

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 5 MAY 1875

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VACANT SEAT.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that this morning I received the following communication:—

“Mackay, April 30th, 1875.

“The Hon. W. H. Walsh,
Speaker, Legislative Assembly,
Brisbane.

“SIR,—I beg to resign my seat in the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Bowen.

“Your most obedient servant,

“T. HENRY FITZGERALD.”

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That, as the seat of Thomas Henry Fitzgerald, Esquire, hath become and is now vacant, by reason of his resignation thereof, since his election and return to serve in this House as member for the Electoral District of Bowen, Mr. Speaker do issue a writ for the election of a member for the said Electoral District of Bowen.

Mr. HODGKINSON said although this resignation had not taken him altogether by surprise, he wished to point out that as the number of members representing northern constituencies was very small, it very seriously affected their position, more especially as one of those members was also a member of the Ministry. He thought, therefore, that in view of the very important measures coming before the House; and, keeping in view also the action of the House on a recent occasion, they would be justified in calling upon the honorable the Colonial Secretary to take a similar course in this case to that to which he referred, and not disfranchise a portion of the North for a considerable period by delaying the return of a member for this very important electorate.

HONORABLE MEMBERS on the Opposition benches: Hear, hear.

Mr. HODGKINSON: He called upon that honorable gentleman, as a consistent supporter of his, to adopt precisely the same course in this case as that which he told the House—and his Ministry told the House yesterday evening—it was the duty of the Government to pursue. Not only were they told so by the legal authorities on that side of the Chamber, but they were actually accused of being imposed upon—that their credulity was being imposed upon—by those honorable members who gave an opposition to the measure. He thought, therefore, that as in this case that honorable gentleman would, without doubt, secure an addition to the party who supported him yesterday, he ought to consistently follow the same course as he did on that occasion, and pass a resolution that a member for the important district of Bowen should be forthwith appointed. He would not take up the time of the House by recapitulating the arguments of that honorable member and his supporters yesterday; but it must be obvious that he could not consistently oppose his (Mr. Hodgkinson's) motion, which was intended to prevent what would otherwise result in considerable delay in the return

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 5 May, 1875.

Member Sworn.—Vacant Seat.—Resumption of Lands.

MEMBER SWORN.

William Graham, Esquire, having taken the oath and subscribed the roll, took his seat as member for the Electoral District of Darling Downs.

of a member. Of course it would be for the Ministry to name the individual who was to occupy the seat; and he, as an humble member of the House, and without wishing to thrust himself into a prominent position, would suggest the name of a gentleman who had certainly proved himself competent to occupy the position, and who, he thought, should be forthwith nominated by the honorable the Colonial Secretary. He had no doubt that honorable members on both sides would, on this occasion, see reason to reconsider the arguments used yesterday evening, and perhaps they would arrive at an equally definite result with considerably less trouble. He moved—

That the Question be amended by the omission of all the words after the word "That," with a view to the insertion in their place of the words "this House having full knowledge, from recent examination, of the qualifications of James Gibson, of Beenleigh, hereby instruct the Returning Officer for Bowen to return the writ for that electorate, duly endorsed with his name."

MR. SPEAKER: I have considerable doubt whether the amendment can be put. It does not appear to me to be applicable to the motion, which is:—that a writ shall issue—not that a writ shall be filled up. If the honorable member persists in his motion I shall call for a seconder, and then I will give my ruling.

MR. HODGKINSON: If he could insist on the motion being put without disrespect to the Chair, he certainly should insist upon it. If it involved any disrespect to the ruling of the honorable the Speaker he would withdraw it, but he took it that being asked if he did insist upon it, he could do so without disrespect to the Chair. If so, he would like the motion to be advanced another stage, in order to see if there was any member of the House who, provided it could be put, would be disposed to give it a hearing.

THE SPEAKER: The resolution of the honorable the Premier is in accordance with the statute—the Legislative Assembly Act, which provides:—

"When and so often as a vacancy shall occur in the Legislative Assembly upon a resolution by the Assembly declaring such vacancy and causes thereof the Speaker shall cause a writ to be issued for supplying such vacancy."

I see nothing in that Act which authorises a member of the House to move any amendment thereupon. I am quite aware that amendments are moved in the House of Commons when writs are moved for in this way, but it appears to me that the amendment of the honorable member is not relevant to the main question, and it is a question for the House to consider whether it can be submitted or not. In order to make the motion formal, at any rate, it had better be seconded.

MR. MOREHEAD seconded the motion.

MR. J. SCOTT wished to draw attention to the 223rd Standing Order, which said:—

"No other amendment may be moved to such question, unless the same be strictly relevant to the Bill."

He took it that only applied to Bills, and that when any other question was before the House, any amendment could be moved. The question of relevancy only applied to Bills in that case.

THE SPEAKER: The honorable member is correct as far as he goes; but that Standing Order refers only to the subject of Bills.

MR. J. SCOTT: That was precisely what he said; it applied to Bills and to Bills only, and when any other motion was before the House any amendment could be put.

MR. MACROSSAN asked if the amendment had been seconded.

THE SPEAKER: It has been.

MR. MACROSSAN: May I speak to it?

THE SPEAKER: Certainly.

MR. MACROSSAN: Because I should be sorry that the matter should be allowed to drop.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question.

MR. MACROSSAN said he would like to say a few words on the amendment, by way of appeal to the honorable the Colonial Secretary, to see if he could not really follow out the amendment proposed by the honorable member for Burke. That honorable gentleman must bear in mind that Bowen was a long distance from Brisbane; it would probably take more than six weeks, or that at least, before a member could be returned from Bowen to that House, and during that time the constituency would be unrepresented, and a great injury would be done not only to that electorate but also to the whole of the North. There was another thing also he thought the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government might perhaps take into his consideration. He had heard it spoken of lately, and seen it mentioned in newspapers, that a gentleman named Amherst was coming forward as a candidate for this electorate, and it was also stated that if he were elected he would probably take his seat on the other side of the House. Now, he thought from what they had seen of Mr. Gibson, last night, he was likely to take his seat on that side of the House, and, being a southern gentleman, it would also tend a little more to combine the North with the South. It might be very unusual to adopt the motion proposed by the honorable member for Burke; but, as that House had been in the practice of establishing precedents for itself, he thought the precedent of last night should be followed. Mr. Disraeli—a very great man in the House of Commons, in England, and a man whom no member of that House should be ashamed to follow—said, upon a very late occasion, that Parliamentary precedents should not be departed from—that they embalmed

principles; and he thought the principle embalmed last night ought to be carried out both in the letter and the spirit, and that the honorable gentleman could not do better than adopt the motion of the honorable member for Burke. There was another way in which, perhaps, it could be done more speedily. He believed they had an Act called the Telegraphic Messages Act, and it could be done by telegraph. The Returning Officer for Bowen could be communicated with by the head of the Government by telegraph, and his consent obtained to endorsing on the writ the name of Mr. Gibson, which would facilitate matters very much. Perhaps honorable members on that side of the House might think he was not serious; but he really was serious. It was a matter of very great moment, not only to the honorable member for Burke and himself, but to the whole of the North, that the electorate of Bowen should be unrepresented for more than half the session—as it would be, unless this course were adopted. And, seeing that one member of the northern party was a member of the Ministry, and was bound hand and foot, and could not take an independent position, as he and the honorable member for Burke could take up—that they would be materially assisted, most probably, if a third member for the electorate of Bowen were returned—he thought nothing would tend more to show that he was serious than that consideration; because it was a matter of the utmost importance to the people of the North that they should be fully represented this session. Many important measures were coming before the House, and, probably, would come before it before the electorate of Bowen could be represented by law; and as they had departed from law, and established a precedent, and violated the Constitution, why not do it in this instance, as well as in the instance last night? The honorable member at the head of the Government had a good majority, and need not be afraid of being defeated, for he was sure, if he only said the word, his followers would do as he told them, as they did last night; and the honorable member for Burke and himself, instead of being in opposition, as they were on that occasion, would give their cordial support to the proposal.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said the two honorable members who had spoken on the motion appeared anxious to save delay in the representation of the electorate of Bowen, and in order to do that they proposed that the writ should not issue; because that was the effect of it. There was a resolution before the House that a writ should issue, and an amendment was now moved cancelling that, and substituting an order that the writ should be filled up; but the writ must issue before it could be filled up. The result of the amendment would, therefore, be to refuse to issue the writ; and he thought this would be a great injustice to the constituency, and that

it would be better to pass the original motion of the Colonial Secretary. He believed, if the honorable members had any desire to see the electorate represented, they had moved the amendment without due consideration, and he put it whether that would not be the effect of the amendment—to stop the writ?

Mr. MOREHEAD said the objection of the Government, as set forth by the honorable the Minister for Lands, was a purely technical one, and he believed honorable members on that side of the House would consent to the proposition being amended. He thanked the Minister for Lands for the suggestion; he was sure he meant it in kindness; and that being the only point upon which the Government opposed the amendment, he was sure the House would consent to its being amended, so as to meet the desires of the Government, as expressed by the Minister for Lands.

The SPEAKER: I think the amendment cannot be put. It appears to me to be a distinct proposition. The motion is, that a writ be issued to supply the vacancy in the electoral district of Bowen, and the amendment is to the effect that the returning officer shall endorse the writ with the name of a certain gentleman. But the writ has not been issued, and I cannot see that the amendment is at all relevant to the question. I think the honorable member will do well to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. THOMPSON would suggest, if anything more was to be done in the matter, that from the independence of spirit displayed by Mr. Gibson last night, he was hardly a proper person to place in the position of a member of that House.

Mr. HODGKINSON said it was not his object, in proposing the amendment, to waste the time of the House. He was anxious to ventilate the subject, in order to see whether, on any future occasion, it might be possible to act upon the principle which was adopted last night. He had listened carefully to the honorable the Minister for Lands, and the only objection he raised to the amendment was one merely in point of form. To the objection of the Speaker, of course, he bowed; but it seemed to him that, were it not that the Speaker had been pleased to rule that the amendment was not in order, according to the rules and regulations of the House, the only thing necessary to carry it was a majority. He begged leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The original motion was then put and passed.

RESUMPTION OF LANDS.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS moved—

1. That in order to encourage the settlement of population in the settled districts of the colony, and in pursuance of section 10 of "*Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868*," this House resolves to resume from the leases of the undermentioned runs the areas hereinafter specified, as described in the schedule laid on the table of this House, of

the lands proposed to be resumed from the runs in the said districts:—

SETTLED DISTRICT OF MORETON.

Aeres.	To be resumed from the
6,720	Nindombah Run
6,240	Beaudesert Run
6,400	Bromelton Run
6,720	Telemon Run
7,680	Tamrookum Run
8,960	Melcombe Run
7,680	Coochin Coochin Run
25,000	Durundur Run
9,920	Mount Brisbane Run
13,440	Wivenhoe Run
12,160	Buaraba Run
15,360	Grantham Run
19,200	Helidon Run
10,240	Tenthill Run
24,480	Franklyn Vale Run
10,880	Fassifern Run.

SETTLED DISTRICT OF DARLING DOWNS.

5,120	Goomburra Run
11,520	Jimbour Run
8,320	Pilton Run
5,440	Gladfield Run
6,400	Irvingdale Run
6,720	Canning Downs Run
15,000	Canning Downs South Run
7,040	Felton Run
7,680	R senthal Run
5,440	Rosalie Plains Run
9,280	Westbrook Run
5,280	Ellangowan Run
8,640	Eton Vale Run
6,400	Clifton Run.

SETTLED DISTRICT OF PORT CURTIS.

17,600	Cawarral Run
14,400	Riverstone Run
26,240	Meadow Flats Run
9,920	Carrara Run
33,920	Mount Larcombe Nos. 1 and 2 Runs
34,560	Glenmore Run
13,440	Waverley Run.

SETTLED DISTRICT OF WIDE BAY AND BURNETT.

18,406	Miva Run
15,900	Gutchie Run
15,500	Gin Gin Run
64,922	Widgee Run
15,000	Kilkivan Run
12,000	Woubah Run.

SETTLED DISTRICT OF KENNEDY.

49,920	Lannercost Run
20,920	Homebush (consolidated) Run
32,000	Greenmount Run.

2. That this resolution be forwarded to the honorable the Legislative Council for its concurrence.

He said, in reading this resolution he had omitted two lines which appeared in the printed notice, and he wished to amend the motion by omitting those runs, namely, Dunmora, 8,881 acres, and Mariana, 38,707 acres; the two first in the settled district of Wide Bay and Burnett. The reason for omitting these two runs was simply this: That since he gave notice of the motion he

had been informed that the rent for those runs had not been paid, and, consequently, they were forfeited on the 30th of September last, and the Government could proclaim them open for selection, without including them in the list of proposed resumptions. He did not think it necessary to propose resumptions from forfeited runs. In proposing this resolution he did not know that it would be necessary for him to say anything as to the necessity for making some resumptions at the present time in order to allow settlement to take place. That there was a demand for land in all parts of the country—in all the more populous parts of the country—was admitted on all hands. It was so well known that he imagined it could not be disputed, and it was known, also, that settlement in some districts was very much retarded for want of suitable land for that purpose. Since last session they had had several gentlemen delivering political addresses in which the necessity for the resumption of more land for settlement was expressly mentioned. At the two late elections, he believed both candidates in each case admitted the absolute necessity for further resumptions, so that it could not be called a purely party question by any means. The only question was whether the resumptions were in accordance with the necessities of the case, because that more land was required, was he believed generally admitted. However, the Government had taken the usual course of communicating with the commissioners, land agents, and district surveyors—gentlemen who would be most likely to know the nature of the demand; and he thought it would be advisable if he gave the House some little information with regard to the reports of these gentlemen in regard to the different districts. In East and West Moreton, which were the two first districts mentioned, they had the unanimous testimony of the commissioner, land agents, and surveyors, that selection was falling off in consequence of the inferior quality of the land now open for selection; and the fact that there was a great desire to select land really fit for settlement—land of better quality than was obtainable at present, or nearer to a market, was strongly shown by the numerous inquiries constantly being made for land—for those lands in fact which they now proposed to resume. The unanimous testimony of the gentlemen referred to was:—that from the numerous and constant inquiries which were made with respect to lands included in the leased halves of runs, which were within reach of the market, in all probability the resumption proposed in East and West Moreton would be almost immediately taken up, if thrown open. In the Darling Downs they had the same evidence—that of the commissioner, land agents, and surveyors, and the information they supplied was this: It was quite certain that the demand for land for agricultural purposes was constantly

increasing, and it was quite natural that it should be so. As population increased, and as the last few years had been most prosperous ones for the farmers, they could quite understand the increased demand for land for agricultural purposes. They were informed by those gentlemen that there were, and had been for a long time, numbers of persons who were waiting to be able to get selections in suitable places, and who were not able to do so; and it was principally with the view of meeting that demand that the recommendation for the resumptions on the Darling Downs had been made. He might state, of his own knowledge, in regard to this, that he had constant inquiries—people were constantly coming to him on the subject, and asking when lands, about twenty or twenty-five miles from Toowoomba, and almost the same distance from Warwick, within reach of the market or the railway, were likely to be thrown open, as they desired to settle upon them. It was not a week ago since he had a number of small farmers come to his house late in the evening, because they had heard some land had been thrown open, and they wanted to go and look at it. Men who had farms of ten or twenty acres were getting desirous for more room; they desired to spread out; and constant proof was given in this way of the strength of this demand. He might point out, with regard to the Darling Downs, that some three or four years ago certain resumptions were made, and the lands thrown open as homestead areas, but at the end of last year on some of these homestead areas not a single selection had been taken up. But there was every reason to believe these lands would be taken up if allowed to be selected by conditional purchase in the usual way, and many of them had been thrown open in that way. He thought it was about the end of the year that some 60,000 or 65,000 acres were thrown open, and at the first two land sales about two-thirds of that area were selected, and probably before many months the whole 60,000 acres would be taken up. At Yandilla there were—he forgot whether it was forty-nine or fifty-nine applicants for one piece of land of four square miles, and although they might not be all *bona fide* men, in that case he believed that a large proportion of them were *bona fide* men. But he would not press so much on that as on another case of a forfeited selection—not a very large one either—on Westbrook Run, within reach of the town and the railway, for which, on its being thrown open, there were thirty-seven applicants; and he was informed by the Commissioner that they were all *bono fide* men. Consequently, if there had been thirty-seven portions of land in that neighborhood for selection, instead of one, probably every one of them would have been taken up. He did not know that any proof of the demand for land in that immediate locality could be stronger than facts of that character. Frequent inquiries both at the land offices at Toowoomba, and

