

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 1876

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ERRATA.

In page 728, line 17 of the second column—instead of "not touch the few acres," *read* "not touch more than a few acres."

In page 730, line 43 of the second column—instead of "Treasurer," *read* "Premier."

In page 739, line 36 of the first column—instead of "Attorney-General," *read* "Agent-General."

In page 753, line 28 of the second column—instead of "Queensland," *read* "Vineland."

In page 790, line 25 of the second column—instead of "branches from establishments in the," *read* "branches from the other colonies or the."

In page 791, line 2 of the first column—instead of "law," *read* "Bill."

Same page, line 18 of the first column—instead of "reserves," *read* "selections."

In page 831, the line following the Speaker's statement on "Point of Order" should be read as closing the preceding debate.

In page 878, line 24 of the first column—instead of "Peak Downs," *read* "Emerald Downs."

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 28 September, 1876.

Resumptions for Road Purposes.—Volunteers' Land Certificates.—The Agent-General.—Railway Survey to Caboolture.—Publicans Bill.

RESUMPTIONS FOR ROAD PURPOSES.

Mr. J. SCOTT moved—

That there be laid on the table of this House a return showing:—

1. The number and area of resumptions for road purposes, including deviations in 1874, 1875, and the first six months of 1876, in each division of the colony.

2. The approximate time expended by the officers of the Roads Department in resurveys and adjustment of selections consequent on such resumptions.

3. The money cost of such resumptions, specifying the amounts paid for fencing, for survey, and for land resumed respectively in each division of the colony.

The object, he said, for which he asked the House to assent to this motion was a very simple one. He wished to show the necessity for road surveys to be pushed on before the lands were alienated. The neglect of this duty had been in many ways the source of a great deal of annoyance, and it had caused an enormous expenditure of Government money in resurveying and resuming, especially resurveying the lands which formed the resumptions. This neglect had been going on for a long time, and the subject had several times been brought under the notice of the House. The necessity of having the surveys of roads pushed on was admitted on all hands, and in order to have the matter settled once for all, he wished to have some data upon which to proceed. The Premier, by saying "not formal" when the motion was called on, signified his objection to his proposal, and if the objection was on the ground that what he asked for would take too much time, he would be satisfied with a portion of the return for this session. The work might

take a long time, but it would be a very useful thing to do.

The PREMIER said he had no desire to oppose the motion, but wished to point out that there was not the least chance of getting the return furnished for three months. He would remind the honorable member that he would have to send word to all parts of the colony to find out the approximate time expended by the officers of the Roads Department in resurveys and adjustment of selections consequent on the resumptions for road purposes. He had no doubt that the information, when obtained, would be very useful; but there was little chance of getting the return this session unless they sat until the end of the year, as he expected they would have to do.

Mr PALMER said he did not believe the work indicated in the motion would take so much time as the Premier supposed. It was not necessary to send to all parts of the colony, for there were officers in the Roads Department who could give all the information. He knew the working of that office, and unless an alteration had taken place, the road surveyors were obliged to send in a record of their daily work, and he had no doubt the whole of the information could be compiled in the department. In the Road Survey Department the officers were all obliged to account for their time, and he believed that method was adopted now.

Mr. AMHURST said information was only asked for up to the 30th June last, and that certainly must be in the office. If it was not, it ought to be by this time. The return would give most valuable information, and would show the enormous expenses incurred by the preliminary surveys.

Question put and passed.

VOLUNTEERS' LAND CERTIFICATES.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE moved—

That an Address be presented to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid on the table of this House, copies of all correspondence relative to the non-issue of land certificates to volunteers who have completed five years' service.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Government have no intention of opposing the motion. Since, however, the correspondence referred to in the honorable member's motion took place, there has been an interview with His Excellency the Governor, who wished, by that means, to put an end to what promised to be an interminable correspondence. His Excellency accordingly sent for Mr. McDonnell, and in my presence, and that of the Under-Colonial Secretary, asked him to comply with the request which had been previously made by letter from my office, and sign the land order warrants; His Excellency at the same time informing Mr. McDonnell that he was the proper person to do it. Mr. McDonnell, I might state, had not sent a

reply to that letter, and His Excellency, as Commander-in-Chief, sent for him to ask him to comply with the request. Mr. McDonnell gave no answer then, and he was asked to communicate with my office when he had made up his mind. This interview took place on Tuesday week; but no answer has yet been received. I wish to state these facts at the present time, because the correspondence is incomplete without an account of this conversation.

Mr. MORGAN said he had asked questions on more than one occasion as to the cause of the delay in issuing the land orders. He considered it was a very poor state of affairs when persons entitled to land orders were deprived of them for an indefinite period. The Government, as a Government, he thought, were bound to take such measures as would ensure these volunteers their rights.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I may observe, by way of explanation, that this is not the question at issue, or I should have had something to say on it. The question is, whether the correspondence should be produced. When it is printed, I shall take the liberty of going into the subject more fully.

Mr. PALMER: Do I understand the Colonial Secretary to say that the Governor ordered Mr. McDonnell to sign the land orders?

■ The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Requested.

Mr. PALMER: A request from the Commander-in-Chief is an order, and if Captain McDonnell does not obey it, he ought to be cashiered. Indeed, he ought to have been cashiered on the spot. A Commander-in-Chief should not give an officer time to make up his mind. That is not the kind of thing that will conduce to the efficiency of the force or to good conduct.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE said he quite agreed with the honorable member for Port Curtis, that this was not the way to measure the efficiency of the volunteers. The men who were deprived of their land orders were, however, laboring under considerable hardships; many of them had served for five years, and naturally expected the reward that was promised them. Instead of reward, there had been, what the honorable member for Wide Bay, during a debate in the earlier part of the session, had humorously described as "sweet bye-and-bye." The men, he feared, were not now likely to get their orders at all. From the contumacy of one officer, the whole matter connected with these volunteers had taken a bad shape. If the orders were not absolutely refused, it was equivalent to it, and no one could now deny that in Queensland the volunteers had been badly used. If they had volunteers at all, let them be used well, and if they were not to be kept on, let every corps be at once disbanded; but if they were to be maintained at all, it ought to be in a proper manner. He sincerely hoped the Government would cause this correspondence to be laid upon the table of the House, at the earliest possible opportunity.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Although I have spoken already, perhaps I may be permitted to say that I think the Governor is the best judge as to whether he should cashier Mr. McDonnell on the spot or not. No doubt, His Excellency has been forbearing in this business throughout; as Commander-in-Chief he has control of the entire affair, and can do as he chooses, and I can assure the House that His Excellency wishes only to promote a good feeling among the volunteer force. He has no wish to have any ill-feeling raised against himself, or the Government, or Mr. McDonnell in this matter. Some of the members of the corps will, no doubt, hold with Mr. McDonnell, but there is no question what the result will be. It is only a question whether Mr. McDonnell can make up his mind.

Mr. McILWRAITH: What is the difficulty?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am not aware, but he gave as a reason that he could not legally sign the warrants. He had, however, the Attorney-General's opinion in favor of signing, and in addition to that, he had a request from the Governor, which would have exonerated him. I can assure honorable members the matter will soon be brought to an issue in some shape or other.

Question put and passed.

THE AGENT-GENERAL.

Mr. PALMER said that in bringing forward the motion which stood in his name, he begged entirely to repudiate the idea of doing so from any desire to interfere with the present Attorney-General, for he had had the subject under his consideration for many months. He was aware, and he presumed the House were aware, that the colony of Victoria had for some time had a Council of Advice in London, and that it had proved of great service to the Agent-General in making his arrangements there. He had not got all the information he should like to have on the subject of New South Wales, but he was aware that virtually in that colony, there had been for many years a Council of Advice; in fact, the business of that colony, had it not been for the Council of Advice, consisting of Sir Daniel Cooper and Mr. Donald Larnach, could scarcely have been carried on during the illness of Sir Charles Cowper. The position of Agent-General had never been properly defined in Queensland. So far back as the time when the Minister for Lands was Agent-General, he could remember that gentleman was always anxious to have a Bill introduced into the House defining the duties of Agent-General. His recollection did not carry him sufficiently far back into the circumstances to remember whether the honorable gentleman ever asked for a Board of Advice, but both he and every other Agent-General since had been particularly anxious that a Bill should be passed strictly defining

the powers and duties of the Agent-General. He was not aware that there was anything of the sort in the other colonies, but he had procured from Victoria a copy of the general instructions issued to their first Agent-General, Sir G. F. Verdon, and he believed they had never been altered since. He (Mr. Palmer) would read from this to show what was his object, namely, to have something similar—in fact he might say precisely similar—in Queensland, and he believed, with a Board of Advice, the affairs of the colony would be better managed, people here and at home would be better satisfied with the conduct of affairs, and it would relieve the Agent-General of a great deal of odium which was sometimes thrown upon him, although it was not intended to relieve him from his responsibilities in any way. The following extract from the instructions was very clear:—

“In pursuance of the provisions of the Immigration Statute, 1864, three gentlemen, whose names will be notified to you in a separate communication, have been appointed Immigration Commissioners for Victoria, and they have been requested to place themselves in communication with you; and you will take all necessary steps to establish the Commission, and will conduct its proceedings in conformity with the provisions of the Act referred to. In addition to the duties the Commissioners will be required to discharge in respect of emigration, it has been determined, after careful consideration, to require them to act as a Board, or Council of Advice, to consult with and advise you upon *all matters* affecting the interest of the colony which come within the scope of your functions, and they have accordingly been appointed for that purpose. Such a Board, while not divesting you of your personal responsibility as Agent of the colony, will, it is believed, be of great practical advantage, and will materially aid you in the performance of your duties.

“It will be your duty to convene meetings of the Board at such times as may be necessary for the transaction of business, and to preside thereat.

“Having in view the possibility of your incapacity, by reason of sickness or otherwise, for the performance of your duties, the Board of Advice is authorised and empowered in such event to make such temporary provisions as may be necessary for the conduct of the office.

“You are authorised to employ, subject to confirmation by this Government, such clerical or other assistance as you may find required, and at such rates of remuneration as may be fair and reasonable. You will be careful to take from them such proper security as they would, if employed in the colony, be called upon to find. You will also let it be distinctly understood that the services of the gentleman you engage will be retained only so long as required, and that no claim for compensation for loss of office will accrue.”

That was the portion referring to the appointment of a Board of Advice, and that was what he advocated for the benefit of the colony of Queensland, and, he believed, for the good also of the Agent-General himself.

A board of practical men might easily be found resident in England, and the responsibilities of the Agent-General, although they would not be taken off his shoulders, would be materially lightened. In all matters of business the practical knowledge of such a board would stand the colony in good stead. Another feature of this subject which he had long had in view, was the bestowment upon the board of such temporary power that in case of sickness or any other pressing emergency with the Agent-General they would be competent to assume the management of the affairs of the colony. If there had been such a board as he proposed during the last ten or twelve years, it would have been of immense service to the colony. Without pretending to make a long speech on the subject, he would now state that he introduced this motion in no party spirit, but simply because he believed it would be for the general good of the colony that such Board of Advice as that he had described were established. He would, therefore, move:—

That it is desirable that a Board of Control, consisting of not less than three persons, connected with Queensland, and who shall be resident in England, shall be appointed to advise with the Agent-General on all matters connected with his duties; and that no tenders of supplies or stores, or charters of ships, shall be accepted without the concurrence and consent of the majority of the Board.

The PREMIER said he had no idea this motion would have come on so quickly, but had no hesitation at once in saying on the part of the Government that they had no objection to a Board of Advice; but they did object to what the motion termed a Board of Control. It was the practice in the other colonies to have a Board of Advice, but he never heard of their having a Board of Control. He might state, for the information of the member for Port Curtis, and other honorable members, that the Government had prepared a Bill defining the status of the Agent-General and also providing for a Board of Advice. For himself, he must say that, if he were Agent-General, he should very much prefer having a Board of Advice to a Board of Control, and on the part of the Government he would now state there was no objection to the motion, provided the honorable member made it a board, not of control, but of advice.

MR. PALMER: I have no objection whatever. I thought it was "Board of Advice." With the consent of the House I will, therefore, alter my motion to that effect.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. BELL said no one could very well doubt the propriety of passing the resolution, and he was glad the honorable member at the head of the Government had not offered any objection. It seemed to him that, from the few words which fell from the Premier, that honorable gentleman himself intended some day to be Agent-General, and took this

opportunity to give the House the first hint of his intention. However, he (Mr. Bell) believed the board would be of service to the colony, and that a Board of Advice would be better to all concerned than a Board of Control.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said if the honorable member for Port Curtis made his board one of advice, he must omit the latter part of the resolution after the word "duties." It would never do to give a Board of Advice the power of accepting or rejecting tenders for supplies of stores or charters of ships. He had no doubt that a Board of Advice would be of great assistance to the Agent-General at home, but, at the same time, much depended on the character of the board. Was it to be a permanent board? Was it to be an honorary board or a paid board? Theoretically, a board looked well, but if it was to be of any service to the Agent-General, and not impede his action, not only must it be a Board of Advice, but it must be a board whose term of office was well defined. He believed there were at the present time in England many old colonists well acquainted with the affairs of the colony. But such a board should be deprived of any political character, and should be composed of men who were known to have a thorough knowledge of the requirements of Queensland, and who not only could, but would discharge the very important duties of such a board, and not simply regard the appointment as a mere honorary position assigned to them as a reward of political services. The honorable member for Port Curtis had done a real service in introducing this resolution.

