, which, it was admitted, was unfitted for European labor, then he should vote for it, but on no other condition could he reconcile himself to do so. He found that in the territory of South Australia, certain men of capital were crying out for the very same kind of labor that the honorable member for Bowen was contending; and he maintained that if they permitted labor to come in for the purpose of supporting a certain industry, the colony would not become, what it should, a home for free men from Europe. It would become more like what the Southern States of America were a few years ago, and perhaps the system might lead to the same disasters. His sympathies were with the honorable member for Bowen and the people he represented; but, sooner than vote for the motion as it stood, he would prefer resigning his seat in the House. Sooner than do anything which would endanger the colony becoming a home for their own countrymen and a great and free nation—which it was bound to become by the introduction of European labor—he would give up all hope of legislating on the subject. He hoped the honorable member for Bowen would find his way out of the difficulty, and that he would accept the advice of the honorable member for Dalby and withdraw the motion, with the intention of introducing it in another form, so as to confine it to the industry he himself represented. He would sooner see the labor which the sugar planters in the North required introduced under the auspices of the Government, even though it might, perhaps, lead to some disagreement with the system of European immigration, because then there would be a better chance of confining it to where it should be confined; and he was rather afraid that if the motion were carried, the sugar planters of the North would probably be the means of introducing a class of labor into that portion of the country which would gradually extend into the southern portion, and injure the white population there much more than it would the white population in the North. He trusted the Government would see their way clear to bring in some measure for introducing labor for the assistance of the sugar planters of the North, and at the same time confining it to those places where it was required. If the motion went to a division, he would be obliged to vote with the Government against it.

Mr. PALMER said, if the motion went so far as to ask the House to agree to the introduction of colored labor at the expense of the country, he could understand a great many of the objections he had heard against it; but it did not ask for the expenditure of money for that purpose, and seeing that the motion could, as he thought, be amended in such a way as to remove the blot pointed out by the honorable member for Dalby, and not by any possibility

imperil one shilling of the money of the colonists, he really could not understand the strong objections that had been raised by many honorable members. He had been rather astonished to hear the particularly peculiar way in which the honorable members for Burke and Kennedy had explained their departure from the celebrated northern manifesto. That he was very much chagrined at it he would not for one moment attempt to lead the House to suppose. He had always looked upon it as a very unholy alliance, and he was not in the least sorry that the honorable member for Bowen was now reaping the first fruit of that alliance, or supposed alliance between the extreme northern members and the Government. This was its first fruits; it had borne fruit rapidly, and he hoped it would be a warning to that honorable member not to enter into such an alliance again. The object of this motion was merely to allow parties to introduce, at their own expense, laborers from British India; but it was, he must confess, worded very obscurely, and in such a way that enabled the honorable the Colonial Secretary to attack it, namely, by asking that the Act of 1862 should be brought into force. Well, as the honorable the Colonial Secretary had informed the House, there was no doubt that Act was in force; but it was in force just in the same way as that honorable member might have a steamer lying in the harbor ready for sea, with all her machinery ready to be put in motion, but the most important crank pin had been mislaid, or had never been prepared. The honorable the Colonial Secretary knew as well as he did, that without the appointment of an agent in India, salaried by the Government of this colony under the Indian Regulations, the Act could not be put in force; that without that, the Indian Government would not move in the matter at all. And although the coolies, being British subjects, could leave the country if they wished—although no Government could stop them from leaving on their own account—still the Indian Government would not give their sanction to it, and to all intents and purposes they prevented them from leaving their shores, just as much as if they said, "You shall not leave." The first regulation providing for the appointment of an agent to be paid by fees had been done away with by the Indian Act, and the agent must now be a salaried officer; and whether he sent out one coolie or one hundred thousand, he must have his salary; and any attempt to work the Act of 1862 would be utterly ineffectual unless the agent were made a salaried officer of the Government. That honorable member went further, and said a new Act would be necessary as well as a salaried officer; but he denied that a new Act was at all necessary. It was only necessary to amend the regulations, and that the Government could do in a few hours. New regulations were necessary, and, of course, they must not be contrary to the spirit of the Act; but there was