Dalby, and Warwick, and at the head office in Brisbane, with regard to the Downs, and the reports of the commissioners, proved that there was at present a very large number of persons who were very anxious to obtain holdings of reasonable size for small farms—for purely agricultural purposes, in that part of the colony. He would confine himself at present to East and West Moreton, and the Darling Downs, and of the demand for land for agricultural purposes in those places he thought there could be no doubt. As they went further north, there was a difference in the nature of the demand. In the Gympie land agent's district they found a great demand for land for the purposes of agriculture on the banks of the Mary River, and on the road, or within reach of a good-sized town or market for produce. The scrubland on the River Mary, which was splendid for agricultural purposes, was now settled from Maryborough upwards, almost the whole way to Gympie. There were one or two places where the scrub amounted to nothing, and consequently there was no settlement there, but wherever there was good land within eighteen or twenty miles of Gympie on the river bank, it was settled upon—a large portion being occupied by farmers with moderate holdings. There was also in the Gympie district a demand for land in large areas for grazing purposes, and there was no possibility, that he was aware of, from the nature of the whole of the Wide Bay district—from the heads of the Mary River at all events—of making a resumption without including land available for both purposes. It was a fact that they could not pick out an area of ten square miles suitable for agricultural purposes in any portion of the runs in the Gympie district except by taking a very long, narrow strip on the banks of one of the rivers or creeks. In that district they were informed by the commissioner and land agents, and he was also aware of the fact from numbers of residents there, that there was a considerable demand on river frontages, and on the road, for land for agricultural purposes, there being a good market in Gympie for agricultural produce. There was also a large demand by a considerable number of persons who were anxious to obtain land for grazing purposes within a reasonable distance of Gympie. To Maryborough he need hardly allude: there was no land available but what was already open, and moreover, the report was that the great bulk of it was of a very inferior character, such as nobody would care to take up. He should point out also, in connection with this, that the Maryborough district had been cut off on both sides; the Gympie district came within twenty miles of it, and the northern portion was cut off at Bundaberg, and the portion left to Maryborough had been almost all taken up. The two runs in this district to which he had previously referred having been already forfeited, it was

unnecessary to deal with them now. At Bundaberg they were informed that there was at the present time, and had been for some time past, a great demand for agricultural land, and they need not be at all surprised at that when they came to consider the great success which had attended the cultivation of sugar and maize, and the manner in which the farmers in that locality were able to supply the northern ports with maize, which no doubt was a very paying concern. There was no evidence of there being any large demand about Bundaberg for larger areas for grazing purposes, and it was possible that might be because the land was not suitable. The demand had not developed, and he did not propose any large resumption there. At Rockhampton and Gladstone, in the Port Curtis district, they were informed, on the same authorities, that selections were falling off for want of suitable land, and that there was, at the present time, and had been for some time past, a very considerable demand for land within reach of the town or the navigable waters of Gladstone. They were also told that, at Rockhampton, the demand for agricultural purposes was not so large, the principal demand being for grazing and dairying purposes; and for this reason larger areas were desired. In proof of this demand, the commissioner informed them of the fact that, a short time ago—in January last—a piece of land of about 800 acres, which formed part of the Messrs. Archer's run, was thrown open, and there were twenty-five applicants for it on the first day, so that if there had been twenty-five similar blocks in an equally good position they would have gone. They knew also that the Messrs. Archer—who had always been quite willing to meet the demand for land for settlement—and he desired to speak highly of their conduct in that matter; for they had never, so far as he was aware, objected to giving up land when it was required—had, within the last eighteen months, on two occasions, given large portions of land, most of which was within reach of the market, and it was taken up with the greatest avidity. At the request of the members of the district, one portion, westerly from Rockhampton, was put into homestead areas, and selection to a considerable extent took place almost immediately. Still further north, from Mackay and Cardwell, they got somewhat similar information. For good land, fit for agricultural purposes, in the neighborhood of navigable waters, there was a good demand; but he was not able to recommend any very large resumption within reach of those two places. Although there was a demand for land for grazing purposes, it was not so large as further south, but if they could throw open considerable portions of good land on navigable waters, it would be taken up. On the Mackay it was nearly all taken up already, and he expected that settlement would soon reach some of the adjoining rivers. He thought the facts he

had stated, derived from the sources mentioned—from the commissioners, district surveyors, and land agents—would be sufficient to prove that, in all the districts in which they had proposed to make resumptions, there was a considerable demand for land, which must be supplied, or settlement must cease. Now, he believed that no honorable member on either side of the House desired to see the latter alternative—that settlement must be stopped—and he did not expect any objections from the other side, except that he had made the resumptions larger than they ought to be. Both sides of the House would admit that there was a demand for land, and that it would not do to stop settlement. He would now say a few words about the manner in which the resumptions had been framed, and he would state at once that they had been framed on as moderate a scale as possible, with a view of carrying them through Parliament, in order that they might secure some resumptions this year. He considered that it would be a great deal better, at this time, as the demand was pressing in so many districts, to secure small portions for immediate use—if only sufficient for twelve months—than to run the risk of not getting anything by asking too much. That was the principle upon which all the resumptions were asked. With regard to East and West Moreton and the Darling Downs, resumptions were made three or four years ago to the extent of about eight or nine square miles from every run throughout these districts, and the whole were put into homestead areas. There was some delay in proclaiming one or two, but the whole had been thrown open to selection, and a considerable amount of settlement was the result. But, as the resumptions were made on the principle of taking an equal quantity from each run, irrespective of the fact that there was or was not a demand in that particular neighborhood, the result was that the whole of the land was selected in some, and none at all in others. He was not complaining of that; he was simply stating the facts. In those districts honorable members would notice that there were some runs in which they proposed no resumptions whatever, and it was for this reason: that the homestead areas proclaimed there some three years ago, to which he had referred, were at present, almost if not quite, untouched; most of them were entirely untouched, and the land was still open for selection. Under these circumstances, he took it as proof that—whether from distance from market or some other reasons—settlement had not reached there, although he had no doubt it would before long, and therefore he did not think it necessary to resume more land at present from these runs. On the Downs and in East and West Moreton, wherever the homestead areas were entirely or more than half gone—they proposed resumptions. He would mention a few of them. On Goomburra, the report from the district sur-

veyor was that only 400 acres of the old homestead areas was open to selection, and it was composed of little bits spread about here and there, and, as that officer described it, "useless scraps." On Pilton Run it was all taken up, some portions of it as homesteads and others as conditional purchases selections, on the first day it was thrown open. On Canning Downs 800 acres was all that was open to selection in the homestead area there, and, as the commissioner said, there was practically none. On Felton there were 1,090 acres, and on Rosenthal 250 acres, and the same remark was made, that it was useless scraps. On Rosalie Plains there was none; on Westbrook, 410 acres; and on Eton Vale, 845. In all these cases the land was again described as useless scraps; all isolated pieces, not large enough for a farm or suitable for it. On Ellangowan there were 500 acres, all of it poor land; on Jimbour, 2,820 acres; on Gladfield, 1,800; on Irvingdale, 2,560; and on Clifton, none at all. He had now gone over the list of resumptions proposed on the Darling Downs, and the small quantities now open to selection there proved, he thought, that the whole of the lands now proposed to be resumed were distinctly and really required, if Parliament had any wish to permit settlement to proceed. He was not afraid of much fault being found except on the ground of the resumptions being too small. However, the intention of the Government was this—To throw the whole of these resumptions on the Darling Downs open as homestead areas, and such only, and personal residence would be required in every case. They thought by that means, as experience had shown that homestead areas conduced to settlement, these lands would soon carry a considerable population. These resumptions, in connection with the other homestead areas, which had not been taken up, but which he expected would be taken up very soon, would, he believed, be sufficient to meet the demand in a reasonable manner, for the next twelve months at any rate. He would point out to the members of the Darling Downs that he had not proposed to make any resumption for conditional purchases, and he would now allude to the demand for land which he omitted in the earlier part of his remarks—that was, for grazing purposes on the Darling Downs. He thought there was very little doubt that, if the whole of the leased halves of the runs were resumed and thrown open for conditional selection, they should have the finest rush at the next Land Court they ever had yet, and that the whole would be taken up within a couple of court days. But he doubted very much whether it would be conducive to settlement. In framing these resumptions and considering this demand, he had taken this into account—that if they wished settlement to progress, it was better that it should progress at a moderately steady rate, and that they should not alienate the whole of the

land in the district in one year. It was better that settlement should not be forced, but that it should take its own natural course, and wherever that had been done, they found that a thriving population had increased more largely than under any other circumstances. He gave that as the reason why they proposed to take such small blocks—to have it for agricultural purposes and nothing else, and to make the whole of them homestead areas. Much the same might be said with regard to East and West Moreton, though not entirely; and he would point out, with respect to West Moreton especially, that in the outer portions of that district—that was away from the line of railway and population—at the western and southern extremities, population was not very extensive—he proposed no resumptions, except in one instance in the southern end, in the neighborhood of Fassifern, where there was a considerable number of persons settled. But wherever it was away from population no large resumptions were proposed for the sake of meeting demands for grazing purposes, for this simple reason—A large proportion of the land at considerable distances from town was open for settlement, but people would not go there on account of the distance, and consequently they had not considered it necessary to do so. They had adhered to the same principle in East Moreton and on the Downs, that wherever there was land already open for selection, they had not asked to take more. He should explain now that the areas proposed to be resumed further north—everywhere north—were very much larger, in proportion to population and the size of the district, than in the southern portion, and the reason for this was, that the resumptions were proposed on the recommendations of the commissioners, and the information derived from them and the surveyors. It was done in order to reach main and navigable waters, and also because the demand was for larger areas than those generally in use. It was, to a great extent, for grazing and dairying purposes, for which large quantities were required. With regard to the Port Curtis district, he could not say that they had strictly followed out the recommendation received from the officers to whom he had referred, because it seemed to be rather large, and far from the market; and they proposed those portions nearest to the market, and it appeared to him that the area would be sufficient to meet the demand. He was quite aware, from the lessees of runs themselves, that if these resumptions were made, a very considerable number of selections would be taken up at once. He had no personal knowledge of the district, but with respect to the Wide Bay and Burnett district, he could state there was a very general opinion that, if the portions of land recommended for resumption in this resolution were thrown open to selection, a large population would be settled. In fact, selection would begin on the first court day, and

would progress steadily, and he might state that the commissioners and surveyors were of that opinion. He might also state that when he was up there, a short time ago, all parties pointed out the same thing as to the neighborhoods in which there was a demand. It might be noted here that these proposed resumptions, or the bulk of them, took the river bank above where the farms now were—above Maryborough up to Gympie; and although he did not pretend to say that the whole of this land would be taken up within twelve months, he believed it would be selected before long. It was of a broken nature in some cases, and they were obliged to take a considerable quantity in order to get the good land on the river banks, which was available for settlement; and if the other portion were not taken up immediately, he did not know that any harm would accrue to the lessees, as it would not be taken from them. He believed, however, the great bulk of it would be taken up within a reasonable time. When he was at Gympie, he was waited upon by a deputation of upwards of twenty persons, almost all farmers, all of whom were on the runs mentioned, and, as far as he could ascertain from them and the residents there, they were unanimously of opinion that the runs specified in the resolution were those from which land should be taken. With regard to the Kennedy, he did not think it necessary to say very much. Here three blocks were proposed to be resumed. One was the only available piece of land in the locality. It was at the back of the Herbert River, where there was actually no land at all available for settlement at the present time, and where there was a very considerable demand; and the other two were behind Mackay, where they were told that, within from fifteen to twenty miles, there was no land whatever available for settlement, and scarcely any worth having for a considerable distance further; and the commissioners recommended these resumptions to be made. He did not know that the House would thank him for quoting figures at any length to show, by the Treasury returns, that many of the facts he had mentioned with regard to selections falling off were true—or, rather, to show the number of selections that had been made. There could be no doubt that they were falling off in many districts, and it was equally certain that the cause of the falling off was the want of suitable land, which was not procurable, at the present time, to meet the demand. Constant applications were made at the head office by men who were anxious to obtain land for settlement as quickly as possible. They did not want to settle on bad land, and he did not blame them for that. He thought that, if a man desired to take up land to settle down and make a home, he was entitled to a reasonable choice. For these reasons, he believed that these resumptions, if carried out, would give a very great impulse to settlement. He trusted the House

would carry the resolutions, because, he thought, if they did not do so, it would be to say that settlement should be checked, and he was confident neither side of the House desired to say that for one moment.

The SPEAKER said he presumed the House received the motion with the amendment made by the honorable member who moved it. He would take that opportunity of saying that, unless otherwise ordered by the House, he should not read the whole of the motion, because by that course a great deal of time would be saved.