MR. DE SATGE said Queensland was very fortunate in possessing in the mother country men who were essentially adapted to act as members of a Board of Advice, but at the same time, to ask gentlemen living hither and thither to attend meetings in London, would be rather too much. Gentlemen occupying that office should be very much in the position of a bank director; the Agent-General at present was very much in the position of a bank manager acting without a directorate, but the proposed board would be to him something in the nature of a Board of Directors. He agreed with the motion amongst other things, because it would get rid of a good deal of unpleasantness with regard to the appointment of Agent-General. The Agent-General from the time of the establishment of the board, knew that while they did not interfere with his responsibilities, they were watching him, and would be, in fact, more a Board of Directory than a Board of Advice. He for one should be glad to vote a fair salary, something like the fees of a director of the bank to prevent the members of the board considering it a purely honorary position, and to save them from expense in attending meetings. Gentlemen at home, however much they might be connected with,

and interested in Queensland, were not likely to put themselves to much trouble and expense voluntarily. He would, therefore, suggest that the board should receive such a return for their expenses as the House might think fit. This was, he thought, the best move made in the direction of surveillance over the Agent-General that had been made since the Immigration Act was passed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the appointment of a Board of Advice was a very desirable thing to do; it was a protection both to the public and the Agent-General. The practice in the case of Victoria was to summon the Board, which consisted of two gentlemen, once a month. The Act required that they should meet once a month, and it provided that they should be paid a fee of two guineas per meeting, so long as the whole amount payable to the board did not exceed £700 a year. He was very well acquainted with the manner in which the board performed its duties. All matters of importance concerning the business of the colony were brought before it, minutes were taken and forwarded regularly to headquarters at Victoria. Such minutes would also be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary's Office in Queensland, and if the Agent-General took any action apart from the board, that fact would be recorded and explained, the reasons being given by the Agent-General himself. It was not desirable that the Agent-General should be relieved from absolute responsibility in case of his disagreement with the board, but it was hardly likely he would materially differ from the majority of the board. At the same time, he ought not to be relieved from the responsibility of acting when he thought it right to do so independently; care being taken, however, that his reason for so doing should be placed before the Colonial Secretary. This board would greatly relieve the Agent-General from the suspicions which sometimes had attached to him in the performance of his duties, and would very much strengthen his hands. There were always gentlemen conversant with Australian affairs in London, and there were some well acquainted with Queensland matters also, if not in London, at least in the vicinity; and as means of communication were now so numerous, there would be no difficulty in obtaining their services upon a board. He did not suppose the sittings of such a board would be very frequent; the business could be so arranged that it would be brought clearly under their notice, and in two or three hours it could easily be despatched. For all details in the management of the office, the Agent-General would still remain responsible, the main object to secure being, that persons resident in London should be cognisant of the principal transactions concerning the colony as they occurred. The actual wording of the motion was rather inconvenient, and it was evident that the latter portion could scarcely be carried in its present form. Care should be

taken that in all cases where the Agent-General differed from the board, the minutes should be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary. He hoped the honorable member for Port Curtis would have no objection to modify the resolution, and as the Government intended to introduce a Bill to define the duties of Agent-General, and the subject would then be introduced, he hoped the honorable member would accept this as an introduction to that Bill, and on that understanding modify the motion to the extent suggested.

MR. WALSH could not understand the action of the Government at all. He thought that the Premier and the other members of the Government approved of the motion with the exception of the word "control," and one of the honorable gentlemen thanked the mover for bringing it forward. And now, the honorable Minister for Lands was found getting up and saying there must be a modification.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I did not say must.

MR. WALSH said the other members of the Government acknowledged the service which the member for Port Curtis was rendering the country by bringing forward the motion. What was the House to understand? For himself, he must confess he was not in favor of the motion; but he should like to know what kind of Government they had when the Premier approved of it and the Minister for Lands said it would not do, and must be modified. As to the suggested modification, he (Mr. Walsh) had no objection to say he heartily approved of it in principle, though its effect would be to totally alter the opinions of the Government. These were things he could not understand, and they were totally unbecoming of the way in which a Government should transact their business. The motion was that there should be a Board of Control consisting of not less than three persons connected with Queensland, who should be resident in England, and who should be appointed to advise with the Agent-General on all matters connected with his duties; and that no tenders for the supplies, or stores, or charters of ships, should be accepted without the concurrence and consent of the majority of such board. He thought there was great danger in granting such powers to any irresponsible persons; and more than that, the Government actually abdicated their functions in the appointment. It put it out of the power of the Government themselves to enter into applications as to contracts. They might wish to enter into contracts in the colony for the conveyance of emigrants, but this appointment would render them powerless; they would be controlled by irresponsible persons sitting in London. That was an abdication of the duties of Government, which would be highly dangerous, and wholly wrong in principle, because they

would never be able to fasten upon a future Government the wrongdoing—if any occurred—of making bad contracts for the bringing out of emigrants, or the supply of stores. The Agent-General would be all the better for accepting advice, and for being able to ask for it when he felt it necessary, and he could very well believe that a large amount of commercial wisdom might have been obtained if the Agent-General had been empowered to do this before; but he (Mr. Walsh) wholly deprecated the idea that irresponsible persons, who might be interested in contracts entered into on behalf of the Government, should receive fees, not merely to advise, but, by a majority, to control the Agent-General in London, and the Government in Queensland. He believed the Government had fallen into an error in giving countenance so far to the motion, and he thought the honorable Minister for Lands was perfectly right, although he could not understand why there should be such a difference of opinion amongst the Ministry.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought no one but the honorable member for Warrego would have detected any difference of opinion amongst the Ministry, simply because the Premier said the Government had no objection, and were willing to agree to the appointment of a Board of Advice, but not to a Board of Control. The whole of the honorable member for Warrego's argument fell to the ground; his arguments, indeed, were in favor of the amendment as it was agreed to by the honorable member for Port Curtis. He (the Colonial Secretary) thought with his colleague, the Colonial Treasurer, that the substitution of "control" for "advice" necessitated an alteration in or omission of the latter clause of the motion. A Board of Advice would be a valuable thing, provided the proper men could be obtained, but he thought there might be some difficulties experienced about this. It was all very well to have men connected with Australia, but unless they got men practically interested in Queensland, they would possibly prove of less service than was expected. This would be a matter easily remedied, if, instead of power being taken away from the Government, power was retained to remove those members of the board, should their action prove to be not for the benefit of the colony. As the motion stood upon the paper, it would be unwise to accept it, because it took responsibility entirely away from the Agent-General; altered by the honorable member for Port Curtis, it was, however, all right. The honorable member for Warrego spoke about emigrants; they were not mentioned in the resolution. As to the Agent-General and the board, should there be any difference between them, the Agent-General would have to report at once the occurrence and the reason for it, and in that way he would take the responsibility where he felt the board had been wrong. If the motion could be altered to

that effect, he (the Colonial Secretary) thought it would be an improvement.

Mr. J. SCOTT said there was a difficulty which he could not see his way at present to surmount. If the Agent-General made a contract, and was backed up by the Board of Advice, the whole of the responsibility was taken from his shoulders.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Oh! no.

Mr. SCOTT said he must still think otherwise: as long as the Agent-General acted in accordance with the opinions of the board of Advice, he was not at all responsible; if he disagreed with them, then and then only was he independent. If the Agent-General was merely to listen to the advice of the board, and then do as he liked, it would not much matter; but if he was to be guided by their opinions, his responsibility went.

Mr. McILWRAITH: Does the honorable member for Port Curtis intend to alter the motion?

Mr. PALMER: I will put "advice" instead of "control."

The SPEAKER: Do I understand that the House consents to this alteration?

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. McILWRAITH said he did not believe in the motion in any shape or form, not even if the latter sentence, after the word "duties," were struck out. If any one looked at the copy of the instructions of the Agent-General for Victoria, which the honorable member for Port Curtis had placed on the table, he would see that it was impossible to appoint a board of this description without taking much responsibility from the Agent-General, and the House certainly ought to do nothing that would have such an effect. They should look to the Agent-General to be responsible for the duties he was sent home to perform. He did not see how it was possible a Board of Advice could have any other effect than to relieve the Agent-General of his responsibilities. If the board were to lead to anything wrong, he did not see how the Agent-General could be blamed; the board were in a position to control him in any transactions he might be induced to go into through their advice. One of the duties imposed upon the Board of Advice appointed by the Victorian Government was to audit the whole of the accounts that were sent home; not exactly, perhaps, to audit them, but to affix their signatures to their accuracy. If that was not taking the responsibility from the Agent-General in all money transactions connected with the colony, he did not know what responsibility was. It could not be expected, for a moment, that men appointed at two guineas a sitting could audit the accounts so that the Agent-General might transmit to the colony their guarantee that the moneys had been properly expended. These instructions to the Agent-General for Victoria plainly showed that the only object of a Board of Advice was to relieve the Agent-General of a great deal of responsibility.

The House would understand why the Agent-General of Victoria was somewhat different from the Agent-General of Queensland. The Victorians had always had a desire to have an ornamental Agent-General—a man who could represent the colony politically, and who was more in the position of an ambassador. Queensland, however, wanted a very different Agent-General from that; they wanted a man who understood the action to which the colony committed itself, and who would be responsible to the colony. If a Board were appointed, this character would be taken from him. Although the wording of the instructions to the Agent-General for Victoria seemed to imply otherwise, he believed one of the reasons for appointing that board was a consciousness that they were appointing Agents-General who were not business men, and that the Board would be responsible for that part of his duties. He (Mr. McIlwraith) did not believe the House was ready in this fashion to shift the responsibility of the Agent-General upon the shoulders of a Board of Advice. This board had been likened to bank directors. The bank became responsible for all their transactions, and relieved the manager from any responsibility concerning the transactions to which they had agreed. The effect of the board would be to relieve the Agent-General of a great deal of responsibility, and instead of being a check upon him, it would make him act with a great deal less consideration. He would not work so well for the colony, because he would know there were other men standing behind him; he would look not only for their advice, but instruction, and he would take their instructions. For these reasons he did not believe in the motion at all.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the other members of the Government who had preceded him had not moved any amendment, and he only rose for the purpose of doing so, in as few words as possible. It was, in his opinion, undesirable that the Agent-General should be fettered by a board; and the precedent of Victoria was inapplicable in one sense, because the duties of the Agent-General of that colony were in many respects different from those of the Agent-General for Queensland. They were different, in the sense that they were much more extensive. He was informed by gentlemen in Victoria, that all communications with the Colonial Office at home were carried on through the Agent-General direct, and not through the Governor, and the answers to the despatches to the Colonial Government were not communicated to the Governor, but to the Agent-General. They treated him, in fact, like a political agent there, and did not inform the Governor unless they liked, and they generally did not like, of the proceedings they took. He would now move—

That all the words after the word "duties" be omitted.

If there was a regular Board of Control, as proposed, it would, he thought, be a very difficult thing to get together retired colonists to form a majority.

Mr. BAILEY said he was sorry that the Government had consented even to this; it was a direct insult to the Agent-General. If the Agent-General they had appointed was not to be trusted, they had better say so at once, and withdraw him. He wondered what the Emigration Office would cost the colony before they had done with it. This Board of Control, he supposed, would meet two or three times a week, and the members were to be paid. The department already cost enough in salaries, and he hoped the line would be drawn somewhere. If the Government had no confidence in Mr. Macalister, let them call upon him to resign, and appoint some one else in whom they had confidence.

Mr. BELL said the argument he had just listened to was very fallacious; in effect, the honorable member had argued that no check was necessary for any office. But his (Mr. Bell's) impression was, that no office, however high it might be, should be without as great a check as possible upon it; and if the officer holding that office was a man of strict integrity, he would not care about a check; rather the greater the check, he would consider, the better. The question of the proposed omission of words was not after all of much importance, because the object endeavored to be attained by the mover of the resolution would be attained even if the omission were carried into effect. What struck him as very strange was, that after a temporary absence from the Chamber, he found that whereas the head of the Government had accepted the motion before he went out, the other members of the Government were objecting to it on his return. So far as he understood the matter, some members of the Government were objecting to the motion, and were trying to patch it up to suit the Premier. He was surprised at the objections raised, because, whatever the expense might be, he was sure it could not be too great to serve the purpose of having a good Agent-General in England. What was such an expense compared with what they might lose by an incompetent, corrupt, and unthinking Agent-General? The cost, he was convinced, would be out of all proportion to the direct gain to the colony.

Mr. DE SATGE said he dared say the honorable member for Port Curtis would not have brought forward this resolution had it not been for the peculiar circumstances of the last appointment. The appointment was so peculiar that a retiring Premier, after having appointed his successor, placed himself in the office of Agent-General, although he gave out publicly that his health was so bad that he must go home and travel. Such circumstances unquestionably called for a Board of Advice, considering the degree of uncertainty

there was in the House respecting that appointment. A gentleman who went home in ill-health might die at any moment, or have a fit, as he had had before. As this was a special case, rendering a Board of Advice almost a necessity, he hoped the motion would pass in its entirety.

Mr. MACROSSAN said the House ought to consider this question altogether independently of Mr. Macalister, whose name should never have been introduced at all.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACROSSAN said that although he agreed with the honorable member for Dalby that no officer, however high his position was, should be without some kind of check, there was another principle to be observed, namely, that no officer, however low, should be relieved of his responsibility. This was the question for the House to consider. By appointing a Board of Advice, or whatever it might be called, they gave an Agent-General the power of saying, if he did wrong, that he acted according to the advice of the men appointed for the purpose of giving it. The Agent-General ought to be relieved entirely from this opportunity. It was no use having a Board of Advice because an Agent-General, to use the words of the honorable member for Dalby, might be unthinking, incompetent, or corrupt: the Government had no business to appoint a man who would be likely to be either; the moment they suspected their Agent-General, he should be recalled. He should vote against both motion and amendment, for he was of opinion that no Agent-General should have the power of defending himself against any charge of incompetency or blunder by saying he acted according to the advice of a board appointed to advise him.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought there were not many members of the House who would be found to agree with the honorable member for Normanby. If he and his colleagues had thought the motion was brought forward on the grounds mentioned by the honorable member—

Mr. BELL: But the honorable member for Port Curtis especially disclaimed any such intention.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was glad to remember that this was so. He was satisfied, whoever the Agent-General might be, he could not by any possibility be thoroughly acquainted with the varied duties which he had to perform, without considerable experience. There was, for example, the purchase of all classes of goods to be attended to, and it was impossible for any Agent-General, or any one man to know all that was required in that branch of duty. A Board of Advice in this respect would be very valuable, and he was in favor of it on these general grounds; but if the appointment of the board were advocated merely because an Agent-General might be suffering from ill-health, he would repudiate the proposal altogether, and vote against it.

Mr. J. SCOTT said that, whatever form the motion might take, he hoped the House would be careful to do nothing that would lessen the responsibility of the Agent-General.

Mr. BELL said that, with the consent of the House, he should like to say one word in reply to the honorable member for the Kennedy. If the honorable member's dictum was taken, the motion ought to be thrown out. What was the responsibility of a Minister, who held an office higher than that of Agent-General? He felt no more responsibility when he sat on the Treasury bench than he did at the present time. Supposing the Agent-General—

The SPEAKER: The honorable member is not in order in making a speech.

Mr. BELL: Yes, sir, but it is by consent of the House.

The SPEAKER: But the honorable gentleman is not in order, even with the consent of the House, in making a second speech.

The PREMIER said there seemed to him to be a great deal of unnecessary fuss made about the question before the House, and the discussion might very well have taken place when he brought forward his Bill to define the status of the Agent-General. The House had pretty well agreed that there ought to be a Board of Advice, and there they might be content to leave the matter. He might inform members that not only were there Boards of Advice in the other colonies, but there was one in Queensland in connection with the mail services; and if such a Board was found useful in a small matter, how much more useful would it be in a larger matter? The Board of Advice to which he referred, at the Post Office, consisted of three persons, and they had to open and consider all tenders. In the old country, in the case of tenders, and indents, and things of that description, it would be very serviceable to have the assistance of a Board of Advice composed of practical men, especially as the tenders in England were often for very large amounts. The House, he thought, had consumed an unnecessary amount of time over details which might have been better discussed when the Bill he had mentioned was introduced.

Mr. Low said if the Board of Advice differed from the Agent-General, a difficulty would arise which had not been dealt with.

