

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 17 AUGUST 1876

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, 17 August, 1876.*Petition.—Claim of Dr. Lang.—Brisbane and Ipswich
Railway.—Railway Survey.—Adjournment.

PETITION.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Maryborough, setting forth the services of the Rev. Dr. Lang in the cause of Separation; and referring to certain action of this House in relation thereto—praying consideration and relief.

Petition having been read to the House at length by the Clerk,

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS moved—

That the petition be received.

Mr. WALSH said he must call attention to the irregularity of the petition; it was a reflection on the proceedings of the House, and could not be received.

The SPEAKER: I do not think it can be termed a reflection on the proceedings of the House. It says that:—

“Although Dr. Lang gave offence in certain quarters by alleging, perhaps injudiciously, that this amount was no adequate compensation for the expenditure he had incurred in rendering very important services to the colony, that was no valid reason in the estimation of your petitioners for withholding the payment of the thousand pounds altogether; that amount being, in their opinion, a debt of honor which the Government and Parliament are bound to pay—”

I must confess I cannot read the remainder.

Mr. WALSH: Then that of itself is a valid reason for refusing the petition. The Standing Order on the subject says—

“Every petition shall be fairly written.”

Mr. SPEAKER: The words I have read at any rate are not disrespectful to Parliament.

Mr. PALMER: According to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, in respect to the Chinese petition from Cooktown, the Minister for Lands is, I think, bound to certify that what has been read is a correct translation. It seems not to be legible.

Mr. BELL: And I submit that it is a petition for money and cannot be received on that ground.

The SPEAKER: I do not think the petition is informal for that reason. It cannot be described as a petition for money, although it sets forth certain claims on the part of Dr. Lang.

Mr. BELL: Taking the petition in connection with the reference to the £1,000 as a debt of honor, I submit this is a petition for money, and therefore the House should reject it.

Mr. IVORY: The petition is a positive reflection on the action of the House, for it says the House has engaged in a debt of honor which it has not been able to pay.

The SPEAKER: I do not consider this petition disrespectful. It is in accordance with the regulations and customs of the House; but if honorable members should think otherwise, of course they may vote against the motion.

Mr. WALSH: I will point out that it is distinctly laid down by Standing Order 193, that every petition shall be fairly written. Well, sir, you are unable to read it; therefore, I presume it is not fairly written, else it is a great reflection upon your capacity.

Mr. GROOM: I do not think, sir, this is a fair objection to take. The writer of the petition is a venerable gentleman, some seventy-five years of age, and his hand is probably not so steady as it was; and under these circumstances, I think it is a paltry objection, to say the venerable gentleman's handwriting is not good.

Mr. WALSH: The petition is not signed by Dr. Lang, and why he is supposed to have written it I do not know.

Mr. GROOM: I have no doubt, in fact, I know the petition is in the venerable doctor's handwriting. I have another like it.

Question put and passed.

CLAIM OF DR. LANG.

Mr. GROOM said, in moving the resolution standing in his name, he might state that he had brought this case again under the consideration of the House at the request of Dr. Lang himself. The reverend gentleman had put himself in communication with him (Mr. Groom) in consequence of his having attended a public meeting called in Too-woomba for the purpose of making known the reasons why that gentleman thought he was entitled to some consideration at the hands of the colony. He (Mr. Groom) gave utterance to what he thought were Dr. Lang's claims at that meeting, and the reverend gentleman asked him if he would undertake to present a petition to the House asking them once more to reconsider his case. He consented to do so, and he might say he did so with a considerable amount of satisfaction, because he thought Dr. Lang had claims upon that House and the country. He was quite sensible of the fact that

year by year the colony was increasing in population, and there were many arriving who did not know Dr. Lang, even by name, perhaps, and who were not aware of the struggle he was engaged in in the early history of the colony, not only to ensure separation, but also the responsible Government they were now enjoying. Those who were acquainted with the early history of the colony must know that Dr. Lang was associated with such men as Mr. Wentworth, Dr. Bland, and the late George Robert Nicholls, in bringing under the notice of the Imperial Government the claims of the Australian colonies to the responsible Government which they now possessed; and he thought, when some future Macaulay wrote the history of the colonies, there would be no name in the pages of that history that would have a brighter lustre than that of Dr. Lang. There was no doubt that gentleman, like a great many more, had a somewhat hot and impetuous temper, and that both by his public speeches and writings, he had created a great many enemies; but if he had, he had done what most of them were sometimes guilty of; and now, when he was in the "sere and yellow leaf" they ought to take the brighter aspects of his character, and judge him by what he was, rather than by some of his actions in days gone by. There could be no doubt, whatever might have been done by the residents then in Moreton Bay in 1856-57-58, when the battle of Separation was being fought, that Dr. Lang was a valuable auxiliary in London to their efforts, and it was probable, or more than probable, that if it had not been for his repeated representations to Earl Grey and other English statesmen as to the capabilities of the colonies to govern themselves, they would not have been able to obtain responsible Government so early as they did. And that Australia had proved capable of governing itself in all parts he thought had been clearly revealed. From a mere Crown colony, they were gradually growing to be a nation, which he hoped some day would be a federated one, which they might yet see governed, perhaps, by royalty itself. A great many honorable members might think that as this matter had been before the House so many times it ought to be got rid of.

Mr. PALMER: Hear, hear.

Mr. GROOM said but he thought it was never too late to do an act of justice. He might say that he stood in a somewhat peculiar position in regard to this matter. When the question was first introduced into the House by the present honorable member for Maryborough, he voted for awarding Dr. Lang £1,000; and he must confess, as one of those who voted with the honorable member for Maryborough on that occasion, that he felt considerably irritated on reading a letter published by Dr. Lang in the papers complaining of the reduction of the £5,000 to £1,000, and he thought, smarting under that

imputation, if it should come on again he should even vote against it, believing that £1,000 ought to have been accepted as the gift of the House, and that Dr. Lang ought not to have spoken disrespectfully of that vote or of that House. But when the honorable member for Maryborough, who represented the electorate of Port Curtis at that time, before the session closed, brought the matter under the notice of the House again, rather than jeopardise the motion, he (Mr. Groom) walked out of the House. There could be no doubt that under ordinary circumstances, once the matter was decided by that House, Dr. Lang was fairly entitled to £1,000, and it would be almost immediately paid. He found from the records of the House, that in 1864, on the motion of the honorable member for Maryborough, the House agreed to go into committee to consider what sum should be given to Dr. Lang, the blank was filled up with £1,000, the Chairman was moved out of the chair, the resolution, granting £1000, was reported to the House, and the adoption of the resolution was carried unanimously. Now, under ordinary circumstances, that money would have been paid there and then to the recipient, and in proof of that, he might state that in the very same session, a resolution was adopted giving a grant of £500 to the Servants' Home in this city; it was carried precisely on the same terms as Dr. Lang's, and immediately the resolution was reported to the House and adopted, a cheque for £500 was handed over to the promoters of that institution; but in Dr. Lang's case the money was withheld for some reason which had never been explained. Why it was held back he did not know; there might be reasons, and, perhaps, good reasons why it was not paid, but the fact was, that it had not been paid to this day. Of course, there were some honorable members who believed that Dr. Lang had a moral claim on the House for that £1,000, and the reverend gentleman himself had asked him to take action on the resolution of 1864, and give him the £1,000 with interest added; but he (Mr. Groom) thought it would be better to omit the interest, and ask the House to take the case into consideration again, and give him the same vote that was agreed to in 1864. He apprehended that if he were to address the House for the next twelve hours, he would not make any impression on an unwilling audience, and he was not anxious to weary the House by a long speech in reference to this question. Speaking individually, he might say he thought the Rev. Dr. Lang had a claim on the House for that £1,000. He would go even further and say, that considering the important and valuable services he had rendered to this colony in particular, as well as to the other colonies, more or less, he was entitled to substantial recognition. There could be no doubt that by his active efforts in promoting separation, and by working with other very prominent men in secur-

ing the privileges of responsible Government, that for a long time were withheld by the Imperial Government, he had materially advanced the whole colony, and raised many in it from comparative poverty to opulence and riches, and in all the colonies. He was a poor man by his exertions, as most men were who engaged in political life to the extent he had done. He (Mr. Groom) had reason to know that at this moment his property was heavily encumbered, chiefly by the large amount of money he spent in actively supporting immigration to Queensland before it was a separate colony, and in advocating separation. Under those circumstances, he thought the reverend gentleman, who was now aged 75 years, was entitled to some consideration at their hands, and he (Mr. Groom) had great pleasure in proposing the resolution. He might, perhaps, refer to another matter before he sat down, and that was, that last year, Dr. Lang came to the colony, and addressed public meetings at Brisbane, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Maryborough, and Rockhampton, and in each of those places resolutions favorable to his claim were carried; and, in fact, he (Mr. Groom) had a petition himself, numerous signed, to present to the House, but in consequence of an informality he was unable to do so. He believed he was justified in stating that the honorable member for Rockhampton had a similar petition signed by influential gentlemen, which he also was unable to present from the same cause. They had therefore an expression of opinion from the large centres of population that some recognition should be given to the claims of the reverend gentleman. He believed that gentleman did say, perhaps in a moment of anger, that he would not again appeal to that House, but he would appeal to the people outside; but he (Mr. Groom) was prepared to make all reasonable allowance for any extravagant language used by Dr. Lang, who felt aggrieved, that after having rendered substantial services to the country, he should be treated with ingratitude. He thought, under those circumstances, and considering his old age, they should make considerable allowance for the extravagant speeches he indulged in on coming here. At all events, he was quite willing to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the House on this occasion. He (Mr. Groom) was satisfied that under ordinary circumstances the money which was voted in 1864 would have been paid, and it ought to have been paid; and he thought even now, at this distant period of 1876, it was not too late to do substantial justice, and redeem the honor of the House which, he considered, was committed to the vote agreed to in 1864. He moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the petition of the Rev. Dr. Lang, presented to this House on the 9th instant, with a view to the adoption of an Address to the Gov-

ernor, praying that in recognition of the services rendered to this colony by Dr. Lang, during a series of years, in promoting the Separation of Queensland from New South Wales, His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates of 1876, the sum of one thousand (£1,000) pounds, as a grant to Dr. Lang, in accordance with the resolution passed by this House in the session of 1864.

Mr. WALSH said the arguments of the honorable the mover of the motion, that honorable members should support it in order to redeem the honor of the House, and in consideration that Dr. Lang was an old man, were the most extraordinary reasons he had ever heard for asking that public money should be voted in this way. He said it in no way involved the honor of the House. He did not think on this question the House had in any way dishonored itself; and he would be no party to a motion, which had been repeatedly before the House during the last eight or eleven years—he would be no party to a motion which was to cast a vote of censure upon that House for dishonorable action. He thought the honorable member had been most unwise in putting the motion in that form, because honorable members, and especially new members, were bound not to believe that that House, of which they so worthily formed a portion, had done anything that was dishonorable. He put it on that point alone, that if the honorable member wished to injure the cause he had in view, he had only to assert that that House, which had conducted itself so well for many years, and had done so much honor to itself, and gained a tribute of respect from the other colonies from the manner in which business had been conducted, had acted dishonorably, and it was reserved for the session of 1876 to redeem its honor. He said the idea was an unfortunate one, and he was astonished that the honorable member for Toowoomba should have fallen into such a mistake. They would all admit that Dr. Lang was a very old gentleman; but it was not because he was old that they were justified in voting away the public funds of the colony. It was not because a certain individual knocked at the door—a beggar, a reverend beggar had been knocking at the door of the colony for the last twelve or fifteen years—that they were justified in voting away the people's money. That was not the duty he felt bound to perform; on the contrary, it was a duty he felt he had to carry out in exactly the opposite manner. He said the most paramount, the most sacred duty of a member of that House was, in the first place to preserve its dignity, in the next place to respect its past dignity, and in the third place to protect the pockets of the people of the country. Well, what were the claims put forward by this reverend gentleman, and advocated by the honorable member for Toowoomba on this occasion? He claimed to have done various important matters in con-

nection with the colonization of the colony, and while he (Mr. Walsh) regretted having to do so, he should produce records showing that his endeavor to colonize the colony was entirely a matter of self-aggrandizement, and it was accompanied with disgrace to the man—it was so disgraceful that the Home Government—the Secretary of State for the Colonies of that day, Earl Grey, called upon the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales to almost prosecute him. He (Mr. Walsh) repeated that he regretted having to speak in this way against an old gentleman who could not very long cause this question to be raised in the House. But in his position as a member of that House, as one who was bound to assist in guarding the public purse, those statements were forced upon him—extracted from him against his will; he did not make them voluntarily. What had the honorable member shown in support of the claim of this suppliant? He had not proved that he been a benefactor to the country, and he (Mr. Walsh) could prove, beyond all doubt, that he had been the reverse. It was not true that there had ever been a vote of that House giving him a sum of money. He (Mr. Walsh) would state what actually occurred. There was a vote carried at the fag end of the session of 1864, when half the members had left, that a sum of £1,000 should be put on the Supplementary Estimates of the next year, as a grant to him; but when it came to be considered in a full House afterwards, it was flouted—absolutely flouted out of the House, probably in consequence of the intemperate conduct of Dr. Lang in stating that he would not receive such a paltry sum. He (Mr. Walsh) thought he heard expressions of dissent from honorable members opposite, but he said that Dr. Lang, between the end of the session of 1864 and the beginning of the session of 1875, wrote a most insulting letter, addressed to members of Parliament, in the Moreton Bay paper, stating that he would not accept such a paltry sum. The consequence was, that when the Government, true to the resolution of the House, put the sum on the Estimates, in the first year he had the honor of a seat in that House, the indignity was so great in consequence of the ingratitude of this person, that when more members came to consider it—it was not then the fag end of a session—and there were six or eight new members in the House; he was one, the honorable member for Port Curtis was another—who were not bound by any previous resolution—and when it came before the House for reconsideration, the vote was almost indignantly rejected. He remembered well on that occasion, he read out to the House a despatch of Earl Grey's, which he should read again before he sat down; and he remembered the revulsion of feeling that took place amongst honorable members, who crossed over and asked, "Is that the case?—was that written?—I never heard of it before;" and one or two of them were

prominent supporters of Dr. Lang. He (Mr. Walsh) should yet show, as he did on that evening, that Dr. Lang was not the great benefactor to the colony he pretended to be. From first to last he was guided, he believed, solely by ideas of personal advantage. For sessions, they had had the same debate that was now taking place, owing to the fatuity or infatuation of the honorable member for Maryborough, who had constantly brought the matter before the House; and each session had only the more clearly shown that the House had not dishonored itself, he repeated, by refusing this grant, but had done that which it was bound in duty to the taxpayers of the colony to do. Now, a great deal of stress had been laid on the fact that Dr. Lang induced a number of immigrants to come to the colony. Undoubtedly he did so, but he (Mr. Walsh) was sorry to say he did so under fraudulent circumstances.

