

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**TUESDAY, 7 JULY 1874**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

ing Orders towards the close of the session for the purpose of expediting the public business. It was not his intention to rush any measure through the House, or to go through the paper hurriedly; but, simply, to place the Council in such a position that the less important and purely formal matters might be pressed forward to a conclusion, without delay. To him it appeared exceedingly strange that the Council could not proceed with business in the same way as was done in another place, where the second reading and the committal of a Bill could be taken on the same day: in the Council they must have a separate day for each stage of a Bill. He trusted that honorable members would agree to the motion, and the paper for the day should be cleared of, at any rate, the less important business; and then the House would be prepared for the measures which were to come up from the Assembly for their consideration.

In answer to the Hon. J. F. McDougall,

The PRESIDENT said the motion applied to all Bills, of course.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said it was not his intention to hurry the Crown Lands Sales Bill, which was ordered for committal tomorrow, or the Audit Bill, or the Crown Remedies Bill, through the House; and he promised honorable members that they should have ample opportunity to consider those measures before he asked to advance them a second stage. They could take his word that he should take nothing hastily.

Question put and passed.

#### OYSTER BILL.

On the motion of the Hon. W. THORNTON, the House, in Committee of the Whole, agreed to the amendments of the Legislative Assembly in this Bill.

#### LAND ORDERS BILL.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL, in moving the second reading of a Bill to authorise the Issue of Land Orders in certain cases and for other purposes in connection therewith, stated that in the early days of the colony a system of immigration was adopted under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1860, under which a great number of immigrants arrived in the colony. After a time, the Government of the day, thinking that people were coming out too quickly, issued regulations in direct contravention of the 20th section of the Act, which was to the effect that persons paying their own passages from Europe to the colony should get a land order for £18, and, after two years continuous residence in the colony, a second land order for £12. Amongst the regulations to which he referred was one, that males over forty, and females over thirty-five, years of age, should not receive land orders; another was, that unmarried females unaccompanied by friends, should not be entitled to land orders; and, another de-

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Tuesday, 7 July, 1874.*

Suspension of Standing Orders.—Oyster Bill.—Land Orders Bill.—Customs Duties Interpretation Bill.—Brands Bill.—Bills Passed.—Navigation Bill.—Audit Bill.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as will enable the Council to pass Bills through their various stages in one day.

He stated that it had been the practice of the Council, from the first, to suspend the Stand-

prived steerage passengers of their second land orders. The latter got the first, or £18 land order, on arrival; but they did not get the £12 land order, for residence in the colony. Only intermediate and cabin passengers got the two land orders. With the view of rectifying the error and injustice done under those regulations, the present Government introduced the Bill now under notice. Many persons had come to the colony under false pretences—they came out on the understanding that they were to receive land orders in the colony; and the regulations referred to were unknown to them until they had arrived. Under the Immigration Act of 1869, certain people came to the colony with land order warrants, which were to be exchanged for land orders, but they were so clogged with conditions that the holders were unable to fulfil them. With the view of rectifying that state of things, the Government proposed, under the first two clauses of the Bill, to give £20 transferable land orders in lieu of their forty acre non-transferable land orders; and, to meet the cases of the three classes of immigrants mentioned under the Act of 1860, it was proposed to restore the land orders to which they were *bond fide* entitled by two years' residence in the colony. The seventh clause of the Bill made all classes of land orders issued under its provisions available for the purchase of Crown lands. The Bill was an act of justice. There was in the colony only about one fifth of those people who had been affected by the regulations and who would be entitled to receive land orders under the Bill.

The Hon. H. B. FITZ: Had there been any applications for land orders by the parties who had been deprived of them?

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: It was expected that the Government would require, under sections three to six of the Bill, about £3,000 or £4,000; and, for the other cases, about £13,000. To meet the cases of those persons who did not get their land orders because they were over age according to the regulations, and of girls and steerage passengers, the amount first mentioned would be required.