nothing to prevent the Government from issuing such regulations as he believed would be acceptable to the Government of India. But he looked upon the objection of the honorable member for Dalby as fatal to the resolution, as it now stood. He had systematically refused, during the time he held office, to put any sum on the Estimates for the purpose proposed, and he could not, therefore, vote for the resolution in its present shape. He did not consider that one shilling of the public money of this colony should be expended for importing colored labor of any description; but he thought it a great pity that gentlemen who might feel inclined to import that class of labor at their own expense should not be allowed to do so, and the best possible way in which they could be imported was under the surveillance of a Government officer, and the salary of that officer the parties importing the labor should certainly pay. He did not see how the Treasurer of the colony could place a sum on the Estimates to provide for the salary of an agent, provided the amount of such salary and other expenses be recouped to the Queensland Government, by *pro rata* contributions of persons taking advantage of the Act, because not one shilling might be recouped by those parties. But he thought that difficulty could be met by an amendment which he intended to move to the effect that all the words after "expenses" should be omitted, and that the following words be inserted:—

"Shall, previously to any such sum being placed on the Estimates, be subscribed by the parties desirous of introducing such laborers, and paid into the credit of the Colonial Treasurer."

He thought that would meet the fatal objection, which was taken by the honorable member for Dalby, and coincided in by the honorable member for Bandanba. Now, they had been told by the honorable the Colonial Secretary, and it had been repeated by other honorable members as an argument against the resolution, that the fact of it becoming known at home that the colony was importing colored labor would at once stop European immigration; but he did not believe it would have any such effect. He took the opportunity, when Mr. Richardson, who was known to be an influential person amongst the agricultural classes in the midland counties of England, was here, to ask him point blank whether he thought the importation of South Sea Islanders would have any tendency to check immigration from England, and he answered, "Not the slightest." In fact, he said, they never thought or cared about it; that all they cared about was good wages and keeping their bellies full: those were his very words. When the importation of Kanakas was commenced, they heard a great many prognostications about the state of slavery which would arise, and the injury that would result from it; but, although the system had now been carried on for some years, it had certainly done the colony no harm, but he be-

lieved it had done a great deal of good. He could safely go so far as to say, that the prejudice against the importation of colored labor was confined almost entirely to Brisbane, or, at all events, to towns where the real value of that labor was not known. And he would go farther, and say that the prejudice was confined even in Brisbane to a few individuals, who buzzed about and made as much noise as possible on the subject, and tried to pass muster for a great number, while the great majority of the people cared very little whether colored labor was imported or not. He was perfectly certain that in the northern districts, where that labor was well known, and where the whiteman worked on the same plantation as the Kanaka, that the white men would freely admit that this importation made work for them which otherwise would never have been brought into existence. He had, in visiting the northern districts, conversed frequently with these men, and they had pointed out to him themselves that if it had not been for cheap labor—and cheap labor must be colored labor—no men in their senses would have ventured to spend the amount of capital that had been invested in those districts in machinery alone. In those places the black men performed the worst labor—field labor; and if he were to say that every two colored men imported made labor for one white man, he would not be saying too much, but he was perfectly certain that three colored men in the sugar growing districts of the North made ample work for one white man, and the white men themselves were fully satisfied of the fact. There was no clamor heard there about the employment of colored labor, or anywhere, in fact, except in Brisbane, where a few wiseacres kept up an agitation about what they knew nothing about. In fact, they hated the color of a black man's skin. They had heard from some honorable members that, if this labor were confined to certain stipulated localities, it would be less objectionable; but he hoped no honorable member would vote for the resolution under the idea that anything of the sort could be carried out. They had better face the question straightforwardly and manfully. These people could not be confined to the sugar industry in the North. If they were to be imported at all—as long as Queensland continued one colony, which he hoped would be for many years—they must be allowed to come in free to any part of the colony, and be employed by any person, and let the demand regulate the supply. He regretted to see the very narrow grounds upon which some objections had been taken to the resolution. It put him in mind of the debates that took place in the House in 1866 and 1867, and it appeared to him that those who had spoken against the resolution had really learned nothing since that time. They looked upon the whole colony as being centered in Brisbane; Brisbane was the colony to all intents and purposes. And if they did stretch

their imagination a little, it did not go beyond East and West Moreton and the Darling Downs; and they knew very little about any other portion of the colony. He believed there was a great future before northern Queensland. He believed that not only in pastoral pursuits, but in gold mining, and in the cultivation of sugar and almost every tropical product, there was a noble field for the enterprise and energy of the colonists. He believed that coffee plantations would be worked there, within a few years, to a very considerable extent, and that spices of almost every description would be cultivated there. He expected to see numerous industries of this description spring up in that part of the colony before many years, if not checked by this hand-to-mouth system of legislation they were rapidly drifting into. He should be exceedingly sorry to see those districts separated from the colony, and he warned honorable members that, if they persisted in legislating for one corner of the colony, they would drive the North into that course. He thought all the arguments that had been used, which were worthy of the name of arguments, were in favor of the motion; and he believed that, with the amendment he had suggested, it would be of very great service, and he now begged to move that amendment.