An HONORABLE MEMBER on the Ministerial side of the House: No.

Mr. WALSH said he was sorry to have to state it, but he would not state anything he could not prove, if documentary proof was anything. He would go further back and say, that the first efforts of Dr. Lang to colonise the colony was under a proposition to the English Government, which was a disgrace to any man who proposed it. He actually proposed, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, or other persons in Manchester who wanted to grow cotton and establish a monopoly in the colony, that the English Government should give him, or the company, a complete monopoly of the land about this city—that land should be sold to no other person except himself or his company, and for what? In consideration of his importing into the colony a certain number of blackfellows! These were strong statements, but they were true, if documentary evidence could prove anything. He distinctly proposed to the English Government that on the condition of his company introducing so many West Indian negroes to this colony, they should be valued at so much per head, and the company should be allowed a certain quantity of land about Brisbane—that within a certain space no land should be sold except to themselves. They were in fact to become the great land monopolists of the land in and around Brisbane. He should read the despatch on the subject, and if honorable members would look upon this gentleman as a patriot after he had done so, he should be very much astonished. This despatch was dated the 2nd of November, 1849, from the Under Secretary for the Colonies, and it was addressed to T. Bazley, who, he thought, must have been as agent for Dr. Lang's Moreton Bay Company:—

"With reference to your letter of the 27th July last, I am directed by Earl Grey to acquaint you that the memorial therein contained from the Chamber of Commerce, and the representations which it offered respecting the enterprise of

Dr. Lang, were not overlooked; but that they were referred to the Commissioners of Emigration for examination and report, and I am now desired to convey to you the following reply to the several topics noticed in the memorial.

"Lord Grey trusts that it can hardly be necessary for him to assure you, at the outset, that he is very sensible of the importance of encouraging the growth of cotton in any of the British possessions which may appear to be well suited to its production, and of promoting that object by every means consistent with freedom from monopoly, and with any absence of undue favor towards particular individuals."

Honorable members must bear in mind that those despatches from the Colonial Office and other offices in London were generally written in the most dignified form, and in the most reserved language; and impressing that upon them, they would see how much was felt on this occasion:—

"With respect to the recommendation that the Government should allow to Dr. Lang the sum of £18 for every emigrant whom he has sent to Moreton Bay, I am desired to acquaint you that this proposal appears to rest upon a misconception. It is observed in the memorial, that in order to enable the inhabitants of New South Wales to establish the manufacture of wine, a colonial bounty of £18 was granted for German laborers, and it is argued that it is not proper that less encouragement should be offered to the importation of Englishmen for the culture of cotton. The Chamber of Commerce apparently overlook the fact that while any Germans on whom bounty should be claimed were especially required to be skilled in the culture of grapes, or in the production of wine, the English or Scotch laborers imported by Dr. Lang are certain to know nothing of the culture of cotton. The two cases are entirely dissimilar. The only consequence of the proposed measure would be, that whereas the colony at present obtains laborers at the rate of £13 or £14 a-head, through the agency of the Commissioners of Emigration, they would obtain the same class of laborers, through the agency of Dr. Lang or other persons, at the rate of £18 a-head, thus diminishing by nearly one-third, the number of emigrants sent out; but securing a profit of nearly 50 per cent. to Dr. Lang and the other persons who might engage in the conduct of emigration."

That was the despatch denouncing one of Dr. Lang's first efforts to colonise Moreton Bay:—

"So far as regards several hundred emigrants whom Dr. Lang has already sent out on his own account, and as a private speculation, the only effect of the measure would be, that the emigrants having long since been imported, the colony should make a payment of £2,000 or upwards to Dr. Lang for his own benefit, without receiving any consideration whatever in return. It would be quite out of Lord Grey's power to direct any part of the colonial funds to be diverted from their legitimate public objects, in order to confer private advantages of this kind upon a particular individual."

That was one of the first efforts of Dr. Lang upon which he now based this claim.

That when he did send out immigrants, it was as a private speculation and intended to make a gain by it, was clearly laid down by this letter, written from the Colonial Office. Another letter from the same office said :—

“I am directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge your letter of the 3rd instant, accompanied by a resolution passed at a meeting of gentlemen disposed to associate themselves for the purchase of land in Moreton Bay.

“Lord Grey desires me to acquaint you, in answer, and for the information of the committee appointed at that meeting, that he regrets that he cannot, consistently with the provisions of the Land Sales Act, or with what appears to him to be required by a due regard for the public interest, entertain proposals based on the terms contained in this resolution. Dr. Lang proposed, so far back as November last, that very large tracts in some of the most eligible portions of the Moreton Bay district should be set apart for a company, without their making any payment for them, in order that might be able, from time to time, to select within those tracts, such lots of land as they might find it desirable to purchase. But it was not considered just towards the public, that individuals should be prohibited from buying any vacant lands which they might wish to acquire at Moreton Bay; or that the progress of settlement in the most promising parts of the district should be arrested, for the purpose of conferring on a company the exclusive privilege of appropriating such lands as they might, from time to time, think proper to select in those situations.”

Here they found that Earl Grey protected their interests; and in no way did Dr. Lang advance them. Earl Grey prevented Dr. Lang and his company from becoming the great monopolisers of the land here; and he was sure at that time, he and other old colonists little thought the Home Office took so great an interest in the future prosperity of the colony. If Dr. Lang's, or the Manchester Chamber of Commerce scheme, had been sanctioned, the whole colony would have belonged to that body or some body, and all at the instigation of Dr. Lang; and now, because that monopoly failed, because that gentleman did not make a fortune, he came to that House and said he had advocated the great cause of the progress of the colony by the introduction of immigrants and should obtain a reward. Another letter addressed to Sir Charles Fitzroy, which was signed by Lord Grey himself, said :—

“I have the honor to transmit to you, for your information, the enclosed copies of two letters from Dr. Lang, and of the replies which I have directed to be returned to them. You will see that I have felt unable to accede to the objects which he had in view. During Dr. Lang's stay in England, he has made a variety of proposals in connection with emigration, but, on examination, they have always been found to involve the concession of undue advantages to the companies which Dr. Lang stated that he was desirous to form, and not to confer any corresponding benefit on the public.”

All Dr. Lang's colonization parties were for the benefit of the company of which he was a member, and not for the benefit of this or any other colony. It was clearly a commercial speculation, and now, because he had failed in that way and in other ways, that House was to be duped into an impression that he was actuated by patriotic motives, and they were bound in his old age to recognise his services. The letter went to say further :—

“I have, therefore, been compelled to refuse his application. But, as occasionally letters have reached this office from which it would appear that a contrary impression has been produced, and that Dr. Lang had acted as if the proposals which had been refused were accepted”——

Honorable members should understand that that was Dr. Lang's practice, invariably leading the emigrants to believe that; and he (Mr. Walsh) remembered the time well, and recollected some correspondence on the subject in the *Moreton Bay Courier*. At the very time his proposals were refused by the Downing street office, he was leading emigrants to believe that his projects had been accepted by the home Government, and they paid their money under that false impression which he circulated. The letter continued :—

“I have felt it necessary to put you in possession of the present information, in order to guard against any mistakes after Dr. Lang may have returned to the colony.”

Well, in connection with that, so much did Dr. Lang mislead the English public by his statements in the public prints, and at meetings, or in whatever way he could, that the Colonial Office thought it their duty actually to advertise him in the London papers as misleading the public, because he had not obtained from the English Government the concessions he was representing he had. There was another letter, to which he would call the attention of honorable members, which was addressed to Dr. Lang from Earl Grey, and dated 28th September, 1840 :—

“I am directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you, dated 8th inst., requesting that part of the public funds applicable to the introduction of immigrants should be expended in paying a bounty upon colored immigrants introduced from the West Indies; and I am desired to acquaint you that this expenditure would be inconsistent with the spirit of the Land Sales Act; and that in other respects his Lordship does not feel that the proposal is one which it would be expedient to entertain.”

That was one of Dr. Lang's commercial speculations—to introduce West Indians into Moreton Bay for the purpose of growing cotton, and at the same time to get a monopoly of all the lands in the neighborhood of Brisbane. He thought that letter justified him stating, as he had stated, that one of Dr. Lang's first objects was to people this country with blacks, and that his object all through was to make money. He would next refer to

a despatch dated 30th March, 1849, from Earl Grey to Sir Charles Fitzroy :—

"I have the honor to acknowledge your despatches, No. 96 and 97, of 19th May last, respecting the arrival of the ship 'Fortitude' at Moreton Bay, conveying a numerous party of emigrants, to whom expectations appear to have been held out by Dr. Lang, which he possessed no means of fulfilling.

"I deeply regret the disappointment into which these poor people have been led ; and in order to show how completely Dr. Lang's conduct has been without justification from any proceedings on the part of Her Majesty's Government, it is necessary that I should put you in possession of the correspondence which has occurred with Dr. Lang on matters bearing upon this subject.

* * *

"You will perceive from these papers that in the latter part of 1847, Dr. Lang projected a scheme which was to secure the most extravagant advantages to himself, and to any persons who might become associated with him, to the injury of all who might be applicants for the land in the ordinary manner."

Now, that was very strong ; it was very plain language ; and surely such conduct would be looked upon as a crime now-a-days. If any inhabitant of the colony became possessed of more land than the law allowed him, he was liable to confiscation, and to be denounced as a dummer, and to be proceeded against by the Attorney-General ; or at any rate public execration being held over him ; whilst they had before them in that letter the case of a gentleman to whom the House was asked to vote a large sum of money, who actually tried to inaugurate a system of getting large concessions of land to the disadvantage of the general public. Earl Grey then went on to say :—

"With more immediate reference to the hopes which Dr. Lang would seem to have held out to the present emigrants, I have to point out to you that Dr. Lang constantly renewed the proposal on which he has acted in this instance, that the land to be acquired from the public should not be paid for in money, but should be granted as soon as it could be shown that a certain number of emigrants had been landed in the colony. By letters from this office to Dr. Lang, you will see that this proposal was most distinctly rejected ; and yet in the face of these repeated refusals of his request, it now appears that Dr. Lang continued, without taking any notice of them, to deal with the public exactly as if it had been assented to ; well aware that no public land would be given to him, or placed at his disposal, in respect of private emigrants who were proceeding to the colony at their own expense, he induced them to pay for their passages, and to emigrate under exactly the contrary impression. Having explained this delusion"—

That was strong language to come from a gentleman like Lord Grey, and such language he (Mr. Walsh) had never read since in any despatch.

"Unknown to the Government, he sent to this office a letter dated 12th September, 1848, in

which he announced that he had embarked a body of emigrants in the expectation that Government would grant in his favor that relaxation of general rules, which in point of fact had been so repeatedly refused, and begged that as the ship was to sail on the following day, Lord Grey would give the requisite instructions to the Government for fulfilling the promises which he (Dr. Lang) had made ; adding, however, in a postscript dated 19th September, that the letter had been accidentally detained, and that in the meantime the people had sailed on the 14th. The answer of course was simply to repeat the previous refusals. At the same time, my despatch of the 22nd October was written to you, warning you against being deceived on the subject.

"It now transpires from your present despatches that at the very moment when Dr. Lang professed in this country to be asking for what he had already been so often refused, he had actually despatched to you a letter in which he endeavored to make you believe that Her Majesty's Government had agreed to his proposals, and in which he applied, on that ground, for the immediate payment of various sums to the officers of the ship, as well as for the grant of certain tracts of land to the emigrants, and the allowance of credit to Dr. Lang and his society for the purchase of more."

That was strong language ; a stronger statement could not be made, and yet that House was asked to pay a large sum of money to that gentleman, and in doing so, to redeem their past honor. There, in a State document, was a man accused of actually trying to obtain land under pretences which he must have known were wrong, and yet, notwithstanding the damnable statement against him in Lord Grey's letter, that House was asked to look upon him as a public benefactor to the colony, and upon the past conduct of the House as dishonorable to it.

"As to the statement to you that Mr. Hawes had given him to understand that there would be no obstacle to these arrangements, it is enough to say that never once in his communications to this office did Dr. Lang allude to any such intimation on the part of Mr. Hawes. Repeatedly as his proposals were rejected both before and after the letter which he addressed to you, Dr. Lang never replied to the letters from Mr. Hawes in which these decisions were conveyed to him, by making the obvious remark, if the fact were so, that a different statement had been made to him personally. It was only in writing a letter to New South Wales, of which he withheld all knowledge here, that Dr. Lang made an assertion so remarkably inconsistent with all that had passed in writing with him in this country. I need hardly add that Mr. Hawes, in point of fact, said nothing to Dr. Lang which afforded any warrant for his statement that some understanding had been come to in conversation at variance with the written communications made to him from this office.

"Although, however, the information which I sent to you on this subject had not yet arrived in New South Wales when Dr. Lang's letter reached you, the prudence exercised by yourself and the Executive Council fortunately saved you from being misled. You refused to rely on Dr. Lang's

unsupported statements in like manner as indeed the private agent named by him appears also to have declined acting for him."

He thought there was at least one honorable member opposite who knew who the agent referred to was, and that he most decidedly refused to act for Dr. Lang; in fact, the gentleman knew whom he had to deal with. Further on Lord Grey remarked:—

"It is evident that the land promised to them (the emigrants) by Dr. Lang could not be given to them, because, as the Executive Council have most justly observed, no precedent could be more injurious than that the Government should suffer itself to be forced into the fulfilment, at the public expense, of whatever expectations private speculators might think proper to hold out without authority. You will observe, that Dr. Lang has also rendered himself liable to a criminal prosecution for obtaining money under false pretences, if it can be shewn that in any case he has positively asserted to intending emigrants that he, Dr. Lang, had public land actually granted to him by Government for their location, or that Her Majesty's Government had acceded to those applications on his part, which Government in point of fact refused. If any such deception as this can be proved, and Dr. Lang is in the colony, I should consider it a fit case for a prosecution on behalf of the colonial Government, if on consulting your legal advisers, they should advise you that there were grounds for such proceedings."

Mr. FOOTE: They were never advised.