Mr. FRASER said it was a pity a question like this could not be treated on its own merits without dragging in personalities. If the honorable member for Port Curtis had said anything against the Agent-General, he would certainly have voted against him, but such was not the honorable member's intention, and he said so at the outset. He (Mr. Fraser) could see some difficulty in giving the Agent-General the assistance of a Board of Advice, and at the same time holding him personally responsible. The London business of the colony no doubt pointed in the direction of having a Board of Advice of compe-

tent men to consider the various branches of business to which the Agents-General had to give their attention; and, for the purpose of giving the Government an opportunity of bringing in their Bill, he would vote for the amendment.

Mr. BUZACOTT said he was a thorough believer in responsibility, and he did not believe, if the object of this motion were obtained, by the appointment of a board of advice, that the whole responsibility would still remain on the Agent-General as it did now. He held that they must place the whole undivided responsibility upon the Agent-General, and that if they thought he was unfit to take that responsibility, they should recall him. The Agent-General at present held that position by the consent of a majority of the House.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. BUZACOTT said: And although he should be one who would vote for his being at once recalled, still, he would not consent to a motion of this sort, with a view to hamper him or to relieve him of any responsibility. He had heard there was a board of the kind referred to in Victoria, but the board of advice there was appointed under the immigration statute; and he thought before the House consented to even pass an abstract motion of this kind, they should have the matter properly brought in and discussed in the deliberate manner in which Bills brought before the House always were. He hoped the House would consider seriously before it consented to a motion of this kind, although he should be happy if he could see his way to support it.

Mr. PALMER, in reply, said it would be quite sufficient for him to say, with reference to the mild insinuation of the honorable member for Normanby, who had done him the credit to say he had brought in this motion with personal reference to Mr. Macalister—that he (Mr. Palmer) in his opening speech disclaimed any personal reference to Mr. Macalister in this motion. The motion was tabled on the 8th of June, when Mr. Macalister was Prime Minister and in that House, and had disclaimed any intention of going home as Agent-General; so how it could have any personal reference to him, he (Mr. Palmer) was at a loss to imagine. The dates spoke for themselves. On the 8th of June, Mr. Macalister was in that House; he was not Agent-General, or, according to his own statement, ever likely to be; and he (Mr. Palmer) thought when he disclaimed any motive such as that imputed, it was not the place of any honorable member to get up and say it was so. With respect to the various speeches that had been made on the motion, he could not say that he did not agree with any of them. The honorable member for Wide Bay had also referred to it as personal to Mr. Macalister, but, as he (Mr. Palmer) had already said, he had no

reason whatever to suppose when he introduced the motion that Mr. Macalister would be Agent-General. His opinions respecting that appointment were so well known, that it was unnecessary to allude to the matter further than to disclaim any reference to him; and the date of the motion showed that it had nothing to do with him. The honorable member had talked about the cost of the board, but he (Mr. Palmer) would like to know what the cost would be in comparison with one bad contract made by an Agent-General, ignorant of the business, for railway material, or for the shipping of emigrants, or the thousand and one things he had to attend to. He said the cost should be put on one side altogether, and their object should be to get a really good board in London to act with and advise the Agent-General. And even if it did cost a thousand a year, which he believed would be the most it would cost under any circumstances, it would be money well spent. The honorable member had also informed the House that the board would be required to sit two or three times a week, and that showed how much he had studied the subject. There was no necessity for the Victorian board sitting more than once a month; they got two guineas for each sitting, and under no circumstances were the expenses to exceed £700 a year. This motion must be taken as a guide to the Government in introducing any measure bearing on the subject, because, standing *per se*, it would be of very little use. It might hold good for a session, but it would not be binding in any way on another Parliament. He did not think the objections that had been made to boards would hold good. The honorable member for Springsure had taxed him, amongst other things, with exceeding partiality for boards now, although he had previously opposed them. Well, there were boards and boards; and the boards he had objected to were Land Boards in the country districts, but no one had ever heard him object to the Marine Board. On the contrary, he assisted in carrying through the Navigation Bill last week, which provided for a Marine Board. The honorable the Premier had also referred to a Post Office Board, for the opening of tenders, and if it was necessary to have a board of that kind in the colony, under the eyes of the public, how much more necessary was it to have a board in England, where there was nobody to look after the interests of the colony but the Agent-General? He did not see how a board of advice, such as that proposed now by the Government—if the Agent-General could snap his fingers if he did not like their advice—would be of any use whatever, and he should sooner see the motion lost than that it should be carried in such an emasculated form. There was no use of a board of advice if the Agent-General was not to take their advice; and he believed the system

under the Victorian Act was very suitable to this colony. That Act provided:—

“It will be the duty of the Emigration Commissioners to promote emigration, especially from the United Kingdom to Victoria, and to consult with and advise the Agent-General upon all matters relating thereto; and the Agent-General shall not act without or against the advice of a majority of the Commissioners present at some meeting.”

That was, it was not required that the Agent-General should take the advice of Commissioners who happened to be absent on the Continent or elsewhere; it must be advice given at some meeting—

“held under this Act, but if he dissent therefrom it will be his duty forthwith to transmit to the Governor in Council, a statement of the advice so tendered to him, and his reason for declining to adopt the same.”

That was exactly the position he should like to see the Agent-General of this colony in—not that he should be relieved of all responsibility; but that if he thought the advice of a majority of the board consistent with his duty to the colony, to adopt it, and if he had any reason to dissent from their advice, he should refer the matter to head-quarters, and be guided accordingly. The seventh clause said:—

“It will be the duty of the Emigration Commissioners to meet once at least every month; and each Commissioner shall be entitled to receive for every meeting that he has attended the sum of two guineas; but the entire amount payable to such Commissioners shall not in any one year exceed seven hundred pounds.”

That, he thought, met most of the arguments that had been brought against the motion, and as for the responsibility talked of by honorable members, and the honorable member for Maranoa particularly, he should like to know what it was? If the Agent-General exceeded his powers, he did not see that there was any responsibility about it—it was put down to error of judgment; but if he was culpably and wilfully dishonest, of course, then there was some responsibility, because he would lose his position and his salary, and the £5,000 which he ought to be bound by. As for this great responsibility of the Agent-General, he had never seen it, and he should like to have pointed out to him where it commenced and where it ended. He could not see how, if they issued the same instructions to the Agent-General as were issued under the Victorian Act, his responsibility would cease in any way; and he was of opinion that, if a board of that sort were appointed, it might save the colony thousands of pounds. Out of that board there would surely be some men who would understand business better than to allow such stuff to be sent out as they had had sent out, in some instances, to this colony and to New South Wales, where thousands of pounds' worth of railway material had been sent out that was utterly useless. He did not think a board whose ad-

vice the Agent-General was not, under certain circumstances, bound to accept would be of any use whatever; and with the exception of the amendment he had already consented to make—to call it a “Board of Advice” instead of “a Board of Control”—he was not inclined to alter the terms of the resolution, and should vote for it as it stood. He certainly did expect that when the honorable the Premier said if he altered the motion in the way he (Mr. Palmer) had stated, he would support it—that the Ministry would do so. It had always been usual, ever since he had had the honor of a seat in that House, that when the Premier accepted a motion, his Ministry accepted it likewise; but to-night they had the Premier accepting it and every one of his Ministry making objections and alterations; and, really, he did not know what they should come to at last. The fact was, that no member on the Opposition side of the House could consent to any proposal made by one member of the Government, because other members of the Government were sure to oppose it. When the acceptance of the Premier was not taken by the other members of the Government, how could any member accept a compromise, when it might not be accepted by the remaining members of the Government? The fact was, the Premier was a mere non-entity in his Ministry; and, after what had taken place, he (Mr. Palmer) should go to a division on the motion. He had thought it his duty to put it on the paper, and, after having thought over it for many months, he considered it would be exceedingly advisable to have such a Board of Advice. He believed a great many of the evils they had hitherto to contend against would be put an end to, to a great extent, by having such a board, without whose consent the Agent-General could not act or do anything which could seriously injure the colony.

MR. BAILEY said he rose to make a personal explanation. The honorable member for Port Curtis had stated that on the 8th of June, he tabled this motion, and, therefore, it could not be directed against the Hon. Arthur Macalister, on account of the date on which it was tabled.

THE SPEAKER: The honorable member is not making a personal explanation; he is, in fact, making a reply to the speech of the honorable member for Port Curtis.

MR. DE SARGE said, perhaps he might be allowed to make a personal explanation. He never meant to infer anything more than that the honorable member for Port Curtis had probably—he believed he used the word “probably”—tabled his motion on account of the peculiar circumstances connected with the appointment of the Agent-General. That was all he meant to infer, and it was merely his own opinion.

MR. BAILEY said he found that on the 7th of June, the late Ministry had resigned, and Mr. Macalister was then about to be appointed—

Mr. PALMER: This is not a personal explanation.

The SPEAKER: I think it is not a personal explanation; it is an argument with reference to a particular fact.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put, and the House divided with the following result:—

AYES, 10.

Messrs. Palmer, Amhurst, J. Scott, Bell, De Satgé, Ivory, O'Sullivan, Stevenson, Morehead, and Kingsford.

NOES, 20.

Messrs. Thorn, Dickson, Stewart, Griffith, Fraser, Douglas, Walsh, Edmondstone, Buzacott, Morgan, McLean, Graham, McIlwraith, Low, Bailey, Fryar, Macrossan, Tyrel, Johnston, and MacDonald.

Mr. BAILEY said he had not an opportunity before of explaining that on the 7th of June last, the Honorable Arthur Macalister declared in that House the names of the new Ministry, and that the old Ministry had resigned. On the same day, he found the honorable member for Port Curtis strongly protesting against the appointment of the Honorable Arthur Macalister as Agent-General, and he also found this motion tabled, he believed, on the very same day. He was not going to connect these two facts, or to express any opinion as to the competency or fitness of Mr. Macalister as Agent-General; but he could not but say that this was a direct blow aimed at him.

The SPEAKER: The honorable member for Port Curtis has twice disclaimed any intention of reflecting on the present Agent-General, and the honorable member must not repeat the statement.

Mr. PALMER said he had not the slightest objection to the honorable member for Wide Bay arriving at any conclusion he liked. It was not of the slightest consequence to him what that honorable member thought; and he was sure the House would take his word that the motion was written weeks before it was put on the paper.

Mr. BAILEY said he was willing to accept the statement of the honorable member for Port Curtis, but it was a strange coincidence. He should vote against the motion all the same.

Mr. BELL said he regretted very much to find that the honorable member who had introduced the motion had avowed his intention to vote against it in its amended form. It was the very last thing he (Mr. Bell) should have expected from him; because, even now, the motion was of some value, inasmuch as such a board would be of service in seeing that contracts were properly made. At all events, the Bill could be so framed when it came into the House, and could then receive greater consideration than there had been time to give to the motion. He hoped the honorable member would not vote against it. He (Mr. Bell) would make it a point to vote for it.

Mr. PALMER said he should certainly vote against the motion as amended. It was not the motion he introduced, and he thought it was not the slightest use having a Board of Advice unless that advice was to be followed. The original motion was thoroughly emasculated by the amendment, and he should vote against it.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he did not see why the honorable member should do so, because, as it stood now, the Agent-General must take the advice of the board, or give good reasons for not doing so; and after all, in its amended shape, the resolution contained all the honorable gentleman could fairly ask. He thought a great deal of good had resulted from this discussion, and he was obliged to the honorable gentleman for having raised the question. It would assist the Government in framing a Bill; it had elicited a general opinion on the part of the House, although there were some slight differences disclosed, in favor of the appointment of a Board of Advice; and he trusted the honorable gentleman would see that really in the amended form of the motion he secured all he sought to secure.

The motion, as amended, was then put, and negatived on the following division:—

AYES, 13.

Messrs. Thorn, Griffith, Dickson, Douglas, Johnston, Stewart, Low, Edmondstone, Bell, J. Scott, De Satgé, MacDonald, and Fraser.

NOES, 16.

Messrs. Palmer, Walsh, McLean, Bailey, Graham, Kingsford, McIlwraith, O'Sullivan, Tyrel, Fryar, Morgan, Stevenson, Morehead, Buzacott, Amhurst, and Ivory.

RAILWAY SURVEY TO CABOOLTURE.

Mr. FRYAR said, in moving the motion standing in his name, it was not his intention to make a very long speech on the question to which it referred. The motion was:—

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 on the Supplementary Loan Estimates the sum of £1,000, for the purpose of defraying the cost of a survey of a line of railway from Brisbane to the Caboolture.

The House had been very liberally disposed lately with regard to the surveying of lines of railway, and he thought it was not a bad policy to make such provision for the future as might at present be made at comparatively small expenditure of public money. The time would come, as had been frequently observed, when it would not be so easy to recover land already alienated, or to reserve lands which were still in the hands of the Crown. The consent of the House had already been given to the survey of a line down to the southern border, and as the line was now made from the inland towns of Warwick, Dalby, Toowoomba, and Ipswich

to Brisbane, this would be a continuation northward from the southern extension towards Caboolture, and he believed it would ultimately reach Gympie and Maryborough. He knew it was open to the objection, which was sometimes raised, that the line would run along the sea-coast, where there was the advantage of water carriage, but that objection did not apply in this case, because the line would run through very populous portions of the country. Commencing at Brisbane, it would be intimately connected with, if not actually within the electorate of North Brisbane; it would go through portion of the electorates of Enoggera, Wickham, Fortitude Valley, and East Moreton, and very near the electorate of Stanley, at the Caboolture, so that it would unite a population of something like 50,000 persons, all of whom would be to a considerable extent interested in it. All that he asked at the present time was that a survey should be made in order that the necessary land might be, as far as possible, reserved. He knew there was a question whether a railway should not be made to Sandgate, but he would not introduce that matter at the present time, because he presumed that any survey to Caboolture would take the route by Sandgate into consideration, because it was very little out of the direct line, and as it would pass through the most populous portion of the constituency, that would form a considerable element in any engineer's estimate as to the best or most probable route. It was pretty well understood by railway engineers and others, that lines of railway should always pass through the most populous parts of the country, where there was likely to be most passenger traffic, and that a line was more easily constructed where it was an extension of another line, than when it was a new construction altogether. He believed, in these respects, this line was very favorably situated—for economical working and for a very considerable amount, of the best traffic a railway could possibly have. He might also mention that it would go through a district already thickly populated by farmers, who raised a considerable quantity of produce; and if in the future it were extended, it would go through fine country, still in the hands of the Government, which contained a large quantity of valuable timber, and in which a portion of land had lately been taken up on the belief that coal existed under it; so that it was not at all unlikely that there would be a large amount of mineral, vegetable, and animal produce to be carried by the railway at some future day. Of course, he did not suppose that the survey was going to be made at once, any more than he supposed that the line would be made at once; but he thought there were as good grounds for the construction of this line as any line yet mentioned; and he should conclude by moving the motion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he did not know whether it was any use to make objections

to the motion at the present stage of the proceedings, as it seemed to be regarded as a formal matter to allow these motions to pass, and to consider them in committee; but he did think the honorable member who had introduced the resolution should have considered the undesirability of requesting the Government at the present time to enter upon a larger amount of expenditure than they themselves could feel justified in putting the country to. He did not think, considering the large number of railway surveys already asked to be made, and the various other resolutions that had been passed, requiring the expenditure of public money, that the Government could fairly be expected to assent to a motion of this sort at the present time, because the expenditure of the money,—looking at the number of surveys already assented to, and the amount of railway work to be carried out—could not take place for some time, and the honorable member himself did not expect that it would, but merely pointed out the desirability of a survey being made at some future time. Even if the Government were in a position to spend this money, he would view it in the same light—that it was not required at the present time. He did not think the honorable member had shown anything to prove that it was a duty owing to that part of the colony that this work should be entered upon. The honorable member must admit, that with regard to roads that district had been well attended to, and the residents there were not placed at such a great distance from the markets that they really required the transit of their produce facilitated. In fact, he had not shown that there was any large amount of produce to be carried by such a line of railway; he had not shown that it would be in any way a feeder to the other lines. The Government had, in entering upon railway works, primarily borne in mind the desirability of bringing remote districts into connection with the markets, so as to provide openings for the consumption of produce raised by settlers in those localities; and that, where they had not the advantage of good means of communication with the markets, it was desirable to provide for surveys of lines of railway that might at some future time be constructed. That, he thought, was the proper view to take, with the object of settling population in the country. With regard to this line, he believed the greater portion of the land between the metropolis and the Caboolture had been alienated for some years; so that, even if the survey of the line were recommended, the construction of the line itself would be of a most costly character, inasmuch as the amount of money necessary for the resumption of land would be very great indeed. There had been no argument produced by the honorable member to show that there was any necessity for this railway. The residents of the district had been well attended to in the matter of roads; they

were within easy distance of the principal market of the colony; and he could not see that there was any large amount of trade likely to follow or accrue from the construction of a railway in this district at present. And above all, he could not see that the Treasury was in such a position that they could assent to an indiscriminate number of votes for railway surveys during the present session; and, on behalf of the Government, he should therefore have to discountenance this motion.