The Hon. H. B. FITZ observed that there was nothing in the Postmaster-General's remarks to induce him to vote for the Bill. Unless the honorable member satisfied him that applications had been made to the Government in those cases mentioned, and that the measure was really called for by the public, he could not support it. He never heard that it was called for, and to his mind there was something suspicious in its appearance.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: He knew that a number of persons in the colony never received land orders, while other persons, whom he could name, had received them through some special influence. Justice should be meted out equally to all parties, and, those whom the Bill was to benefit had come out in the expectation of receiving land

orders which they did not get, for reasons already stated. Those persons had come out at their own expense—not at the expense of the colony—and he called it repudiation to break the promise made to them under which they had been induced to emigrate.

The Hon. F. H. HART supported the Bill. He knew for years past many persons who suffered under the grievance which the Bill proposed to redress;—as mentioned by the Postmaster-General, they had been induced to emigrate, paying their own passages, under the impression that they would get land orders on their arrival in the colony. It was only on their arrival that they found themselves debarred, on account of being over the age mentioned in the regulations. He knew one case in which the man was two years only over age, and the woman was thirty-seven; but they knew nothing of the regulations until after they had reached Queensland. He did not know so much about the regulations as they affected single girls; but he did know that the grievances of many persons had been brought several times under the notice of the Government, on the grounds mentioned by the Postmaster-General; and he thought the Bill ought to be passed by the House, because those persons had suffered hardship, and the Bill would only do justice to them.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: There were only fifty single girls who did not get land orders; five were now in the colony.

Question put and passed.

The House resolved into a Committee of the Whole, for the consideration of the Bill in detail.

The Hon. H. G. SIMPSON: There was nothing in the Bill that could be construed to make those land orders exchangeable, which had been sold by the original holders under the Act of 1869 to other persons in the colony.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL pointed to the first clause of the Bill:—

“Any person to whom non-transferable land orders have been or may hereafter be issued under the provisions of ‘The Immigration Act of 1869’ who shall prove to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council at any time within the period of twelve months from the date of the passing of this Act that he has not transferred sold pledged or agreed to transfer sell or pledge the same may upon such proof surrender the said land orders to the Immigration Agent in Brisbane or other officer duly appointed to receive the same and thereupon it shall be lawful for the Government to issue in lieu thereof in each case a transferable land order to the extent of twenty pounds for every non-transferable land order of forty acres (and so in proportion for any such land orders of any greater or less number of acres) so surrendered. Provided that every person surrendering his land order shall unless specially exempted by the Governor in Council personally deliver to the Immigration Agent in Brisbane or other officer aforesaid together with the land order so surrendered a statutory declaration of

twelve months continuous residence in the colony from the date of his arrival."

A statutory declaration of residence was required in the other cases under the Act of 1860, as the honorable member would see by the sixth clause of the Bill.

The Hon. H. G. SIMPSON: It thoroughly guarded against persons who had been in the practice of purchasing land orders from immigrants, and who had paid a very small amount for them in the hope of being able to get very much more hereafter. He understood that the subject had been well considered by the Government, as also by the previous Government, with a view to prevent such persons slipping in under the new law.

The whole of the clauses were agreed to, and the Bill was reported to the House without amendment, the report adopted, and the Bill read a third time and passed.

#### CUSTOMS DUTIES INTERPRETATION BILL.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill to interpret and define certain Customs Duties Exemptions. It contained one clause, and its object was to define clearly the exemptions under the head of "machinery." The House knew that machinery was exempt under the Customs Duties Act of 1874, passed this session.

Question put and passed.

The House went into committee on the Bill.

Clause 1.—Definition of the word "machinery."

The Hon. G. HARRIS moved the postponement of the clause. He wished to bring under the notice of the honorable member in charge of the measure, that it would be necessary to make several additions to the schedule to the Bill. There were numerous articles not mentioned in the schedule which came under the head of machinery, and which he thought should be included in it. The schedule should be considered before the clause was passed.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: It was not competent for the Council to interfere with the Bill.

The Hon. G. HARRIS: They would try that.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: They were aware of the decision come to the other day by the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales: a schedule, with a blank only for the insertion of a sum of money, was introduced into a Bill by the Legislative Council, and the Assembly refused to entertain the amendment. If the Honorable Mr. Harris succeeded in amending the present Bill, the Bill would be withdrawn when it reached another place; and the schedule would be introduced by the Government as a customs regulation. As to articles to be included in the schedule, the House might go on for twelve months defining what was machinery; but they could not have the whole machinery of the world in it.