Mr. WALSH said that that despatch was addressed by Earl Grey, who was then Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Sir Charles Fitzroy. He felt that he was wearying the House by reading such long extracts, but he had to assist in sustaining the past honor of that House, and to prevent the public money being wasted. He felt that he had a public duty to perform and he should not hesitate or lag in so doing. He could go on reading for hours from despatches if his eyes permitted him to do so; and could produce proofs, if necessary, to show that the reverend gentleman had no claim whatever on the colony; on the contrary, he could show that he was one of the most barefaced speculators in land that the colony had ever contained. He had shown that conclusively from Earl Grey's letters, and he could also show that a resolution was proposed in the Sydney Assembly in either the years 1844 or 1845 in favor of Dr. Lang, upon which an amendment was moved by the famous Mr. Wentworth, in which it was plainly shown that Dr. Lang's attempts to colonize the colony were of the most nefarious kind; in fact, the amendment was one of the most severe rebuts that ever a man had. He was prepared to show that Dr. Lang had no claim, and also how very inconsistent he had been on several occasions, more especially when he went about raising funds for the avowed object of going home to counteract the Catholic immigration that was setting into New South Wales, by the efforts of Mrs. Chisholm.

The reverend gentleman caused meetings to be held in Sydney; and he (Mr. Walsh) must say that, at the time, he himself thought that the Catholics were flooding New South Wales. Dr. Lang took the note of warning, and caused a feeling to rise against that immigration, and succeeded in raising funds to pay his expenses home to counteract Mrs. Chisholm's exertions. But what did he do when he returned? Why, one of that gentleman's first acts was to hold a public meeting at which Bishop Polding either took the chair, or else a very prominent part. It then struck him, that Dr. Lang was a man for all time and for all things; it struck him that as that gentleman had commenced with the Manchester cotton speculators, so he continued; he was always trying to do something for his own advantage, and as he had utterly failed, he (Mr. Walsh) did not see what claim he had on that House or the colony. He was quite sure, that if there had not been in power a man of the honesty and vigor of Earl Grey, the land which he saw now well occupied with stores and other buildings along the banks of the river Brisbane would have belonged to a company like the celebrated New South Wales company—a Manchester company, in fact, of which Dr. Lang would have been the chairman. But that gentleman most fortunately had failed, owing to the far-seeing policy of Earl Grey, and he thought, that with all the information honorable members had at their feet, and that they could put themselves in possession of, they should pause before they recognised Dr. Lang's claims to be considered a public benefactor. He thought the honorable member should have hesitated before he brought forward such a resolution, which on the one hand proposed to take money out of the pockets of the people of this colony, and on the other, was an affirmation which cast a reflection on the past proceedings of that House.

Mr. PETTIGREW said that after the long address they had just had from the honorable member for the Warrego, he did not intend to detain the House long. The question which had been discussed by that honorable member had no connection whatever with the question which Dr. Lang now brought before that House—nothing at all. The honorable member had been speaking about a period long prior to that for services during which Dr. Lang made any claim. Dr. Lang based his claims upon a resolution which was passed by that House as a mark of recognition of his services in assisting to obtain the separation of this colony from New South Wales. That resolution was passed on the 14th September, 1860, or very shortly after the colony sprang into existence, and was as follows:—

"That the thanks of this House be given to the Rev. John Dunmore Lang, for his efforts to effect the separation of Moreton Bay from New South Wales, and to found the colony of Queensland."

He maintained that, instead of showing disrespect to that House, that House in 1860 had shown great respect to Dr. Lang; and if there had been any of those charges against that gentleman, which the honorable member for the Warrego had referred to, at that period when men were younger and their memories fresher, he did not think such respect would have been shown. To bring up those charges after they had been repeatedly answered before in that House, was not at all, he thought, a proper thing to do. The question, as it had always appeared to him, was this—that in 1860, a vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Lang, and in 1864, a resolution was passed putting that vote of thanks in a more substantial form. On July 26th—and it was not at the end of the session, as stated by the honorable member for Warrego, for that year the House sat till the middle of September—Mr. Herbert, who was then Premier, and who was a gentleman who, from his connection with the Home Office, had an opportunity of knowing any charges against Dr. Lang, presented a petition from that reverend gentleman “praying that certain services which, as therein alleged, he had rendered to the colony, be taken into favorable consideration.” Then he found that a day or so after:—

“Mr. Herbert moved, pursuant to notice, That the petition of the Reverend Dr. Lang, presented by him on the 26th instant, be printed.”

The next thing was, that Mr. Douglas, on the 17th August, moved, pursuant to notice:—

“That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to take into consideration the petition of the Reverend Dr. Lang, of Sydney, presented by the honorable the Colonial Secretary on the 2nd instant, with a view to the adoption of an Address to His Excellency the Governor, praying that in recognition of the services rendered to this colony by Dr. Lang, during a series of years, in promoting the Separation of Queensland from New South Wales, His Excellency will cause to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for this year a sum not exceeding pounds sterling as a grant to Dr. Lang.

“Debate ensued.

“Question put and passed.”

On that occasion there were several speeches made, but he thought there were only two members in the present House who then spoke on the question; he would read some of the speeches. The honorable member for Dalby (Mr. Bell) then said:—

“He thought the present a fitting time to entertain the prayer of the petitioner. The legislature were passing a measure which was intended to advance, by further steps, a system of immigration, which had already proved a boon to the colony, and which Dr. Lang had done much to bring about, in addition to his labors in the cause of Separation. For his part, he felt great sympathy for the petitioner, and, he thought, the House would do well to recognise his claim by

giving him compensation, either in the form of a grant of land, or an adequate sum of money. He was of opinion that a grant of land would be most appropriate.”

What did Mr. Herbert say?—

“He had waited to see whether any honorable member, not connected with the Government, would address the House on the subject of Dr. Lang’s petition. When he received it, he did not feel himself in a position to ignore the services of Dr. Lang; and, although the Government had not thought it desirable to make it a Government question, they did not consider it out of place to recognise the claim. He thought, if it were only for the work on Queensland, which Dr. Lang had written, the services of that gentleman were deserving of compensation.”

They had heard of gentlemen getting grants of money and of land for much less service to the colony than that:—

“That book, which was now in its second edition, had no doubt assisted materially to promote emigration to the colony. His opinion was, that the most appropriate way to recognise the efforts which Dr. Lang had made to further the interests of the colony, would be to give him a large sized land order. Dr. Lang might fairly claim to have been the promoter of the land order system, and compensation in the shape of a land grant would, perhaps, best meet his wishes, while it would least interfere with the revenue of the country. He should, therefore, be prepared to make a suggestion of that nature in committee.”

Then again the late Sir Robert Ramsay Mackenzie said:—

“He thought the honorable member for Western Downs was laboring under an error in stating that Dr. Lang had expressed himself averse to receive such a recompense. He (Mr. Mackenzie) was at that time a member of the Executive, and did not think the temper of the House was in favor of any more substantial recognition of Dr. Lang’s services, or he should have proposed it. He was usually opposed to claims of that nature, but in that particular instance he thought some recompense should be given, and he concurred with the honorable the Colonial Secretary that it would be more appropriately given in the form of a land order.”

He thought he had read the speeches of gentlemen who had held important positions in that House. They had not looked at old despatches to try and find something by which they could throw abuse upon an old gentleman, as the honorable member for Warrego had done. And surely if honorable members opposite had made up their minds not to give Dr. Lang anything, they need not abuse him by going back into musty old records. He maintained, and should always maintain—and whether the money was voted or not was little compared with the principle at issue—that Dr. Lang was justly entitled to some recognition from the colony. To follow on the history of the affair in 1864, he would state what afterwards took place. On Tuesday, August 30:—

“On the motion of Mr. Douglas, the Speaker left the chair, and the House resolved itself into

a Committee of the Whole, for the consideration of an Address for funds for a grant to the Rev. Dr. Lang.

"The Chairman reported that the committee had come to a resolution."

And on the next day the resolution was brought up as follows:—

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that, in recognition of the services rendered to this colony by Dr. Lang, during a series of years, in promoting the separation of Queensland from New South Wales, His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for this year, a sum not exceeding one thousand pounds sterling, as a grant to Dr. Lang.

"Mr. Douglas moved, that this resolution be now agreed to by the House.

"Question put and passed."

There it was on record, that a thousand pounds had been voted; and it was also well known that that money had never been paid. Whether that House considered that it was responsible for the acts of its predecessors, might be a matter of opinion; but he thought they were on the same principle, that one Government seldom interfered with the appointments made by another, as in the case of Lord Mayo, where a new Government ratified the appointment of that gentleman which was made by their predecessors, although the whole Press of England was almost unanimously opposed to it. He thought that if a previous Parliament had voted a sum of money, and by some slip that money had not been paid, the House at the present time, when the question was again brought before it, were morally bound to pay it. There was no doubt that Dr. Lang had a moral claim against the House, and would have, and his family after him, until it was paid. He did not wish to make the present a party question, but only a matter of pure and sublime justice; and if they were not going to give the money it was of no use prolonging the discussion, or dealing in abuse of Dr. Lang, more especially when they were taught by a higher authority than that House, to have "respect for grey hairs, and not to bring them down in sorrow to the grave." As to the speech of the honorable member for the Warrego, that honorable member dared not to have made such statements when he was a member of the New South Wales Parliament, for had he done so, Dr. Lang would have torn him to shivers. He believed, also, that a great mistake had been made by Lord Grey in his despatches; speaking from his memory of what took place. One thing was very clear, that in 1864 the House voted Dr. Lang one thousand pounds, and that in 1876 that money had not been paid. The question, therefore, was, whether substantial justice was to be shown to Dr. Lang or not; he contended that they were bound by the acts of their predecessors, and that the money should be paid. If there were any charges to be made against Dr. Lang, the time to

have made them was in 1864, when the money was voted, and not twelve years afterwards. As to giving Dr. Lang a land order, it was nonsense to give an old gentleman like him one, they should give him money, which would be of service to him in his declining years. He hoped the House would agree to the resolution; if the money was not to be given, let them go to a division, and say no more about it.

Mr. BELL said that the question, as it presented itself that night before the House, was one which, it was clear to him, was in this position—that if they acceded to the proposition before them, and granted the sum proposed, it must be as a matter of grace, and from feelings of sympathy with Dr. Lang, in his old age, and from a consideration of the many years in which the application had come before them in its peculiar form. But he would ask, when he came to consider the character of the gentleman in whose favor the application was made, whether Dr. Lang was a man who was likely to treat a question in the same way—whether he had ever been known to treat any questions or applications with the same degree of graciousness or sympathy which he now expected from that House—and whether the House should, in deference to one who had never been known in his lifetime to show any softness of manner, give him that which he had never extended to others. He would admit that all that the honorable member for Stanley had said was quite true, and he still thought, as he thought in 1864, that there were then reasons why the one thousand pounds should be given to Dr. Lang for his services in promoting emigration to the colony. But when that sum was voted, and Dr. Lang had become acquainted with the fact that it was voted, what was his conduct? Why, he had not only indignantly refused it, but had actually stigmatized, with the most unhappy epithets, nearly every man who was connected with the passing of that vote, many of whom did not deserve such conduct. The result of that proceeding on Dr. Lang's part was, that when the question came to be finally considered, there was not a single member who had previously supported it, who did not sternly refuse to ratify it, except a few gentlemen on the Treasury benches, who felt themselves bound as a Government to stand by the proposition, and who did not wish to get out of favor with the public; but even the mover of the resolution, and some others were individually opposed to it. Since that vote had been so indignantly rejected by Dr. Lang, he for one, whatever his feelings had been previously, had sternly set his face at voting again for anything to that gentleman. Was it, he would ask, an insult for a young colony as Queensland then was to offer a sum of a thousand pounds to that gentleman; was the smallness of that sum sufficient to justify all the animadversions of an improper nature that that reverend gentleman had thought fit

to hurl against certain gentlemen in the colony? It might have been a small sum, but that was no reason why Dr. Lang, as a clergyman and a gentleman, should have abused the colony in the manner he had done. He for one had sternly refused to ratify the resolution of 1864, and should always do so in future.

The PREMIER said he regretted to see the turn the debate had taken, and he more particularly regretted the tone of the speech of the honorable member for the Warrego, a speech he might say which had been delivered twice in the present building and once in the old House in Queen street. He thought the House might vote the money to Dr. Lang, if only as an act of grace to him in his old age; but he took a higher ground than that why they should give him the one thousand pounds asked for—and he might say that in his opinion the sum should be larger—namely, that Dr. Lang had done more for Queensland and for Australia generally, than any other man. He had been a colonial politician in the broadest sense of the term, not a mere vestry politician; and had been mainly instrumental in obtaining for Australia those political institutions of which they had so much reason to be proud. On that ground alone they might give him the paltry pittance of one thousand pounds. Honorable members could not deny the great interest Dr. Lang had always taken in Queensland and its welfare, nor that he had been instrumental in planting on its shores immigrants of a most superior type, among others, men who by their pen assisted to obtain for Queensland its separation from New South Wales. He contended that if it had not been for those immigrants whom Dr. Lang planted in the colony, separation would have been delayed for years, in fact there might not have been separation even now. Such being the case, he thought it would be an act of grace, if after the lapse of so many years, the House gave the reverend gentleman the small sum put down, without any further demurring. He might say that he had known instances in that House, and also in other colonies, where it had been the practice to pay money at once after it had been voted by resolution; and he considered that the Government of the day after the amount was voted by the House had no right to withhold the payment of it to Dr. Lang; he should have had it immediately. He hoped honorable members would see their way to allow the resolution to pass; they knew very well that the reverend gentleman could not in the course of nature last very much longer; he had done wonders for the colony of Queensland and Australia generally in many ways, both as a politician and as inducing immigration, and he trusted, therefore, that the House would come to a determination to give the paltry pittance of one thousand pounds which was now asked for.

Mr. DE SATGE said he could not understand how the Premier could call a thousand pounds a "paltry pittance," and if the honorable member was going to deal with the revenue of the country with those extravagant ideas, they would find themselves in a very bad position at the end of the year. He thought it was a matter of regret that they should on that, the very first private business day of the session, and when they were just beginning to get on with work, spend so much time in discussing whether a sum of money should be paid to a gentleman who had already refused to receive it. He thought also that the Premier, who was the guardian of the public purse, should have been the first to oppose it. He remembered when a Government was in power to whom he always gave his support, that if ever he tried to get a sum of money put on the Estimates for any individual, the honorable member for Port Curtis, as the head of that Government, invariably refused it; and he considered that struggling as the colony now was with a deficit in the Treasury, and with bad times before it, they should not be occupied on the first private day of the session in voting money to a gentleman who had refused to accept it many years ago.