Mr. WALSH said he was glad to hear that they had a Government that had found a policy at the last moment. He was very glad to hear the stand the honorable Colonial Treasurer had taken against these motions. He (Mr. Walsh) was a believer in the construction of railways wherever the lands of the district would defray the cost of the construction of those railways; but the honorable gentleman who had introduced the motion had given no proof whatever, that there was any land at all to defray the expenses of this railway; and the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had stated that the greater portion of it had been alienated. The cry now was—and it seemed to be the policy of the House and the country—that the land should pay for the railways; but in this case, he believed every acre the line would go through had been alienated for a large number of years, and that it was owing to its quality that it was in an unproductive state. He thought honorable members might congratulate themselves, that they had one member of the Government who was prepared to check this wholesale pandering to public desires by wasting money on these fanciful railways. He should be an advocate of the line, if he saw it was likely to run through a rich agricultural district, but notoriously this district was not so, except down on the sea-coast, and then it had abundant advantages in the shape of water carriage. Almost every ton of goods or produce that went to or came from the Caboolture went by water, and they could never be successful in railways by competing with water carriage.

An HONORABLE MEMBER: Brisbane and Ipswich.

Mr. WALSH admitted the possibility that the railway between Brisbane and Ipswich would supersede water carriage, but then the only way that could be done was by subsidising it and running it at a heavy loss. He did not hesitate to say that, if they drew a debtor and creditor account between the income and expenditure of that railway every year, it would be seen that the country lost something like £300 or £400 per mile per annum owing to the low tariff the Government had to adopt to compete with water carriage. He would also point out that the necessity for making this survey had not been shown by the honorable member who introduced the motion. His general argument was that the Government should by

a timely, and he might say, premature survey, prevent the land from being alienated; but, as the honorable the Treasurer had pointed out, there was not even that argument in favor of it, as the land had been alienated. He rose with a considerable feeling of pleasure to find the Government were at last beginning to see the serious position into which the country was getting by this lavish, wholesale voting away of public money for these railways, and he thought they had taken a very proper step in the matter.

Mr. PALMER said he was afraid the congratulation of the honorable member for Warrego on the Government having at last found a policy, was rather premature. In fact, he considered the conduct of the honorable the Treasurer this evening was exceedingly inconsistent and very unfair to the honorable member for East Moreton. It was only last week he advocated taking money from the public purse for a jetty at Sandgate, and surely they were not going to build a jetty without having a railway to it. The honorable member for East Moreton, in opening the question, mildly put it to the honorable the Treasurer, that of course this railway would go to Sandgate, which was only a little out of the direct route; and he (Mr. Palmer) thought the conduct of the Treasurer on this occasion was utterly inconsistent and hard-hearted. In his reply, he said the honorable member for East Moreton had not shown where any produce was to come from; but surely he had forgotten the produce that he had previously stated was to come to this wonderful Sandgate jetty. That would furnish material for half the traffic of this line. At all events, Humpy Bong would send its contribution of eggs and bacon. The only question he (Mr. Palmer) had to consider in the matter was, whether there was any Crown land available for resumption for this purpose, and if there was, he should certainly vote for it.

An HONORABLE MEMBER: Moreton Island.

Mr. PALMER said Moreton Island was not exactly on the line, but it came within fifty miles. He did not know whether the land there would sell at a price sufficient to make this railway, but it would certainly realise more than some of the land up north that the Premier valued at £3 or £4 an acre; and it might sell as a marine residence. If the honorable member for East Moreton could point out that there was a considerable quantity of Government land through which this railway would run, which could be reserved with the view of making a railway in the future, he should vote for the motion; but if it was merely to gain popularity in his district by putting a motion on the paper which could have no ultimate result, he should vote against it. If the land was alienated, there was no use making the survey now, because it could be made when the railway was about to be made. He thought the

honorable member might have given them a little more information ; and that the congratulation of the honorable member for Warrego on the honorable the Treasurer having discovered a policy, and was going to stick to it, would be found very premature, if, at a late hour of the evening, the question of this Sandgate jetty should come on.

Mr. McLEAN said he was surprised at the position taken up by the honorable member for Warrego respecting this survey, when they had the evidence before them of the amount of money it had cost the country to purchase back land for the construction of the Brisbane and Ipswich Railway. That alone cost £52,000; and he thought, with the honorable member for Port Curtis, that if the honorable member for East Moreton could show that there were any Crown lands on the route that the survey was likely to take, it was the duty of the Government to agree to the motion, and have the land resumed for the purpose for which it was intended.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE thought it was the duty of the Government to make this survey, and reserve the land that would be necessary in the event of a railway being constructed. He recollected some years ago when a great many infantile deaths were taking place, it was recommended by a select committee, or certain medical officers, that light railways or tramways should be laid down to Cooper's Plains and German Station, and other places where there were small farms, so that milk might be obtained ; and there was not the slightest doubt that, were facilities for communication given, considerable trade would arise between here and the Caboolture, and even so far north as Gympie, as the honorable member who had introduced the motion had stated ; and it would also be an advantage to Sandgate. He thought the honorable member for East Moreton was much to be commended for having brought forward this resolution at this time, and he saw no reason why it should not be acceded to. Several similar motions had been allowed to pass, and he thought the honorable member had a right to expect this to be granted. He was rather surprised that the honorable the Treasurer had made the objection that he had, and he could scarcely credit the statement that the bulk of the land through which the line would pass had been already alienated. He believed on examination that would be found to be a mistake, and that the larger proportion of that land was still in the hands of the Government. He trusted the motion would be acceded to by the Government.

Mr. FRYAR, in reply, said the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had accused him of only wanting this survey to provide for the future, and he admitted that that was a fact ; and after what they had seen in reference to making railways first, and the plans and estimates afterwards, he thought they should be content to have the surveys made first ; and this, as all surveys should be, was intended to be made before the railway was

commenced. There had been a good many complaints about the railway between Ipswich and Brisbane being commenced before proper surveys and estimates were prepared, and he certainly hoped that not only with regard to this Caboolture line, but every other line that might be constructed, that evil would be avoided. With respect to the roads, the honorable the Treasurer seemed to think the residents of this district had been well treated, but it was only a week or two ago that he saw an advertisement stating that the Gympie coach would run again, after having been taken off for several months in consequence of the impossibility of travelling on the roads ; and perhaps under those circumstances they had, in the estimation of the honorable the Treasurer, reason to be proud of the state of their roads. The honorable member for Warrego had stated that a railway could never successfully compete with water carriage, but he (Mr. Fryar) had stated always that the railway was not intended to compete with water carriage ; that its chief object would be to carry passengers, and it would pass through the most densely populated portion of the country, beginning at Brisbane and going through the electorate the honorable the Colonial Treasurer represented, and through East Moreton. He admitted that there was not a great deal of land in those districts unalienated, but there was a great deal now held under conditional purchase, which it would cost very little to resume. In fact, he expected most of the holders would be glad to give it up for railway purposes ; so that that portion would not be difficult to acquire. He had stopped short at Caboolture, beyond which there was a great deal of Crown land, and if the Government chose to carry the line beyond that, they would be able to get plenty of land for the purpose. He supposed if the Government opposed the motion, after putting £10,000 on the Estimates for railway surveys, and £2,000 on the Supplementary Estimates for another survey, and £1,000 for another ; and as there was £2,000 or £3,000 more in prospect for other surveys, he might take it for granted that his district was to be very differently treated to any of the rest of the colony, and would have to quietly submit to the vote as it might be given.

Mr. DE SARGE said the honorable member made a rather unfortunate remark when he evidenced the road from Gympie to Brisbane as a proof of neglect. That road had been throughout a useless and centralising effort to bring the traffic to Brisbane, diverting it from its natural route through Maryborough or Noosa. The sooner the road was left to take care of itself, the better ; it was one of the last roads that should be fostered. Either Noosa or Maryborough was a more natural road from Gympie. The present road, he must say, although he believed it originated from his own side of the House, had been a mistake from the first.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he was at a loss what to do. He felt that he was bound loyally to follow his honorable colleague, the Colonial Treasurer, who, of course, was bound to defend the Treasury, which everybody seemed to assault. Under these circumstances, his difficulty was that he was called upon to be specially ill-humored to his honorable friend the member for East Moreton; everybody else who had assaulted the Treasury had been gratified, and why should not he? He (the Secretary for Public Lands) had strongly protested in the first place against these motions, and pointed out that it was not desirable they should go into committee, but the House was of another opinion; and he did not see why the honorable member for East Moreton should be singled out for invidious distinction. All sorts of similar motions had passed, and it had now come to be held as a constitutional axiom almost that an honorable member had nothing to do but to put a motion of this kind on the paper, to have it accepted and passed into committee. If this was accepted by general usage, why should the honorable member for East Moreton be distinguished by the opposition of the House? He (the Secretary for Public Lands) would follow his honorable friend, the Treasurer, to the death in any matter of great extravagance, but was not disposed to think they should drive things too far; and as the House had, on previous occasions, admitted all kinds of motions into committee, he did not see why this, also, should not be admitted. He was not sure that, in addition, he had not a kindly feeling towards the motion, for he had for some time thought it desirable to have a survey of a line to Sandgate. If his assurance would satisfy the honorable member for Port Curtis, he had no hesitation in saying, at once, that there were large areas of Crown lands beyond the Caboolture which the honorable member wished to reach. He would suggest that the honorable member for East Moreton should commute his proposition for a jetty at Sandgate. He (the Secretary for Lands) would much prefer the proposition now before the House. Apart from his allegiance to the Government, he might say it was far better to have some idea of where a railway to Sandgate would go, and thence to the Caboolture, than to entertain the project of a jetty. If the honorable member would withdraw his motion for the Sandgate jetty, it would be a good way of solving the difficulty. As it was generally conceded that these were matters of formal procedure in going into committee, he hoped there would be no serious opposition to the motion.

Mr. MACDONALD said the principal objection to the motion was, that the lands of which it was intended to make a survey were alienated, and, in the absence of any special information, he thought it would be better to postpone the motion until the necessary

data were furnished. He thought there was not much difference of opinion respecting the railway to Sandgate, but if there was a railway there ought to be no jetty.

Mr. J. SCOTT said the speech of the Minister for lands showed two things—first, that the Ministry were not at one upon the question under consideration; and, secondly, that there was every encouragement for anybody to ask for anything. It was a capital idea of the honorable gentleman that, after all that had been granted, no one should be singled out, but that everyone who asked for something should be backed up.

Mr. AMHURST said this was simply a motion to advance the question a stage, in order that it might be properly debated. In the same way, the House had allowed him to carry a motion for the survey of a railway to Bowen that it might be properly discussed in committee, but in neither case were the Government pledged to grant what was asked, nor was the House. He hoped, therefore, the motion would be carried.

Mr. IVORY said the honorable member for East Moreton had furnished them with a voluminous quantity of statistics relative to the expenditure that would be required for the Sandgate jetty, and before the honorable member went into this other matter it was advisable that he should furnish statistics regarding the lands not already disposed of by the Government, so that, as the Government had gone into a policy whereby the lands of the colony were to pay for the railways, they might be in possession of information as to the possible amount to be realised from those lands. Of course, if there were sufficient lands in the neighborhood of this projected line, it was their duty to place them in a railway survey for the purpose of defraying the expenditure. The honorable member had, apparently, justice on his side, and he ought not to withdraw his motion, and as he (Mr. Ivory) intended during the evening to table a motion for a sum of money to survey another line of railway, he hoped they would both be supported by the House.

The PREMIER said no doubt the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had a right to set up his back against this motion, and he only regretted that he did not set it up at the beginning of the session. He (the Premier) would inform the honorable member for East Moreton that a sum of money had been placed on the Estimates for a portion of this line. He believed a line of railway from Brisbane to Sandgate was only a question of time, and that it would pay well; he was of opinion that it should not go beyond this, unless it formed part of a grand trunk system to the North, through Gympie and Maryborough. That appeared to him to be the chief, if not the only ground, why the House should assent to the motion for a survey to the Caboolture. He hoped, therefore, the matter would be allowed to go into com-

mittee, as many other sums had, and, of course, when it had got so far the committee would decide whether they would grant a sum of money for the survey of a line at so great a distance. For himself, he was in favor of a line to Sandgate, and he should be inclined in committee to vote, say £500, for the survey of a line to Sandgate; and he hoped and trusted the time was not far distant when this line would be constructed, connecting the popular watering place of the southern part of the colony with the metropolis, and the Southern and Western Railway system.

Question put and passed.

PUBLICANS BILL.