The COLONIAL TREASURER could assure the honorable members for Burke and Kennedy that, if these coolies were introduced into the colony, there would be no means of confining them to any particular districts, and that squatters and others would have just the same right to employ them as sugar-growers. He thought that after the speeches of the honorable members for the Burnett and Mitchell there could be very little doubt as to the fate of the motion; because he felt satisfied that those speeches had succeeded in changing some votes on that side of the House. When the outcry for Kanakas first took place, the great argument in favor of them was, that that class of labor was suited to the cultivation of sugar-cane, and would not be required for any other employment, and the same arguments were now brought forward with regard to coolies. It was said that the introduction of coolies would provide employment for white men, and, in fact, all the advantages were predicted from that class of labor which were predicted from the introduction of Kanakas. Why that class of labor was not now required in the southern districts by the sugar growers; yet two years ago there was a great outcry raised by the planters in the South, who said that they could not grow sugar without colored labor. Another argument had been raised, that the colored labor must necessarily be cheap labor; that he denied, and experience had proved that it was not cheap labor in the end. There was no doubt that what the honorable member for Port Curtis had said was quite correct—that until the House voted the salary of an emigration agent, the Indian Govern-

ment would not sanction coolies being sent to this colony; he hoped it would be a very long time before the House voted that salary. His principal objection to the present, and to every other resolution of a similar character, was, that it would materially interfere with white immigration to this colony. The honorable member for Port Curtis had given his experience of what Mr. Richardson's opinions were upon the subject—that Polynesian immigration here had not had the least effect upon emigration from England; but Mr. Richardson was a very young man, and his opinions should therefore be taken without any very great weight being attached to them. It was well known that when Mr. John Douglas was agent-general for emigration, that gentleman stated, that the knowledge that South Sea Island labor was introduced into this colony, had exercised a very injurious effect, and that he had very great difficulty in persuading Irish, and other people, that that labor would not be brought into competition with theirs. He certainly preferred taking that gentleman's opinion, to that of Mr. Richardson. He would point to any other part of the world, where colored labor was employed; they had only to look at the Southern States of America, to show that whilst the Northern States were increasing their population by immigration, at the rate of a hundred thousand a-year, there was hardly an emigrant went to the Southern States; and why was that—except that white men would not go into the labor market, to compete with colored labor? At Mauritius, Demerara, and other places where coolie labor was employed, there was a complete stop put to European labor. It was to him rather a remarkable circumstance, that the honorable members opposite who were now so strongly in favor of the resolution, should be those who had at all times thrown cold water on expenditure for introducing European labor.

Mr. MOREHEAD objected to the statement made by the honorable member—so far as he was concerned, it was incorrect.

The COLONIAL TREASURER would qualify his statement, by saying some of the honorable members opposite. It had also been stated by an honorable member opposite, that the colony was importing immigrants for the southern parts of it only; but to that he would reply, that one of the clauses of the Immigration Act was, that half of the immigrants should go the northern ports; and arrangements were always made to that effect. Then it was said by the honorable member for Wide Bay, that sugar growing was a dying industry. He believed, however, that whilst on all the large plantations which had changed hands so frequently, there had been Kanakas employed, on the small plantations which had been worked by white men, the people had done well, and sugar growing was with them by no means a dying industry. In the Logan district, and in other parts of East Moreton, the farmers who had done well by sugar growing