Mr. PALMER said that, in addressing a few words to the House on the subject, he should, in the first instance, reply to the speech of the honorable member for Stanley, in which, during the absence from the House of the honorable member for the Warrego, he said that honorable gentleman would not have dared to go down to the Sydney House and repeat the charges he had that night made. There was not much in a challenge of that kind, for he found in the Votes and Proceedings of the New South Wales Parliament, of the 21st August, 1850, the resolutions which the House passed, after having been invited by the Rev. Dr. Lang to ascertain whether there were any foundation for the charges preferred against him by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It was moved by Mr. Wentworth, as an amendment, that there were foundations for such charges, and particularly:—

"1. That the Reverend Dr. Lang having been warned by competent authority that any emigrants sent out by him contrary to the regulations in force for the conduct of emigration to these colonies, would not be entitled to any remission in the purchase of land, induced many persons, nevertheless, to pay him for their passages at rates above the current price, and to emigrate under the impression that they would be so entitled to land upon their arrival.

"2. That the beneficial interest in the land orders of two parts, dated 16th June, 1849, for £850, which sum the Reverend Dr. Lang, in his letter to Mr. Pettigrew, his agent, directing the allotment of this land, distinctly admits that he received from the allottees, was not in the Reverend Dr. Lang, but in the allottees, that he was merely their trustee; and that his subsequent pledging of the duplicate of the said order was a

fraud upon his *cestuique* trusts, and highly discreditable.

"Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived.

"Question—That the words proposed to be inserted in place of the words omitted be so inserted—put and passed.

"Question—That this House having been invited by the Reverend Dr. Lang, to ascertain whether there are any, and if any, what foundations there are for the charges recently preferred against him, by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in His Lordship's despatches, No. 189, of the 30th November, 1849, and No. 206, of the 15th December, 1849; and having considered these despatches and the circumstances generally connected with them, and having heard the Reverend Dr. Lang in explanation, is of opinion, that there are foundations for such charges, and particularly—

"1. That the Reverend Dr. Lang [having been warned by competent authority that any emigrants sent out by him contrary to the regulations in force for the conduct of emigration to these colonies, would not be entitled to any remissions in the purchase of land, induced many persons, nevertheless, to pay him for their passages at rates above the current price, and to emigrate under the impression that they would be so entitled to land upon their arrival.

"2. That the beneficial interest in the land order of two parts, dated 16th June, 1849, for £850, which sum the Reverend Dr. Lang in his letter to Mr. Pettigrew, his agent, directing the allotment of this land, distinctly admits that he received from the allottees, was not in the Reverend Dr. Lang, but in such allottees; that he was merely their trustee; and that his subsequent pledging of the duplicate of the said order was a fraud upon his *cestuique* trusts, and highly discreditable.

"Put and passed."

The honorable member for Warrego had, to his mind, distinctly proved everything he undertook. But, putting aside these charges altogether, he (Mr. Palmer) would like to know a little more on the subject. Let the charges be for the moment treated as a thing of the past; and putting them altogether on one side, he had yet to learn from any of the supporters of this vote what Dr. Lang had really done for the colony. He had listened year after year to mere assertions when the same vote had been brought forward, and when its supporters told the House that Dr. Lang did a great deal for the colony at the time of separation; but beyond assertion, there had never been any proof that the action of Dr. Lang in any way promoted the separation of Queensland from New South Wales. It was not at all likely that the character he had with the home Government would make his interest there very great; it was much more likely, from the letters of Earl Grey which had been read, that the interest of the reverend doctor at the Colonial Office in Downing street would be not much worth considering, if at all. Beyond the assertion that if it had not been for the arrival of the

emigrants sent out by Dr. Lang—sent out under false pretences, as was affirmed by the vote of the Sydney House, and as was distinctly borne out by the letters read by the honorable member for Warrego—there would have been no separation. There was no evidence whatever. From the state of civilisation to which the colony had advanced year by year, he thought even if these immigrants had not come, some others would have taken their place, and the emigrants sent out by Dr. Lang were a very small proportion indeed of the population of Queensland, even at the time of separation. Would some honorable member tell the House what Dr. Lang's services in the cause of Separation really were, and whether they ever deserved the £1,000 which it was said had been voted by the House? That this sum was voted by the House he distinctly denied; it was no more voted than the sum was voted mentioned in the motion he carried last session for putting £2,000 on the Estimates of the year for the survey of a certain line of railway. He admitted at once, that where it had been done by a very large majority of the House, and by an almost unanimous vote, money had frequently been ordered to be put upon the Supplementary Estimates for a particular individual, and, when sums had been so carried by an almost unanimous vote, the Treasury had, without further reference to the House, but taking care to put it on the Estimates of the next year, paid the money. But would the advocates of this vote point out one instance where the Treasury paid such money to any party who distinctly repudiated the reception of it? That would be a case in point, if it could be produced. Dr. Lang not only repudiated the reception of this £1,000, but maligned in every possible way both the men who voted against him, and some of his own supporters. He (Mr. Palmer) strongly denied that there ever was an instance of a repudiation of a vote of the House where it was paid without a subsequent vote, or, indeed, where it was ever paid at all. But even if Dr. Lang had a claim, surely after last session, when he came up to Queensland almost as a revolutionary, and appealed from the House to the people, he had forfeited all claim whatever to any vote whatever given by the House—which he (Mr. Palmer) again denied. It had been proved most clearly by the honorable member for Warrego, that the motion to put the sum on the Estimates was carried in a thin House; but that when it came before a full House, and the whole circumstances were stated, the money was refused at once. Dr. Lang had appealed to the people, and let him now go to the people. What had the people done for him, and what business had the case in the House again? They were told by the supporters of the vote last session that they would not appeal to the House again; they used something of the same language as Dr. Lang himself, and said they would appeal

to the people. That was the proper thing to do. If some of the inhabitants of Queensland had benefited by their introduction to the colony under Dr. Lang's auspices, they were the men to subscribe for him, and not the colony at large, for whom he had done literally nothing; for the great majority of the people of Queensland, Dr. Lang had not done one farthing's worth of service, and he doubted any services to any portion of the community. He again denied that Dr. Lang had the slightest influence upon Separation. Why, the whole business of his life had been that of a separationist. He had been paid for the separation of Victoria from New South Wales, and he had tried to get up separation in the north of this colony. Was the House going to pay him for trying to create a Cooksland colony? If this vote were carried, it would be a precedent for every man who thought he had a claim upon the Government to get some members to agitate year after year, until, by their very pertinacity, the House would be tired, and the sum voted. As for the Premier saying this poor old man ought to get the trifle of money, that was so much buncombe. It was pretended liberality, for the Premier knew well enough that the money would never be voted, and therefore he assumed the virtue of liberality. "Poor old man," indeed! Why did not the Premier, while he was about it, say, "Poor innocent old man, who never libels anybody!" although it was well known that he was the biggest libeller in the colony. After he had libelled all the best men of the day, was the House to vote the money because he had libelled them, or because he came to Queensland in revolutionary style and appealed to the people? He (Mr. Palmer) could not say how this motion would be decided on a division, but he would give Dr. Lang a very small amount indeed for any sum he got when the House was in committee on the subject. There was a great principle involved in this question, and there were many members who would not submit to vote this money, however inconvenient it might be. Talk of interrupting the business of the session? It was a vote of this kind that really interrupted the business. He had consistently voted against such votes since he had been in the House, and should continue to do so. A resolution put as it was, and virtually rescinded in the following session, made not a farthing's worth of claim on the Assembly. If Dr. Lang went into speculations on his own account and failed, as many better men had done, he should do as they did, and not ask the country for money.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said Dr. Lang had not appealed to the House on the ground that he had failed in private speculations. It was true he had what the honorable member for Curtis called a "speculation" in land orders, as many honorable members of the House had had,

but his claim upon the House had not been based solely on that transaction to which so much reference had been made. Dr. Lang, he believed, was the first to propose the system of land orders in connection with the introduction of immigrants, and whatever defects the proposal contained as a system, and those defects were illustrated by Earl Grey's arguments, were most completely condoned by the subsequent action of the legislature. The legislature of Queensland adopted the very principle which was first proposed by Dr. Lang, with what success he did not now pretend to say. He (Mr. Douglas) had never been an advocate of the land order system from a financial point of view, but there had been a large number of members of that House who had agreed, at any rate, with the principle of the system, who had believed that it would conduce to the settlement of the colony, and who had maintained that though there were defects in it from a financial point of view, there were no defects so far as the settlement of the colony was concerned. Those were opinions entertained by many leading Queensland politicians, and by the majority of the House for many years, and in this they were simply following the example set them by Dr. Lang, who had often been recognised and praised as the first exponent of the system which for many years was adopted with a considerable amount of success in the colony. On whatever grounds Earl Grey had to combat the opinions held by Dr. Lang, those opinions were amply justified by public opinion in the colony subsequently. And with regard to the wordy warfare between the noble Earl and the reverend Doctor, every one who knew anything of the history of the colony and country knew that Dr. Lang did represent at that time the feelings and opinions, and it might have been the passions in the ascendant here, and that Earl Grey's ideas, conscientious as they no doubt were, were not in accordance with the popular sentiment of the colony. Whatever, therefore, the point of dispute might have been between Earl Grey and Dr. Lang, he (Mr. Douglas) believed that the public sentiment of those times, of these times, and of futurity, would be found to support Dr. Lang's views. Earl Grey's opinions of the colony were then represented in the Government of the country by Downing street—a system which, however good in itself, and benevolent in intention, was unquestionably opposed to the feelings and wishes of the country, and which was departed from subsequently, and, on the introduction of responsible Government, entirely swept away. What he (Mr. Douglas) therefore maintained, was, that a thorough investigation of these old quarrels would prove that Dr. Lang, whether right or wrong, identified himself with the popular sentiments of the times, and not only so, but with the feelings of all who, at the present time, wished to see the triumph of representative Government. The honorable member for Port Curtis had referred

to a debate which took place in the Legislative Council of New South Wales. That debate took place before responsible Government had been established there, and before even representative institutions existed except in a very modified form; and it was well known that there were, at the time of the proceedings quoted by the members for Warrego and Port Curtis, many members of the nominative legislature of New South Wales, who were the deadly enemies of Dr. Lang, as Dr. Lang was the strong political opponent of them. Any judgment, therefore, come to by the Legislative Council of New South Wales must be taken as a mere illustration of the strong party feeling which then existed in a much more virulent form than had been known since. Dr. Lang testified strongly, and with all the strength and virulence of a stout partisan, against the system of Government then in existence, which unquestionably was a tyrannical one—one in no way suited to a free people governed by representatives freely elected by them. Under those circumstances he maintained that any reference to a Council chiefly composed, or if not chiefly composed, at any rate commanded by nominees, was in no way a correct representation of the public or representative feelings of those times. He had spoken thus much in justification of what he now felt, and what he felt as a young man at the time to which he referred, with reference to Dr. Lang. He had always contemplated him as a bold, and sometimes an uncompromising representative of public feelings; he partook in some respects of the character of a demagogue, but at the same time he (the Secretary for Lands) always recognised in him a lover of truth, an essential lover of justice, and a man who, come what might, was determined to speak out in troublous times for the rights of the people. He had always felt that, and never on any occasion had he hesitated to express his strong and decided sympathy in favor of a man, who, when there were troublous times here, when it was difficult for a man to speak the truth, and almost dangerous to do so—certainly dangerous so far as regarded his personal interest. He said there was such a man amongst them, and he respected that man, and felt that, as far as he was himself concerned, he should ever owe him a debt of gratitude, as he did now. And though he had on every occasion admitted freely that the actions of Dr. Lang had been characterised, at times, by a bitterness and determination which he had sometimes even regretted, still he had looked upon those merely as the defects of a man of strong character, as he did upon the defects of Mr. Wentworth's character, who was referred to the other night—essentially a noble man, a man in every respect a man, and yet having in him many serious defects, which he could not help regretting. The same he felt with regard to Dr. Lang, and he trusted, therefore, when he was thus carried away to speak as he

felt, that those statements would be accepted as the real expression of his feelings. He did not wish to palliate the defects of this man, but he thought, far above those defects, he had some qualities which deserved recognition, and he was sorry to say that up to the present time they had been overlooked. He would admit further, that he regretted that those claims should have come in the form they had come. He believed Dr. Lang's merits were above and beyond any money consideration he could receive from that House; and he, therefore, did regret that the position of this gentleman should be such as to render it almost necessary to claim this consideration at their hands. The consideration was a mere paltry one in comparison with the great services he had conferred upon the country.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he did not doubt for one moment that Dr. Lang was chiefly instrumental in securing to them the advantages they now enjoyed—that had he not taken the proper steps, assisted at the time by others, probably as competent as himself, though not perhaps so earnest as he was, they should not now be enjoying the privilege, as he believed it to be, of acting as an independent legislature governing this country by their own laws. The claims of this gentleman had been recognised by that legislature. A resolution to that effect had been passed, and the honorable gentleman who sat at the head of the Government benches and conducted the affairs of the country, as the leader of a party, with considerable ability for some years, Mr. Herbert, admitted himself, and not only admitted himself, but as the head of the Government, that there were claims which Dr. Lang had on the consideration of this country which could not be denied. As the head of the Government, he stated that in his opinion such was the case; he certainly did not oppose it, but, on the contrary, he supported the resolution which, at that time, it was his (Mr. Douglas's) privilege to bring into that House.

MR. WALSH: He voted against it.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he did nothing of the kind. He did not believe that Mr. Herbert would be guilty of such a dishonorable act as professing to do one thing and intending to do another. That was the accusation made by the honorable member for the Warrego:—That Mr. Herbert, acting at the head of the Treasury benches, supported one proposition by his words and by his advocacy in that House, and on the other hand he used his best endeavors to undermine that proposition. He (the Secretary for Lands) did not believe anything of the kind. He believed Mr. Herbert conscientiously admitted that Dr. Lang had claims upon the recognition of this country at the time they were brought forward, and he supported those claims in good faith.

MR. WALSH: No, no.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said, not subsequently; admittedly so, but what was the history of that? An old friend of his and of many of them, whose memory they respected, and who held a high position in that legislature, Mr. McLean, no doubt did express himself strongly, and in bitter terms, in reference to Dr. Lang. That gentleman, like the honorable member for Warrego, chose to express himself, as that honorable member sometimes did, in terms which he was sure on sober reflection he must regret that he indulged in. Mr. McLean did so with regard to Dr. Lang, and what was the result? These two fervid Scotchmen, as they were—

Mr. BELL said, if he might be allowed to do so, he wished to take that opportunity of correcting the honorable member. There was nothing that fell from Mr. McLean which justified in any way the attack of Dr. Lang personally or otherwise.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said there was a very bitter correspondence somewhere; there was a reference made, he believed, to immigrants; he was not now saying on which side the chief fault lay, but, at any rate, there were bitter words passed between those two gentlemen, and he admitted that afterwards Dr. Lang was guilty of the imprudence of writing a very bitter letter, which he (the Secretary for Lands) did not now seek to justify. The result of the letter was, that it nettled Mr. McLean, who was then Colonial Treasurer, and had the power of refusing this grant; it was in his department, he believed. At any rate, he was an influential member of the administration; between him and Dr. Lang, hot words had passed, and the result was, that Mr. McLean, possessing power and influence in the administration of which he was a member, chose to exercise that power, and went beyond what he (the Secretary for Lands) thought was the proper exercise of his duty, by refusing to place that vote in the Appropriation Act, as it ought to have been placed. Those were the circumstances. There was strong personal feeling on both sides. He was not saying that Dr. Lang did not give some provocation for that: on the other hand he thought he did so, and that Mr. McLean acted upon that provocation.