The Hon. H. B. FITZ: The House were competent to take a burden off the people. They could not, he granted, put one on. The amendments to be made in the schedule were such as the Council had a perfect right to make.

The Hon. G. HARRIS: If the schedule was meant to give effect to the law to exempt machinery in general from payment of customs duties, and to define clearly the exemptions under that head, there were numerous descriptions of machinery not included in the schedule which were used in local industries, and also in the preparation of the exports of the colony:—Machinery for the preparation of sugar, for the manufacture of boots and shoes, and saddlery, for the preparation of wool and cotton, for the manufacture of ice, most of which were worked by steam or horse power. Tanks, too, which were required in so many ways in the colony, were subject to a duty of 8s. each under the late Act. He was interested in many ways in the industries of the colony—in the manufacture of leather, boots and shoes, saddlery and harness, in felmongery, wool washing, preparing cotton for export; and for the latter he had to use centrifugals, just the same as they were in sugar manufacture. Why should he not be exempt from duty on importing articles of that kind as well as other persons? It was abominable that a Bill of this kind should be hurried through the House. He hoped that the committee would support his view, and mete out equal justice to all classes of the community.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he was sorry that the articles enumerated by the honorable member were not included in the schedule; but the honorable gentleman and the Honorable Mr. Fitz wanted to make the Council look ridiculous outside, by interfering with a measure affecting the revenue of the colony. The Bill defined exemptions about which doubts had arisen under the Act passed this session.

The Hon. W. THORNTON disagreed with the Honorable Mr. Fitz, and contended that it was not competent for the House to interfere with taxation, even by taking burdens off the people. The Honorable Mr. Harris was evidently under a misapprehension. It did not follow that because the Bill defined certain exemptions, that therefore other articles of machinery not included in the schedule must pay duty.

The Hon. G. HARRIS: The honorable gentleman would be the first to demand it.

The Hon. W. THORNTON: Schedule B of the Customs Duties Act of 1874 exempted—

"Machinery for manufacturing sawing and sewing agricultural mining and pastoral purposes steam engines and boilers" &c.

A difficulty had occurred in the customs as to what was "machinery," and especially as to what were to be considered portions of

machinery, to be admitted duty free. The regulation adopted was, that everything which could be used only as part of, or in conjunction with, machinery, should come under that head. The Honorable Mr. Harris had referred to centrifugals used in wool washing. They would, of course, come under the schedule to the Act, and be considered machinery.

The Hon. W. H. LONG: Indigo machinery.

The Hon. W. THORNTON: He was very glad to see that indigo cultivation was likely to be introduced into the colony. Everything connected with the machinery required in that industry would come under the exemption provisions of the Act. The Bill, as he had said, was simply to remove doubts: when doubts arose, there would be the list to refer to. There was some machinery about which no question could arise, and it was true there were items in the schedule which were admitted free apart from the Bill; but if the Bill was altered by the Council, he was sure it would be thrown out by the Assembly, who were very jealous of their privileges. If it was passed, the Bill would work well; and if it was lost it might possibly occasion some inconvenience to the public.

The Hon. J. F. McDUGALL referred to scoops, for the construction and maintenance of dams, which ought to be exempt. It was a very great oversight they were not mentioned in the schedule, as they were extensively used.

The Hon. W. THORNTON: The honorable gentleman would find, if they were worked by machinery, that they would be free.

The Hon. G. HARRIS: They ought to be defined.

The Hon. W. THORNTON: There might be a thousand other articles.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The Hon. W. H. LONG: As to indigo, as no machinery of the kind had ever come into this country, it would be important to define what it was. The principal implements in the manufacture of indigo were vats, in which the plant was soaked. He could scarcely blame the Collector of Customs, if, when they came for the first time before him, apparently an incomplete part of machinery, he should say that a vat was not a machine. If all the appliances for manufacturing and agricultural industries were to be omitted, he did not see why that machinery should not be put in the schedule. Vats were used also for distilling and brewing; and, as they were made of wood, not of iron, there might be doubts about them, and they should, with tanks and coolers, be included in the schedule. It was perilous to leave such things to be defined by the arbitrary judgment of the Collector of Customs. The schedule had nothing in it about steam valves, nothing about machinery for oil manufacture—and linseed oil was sure to be manufactured here;—and he should not like to see it passed without many other things being added to it. He moved the

postponement of the further consideration of the Bill until to-morrow, when honorable members would have an opportunity of collecting the ideas of persons connected with local industries and information that they had not now to make the schedule complete.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL regretted that honorable members would not take the advice of the Honorable Mr. Thornton—that the articles they had enumerated were not liable to duty under the existing Act.