In moving the second reading of this Bill, Mr. McLEAN said he hoped the House would bear with him whilst he, a young member, attempted to speak upon the subject now before the House. When he entered the House he had no intention of introducing this measure, but when the honorable member for Carnarvon asked the Government whether it was their intention to introduce a measure this session bearing upon the licensing laws, he received for answer, "No." Knowing that there had been a great deal of dissatisfaction expressed all over the country, both by the people and the public press, respecting the present system of granting licenses, he told the honorable member for Carnarvon that if the Government would not introduce a measure he would attempt to do so himself. The impression had got abroad, and it was the impression of many honorable members, that because he was a Good Templar this must necessarily be a Good Templars' Bill. He wished to disabuse the minds of honorable members of that idea; he was a Good Templar, no doubt, but this was not a Good Templars' measure. He introduced the Bill as a member of the Legislative Assembly, and not as a member of the Independent Order of Good Templars. When the resolution first came before the House, the honorable member for Port Curtis advised him, if he had any intention of carrying the measure, to adopt the tactics of the leader of his (Mr. McLean's) party. While he should be most willing, at all times, to listen to the advice of so experienced a gentleman as the honorable member for Port Curtis, the Bill at that time was framed, and by introducing it in its present shape, he thought, by the combined wisdom of the House, a good measure might be made of it should it be allowed to pass into committee. The honorable member for Normanby said that the measure would doubtless create a sensation amongst the licensees, the like of which had never been seen before. He might tell the honorable member for Normanby that if the present indiscriminate system of granting liquor licenses was continued, there would be a much greater commotion in the public mind than this Bill was

likely to produce. In considering a measure of this kind, they should ask what was the duty of the Government in connection with it. Quoting the words of Mr. Gladstone, the duty of the Government in legislating for the country, was to make it easy for the people to do right, and difficult for the people to do wrong; or, again, in the words of Bentham, "The sole object of Government ought to be the greatest happiness for the greatest possible number." And, again, the same authority said that legislation ought to be directed as much as possible to the prevention of crime. He would ask, did the present system of indiscriminate granting of licenses tend in the direction of prevention of crime? He answered, "No." In connection with the liquor traffic, crime abounded on every hand. The gaols were filled by it, and the report of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum showed that the building wanted extending. The Benevolent Asylums were full, and it had been clearly shown by judges on the bench, both in this colony and the old country, that three-fourths of the crime that came under their notice were traceable to the traffic in intoxicating liquors. Sir A. P. Burt, Chief Justice of Western Australia said:—

"I am of opinion that upwards of 75 per cent. of the convictions in the Supreme Court are against men who relapse into crime, when drunk, under temptation which they successfully resist while sober. With very few exceptions, the numerous cases of forgery brought before the Court terminate in the conviction of inebriates selected at the bar of a public house to utter cheques forged by practised offenders; the latter are rarely brought before the Court, so great is the terror they exercise over their unfortunate dupes."

But in considering the subject of licensing, he would ask, what was the idea conveyed to the mind in connection with the granting of licenses? It was the idea of limitation—limitation because the traffic in intoxicating liquors was a dangerous trade. All men were not allowed to go into the traffic, and restrictive measures of various kinds were placed upon it. If he went back for a few years, and asked, what was the primary object in the granting licenses, he found in the time of James I., in 1604, a preamble of a Bill defining this object. It set forth that "the ancient, true, and principal use of alehouses was for the lodging of wayfaring people, and not for the entertainment and harboring of lewd and drunken people." Was that the system of public-houses to be found in this colony? Were public-houses in Queensland licensed with this object? A glance at any of the principal towns in the colony would show quite the reverse. To prove that the public-houses were not used for the purposes described in that ancient preamble, he had simply to quote returns he had obtained from the police office in Brisbane—returns showing that in the year 1875 there were no less than 1,197 people taken up for drunkenness in Brisbane alone. Nor did

the present year show any decrease; because, from the 1st January to the last day in August, the number was 762. He found that on Saturday, up to six o'clock on Sunday morning, 182 individuals were taken to the police station. He would ask, honorable members, what the liquor traffic had done for the colony? Had it raised the morals of the people? Had it increased their social happiness or their domestic comfort? Or, he would ask the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, had it increased the revenue? To this he would unhesitatingly reply, that for every pound it brought to the revenue it had directly or indirectly taken five pounds out of it; and, instead of increasing, it had diminished the social and domestic comfort of the people. They had the experience both of this colony and other countries to guide them as to the effects of granting of licenses. He would ask permission to read a few extracts published by the Hon. C. K. Landès, an American gentleman, who had in America established a colony where no intoxicating liquor was sold. He said:—

"The experience I have to relate to you came about in a very simple and in a very practical way. I may say that it came about in the way of self-preservation, for the reason that the preservation of those who would be embarked in the enterprise I undertook would be my preservation. About the time I was twenty-eight years of age, I concluded to start an enterprise in the State of New Jersey. In a portion of the state, which was a complete wilderness, I purchased 30,000 acres of land, covering 50 square miles, at a time when there was not half-a-dozen inhabitants upon that entire tract. The State of New Jersey had been a very conservative state. It had been the last of the old Northern States to abolish slavery, and the dark shadow of that great curse still rested upon it, injuring its industry and retarding its prosperity. This gave an unusual opportunity for the purchase of tracts of land; the situation was so admirable in reference to market and climate, so I felt that if skilled labor could be introduced, and I could avoid those causes which ordinarily induced failure, I might succeed in my enterprise. But I knew that the two great causes of failure were, first speculation, and, secondly, the liquor traffic; and that of the two the last was by far the gravest. A great many enterprises were started in the west which would go on for a time in the most flourishing manner; but the taverns would spring up, and then their decline would commence. In fact it became a saying, that what was necessary to make a town was first a tavern, a grocery, and then a blacksmith's shop, and the taverns would afterwards increase more rapidly than anything else. These would take, I may say, the brains of the people away, and induce them to enter into wild speculations, and by the time the population of the town had reached about 3,000 there would be what they called a reaction, and then probably the bulk of the people would go further west. The people who remained could not meet their payments, but became bankrupts; and so the population, instead of increasing, would go back. When I assumed the responsibility of purchasing 30,000 acres I knew that unless the population increased be-

yond 3,000 the enterprise would involve me in financial ruin and loss of reputation and character. I had to make 175 miles of road and incur other heavy expenses. It was absolutely necessary for me, in the first place, to continue to sell land; but if after the first five years the settlers did not succeed, my sales of land would cease, and probably when I had only sold 10,000 acres, and then I would have 20,000 left on my hands. Nevertheless I was not afraid of the enterprise, and for reasons I will presently explain."

He called attention to this extract because it showed that what had been done in a certain portion of America could be done with equal success in Queensland. The pamphlet from which the extract was quoted gave some remarkable statistics with respect to the police statistics of this colony where no intoxicating drink was sold; and he would call the attention of honorable members to them, observing that in the year in which the largest expenditure appeared the increase was due to the fact that a railway extension was going on, and the people working on the line required more looking after. He would now quote the statistics of the police expenses and poor-rates for this colony of Queensland:—

Year.	Police expenses.	Poor-rates.
1867	£10	£80
1868	10	85
1869	15	85
1870	15	70
1871	30	80
1872	5	70
1873	10	80

Honorable members might not be aware that in the Convocation of Canterbury, not many years ago, a report was presented showing that in that province alone there were at the present time over 1,400 parishes and townships in which there was not a single drop of intoxicating drink to be purchased. How, then, did this come about? By gentlemen who owned large estates, seeing that people were far better without intoxicating drinks, refusing to have a tavern or beer-house upon their land. He had no intention of bringing the question of prohibition into the debate, had it not been for a leading article in the *Telegraph* newspaper of yesterday. He did not know from what source the writer derived his information, but he attempted to show that the Maine Liquor Law was a failure. He held in his hand a Blue Book published by the Canadian Government, being the result of a Commission to investigate the working of the Maine Liquor Law in the different States where it was in operation; and instead of showing in the slightest degree that it was a failure, every word of it went to prove that where the law had been enforced it had been a decided success; where it had not been enforced the success had not been so great. The *Telegraph* newspaper said:—

"Mr. McLean seems to think that if he could once get all the public-houses shut up, there

would be an end to drunkenness at once and for ever, and that failing to accomplish this object, the next best thing is to throw as many obstacles in the way of drink-selling at public-houses, and public-house drinking as possible. Everybody, except short-sighted total-abstainers, know very well that this a mistake. We do not propose to argue the point because argument would be wasted upon it. The evidence of the working of the 'Maine Liquor Law' in America has settled that question."

He had no intention of arguing that point with the *Telegraph* or any person, but he could give undoubted proof that wherever the Maine Liquor Law had been enforced it had been an entire success. He hoped honorable members would give the whole subject their calm consideration, for this was a most vital question for a young colony like this. He did not wish to press his individual views upon the House, but wished to show his position was not an unwarranted one. He considered that the present system required to be enforced, and he would endeavour to show that where a good law was enforced, as it should be, it was a remedy that would, to a considerable extent, mitigate the evils that were now sown broadcast throughout the land. Governor King, in giving evidence before the Canadian Commissioner, said:—

"You will hear it sometimes said that the Maine law is a failure in the State, so far as it tends to restrict intemperance and the use of intoxicating liquors, and that its only effect has been to substitute secret for public drinking. Indeed some so-called seekers after truth, who have simply visited our two largest cities, where, for the reasons I have already stated, the beneficial effects of the law are least felt, have gone away and claimed to be able to pronounce a verdict for the entire State. You will readily see how superficial and untrustworthy in this respect must be the judgment of a stranger, who does not visit the rural portions of the State, where three-fourths of our citizens reside. The great improvement in the drinking habits of the people of this State within the last thirty or forty years, is so evident that no candid man who has observed or investigated the facts can deny it. This improvement is owing only in part to the influence of prohibition, for law can only supplement and strengthen moral effort."

This was all he (Mr. McLean) asked; he only asked that the law should be strengthened by the action of the House. If he attempted to force any prohibitory laws upon the people of Queensland, he was aware that public sentiment was not ripe to favor such a movement; their duty, under those circumstances, was to do what they could in the direction of laws that would lessen the crime of the colony. He would point honorable members to the fact that, in the old country, during last session of Parliament, there were no less than eight measures bearing upon the liquor traffic, and a memorial, signed by 8,000 clergymen of the Church of England, was presented to the House of Lords, praying for a searching inquiry into the intemperate habits of the people. That Commission

had been granted, and the results would, no doubt, shortly be made known. He did not say that the Bill before the House was perfect: he simply asked honorable members to give it their calm and deliberate consideration; and, if the Bill should go into committee, wherever improvements could be shown he should be most happy to accept them. He could not help thinking that in such a House as this there must surely be sufficient wisdom to pass a law upon the subject that would be for the best interests of the country. He would now invite honorable members to look at the Bill itself. It had been said that it contained many objectionable features; but there had never been a Bill probably that had not something objectionable about it to somebody. The system of granting licenses, proposed by the Bill, was that, instead of licenses being granted by an unlimited number of magistrates, the number should be limited. He proposed that a certain number of justices should be appointed, whose duty it would be to grant licenses. Almost any system would be preferable to that now in vogue; in fact, he had been told by one of the police magistrates of the colony that the present system of granting licenses by an unlimited number of justices was rotten to the very core. They had seen the operation of the law in Brisbane, and that, coupled with the utterances of the various newspapers of the colony, must lead to the conclusion that it was time some remedy was devised. He was not particular whether the number of justices was three or five, so long as it was a limited bench. Three or five would feel that they occupied a far more responsible position than a great number. They would feel that the eyes of the people were upon them, and that they had a responsible duty to perform. If such a board as he proposed were formed, there would be less chance of indiscriminate licensing than with a vast number of magistrates. Clause seven was regulated by clause five, and clause seven proposed to vest the power of granting licenses in the Municipal Council. This had been objected to on the ground that it gave so much power to the aldermen. This, however, was not his idea alone. He could point to such gentlemen as Mr. John Bright, who was of opinion that the town councillors and aldermen ought to be the licensing bench in a town, and for the simple reason that they were responsible to the ratepayers, while under the system in operation in Queensland the licensing bench of magistrates were responsible to no single individual. Clause eight proposed to remedy another admitted evil. An example of this had been known in Brisbane—justices of the peace coming from other places to out-vote the local justices. This clause was especially worthy of the consideration of the House, and would remedy, at any rate, one evil, by providing that nothing should be done save by the authority of the

licensing board of the district or municipality. Clause nine gave the reasons why the licenses should be refused. One of the reasons, as stated in sub-section one, was that the existing licensed houses were already sufficient for the requirements of the district. The question which naturally arose here was, who were the judges as to whether any more public-houses were required? It was clear that justices of the peace who had come from distant places were not competent to decide the question. In his opinion the people themselves were the parties to decide the question, for it was in their interests that the public-houses were supposed to be opened. Sub-section two might seem harsh in the estimation of some people, because it simply provided that where licensed houses existed in the proportion of one to every 750 of the population, no more licenses should be granted. Some people thought this was a strong provision, but if they considered the number of public-houses that already existed in some of the municipalities, another opinion would be entertained. According to a calculation made, there was in Brisbane, one public-house for every 76 male adults; in Ipswich, one for every 55; in Toowoomba and Drayton, one for every 44; in Rockhampton, one for every 34. Another sub-section in clause 9 provided that a license should not be granted where a public-house could be shown to be a nuisance in the locality, and this was a question that deserved the serious consideration of the House. They had been legislating in the interests of the working man—in the interests of the poor man—but he asked, did they legislate in their interests when they planted down public-houses indiscriminately in portions of towns where there was no alternative for this class but where they must reside? The wealthy could easily remove to the suburbs, where there was no such thing as a public-house near to them, but if it could be shown by the working classes, who were the bone and muscle of this colony, and of every other country, that a public-house was a nuisance to them, he thought that, at least, they were entitled to have a voice in the matter, and to be allowed to express it. There were other sub-sections which, as honorable members would see, were simple details of the measure, but in sub-section 10 the Bill proposed that instead of monthly licensing courts being held, as at present, they should be held annually. What had they heard repeatedly stated in Brisbane? It had been complained that justices went on the bench, and that at almost every licensing meeting they were hunted up by either those who wanted public houses or those who were opposed to them, and, therefore, they had no peace. Now, if they had an annual licensing bench there would be no necessity for this hunting up of justices, and the population was not such in any portion of the colony as to necessitate licenses being granted oftener than once a-year. An article in last night's

Telegraph tried to make as small mince-meat of him as possible, but it was evident that the writer of that article had never read the Bill before the House, or else he would not have committed himself to the extent he had done. The article said:—

“Then, again, there requires some reforms in the mode of licensing, though not in the direction Mr. McLean's Bill provides. At present it is a real hardship to persons who wish to obtain a license, to be compelled to spend very large sums of money to fit up a house, and then risk having the license refused.”