Mr. WALSH: No.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he did act upon that provocation; he refused to pay the money which had been authorised by that House, which might have been placed in the Appropriation Act, and was not so placed.

Mr. WALSH said he wished to correct the honorable member. Mr. McLean was not Colonial Treasurer at that time, nor for some years afterwards. The honorable member was entirely mistaken.

Mr. PALMER: He is utterly wrong.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said upon reflection, he believed Mr. McLean was not then Treasurer, but he had considerable

influence with the Government for the time being.

Mr. WALSH: No. I almost doubt that he was in the House.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he was obliged to the honorable member for correcting him in that respect. Mr. McLean was not Treasurer, but he had great influence with the Government, and in consequence of the hot words that had passed between those two gentlemen, the refusal came about. The Government, it was true, were responsible for the action that was taken, and he thought it was a very improper exercise of their discretion.

Mr. WALSH said he thought the honorable gentleman would again thank him for correcting him. He had fallen into a further mistake. Mr. Herbert was then at the head of the Government; his honorable friend the member for Dalby was Treasurer; and Mr. McLean had not the least influence on the subject.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr. Moffat was Treasurer.

Mr. PALMER: Mr. Bell was Treasurer.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he found in the debate that took place in 1865, the subsequent year, that Mr. Herbert voted in the minority in favor of it.

Mr. BELL: Who was Treasurer then?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said Mr. Bell voted then also, and Messrs. Herbert, Cribb, Fitzsimmons, Challinor, Douglas, Macalister, and Stephens voted in the minority.

Mr. WALSH: Not Mr. McLean?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he did not see Mr. McLean's name in the minority; he voted with the majority. But that was the subsequent year, and he said the influence Mr. McLean had with the Government then in power was such as to induce them not to place the amount in the Appropriation Act.

Mr. WALSH: No.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: That was exactly the case. He now simply wished to repeat that he regretted that the friends of Dr. Lang, who had done infinitely more service to this colony than could in any way be recognised by such a vote as this, should have brought the matter before them in this form, because, unless such a vote was passed with something like unanimity by the legislature, his own personal feeling was that it was better not brought forward at all. However, the case was before them in this shape; he looked upon it as a standing claim on the colony, and if it were sought to be enforced in this form they were bound to support it, as they were bound to support the honor of a preceding legislature. It was true, subsequent legislatures had not seen fit to endorse the action of a Parliament in session expressing its opinion on this subject, but there was no reason why that action should not be reconsidered, and he hoped it would be re-

considered on this occasion. He still thought they were very much indebted to this gentleman for real services conferred upon the country by his earnestness and determination, at all hazards, and sometimes at some risk, to carry out what he believed to be for the good of the people. Reference had been made by the honorable member for Warrego to Dr. Lang's intention at one time to bring some West Indian negroes here.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: Asiatic aliens.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said, no; these were African aliens he believed, and the object Dr. Lang had was this:—There was no doubt that at that time he had a great hobby about cotton cultivation; he believed, as everybody believed, that cotton could be cultivated here with advantage, and he thought it could be best cultivated by these men, who had seen something of it in their native country, and it would, therefore, be advantageous to introduce some of them. And he (the Secretary for Lands) did not think Dr. Lang was at all wrong; his object being to bring men here who knew something about cotton cultivation, he having arrived at the conclusion that cotton flourished in a surprising manner in this climate. He did not think that should be brought as an accusation against that gentleman now; and it was a curious thing that the honorable member for Warrego should bring it against him, for he was well known to be an advocate of Chinese and Kanaka labor, and all kinds of colored labor. He thought it was very extraordinary that he should single out that episode in Dr. Lang's career, as an illustration of a reason why they should not support this claim of his. He dared say, from the view which some of them held with regard to colored labor, that might be considered to be an accusation, but coming from the honorable member for Warrego, he did not see the fairness, or the propriety of it. He had thus endeavored to express his opinions and feelings on the subject; and from his observations of Dr. Lang's career and character, admitting thoroughly his faults, he still thought he had some great merits which deserved to be recognised, and as it was that gentleman's desire that they should be recognised in this form, he was willing to give any assistance in his power to effect that object.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Divide, divide.

Mr. JOHNSTON said he believed it was about twenty-nine years ago since he first heard the name of Dr. Lang. In the year 1848, he saw the walls of the city of Edinburgh placarded with large bills, about a lecture by Dr. Lang, on the subject of emigration to this part of Australia. He attended that lecture, and listened with great pleasure and interest to that gentleman's eloquent description of the climate, and the capabilities of the soil of this country for all sorts of tropical cultivation. After the lecture was over he (Mr. Johnston) and others put several questions to Dr. Lang in private,

and that gentleman referred him to a series of letters he had commenced to publish in a London weekly newspaper, and also to a book he was writing, which would be out in a few days. Now, in that lecture, and in that long series of letters in the London paper, which were continued for several weeks during that winter, and in that book, which he read afterwards, the public were led to the conclusion that Dr. Lang's idea was that this would become a great and flourishing colony—that it was eminently adapted for the growth of tropical products, and must, in a few years, become an independent colony. After some correspondence with Dr. Lang he (Mr. Johnston) went on board one of his ships, and on the deck of that ship Dr. Lang delivered an address to the emigrants, and told them if they were true to themselves, and to their families, and to their adopted country, they could not fail to become a great colony, because they must in the course of a few years be separated into an independent colony. Well, after they came out here, Dr. Lang followed them, and he became their representative in the Assembly of New South Wales, and there advocated the separation of this territory from New South Wales, and its erection into an independent colony. He advocated separation at the 30th parallel of latitude, which would have included the fine territory of the Clarence and Richmond Rivers, and he believed had Brisbane been true to itself they would have that now within their boundaries. But Brisbane was not true to itself; it returned a Sydney man, and the result was they lost that fine territory. He did not believe that they would have ever got separation had it not been for the assistance of Dr. Lang in his representations to the home Government. It was his own idea, and he carried it out consistently for a great many years; in fact, until they obtained it. Before that time he (Mr. Johnston) recollected standing in Queen street talking to the honorable member for Wickham, and a band of men walked by in chains, on each side of them were two or three soldiers, and the honorable member for Wickham said to him, "Dr. Lang's emigrants put an end to that." Of course at that time it was settled that this was not to be a penal settlement any longer. There was another thing in favor of this claim by Dr. Lang, and that was the value of the immigrants he brought to the colony. They were at present paying £1,000 a-year each to three immigration agents, but Dr. Lang was his own immigration agent, and lectured throughout the whole country; and moreover, he sent out immigrants at his own expense; they did not cost the colony of New South Wales a single farthing. He believed the money value of that, at the then shipping rates, was about £10,000. He had always looked upon Dr. Lang as the political father of this colony, and he

always should do so. That gentleman had been connected with the colony from its very foundation, and he thought if they did not to-night recognize his claim, they would be covering themselves with shame.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Question; divide.

MR. EDMONDSTONE said he could not allow this discussion to close without saying a few words, and he must be excused for taking up the time of the House in doing so. In 1835, when he landed in Sydney, amongst the individuals he happened to meet, were two he had known in Edinburgh before he came to the colony, and the first questions he put to them were: "Hallo! are you here; what brought you here? How did you get here?" Seeing that he had met them so very recently in Scotland, he knew it was impossible that they could have come out by the usual system of those days—transportation—and he also knew it from their respectable appearance, which was quite different from the generality of men of that class. The answer he got was:—"We came out here two years ago, and were introduced by Dr. Lang;" so that so far back as 1833 immigrants were brought out by that gentleman, and from that day to this he had never ceased to exert himself in the interests of the Australian colonies, and Queensland had benefited probably more than any other colony from his exertions. It was useless for him to follow up what had been said before, and to reiterate the arguments that had been brought forward; but he could not help corroborating what had fallen from the honorable member for Maryborough respecting the decision that was come to in 1864, and it was distinctly this:—A resolution was passed granting Dr. Lang £1,000, and it was expected that it would be paid, as under similar circumstances other amounts had been paid. But there was nothing more heard of it; and it was a great mistake, as he had heard it stated, that it was at the tail end of the session. If honorable members would look at the Votes and Proceedings of the House, they would find it was early in the session. Every member who had voted on the question—and in fact, it was almost a unanimous vote—naturally expected the amount would be put in the Appropriation Act, but when that Act came on it was not mentioned at all; and of course he, not being conversant with such matters at that time, had no idea of the cause of it. But on inquiry next day, he discovered it was Dr. Lang's letter about Mr. McLean that had been the cause of it being omitted; that in consequence of that letter Mr. Herbert had not inserted the amount. When Mr. Herbert was challenged about it, and asked why he had not put the amount in the Appropriation Act, he said, "What right had Dr. Lang to write such a letter as that to a member of this House? He had no right to write such an insulting letter; in insulting that gentleman, he has insulted the whole colony,

and the whole Assembly, and I say it is only right and proper that he should not have it, and the Government determined not to put it on." In the following year the motion was again brought on, and with a result which they all knew; there was no chance then of its being brought forward successfully.

MR. WALSH said, if the honorable member will pardon me, I think he is—

MR. EDMONDSTONE said he was in possession of the floor of the House, and he would not be interrupted. He was not in the habit of interrupting other honorable members; in fact, he had an aversion to addressing the House at all; and he thought, from his long membership, he might have that respect shown to him when he did address it, that he should not be interrupted. It had been said in some of the speeches that had been made, that Dr. Lang had refused this money; but how was it possible that he could refuse it when it had never been offered to him? It was ridiculous to say he refused the money. In fact, after the affront to the Colonial Secretary of the day, every effort was made by himself and the party with which that gentleman was connected, to keep the Dr. and his interests in the background, and above all things not to let him have this money, which had been voted by the House. He was very much afraid that what had been prognosticated by the honorable member for Port Curtis would very likely come true. However, he trusted it would not, because he should be very proud to see Dr. Lang rewarded for his great exertions. He was an old gentleman who had a hot temper, and it was possible he might have made enemies, but that he had done a great deal of good for the colony, there could be no doubt. If that gentleman had not been in Great Britain in 1848 and 1849, and applied as he did to the Secretary of State for the time being, and procured the insertion in the Act relating to the Australian Colonies of a clause giving power to separate the colonies, and particularly to separate this portion from New South Wales at the 30th parallel of latitude—had not that power been possessed by the Parliament at the time the people of this colony came forward and anxiously prayed for separation, and had it not been for the assistance of Dr. Lang, they never would have obtained separation at the time they did; because New South Wales did all it possibly could to prevent separation, and when the Government of that colony could no longer stop it, they prevented this colony from getting separation at a favorable parallel, and thus the capital was put at the extreme end of the colony. Had Dr. Lang's advice been taken at that time, Queensland would have been in a totally different position. He would repeat what he had frequently stated in that House, that no man had done more to benefit Queensland than Dr. Lang had done, and that if the resolution now before the House was not passed, it would be a very unfor-

tunate thing indeed, and a slur upon the colony.

Mr. WALSH said he rose for the purpose of explaining to the honorable member for Wickham that he was wrong in coupling Mr. McLean's name with the letter which was addressed to the House by Dr. Lang, as Mr. McLean had not taken any part in the matter at all.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE said that he did not want any explanation from the honorable member, as he knew what he had stated was perfectly correct.

Mr. FRASER said that he had on every occasion on which the present question had been before the House, supported a resolution similar to the one now before them. He had not done so thoughtlessly, as he had, on every occasion from the very first, well considered the grounds upon which the claim set forth by Dr. Lang had rested. Since his arrival in the colony, there was no name which he had found so prominently mentioned among the early colonists, or so highly esteemed, or to which so great importance had been attached as the name of Dr. Lang. He was satisfied that it might be conceded on all hands that there must have been some very good and substantial reasons why that gentleman's name should have occupied so prominent a position among the early colonists; and he had heard nothing that evening, from all that had been advanced against Dr. Lang, calculated in the slightest degree to remove that favorable impression from his mind. He could easily understand, at a very remote period in the history of this colony, when its natural capacities were not so well known to Dr. Lang as they became subsequently, that he might have formed the idea that this part of what was then New South Wales was pre-eminently suited to the growth of cotton and other tropical productions; and very likely the impression then generally prevailed, which had since prevailed among some persons, that this part of the country was only fit for colored labor. It was quite likely that Dr. Lang might have been imbued with the same opinion, and from that might have sprung his proposition to introduce West Indian labor into it. If they went no further back than 1860, they would find that one of the first things the first Parliament of Queensland did, was to pass a resolution recognising the services of Dr. Lang. He presumed that the gentlemen who then composed the Legislative Assembly must have been fairly conversant with the services rendered by Dr. Lang to the colony at that time, and he thought the House could not now take a better test on which to rest Dr. Lang's claim upon it than the resolution then passed. The honorable member for Toowoomba, that in introducing his resolution, that honorable member had really reflected on the honor of the Parliament of

Queensland. But he (Mr. Fraser) submitted, on the contrary, that the resolution brought forward by the honorable member for Toowoomba was, in every respect, calculated to redeem the honor of the Parliament of Queensland, inasmuch as it had at one time passed a resolution voting a sum of money to Dr. Lang, which had not since been paid. The honorable member for Warrego also told them that he strongly objected to voting the money of the people of the colony for any such purpose as that now proposed. It was a singular thing, however—and although he did not wish to attach more importance to it than it deserved, he thought before statements were made in that House, they should be well considered, even by an honorable gentleman in the high position of the honorable member for Warrego—that in the year 1867, that honorable member actually moved a series of resolutions in that House proposing a grant of 2,000 acres of land to a distinguished colonist for certain services rendered. It might be argued, that that was for services rendered to the colony; but if so, that was precisely the case with Dr. Lang, who had sacrificed his time and money to introduce immigrants into the colony; if it was said that he had done so as a speculation, then his (Mr. Fraser's) reply was, that the Honorable Louis Hope entered into sugar cultivation as a speculation, and on that ground he was not more entitled to consideration than, in the opinion of the honorable member for Warrego, Dr. Lang was. But he would go further and say, that if sugar-growing rested upon the evidence of Mr. Hope to make it a success in Queensland, it would have been a failure—in fact, that gentleman had been rewarded with 2,000 acres of land for telling the colonists of Queensland how impossible it was to make sugar-cultivation a profitable undertaking. They had been told also, that an adverse vote to Dr. Lang was passed in the Sydney Parliament; but it was a remarkable fact, in reference to that matter, that recently, both in Victoria and New South Wales, the services of that gentleman had been substantially recognised, showing evidently that the adverse vote against him in Sydney at an earlier period was owing to the circumstances which had already been related to the House by the Minister for Lands. He did not intend to trespass any further on the time of the House, but he had felt that he could not sit down and give a silent vote on that important question. They knew the old saying that a prophet had no honor in his own country, nor would he say that a patriot was accepted with honor in his own day; but he would venture to say, that in the creation of future monuments of honor, one would be erected to the memory of Dr. Lang; and that those who could view the history of men apart from the antagonism of individuals, when that time arrived, would be proud to see the results of Dr. Lang's labors duly and justly appreciated.

