

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

TUESDAY, 21 JULY 1874

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 21 July, 1874.

Prorogation of Parliament.—Assent to Bills.—The Governor's Speech.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

The House met shortly before noon, in anticipation of the Prorogation of Parliament, which, it had been officially announced, would take place this day.

His Excellency the Governor came down to the Parliament House in state, and was received at the grand entrance by the President and honorable members of the Council, and by them conducted to the dais in the upper chamber.

The PRESIDENT directed the Usher of the Black Rod to acquaint the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly that His Excellency desired their attendance forthwith in the Council Chamber.

The Assembly came up, and were seated in their places, below the bar.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, His Excellency assented to the undermentioned Bills, as their titles were read aloud by the Clerk of the Parliaments:—

- A Bill for the Protection of Oysters and Encouragement of Oyster Fisheries;
- A Bill to Authorise the issue of Land Orders in certain cases and for other purposes in connection therewith;
- A Bill to Amend 'The Brands Act of 1872;'
- A Bill to Amend the Law relating to the Engagement Discharge and Desertion of Seamen;
- A Bill for the Management of Gold Fields;
- A Bill to Amend the Law relating to the Receipt Custody and Issue of the Public Moneys and to Provide for the Audit of the Public Accounts;
- A Bill to Provide for the Protection and Recovery of Crown Property and the enforcement of Crown Rights and Claims;
- A Bill to enable Persons in certain cases to Refine Sugar for Exportation only;
- A Bill to enable the Trustees of three Allotments of Land in the Town of Warwick granted for the purposes of the Religious Body called Methodists to sell the same and devote the proceeds to the Building of a Chapel on other Land in a more convenient situation;

A Bill to enable the Trustees of the Will of the late Mary Isabella Moffatt of Watertown near Ipswich in the Colony of Queensland Widow of grant Leases of the Coal or other Minerals on the Watertown Estate ;

A Bill to Incorporate the Proprietors of a certain Company called "The Western Peak Downs Copper Mining Company (Limited)" and for other purposes therein mentioned.

And, he declared that he reserved for the signification of the Queen's pleasure thereon,

A Bill to Consolidate and Amend the Laws relating to the Marine Board Navigation Pilotage Harbors Lights and the keeping and carriage of Gunpowder.

The SPEAKER delivered the following address :—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, offer to Your Excellency our respectful congratulations upon the close of the session.

"It is now my duty to present to Your Excellency, for the Royal assent, the Appropriation Bill for the years 1875 and 1874."

His EXCELLENCY assented to the Appropriation Act—No. 3—accordingly.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the MARQUIS OF NORMANBY then delivered his Speech, as follows :—

"HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

"1. I have much pleasure in being able to release you from your Legislative labors, after a somewhat protracted Session.

"2. My present advisers, having entered into office immediately after the meeting of the two Houses, had but a limited time at their disposal for the preparation of measures previous to placing them before Parliament. The Bills, however, which have been passed during the Session now brought to a close, are not of an unimportant character, and must have a material effect on the interests and future advancement of the Colony.

"3. A Bill to amend the Laws relating to Parliamentary Elections has become law. By this measure all difficulties which have hitherto existed in the way of qualified persons being placed on the Electoral Rolls of the Colony have been removed, and self-government has been conceded to the inhabitants of Queensland to the fullest extent. Every care will be taken that this Law is faithfully carried into effect.

"4. A Bill for the resumption of the remaining portions of the ten years' leases in the settled districts was submitted to and passed by the Legislative Assembly, but from amendments made by the Legislative Council, and not assented to

by the Assembly, this Bill has not become law ; nor have resolutions, passed without division by the Assembly, for the resumption of a certain number of Runs under 'The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868,' received the assent of the Council. My Government regret that the demand for land for agricultural settlement has thus, for a time, not been provided for. It is trusted, however, that the powers conferred upon the Executive by 'The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868' and 'The Homestead Areas Act of 1872' will meet, to some extent, the requirements likely to arise before another opportunity is afforded of submitting the land question to Parliament.