Why, the Bill before the House provided for that very thing. It provided that before a would-be publican spent a single farthing on his house, he could go to the bench, state his intention of opening a house, and ask for a provisional certificate to entitle him at the next licensing day to receive a license if he carried out the provisions that were laid down. It not only provided that, but it provided a schedule in connection with this very clause that the writer in the *Telegraph* complained was not embodied in the Bill. What he considered one of the most important clauses in the Bill, was that which provided for shortening the hours during which public-houses should be open and closing them on the Sabbath day. The honorable member for Port Curtis stated a short time ago, if he (Mr. McLean) recollected rightly, that he did not wish the Lord's day to appear in any Bill in that House. Now, he found they had the very same words used in Acts already upon their Statute Book, and before he concluded he intended to show that the legislation in connection with those Acts now, upon the Statute Book was class legislation, pure and simple, while some people would make others believe that this Bill was nothing more than class legislation. The statute in which the Lord's day was named was class legislation, if ever there was class legislation in the world. In connection with closing the public-houses on the Sabbath day it might be urged that it would lead to illicit drinking to a still greater extent than at present existed, and that liquor would be still more adulterated. Now, what was the duty of the Government, what was the duty of their police force, but to prevent the sly-grog shops that they heard so much about in this colony? Why, it was said, when the Sabbath Closing Bill came into operation in Scotland, that it would immediately flood the land with sheebens and liquor shops. Well, there were such things as sheebens opened at that time; but, if they took the statistics of Dublin, where, until lately, the public houses were open five hours on the Sabbath day, they found that in those five hours there was more drunkenness in Dublin than there was in Scotland—even with the Sabbath Closing Bill. Under that Bill, in Scotland, public houses had been closed on the Sabbath for three-and-twenty years, and if it had been found, by the ex-

perience of the people of Scotland, that this measure was not a good one, that it was against the interests of the people, did they think the people of Scotland would for three-and-twenty years have submitted to such class legislation as that? But it had been found to be a success there, and he was confident it would prove to be a success in this colony. It was but a little time ago that there was introduced into the Imperial Parliament in England, a resolution, closing public houses on the Sabbath day. The Government of the day opposed it, and what was the consequence? That when the division took place, the Government were beaten by a majority of 57. After this there was introduced a Bill, embodying that resolution, and he learned, by recent telegrams received from the old country, that that Bill had been carried into law in connection with Ireland, and the conclusion he very naturally drew from that was, that what was good for Irishmen in Ireland could not possibly be bad for Irishmen in Queensland; and what was good for Scotchmen in connection with Sunday closing in Scotland could not be bad for Scotchmen in Queensland; and, therefore, he would most seriously urge upon honorable members the importance of this clause of the Bill, closing public-houses on the Sabbath day. It had been carried in Scotland three-and-twenty years ago; it had been carried this year in the Imperial Parliament, so far as Ireland was concerned; and the probability was that before many sessions passed, the same would be in force in England. But he would ask, why should publicans be the exception to other branches of trade and business with reference to early closing and Sunday trading? Was it because the liquor would not keep? His experience was that the longer it was kept, the better it was.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. McLEAN said, why should publicans be the exception to every other trade in connection with closing on the Sabbath day? A man could not go to a draper's shop to purchase a coat or a shirt, if he wished to do so, on the Sabbath day; they were prohibited from opening their shops on that day, and why should publicans be an exception to the general rule? It was in 1828 that an Act was passed in England giving publicans the power to sell intoxicating liquor on the Sabbath day; but here the cry was raised all over the country that if they closed the public houses on the Sabbath day they would rob the poor man of his beer. It was said the wealthy could get their case of beer into the house, and drink it on the Sabbath day, but the poor man was only able to get an occasional pint or quart, and therefore, in the interest of the working classes—of the poor man—not to rob the poor man of his beer, they must of necessity keep public houses open on the Sabbath day. Now, if they took the statement of an eminent German chemist,

Professor Liebig, this was what he said about this beer that was such an important provision for the working man that they should not rob him of it on the Sabbath day:—

“The whole process of brewing is to get rid of the nitrogenous blood forming element of the grain and to transmute the useful sugenite alcohol. We can prove, says he, with mathematical certainty that as much flour as can lie on the point of a table knife is more nutritious than eight quarts of the best Bavarian beer.”

What this writer said was worthy of the serious attention of honorable members, who thought there was so much nourishment, who thought there was something so good in connection with a pint of beer. That was the experience of a gentleman who he did not for one moment believe was a teetotalter, and therefore it could not be said his ideas were prejudiced, as it might be said of total abstainers. He went on to say:—

“That a person who is able daily to consume that amount of beer”—

that was, eight quarts of the best Bavarian beer daily—

“That a person who is able daily to consume that amount of beer, obtains from it in a whole year, in the most favorable case, exactly the amount of nutritive constituents which is contained in a 5-lb. loaf or in 3 lbs. of flesh. Spirits, by their action on the nerves, enable the drinker to make up deficient power at the expense of his body. He consumes his capital instead of his interest.”

And they would deprive a poor man of his beer, to prevent him from consuming his capital, the strength that enabled him to earn his daily bread, instead of his interest. But there was a more serious light in which to look upon this question of closing public-houses on the Sabbath day in this colony, and that was in the interest of the rising generation. How often did they find young men who ought to be better employed than in frequenting the bars of public-houses on the Sabbath day? and he said, if they were to legislate more for the cradle, they would require less legislation for the hulks. Therefore in the interests of the young, he said it behoved honorable members seriously to consider whether it was right or not to shorten the hours of licensed victuallers, and to close their house on the Sabbath day altogether. He believed if the colony were polled tomorrow, at least three-fourths of the respectable publicans would be in favor of closing their houses on the Sabbath day. There was a publican in Edward street, who sold out and removed to the Eight-mile Plains; and one morning when he (Mr. McLean) had breakfast there, when he was travelling by coach, that man told him that the sole reason why he sold out in Brisbane and went to the country was, that he might have the Sabbath day quiet to himself. He did not believe that the publicans of the colony would be opposed to this portion of the Bill. But

section 14 was the great clause that had caused so much excitement throughout the colony; that had raised the laughter of some, and the ridicule of others, and had brought down upon his poor devoted head, all the anathemas of the liquor-traffickers. But looking at it in a rational common-sense way; looking at it as members of that House—as professing Christian men, he would ask, was it to the interest or the respectability of this colony that they should allow young females to sell intoxicating liquors over the bars of public-houses? It was the great Diana of Queensland that was assailed in this Bill! The craft was in danger; that which brought so much grist to the publican's mill was in danger; and the cry to a certain extent was, that because the Bill contained such a clause as this it ought to be thrown out. He might be an exception to the general rule, but he believed he had many sympathisers in that House, and in the country; and his opinion was that it was a disgrace to the land in which they lived. Look at America, across the water, and ask her if she would allow her fair daughters to serve intoxicating liquors over a bar, and the indignant answer would be wafted back over the ocean, "No." And when they had an example like that, fast as the American people were said to be—when they found they had no females serving over their public-house bars, he said they could not do better than follow that example, and pass into law this section of the Bill. It was not alone in the interests of the females in the bars of public-houses that this legislation was required, but it was also in the interests of young men—the giddy moths that fluttered round the light, and were led on to destruction. Honorable members might laugh, but it was no laughing matter; for they knew as well as he did, and could point to individual cases in this city as well as he could, where young men had been ruined by no other influence than that of young women behind public-house bars. It had been said that it was an institution in the land, and because it was an institution it should not be abolished; but it could be proved, and though they might close their eyes to the fact, in their innermost hearts they knew from experience that it was a bad institution; and therefore the sooner that House rose to a true sense of its position, and wiped out such a bad institution, the sooner they would bring in a wise form of legislation. Not long ago they had letters in the newspapers making loud complaints about the long hours young girls were kept employed behind the counters in drapers' shops, but they heard not a word about the young women in public-houses, who had much longer hours; and if there was a cry about one class, why should there not be about another? And here the House had the power—the privilege—to legislate in the interests of those young females. But the cry was, that if they legislated in this direction it would be class legis-

lation. Now he found, from the proceedings of the House last year, what he considered a far stronger instance of class legislation than this. He found that certain storekeepers at St. George were fined £3, and for what? Because a person happened to ride up to their store with a broken lamp-glass, and the storekeeper received it from him on the Sabbath; and if a storekeeper was fined for keeping his store open on the Sabbath, why should there be an exception made in his case, and none in the case of the publicans? One very important feature in the measure—one that called louder for legislation than any other—was that referring to the sale of adulterated intoxicating liquors by publicans. Now, through the public Press, numerous cases of death had been brought under their notice which could be clearly traced to the adulterated liquor sold by many publicans, and if they could in any way tend to prevent the selling of adulterated liquors, he said they should have done good work in connection with legislation this session.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. McLEAN said he did not pretend that the Bill before the House was perfect, and all he asked honorable members to do was to co-operate with him, and try to make it a good measure—a measure that would give satisfaction, and tend, instead of increasing facilities for the consumption of intoxicating drinks, to restrict them. Look at Rockhampton, and other places, and who would not say that in those towns there were far more publicans than there was any necessity for? He would not occupy the time of the House at any great length, because he believed it was patent to honorable members that it was absolutely necessary that some wise legislation should take place during the present session in connection with these licensing laws. Therefore, he invited their consideration to this measure, and asked that it might be allowed to go into committee, and that they would co-operate with him in trying to make it as good a measure as they possibly could. He begged to move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BAILEY said he found that already the licensed publicans of this colony were afflicted with one Act of no less than seventy clauses; by another, in 1863, ten clauses more; by another, in 1868, four more clauses; another, in 1870, six more clauses; and by another, in 1872, three more clauses; and he found it was the intention now to put on the back of those unfortunate publicans another Bill of twenty clauses. He did not intend seriously to oppose this Bill by argument; there were so many absurdities, so many crudities in it, that he thought it would be useless to attempt to do so. He might take this opportunity of telling a little anecdote illustrating the way in which these coercive measures operated in other places. It was a good one, and he

heard it from a Good Templar. It was to this effect:—A Yankee country boy went to see his uncle, and after supper and prayers Johnny went to bed. Shortly afterwards his aunt went to him and said, "Johnny, you know we are go-to-meeting-folks and strict teetotallers, but I know at home you are accustomed to live comfortably, and if you like a drop of something before you go to sleep, I will give you a drop of whisky." Johnny took the whisky, and went to sleep. Next morning Johnny went to see his uncle working, and the old man said to him, "Johnny, you know we are go-to-meeting folks and strict teetotallers, but I am an old man and have to keep a drop of something strong; will you take a drop of whisky with me, Johnny?" Well, Johnny went out in the field to see his cousins working, and they also said, "You know we are go-to-meeting folks and strict teetotallers, that is the old man and old woman, but we young fellows must have a little of something to drink, and we generally keep a bottle in the hay-field; will you have a drop of whisky, Johnny?" And Johnny said he never got so drunk in his life, as he did amongst these go-to-meeting folks and strict teetotallers. In fact, the hypocrisy and sly-grog drinking caused by these coercive measures more than counterbalanced all the benefits attending them. He had risen to call attention to what he considered to be an invasion of the privileges of that House. This Bill had been brought in, he might almost say, on the back of the petitioners. Petitions almost without number had been presented in favor of this Bill, and a few minutes ago he happened to look over some of them, and what did he find from even the few he had looked at? In one of the two petitions presented by the honorable member for Bandanba, he found there were eighty-two signatures, and twenty-nine of those eighty-two had actually signed twice. In the next, also presented by the honorable member for Bandanba, he found the first signature was the same as in the previous petition—"Samuel Barton," or "Backston," and it was followed by the very same signature of "William Lovely." Now, "William Lovely" appeared in the petitions, and he supposed his name would be found in nearly all of them.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: A lovely lot.

Mr. BAILEY said he found another petition from the Methodist congregation in Too-womba, which there could be no mistake about, as it was certified to be correct by the minister of the congregation, who signed his name, and said, "I certify this petition to be correct." And yet, here, he (Mr. Bailey) found several signatures in the same hand-writing, and not signed by the individuals whose names there appeared. In another petition from the Pine Mountain, he found that there were names running in rows, almost all of which were in the same hand-writing. He found that there were no less

than five Cocks in one hand-writing, and nearly opposite were seven Brooks also in same hand-writing. He thought, judging by the look of the petition, one-half of the signatures must have been written by the same person. Another petition was from Kangaroo Point—that was the aristocratic portion of the colony, and he found there were no less than nineteen Kangaroo-Pointers in favor of this Bill. He thought he need say no more. He appealed to the honorable the Speaker, whether those petitions, brought forward in this way, should not be treated in some other way than they had been—by being received by the House. He said it was a scandal and a disgrace that people should attempt to influence the House by sham petitions of this kind. He had not had time to look over the whole of them, but from what he had discovered in those he had looked at, he said it was most disgraceful to attempt to influence the House in that way.

Mr. GRAHAM said he felt bound to deprecate the way in which the honorable member who introduced this Bill directed his remarks to that side of the House, and more especially to that particular corner of the House. The only way he could account for it was that he (Mr. Graham) happened to be sitting between the honorable member for Rockhampton and another member who was a resident of Rockhampton, and had he observed it before, he should certainly have removed to another part of the House. He confessed when he saw this Bill he had a certain amount of sympathy for some of the clauses of it, and would have been inclined to vote for the second reading, had the honorable member who brought it in in a quiet and modest way owned that it was defective and would require modification. But the old leaven was too strong for him, and as he warmed to his work, his prejudices came out, and he could not resist the temptation of giving the House a really thorough Good Templar's lecture. The Bill, as had been said by the honorable member for Wide Bay, was very defective in the way it was drawn up. It was very crude, it could not be understood, it was thoroughly unworkable, and thoroughly unjust. He would take the ninth clause, for instance, which he thought the honorable member was a little ashamed of himself. It provided that any three householders could object to the granting of a license. It was not clear whether it referred to a new license, a renewal of the old license, or a transfer; but from the way it was expressed, any three householders could object for the five reasons stated:—

"(1.) That the then existing licensed houses are sufficient for the requirements of the district or municipality

"(2.) That the houses already licensed in the district or municipality are in the proportion of one to every seven hundred and fifty of the population

"(3.) That the granting of the license applied for will be a nuisance to the locality;"

and so on. Well, he thought in any new locality or district, they could find not three but thirty men who would certify to that, and the whole thing was utterly unworkable. The next glaring feature was the second part of the eleventh clause, by which an applicant for a license required to obtain the signatures of two-thirds of the adult males. He could imagine an unpopular man who wished to open a public-house, which was supposed to be for the use and convenience of the public, having to go about the district to get those signatures; and if he went on the principle which had been exposed in connection with the petitions the honorable member for Wide Bay had referred to, he might get two-thirds, or even three, or four thirds.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. GRAHAM said he did not think it necessary to say much on the other clauses until he came to the thirteenth. This was a puzzler to him—the greatest puzzler in the whole of the Bill. It left him in doubt whether the honorable member for the Logan was extremely ignorant of drinking, which he had told them he was not, for he knew the older liquor was the better it was, and he therefore had some knowledge of it; or whether he was a most confirmed lusington. Why public-houses should be opened at six o'clock in the morning, and kept open until ten, and then shut from ten until the same time next morning, he could not make out. If the clause provided that they should not open until twelve o'clock, and should shut up at twelve, he could understand it; that any reasonable drinking man could understand; but he begged to state that a man who commenced drinking at six o'clock in the morning was extremely unlikely to knock off at ten.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. GRAHAM said that with reference to closing from Saturday night until Monday morning, that he did not so much object to, and he did not believe the publicans of the colony would object to it, but that they would be glad to get the same day of rest that people in other businesses got. But the honorable member for the Logan had entirely forgotten or neglected to mention what he (Mr. Graham) recollected was a very troublesome subject in Scotland, when a measure of something of the same kind as this was brought in, and that was, the "*bona fide* traveller." He was a very difficult individual to define, and he (Mr. Graham) thought he would be a stumbling-block at all events in this Sunday-closing clause. He should not touch upon the barmaids.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. GRAHAM said he should only say he did not understand why the honorable member for Logan should object to the employment of any other female in a public-house bar, when he would allow the wives of the publicans to be there. There were only two reasons that he could think of—one was, that the fascinations of the barmaids would induce the drinking of more liquor, but that was con-

trary to precedent, because the worship of Bacchus and Venus were not supposed to go on together. The other was, that females serving over the bar were apt to hear language which was not fit for them to hear; but he thought it was the publican's duty to prevent that, and if they could adopt any rule which would ensure publicans keeping their houses properly, he should heartily support it. The seventeenth clause provided that an officer of police might go into a public-house and take half-a-pint of liquor. Well, if this Bill passed the second reading and went into committee, he should move an amendment to the effect that before the policeman took the half-pint of liquor, he should first take a nobbler to see if it was bad, and if it was necessary to take the half-pint.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. GRAHAM said he did not see why this license should be confined to police; he thought it might be extended to people higher in the social scale, such as justices of the peace and members of Parliament, and they might allow a pint to justices of the peace and a quart to members of Parliament.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. GRAHAM said: But he did not think it would have a good effect on public morals. He did not think it would be an edifying spectacle to see members of Parliament walking about the streets with three-gallon kegs, and going into public-houses here and there for their liquor. He had treated the Bill in rather a jocular way because he did not consider it worthy of serious consideration, it was so crude and unworkable. He did not say the subject was not a serious one; he believed in many respects it was, and it had his sympathy; and if the honorable member for Logan had brought the Bill in quietly, and said he would accept amendments—

MR. McLEAN: So I would.