had been men who had not employed Kanakas at all. He thought it was very possible that, if the motion was carried, it would be the means of aggrandizing a few individuals; but that should not be the object of legislation. No doubt there were persons who had sufficient capital to cultivate their lands, who, if they employed coolies, would find that they could have more control over them than over white men, and also make more profit out of them; and on that subject he had been reading a rather instructive work a few days ago, called "The Coolie: his Rights and Wrongs," by Mr. Jenkins, the author of the well-known book "Ginx's Baby." Mr. Jenkins was sent out to watch the operation of the coolies in Demarara, and it came out in evidence that the average profit on each coolie's labor was about three per cent. That was not all, however; for another extraordinary circumstance came to light, namely, that it was found that whilst only that small profit was obtained, nearly the whole of the owners of the plantations were absentees—only one-tenth being worked by resident owners, and the remaining nine-tenths by absentee proprietors. Now, he would ask, what would Queensland gain by having a large absentee proprietary—men who made large incomes by the colony and spent them in England or on the Continent?—What would be gained by that? He certainly regarded the resolution as an attempt to insert the thin end of the wedge. If it was carried, then, of course, a special Immigration Act would be wanted. They would also require a separate medical staff, hospital accommodation, and, in fact, the same enormous expense for protecting them that was required in all countries where they were introduced.

Mr. IVOBY: Is there anything very peculiar about these people?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: No; but the honorable member must be aware that those innocent, docile creatures, as they had been termed, would require protection from the Government. Their very innocence and docility would render some protection necessary. During the passage of a measure through that House, not very long ago, a great deal had been said about the Government wishing to chain the agriculturists to the soil for some three years before they could get their deeds; but the people whom the resolution would introduce must, before coming to the colony, be engaged for three years, and, after the expiration of that term, for two years more, so that it would be five years before they could earn anything on their own account. They were to give three years to their original proprietor, and after that be apprenticed for another two years. If that was not slavery, he did know what was. Another objection to the introduction of that class of labor, on which sufficient stress had not been laid, was, that they were now expending annually a large sum for the introduction of European labor; but

the object of that was not so much to give assistance to employers here, as that those people might become permanent settlers, and in their turn be able to employ others. The coolies would, however, be mere birds of passage, as after a certain time they would have to be returned to their own country. He noticed from the book he had already quoted from, that it had also come out in evidence, that if the coolies did not in all respects agree with the terms of their engagement, they were liable to imprisonment; but that that was a fact carefully kept from them, because, if they were made aware of it, they would not accept the engagement. He believed that if it was made known to the coolie in India, that he would, on coming here, make himself liable to our Masters and Servants Act, not one would come; he presumed that no honorable member would for one moment wish that those people should come without a full knowledge of the terms of their agreement. He trusted the resolution would be thrown out altogether, and that it would be a very long time indeed before that House agreed to place anything on the Supplementary Estimates for the introduction of that kind of labor.

Mr. MOREHEAD thought that the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had spoken to order, according to what his constituents wished him to say. In regard to the honorable gentleman's last remark, that coolies would be brought to the colony in utter ignorance of the Masters and Servants Act, he was not aware that the present Agent-General in England, or any of his sub-agents, when going about in the country districts of England, put before the people there the pains and penalties they would be subject to, after hiring as servants in this colony; so that that part of the honorable gentleman's argument fell to the ground. He wished to point out, as he had done before, that the immigration that was proposed to be created or fostered by the resolution, was not one that would cost the colony anything, nor would the immigrants require the paternal supervision of the Government; no cost would be incurred except by the importers. He would point out to the House the great wrong they would be doing to the sugar industry in the North by negating the resolution, and he would assure them that by so doing they would go far to foster the cry of separation, which had been proclaimed throughout the whole of the northern districts of the colony. He deprecated separation as much as any one, but he would say that the Government, by their action in the present and other matters, had done all they could to create dissension.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE said that class legislation was always objectionable, and there was no doubt that the object of the resolution was peculiarly class legislation, as the particular description of labor asked for would not be found beneficial to the whole colony.

They had had a trial of that labor before, as it was not so very long ago since a large number of the same class was introduced by Mr. Sandeman. They might do for shepherds, but for agricultural labor they were not worth anything; they were not fit for hard work or the class of labor required by agriculturists. He was quite satisfied that if those people came to the colony, they would immediately, after their apprenticeship was over, leave the country; whilst what the colony wanted was people who would remain and settle in it. At present, any persons could come; they were free to do so, and were subjected to the same laws as others. Why, then, should there be another Act similar to that under which the Kanakas were introduced? It was quite open, now, to introduce coolies if the Indian Government would permit their departure. As to the idea of the sugar industry failing from want of that class of labor, it was absurd, as honorable members would see, on reference to the report of the Inspector of Distilleries, which had been laid on the table, that this year's produce would be something like 10,000 tons. That did not show that the sugar interest was being retarded by want of colored labor; on the contrary, it was going ahead more than any other industry at that moment in Queensland. Considering that the whole world was open to persons who wished to procure labor, he thought it would be very wrong to vote for the resolution.