Mr. PALMER said there was one part of the speech of the honorable the Secretary for Lands upon which he thought honorable members on both sides of the House would agree. There was no wish, he was sure, on that side of the House to stop or retard the settlement of the country in any way; and he himself was prepared at all times, when reasonable cause was shown, for the resumption of land from the squatters' leases, to vote for it. But he might, perhaps, be pardoned for saying that he hardly thought the speech of the honorable the Secretary for Lands showed the necessity for many of the proposed resumptions. He had advanced nothing to show to his (Mr. Palmer's) satisfaction, why he proposed to take such very large blocks out of some runs, such comparatively small ones out of others, and why he had left a great many runs in the different districts totally untouched. Now, having said he was prepared to vote for the resumption of land wherever it was shown that it was required for actual settlement, he might still say that this motion had taken him a little by surprise. They were told in the Governor's Speech, at the opening of the session, that the Ministry were prepared to bring in a new Land Bill; and he thought they should have expected that, before dealing with this question of resuming such a large portion of land, they should have that Bill on the table, or that, at least, some information might have been given now by the honorable the Secretary for Lands, as to the manner in which the Government meant to deal with the land question. That anything could be more unsatisfactory than the present state of the land law, he supposed would be granted by every individual in the community. It appeared to him, and he believed to many others, that the titles to a great deal of the lands of the colony were at present in the pockets of the Secretary for Lands; that he did exactly as he liked—granted them or withheld them, and dealt with them just as it pleased him. He thought that the party who selected land, or who would select land, if the House should agree to throw this land open to selection, would be a very brave man indeed, or a very ignorant man, because he could not imagine anything more unsatisfactory than the present state of affairs with regard to titles to land in this colony. As he said before, he believed

that, at the present time, many of the titles to land in this colony were in the pockets of the honorable the Secretary for Lands, and that he manipulated them pretty well to put costs into the pocket of his colleague the Attorney-General. However, certain returns had been ordered that evening; and when they got them, they would see how matters stood. He might say, in passing, that it seemed they were not likely to get many returns this session, because not a single one that had been ordered had yet been laid upon the table; but if they did get these returns, he thought they would show the House that the late "tiddleywinking" about titles to land had benefited some members of the Ministry at all events. Now, he had a sort of general horror, if he might be pardoned for saying so, of any motion introduced by the honorable the Secretary for Lands dealing with the lands of this colony. He looked with great suspicion on his management of the lands of the colony, and on any proposal emanating from him. He thought the action that had been taken by him, while he held his present office, was not of a character likely to reassure the House with regard to his dealing with those lands; and he thought they had particular reason to be cautious with any measure he brought forward, because it was decidedly within his recollection that, having secured to himself, before last session, a large selection in the southern portion of the colony he immediately brought in a resolution confining selections to, he thought, about one thousand acres. And he would like to know what steps that honorable member had taken to improve this land? It was not the first time it had been brought up in the House; he (the Secretary for Lands) had been accused before now of acting on one law for himself, and, immediately afterwards, trying to introduce another to prevent any person from following his example. He would like a little more information on that subject. He thought the action of the Government in these matters respecting the public lands was very peculiar. They had, within a day or two of the opening of Parliament, a special *Gazette* issued, directed against one individual who was notoriously not a supporter of the present Government, and whom they specially honored with a whole *Gazette* to himself, on the very eve, as they said, of dealing with the whole land question in some Bill the House had not yet seen. He thought that ought to be sufficient to make the House act with caution in passing a resolution which would have the effect of enabling the honorable the Secretary for Lands to manipulate this large additional portion of land. That, however, would more properly come on for discussion when they saw this Land Bill, which at present they had only a glimmering notion of. They were promised a Land Bill, but how it was proposed to deal with the land they had not yet been told. The honorable the Secretary for Lands said

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it was intended to have only homestead areas on the Darling Downs. He looked upon that assertion with very great suspicion, to say the least of it. He found that some very large blocks were to be resumed: 11,520 acres on Jimbour run, and 15,000 on Canning Downs South; and although they were told that it was the intention of the Government to deal with the land only as homesteads, looking at the recent action of the Government, he thought they were quite justified in regarding that statement with very great suspicion. Unless the public prints and documents were to be utterly disbelieved, the Government very recently sold a very large block of land on the Darling Downs—9,000 acres—on Cecil Plains, to Mr. James Taylor. That did not look at all as if they were carrying out their policy with regard to homesteads at the present time. They professed to have a peculiar policy of their own, but their actions were very different. He had no doubt, if they could get large sums of money by similar means, they would let the homestead selectors go to the wall; and he thought the House should have some additional proof that this land, if the House should sanction the passing of the resolution, should be devoted to homestead purposes. It could be easily done; a provision to that effect could be easily added, and the matter should not be left to the Minister for Lands to manipulate. Any other remarks, he thought, would come more properly when the Land Bill came on for discussion; but he looked with suspicion on the resumption of this very large amount of land. The honorable Secretary for Lands spoke of it as a very moderate selection, but he thought it was a very large selection to make at one time—about 700,000 acres. Nor had that honorable member given any reason why the Dunmora and Mariana Runs were struck out of the list.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Yes, I did.

MR. PALMER: He did not hear any reason; he heard they were to be struck out.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: I stated they were forfeited for non-payment of rent.

MR. PALMER: If other honorable members of the Government could throw any additional light on the subject, and show that this land was really wanted for settlement, and that it would be retained for the purposes of settlement in these districts—that it would not go to auction to make up the deficiency in the Treasury balances, he fancied there would be no objection on the part of the House to grant even this enormous resumption. But they should guard themselves against allowing the resolution to go without some decided assurance, or more than assurance—in fact, without making the resolution specify that this land was to be resumed for the purposes stated. There was another thing he should wish to have seen before this

question came on. The honorable member for the Burnett had given notice of motion calling for certain returns, which would throw some light on this subject, but at the instance of the honorable the Secretary for Lands he was induced to take it off the paper; and although that honorable member intended to move for them, the motion had not come on before this question. However, certain returns had been ordered—the reports of commissioners and others; and he thought it would have been much better taste on the part of the honorable the Minister for Lands if he had postponed the motion until the House had these reports before it, so that honorable members might be able to judge for themselves, and not have to take the mere word of the honorable the Secretary for Lands, that this land was wanted. At present they had nothing but that honorable member's assurance that it was wanted. They did not come there, as mere voting machines, to obey any Minister; they came there to think for themselves, and to decide upon the evidence before them. But here they had no evidence, and until they had that evidence, it would be much better, and perhaps would tend to get these resolutions passed, if the honorable the Minister for Lands would postpone the motion. At present they had nothing whatever to go upon.

MR. MILES said it was not his intention to throw any opposition in the way of the passing of the resolutions, but he must confess that he did not feel at all satisfied when he came to look over the schedule, and found there were only fourteen runs on the Darling Downs from which it was proposed that land should be resumed. He should like some information as to why and wherefore others had been passed over. While he did not intend to oppose the resolutions, he would very much prefer seeing the Land Bill, or the Bill to amend the present land Acts, dealt with before any resumptions were made. He agreed with the honorable member for Port Curtis, that he would be a brave man who would select land under the present laws; and if they were to leave it in the hands of the Minister for Lands to say who was to receive the deeds, and who was not, he said it was better to have no resumptions at all. It would, he maintained, have been far better if the honorable the Minister for Lands, before he introduced these resolutions at all, had come down with the Land Bill, and showed the House and the country that the Government were prepared to deal with the lands of the colony on some just principle. He (Mr. Miles) should particularly guard himself against any sympathy whatever with persons who had obtained land by unfair means; and he, for one, would never, while he had a tongue to wag, give the Minister for Lands extreme power to grant title deeds to one and withhold them from another. He would, as he said before, prefer to deal with the land laws before they were

asked to resume land at all; because he thought it was unfair to throw temptation in the way of unsuspecting persons to go and take up land, and that they should find, after they had spent a great deal of time and labor upon it, that they had failed to comply with some condition, and could not have it. He thought it would have been far better if the honorable the Minister for Lands had endeavored to pass a law which would be clear and intelligible, so that any person who took up land might know exactly what he was doing. He believed the object of that honorable member was to mystify and endeavor to create as much confusion as possible in reference to the land laws of the colony. He could not, for the life of him, understand how that honorable member, after giving his adhesion to the Bill introduced to grant railway reserves—which he (Mr. Miles) supposed he was going to sell by auction—should now strive to dribble out small bits of land which a man was unable to live upon, and who, if he attempted it, would certainly be ruined. He could not help remarking, when the honorable the Secretary for Lands was endeavoring to explain to the House that it was the intention of the Government to confine these lands to homestead areas, that he hoped they would do nothing of the sort. Wherever land was suitable for agricultural purposes, by all means let it be devoted to those purposes; but that honorable member must know perfectly well that the present homestead areas were much too small; and he (Mr. Miles) was rather astonished when the honorable member for Port Curtis—who, he believed, was present in a double capacity, as member for Port Curtis, and as the representative of the member for Dalby—he was surprised to hear him endeavoring to impress upon the honorable the Secretary for Lands the necessity of confining this land to homestead areas of 320 acres. If that honorable member knew anything about Dalby, he must know that no man could live on 320 acres there. Some time ago, a large number of farmers settled on Cumkillenbar Reserve, but they had to leave it; they found they could not live on such a small area; and when the honorable member for Port Curtis accepted the responsibility of representing the honorable member for Dalby, he had no business to come forward and actually endeavor to impress the Minister for Lands with the necessity of confining the area to 320 acres. He should like to know what Dalby had been guilty of, that the people should not have land to live on? The honorable the Minister for Lands knew the land was not suitable for agriculture; but if it could be let out in larger quantities so as to enable selectors to combine agriculture with grazing, they might be able to live. But if they were to be excluded altogether from grazing, the land was of no use at all to them, and it might as well be left in the hands of the squatter. It had

been said by an honorable member that the proposed resumptions were too large, but he believed the Honorable the Secretary for Lands had no desire to make them large; and he thought it a most extraordinary thing that honorable members on that side of the House would always play into the hands of that honorable member. He (Mr. Miles) would like to see more land resumed. He thought they had not enough, and that they wanted more; because, after all, what was the result? If the land was not wanted, and was not taken up, the lessee had the use of it, and it could do no harm whatever. If there was a demand for land it was time the lessee gave way, and he would not object, if the honorable the Secretary for Lands resumed any quantity; because, if it was required for settlement, it should be made available for that purpose, and if it was not taken up, no harm would arise to any one. He contended that the proper course for the honorable the Minister for Lands to pursue was to first amend the land laws. He knew they were in a state of confusion, and he knew perfectly well that he held the sole power to grant or withhold title deeds; and he (Mr. Miles) thought the House ought to be very cautious and guarded before they threw more land open for selection, until that question was settled, and settled in such a way that justice would be done to all classes of the community. He objected that the honorable member had not gone further, and made some proposition for extending schedule B. He was sure there was not a single member who would not bear him out that the boundary of Schedule B was the most arbitrary one that could possibly have been laid down, and it was laid down in that way to save one or two individuals. In fact, he would have preferred that the honorable the Minister for Lands had come forward with a proposition to extend Schedule B, than that he should have introduced the resolutions at all. He believed there was a great demand for land; he endorsed almost every word the honorable member had said on that point; but still, there were other parts of the country as well as the Darling Downs, where people required land, and why should he not endeavor to give them some opportunities of selecting it, at or near where they resided. It was all very well for the honorable member to say they should encourage the settlement of population; but at present there were large towns in the interior, with considerable population, who would be willing and were ready to take up land if it were only thrown open, but they were unable to do so. He felt exceedingly disappointed that the honorable the Secretary for Lands had made no reference to the extension of Schedule B, and he hoped he would seriously consider what he (Mr. Miles) had said on the subject, and come down before long with a proposition to put Schedule B into something like shape. At present it was like a dog's hind leg, in and

out in all directions, taking in one place and leaving out another; and he charged that honorable member with dereliction of duty in not having done so before. As he said in his opening remarks, he had no intention to oppose the resolutions; he would give them his support, and he only wished they had gone a great deal further.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the honorable member who had just sat down wound up his speech with a strange inconsistency. He stated at the commencement what he (Mr. Morehead) believed every honorable member believed, and ought to believe, and that was, that land legislation should have preceded these resumptions; and yet he expressed himself as being in favor of the resolutions, and wound up by saying he believed in the extension of schedule B under the existing land laws. He (Mr. Morehead) was not going to deal with the question of schedule B; that was not the question at present under discussion, and he was going to deal with the proposition of the honorable the Minister for Lands now before the House. He thought the question narrowed itself almost to two points:—First, whether the House should decide that such a large area as 700,000 acres should be thrown open for selection under the existing land laws, which were admitted, on all sides, admitted by the honorable the Attorney-General in the late actions, to be thoroughly bad. Whether the view which had been taken of these laws was sustained or was not sustained, they would be equally bad, because they had caused immense litigation, and might be the cause of more litigation in the future. He thought they had a right to demand from the honorable the Secretary for Lands on what grounds he proposed this particular resolution. He maintained that it was his duty to have laid on the table of the House, before proceeding to bring forward such a resolution, the reports of the commissioners on these proposed resumptions. He had very little doubt, and he thought the House had very little doubt, that these resumptions had been selected by the honorable the Minister for Lands himself; and he considered that that honorable gentleman would have shown respect for himself and the Ministry with which he was connected, if he had given some reasons why these particular resumptions should be adopted. Not having done so, he laid himself open to the serious imputation of having selected particular lessees, who held political views different from his own, and made them the subject of his anger and wrath by proceeding to damage, or to attempt to damage, the property they held. Being in the position he was in now, he (Mr. Morehead) expected that he would have gone into the horrible corruption—that he would have carefully picked out certain runs, and gone into the pedigree of the lessees, and even into the careers of their fathers and relatives, and stated what he had been told by some person who

spoke to him in the street, and have shown that it was all a dire plot to obtain land by any means. But that he (Mr. Morehead) had no wish to do; he would leave that to the honorable the Minister for Works. They knew what that honorable member had done in years gone by, and they could form a very good idea of what he would do in years to come, if he was spared, in this colony. He thought the Minister for Lands was bound, in honor to himself and the Ministry, to state some specific reason, in each case, why these particular resumptions were made. On the face of them, they had a very sinister aspect. They saw certain runs selected, from which land was proposed to be resumed, but the House had no evidence to show that they had been made on any fixed rule; they seemed to have been made by the simple will of the Minister for Lands. They found in the Moreton District, 6,000 and 7,000 acres proposed to be resumed from some runs, and 24,000 and 25,000 from others; but they had no reason given for this great difference in area; whether it was on account of the nature of the soil, or from any other cause, no evidence was given to show. They had the bare fact that, in several runs, it was proposed to resume 6,000 and 7,000 acres, and in Durundur, 25,000. He did not know, but he believed the lessee of Durundur was Mr. McConnell.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: Not Durundur.

MR. MOREHEAD: He had no wish to know the names of the lessees; all he wanted the honorable the Secretary for Lands to do was to put the House in possession of information which would clear him of the imputation of having made resumptions from political dislikes or likes. He was sorry the honorable member for the Burnett had been hoodwinked—if the expression were objectionable, he was quite willing to withdraw it—but he believed he had been hoodwinked into withdrawing his motion for the returns bearing on this question. If the honorable the Minister for Lands had come to him—he knew that honorable gentleman too well—he would not have withdrawn his motion. That very fact would have made him more persistent to have the returns; he would have asked for it night after night, and demanded to know why it was not furnished. But the honorable member for the Burnett, not knowing the honorable the Minister for Lands as well as he did, withdrew it. That return contained information it was most necessary to have before dealing with these resolutions. He would give way to no man in the desire to allow settlement on the lands of the colony.

MR. MORGAN: Hear, hear.

MR. MOREHEAD: He did not care for the sarcastic "Hear, hear" of the honorable member, or of any other honorable member. He repeated that he would give way to no man in the desire to have settlement on the lands; but he did object to large areas of country being taken away, or alienated, or quasi-

alienated under the existing land laws. He said, let them first modify, and correct, and amend the land laws, and then alienate the land as it was required. Let them have no more heartburnings and political animosity on the question of titles! They saw small men—small dummies—getting their titles, while in the case of large men—perhaps larger dummies—they were refused. Perhaps it was because the small dummy could not supply so much powder and shot to the treasury of the Attorney-General as the large one. He did not say so; but he did say that he thought it exceedingly strange that the small dummy had not been objected to. And he said, further, that before they were subjected to any more of these vexatious actions, let them amend the land laws; and before they proceeded to resume land in such large areas, let them have every information with respect to the land proposed to be resumed, the land held by others in which no resumption was proposed to be made, and the name of each lessee. He considered it was absolutely necessary to have that information before they could judge fairly, and justly, and dispassionately of the motion of the honorable the Minister for Lands.