MR. GRAHAM said in all probability he should have supported it; but, as he said before, that honorable member's natural prejudices broke out too strong, and he could not see his way to vote for the second reading.

MR. BUZACOTT said honorable members who had spoken on this Bill so far, had, he thought, treated it in an unbecoming way. The honorable member who introduced it had given the House a sermon, and those who had followed him had endeavored to throw ridicule on the whole subject; and he thought when an important question of this sort was brought before the House, they ought to treat it seriously. There was no doubt the amount of drunkenness to be seen in their streets was exceedingly to be deplored; but at the same time he did not believe they could make people either sober or honest by Act of Parliament, and it was on that ground he took his stand. The honorable member who introduced the Bill said drunkenness produced crime; but he (Mr. Buzacott) said it happened just as often one way as the other. If a man desired to do evil, he would take some

kind of liquor which would strengthen him, as he believed, to carry out his evil designs. In that respect it was an evil, but at the same time if a man were properly educated, and fortified by a determination to do that which was honest and right, he would not take intoxicating liquor to strengthen him to do that which was evil. He should not go into the speech of the honorable member for Logan, who had given long quotations and statistics; but he (Mr. Buzacott) did not think his statistics were applicable to Queensland at the present time. He thought, without going to England or America for information, they had quite enough at hand on which that House was quite competent to act. It was necessary, he held, when the honorable member brought this measure before the House, that he should show that the existing law was not properly carried out. He complained that the public-houses were opened on a Sunday, and if they were, it was only for two hours—between one and three o'clock in the afternoon. Anything more than that was in direct opposition to the Act; and why did not the Good Templars, with whom he was associated, bring pressure to bear upon the authorities, and have those public-houses closed on Sundays in accordance with the Act at present in existence? It was notorious that public-houses were open in Brisbane all day on Sunday. He did not say whether that was correct or not, or whether they ought to carry out the whole of the restrictions of the Act or not; but he said, before the honorable member came to that House and asked them to close public-houses all day on Sunday, he should go to the authorities and ask them to carry out the Act now in force. He did not approve of many of the clauses of the Bill, but he presumed it would go into committee, and then there would be ample time to discuss them; but he could not sit down without referring to one or two of them—the one, for instance, which authorised the police to enter a public-house and demand half-a-pint of liquor. He could not conceive anything more demoralising to the police force than to give them such a power. It was absurd that men who were paid five or six shillings a-day should have power to enter a public-house at any time and demand half-a-pint of liquor. Why, they would hold themselves *in terrorem* over the publicans everywhere; and they would, no doubt, fall into drinking habits themselves. The honorable member had referred to Rockhampton as a part of the colony which was distinguished above all others for the number of its public-houses, but he (Mr. Buzacott) did not think that arose from the fact that the people of Rockhampton were more addicted to excess in drinking than people in other portions of the colony.

Mr. McLEAN: I did not say so.

Mr. BUZACOTT said he did not say the honorable member did, but he thought the inference was, that Rockhampton was more

addicted to intemperance than any other portion of the colony. He believed the reason there was such a number of public houses there was because there were more people going through Rockhampton than any other town in the colony. More people went through Rockhampton in one day than through Ipswich in a fortnight, he should say, from the experience he had of Ipswich the other day; and he believed it was solely because of the great number of people constantly passing through Rockhampton, who had unsettled residence there, that there was such a large proportion of public-houses in it. The clause which gave aldermen the power to grant licenses, he considered, if it were carried out, one of the most serious evils that could be conceived. They should have nothing but innkeepers as aldermen, and if that was the case they should find at the annual elections all the publicans in the district brought forward, and there could be no doubt that by their influence they would get a large number of their own calling returned. Although there might be one or two clauses in the Bill which were desirable, he thought, on the whole, it was one that would not be advantageous to the community to place on the Statute Book.

Mr. AMHURST thought this subject was a most serious one, and one that could not be properly treated by a private member. He sympathised with much that the honorable member for the Logan had said, but at the same time he considered the Bill was so crude that it should not be passed. He thought the proper remedy for the abuses that existed was, for the Government to introduce a Bill, and with a view to giving them an opportunity of doing so, he moved—

That the word "now" be omitted, and "six months" be inserted in its place.

There was no chance of this Bill being passed.

Mr. EDMONDSTONE said he regretted very much to hear the manner in which the honorable member for Wide Bay spoke of the petitioners in favor of and against this Bill, because the right of petition was one of the greatest privileges of the British subjects, and one of the principal sources through which the rights and liberties they now enjoyed were derived; and therefore it should not be derided in any possible way. He agreed with the last speaker, that this Bill, as it now stood, was utterly unworkable, although he should be most happy to support some clauses of it, such as that for closing public-houses altogether on Sundays. He knew a great many publicans in this city, and they were all distinctly in favor of closing on Sunday. But some better system of licensing houses as places of public convenience should be adopted, and in his opinion a Board should be appointed for the purpose, or a law enacted, regulating the granting of licenses. It should be confined to limited districts, such as municipalities or wards in municipalities,

or districts should be proclaimed, and only the magistrates within those districts should be allowed to Act as a licensing bench. That, he thought, would tend to prevent magistrates being hunted up to cram benches, as had frequently been done in this city, to the great annoyance and dissatisfaction of the magistracy thereof. He had known licenses to be refused by three and four benches, frequently consisting of different individuals, and on the fifth application that identical house was granted a license; and he said such packing of benches should be put a stop to, and some ingenious method adopted whereby the law would provide that what one bench had done could not be undone by another. The only method he could see, was the appointment of a board who should be restricted to limited districts. As to closing public-houses at any particular hour at night, he thought the bench, having full power to grant the license, they ought also to determine the number of hours during which business should be done. If the Bill went into committee it would require considerable amendment, and with that view he should vote for the second reading.

MR. MURPHY said he could not agree with the honorable member that this Bill should pass the second reading, and for that reason he seconded the amendment of the honorable member for Bowen,—That it be read a second time that day six months. It seemed to him that the honorable member for Logan, in introducing a Bill making such sweeping alterations in the present law, should have made out a strong case; that he should have shown that the state of things in the country was such that they should at one fell swoop abolish the present law. But he could not see that he had established, either by statistics or arguments, a case that would justify the law he now sought to enact. It seemed to him that the honorable gentleman was mistaken in assuming the state of affairs he did—that the people of Queensland were a community that drank to excess. He took a different view on that point; and although he was as anxious, he hoped, as that honorable member in every respect to do away with what might be called the drinking propensities of the population—although he cared nothing about drink himself, and was not in the slightest degree predisposed in favor of any system which would give undue opportunities to the people to indulge in intoxicating drinks, he took exception to it going forth to the world that the colonists of Queensland, as a body, were in any sense addicted to excess in intoxicating drinks. In support of this, he might refer to what took place lately, on the occasion of the exhibition at Bowen Park. On the first day there were 15,000 persons present, and altogether there must have been about 30,000; and he would ask honorable members how many cases of drunkenness they saw? He was there every day, and he did not

remember seeing one. He had heard there was one, but he did not see it; and, he said, that spoke volumes in favor of this country. When thousands of people assembled together, intent upon enjoying themselves to the utmost, when there were no restrictions—no *posse* of police to keep them in order, or anything further than their own desire to conduct themselves properly; and yet, with perhaps one exception, they did not indulge in drinking to excess or disgracing themselves in the slightest degree. He maintained it spoke volumes in their favor as against any suggestion to the contrary; and the records of the police court showed that on the Monday following the exhibition week there were fewer men brought before the magistrates for drunkenness than for some days before. He contended that that proved that when the people had opportunities for reasonable and rational enjoyment, there was no increase of intemperance; and it was highly creditable to the people of the colony. The Bill itself was of such an Algerine character, looking at it clause by clause, that that House ought not, in fairness to the community, to pass it into law. No doubt the honorable gentleman who introduced it, was endeavoring to carry out his strong convictions, and that he conscientiously believed this strong measure of reform was necessary to check intemperance in the country; and although he had an equal desire with him in every way to see intemperance checked, and still keeping that in view, it seemed to him, that the state of things which now existed, certainly did not call for such strong interference as was proposed by this Bill. He repeated that the Bill was Algerine; it interfered unduly with the rights of the people, for those who vended spirituous liquors had rights, and so far as they knew, the publicans of Brisbane and the colony generally, were not a bit less respectable than other people. He had heard and knew a good deal about them. Up North, in places where there was no police protection, where the only protection was their own sense of right as distinguished from wrong—that was up in the neighborhood of Cooktown and the Palmer, he could say that when he was up there he scarcely saw a case of drunkenness. He certainly heard of such cases on the way there, but in that new country, where there was no police protection, where the law was kept by the publicans themselves, he did not remember seeing a single case of drunkenness, and he said, that circumstance, coupled with the creditable conduct of the people at the Exhibition at Bowen Park, showed that the colonists of Queensland as a whole were not deserving of the character the honorable member for Logan would appear to wish to make out. Clause 5 of the Bill provided:—

“The provisions of the sixteenth section of the Principal Act shall extend and apply to all meetings for the election of a Licensing Board or any member thereof so that no justice who by the

said recited section is prohibited from acting in or being present at a licensing meeting shall be allowed to act in or be present at any meeting for the election of a Licensing Board or a member thereof nor shall any such justice be eligible to be elected as a member of a Licensing Board."

Now it would be impossible to work that clause. The honorable gentleman seemed to forget that in distant parts of the country where, perhaps, there were only two or three magistrates in the town, where this licensing board would have to meet, it would be utterly impracticable to carry such provision with effect. The section referred to seemed to aim at excluding from the operation of the Act, gentleman who were at present, as he thought unnecessarily excluded from taking part in the licensing bench. The present Act prohibited gentlemen who were connected with the wholesale wine and spirit trade from sitting on the licensing bench; and he presumed the reason for this provision was, that it was supposed those gentlemen might be influenced in some remote way, through their particular business. The effect of that was, that some of the most respectable merchants in Brisbane were excluded from the licensing bench, and he thought there was no foundation for it, because he was sure no one would say they would be influenced by their business connections in dealing with such cases. If wine or spirit merchants were supposed to be in any degree influenced or prejudiced, surely the same argument might be employed against the Good Templars, who would be equally prejudiced, though in another direction; this must be very clear to anyone who wished fair play; if persons connected with the licensing trade were excluded by law, Good Templars should also be excluded. The honorable member for the Logan referred to places where licensing benches were swamped by justices coming from a distance for the purpose, and this was, no doubt, brought about by the particular views taken by the two parties. The Good Templars would appear on the Bench, where it was known the wine and spirit merchants could not sit, and of course these persons could not be blamed if they attempted to get equal justice done, by asking a disinterested magistrate to come and adjudicate upon the case. In this sense the honorable member could scarcely complain, because it was a state of things to which both parties contributed. The clause relating to the employment of females in a bar was an undeserved slight to an entire class. The honorable gentleman had not shown that the system was productive of any ill effects, and it was well known that there were many respectable young women at public-house bars. Their position, too, it must be remembered, was a voluntary one; they were not forced to be there, any more than the young women in a draper's shop. This clause under any circumstances was uncalled for, but it was particularly unfair, when it was considered

that the class at whom it was aimed entered the occupation from choice. Coming to the 17th clause, he would remark, that if ever there was a measure in the world containing a provision that was in the highest degree opposed to the principles of British legislation, it was that respecting the officers of police. It was quite clear that there were to be no Good Templars in the police. Other people were to be excluded and shut out; working men were not to be allowed in any way to enter a public-house, but the privileged policeman would always be there, welcome to take what he liked. This provision was so unheard-of in its character, and so opposed to all law, that no deliberative assembly like this, desiring to do justice to the whole community, could entertain it for a single moment. No one regretted intemperance more than he did, but it could not be done away with by these strongly coercive enactments. It was not possible to make people sober by legislation, or make them do right by enacting Algerine provisions like those which would be law if this Bill passed. He hoped, therefore, the Bill would be read again this day six months.

Mr. DE SATRE said he should vote against the second reading of the Bill, believing that the present Publicans Act, if properly attended to, and worked conscientiously, was ample for the purposes of the country. If they allowed favoritism to creep in, and the Publicans Licensing Act was not observed, abuses would arise which could not but be opposed to the welfare of the colony. He altogether doubted the quarter from which this Publicans Act came; had it come from anyone but a total abstainer he would have listened to it with a certain degree of attention which he could not pay to the temperance lecture they had just had. He had always found in his relations with working men that when any of them told him he was a total abstainer, the man had been the hardest drinker, and was afraid of himself, and that being so, he always mistrusted him. The present Act was forced upon the House at an inconvenient time. It aimed at legislating against one particular class of publican. The publican in town never attempted to open his house on the Sunday; in passing through any large town in the colony it was a matter of general notice that the enactment as to closing on Sundays was thoroughly and entirely observed. The proposed Act would fall, however, nearly on the country publican. Tired of his week's toil, the working man loved to go out of town on Sunday, and after a long and dusty drive, he required that refreshment which no reasonable person would deny him. If the Bill became law he would, however, find every door closed against him. Was then the country publican to forego his profits on the Sunday in ministering, not to the drunkard, but to the traveller who required honest refreshment? He had been a traveller

himself, and he should like to know whether a thirsty tired man, arriving at a house of refreshment on Sunday afternoon, was to be denied the refreshment of which he was thoroughly in need. He would vote at once against any such narrow-minded view being forced upon a young colony like this. This Bill would be a severe blow upon the country publicans, against whose trade it would especially fall; while it would not operate at all against the town publican. It was entirely a one-sided Bill, and, as the member for Darling Downs had showed, it was unworkable. As to barnmaids, it cast a slur against a whole class, which was far more respectable than was insinuated. There were amongst that class, young women who looked eventually to settle themselves in life, who were, in most cases, very modest and well-behaved, and whose presence in a public-house prevented men from saying improper things. There was that chivalry left, even in the working man, which prevented him from saying anything in the presence of a woman that was likely to offend her ear. Perhaps the honorable member had been living amongst people who abused that chivalry; but if he would extend his rides to the country districts, he would find that women were always respected, and that even drunken men checked themselves in their presence.