Mr. IVORY denied the statement of the honorable member who had just spoken, that the class imported by Mr. Sandeman were an undesirable class, as he knew that many of them—not only those who came out single, but who brought wives with them—had at present holdings in the colony, and were really what the honorable member wished to see—agriculturists settled in the colony.

Mr. BAILEY thought that one thing had been overlooked—namely, that the coolies were subjects of Great Britain equally with themselves. They lived in a country where the population was too large, and where poverty and distress were frequent, and it was quite probable that the colony would be doing a good turn by bringing them to this colony. As British subjects they should not be called an inferior race; and he believed that they were civilized people, and superior to the Kanakas, of whom he had never heard a single word in disparagement, even by those who were working alongside of them in the farming districts. Again, it had been found that ever since the Kanakas had been introduced there had been plenty of work for white men, who were paid for working with their heads as well as their hands.

Mr. GRIFFITH would ask, with regard to the remark of the honorable member for Wide Bay that the coolies were not an inferior class, why it was that the Indian Government took such care of them as to treat them almost as children, not allow-

ing them to go to a foreign country, unless arrangements were made that care would be taken of them? They had been told by the honorable member for Mitchell that the honorable Colonial Treasurer had made a speech to please his constituents; but he thought it was rather satisfactory to have constituents to make a speech for. With regard to the resolution itself, he might say that he had no objection in the world to the introduction of coolie immigrants or others, but the views he had always advocated were that every person who liked to come to the colony should be at liberty to do so. He would not make any laws to prevent them coming, nor any laws to introduce them, except for the purpose of adding to our population. He would not be a party to introducing Chinese by thousands, nor, on the other hand, would he be a party to putting a poll-tax upon them. The resolution asked the House to affirm—

“That to promote the growth of sugar and other tropical products along the north-east coast of Queensland, especially within the tropics, by allowing cultivators of land to obtain, at their own expense, laborers from British India, the Act of 1862 should be brought into force.”

That was perfectly right so far as it went, and it affirmed nothing. He was aware that it could be said that employers of labor could not obtain labor at their own expense at present. He had looked at the Coolie Act, and the only thing he could gather from it was, that the Governor-General of India must be aware that there were laws for the protection of the coolies when they arrived in another colony. He thought that the laws at present in force in the colony were quite sufficient. But then the resolution went on to say—

“and provision made by the Government on the Supplementary Estimates for 1874 for the salary of an emigration agent under the Indian Government Regulations; provided the amount of such salary and other expenses be recouped to the Queensland Government by *pro rata* contributions of persons taking advantage of this Act.”

The short time he had been in the House that day he had seen two things:—First, that it was asked that the Government should do certain things, and then, instead of moving that the House go into committee for the purpose of passing a resolution, asking the Governor to be pleased to cause a sum to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates; asking the House to affirm that provision be made by the Government, on the Supplementary Estimates, &c. Then again, they were asked for a salary for an emigration agent under the Indian Government; but in the Indian Regulations there was nothing except that an agent be appointed by the Government of India. Then again, how was the agent to be paid? Would any man accept the office in India on the condition that if his salary was paid by the Government it was to be recouped to them? If, on

the other hand, the proposition of the honorable member for Port Curtis was adopted, and the salary was to be paid to the agent in India, contingent upon its being paid into the Queensland Treasury, it was not very likely that they would get an agent on such terms. So that, on the whole, he did not see that the resolution would do any good, and he certainly objected to the House being asked for any special legislation to encourage the introduction of any servile race. Under the circumstances he could not support the resolution.

Mr. FITZGERALD, in reply to the remarks of the honorable member for Oxley, wished to say that the great difficulty in getting the coolies was simply that the Indian Government, in desiring to see that their subjects would not go except where they would be properly cared for, wished to see that arrangements were made for that purpose. If their subjects were able to pay their own passages there would be no difficulty put in the way, as they would be as free to leave as other persons. When, however, a number of these people were wanted for special objects they were not allowed to leave until some security was given that they would be taken care of and not be treated as Kanakas had been in the Fijis. In regard to emigration from the United Kingdom, those who could afford to pay their own passages came out free of all conditions; but for those whose passages were provided by the Government there were certain conditions, and for them the Government had purposely legislated. Most of the objections raised had already been answered by previous speakers in favor of the resolution, and therefore he had very little to say, except that he had been very much disappointed in the manner in which the honorable the Premier had treated the subject. When he had first spoken to him, that honorable gentleman distinctly stated that he did not desire to influence in any way any of his supporters; but he (Mr. Fitzgerald) had since heard that those supporters had received orders to go with the Government, and that those who were willing to vote for the resolution had been told not to do so.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Name, name.