MR. GROOM was sorry to hear the honorable member make such an assertion as that the late vexatious actions were brought with the intention of putting funds into the treasury of the honorable the Attorney-General, because he honestly believed that there was, amongst the honorable members who occupied the Treasury benches, a kind of *esprit de corps*, that they would not be guilty of any conduct which could be called in any degree dishonorable. The imputation was a serious one against the character of the honorable the Minister for Lands, and he did not believe for one moment that that honorable member had done anything of the kind referred to. He had heard honorable members on the other side of the House express their approval of the action of the Government in the recent land cases. The late Minister for Works had said they were quite right in the course they had taken. Whether or not the honorable the Attorney-General had received fees, which rumor said he had, he was glad the returns had been moved for; because it would, perhaps, remove an impression on the subject which might be erroneous. He had been informed that, in one case, the unsuccessful party had had to pay £1,500 in law costs, and it was broadly insinuated that this money had gone to the honorable the Attorney-General and the Crown Solicitor. If that were true, the House would, no doubt, take some action in the matter, and for that reason he was glad the returns had been moved for. He believed the conduct of the Attorney-General and the Minister for Lands was perfectly right and just.

MR. MOREHEAD rose in explanation. He did not impugn the conduct of the honorable the Attorney-General in any way; and the

honorable member had no right to put words into his mouth which he never used, and which would lead the public to suppose that he had imputed motives to that honorable member.

Mr. GROOM: He had not put words into the honorable member's mouth. He understood him to say that the small selectors would not supply powder and shot; and he supposed that to be an imputation on the conduct of the honorable the Attorney-General. He understood the Attorney-General to say he had nothing whatever to do with the selection of the cases; he said that if he had had the selection of the cases himself, he would have taken different persons to those who were proceeded against. The cases were prepared—he did not know by whom; but that was what the honorable the Attorney-General stated in his address to the House on a previous occasion. There was one remark of the honorable member for Port Curtis, on which he would make a few observations. That honorable gentleman said the recent action of the Government with regard to the land on Cecil Plains was not exactly an indication that they were anxious to throw open land as homesteads on the Darling Downs. Now, he might state that, when he saw the land put up for sale, he felt quite as dissatisfied, and probably more so, than the honorable member for Port Curtis appeared to be just now.

Mr. PALMER: I am not dissatisfied at all.

Mr. GROOM: He thought the honorable gentleman was. At any rate, this land on Cecil Plains comprised some fourteen or fifteen dummed selections; and he thought he was justified in saying that the persons who dummed it never saw the land in their lives. Honorable members would probably recollect the last severe flood in the Condamine, which resulted in the loss of four or five lives, besides a number of sheep. On that occasion, the whole of this land on Cecil Plains, with the exception of about 200 acres, was under water; and he would like to know what people would settle there, with the certainty that, when the flood came, the whole would be swept away? They talked about tyranny last night; but he thought to throw that land open for the settlement of population would be tyranny of a very different character to that referred to; it would amount to nothing less than manslaughter. He also attended the sale of this land to ascertain if there were any persons anxious to buy it for the purpose of settlement; and, with the exception of the person who purchased it, the only person who offered a bid was Mr. Davenport, who ran the buyer up a few shillings for a portion of the dry land; and that, he thought, was a clear indication that it was not land adapted for settlement. The honorable member for the Mitchell desired to know why the Government had selected certain runs on the Darling Downs; and, on looking at these runs, he (Mr. Groom) observed that nearly the whole of them were intersected by the

Warwick and Dalby railway lines; and there could not be the least doubt that, when the Government were resuming land for settlement, railway transit was an important element for consideration. The greater portion of these runs were intersected by these lines, and on that ground he thought the Government had shown a wise discretion in their selection. He had heard the honorable the Minister for Lands state that it was the intention of the Government to throw the whole of these resumptions on the Darling Downs open as homesteads, but he did not say what the areas were to be. If they were to be 160 acres, as provided in the Act of 1868, he could not approve of it. He thought 160 acres was too small, and he went entirely with the honorable member for Carnarvon in his observations respecting the land about Dalby. It would be a downright farce to ask men to settle down on that area in that locality. If the Government had resumed 50,000 or 60,000 acres on Jimbour, and thrown it open in 5,000 or 6,000 acre blocks, there would be some sense in it, but to throw it open in small selections was simply asking a man to starve on it. He thought, in that particular, so far from the honorable the Secretary for Lands exhibiting an inordinate desire to take large areas, he had made a very reasonable demand by proposing to resume an area from that run not more than sufficient for two persons to occupy. He also agreed with the honorable member for Carnarvon in thinking that the Government ought to have given some indication that they thought the time had arrived for amending schedule B. He believed the extension of the settled districts was necessary. He believed that, outside the settled districts, there were 3,442 runs, which contributed only about £115,000 to the revenue; and that if land were thrown open in the neighborhood of Bungeworgorai and Mount Abundance, every acre of it would be taken up by the residents in the Roma district, where there was a large demand for land for agricultural purposes. He believed the honorable member for the Burnett would admit that if the settled districts were extended there would be a large demand in his district; and that the honorable member for the Balonne was aware that, in the neighborhood of Goondiwindi, there was a considerable demand—in fact, so much so, that the honorable the Minister for Lands had to send a commissioner there to report. This showed the necessity for taking some action to extend schedule B, and he believed, in point of revenue, apart from every other consideration, it would be a very wise step to take. He was very glad to hear the honorable member for Port Curtis say, that if a demand for land were shown, he would offer no resistance. On the Darling Downs, it was clear there was an urgent demand for land. When land was thrown open on Yandilla, he went to the office in order to gain a personal insight into the

persons who applied, and of the forty-five who did so, he could not say that they were all *bona fide* men. In fact, he believed they were not, because the inevitable dummy would crop up everywhere. He saw, there, Brisbane commission agents, who, there could be very little doubt, were acting as the representatives of others. It was valuable land, and, with regard to one portion which passed into rather exceptionable hands, he had no hesitation in saying the report was, that the party received £1,000 for his chance of drawing it that day. On Westbrook, where 320 acres were open, there were thirty-seven applicants, all *bona fide* men; and it was well known that the successful drawer was offered £50 by several persons to let them have that particular portion of land. He was sure they were all *bona fide* men; and he might state, as an indication of the desire for land, that there was a disposition, now, on the Darling Downs, principally amongst the farming classes, to combine grazing and farming. If honorable members, on visiting the Downs, would stop in the neighborhood of Headington Hill, they would see that the owner of that selection had imported a great deal of life and vigor into farming on the Darling Downs; and whatever that gentleman's faults might be in connection with the land cases, he (Mr. Groom) would give him credit for being the pioneer of a very successful class of settlers on the Downs—men who combined farming and grazing. He had shown what could be done in that direction, and others were following his good example, and going in for agriculture and sheep-farming with every success. And almost all of the farmers about Drayton and Toowoomba were anxious to sell out their small holdings and secure larger areas for this purpose. He thought, therefore, the honorable the Secretary for Lands had done wisely in asking the House, at that early period of the session, to agree to these resumptions. He might state that on Pilton, Felton, Westbrook, Eton Vale, and Clifton, the whole of the land proposed to be resumed would be taken up on the very first day it was thrown open; and he had no doubt that, before the session was over, the Government would have to come down and ask for similar resumptions. With regard to the assertion that he would be a very brave, or a very ignorant man who would take up land under the present law, he was sure there was no fear or dread on the part of settlers who were desirous of securing land that anything prejudicial to them would occur. He mixed a good deal with the farming class, and he could say that the honorable the Minister for Lands had their confidence to a very great extent, and others could say the same. They believed he had every desire to administer the Land Acts fairly and honestly, and they would not have the least objection to take up land in these resumptions. He thought the course taken by the Government was a wise one, and that the observation made by the

honorable member for the Burnett the other day, that the policy of the Government in regard to these resolutions would not be accepted elsewhere, was very ill-advised, and, perhaps, quite unauthorised. He hoped the resolution would be carried unanimously, and that in another place the matter would receive that consideration which its importance deserved.

Mr. MORGAN said it was his intention to support the motion before the House very cordially, for it was admitted by honorable members on both sides of the House that there was a very great demand for land, in the settled districts particularly. Although some honorable members did not think the resumptions went far enough, and while that was at the same time his opinion, yet he accepted the motion on the principle that, to a hungry man, half a loaf was better than no bread at all; and he thought that the more moderate the Government were now, the less was the chance of obstruction to the resumptions in another place. The Secretary for Lands deserved very great credit indeed for the moderation of his views in taking up those runs from which the resumptions were made. The principle that had actuated him in framing the schedule was moderation. Though the total amount of land resumed was paltry, yet the demand for land was recognised; and, after the present area was selected, doubtless more would be thrown open.

Mr. FRYAR said this question was pretty well discussed last session, and it was agreed by the House that there was a great necessity for the resumption of land. The second reading of a Land Bill was passed by the Assembly without a division; and after that measure was lost in another place a set of resolutions was proposed by the Government, whose intention was to withdraw from lease some three millions of acres of land; and those resolutions also passed the House without a division, and then were lost in another place. It was proved by the Minister for Lands that the demand for land, instead of falling off, was increasing; that the paucity of selections during last year had not arisen from want of selectors, but from want of land suitable for selection. During the first six years of the Act of 1868, the receipts of the land revenue from conditional purchases went on increasing; but in the year 1874, instead of its increasing, there was a loss, not only of the proportionate increase, but there was a loss of £10,000 besides, compared with the revenue of the previous year; and there was also a loss of £1,000 on homestead selections. That showed there was a great want of suitable land for selection. He knew it might be argued that selectors had paid up during the previous year, and that consequently the rents could not come in during 1874. That was effectively answered by the fact that the survey fees in 1874 were £4,000 less than in 1873. During the first six years that the Act of 1868 was in operation, something more than

two millions of acres of land were selected, showing an average of about half-a-million acres a year. The quantity was, he might say, maintained during last year, as something like half-a-million of acres was selected. Now, the Minister for Lands was of opinion apparently that there was a great necessity for more land to be thrown open to selection; and why did he, instead of asking for three millions of acres, as he did last session, ask now for something less than three-quarters of a million acres, or about one-fourth of the quantity he deemed necessary last year? Not only had half-a-million acres of land been selected since, but the population had increased to a great extent; and, yet the honorable gentleman now asked for only little more than a quarter of the land he wanted to resume last year. He (Mr. Fryar) feared that the honorable gentleman was trifling with the best interests of the country. Doubtless the proposed resumptions contained land, good, bad, and indifferent, all mixed; about a quarter of it would be selected, so that actually the Minister for Lands proposed to throw open land for selection equal to about half-a-year's demand. The time of the House, this year, and next, would be frittered away discussing resolutions to resume small quantities of land which would never meet the wants of the people. There was, he believed, something radically wrong in this business. There was some antecedent question to be considered. It appeared that the Minister for Lands had no idea whatever of getting any quantity of land suitable for settlement withdrawn on account of certain gentlemen in another place. But, instead of coming to the House with a curtailed request to have little more than a quarter of what he asked for last year, the Ministry should come down with some large and comprehensive plan of carrying on the Government of the country, especially in the matter of the administration of the lands. Their present action was preposterous; the House could not be put off in that way. If they could not deal with the land question, as it was affected by the other House, it was time that they gave way to others; for it was perfectly plain that the settlement of the country was stopped, and its prosperity retarded, for want of a supply of good land for the people. The honorable member for Toowoomba gave some startling facts to the House. He (Mr. Fryar) could not speak in detail of all the country, but in his own district there was unfortunately no land open for selection, although there was a large population, as electorates went. He knew that there were in the colony large electorates, of the area of an European kingdom, with few people, and where there could be no demand for land. But in his electorate that was not the case. He was repeatedly asked by his constituents, where could they get land suitable for settlement? and he was obliged to confess that he could not give them any information. He

could give them advice; for it was far easier to give advice than to give useful information; and the advice was, Wait until the land was thrown open for selection—wait until the leases should fall in, as there was no other chance of getting land thrown open to meet the requirements of the country. At the present time, his idea was the same as it was last year, that a radical change was wanted in the land system of the colony. Forty-six runs were dealt with by the resolutions, and the whole quantity of land proposed to be thrown open on those runs, unless it was preserved, as the Minister for Lands had suggested, by proclaiming it homestead areas, was likely to be swamped by the forty-six lessees of those runs. There were fourteen runs in Moreton from which land was resumed, and ten of them did not afford a quantity equal to a single selection under the Act. In Darling Downs there were fourteen runs, twelve of which afforded an area for a single selection only. How the Minister for Lands proposed to deal with the land in Darling Downs he (Mr. Fryar) could not tell. If the honorable gentleman put it into homestead areas, he must still know that there was a large number of persons, not there only, but all over the colony, who would take up selections on conditional purchase, in the neighborhood of towns, though they were not in a position to settle on the land on their own account. It was perfectly certain that for that class of people there was no land available on Darling Downs. There were runs in Moreton District, to which he could refer, if necessary, but general principles were sufficient, on which land could be found for the large and increasing population who wanted it for settlement. When a Minister for Lands came down with a proposal to resume 700,000 acres, as against 3,600,000 deemed necessary last year, what could be said that would be effective? It would hardly be in place to say much on the changes that were as evidently necessary now as they were at the commencement of last year. The land that would be thrown open was subject to the same law in force, about which he had spoken, last session, when dealing with the subject of classification, for this, he held, had nothing to do with the quality of the land. He submitted that it was necessary to endeavor to get a much larger quantity of land thrown open than the Minister for Lands proposed. Of course, there might be some policy in getting a little where he could not get more. That might suit the Minister of the day, but it did not suit him (Mr. Fryar), nor his constituents, nor the populations of the towns in the colony, so far as he was aware of the feeling of the country. He hoped that the present state of things would soon be remedied.

Mr. McILWRAITH said he thought the speech the House had heard from the honorable member for East Moreton had brought

the debate to a point that it should have come to before; and that was the position the Ministry occupied in reference to the general question of the land legislation of the colony. Honorable members knew perfectly well that when the present Ministry were formed, some difficulties were in the way of the usual course being resorted to of publishing their policy to the country in the shape of a Speech from His Excellency the Governor; but, however, the Ministry tried to do as well as they could by the different Ministers stating their policy before their constituents and otherwise. The Colonial Secretary made a speech at Ipswich, and several speeches were delivered elsewhere, that eventually guided the Government with regard to land legislation. He (Mr. McIlwraith) had simply to recall to the House that the prominent feature of that speech was the resumption of land from the squatters in the settled districts. It was taken for granted that the good sense of the House would consent to resumptions everywhere for settlement. There was nothing on which the Colonial Secretary was stronger in that speech than the evils which had been committed under the legislation that had gone before, and particularly under the Land Act of 1868: by dummyism, the colony had been defrauded of an immense amount of money. The paramount legislation was land legislation. With that policy he (Mr. McIlwraith) coincided cordially. As a member of that Government, he thought they should do as much as they possibly could to ensure that if the land was alienated, the value of it should come to the Government in some shape or other; and it was agreed that the only way that a proper return could be ensured by the Government for land alienated was either by settlement or by actual payment in money. It was admitted on all hands that in the Land Acts of 1866 and 1868 legislation had actually failed in both respects; in other words, that for the land alienated, which had got into private hands, the Government had received no benefit whatever. The fact was, that up to the present moment, the proceeds of the whole of the lands sold had gone into the general revenue; and that was a damning fact. That was the position of this Ministry when they came into power; and the great point of their policy was the settlement of the land question. They brought in a Land Bill which they considered would effect the objects they had in view, and enable them to carry out the programme which they had put before the country. But they failed in carrying that Land Bill through Parliament by the defection of an important element of the party that had supported the Government up to the time and that should have supported them, and the Government were actually defeated on a clause that would more especially have helped the purpose to be gained. It was all the more extraordinary that the party that caused the Government to part with

their Land Bill were headed by the present Attorney-General. He (Mr. McIlwraith) believed in that Land Bill, at the time, and he believed in it still. It was as good a Land Bill as was ever brought forward in Parliament; and, at all events, it was so regarded by the then members of the Ministry. But the Bill was lost. He knew that it had been attributed to him, and he had been blamed for it by the papers that supported the Government now, that he was not fully in accord with the Government on the land question, which caused the division in the Government. He had now only to say that he was fully in accord with his colleagues on that Land Bill, and the whole scheme which had been brought forward by the Minister for Lands.