The COLONIAL TREASURER thought that it would be a relief to the House generally, when the question of the claim of Dr. Lang was settled. He thought, for his own part, that it would be much better settled by private subscription, than by going to that House for a sum of money; and that those gentlemen, who admired Dr. Lang so much, would do that gentleman a much greater kindness if they would get up a subscription, and present him with some substantial testimonial, than by asking that House, session after session, to pass a vote for him. He had, on two preceding occasions, voted against a similar resolution to that now before the House; and doubtless it would be expected that he should do so again, not only for the reasons he had then stated, but also from having, as Treasurer, due regard to the exigencies of the times. It was, perhaps, the position he now occupied that had caused him to look into the matter more closely than he had done on former occasions; and having done so, he could not overlook the fact that that House had voted a sum of one thousand pounds to Dr. Lang some years ago; and although it had been alleged that Dr. Lang had refused that sum, there was no evidence before him to show that that was the reason why the vote previously come to had not been ratified. It had been stated by the honorable member for Dalby that whilst the then Ministers supported the vote, they were, as individuals, averse to it, and that being so, he (the Colonial Treasurer) presumed they allowed the vote to lapse. He thought that was a very dangerous practice, and it was for that reason, that he, as Treasurer recognised the fact that the country was pledged to Dr. Lang for the vote recorded in 1864. Notwithstanding it had been attempted to be shown that Dr. Lang refused the vote, he submitted that it still remained. As he had stated already, he was averse to the vote, and had he been a private member he should act as he had acted on former occasions; but he thought, looking at it as Treasurer, that the honor of the colony was involved in the payment of the money, and that it was no argument, because it had been rejected, that the House should withdraw from their resolution. He should vote, therefore, for going into committee on the motion of the honorable member for Toowoomba.

Mr. LORD said he would remind the honorable member that no money had been placed on the Estimates for Dr. Lang.

Mr. GROOM said, in reply to the honorable member for Gympie, that the money was voted by a resolution of the House, and he was present in the House when it was voted in the ordinary way. The first step was a resolution that the House should go into committee on a certain day to consider whether a sum of money should be voted; and when the resolution was before the committee the amount was decided upon, and the House adopted the resolution. That was done

in the case of Dr. Lang's vote, but political influence afterwards prevented the money from being placed on the Estimates. There was no doubt that the omission was caused by adverse political influence which had followed up Dr. Lang ever since with the same persecution, for having opposed the old nominee Council in his struggle to obtain representative institutions in the colony of New South Wales. The Council in those days was composed of men who exercised a half-military authority, and it was only through the exertions of men like Dr. Lang, Mr. Wentworth, and others, that popular institutions were established. He saw opposite to him honorable gentlemen who were in their swaddling clothes when Dr. Lang was fighting for the establishment of that representative institution of which they were members, and on that ground alone that gentleman was entitled to some consideration from them. He maintained that long after that Parliament had passed away, history would give the palm to Dr. Lang and those other energetic men who fought the battle of responsible government in these colonies. He could very well understand the opposition of some honorable gentlemen opposite to Dr. Lang, for it had lasted ever since the occasion on which that gentleman went up into the nest of his opponents and contested a seat with Mr. Arthur Hodgson, whom he defeated by a majority of one. Even then Dr. Lang was able to secure the representation of the district, although it was at the time when all those supposed crimes were being committed by him, with which he had been charged by the honorable member for the Warrego. They had heard it said that the immigrants had been deceived and cheated by Dr. Lang; but he would ask an honorable member of that House who came out under the auspices of that reverend gentleman, whether he was cheated? It was all very well to slander a person who was absent and unable to defend himself; but he had been surprised that the abuse should have come from the honorable member for the Warrego, who on the previous evening had said so much about the unfairness of honorable members attacking the Railway Traffic Manager when he could not be present to defend himself. Again, it was all very well for that honorable member to say that he was not in favor of voting sums of money like the present, but it was well known that the honorable member was instrumental in voting away 2,000 acres of land to the Hon. Louis Hope, which was now being sold at £5 an acre, so that in reality the vote represented a sum of £10,000 put into Mr. Hope's pocket. The honorable member had also tried to set sections of the House against each other by saying that Dr. Lang had gone home to counteract the Roman Catholic immigration to New South Wales brought about through the energies of Mrs. Chisholm; but he (Mr. Groom) ventured to say that some of Dr. Lang's strongest supporters in this colony were Roman Catholics; in fact, when that

gentleman visited Toowoomba to address a public meeting there, the chair was taken by a leading Roman Catholic resident. The respectable Roman Catholics appreciated the services which had been rendered by Dr. Lang, and they would not, he was sure, be dissuaded by the specious argument of the honorable member for the Warrego. He should now leave the matter in the hands of the House. He considered he had done his duty in bringing it forward, believing that Dr. Lang was entitled to a far larger amount than one thousand pounds for the valuable services he had rendered to the colony, and that much as people might speak against him now—among the great bulk of the community, long after the grass was growing over that reverend gentleman's grave, his memory would be cherished as one who had fought for political freedom in the early days of the colonies.

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

AYES, 14.

Messrs. G. Thorn, Dickson, Douglas, Beattie, Fryar, Groom, Murphy, Fraser, Johnston, McLean, Edmondstone, Kingsford, Foote, and Pettigrew.

NOES, 18.

Messrs. Palmer, Thompson, Walsh, Bell, Haly, Buzacott, H. Thorn, Bailey, Lord, De Satgé, Amhurst, Macrossan, Morehead, Stevenson, W. Scott, Ivory, McIlwraith, and Stewart.

BRISBANE AND IPSWICH RAILWAY.

Mr. WALSH moved, pursuant to notice—

1. That a Select Committee be appointed for the purpose of inquiring into, and reporting upon, the actual cost of the Brisbane and Ipswich Railway, and of the causes thereof. Also, to take evidence, and report upon the systems under which it has been, or is being, constructed

2. That such committee have power to send for persons and papers, and to sit during any adjournment of this House; and consist of Mr. McIlwraith, Mr. Morehead, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Buzacott, Mr. Kingsford, Mr. Ivory, and the mover.

He said he placed himself entirely in the hands of the House; it was immaterial to him who was on the committee so long as an investigation that would satisfy the ends he had in view, and that would be for the public good, was held. He would agree, therefore, to any names the House might order. Meanwhile, he would remark in self-defence, that he had not selected his own friends or adherents; he had, on the contrary, selected gentlemen who had taken different views from himself in railway matters, and had endeavored to arrange so that the committee would have a fair opportunity of arriving at a just conclusion.

The PREMIER said he did not object to the motion, and should only be too glad to discover why this excess of £200,000 had taken place in the cost of the Brisbane and Ipswich Railway. He, however, objected somewhat

to the composition of the committee as suggested by the honorable member for the Warrego, and asked for a ballot.

Mr. PALMER: Why don't you suggest a committee yourself?

The PREMIER: A ballot is best.

Mr. BELL: Let the Premier suggest one or two names.

Mr. PALMER: It would be much better if the Premier would suggest a few names himself. The only object, I am sure, which the honorable member for Warrego has is to get men that will devote their time to the committee; and he considered, rightly or wrongly, that there would probably be most idle men on this side of the House.

The PREMIER: Very good, then; I will suggest the names of Mr. Kingsford, Mr. Ivory, Mr. Foote, Mr. McIlwraith, Mr. Bailey, Mr. McLean, and the mover.

Mr. WALSH: I have no objection to that at all.

Mr. MOREHEAD was very glad his name had been struck off, for he had neither time nor inclination to serve on the committee. It was only due, however, that he should explain why he had been nominated. It was done without his knowledge, and when he saw the names of the committee in print, he asked why he had been included, and the honorable member for Warrego said, "The reason is, that you have always been opposed to my policy in the way of small contracts. You have always believed in large contracts." This was quite true, and that was the reason why the honorable member put him on the committee.

The PREMIER said he had intended no slight to the last speaker by substituting another name for his; he thought the honorable member might not have time enough to attend to the committee, and would be very glad to be released.

Mr. McILWRAITH would like to know whether the Premier had consulted the gentlemen whom he had nominated, and satisfied himself that they would attend the committee. There was a considerable amount of work to be done, and every member of the committee ought to take a part; it would not be fair if, as was sometimes the case, the taking of the whole of the evidence was left to one or two members. If they were only to see the majority of the committee when the report was drawn up, they had better have no committee at all.

The PREMIER said he had consulted with nearly all the members of the committee, and they were quite willing to act.

Mr. PALMER recommended the substitution of the Minister for Works, who ought to be on a committee of this kind. If necessary, he would move an amendment to that effect.

The PREMIER: No; I have no time. There are already two ex-Ministers of Works on the committee—the honorable member for Warrego, and the honorable member for

Maranoa; and I am not in any way responsible for the legislation which is to be inquired into.

The SPEAKER: The honorable member for Port Curtis, having spoken, cannot move an amendment.

Mr. McILWRAITH believed the Premier would be a most objectionable member of a committee, for he would not work. He had been upon committees with him before, and he never attended.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE demanded that the committee should be chosen by ballot.

Mr. BELL said, as the House was satisfied with the names suggested, that would be merely a waste of time.

Mr. KINGSFORD moved that the Premier's name be substituted for his own. His duties were already very heavy, and he should be glad of the excuse to retire.

Question (embodying the names suggested by the Premier) put and passed.

RAILWAY SURVEY.

Mr. BUZACOTT said he should not occupy the attention of the House at any length in moving the resolution of which he had given notice, asking for a railway survey from Rockhampton to some site on the Fitzroy River. It was a resolution that he hoped the House would agree with, when the reasonableness of the request was shown. It was known to many honorable members that the inhabitants of Rockhampton and the people occupying the central division were desirous that the railway should be continued from Rockhampton to Herbert, Broadmount, or some other site on the Fitzroy that would be accessible to vessels of large tonnage. There were certain improvements in progress on that river, and in the course of twelve months they would be nearly complete. At the same time, it was not probable that the improvements would have reached such a stage as to allow of vessels of large tonnage coming from England or elsewhere, advancing high enough to discharge or take in cargo at the Rockhampton wharves. The amount asked for, £1,000, was a small one, but he believed it would be ample for the purpose required. He would remind honorable members, that in September last year, the House voted £2,000 for the survey of a line of railway, from some point on the Great Northern Railway to Gladstone; and the order of the House was, that this sum should be placed on the Supplementary Estimates. If the House approved of the motion he was about to submit, he presumed the £1,000 for which he asked would be placed on the Estimates with the £2,000 voted for the Gladstone Railway. When the surveys were complete, the House would be in a position to consider whether it was desirable to construct the railway he suggested. He begged to move—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to

consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the next Supplementary Estimates the sum of one thousand pounds (£1,000), for survey of a line of railway from Rockhampton to the Government township of Herbert, Broadmount, or to some less distant site on the north or south bank of the Fitzroy River, equally available as a port for vessels of large tonnage.

It was not necessary to say much more upon the subject, but he would add that he believed there was a very good site to which the railway could be extended; he referred to the Central Island anchorage, about twelve miles below the town of Rockhampton. Here there was a good mile of frontage; the anchorage would be accessible for vessels drawing upwards of eighteen feet of water, and he believed the spot would be suitable for the terminus of the railway. He hoped the Premier would see his way to accepting the motion at once, so that the survey could be ordered and reserves made for the construction of the line.

The PREMIER asked the honorable member for Rockhampton to postpone the resolution. He had no idea the House would have proceeded so rapidly with the business, and by some unaccountable means, the motion took precedence of that of the honorable member for Blackall. That honorable member had given notice of motion for the survey of a line of railway to a specific spot, and the member for Rockhampton, seeing this, at once tabled his motion. That motion was very indefinite. The honorable member for Port Curtis carried a resolution respecting a line of railway from Rockhampton to Gladstone, and that would appear in the Supplementary Estimates. This being the case, and seeing that the honorable member for Blackall had a motion for the survey of a line to a specific spot—which the member for Rockhampton had not—he asked that the motion now proposed by the latter should be withdrawn or postponed. When the honorable member for Rockhampton asked the House for a survey of a line of railway, he might, at least, mention a particular spot; else he might as well ask for a line to the moon. The resolution was not specific enough, and he asked the honorable member to postpone or withdraw it, and let it come on on the 24th August, when the motion of the honorable member for Blackall would be proposed.

Mr. DE SATGE thought the best way of dealing with these specific surveys was to put a sufficient lump sum on the Estimates to cover them all. Directly a motion for a survey was suggested, a number of members rushed in to demand surveys on the part of their constituents. As a member of the House, he earnestly deprecated the system of asking for specific sums for constituencies. If there was a Government that would listen reasonably to, and deal liberally with, every part of the colony, all the special cases might

be met by the general sum put upon the Estimates for surveys. The question of these lines of railways from Rockhampton away to Brisbane was becoming very serious. Were they to go on dredging rivers at enormous cost, and then lay down railway lines upon the banks? That there might some day be a railway from Rockhampton to Broadmount he had no doubt, just as there might some day be deep water from Brisbane to the sea. But they spent now upon the shipping in the Bay what would pay for two or three railways. In all these cases, he believed it was best to deal at once with the subject of making railways to the nearest point where ships might anchor, keeping clear a sufficient space of communication between, as at Sandridge and Melbourne. He considered that these several amounts should be paid out of the general fund for railway surveys. He had forgotten what had been put on the Estimates for that purpose; but these matters should not be brought forward separately, because, the moment one amount was asked for, other sums were asked for for similar purposes. He could ask on behalf of his constituents for a survey from Broomsound or the port of St. Lawrence, with just as much reason.