The Hon. W. THORNTON: There was no necessity for postponing the Bill. If honorable members liked to throw it out, let them do so. He was convinced it would not be accepted with alterations in another place.

The Hon. G. HARRIS: Throw it out.

The Hon. H. G. SIMPSON suggested that the Bill might be withdrawn and brought up with an amended schedule. Honorable members were going back to the old question of the Constitution, which simply provided that money Bills should not originate in the Council. He mentioned a case which arose in 1871, in New South Wales, when the Legislative Council amended a Customs Tariff Bill. It might shock honorable members, but it was done. The Postmaster-General would be well advised to pass the Bill by for the present.

The Hon. W. F. LAMBERT: Mining and sugar machinery of every description were included in the schedule; and why should not machinery for meat preserving and ice making be included also? Meat preserving was of as great value as sugar manufacture.

The Hon. W. THORNTON expressed his regret that honorable gentlemen had not read the Bill in conjunction with the Customs Duties Act of this session. He knew it was the wish of the Government that the exemption clause should be interpreted as liberally as possible, as it had been framed for the encouragement, as far as possible, of the introduction and use of machinery in the colony.

The Hon. A. B. BUCHANAN: The Bill had better be withdrawn. The Postmaster-General was unreasonable in objecting to the postponement. It was nonsense to say that the Council had no right to deal with the Bill. If they could not do so, why was it sent up to them? Clause 2 of the Constitution Act empowered the

“Council and Assembly to make laws for the peace welfare and good government of the colony in all cases whatsoever provided that all Bills for appropriating any part of the public revenue for imposing any new rate tax or impost subject always to the limitations hereinafter provided shall originate in the Legislative Assembly.”

The House were not imposing any new tax, nor were they originating any. The Bill defined certain articles which were to be exempt; they did not think the exemptions, or rather the definition of them, complete; and they wished to make it clear. The Bill ought to be postponed.

The Hon. W. HOBBS argued that the Standing Orders of the House overruled to a certain extent the clause of the Constitution Act.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Oh! oh!

The Hon. W. HOBBS: The first Standing Order set forth—

"That in all cases not hereinafter provided for, resort shall be had to the rules, forms, usages, and practice of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, which shall be followed so far as the same are applicable to the proceedings of this Council."

Were it not for that clause, the Council would be just as much entitled to go into the Bill as the other House.

The Hon. F. H. HART advised the postponement of the Bill, as very good reasons had been given for not passing it hurriedly. He was of opinion that the Council had a perfect right to alter the schedule. The Bill was one "to interpret and define certain customs duties exemptions"; and he argued that, as it only did so to a certain extent, the House were bound to do their best to put it in proper shape and to make it complete. If the Treasurer had by an oversight omitted certain things, were the House to be told that they had no business to remedy it? He hoped the Council would do their duty, and let the onus of rejecting the Bill rest on the other House, if they did not like it. Several members of another place had asked him if they were not going to do something to make the Bill complete.

The Hon. W. HOBBS said, if the House would alter the Bill, it would be better to introduce a comprehensive clause that would include all articles than to attempt to go on defining in the schedule.

The Hon. A. H. BROWN: The schedule was imperfect as sent up from the Assembly, and the Council must do their best to make it what it ought to be. He did not think the Council would be wise to leave the definition of anything to the caprice of the Government or their officers that could be included in the schedule; but, then, there were so many things to be defined that he was rather at a loss: the Government had not explained all details beyond doubt, and perhaps it would be well to sweep away the schedule altogether.