The SECRETARY FOR LANDS: Hear, hear.

Mr. McILWRAITH: He should support it now, if it were brought forward, with certain modifications, suggested by additional information and experience that a man got who stayed long in the colony. The Government having failed to carry their Land Bill, the next step was to propose the resumption of certain proportions of runs; and it was taken, simply to meet what was considered, at that time, the demand for land. He was against the resumption, for this reason. The Land Act of 1868 was acknowledged at the time to be bad. He was sure that the recent action of the Government had not proved it to be better than it was at that time. The Minister for Lands brought down his proposal for the resumption of runs in the settled districts. It passed the Assembly, but was lost in the Upper House. It being conceded that last session the land question was considered by the Ministry to be the most important question to put before the country, how did it come that the Government now shelved land legislation altogether, and came down with a part, the tail end, of their policy? The present proposal was but the tail end of the only means that the Government had last year of resuming a large quantity of land. At any rate, they might have proposed to resume the same quantity as they had proposed before. In bringing forward his motion, the Secretary for Public Lands should have stated whether any change had taken place in the Ministerial policy. It was material for the House to understand that. He (Mr. McIlwraith) was not an anti-Ministerialist; he was not an Opposition man; he wanted to assist, as he said before, land legislation for the settlement of the people on the land of the colony. He should like to see the land question settled. The House were entitled, he thought, to information of the change that had taken place in the land policy of the Government. Perhaps it was hopeless to expect that the Government would bring forward a measure like that of last year. The Cabinet was now constituted differently from what it was then. There was now a new Minister for Works and a new Attorney-

General. If those honorable gentlemen had brought into the Cabinet a different land policy, what was it? Why should it not be explained to the House? That was a matter which deserved attention. What had brought about the change? Was it in Ministers themselves, or was it brought about by the new Ministers who had joined the Government since he had left it? Though he had been blamed before, he was always for land legislation; and he now stood in the House as an advocate for it. He had peculiar ideas about it; he had changed them somewhat since last session, as he had changed them every year he had lived in the colony, as a man must do as his information and experience were enlarged. He gave the Government every credit for good intentions; but let them tell the House what was their policy. If ever a Ministry were bound to come forward with land legislation as their trump card, the present Ministry were. He gave them his opinion the first time he spoke this session, that they were right in bringing the actions they had brought against dummies in the Supreme Court; the Government had done their duty, and he had nothing to say against the decisions arrived at in court, nor against the way in which the proceedings were conducted. The great moral to be deduced from all the cases tried was, that the Acts of 1866 and 1868 were utterly unfit for the attainment of the objects it was most desirable to secure in the disposal of the lands of the colony. He had had great confidence that the Attorney-General, with the large experience he had gained in conducting those cases in court, would have brought forward a comprehensive land policy. It was a duty doubly entailed upon that honorable and learned gentleman; because he, of all men, last session, stopped land legislation; and now, being the legal adviser of the Government, and having had the conduct of the cases against the wrongful, or alleged wrongful, appropriation of the public land, he was in a good position to assist the Government, which, by his position and experience, he was bound to do, to advance some complete land legislation. But they were now in the position, that they appeared to say that the land laws which had been proved to be so defective, were, under their administration, perfectly good Acts. Why were they good? What change had taken place? The Government should tell the House if they had changed their minds on the general principles that land ought to be alienated for the benefit of the country. Was the change due to the constitution of the Government; or, was there anything in the constitution of the House that had brought it about? One Government had acted in one way; they had used their authority under the law entirely for their own purposes. Now, another Government had the upper hand: they would do precisely the same, administer the law for their purposes. Was that the position? If so, it was the worst

position the present Government could take. Having acknowledged that the Land Acts were bad, they should have provided a remedy; not have grasped the power that the law gave them. They saw that, if they could maintain a majority in the House, they could do as they liked. But it was not only in respect to the land laws, but everything else, that the Ministry wished to concentrate all power in themselves. Mark the lamentable position in which Victoria was now. Any man who looked back a few years, must know that that position was owing to the bad legislation in land which characterised that colony. In the Legislature, for years, a majority was kept together, by different Ministries, in order to manipulate the land. And the result was, that the land had gone from the Government, the revenue was decreasing year by year, and the colony was reduced to a deplorable condition at the present time, when it ought to be in the foremost position of all the Australias.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: With protection.

MR. McILWRAITH: No; with the manipulation of the land, for the purpose of keeping together a majority in Parliament, to support a Ministry in the exercise of power. Protection would have been the finest thing in the world for Victoria, if the land had been properly administered; and he thoroughly believed in protection for that colony.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. McILWRAITH: The Ministry, here, were doing the same thing now that had proved ruinous to Victoria. They were doing all they possibly could to keep a majority to work their own will. Some time back they had a majority to say that the laws were insufficient to ensure the proper administration of the land. Their majority, now, was in favor of the land laws. The effect of their bringing forward the resolutions now before the House was as if they said they did not want land legislation. A new Act was not wanted at all; they were perfectly honest men, and they would work the present laws. He confessed to having some respect for the Minister for Lands; and he believed that the honorable gentleman was devoted to one object, and that his devotion was genuine; and that object was, to settle the lands of the colony. But it was a very different thing from giving him credit for that, to put the whole administration and distribution of the lands of the colony into his hands. The action that had been taken by the Government outside the decisions of the Supreme Court, with reference to individuals who had selections, proved thoroughly that the Minister for Lands, with other officers whom he might appoint, had the whole and sole control of the lands of the colony. The honorable gentleman was actually in the position at the present time to say to every selector under the Acts of 1868 and 1866, "You have land, or you have not."

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: No, no.

Mr. McILWRAITH: The honorable member said, no; but he must say, yes; and for this reason:—He did not mean to say anything against the gentleman whom he had appointed as Commissioner for Darling Downs; but it was an astonishing thing that before the honorable gentleman commenced the work that he (Mr. McIlwraith) particularly pointed to under the Act of 1868, he changed the commissioner. He did not say it with disrespect, but that gentleman was a great deal too easy to be worked by the Minister for Lands. In other matters, if only for £100, a man had a right of appeal to the judges; but the Minister admitted of no appeal. He appointed an officer or removed him, adopted his decisions or set them aside; and he was himself the sole and absolute power to deal with land holders.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: No, no.

Mr. McILWRAITH: One matter was suggested to him that ought to be perfectly understood and repeatedly spoken of in the House; and it was suggested by the way in which the Minister for Lands had referred to the extension of Schedule B. It ought to be perfectly understood how the squatters in the unsettled districts actually stood towards the Government in the matter of land legislation. He blamed the Ministry for not bringing forward an extension of Schedule B. The very fact of their not bringing it forward showed that they were not liberal enough. They knew, or they ought to know, if they had read the Act, or listened to the speeches of the Attorney-General last session, that they did not require to come to the House for authority to resume any land in the unsettled districts, the whole of which was in the control of the Government. With their majority they could take possession of the entire country at the present moment, if they liked.

Mr. GROOM: Oh!

Mr. McILWRAITH: They had only to say so, and they could take it. The outside squatters were holding their runs entirely on the good faith of the House, and they were thoroughly at the mercy of the Ministry, if they wanted to work anything with the unsettled districts. He agreed with honorable members who said the Government were imposing greater restrictions on the acquisition of land than now existed, that theirs was a retrogressive policy, and that they ought to extend Schedule B. In the next place, there was a great deal more blame attached to the Ministry than even the honorable member for Toowoomba had mentioned; because they had the power, under the Act of 1868, to resume any land they liked in the unsettled districts, upon short notice. He had expected to get from the Ministry some reason for the extraordinary change of policy which had come over them. From reading the Governor's Opening Speech, he was

of opinion that theirs was a retrogressive policy, and he said so at the time; but there was stronger proof given by their action now. The House had a right to expect that the Government would state their reasons for their retrogressive policy. He could suggest them, and he believed he should be right. He saw by the smile on the Treasurer's face that the honorable gentleman understood what he was about to say. The Ministry wanted money! They knew perfectly well the state into which they had got the finances of the colony. They had spent a great deal more money than they were entitled to expend by the House, and more than the circumstances of the colony would allow. They knew that if they had to wait for a good and liberal land measure to be framed, the Treasury would be in a difficulty. That would account for their "hand to mouth" policy, and for their coming down to the House to ask for more land by resumption. He had not the slightest idea what the resumptions were, or how they affected him, and he did not care, well or ill. If the Minister for Lands would only keep him clear of dummies, and bring forward only *bond fide* selectors, he (Mr. McIlwraith) would give him every acre he had. That was the strongest argument that the squatters were not against him. Only let the honorable gentleman give the country good land legislation; the squatters had not the slightest interest in preventing it. What they wanted was to be delivered from the dummies, who were now hounded on to the squatters by the existing law and the peculiar mode of administering it. There was no worse measure than the Land Act of 1868. Its effect was to prevent squatters doing what was good for the country. The squatters, he maintained, were the most enterprising men known in any business in the colony; and they would be much more enterprising if they had some guarantee, some security of tenure, for carrying out their enterprises. They did not want to own land. He did not own an acre in the whole colony, and he would not buy one. He deprecated legislation that would hound on others to disturb those men who had made a little money legitimately; when no additional advantage was to be derived by the country.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS said he was very glad to hear the change of tone in the speeches that had taken place since the adjournment. The honorable members for East Moreton and Maranoa had complained that the resumptions proposed were not extensive enough. Before dinner, the House were told that the resumptions were a great deal too large. He confessed that he thoroughly sympathised with the honorable member for East Moreton; because his speech was such a one as, if he had not official responsibility, he could in the honorable member's place have made for his constituents; and he could thoroughly support the honorable member's opinions. But the Ministry were not in the

position of independent members. They did not stand in the House to agitate theories, but to endeavor to give certain practical results to the country. In this matter of land resumption, the House were very well aware that a very much more liberal resumption was passed by them last session; notwithstanding which the Government had failed in giving their resolutions the effect of law. In the Governor's Opening Speech there was a paragraph in which the hope was expressed that "you will not disregard the just wishes of the people on this subject"—the demand for land—"and that a proposal to make such resumptions which will, without delay be made to you, will meet with your favorable consideration." It was the duty of the Ministry, in view of the very serious state of affairs that might take place, if the resumption of land should be refused, to take every precaution that no blame should be thrown upon them for non-resumption. It was true, that the area proposed to be resumed had been calculated and cut down by the Secretary for Public Lands to the lowest limit. The honorable gentleman had told the House that there was not a single acre that had not been recommended by the commissioners; in fact, in plain English, there was not a single acre proposed to be thrown open that would not, if open, be taken up to-morrow. And, as the honorable member for East Moreton had said, it was very possible that the House would have to go through the same work of resuming land next session. But the question for the Ministry to consider was, what could they hope to get? The country was in want of land. The people, by thousands, in the agricultural districts, were clamoring for land, and to have homestead areas thrown open to them. And it was the duty of the Government to take care that they did not give the shadow of a chance for blame to those parties who did not regard the wants of the people. The Government were not dealing solely with their opponents in the Assembly, but with their opponents in another place. It was evident that there were honorable members in the Assembly who, finding their inability to defeat Government on the question of resumption in that House, would be very well satisfied if they could force the Government into the adoption of a course which would ensure their defeat in another place. He believed that, if the question of resumption were to be decided between the Government as against all the members who thought they resumed too much and those who thought they resumed too little, the Government would not have a single supporter in the House. The fact that they had not satisfied either party might be taken as a guarantee that if they had not made calculations that gave satisfaction, they had, at all events, endeavored to do so, with the best information that could be obtained. They had not satisfied the honorable member for Maranoa, who thought that the only people

who wanted land were those who desired to purchase for ten shillings an acre and to sell for a pound. They did not get support from those who thought they should go rashly into large resumptions, which they might not carry. It had been said that the manner in which the Government had administered the lands had diminished the demand for selections. Now, the proof that that was not so, was, the number of applications made for isolated selections. There was no diminution in the demand for land. The honorable member for Maranoa had spoken of the necessity for amending the Acts of 1866 and 1868. The Act of 1866 had expired. The last payment under it was made in December, and no more land could be taken up under that Act. The only question was, whether a certain number of persons who had taken up land under that Act should get their titles or not; and a Bill would be brought in by the Minister for Lands which would settle that, and which specified that those persons who had performed certain conditions should get their titles. Under the Act of 1868, only two cases that he had heard of had come before the court; the first being the prosecution of Wienholt and others for dummying. The dummying was proved to the satisfaction of the jury; the jury were asked by the judge to decide if the selector had abandoned the lands, and the answer was, that he had never been in possession. That was a clear proof of dummying. In the second case, in which a *Gazette* was issued the other day, the ground upon which action was taken, was, he believed, that the conditions had not been fulfilled. A gentleman took up a quantity of land on conditional purchase. One condition of the selection was, the payment of a certain sum of money; another was, residence by the selector himself or his bailiff. If any of the conditions were not complied with, why should the selectors be allowed to take up the land or to keep it? Payment was not the only condition upon which land could be selected. If it was once known that the Government intended to enforce the conditions of the Act of 1868, there would be no more taking up land without regard to the conditions. As to dummying, of which a good deal had been said, he thought that, in future, any man who took up land under the Act would be very glad to perform the condition of residence. He could not see how it could be said that the selector was in the hands of the Minister, if he neglected to perform the condition of residence. There must be some officer of the State to see to the performance of the conditions. If the conditions were not performed, the land was simply given away, not sold. The very object of selling the land at the price put upon it with the conditions was to secure settlement and residence. Some remarks had been made by the honorable member for Port Curtis about the sale of land at Cecil Plains. He (the Secretary

for Works) was very much surprised to hear that honorable member come out as the champion of the homestead selectors. Mr. James Taylor had purchased a large quantity of land; or, rather, the honorable gentleman, and other persons for him, had selected about 9,000 acres. He (the Secretary for Works) thought he might say it was dummied land. As the Government had forfeited the deposit on the ground of fraud, he thought he was justified in saying so. During the whole time that the honorable member for Port Curtis held office, Mr. Taylor paid his rent and held the land; but, when the present Ministry came into office, and the present Attorney-General began to make inquiries, and when Mr. Taylor found out that inquiries were being made, he forfeited the land. No doubt if the honorable member for Port Curtis had remained in office, Mr. Taylor would have continued to pay his rent for ten years, and then would have got the fee simple of the land. Perhaps Mr. Taylor was not a dummy? But such was the state of things. Perhaps that accounted for the indignation of the honorable member for Port Curtis. Instead of getting the land at the low price of 15s. an acre, as agricultural land, payment extending over ten years, Mr. Taylor forfeited it, and the money he had paid, amounting to about £3,000; and, when it was put up to auction subsequently, he paid 30s. an acre for it, in cash and land orders. The explanation of the honorable member for Toowoomba was sufficient to show that the land was not fit for homestead selections, as it was liable to be under water at certain seasons. If the Government had proclaimed it fit for homesteads, in place of getting praise, they would have been condemned for so doing.