The COLONIAL TREASURER thought questions of this sort, with regard to where surveys were required, could be far better disposed of at a later period of the session, especially as honorable members saw that the Government were prepared to deal with railway surveys, in the shape of a sum of £10,000 which had been placed on the Loan Estimates. That would cover a large amount of work of this description; and he thought it would be better if honorable members did not put before the House motions of a vague character, not stating where the surveys should be made. They should be prepared to show the requirements of the locality for railway construction, and also to show specifically where the railway should run. If the House committed itself to votes of this sort at that early period of the session, the £10,000 would be very speedily absorbed, and he was sure the House would not accept a proposal of this kind without the necessity for it being substantially shown. He would suggest to the honorable member to withdraw it.

Mr. W. SCOTT said he could not exactly see why the Government should object to a vote of this kind, because, on looking over the *Queensland Times*, he noticed that the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government had promised the people of Ipswich the other day a survey to some Chinamen's gardens, and this was a far more important matter.

Mr. BEATTIE said he hoped the honorable member for Rockhampton was not in earnest in pressing this motion to a division, because he was certainly under the impression that it would not do Rockhampton any good. Did the honorable member intend to

stop the whole of the improvements in the Fitzroy River? He (Mr. Beattie) thought it would be much better if he asked for a further sum for the purpose of improving that river, so as to enable large ships to get up to the town. He was perfectly satisfied that if a line of railway were made to Broadmount, it would injure Rockhampton very much indeed; and he did not believe the people of Rockhampton would be satisfied if a railway was made there, and the river was left in its present state. If the honorable member intended to carry on the improvements in the course of progress in the Fitzroy River, and wanted a further sum for that purpose, he should be happy to give him any assistance he could. He thought he should not press the motion at the present time.

Mr. MCILWRAITH said the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had stated that a sum of £10,000 had been put on the Loan Estimates of the present year for railway surveys, and he thought it was only reasonable for that honorable gentleman to ask, as he had done, that the honorable member for Rockhampton should wait until they had an expression of opinion from the Government as to how that money was to be spent. But while that advice seemed reasonable, he thought if the honorable member had spoken to the honorable the Premier in that way before he went to Ipswich the other day, it would have been a great deal more to the purpose. He had in hand the *Queensland Times*, of Tuesday last, containing the report of a deputation that waited on the honorable the Premier on Monday. The object of the deputation was to enforce upon that honorable member the expediency of the Government constructing a line of railway from Ipswich to Normanby; and in reply the Premier went with a great deal of exuberance into the matter, and said the line should be made, and even described the route it should take. He said:—

"He did not think there could be any objection to a survey of the line asked for, say from Ipswich to Coochin. The final route would be determined by the Government surveyor. For his own part, he thought it should be taken to Peak Mountain, thence to Harrisville, and on past Moffat's, calling at Normanby, and away to Fassifern and Coochin."

That was his reply; he thoroughly believed in the railway, and laid down the route, and then some of his constituents, who were pretty sharp fellows, drove him into a corner, and asked him what he meant:—

"Mr. Bashford asked the Premier, providing his colleagues did not agree this year to the construction of such a line, would he be prepared to have a sum of money placed on the Supplementary Estimates for a trial survey?"

Mr. Bashford was quite justified in asking the question, after the Premier had detailed every village and farmhouse on the route; hopes had been raised, and he was forcing the Pre-

mier more particularly on the matter. The Premier replied:—

“He would promise them a survey at once. A sum of £10,000 had been passed for surveys, and out of that he could at once appropriate a sum for this survey?”

Did the honorable the Premier fancy he had the manipulation of the whole of that money, and they could settle amongst themselves what would be spent? The honorable the Treasurer had not yet asked the House to vote that £10,000, and yet they found the honorable the Premier going up there and telling his own supporters that the whole thing had been settled by themselves, instead of waiting for the sanction of Parliament. Did the honorable gentleman understand his own Estimates, or what representative Government was in this colony? How could he say anything about spending money until the House had had something to say about it? If there was not such confusion in his mind, he might have referred to a sum of £6,000 voted in 1874 for surveys; and he (Mr. McIlwraith) would like to know whether that had been spent or not. He might as well give the honorable member for Rockhampton an answer at once, whether or not this survey would be made out of that £6,000. Was it out of that £6,000 he made that promise at Ipswich, or out of the £10,000 he saw in the distance—that he actually saw so near that he was going to spend it at once? There were some very nice parts in the report in the *Queensland Times* that he (Mr. McIlwraith) should like to read to the House, but he had no doubt they would come under consideration at some future time. He could only say it was a complete answer to the honorable member for Rockhampton, that he should defer this matter until the question of the £10,000 came before the House, but if the honorable the Premier could promise portion of that £10,000 to his own constituents, before it was voted by the House, why could he not give a similar answer to the honorable member for Rockhampton?

THE PREMIER said he wished to explain that the survey in question was for a cheap system of railways or tramways along the main roads, and it would only cost about £50 a mile.

MR. MCILWRAITH said that made the matter all the worse, because there was no amount placed on the Estimates for surveys for tramways.

MR. WALSH said the Government quite ignored the fact that with regard to these matters they had an Act of Parliament to guide them, which provided, that no railway surveys should be undertaken until ordered by Parliament. The honorable the Premier seemed to put Acts of Parliament as well as Parliamentary government entirely aside in the answers he gave to the every-day deputations that waited upon him. He (Mr. Walsh) should certainly support the honorable mem-

ber for Rockhampton in this motion, and for very good reasons. He thought wherever there was a probability of a railway being made at some future time the sooner railway surveys were made the better, so that the land might be reserved and not alienated to speculators, to be afterwards resumed at, say Ipswich prices. Therefore, on the ground of economy, he should feel bound to support the honorable member. Honorable members on the other side of the House, especially the Treasurer, seemed to be unaware that the future importance of the town of Broadmount was contemplated twelve or fifteen years ago; that it had been specially laid out as the site of the future seaport of Rockhampton. He believed Mr. Herbert, the Colonial Secretary of the day, took steps in the matter, and the place was marked out with that intention. Rockhampton was situated on a winding river, subject to floods, and it was a question whether such a place as Broadmount should not be selected, and the public eye fixed upon it, as the future great seaport of that portion of the colony. On that ground alone he thought they were justified in supporting the motion of the honorable member for Rockhampton. He did not know exactly what the motion of the honorable member for Blackall was, but if the motion of the honorable member for Rockhampton was simply to forestall it, it was parliamentary practice he did not approve of; but if it were not identical, or even if it were, and this happened to come before them in the substantial way it did that evening, he should feel bound to support it. He knew there were members of that House who thought the best line of railway would be from the port of Gladstone to Rockhampton, and he had no very strong feeling on the matter; but there could be no doubt that at some time there would be a large shipping town in the locality of Broadmount, and the sooner a survey was made for a railway there the better, so that the land might be reserved. He thought, therefore, the honorable member for Rockhampton was perfectly justified in bringing this motion forward, and that he had done his duty to his constituents by doing so.

MR. STEVENSON said he did not stand up as an advocate for the immediate carrying out of the survey which the honorable member for Rockhampton had proposed, but he would point out that the arguments used against it by the honorable member for Fortitude Valley were very fallacious. He would also point out that the honorable member for Port Curtis had asked for £2,000, or pointed out that that sum ought to have been placed on the Estimates for the survey of a railway from Rockhampton to Gladstone; but he thought it would be a much cheaper way of meeting the wants of the place, if a survey were made of a line from Rockhampton to Broadmount, or to a point on the south side of the river, as proposed by the honorable member for Rockhampton. In

the first place the distance from Rockhampton to Gladstone was 75 miles, or somewhere about that, and the distance from Rockhampton to Broadmount was 24 miles; while on the other hand the distance to the point on the south side of the river, suggested by the honorable member for Rockhampton, was only twelve miles; and there was no obstacle whatever in the way, and it would not require such an expensive bridge as would be necessary if it were made on the other side. He thought the argument of the honorable the Premier was also fallacious. That honorable member stated that the honorable member for Blackall had also a motion on the paper for the same thing; but he (Mr. Stevenson) did not think that honorable member's motion ought to be taken before that of the honorable member for Rockhampton, because the motion of the honorable member for Rockhampton was moved first. He should like to know why the honorable member for Blackall had moved his motion at all? He should like to know whether it was not because he was informed by a telegram that appeared in the *Rockhampton Bulletin*, that the honorable member for Rockhampton would, on a certain date, move a motion that a certain sum should be placed on the Estimates for a survey of this line? He believed that was the reason, and the only reason, why that honorable member tabled his motion. He (Mr. Stevenson) did not believe the Rockhampton people would object at all, as stated by the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, to the survey being made; but he believed that they objected to it being made on the north side in place of the south side, which would be only 12 miles, while on the other it would be 24 miles.

Mr. MacDONALD said he had not intended to speak on this question, but he felt bound to reply to some of the remarks of the honorable member for Clermont, who stated that the honorable member for Rockhampton gave notice of his motion first, and that he (Mr. MacDonald) was inspired to place his motion on the paper from having seen some telegram in the *Bulletin*, stating that the honorable member for Rockhampton was about to table a motion on the same subject. That he (Mr. MacDonald) distinctly denied, and it was possible, if he had known the honorable member for Rockhampton was going to table a motion, he should not have done so; but he tabled his motion before he had any knowledge, or could possibly know, that that honorable member had any intention of doing so. The *Bulletin*, in which the statement referred to appeared, did not arrive here for several days after he had given notice of his motion. He was sorry he could not support the motion now before the House. He had lived on the Fitzroy River about seventeen years, and was well acquainted with the features of the land on both sides of it, and he would briefly state what he knew about it. The south side of the river to the sea was a succession of swamps, unfit for Europeans

to live on. There had never been a habitation upon it; and the place that had been indicated by the honorable member for Rockhampton for a shipping port, about 12 miles on the south side, was in a bog; it was inundated in flood time, and inaccessible to the sea for large ships, and it had no permanent fresh water upon it. He thought it would be simply waste of money to make a survey to such a place. The motion was also very indefinite; it did not fix on that or any particular place, but on the other hand the motion which he had tabled was specific. Few persons would deny the necessity for a railway from Rockhampton to deep water, and he was very glad to hear the honorable member for Warrego say that he perfectly agreed with Captain Heath and other good authorities, that there was a place at Broadmount quite equal, if not superior, to Gladstone in every respect. From that place to Rockhampton was about 18 miles, and the country for the whole distance was as nearly level as possible, and it was first-class agricultural land, which had been all taken up, and would shortly become thickly populated. In addition to the advantages of communication between Rockhampton and the sea, that line would also afford facilities to the settlers, and to a large body of miners who were employed on the gold fields in the locality. So far from wishing to interfere with the motion of the honorable member for Rockhampton, last year, at the suggestion of a number of persons in the electorate of Normanby, he made application to the Government, when Meadow Flats was thrown open, to have a reservation made for a railway from Rockhampton to Broadmount, and the Government acceded to that request. It was perfectly clear there must be a railway from Rockhampton to deep water, and that was the only practicable route. The amount he intended to ask for was £500, and he believed that was considerably over what would be required, but the motion of the honorable member for Rockhampton asked for £1,000; and any portion of that expended in making a survey on the south side might be as well thrown into the river. He had never heard of any person ever contemplating having a railway down that side; it was quite impracticable. He would not vote against this motion, but leave it to the sense of the House to decide; but having been compelled by the remarks of the honorable member for Clermont to address the House, he had expressed his opinion on the subject.

Mr. THOMPSON said it appeared by what the honorable member for Warrego had stated, that the honorable the Premier had no right to make the promise of a railway survey that he had, but he (Mr. Thompson) had no doubt the House would endorse his action in that matter when it came forward in proper shape. He should support the honorable member for Rockhampton in his motion, because he thought it was the proper way to bring such

matters before the House, and it seemed to him the motion had merits besides. He should like the House to hear the whole of the opinion of the honorable the Premier on the subject of railways as it appeared in the *Queensland Times*.

The PREMIER: Read the whole.

Mr. THOMPSON said it was too long to read the whole of it, but he should read some portion of it:—

“The *Courier* had suppressed his speech delivered in Parliament on the question of railways. In fact, it did not suit the *Courier* to reproduce it, for they had been thunderstruck at the progressive policy it shadowed forth.”

And they were struck in a different way on that side of the House, and they were still struck in that different way. However, there it was; and he said if the honorable the Premier's deliverances were of that thunderstriking nature, his deliverances to those deputations were still more so. For instance, his deliverances on the subject of milk to the deputation from Fortitude Valley, about the evils arising from the diseased milk the people were compelled to drink! He believed that he had heard that argument before in that House, and he thought there was a good deal of reason in it, although he did not think he should use it to a deputation of that sort. As the honorable the Premier said these things struck one like a thunder-clap, he was sure the deputation from Fortitude Valley must have been carried away in a perfect sea of milk. A thunder-storm generally brought a shower of rain, but this must have brought a shower of milk, for the deputation seemed to have been floated away on a torrent of diseased milk. He was going to point out that he hoped the House would support this Fassifern Railway because, in spite of what anybody might say on the subject, he was perfectly convinced that it would pay directly and indirectly. It would pay as a private speculation if they had capital in the colony to go into undertakings of such magnitude. It was not his business to show how it would pay, but he was convinced it would pay as a private speculation. Whilst he was on this subject of private speculation he might express a hope that the Government would not put such stringent conditions in the railway contracts as would prevent people in the colony of moderate capital competing with large capitalists outside the colony.

Mr. PETTIGREW said he really did not know exactly what to do with respect to voting this sum of money asked for by the honorable member for Rockhampton, but he took this view of it:—That those surveys, if they did not go too expensively to work, were of great service in retaining lands in the hands of the Crown for future operations. He thought that was, perhaps, the best reason for making surveys in various portions of the colony at the present time, because otherwise the land would be rapidly taken up by people who

would want cent. per cent. and a great many other cents besides if the land were required for railway purposes afterwards. This Broadmount he had heard of ever since a short time after Rockhampton was first named. He had not been to the place, but he believed large ships could go there, and it would, very probably, be the port for Rockhampton, unless the railway went across country to Gladstone. But, taking that into consideration, and some other little matters they would require to discuss about surveys, he was inclined to think it would be just as well to let the motion pass. The Government would have it in their own hands, and they could make a cheap feature survey, and have the land marked off and reserved. He did not suppose the Rockhampton people would desire a railway to that port until the traffic increased a good deal beyond what it was at the present time. He thought he was bound to support the proposition, whether it was for £1,000 or £500. He did not see much difference between the motion of the honorable member for Blackall and that of the honorable member for Rockhampton. The motion of the honorable member for Blackall said “to Broadmount,” and the other “to the Government township of Herbert, Broadmount,” and practically it was the same thing. He thought if they made one or two feature surveys it would make very little difference; but on the other hand, it would make a great difference in the purchase of land by-and-bye. He had no doubt the Government meant to go on with their railway policy; that they did not mean to hang fire. He saw there was also a motion on the paper for the purpose of a survey of a railway “to the border of New South Wales, or to some other less distant site at or near Tallebudgera Creek.”