The Hon. G. HARRIS asked whether, under the Bill or any Act, small steam launches were exempt from duty. He was aware that several were likely to be imported;—they would be brought out on the decks of vessels. Steam engines, also, would be brought out to be put into vessels built in the colony. Though brick-making machines were in the schedule, he saw nothing about stone-breaking machines. Machinery used in silk culture or manufacture ought to be considered by the Honorable Dr. Hobbs; also, there might be added to the list, machinery used in the manufacture of medicines—for making pills! Smelting machinery ought to be included in the schedule. If the Postmaster-General did not

consent to the postponement, the rejection of the Bill would fall on his own shoulders, not on the House.

The Hon. W. THORNTON was understood to say that, if the honorable gentleman looked at Schedule A of the Customs Duties Act of 1874, steam launches might be charged duty according to measurement; but a precedent had been established by the Government in admitting two launches duty free.

The Hon. W. F. LAMBERT: He was charged upon the first, but the duty was refunded.

The Hon. G. HARRIS: That only showed how very cautious the House should be in trusting the Collector of Customs, because the Government had taken advantage of "trying it on" with the Honorable Mr. Lambert. They ought to put a check on that sort of thing, and define all articles upon which duty should not be charged.

The Hon. W. THORNTON: That was under another tariff—not the present one.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL consented to the postponement of the Bill.

The Hon. G. HARRIS, in withdrawing his motion for the postponement of the clause, directed the Postmaster-General's attention to the latest files of Tasmanian papers, in which, he said, the honorable gentleman would find that the Legislative Council had asserted their right and exercised full power and authority to alter and amend a money Bill.

On question put and passed, the Chairman left the chair and reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

#### BRANDS BILL.

The House went into committee for the consideration of this Bill; and, upon resuming, the Bill was reported without amendment.

On the motion of the Honorable A. H. BROWN, the Bill was re-committed to consider his proposal to amend the second clause, by increasing the distance between the first registered brand and the stud or herd-book numbers to not less than three nor more than four inches. He urged that the clause allowed the brands to be placed too close together, the effect of which, according to his practical experience, would be a blotch.

The amendment was eventually withdrawn, and upon the resumption of the House, the Bill was advanced through all its stages forthwith and passed.

#### BILLS PASSED.

The Warwick Chapel Land Sale Bill, considered in committee;

The Gold Fields Management Bill, reported from committee; and

The Shipping Law Amendment Bill, received from the Legislative Assembly, by message; were severally advanced through all their stages, from the stage specified, and passed.

## NAVIGATION BILL.

This Bill was received by message from the Legislative Assembly, and read a first time and ordered to be printed.

At a later hour of the sitting,

The Hon. W. THORNTON moved the second reading of the Bill. He might say that the measure had been passed by the Council already; but, when it reached the Assembly, it was ruled to be incompetent for the Council to originate such a measure, inasmuch as certain clauses were held to be money clauses. A few alterations had been made in it which prevented him from saying it was the identical Bill which he had brought before the Council originally. First of all, steam vessels under forty tons burthen were no longer required to have water-tight compartments, as first enacted; and, secondly, the quantity of powder to be kept in the premises of any storekeeper was increased to two hundred pounds instead of fifty. He must say he thought the Bill was a very proper one to introduce in the Council, for the Judicature Act of Great Britain, which fixed the salaries of the Judges, was introduced in the House of Lords. However, it was necessary, now, that the Navigation Bill should go through the various forms and several stages in the Council. The last time it was before the House he explained to the best of his ability its different provisions, and it was unnecessary that he should go over the same ground again.

Question put and passed.

The House then went into committee on the Bill.

The Hon. T. L. MURRAY-PRIOR, referring to the passing of the Consolidated Statutes, a few years ago, under the assurance that they did not alter the existing law, and to the subsequent discovery that the law was by them considerably changed, required from the honorable gentleman in charge of the Bill a positive statement that its provisions did not vary from the shape in which they had been adopted by the Council. Had he compared the Bill with the measure which the House had passed, to satisfy himself that they were identical?

The Hon. W. THORNTON said there were a few verbal amendments made by the Assembly, but there was no fundamental change in the Bill. He could not say that he had compared the Bills in every particular; but he was assured that the Bill he now had in hand was substantially the same, with the exceptions he had mentioned, as the one which had been passed by the Council.

The House resumed, and the Bill was reported without amendment.

The Hon. T. L. MURRAY-PRIOR said he had just been assured by a person well qualified to give advice, that it would be necessary to examine the Bill carefully to see that everything was correct. He hoped the honorable gentleman in charge of the Bill would carry

out the suggestion, and not proceed further with the Bill until to-morrow.