Mr. McILWRAITH: Why did they sell the land at Goomburra?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: After the flood, the first thing the Government did was to withdraw all that land, and to give notice that the railway station would be removed, in order to offer no inducement to people to settle there. No doubt, great indignation had been expressed about the Government selling the 9,000 acres of land which Mr. Taylor had purchased; but he believed that the real ground for all the sympathy shown for that honorable gentleman was, that he had to pay through the nose for the land. He durst say, the honorable gentleman knew the worth of the land; and if he did not, he could well afford the money he had given, and that was one comfort. He hoped that honorable members on the Ministerial side of the House would consent to the resolutions. If half a loaf was better than no bread at all, he hoped they would take the 700,000 acres now proposed to be resumed. When the Government would come down to the Parliament next session for a further resumption, they would, he was sure, have less opposition than now. Many of those gentlemen who

would now oppose the resumption of land, would join in supporting it next time. Every acre taken from their runs would make them more liberal in agreeing to resumptions from other runs. Therefore honorable members of the Assembly would, by assenting to the resolutions for resuming the small amount of 700,000 acres, be helping to liberalise honorable gentlemen in another place.

Mr. DOUGLAS said, following up the last words spoken by the honorable the Minister for Works, when he referred to the small area of 700,000 acres proposed to be reserved, he must confess that he would be very glad indeed to know that the best use possible would be made of that area, which that honorable member described as being so very small. He (Mr. Douglas) could remember the time—probably, scarcely in the recollection of the honorable member for the Mitchell—when, with something of the same confidence which characterised that honorable member's ingenuous freedom in the House, he (Mr. Douglas) made bold to propose that they should secure a reserve of 100,000 acres. But at that time he was looked upon, probably by some of the less advanced thinkers of the day, in something the same way that the honorable member for the Mitchell was now. He was met by his honorable friend at the head of the Government at that time with an intimation that this was a demand far in excess of anything that could possibly be supplied, and he was content to abide his time and accept the education which they all had to submit to upon this question—the education which the honorable member for the Maranoa had spoken of as having led him to change his opinions, and which led many to change their opinions on the land question regularly every year. However, he could only hope that, if they secured this instalment, it would be put to some really good use, though he must confess he had not complete complacency in regard to this periodical profuseness in parting with so much capital—their capital in land. The honorable member for East Moreton had referred to the large amount of land that had, up to the present time, been conditionally alienated, under the administration of the present Act. They had heard of something like five millions of acres being distributed among something like 150,000 people, and they were then told that these five millions of acres were hardly sufficient to meet the demand for homesteads. He could only submit that, if they were going to alienate their land at that rate, they would very soon have parted with it altogether, and if any benefit did arise from the possession of land, that benefit they should soon cease to enjoy. It was, he thought, most natural that the honorable the Minister for Lands, after the experience of the last twelve months, should look with some caution as to the amount of land which he now sought to appropriate. They had seen that a very curious process had been set in motion, which had resulted

in the alienation of a large amount of land, and they had by no means arrived at any certainty as to what had been done with that land. The honorable member was now in a position to say what really was the working of the Act of 1868. They heard that five millions of acres had been alienated. Were the conditions fulfilled, and had the country received the value it was entitled to receive in return for that land? He doubted that it had, and common report said that, if the same principle which led to the establishment of the cases against Wienholt and others, was ever applied elsewhere, they would find a large number of cases in which the conditions had not been fulfilled. He maintained it was the duty of the Government to see that these conditions were fulfilled, and if they were not fulfilled, they were bound to see that they got the value which they were entitled to receive for the land. The reason why the Legislature, at the time of the passing of the Act of 1868, lowered the price of land was, because it was agreed to accept improvements on the land, either in the form of cultivation, or fencing, or something tangible—the country was willing to receive that in lieu of the greater pecuniary value. He had not the slightest feeling in favor of those people who had been led into believing that the Government would not enforce the conditions. He thought they were bound to do so. It was quite possible, and very probable, now that the country saw there was a Ministry in power—and he congratulated them on their conduct during the last twelve months, in this respect—who would give effect to the Act, selectors would have some confidence. Things appeared to have grown into a corrupt groove, not merely in one particular, but in the administration of the Act in all its grades. It had been conveyed to the public at large that liberties might be taken with the Act which were not justified by the law; and the result was that one selector found he was allowed to do things which he did not anticipate would be permitted, and others followed this example. In fact, the Act being loosely administered in all its branches, it became a regular scramble for the public property, and he hoped some change would be made. He was willing to accept this, only as part of the policy of the Government. He was aware that they had very wary antagonists with regard to whom they had to be very cautious; and he thought it was their duty, as expressed by the honorable the Minister for Works, to do what could be done—to accept a little rather than peril their policy by asking too much. He thought it was better to be on the safe side, and he hoped they would really endeavor to convey, both to that House and to the gentlemen in another House, the conviction that they were determined to abide by their policy; that it was a policy essential to the welfare of the country; that nothing else would satisfy them; and that if that policy were frustrated in another House, they must

be prepared to take the consequences, and let it be a distinct issue between that portion of the Legislature and the other. It was a policy mild, moderate, and yet, he thought, sufficiently liberal for all practical purposes. One other matter to which he wished to make special reference was this:—The honorable the Minister for Lands, in pointing out as justification for these reservations, that considerable demands had been made for land, referred to the demand that undoubtedly existed in the Darling Downs district, and he intimated that in these reservations the Homestead Act would be made applicable. Now, he had very considerable doubts about the policy of this. He spoke with perfect deference to other honorable members, more intimately acquainted with the Darling Downs at the present time than he was; but he doubted very much whether it was a good and sound policy to alienate lands professedly under homestead restrictions, which were always imperfectly carried out in that district. They were here proposing, in a district where land was worth from £3 to £5 an acre—it would fetch that, whether from the small settler or the large one—and they were going to give it away for considerably less than it was worth, on conditions which were never performed, and which they had no means of enforcing under the present Act. He knew a case now, and other gentlemen from the Darling Downs knew it also, where, under the Act of 1872, collusive dealings were being carried out; and there was little doubt that, in some cases, if they extended the homestead areas, they would be simply gobbled up by some similar process that they had seen in other instances. He did not think that, after having expended such a large amount of money in the formation of railways, they were justified in giving away land; but he considered they were bound to get the best value they could for it, and they could do that without throwing it into the hands of the large capitalist. If they really desired settlement on the Darling Downs, let the whole of the lands there be surveyed, and let roads be surveyed and laid out. He meant to say it was sacrificing the public property to sell a single acre of those lands without accurate knowledge as to what they were selling. That was not in the interest of the small selector; but it would be to his interest if they surveyed the land as accurately as possible, and gave him access to it by means of roads. It was only by that means the full value of the land would be obtained. But by leaving things as they were, and taking the smaller value, they were increasing the facilities of the large capitalist, who had ample means to engage agents and to acquire whatever he wanted. This was said to be carried out in Victoria, and at present they were able to defy attempts to prevent it. He thought, however, nothing was required here but a determined expression of opinion by those who were competent to judge. Let

it be known, that it was the capitalists who were fanning this demand for larger areas. These were the gentlemen who were fanning the agitation for the extension of the reserves, and that they should be alienated on conditions of which they could avail themselves. He hoped the best use would be put to every acre of land now available in the choicer portions of the Darling Downs; and when the policy of the Government came before the House in the Land Bill, he would promise some further discussion on those particulars. He thought it highly desirable that upon every acre of land which was really fit for agriculture, a certain amount of quit rent should be payable, and that the proceeds arising from that source should be made available for the purpose of improvements in the district. It was in that way alone, he believed, they would satisfy the real improver and occupier; and he believed, also, that, if once a policy of that kind were put fully and fairly before the *bonâ fide* agriculturist, they would find many who would willingly support it. With regard to what had been said about schedule B, and the possible extension of land to be made available, he presumed the honorable the Minister for Lands here only offered to the House part of his policy; and it was, he confessed, a very moderate portion. He presumed that honorable gentlemen was perfectly aware of the powers he possessed, which had been referred to by the honorable member for Maranoa, and he believed the statement made by that honorable member was tolerably correct, that the Ministry were the exponents of the House; but the House might dissent from their action, and thereby pass a vote of want of confidence. Yet, it did rest with the discretion of the House to make the extensions; and already they had seen, in the Railway Bill before the House, that the Government contemplated considerable extensions. He presumed they contemplated taking to themselves their present powers in order to enforce the resumptions, so that whatever exceptions might be taken to the conduct of the Ministry, in not having announced their policy, he thought they might be credited with a certain amount of prudence. They wished to make themselves certain of every step they took, and they thought what was desired could be best done by not attempting too much at one time. He had no doubt there would be frequent opportunities of discussing this land question. It was one which was now ripe for further development, and he hoped they would attempt to meet it on sound, economic grounds, and not be diverted from their purpose by the illusive hopes, he feared he might say, which were raised by the Act of 1868, which, in many respects, had been proved so unsatisfactory. In saying this, he did not mean to deny that the Act of 1868 had been of great benefit to the country, and especially had it been so to the coast dis-

tricts. It was much to be regretted that some provision was not then made to secure, for settlement, the choice portions of Darling Downs, which had been sacrificed; but, in consequence of the state of parties, it was found impossible to do so, and, though regretted at the time, it had to be submitted to. He hoped, however, they would now deal with the question on a really broader basis.

Mr. BUZACOTT said he almost regretted that he should have to support the resolutions; but he had to do so because, were he to oppose them, it would be inconsistent with what he stated on the floor of the House twelve months ago. It was then argued, he remembered, and by none more strongly than by honorable members on the Opposition side of the House, that instead of the Government trying to upset everything by introducing a land measure, they ought to have gone under the existing Acts and made such resumptions as those Acts provided for. He was one of those who coincided with that opinion, and he had seen no reason to alter it. He considered it was a happy thing for Queensland that the land Bill forced through that House last session was thrown out elsewhere. He thought that, had it become law, they would ere this have seen good reason to regret that ever the time of the House had been occupied in forcing through such a measure as that was. With regard to these resumptions, he said he supported them with regret, because he did not feel at all sure that the proposal was a fair one. He heard there were certain honorable members on the Ministerial side of the House who were allowed to escape—

HONORABLE MEMBERS on the Government benches: Name, name.

Mr. BUZACOTT: He was scarcely in a position to name them; but he had been informed on excellent authority, that there were two honorable members on the other side of the House whose runs it was proposed not to interfere with. And he thought, from what he knew personally of other districts in which the resumptions were proposed, that the greater portion of those resumptions were not quite as fair as he could wish to see. At the same time, he did not wish to say that the honorable the Minister for Lands, in proposing the resumptions, had intentionally acted in an unfair way to any lessee. He believed he had acted to a great extent on the recommendations of the commissioners; but he would ask why he did not act wholly on the recommendations of the commissioners? Why did he say, when the commissioners recommended certain runs for resumption, "We will take some and leave others"? He did not think that honorable gentleman had, in his opening speech, explained with sufficient clearness to the House, why he made the selections. He was very much surprised to hear an honorable member behind him say the evils which had arisen in Victoria had been caused by constant disputes and the legislation which had taken

place there, with regard to the alienation of Crown lands. Why, it was the opinion of every one who had studied the history of Victoria, that what that colony was suffering from was protection.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. BUZACOTT: He thought the land laws of Victoria were extremely injudicious, and he thought honorable members on the other side of the House, if they could, would have forced this colony into a similar predicament. He believed, if they had their way last session, they would have seen Queensland in a pretty state to-day, and he, therefore, congratulated the House and the colony, that the honorable the Minister for Lands had now come forward with something like a reasonable proposal. With regard to the resumptions proposed to be made in the district he represented, it was proposed to take from Archer and Company 26,000 acres. Now this firm had already relinquished 160,000 acres, and he thought the honorable the Minister for Lands should have confined his proposal to some part of the district which would have been considered equally desirable by the selector, without further interfering with that firm, who had voluntarily given up such a large area. He believed, too, that this area proposed to be resumed was subject to inundation, and he was informed that, if any homesteads were created there, it would be found that a most serious mistake had been committed. He hoped, therefore, that before this place was thrown open to selection for homestead, as he understood it was to be, the Minister for Lands would inquire into the circumstances, for he could not conceive a more serious evil than placing land open for selection when it was unfit or unsafe for occupation by selectors. It had been asked by an honorable member, why had not the Ministry brought in a comprehensive land scheme? Why? He said because they were incapable of doing so. He thought that last year, when they had every opportunity, with a powerful majority behind them, they proved they had not what the country required; and finding themselves unable to bring in a comprehensive measure suited to the circumstances of Queensland, they got wiser, and now asked for these very moderate resumptions. A great deal had been said about the evil which would arise to the colony from the alienation of Crown lands, but he had no apprehensions as to any such evil; although the Crown might part with its land, it did not part with its control over it, and if the whole of the lands of the colony were alienated, he should not fear but that the honorable the Treasurer would find means for carrying on the Government. He confessed he was disappointed that the Government had not proposed to resume any areas in the interior. He knew inland towns round which it was just as necessary to have land open for selection as anywhere about the coast, and he thought the House was entitled to expect that a measure would have been

brought in before this, to meet the wants of the people who desired to settle round the inland towns. He would not occupy the time of the House further. He had heard quite enough, and more than enough, to satisfy him; and the more one listened to arguments, the more he was likely to become confused. Those men who were the strongest in argument generally knew nothing about the subject on which they spoke.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER said he had not intended to occupy the time of the House, but a few remarks had been made by some honorable members on the other side of the House, that it was just as well to take notice of. The objections had been made to the resolutions on two grounds. Some honorable members objected because the proposed resumptions were too large, and others again objected because they were too small. Now, he thought it must be obvious to every one who had taken part in the debates in that House on the question of the lands of the colony, that any one who attempted to meet the wishes of every party would meet with the same fate as the old man who had the donkey. The honorable member who had just sat down referred to the towns in the interior, and intimated that it was the duty of the Government to make provision for selection in those districts. Now, from a paper which he held in his hands, it appeared there were 350,000 acres of land open for selection in the neighborhood of towns, so that he thought the honorable member for Rockhampton had discovered, in that respect, "a mare's nest." Another objection taken to the course the Government pursued—by the honorable member for Port Curtis—was, that the House was entitled to see what legislation the Government proposed introducing before they were asked to agree to these resumptions. He thought there was no force whatever in that argument. If that honorable member denied that there existed a demand for land, he could understand the objection; but, admitting that a demand did exist, it would be just as reasonable to ask the Government to propound a land measure before satisfying existing demands, as it would be to tell a hungry man he must wait until he was told how his victuals were to be cooked for him. The honorable member for Rockhampton said he could not understand why certain runs had been omitted; but, he thought, if that honorable member had attended to what the honorable the Minister for Lands said, he would have been quite satisfied on that point. The reason given was that the land already resumed on those runs had not yet been taken up; and to that question, he considered that a very satisfactory answer. The honorable member for Maranoa stated that the whole of the revenue derived from the public lands went into general revenue. Now, in the first place, he was incorrect, as nearly a million had gone to immigration purposes;

and, in the next, he would point out the inconsistency of that honorable member; because the first time he addressed the House this session, he took the greatest exception to that portion of the Government policy which provided for the very thing he now objected to—the construction of public works by means of land sales—and said it was a shame that the whole of the land revenue should go to general revenue. It had been said that the necessities of the Treasury had induced the Government to modify their land policy. He thought the honorable member for Port Curtis said so.