The SPEAKER: The honorable member must not discuss a motion on the paper which is not before the House.

Mr. PETTIGREW said he would not refer to it further. He thought they had better support the whole of these motions. He might bring one in himself next week, and he should hope to meet with the same return. With respect to the matter that his friend the honorable member for Bremer had mentioned, about the contract system, he thought it was a monstrous absurdity to ask men to deposit five per cent. on large contracts. By doing so, they were simply limiting competition. If the Government said they were going to make railways, let them make them at as cheap a rate as possible, and allow as many contractors to compete as cared to do so. If a contractor deposited £8,000, and it was lodged in a bank at five per cent., that took £8,000 from his capital. He had heard it said that if a man had £8,000 lying to his credit in the bank, the bank would lend him that amount or a considerable portion of it; but what would the banks do? They would simply lend the man his own money, and charge him, perhaps, twelve and a-half per cent., while they

were only paying five per cent. He thought two and a-half per cent. was quite sufficient to deposit. The Government had ten per cent. retention money, and if the engineer was worth his salt, he ought to be able to protect the Government. He thought the Government ought to see their way to that; it was purely a matter of business. If they got a dozen men to compete, they would get the work done sooner and cheaper than if it were limited to two or three. A Government must be progressive, and must be liberal, and the only way to be both was to give every man a fair opportunity to compete for public works; at the same time, it was better to have work performed by men in the colony than to allow others to come and take thousands of pounds out of it. If the Government had confidence in their engineer seeing that work was done properly, he thought a deposit of two and a-half per cent. was quite sufficient.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS, in reply to the honorable member for Stanley, said that although the subject was one hardly under discussion at the present time, he would remind the honorable member that it was necessary that the Government should have security that their work would be properly done; and they were bound to protect themselves when entering into large contracts in order that they should not be left in the lurch. At the time he was a member of a former Government, a large contract was thrown on the hands of the Government, owing to the contractor having practically given no security for the completion of the work. The honorable member, however, was in error when he supposed that a contractor lay out of five per cent. on the amount of the contract all the time of his contract, because he only did so until a certain amount of work was done to show the Government that he intended to go on with it. In the case of the Roma Railway, for instance, the contractor was entitled to a refundment of the five per cent. whenever he proved that sufficient work had been done to warrant the Government in making that refundment, so that after all there was not such a large amount of money locked up. He was quite aware that it was a matter for consideration—

The SPEAKER said he must remind the honorable member that he was wandering away from the question at present before the House.

Mr. HALY said he should vote for the motion, so that the land should be surveyed, and the Government would not have to pay the high prices they paid for the Ipswich Railway. He was in the House when the Government of the day promised faithfully that two miles on each side of the Dalby line should be reserved from sale for five years, but that promise was not carried out. If they were to vote money to make surveys merely to allow people to speculate in buying land through which they thought a rail-

way was likely to pass, he hardly knew how to vote. He wanted to see justice done to the North, but unless the Government gave some better guarantee than they had done before, that private speculators would not be allowed to get hold of the land that was surveyed, he should have to oppose the motion.

Mr. PALMER said they were travelling rather far from the question before the House, but in answer to the last speaker, he would remark, that it was not for the purpose of reserving land some miles on each side of a line that a survey was made, but for reserving the land that would be actually required for a railway. The reason which had been given by the Premier for asking the honorable member for Rockhampton to postpone his motion was about the lamest he had ever heard; it seemed to be this, that there was another motion similar in its character which had been tabled by the honorable member for Blackall for a future day. He did not care himself which motion came on first, as they were both pretty synonymous; but he did not see why, if the honorable member for Rockhampton wanted his to come on first, the Premier should ask him to postpone it simply because there happened to be another similar one on the paper; or why the honorable member for Rockhampton should consent to such a request. The two motions were almost synonymous, except that the honorable member for Rockhampton proposed the survey of a line from Rockhampton to Broadmount, or "to some less distant site." He took it that the money was asked for a trial survey, and that if a suitable site could be found less distant than the place mentioned, surely there could be no objection to the survey ending there. Those surveys for which money was asked were mere trial surveys to enable the Government to decide where a railway should go at some future time, so that the land should be reserved. He understood that a great deal of the land between Rockhampton and Broadmount had been sold already.

Mr. MACDONALD: All of it.

Mr. PALMER said, that supposing that to be the case, if the land was to be resumed, it could be purchased at a less cost now than it could be in the course of a few years, when the Government wanted to make the railway. Then again, it was said that it would be an antagonistic line to the proposed survey between Rockhampton and Gladstone, but he did not think they would clash in any way with each other, and both might ultimately be wanted. Speaking as a private individual, he thought the line from Gladstone to Rockhampton would be the proper one, but if they did not have trial surveys made, speculators would slip in, and in a few years the cost of the land would be doubled, from the fact that it had not been resumed in time. It was ridiculous to fight upon such a matter; he thought that a trial survey should be made,

although he did not say that a railway should be made; at any rate, until the experiment now being made to deepen the channel of the River Fitzroy had been tried. The question with some honorable members seemed to be, whether it was advisable to make a railway from one place to another; but that was not the question, which was, whether a trial survey should not be made, and whether, when the most suitable place for a railway was found, it was not the duty of the Government to reserve the land along the line so as to save money to the country at some future time. He thought the honorable member was asking for a very moderate sum, and when they saw the Government putting down thousands of pounds here and thousands there, broadcast over the country, he considered that they should not offer any opposition to the motion. It had been said over and over again in that House that they might, by an expenditure of £100,000 on good surveys, save millions; and he believed it.

Mr. BUZACOTT, in reply, said with regard to the charge made by the Premier that the motion was not specific, that he thought it was very specific indeed, as the words were:—

“From Rockhampton to the Government township of Herbert, Broadmount, or to some less distant site on the north or south bank of the Fitzroy River, equally available as a port for vessels of large tonnage.”

His sole object in bringing forward the motion was, that there might be a saving of expense at some future time. The route he proposed was to a spot off Central Island anchorage, which was the place first referred to by a former Treasurer; and he had it on the authority of the Engineer of Rivers and Harbors, that a vessel drawing eighteen feet of water could lie there, or within a distance of twelve miles from Rockhampton. If the improvements now being made in the navigation of the Fitzroy were successful, neither of the lines would probably be wanted; but it was as well to have the surveys made in order to save money, should it be found that a railway was required. In regard to the charge that he had taken advantage of the honorable member for Blackall in bringing forward his motion first, all he could say was, that he had been requested to bring it forward, and that he had telegraphed to Rockhampton on Tuesday to say that he had tabled the motion for Thursday. He believed that some of the honorable member's constituents, seeing a notice of that in the newspaper, had stirred him up, for when the honorable member tabled his motion he had his in his hand. He hoped the Premier would allow the motion to be carried that evening, for he believed the honorable gentleman was quite in favor of having the survey made. The point he had mentioned was approached easily from Rockhampton at all seasons, and he thought the honorable member for Blackall was mistaken when he said it was unsuitable for a terminus;

he had not been to the place himself, but it had been reported to him to be equally accessible at all seasons of the year. He thought the survey could not be any harm, whilst it might be the means of saving the country a great deal of expense.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER moved—

That this House do now adjourn until Tuesday.

He believed that it was contemplated to move an amendment for an adjournment for a longer period in consequence of the Exhibition which was to be held next week, and that some honorable members were in favor of adjourning until Wednesday, and others until Tuesday week. He objected to any long adjournment; and for his own part should prefer that they met on Tuesday evening at seven o'clock. Honorable members must recollect that it was getting late in the year, and that if they had a long adjournment, it was a question whether they would be able to get through the very important business on the paper.

Mr. BEATTIE moved as amendment—

That the following words be added, “the 29th instant.”

The reason he should give for asking the House to consent to that proposition was, that next week the first National Exhibition in the colony was to be held, and that he thought the occasion was one of such vital importance to the whole of Queensland as to justify the reasonable adjournment of a week. There would be a large number of visitors to the city; and there were also a great many honorable members who had taken a very deep interest in the Exhibition, and a very active part in its management; so that it would be only an act of courtesy to them to consent to the adjournment, and thus afford them some little relaxation. He did not think that it would be possible to get a quorum during the next week, and, therefore, it would be much better to consent to the adjournment he proposed at once.

Mr. MURPHY seconded the amendment.

Mr. DE SATGE said that without opposing the amendment, he wished that it should be placed on record that he protested against the very inconvenient time of the year at which the House was called together. It was nothing but a perpetual adjournment; whilst if the House met at any other time when there were no races, shows, &c., there would be no occasion for the frequent adjournments which now took place.

Mr. HALY said he did not rise to oppose the adjournment, but to mention that those honorable members who were away from their stations could not afford to wait in town after September, as their busy time was coming on; and that, therefore, a long adjournment would be very inconvenient to them. He thought

if they met at seven o'clock every evening during the following week, ample opportunity would be allowed to honorable members to visit the Exhibition, and at the same time they would be able to get on with the public business.

Mr. PALMER said he thought they were really going to have the same speeches made that were made on every occasion when there was an adjournment proposed. As stated by the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, it would be the first National Exhibition in Queensland; and he thought, so far from the Government endeavoring to throw cold water upon it, if they had assisted the Council a little more, it would have been more to their credit. It was likely to be a most important exhibition, and he thought really that they might adjourn for a week; he was ashamed of repeating the same old argument, but he hoped the Government would give way with a good grace. They had given way for every local show; and now, when there was to be a most important one in the capital of the colony, it was the duty of the Government to have proposed an adjournment, and not have allowed it to come from a private member. The Council had gone to a great deal of trouble to make the Exhibition a success, as also had the inhabitants of Brisbane and the colony generally; he thought, therefore, that they, and also the people of New South Wales who had come forward most nobly on the occasion, were entitled to that scant courtesy from the Government.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that whilst the Government were quite aware of the courtesy due to the gentlemen mentioned by the honorable member, and also to the people of New South Wales, they were also aware that several adjournments had been made because a number of honorable members desired to be absent from Brisbane, and it would have been unfair to proceed with the public business in their absence. But the present occasion differed from the others, as honorable members did not want to be absent from town. He could quite understand that on Tuesday, most honorable members, if not all, would be at the Exhibition, and would not feel inclined to do any work in the evening; but were all the members to be at the Exhibition every and all day in the week? So far as the Government were concerned, they did not care very much; but he thought that those honorable members who were resident in Brisbane should consult the convenience of those who came from a long distance to attend to their public duties, and were put to great personal inconvenience by frequent delays. He had always objected to an adjournment, except when it was really necessary, and on the present occasion, he could not see why honorable members should not attend.

Mr. MCILWRAITH: They will not attend.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he would point out to the Attorney-General that the Brisbane

members were mostly engaged in business all day, and would not have time to take their wives and families to the Exhibition until the evening. He hoped that, as suggested by the honorable the leader of the Opposition, the Government would yield gracefully, for if they did not, they would have to come down to that House every day and not be able to make a quorum.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he thought the Government had a duty to perform in endeavouring to get on, if possible, with the business of the country. They had been taunted with being a Brisbane Ministry, but if they were, they were not the less anxious to get on with the outside business, one portion of which was passing the Estimates, especially in connection with public works. He mentioned that, as the Government were anxious to get on with the business as fast as possible; and, therefore, it would not be selfishness on their part to ask honorable members to consent to a less adjournment than was proposed. If honorable members did not look at it in that light, of course they had a right to their own opinions. They did not wish to attach any dishonor to the show, and could not see how they would do so by meeting in the evening. They were all living in Brisbane, and there was no reason why they should not spend a considerable portion of the day at the Exhibition. After the expression of opinion that had been given, the Government would of course leave the matter to the decision of the House.

Mr. IVORY said that as a country member he was at one time a very strenuous opponent of these adjournments; but he had ultimately given way, because he saw it was useless to hold out. There was often a good deal of talk about attending to the interests of the country; but it always ended in a bottle of smoke only. He remembered after a long debate on one occasion, an adjournment was not carried, and the result was, that there were all the officers of the House in their places, but no members. He believed the Premier, who was so anxious to see the business of the country transacted, was really at the bottom of the amendment.

Mr. WALSH hoped the onus of the adjournment would not be thrown upon the Opposition, because the Government were at the bottom of it. Of course, the Government viewed this as a prolongation of their official power, and it was affectation in them to say otherwise. He noticed the unctuous smile of the Minister for Lands; while he was deprecating the delay of public business, he was no doubt inwardly rejoicing over what would be the financial result to himself. The honorable member for Fortitude Valley was a perfect child in the hands of the Government. Here were the Government shamming—pretending to protest against the delay in the business of the country, while they themselves had provided for almost every adjournment during the session; and the other day uncon-

stitutionally provided for a certain day to be a public holiday, when all mercantile operations were to be rendered inoperative. Was this public holiday proclaimed to take effect at Townsville, Rockhampton, or Cooktown? For what object was it made compulsory? It was a farce for the Government to pretend that they were no party to this motion, after having done an almost unconstitutional act by proclaiming a public holiday for a very local matter. He objected to this adjournment for two reasons; it was obstructing the business of the colony, and it was prolonging the power of the present Government.

Mr. PETTIGREW said he would take up the argument where the member for Warrego left it off. A public holiday had been proclaimed, and all places of business would be closed on Tuesday. He was sorry that the genius of the Railway department had not discovered a very serious omission. The usual train started from Brisbane between four and five o'clock, and there was no other to Ipswich till ten o'clock at night. On this occasion he thought the usual train might run at seven o'clock, giving time for the return of the carriages to bring back the people. No doubt the Government was quite anxious to have a holiday: he knew the Premier was, and no one in the House would be better pleased with it. Both sides of the House wanted the holiday, and it was no use doing the indignant lecturing business. He hoped the Minister for Lands would seize the opportunity of a week's holiday to study the Land Bill.

Mr. MACROSSON said it was very desirable, if it could be done, to alter the afternoon train, as suggested by the member for Stanley.

Question put—That the words proposed to be added be so added.

The House divided.

AYES, 17.

Messrs. Kingsford, Ivory, Stevenson, Palmer, Morehead, Thompson, Murphy, Macrossan, Fryar, Fraser, Beattie, Edmondstone, McIlwraith, Pettigrew, Foote, Amhurst, and Bell.

NOES, 10.

Messrs. Griffith, G. Thorn, McLean, De Satgé, Stewart, Douglas, Morgan, MacDonald, Haly, and Dickson.

Whereupon question—as so amended,—put and passed.