The adoption of the report was ordered for next day.

## AUDIT BILL.

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

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved that the order be postponed until after the other Orders of the Day on the paper.

The Hon. G. HARRIS: As the Honorable Captain Hope and the Honorable E. I. C. Browne, who had amendments to propose in the Bill, were absent, he moved, by way of amendment, that the Bill be postponed until to-morrow.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: Those honorable members ought to be present; and if they were not, it could not be expected that business should wait upon them.

A brief discussion ensued, when the question was put on the amendment and negatived on a division:—Contents, 2; not-contents, 11.

At a later hour of the sitting,

The House went into committee on the Bill.

Clause 5—Public servants collecting private moneys to place them to their credit in bank and after three months to pay to Treasury.

The Hon. A. H. BROWN moved the addition of the following words at the end of the clause:—

“And shall forward returns thereof to the Auditor-General as per sections two and three.” Everything should be clear, and there should be some record of those moneys.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: The amendment would complicate the system of audit instead of simplifying it, which was the object of the Bill.

The amendment was agreed to.

Clause 8—Treasurer to pay daily into the bank.

On the motion of the Hon. F. H. HART, the clause was amended by the introduction of the words “or banks.” The Government might, he said, as in Victoria, keep accounts with several banks.

Consequential amendments were made in subsequent clauses where necessary.

The Hon. A. H. BROWN proposed a new clause, to follow clause 29 of the Bill:—

“The Auditor-General shall have full power to make from time to time orders or rules for the conduct of the internal business of his department and to promote or suspend any of the officers clerks and others employed therein and to prescribe regulations and forms for the guidance of public accountants in making up and rendering their periodical accounts for confirmation. Provided always that all such regulations and forms shall be approved by the Governor in Council previously to the issue thereof.”

He said it was taken from the English Act, 29 and 30 Victoria, No. 9. It was very essential that the head of that department should have entire control over its internal arrangements, and that his officers should be responsible to the Auditor-General alone. If they were not,

it would be very difficult for that gentleman to conduct his department as an officer of the Parliament.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL had to point out the necessity for altering the clause as originally drafted, it being, he said, in contravention of the fourteenth clause of the Constitution Act, which gave the Governor the power to "appoint," and of course to "remove" public officers—a power which could not be vested in the Auditor-General, as the Honorable Mr. Browne had proposed. The power to "promote" would be of little use, depending, as promotion did, upon the voting of the salary of an office by the Legislative Assembly.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: A vacant office would offer the opportunity.

The clause was agreed to.

Clause 39—Certain departments may be exempted from inspection or detailed audit.

In answer to the Honorable A. B. BUCHANAN,

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL explained that the clause was the same as the thirty-third of the Audit Act, with the exception that Legislative Assembly was substituted for both Houses of Parliament.

The Hon. A. B. BUCHANAN: Why exclude departments from audit? Secret service!

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: The Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms and Government House accounts, for instance.

The Hon. A. B. BUCHANAN moved that the words, "Legislative Assembly," be omitted from the clause, and "both Houses of Parliament" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 46—Statement and report to be laid before "both Houses of Parliament," was amended consequentially.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved a new clause, to follow clause 48 of the Bill, in the miscellaneous provisions:—

"If any person shall knowingly and wilfully forge or counterfeit or cause or procure to be forged or counterfeited or knowingly and wilfully act or assist in forging or counterfeiting the name initials mark or handwriting of any other person to any writing whatsoever for or in order to the receiving or obtaining any part of the Consolidated Revenue or any money out of the "Public Account" or any stores belonging to Her Majesty or shall forge or counterfeit or cause or procure to be forged or counterfeited or knowingly or wilfully act or assist in the forging or counterfeiting any writing made by any such person as aforesaid or shall utter or publish any such writing knowing the same to be forged or counterfeited with an intention to defraud Her Majesty or any person whomsoever every person so offending shall be guilty of felony and being convicted thereof shall be kept in penal servitude for a period of not less than seven nor more than fifteen years."

There might be documents representing the value of £10,000 tampered with.

Clause agreed to.

The House resumed, and the Bill was reported with amendments.