"5. My Ministers will not hesitate to avail themselves of the means provided by the law for the recovery of such portions of the public property or estate, as may have been fraudulently acquired.

"6. A Bill for regulating the Gold Fields of the Colony has also been passed by you. This measure was urgently demanded by the inhabitants of the various Gold Fields of the Colony ; and it is confidently hoped that it will tend to remove those obstructions which have hitherto impeded the development of our great mining interests.

"7. By 'The Act to amend 'The Supreme Court Act of 1867,' which has already come into operation, ample provision has been made for the administration of the law in the higher Courts throughout the Colony ; and the Northern Districts will now possess the advantages of a branch of the Supreme Court established in their midst.

"8. The new Tariff which you have passed is now in operation. From what has already been observed of its effects, there is every reason to hope that, while lessening the burden of taxation, it will assist in promoting the increasing commerce of the Colony.

"9. The powers conferred upon the Government, for the survey of new and additional Lines of Railway, will be immediately exercised with a view to the opening up, by this means of communication, of land suitable for settlement, and which has hitherto been beyond the means of rapid communication with markets. In the meantime, those Lines which have already been authorised to be made are being vigorously extended ; and it is anticipated that considerable portions of them will speedily be opened for public traffic.

"10. The authority given to my Government for the extension of Electric Telegraphs will be also immediately put in force, and the sums voted by Parliament for this purpose will be faithfully and economically administered. I congratulate you on the fact that, during the first session of

this Parliament, there has been evinced by you a more than usual desire to extend the operations of the Electric wire to every portion of the Colony.

"11. Amongst the other measures which have been passed by you the following may be specially mentioned :—

" ' The Audit Act of 1874 ; '

" ' An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain Duties of Customs ; '

" ' An Act for the further Amendment of the Law of Evidence ; '

" ' An Act to provide for the Distribution of the Estate of Insolvent Debtors ; '

" ' An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Navigation Laws ; '

" ' An Act to Amend the Law relating to the Engagement Discharge and Desertion of Seamen ; '

" ' An Act to authorise the Issue of Land Orders in certain cases ; '

all of which, in a greater or less degree, are of importance to the Colony.

"12. A Bill for giving compensation to members of the Legislative Assembly for their attendance in Parliament was introduced for your consideration at an early period of the Session. Although unsuccessful in their efforts to procure the passing of this measure through the Legislative Council, my Responsible Advisers confidently hope that a measure so much required for the purpose of securing to the country districts the advantage of possessing local representatives will, when again submitted to the Legislature, obtain a more favorable consideration.

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

"13. I thank you on behalf of Her Majesty, for the liberality of your grants for carrying on the Public Service of the Colony ; for the development of its great resources ; for the encouragement of Education ; and for the support of those Charitable Institutions, which mark the sympathy of the people of Queensland with every form of human distress.

"14. The construction of the various Public Buildings, and other works, which your liberality has authorised, will be forthwith commenced ; and, thus, the various districts of the Colony will practically experience the benefits of that attention to their wants, which has been one of the great objects of your labors.

"HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

"15. The question of Education has for some time engrossed a large amount of public attention. It is essential, for practical legislation on the subject, that inquiry should be made into the whole system of Education, as carried out in this Colony, and supported from the funds of the Public Treasury. It is, therefore, my intention, in accordance with the advice of my Ministry, to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of our Educational Institutions, and to report as to the best means for rendering these, if possible, more useful to the Colony.

"16. I congratulate you upon the continued progress and prosperity of the country. Our population is steadily progressing ; new and successful industries are rapidly being established ; and an abundance of employment appears to exist for all who are desirous to labor. Peace and good order prevail throughout the Colony ; and the march of progress is on all sides observable.

"17. In wishing you a safe return to your respective homes, I feel it will be a source of gratification to you know that the sacrifices you have made, in giving up your valuable time to attend to the public business of the country, will be appreciated by your constituents ; and that the important legislative enactments which you have passed are of the highest value to the Colony.

"18. I now, in Her Majesty's name, declare this Parliament to be Prorogued until the 21st day of September next ; and it is Prorogued accordingly."

Parliament stands prorogued accordingly.