MR. PALMER: Very likely.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: Because the honorable member knew nothing whatever of the subject. He would like to know what the honorable member for Port Curtis knew about the necessities of the Treasury. He was not aware of them, and he thought he ought to know quite as well as the honorable member for Port Curtis if there were anything of the kind. He saw a good deal in the columns of public journals on the subject; but, beyond that, he was not aware of any necessities of the Treasury; he could not find them out. He only knew that he was in the receipt of constant applications from managers of banks who were anxious to have Government funds on deposit. As for the necessities of the Treasury, he was in perfect ignorance of them, and he would be very glad to hear what they were. However, as he should address the House on this subject on Tuesday next, he would not say any more on the question at present. But, before he sat down, he might say, with regard to remarks made with reference to the sale of land on Cecil Plains being to stop a gap in the Treasury—if it had not been said there, it had been said out of doors—that the Government did not receive a single penny; the whole amount was paid in land orders.

MR. PECHÉY said he would like to make one or two remarks on the subject; and, in the first place, he wished to follow briefly the course that had been taken by the opposite side of the House from the time of separation down to the present day with regard to the resumption of land for settlement. At the time when this colony formed part of the colony of New South Wales, the pastoral lessees of that colony were threatened with a Bill which has since become known as "Robertson's Free Selection Act," and fearing their runs in what was now Queensland would be interfered with, they agitated strongly, and in that agitation they were joined by the towns to a considerable extent. They agitated strongly for the separation of Moreton Bay from New South Wales, in order, as he had heard gentlemen of that class remark, to make Queensland "a squatters' paradise." To a great extent they succeeded. The population of Queensland, at the time of separation, was very small to what it was now. Rockhampton was then

about the *ultima thule* of the north; the township of Dalby was almost so to the west. After separation there was agitation on the part of the people in the towns—those who were desirous of becoming freeholders and obtaining land upon which to settle and cultivate. This agitation was met by a sop from the squatting Assembly which was then returned, in the shape of what was called the Agricultural Reserves Act, setting apart some 5,000 acres within a certain distance of a few towns of the colony. These 5,000 acres, in almost every case, were picked from the most valueless lands, lands that were utterly useless to the pastoral tenants of the Crown, and in a few cases where they could not get sufficient, utterly valueless land—

THE SPEAKER: I think the honorable member is wandering from the subject.

MR. PECHÉY: I am following up the question.

THE SPEAKER: The question is—

"That in order to encourage the settlement of population in the settled districts of the colony, and in pursuance of section 10 of "*Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868*," this House resolves to resume from the leases of the undermentioned runs the areas hereinafter specified as described in the schedule laid on the table of this House of the lands proposed to be resumed from the runs in the said districts;"

and the remarks of the honorable member are totally at variance from the resolution.

MR. PECHÉY: The resolution before the House was:—"That in order to encourage the settlement of population in the settled districts," and so forth, and his remarks were directed to making a *résumé* on the manner in which it had been endeavored to encourage the settlement of population in the settled districts. He could not therefore see how he was in any degree wandering from the subject of the resolutions. If a member of the House, in speaking to a resolution, could not draw a comparison between what had gone before and what was now attempted to be done, debate must cease. He was referring to what had been done in order to encourage settlement under the Agricultural Reserves Act, and was pointing out that these reservations were not selected in proper places. It might be that he did so with the intention of showing that certain portions of land mentioned in this resolution were not those best suited to encourage settlement, and it might bear upon the resolution in various ways, and therefore he trusted he might be allowed to proceed with his argument. As he said before, in some instances where a sufficient quantity of utterly valueless land, to constitute the reserves, could not be found within the required distance, a certain amount of good land had to be taken. So far as his own district was concerned he could conscientiously state, from his own knowledge of the district as a surveyor working there at that time, that in every instance where a strip of really good country happened in this way to be included

within the limits of one of these reserves, it was what had lately been called—they had not the term in the colony—dummed by the proprietors of the run. However, on these barren and unsuitable tracts of country, thus set apart, an amount of settlement took place. A great many men were induced to emigrate to the colony under the pretence that land suitable for agriculture would be open for settlement. They came to the colony; they took up land, which was certainly not the best suited for settlement, and many almost broke their hearts in their efforts to clear it and cultivate it, while at the same time splendid land for agricultural purposes was, to use an expression of one of the greatest of colonial legislators, “only waiting to be tickled to laugh a harvest.” The demand for land, for settlement, gradually increasing, began to be felt in that Chamber, and those favorable to settlement formed themselves into the nucleus of the party now sitting on that side of the House. The thing went on; the Act of 1866 was passed, but that, the same as the Act of 1861, was turned to very bad account in some instances. Still, in a few cases *bonâ fide* settlement was secured, and population increased, and liberal ideas extended further and further into the bush. Then came the Act of 1868, under which the resumption of one half of the runs took place. In his own district, he believed nine-tenths—he might say nineteen-twentieths of the land was secured by the former pastoral lessee, and the runs were leased by other parties, who were using them at the present day, simply for pastoral purposes. At the same time, in a few out-of-the-way corners, a number of settlers managed to make a settlement, and the strength of the Liberal party went on increasing. So much so did it increase, that in spite of the very unfair manner in which the electorates of the colony were divided, the result was the accession of that party to power. They had been twitted by many honorable members on the other side of the House—the Government had been twitted, with either having done too much or too little; this thing, that thing, and the other thing had been said of them, and it had been pointed out that no doubt whatever the Ministry had done or might do, they would be sure to be found fault with by the Opposition. There was not the slightest doubt it was the duty of the Opposition to find fault with the Ministry; but still a querulous and factious opposition, he thought, would never lead to the good of the country, and such was the opposition he considered had emanated from those benches that evening upon this question. Now, the ministry had been told that they had a majority at their backs; they had been told that they were a servile majority, and an improper majority in many respects, and therefore they could do as they pleased. Now, the honorable members who made those assertions must have known perfectly

well that they could not do as they pleased. They must have known that there was another branch of the Legislature which had also to be consulted in the passing of measures, and that, although the Ministry might have a majority in that House, there were other things to be considered in other places before anything could become the law of the land. Now, a man, if he did a wrong action, he was condemned; but if a man having done a wrong action, placed the blame or the consequences of that action upon another man's shoulders, he was still more to blame. These were the tactics of the gentlemen opposite to-night. He had attempted to trace the manner in which the country had been prevented from being settled by the party represented by the present Opposition down to the time of the passing of the Redistribution Bill, and now he would ask whether the great difficulties that the Ministry were placed in last session, and the difficulties that they evidently had to contend with this session, had not all occurred from this fact—that after encouraging the settlement of population in the settled districts of the colony to such an extent that the gentlemen who now occupied the Ministerial benches were applied to to take that position—whether it was not through the action taken with regard to a collateral branch of the Legislature by the leader of the present Opposition, that all these difficulties had arisen? When they had a Land Bill passed last session, it went no further than that House; when they had resolutions passed last session, they went no further than that House; when they had a Bill, dealing in a liberal spirit with what was much demanded by the different constituencies of the colony, passed through that House last session, it also was thrown back upon them.

The SPEAKER: I must remind the honorable member that he is wandering from the question, and I think it is the duty of honorable members to support me. The honorable member is decidedly wandering from the question. It has nothing to do with the other House, or Bills passed last session.

Mr. PACHEY submitted that the measures he had mentioned as having been passed through that House on a former occasion were measures that led up to the principle of the resolution—the settlement of population on the lands within the settled districts, and he trusted he would be allowed to draw a comparison between the fate those measures met with and the fate which a measure such as that spoken of by honorable members opposite might have met with, if it had been larger than that under discussion. They had asked for a full leaf, as said by honorable members, and were refused; and they now asked for a few crumbs to see if they, too, would be refused. However, as it seemed his remarks appeared to the honorable the Speaker—for whose decisions he had every respect—to be wandering from the direct question, he would endeavor to confine him-

self to that question. With regard to the portion of the country he had the honor to represent, he might say that the areas set down in the resolution were extremely small, and he had not the slightest doubt that, as far as the district of Aubigny was concerned, every acre of this land would be applied for at the first land court, if it were thrown open for selection. He believed this would also be the case in the district surrounding it, with which he was acquainted; and he hoped and trusted that, if his expectations were fulfilled, the Ministry would be prepared to come down with a further resolution for the resumption of more land, before the session closed. Now, certain remarks were made by the honorable member for Maryborough, which, to a certain extent, he endorsed; and, although that honorable member did not fully explain himself to his comprehension, yet, as far as he understood him, his remarks would lead to the conclusion that he meant to say, that they should seek a revenue from the sale of those lands. Now he thought it would be very bad policy to seek revenue from the sale of land. He believed they would derive much more revenue indirectly by securing population, and thereby increasing the traffic on the railway lines, and increasing the customs receipts, than they would by putting land up to auction and selling it at a pound an acre. As that honorable member also said, they had in these lands a great capital, which belonged to the country at large; and he did not consider that, if they gave the land away for *bona fide* settlement, they would be parting with it at a bad price. He thought, if they got settlers on the land, they had a much finer capital than having the land without settlers. This land was now mere sheep-walks, doing no good beyond feeding a few sheep; whereas, if they settled a few thousand families there, it would be doing good to the revenue of the colony, ten times what would be lost by not putting the lands up to auction.

Mr. IVORY said the last gentleman who addressed the House had called the opposition—as he was pleased to call it—that had taken place to these resolutions a “factious opposition;” but as far as he (Mr. Ivory) had been able to see, there had been no opposition to it. Every one had, more or less, admitted that the resumptions were necessary, but there was one opposing remark with regard to them which had not been answered, and that was that the question should not be dealt with until such times as certain returns already called for, had been laid on the table of the House. Until they got those returns, they were simply acting according to the *ipse dixit* of the honorable the Minister for Lands, and as he was not always immaculate in his views, and, moreover, as he stated the resumptions were founded entirely on the reports of commissioners, he thought it was due to the House, before going into such an important matter, that they should have the reports of

the commissioners, at the very least, laid before them. The honorable member for Rockhampton had said he supported these resumptions unwillingly, and characterised the Government as being incapable of bringing in a comprehensive measure dealing with the land question, and he entirely endorsed those remarks. He believed the Government were utterly incompetent to take a comprehensive view of anything. Not only were they incompetent, but he said they were positively unwilling to settle the land question. They kept it like a sweet morsel to roll under their tongues, and keep the country in a state of fermentation. But for the question of the lands the Government would not sit on their benches for a week. He agreed also with the objection of the honorable member for Maranoa to a great extent. He thought there should be resumption to a certain extent. He knew, in one instance, in his own electorate, there was a town, with good land surrounding it, where there was none at all open for selection. His views, with regard to this question, were that, in the vicinity of populous towns in the interior, where people were rearing families, they should have the same facilities for acquiring land at the same price as people within the settled districts had. The honorable member for Toowoomba had remarked that many honorable members on that side of the House had expressed their approval of the action of the Government during the recess. Well, to a certain extent, he did approve of the action of the Government, but only in this, that they had taken such action as would decidedly point the eyes of the country to the rottenness of the existing land laws; and, holding these views, he certainly thought, in his own mind, that before taking any further steps with regard to the lands, it was the duty of the Ministry at present in power to have brought in some comprehensive Bill, and let it be seen in what way they were going to deal with the lands of the colony, and whether, in throwing open more land they were going to perpetuate this everlasting ferment, and give rise very possibly to still further litigation. The honorable member for Maranoa stated what, he believed, was positively the case. He held exactly the same views that he (Mr. Ivory) did with regard to the unlimited power vested in the hands of the honorable the Minister for Lands. There could be no doubt in the mind of any dispassionate man, that the Minister for Lands was a perfect autocrat in his department; and, furthermore, there was not the slightest doubt that when he wished any manipulation to be carried on with regard to the lands, he altered his commissioners. He removed one commissioner on the Darling Downs; and, to his own knowledge, there were certain reports sent from another district which did not tally with his views, and this same commissioner, Mr. Coxen, he thought it was, was sent up to give a different report. He had not the slightest doubt

that, previous to leaving the office of the Minister for Lands, he had his orders in his pocket. He held that such power was what no country should tolerate to be vested in one man's hands. Although the Ministry tried to hoodwink themselves that there was no cry about it, he said there was a cry that there was too much power vested in the Minister for Lands, and not only that, but that it was made use of for political purposes. He had been called the champion of the dummies, upon what grounds it was difficult to make out. He had said distinctly in the House that if dummying could be proved against any persons, the Government should have his support in ousting them. He held, and the honorable member for Maryborough had furnished him with the very argument which he was in want of, that if a previous Executive had led persons to go into speculation with regard to the land, or to invest money—possibly some selectors had borrowed money to go on the land—and encouraged them, by receiving the rent, to think that no notice would be taken of the neglect of conditions, the Government actually condoned the proceedings of the selectors whose rent they received; and that it would not be correct in a subsequent Executive to prosecute such selectors retrospectively for default. The actions brought during the recess had opened the eyes of the country to the badness of the land laws, and that was their only good. The Government should provide a remedy for the defects of the law; but, instead of doing so, they held its penalties *in terrorem* over the selectors. They were injuring the credit of the country by so doing; they were stopping the people from settling on the land; they were deterring them from making any improvements. He agreed with the honorable member for Maryborough as to what ought to be done with the land unselected on Darling Downs, which district had the benefit of a railway through its midst that was paid for by the whole country. After having got rid, through some mistake, of so much of the very best land in the colony, the House should, at all events, make the most they could of the little remaining. There was not the slightest doubt about it, if that land should be thrown open for homestead selection, there would be numerous people upon it; but, as was shown by the honorable member for Maranoa, the moment they had complied with the homestead conditions, they would find somebody in the neighborhood—a large proprietor—who would give them a premium for their selections. With regard to Clifton land, he had heard that it was withdrawn for homestead settlement, and that Mr. Tooth was prepared, if it was put up to auction, to pay £10 an acre for it. If that gentleman was willing to do that, a poor man who should go upon it, and pay 15s. an acre, would be ready to hand his selection over to Mr. Tooth for £10; and the country would be the loser to the

extent of the difference in the prices. Capital would find its level, and the ultimate result would be, that it would command the land. The question was, was the country to be benefited or not by the alienation of the land? He did not feel inclined to vote, and he should not vote, for the resumptions proposed, at present. He saw that the House wanted information; they wanted to see the returns called for by honorable members; they wanted the reports of the commissioners, to see why certain runs had been selected and why others had been left out; and for the purpose of giving the Government an opportunity of furnishing that information, which he deemed essential, he should move the adjournment of the debate.

Question—That this debate be now adjourned—put.

Mr. PETTIGREW said he had not anticipated that the debate would have taken the turn it had, and that an adjournment would be proposed. The House had pretty well discussed the question, freely and fully, from all points of view; but the fact was, they had lost sight of the main point at an early hour of the evening. It was very simple, namely, to encourage settlement in certain districts, and with that object to resume portions of certain runs. Was land required for settlement or not?