Mr. FITZGERALD said he had been told by two honorable members that that was the case. The honorable Colonial Treasurer, when speaking of Demerara, had stated that nine-tenths of the planters there were absentees, but there was a very good reason for that, as the climate of the country was utterly unfitted for white men. He was quite willing to accept the amendment of the honorable member for Port Curtis, and he trusted that if the resolution was not carried that evening, as a matter of justice, the planters in the North would be put in a better position by-and-bye.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY was sorry that the honorable member for Bowen had thought fit to introduce his conduct into his remarks,

and to have accused him of controlling his supporters. When the honorable member spoke to him on the subject of the resolution, he said that he would leave every honorable member to vote as he thought fit; but the honorable member should have recollected that the question was one of the questions put to the Government by the northern members previous to the commencement of the session, and that after the reply then given there could be no doubt as to the course that would be pursued by the Government. In regard to the observation made by the honorable member for Port Curtis, who told the honorable member for Bowen that he made a mistake in sitting on the Government side of the House, all he could say was, that if that honorable member thought he was not serving the interests of his constituents in sitting where he was, he was at perfect liberty to sit in opposition. The honorable member for Port Curtis had also lectured the House upon what ought to be done in reference to the question before them—that the coolies ought to be introduced at the expense of the Government, and that there was not the slightest difficulty in the way of their doing it; but the honorable member had been in office for four years, and what had he done in the matter? If those parties were introduced for a particular district of the colony the case might be different, but, according to the arguments of the honorable members for the Burnett and the Mitchell, they would be introduced for shepherds in the squatting districts, and upon that ground he should oppose the resolution. He maintained that they had no right to invite the British public to come to the colony to compete with that class of labor. He had listened with some astonishment to the honorable member for the Logan when that honorable member said that he was in favor of white labor for the southern parts of the colony, and of black labor for the North; because, how would it be possible to confine that black labor to any district? He believed that no Government would dare to put on the Estimates a salary for an emigration agent for coolies, with the slightest hope of being backed up by the country. The great object of the honorable member for Port Curtis and his Government, in the appointment of his first Agent-General, was to put a stop to European immigration; but all he could say was, that if there was a vote of want of confidence passed in him on the following day, he would wish it to go forth to the country that the present Government would never be a party to introduce into the colony a degraded and servile population.

Mr. THOMPSON moved—

That the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. PALMER said he had no doubt the honorable Colonial Secretary thought that he had made a great deal of smoke when he talked so largely about a want of confidence, and that he would never be a party to intro-

duce a servile and degraded population into the colony; but the honorable gentleman had forgotten that a motion of adjournment might be moved, so that he (Mr. Palmer) should have an opportunity of replying. The honorable member talked about what the late Government had done in regard to immigration—that they wished to stop it; but he could tell the honorable gentleman that there had been more immigrants introduced by the late Government than had been introduced by the honorable member in the whole course of his life. He had no doubt that, after the tremendous explosion they had just had, the honorable gentleman meant to appoint an Indian agent within the next week or two, as he noticed invariably that whenever the honorable member said he would not do a thing—especially with regard to adjournment—he did the very thing a few minutes afterwards. He wished, however, the honorable gentleman would in future confine himself to facts, and not accuse the late Government of trying to stop immigration, when it was a well known fact that that Government was responsible for all the immigrants that were now coming in.

The motion for adjournment of debate was, by leave, withdrawn.

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

Ayes, 12.	Noes, 18.
Mr. Palmer	Mr. MacDevitt
" Bell	" Macalister
" Ivory	" Stephens
" Moreton	" Fraser
" Wienholt	" McIlwraith
" Fitzgerald	" Dickson
" Morehead	" Griffith
" Buzacott	" Himmant
" Royds	" Beattie
" Thompson	" Edmondstone
" Nind	" Macrossan
" Bailey.	" Low
	" Hodgkinson
	" Fryar
	" Morgan
	" Miles
	" J. Thorn
	" Stewart.