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. PETTIGREW: He should take his own district, and he stated as a fact which the Minister for Lands could substantiate, that the settlement on Laidley Creek made the railway station at Laidley one of the best paying on the Southern and Western line. A large quantity of agricultural produce was conveyed thence up and down the country. On one bank of the creek, the last selection was made ten months ago. It was made by a poor German, who took to the surveyor the last money he had in the world. He saw that man get a 100-bag of Hart's flour to start with, to take up his selection. That man went on the land, but he was altogether deceived in it. There was a big high scrub on it, and when he had cleared all about him, instead of having 80 acres of good land he had only about 3½ acres. He put in his crops; but he could not, for the life of him, see why he should not go from his bad land across the creek to the other land where he saw no fencing. If he had been careful to look, however, he would have seen a narrow furrow run here and there—which was the way that some persons had complied with the conditions of the Act of 1868. Land was required, and a sufficiency of land, too. His (Mr. Pettigrew's) opinion was that the Government had not given his electorate enough. He did not want to make a complaint now; but he must say that the Government had not resumed enough land;—his successor, or somebody else, would embrace the opportunity of calling upon them to put more land into the market. In his district, no

real agricultural land had been thrown open for more than three years. If it was not for the scrubs that were in West Moreton, not a fresh agricultural settler would have been able to come into the district during that time, unless he had gone up to Fassifern, or far away from means of carriage, where he must grow maize, and, unless in a year of scarcity, could hardly exist. He (Mr. Pettigrew) must say that the people were settling in the scrubs for agricultural purposes, and really the scrubs were the best land for agricultural settlement. He stated this from his own experience and from what he had seen many farmers obtain. If the present Government could not give the people land, or would not do so, they would have to resign, and some other Government would do what was required. If land was not put into the market, he believed the country would come to a standstill in a very short time. Immigration must be stopped, and then everything would be stopped. Money was now being lost to the colony; people were going over the border, and they were leaving the country in every direction because they were not able to get land. Look at this district. There would be only one party, perhaps a second, punished at all by the resumptions proposed. Most of the run-holders had made large selections already, and they still continued to take up pastoral land and to fence it, in order to protect themselves. Of other districts he knew nothing, and he did not intend to interfere. The honorable member for Burnett had said the Government would not last if they settled the land question. If the Government did not settle it, and not only the land question, but the education question, this session, he (Mr. Pettigrew) should not support them; and he believed the majority of the House held the same opinion. The House were tired of those questions and the agitation upon them; and they ought to be settled, so that something else could be done for the country. A great deal had been said about the commissioners. He should be inclined, in a new Land Bill, to make certain amendments upon the existing state of things. He held that if the land bailiffs had been appointed earlier under the Act of 1868 they would have prevented dummying from the start; they would have watched selectors, and have seen that they all did their duty. They were of great use, and had caused more improvements to go on than any other means that had been adopted to ensure the fulfilment of the conditions of selection. By and bye, he should have an opportunity of speaking about the Attorney-General and the law officer, and the principle or no principle upon which land was recovered from the dummies; meantime, the country was demanding land, and the Government had taken the simplest way to enable the people to get it.

Mr. W. SCOTT said he did not intend to vote against the resolutions, but he was dis-

appointed in the policy of the Government as shown in the measure of resumption that they now proposed. He had expected them, in the interests of the "Great Liberal Party," to bring forward a comprehensive and decided land policy. They were a Government of great ideas, judging from their trans-continental railway scheme, and from much talk. But when they came to action, their performances were tinkering and temporising. They would reserve some land now, and they would want some more next session. Why not have the whole subject dealt with and settled at once? The proposed resumptions were very much out of proportion. He should, for instance, take two runs belonging to the same owners, Bell and Sons. Jimbour carried 200,000 sheep, and Buaraba had a carrying capacity of 4,000 head of cattle, or, say 20,000 sheep. From the latter run, 12,000 acres were to be resumed, and from the former 11,000. Why should an outside run like Buaraba, not near a railway, have so much taken out of it; when Jimbour, which was much better land, and accessible, and of much greater extent, had so little taken from it? He would much sooner see the Government propose to resume all the runs in the settled districts, and, acting upon the advice of the Upper House, last session, provide compensation for the lessees. Why not allow $5\frac{1}{2}$ or $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which the other House would willingly accept, as compensation for cancelling their leases for the time they had yet to run?

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: Ten per cent.

Mr. W. SCOTT: He durst say they would be glad to accept something less. He was very glad to hear the honorable member for Carnarvon speak about the extension of the settled districts. The Minister for Lands should take that matter into consideration. He (Mr. Scott) would gladly support a measure to take the whole watershed from the heads of the Dawson and the Comet to the southern boundary line of the colony, and thus extending Schedule B, there would be no need to touch other lands for a number of years. It was all very well, resuming land from year to year, and bringing in a new Land Bill every session; but when people who started from the old country for Queensland found on their arrival in the colony that the land law was changed, how could it be expected that the country would be attractive, or that immigrants when they came would remain in the colony? The pickle that the land law was now in deterred settlers from taking up land and from carrying out improvements on holdings already taken up. If the law was in a proper state, and there was plenty of land open for selection, and the public knew the conditions, the colony would advance in settlement, and population would increase. There were somewhere about thirty millions of acres of land for selection, and he did not believe that half-a-million acres had been taken up. If it was opened to the public

in a fair and straightforward manner, he ventured to say that a different state of things would soon be seen. Encourage settlement, and there was nothing to be afraid of for the colony. He blamed the Government for this present action, but he should give them his support for having taken measures to upset those parties who had tried to secure land fraudulently, and his support was given to them on that ground alone. Having once begun, they must carry on the prosecutions impartially. He did not believe in the charge of partiality that was made against them. It was their duty to carry on the prosecutions, and to show favor to no one, friend or opponent. He was very much astonished to hear the excuse of the Colonial Treasurer of the present system of throwing open the lands. The honorable member for Port Curtis had pointed out that Widgee was not one of the runs included in the previous proposal for resumptions; and, now, nearly the whole was to be taken. That land was not required, and it was strange that such a change should have taken place in the intentions of the Government, in so short a time. He (Mr. Scott) was disappointed in the system of the Government; but he should yet hope to see them bring forward a comprehensive scheme. Until they did so, the public would never know what to expect in the way of interference with the lands. He wished to move, if the honorable member for Burnett would consent, that the adjournment of the debate should take place until the correspondence with the commissioners, and the land agents' reports, and all other documents with reference to the resumptions proposed, should be laid on the table of the House.

The SPEAKER told the honorable member that, under no circumstances, could he move such an amendment on the motion.

Mr. W. SCOTT: He should like to know why? Another question he had to refer to was suggested by what the honorable member for Maranoa had said. If land was gone, he did not know what better could be done for the country than to introduce a land tax. He was prepared to support a land tax, which would prevent monopoly; and he thought the sooner it was initiated the better.

Mr. THOMPSON considered the question before the House a very narrow one—that resumption should take place. He had no doubt that there was a great demand for land; whether it was a *bond fide* demand or not he did not know, and he had no intention to enter into that question. If he thought that the proposed resumption was fair, or that the scheme of the Government was fair, he should unhesitatingly support it. But, in the face of the meagre statement of the Minister for Lands, which merely amounted to this—from information received, he had done so-and-so—he did not hesitate to say that he should oppose the motion until he got some information, such as the honorable member who spoke last wished for. But, in the face of

the majority that the Government had, it was totally useless making any stand on a point like that. He saw perfectly well that, having seated a man in the House, whom he (Mr. Thompson) declined to call the honorable member for Logan, without any return—

The SPEAKER said the honorable member was out of order in questioning a decision of the House and treating its action with disrespect. The question was the resumption of lands.

Mr. THOMPSON: The line of his argument was the strength of the Government, and he was showing that, to increase their strength in the House, they had done an illegal act. It might be against the rules to illustrate as he had done, but he should word his argument in such a manner that it would be within the rules of the House. The Government were so strong that it was quite possible for them to elect Mr. James Gibson, the returning officer for Logan, to a seat in the Chamber for the district of Burke—

The SPEAKER informed the honorable member that he was wandering from the question before the House, which had nothing to do with the return of Mr. Gibson or any one else.

Mr. THOMPSON: With great deference to the Chair, his was a fair line of argument; and he gave, as a reason for not showing a strenuous opposition to the Government, the power of that Government, and he wished to show that their strength was such in the House that they had demonstrated it by what he could not but call a notorious instance of the violation of the law and practice of Parliament, by electing a man to the House who had not been duly returned—

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he must call the honorable member to order. The honorable member was raising a discussion that was irregular.

The SPEAKER was understood to say that the honorable member for Bremer was the last to speak disrespectfully of anything the House had assented to. In doing so, he was out of order. He must confine himself to the question before the House.

Mr. THOMPSON: Well, then he should suppose a case to have happened in another colony, where a Government, backed by a strong majority in the Legislature, introduced a person to the House as a member, who had never been returned, whose name was not endorsed on the writ of election by the returning officer, the writ being nothing more than a piece of waste paper, as the returning officer might have resigned or been incapacitated in some other way. If such a thing was told as having happened in any of the other colonies, honorable members would say it was impossible—that never were a Government so demented, that never a majority ruled in such a way, that never would a minority refuse to sit up all night to prevent it. The minority were to blame;—they should have sat up all night

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. THOMPSON: He was simply giving this as a reason why he did not think it necessary to oppose anything that came before the House when the Government were so strong that they could do anything which, if the House had not seen, they would believe to be impossible. The simple point he should consider was, was the resumption proposed a fair one? He did not think so. On the contrary, it appeared on the face of it to be unfair. Some persons with small runs had been touched heavily, and others with large runs had been touched lightly. He wanted this explained. He had great confidence in the Minister for Lands.

Mr. PALMER: It is more than I have.

Mr. THOMPSON: Well, he saw he differed from his usual associates and companions. The honorable member wanted to take from a little run like Wivenhoe, 13,400 acres, while from a large run he took only 6,400 acres. That was the mystery of the business which he (Mr. Thompson) wanted explained to him. It might be explained in this way—that the run-holders whose land was resumed were consenting parties. If so, there must be some reason why they consented, and he should like to know the reason. If they were not consenting parties, how was it that they were touched so heavily where land was not required? He could show plenty of places in West Moreton, but it was not his business to do so, where land was required very much more than where resumptions were proposed—where the runs had not been before touched, and where the lessees were peculiarly favored. It was a very remarkable thing, and he should like to know why 24,480 acres were taken out of Franklyn Vale, and none out of Laidley? Perhaps it was not to be got, but the House were not told so. There were many other things that he could talk about in connection with the proposed resumptions; but it was no use going into details. It was perfectly useless speaking in the House under the present *regime*, and while it was possible that a member for Kennedy might be introduced into the House on the direction of the leader of the Government now in power.

Mr. FOOTE said it was a rule, seemingly, that every honorable member should say something on the question, and a great deal of time had been taken up unnecessarily. For his own part, he should be glad if the Government brought in another Land Bill. The way in which the question should be dealt with was by the introduction of a comprehensive measure, which, if it got the consent of both Houses, would stand for five or six years. No doubt, the constant interference with the land law was damaging to trade, especially damaging to parties holding large pecuniary interests in stations. Referring to the loss of the Land Bill and to the rejection of the resolutions for resumption, last session, he said their loss might have been

judicious and have had a salutary effect; it was not for him to say. But land was much wanted in the settled districts of the colony. He approved of the position now taken up by the Minister for Lands. Finding that he had been overruled in two instances, the honorable gentleman came before the House with a very modest request; not that he did not think greater quantities of land were required, not that a comprehensive Land Bill would not be beneficial, but because he had no hope of carrying large resumptions or such a Bill as was required, in another place. The honorable gentleman hoped that his modest resumptions would meet the approval of both Houses, and in some degree meet, if not satisfy, the wants of the country. It had been remarked that some runs had been hardly dealt with, while others had been overlooked. The honorable member for Bremer had said that land resumed from Wivenhoe was not wanted. Well, that was just in a part of the district where it was absolutely wanted, as nearly all the available land on the banks of the Brisbane, the only place where good agricultural land could be got, had been taken up. In West Moreton, there was scarcely an acre of good agricultural land now open for selection, and settlement had therefore been considerably hindered. In the list of runs, he did not see Rosewood, which was contiguous to Laidley. That run abounded in good agricultural land, and he did not know why the Minister for Lands did not propose to resume a proper proportion from that run, which was in the very heart of agricultural settlement. If it was thrown open, the whole country round would soon be studded with small farms. He had much pleasure in supporting the resumptions proposed, at the same time that he wished that the Minister for Lands had seen fit to increase them in other places where settlement was desirable.

The SECRETARY FOR LANDS said the honorable member for Bremer wanted to know why Franklyn Vale was resumed and not Laidley. In fact, in the books of the Department of Lands there was no Laidley Run. The two runs were consolidated. With regard to Rosewood, the whole run was taken.

Mr. THOMPSON: What about Wivenhoe?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: It was reported that there was a large demand for land there, and the land was taken.

Mr. PALMER observed that the strongest argument for adjournment was brought forward by the honorable gentleman on the other side of the House, in his very short explanation just now. The House wanted a great deal more information before they could agree to the resumption of lands asked for; and as several honorable members had used this same argument, the Secretary for Public Lands should give way. At an early hour, he (Mr. Palmer) had called attention to the fact that the House had very little informa-

tion on the subject before them; and, since, there had been no explanation from any member of the Government why land should be taken from particular runs and none from other runs. If the Minister for Lands wished to carry his resolutions through Parliament, he must be aware that the more information he gave, the more likely he was to get them supported. The Government might, with their overwhelming majority, carry them in the Assembly, but there was another place where more information would be demanded than was yet given about the resumptions, or it could hardly be expected that wholesale resumptions such as were proposed could pass. He (Mr. Palmer) should not oppose the resolutions; but he maintained that, notwithstanding all that had been said about land-hunger by certain honorable members, it had not yet been shown to the House that a demand for land existed. Whether the alleged demand existed amongst persons who really wanted to acquire land for their own occupation, or amongst those who wanted it for speculative purposes; or whether it was wanted by middle men who would take the greater part of the profits and sell to capitalists, the House had not been told. The House had not been furnished with any returns or proof that land was wanted; and it was the fault of the Minister for Lands that such information was not in their hands. The honorable member for Burnett had called for such information; but in a weak moment, at the instance of the Minister for Lands, he withdrew his motion. If the honorable member had let the motion go, the returns would have been before the House, and there would have been very little debate on the resumptions. Believing, as he (Mr. Palmer) did, that the prosperity of the country required land to be resumed, where it should be resumed, he regretted the honorable gentleman's action in this matter. He was sure it would be very satisfactory to the honorable gentleman for his resolutions to go up to the other House with the opinion of the Assembly unanimously in their favor, rather than that there should be a division forced upon them. It was possible to get all the information to-morrow, or, at all events, by the next Government business day. He could answer for himself and his friends that, if they saw the resumptions were fair, the honorable gentleman could carry his resolutions with the unanimous voice of the House.

Question put, and the House divided. While the tellers were taking the lists,

Mr. THOMPSON said: Mr. Speaker—I object to the vote of Mr. Black.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: On what ground?

Mr. THOMPSON: On the ground that he has not been returned to this House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The honorable member is in contempt in disregarding a decision of the House.

Mr. THOMPSON: I am not in contempt.

The division was declared, as follow:—
Ayes, 9; Noes, 24.

Question resolved in the negative.

The original question was then put, and the House again divided:—

AYES, 27.

Messrs. Macalister, Stephens, Hemmant, Griffith, Buzacott, Miles, Foote, Lord, Douglas, Fryar, Beattie, Black, Macrossan, Hodgkinson, J. Thorn, Groom, King, Dickson, Stewart, Fraser, Edmondstone, Low, Pechey, Morgan, W. Scott, Bailey, Pettigrew.

NOES, 8.

Messrs. Palmer, Morehead, J. Scott, Ivory, Thompson, McIlwraith, Royds, and Graham.

Resolved in the affirmative.

The usual Message was ordered to be sent up to the Legislative Council, transmitting the resolutions for the concurrence of that House.