Mr. FRASER said the honorable member for Wide Bay, with that peculiar faculty he possessed for discovering mares' nests, was very happy at his expense with respect to the petitions he presented. He took exception at once to the honorable member's criticisms when he said an attempt was being made outside to overrule the rights and privileges of the House. It was the privilege of any section of the community to present petitions, and the petitioners in this instance had only availed themselves of that right which every Englishman understood and prized. The honorable member pointed out that in some of these petitions the signatures of the same individual were to be found more than once. Of course, the very manner in which he presented the petitions indicated this, because some were presented in favor of the general principles of the Bill, and others from the same locality in support of particular clauses. With respect to the petition of which it was said the same names appeared more than once, and in the same handwriting, he could only say that he read the wording of the petition, which was correctly and respectfully worded, and concluded with the usual prayer; but the petition was handed to him by another honorable member, for whom he presented it, and therefore he did not examine the signatures. If he had done so, he probably would not have presented it. With respect to the Bill itself, he did not suppose the honorable member who introduced it ever conceived that it would, in its present shape, become law. At the same time it did not deserve to be treated

with the indifference, lightness, and flippancy it had received from some quarters. The facetious manner in which the honorable member for Darling Downs treated it, he did not so much object to, because it was good-natured banter that might be expected; but it must be universally admitted that the drinking habits of all English-speaking communities, whether in the old country, or in America, or in the colonies, was becoming one of the most perplexing and difficult questions of the day. For years the system of licensing had occupied the serious attention of some of the best and wisest men in England, and not even at the present day had they arrived at any system that was anything like satisfactory. He was not now reflecting upon persons engaged in the trade, and he was only repeating what was universally admitted, when he admitted that in connection with the drinking habits of society, there was a large amount of crime. He was astonished to hear the member for Rockhampton say that the drinking habits of the community did not produce an increase of crime. That was an astonishing statement. From the first judge in the land to the magistrate in the police court, the verdict would be universally that a very large proportion of crime sprang directly or indirectly from the drinking habits of the community. That being the case, it was the duty of those who were well-wishers of the community at large to see whether steps could not be taken to diminish this great evil. He was well aware people could not be made sober by Act of Parliament any more than they could be made religious; but by Acts of Parliament temptations might be reduced. It was admitted on all hands that in proportion to the facilities for obtaining drink, was the amount of drunkenness to be estimated. The honorable member for Cook, it seemed to him, had dealt with this question more as an advocate or special pleader of a section of the community than as a legislator animated by a fair and comprehensive spirit. He might be mistaken; it might be the force of habit, owing to the honorable member's profession; but whatever it might be, he was able to assert that the honorable member's speech sounded more like special pleading than the persuasions of an impartial legislator. Notwithstanding all that honorable members might say themselves, it was admitted that the present system of licensing was radically defective, and if any means could be devised by which this could be rectified, by which greater justice could be done to the applicants, by which satisfaction could be given to the community at large, it would be a very good thing. He was not prepared to say how this could be done; the question had perplexed and puzzled wiser and more experienced heads than this. All he knew was that the system as it now stood was extremely unsatisfactory. He did not believe there was an honorable member in the House who would gainsay this. Another point proposed to be dealt with in the Bill

was the adulteration of liquors. His own experience either in town or country of public-houses or drinking was very limited, but he was credibly informed that there was a system of adulteration of the worst form prevailing both in town and country. Honorable members would remember, last season, reading a very harrowing case that occurred in the western country, and the prevalent opinion amongst those who were experienced and connected with public-houses there was that there must have been in some way or other adulteration in connection with that case. He was informed the other day by one of the most respectable publicans in Brisbane, that he had had credible proof set before him that a vile adulteration of rum was carried out in Brisbane. He did not ask for the name of this adulterator, but was perfectly satisfied from the character of the man who told him that it was the truth. Here was a matter in which the House must see there was room for amendment, and this portion of the Bill must, therefore, commend itself to their best judgment. Without trespassing much longer upon the patience of the House, there was another matter to which he should like to call attention; he referred to the proposal to close public-houses on Sundays. This he knew was a vexed question, but he would speak for most of the publicans in Brisbane. He had been spoken to by several of them, when it was known that this Bill was coming before the House, and, without exception, they told him they should be most happy if a clause of this kind were adopted, equally for the sake of their employees, their families, and themselves, all of whom, they argued, should have one day of rest like other tradesmen. He was not prepared to say that it might not be inconvenient to carry the principle out rigidly in the country districts, but, as had been described to the House, the Forbes Mackenzie Act had been in operation in Scotland for many years with the very best results. He remembered there was a great hue-and-cry against it at the time, but it was carried nevertheless, and the very best results had followed. He could also quote to the House another noted instance of an almost unanimous national opinion upon this question. In the House of Commons a resolution had recently been carried, and he believed, voted for, almost without exception, by all the Irish representatives, in order to have a similar Bill carried into effect in Ireland, the opinion evidently being that what had worked so well in Scotland, would be a boon to the sister country. Seriously, he did not believe the Bill would pass a second reading; he admitted, with other honorable members, there were clauses that were utterly impracticable in their present form, and the House did not seem to be at all disposed to go into committee and recast it in such a shape as to make it workable. Great credit, however, was due to the honorable member for Logan, for bringing

the Bill forward. The honorable member might have strong and peculiar opinions, but he had the courage of them, and had not hesitated to embody them in a measure which he had ably brought before the House. Looking at it soberly and seriously, every honorable member must admit the question deserved the careful and serious consideration of the whole community, and if anything could be done to mitigate acknowledged evils, it should be done. He did not believe the people of the colony were more intemperate than others, as one honorable member seemed to imply, because the Bill had been introduced; but when they found an admitted evil existing in connection with a particular calling or profession, it was the bounden duty of the legislature to attempt to diminish it if it was within its power; instead, therefore, of blaming the honorable member for the Logan for occupying the time of the House in bringing the subject forward, he was entitled to the highest credit from every member.

Mr. FRYAR said that after the criticisms which had been directed against the honorable member for the Logan, and which must have well nigh overwhelmed him, it must be very consolatory to him to hear the approving remarks of the honorable member for Bandanba. It was something after all to have one honorable member say he approved of the Bill being brought forward. It was a question upon which he (Mr. Fryar) would have preferred to remain silent, although he would like to add his quota of approval of the honorable member for the Logan for venturing to deal with this important subject. It was a question upon which he had very little personal experience, and upon which he was peculiarly uninformed. He had no experience of the evils of keeping public-houses open late at night, or of opening them on Sunday, and he had no acquaintance with the barmaids. When in town he had no necessity for having recourse to public-houses, but when he went into the country, he had that necessity, and could, therefore, substantiate the argument used by the honorable member for Rockhampton, that it was no criterion of the drunkenness of a town when the public-houses preponderated in proportion to the inhabitants. As the honorable member for the Logan had shown, the original use of a public-house was the accommodation of travellers; and if they were kept to their legitimate use, they would not be so much a necessity for the public residing in a town. Whether that public was the proper tribunal to which to bring this question of licensing, he would not say; he was of opinion there was a great of evil connected with the licensing system, and if it could be amended, a great good would be effected. He did not think the means proposed by the Bill were the best that might be adopted; small municipalities, for instance, would not, he thought, be the best authorities to grant licenses through their councils, and he did

not think two or three magistrates, selected by the bench, would be more likely to grant licenses better than the whole bench itself. Still, the object of this Bill, judging from the first eight clauses, was to accomplish that object, and it was possible that those clauses might in committee be made workable. It appeared, however, if they were to judge from the expressed opinions of honorable members who had spoken, that the Bill would never go into committee; but he was prepared to vote for the second reading, and if it could be made workable at all he should be very glad to see it. However, there were so many defects in the Bill that it was quite unnecessary for honorable members to go beyond it to find arguments against it. For instance, the honorable member for Darling Downs had spoken of three residents testifying to the objectionableness of a license for any of five reasons mentioned in the Bill, but it was not on the mere testimony of those witnesses that the license would have to be refused. According to the clause, the Licensing Board should refuse to grant a certificate on proof to their satisfaction by those three witnesses, so that really their testimony might be of very little weight indeed. They had to satisfy the board, which was a very different thing from simply giving their testimony to that effect. There were several other arguments of the same description used against the Bill. The honorable member for Rockhampton, he was sorry to hear, said there was little or no connection between drunkenness and crime; and he thought he need only point to the social, political, and criminal statistics of the colonies and of Great Britain to show that they seemed to be intimately connected. In fact, it was hard to refer to any criminal statistics whatever without seeing the connection between crime and drink; and, presumably, the drink was the cause of the crime. He was not aware that it had ever been attempted to be shown that crime was the cause of drink. He thought, therefore, that any attempt to legislate on this subject was deserving of great commendation. The honorable member who introduced the Bill no doubt fell into an error very common with young members, which, perhaps he himself had fallen into, and into which most young members, when dealing with subjects on which they felt special interest, were very likely to fall. When they got warm to the subject—they spoke perhaps longer than it was prudent to speak; honorable members got tired and would not follow them; and if they indulged in a lot of statistics they only furnished a fund of amusement to other members; and if they introduced no statistics at all, or very few, they were told they had not produced statistics to show the necessity for the measures they proposed. In this case, he thought the honorable member for Logan used a sufficiency of statistics, because he

could scarcely conceive it possible that an honorable member who was accustomed to look into matters from a statistical point of view could consider it necessary that a single statistic should be produced to show the connection between crime and strong drink. It was quite unnecessary for the honorable member to adduce any on that point, and he (Mr. Fryar) did not intend to speak on it. He was very glad to be able to have an opportunity of voting on this question, and if the honorable member for Logan had not brought it forward he was afraid there was no other member of the House likely to do so. It was one of those measures that a man with very extreme opinions should attempt to tackle; and the very fact that the first seven or eight members of the House who addressed themselves to the subject spoke in opposition to it, was sufficient evidence that it did need a man of strong nerve and determination and with very strong convictions on the point to undertake it.

Mr. PALMER said he did not propose to go into the merits of the Bill, which he thought had been fully exposed. The honorable member for Logan, he had no doubt, brought in the Bill, upon his own serious conviction that it was necessary; but his views were extreme, and his Bill was extreme—too extreme altogether to remedy the evils he hoped to cure. The honorable member in conclusion called upon honorable members to assist him in making this a good Bill, and he (Mr. Palmer) had always endeavored to assist in making every Bill a good one if it were possible; but they must have some foundation to go upon, and in this Bill he saw no foundation whatever. It would not be amending it, but making a new Bill, if they endeavored to get it into workable shape, and therefore it was hardly necessary to say he should vote for the amendment of the honorable member for Bowen, which was better than a direct negative, because, if it were negatived, no Bill of the same kind could be introduced this session. He would be the last man to declare his conviction that the present licensing system did not require amending; he believed it did want very serious amendment, but that amendment was not to be found in this Bill. If the amendment for the second reading that day six months were carried, or if the honorable member preferred to withdraw the Bill further legislation might take place on the subject this session; and he thought if the Government would introduce a short Bill amending the licensing system it would be a very great improvement—one very much needed. What did they see in this city on the occasion of licensing meetings? The bench, which on other days was almost deserted, was absolutely packed, and this occurred in other places besides Brisbane. His own idea was, that there should be a Licensing Board or boards in large populous places, not appointed by the justices as proposed in this Bill, but

appointed either by Act of Parliament or by the Government. He had long had the idea that in Brisbane, for instance, a board might be appointed consisting of the Police Magistrate, the Commissioner of Police, the Collector of Customs, and the Mayor, or something of that sort. He believed it would be a great improvement, and that the Government might, with great advantage, introduce some such measure. As for getting the consent of two-thirds of the adult males, it would be better at once to say, "After this date no license shall be issued under any terms or conditions whatsoever." In the course of the debate, the honorable member for Cook had introduced a subject that had often struck him before. It had been frequently asserted, and was notorious, that justices of the peace who were Good Templars made it a practice to go on the bench for the special purpose of refusing licenses, all and sundry; and they went there under one of the rules of the order to which they belonged, that they would not in any way encourage the sale or use of intoxicating liquors. Now, it had often struck him as strange how they could reconcile such conduct as that with the oath they took on accepting the office of justice of the peace. Of course, he did not say it was impossible for them to reconcile it with their consciences, but he felt that he could not reconcile it with his. The oath was a very strong one; it was to this effect:—

"I do sincerely promise and swear that I will at all times and in all things do equal justice to the rich and the poor and discharge the duties of my office according to the laws and statutes of the realm and of this colony to the best of my knowledge and ability without fear favor or affection."

Well, how gentlemen who had taken that oath could go upon the bench on a licensing day with a predetermination to refuse licenses which were sanctioned by the law—which were issued under the statute, he could not imagine. He thought this was a very serious matter, and he did not think it could have struck members of the commission of the peace that they were—as far as his lights on the subject went—absolutely violating their oaths when they packed a bench for the purpose of refusing a license, which under the laws of the realm they were almost bound to grant if there was no objection—if the applicants were of good character, and the requirements of the Act were complied with. He should strongly recommend the honorable member for Logan to withdraw the Bill. It was certain either to meet with a direct negative or ordered to be read that day six months.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought the honorable member who had brought forward the measure deserved the thanks not only of the House, but of the whole colony. There was no doubt that the licensing laws at present in force were very much in need of amendment, and the honorable member who spoke last had given them an instance

why it required amendment, and he thought the Bill dealt with that to some extent. He admitted that some portions of it were entirely unworkable, but still he considered there was the basis of a good measure in it. It dealt with the licensing system, which was a perfect scandal at the present time. That system acted in a very harsh way upon persons applying for licenses, because, as the House was no doubt aware, they had to perform all the necessary conditions of putting the house in perfect order for business before they could apply for a license; and when they did apply, they found a number of Good Templars on the bench, and the license was not granted—not for any fault found in the person applying, nor with the house, but simply because there was a larger number against granting it than for it—not treating it on its merits. And he was afraid, on the other hand, that a number of justices went on the bench for the express purpose of granting licenses to their friends, or persons in whom they had an interest. He had been called upon himself, and asked to sit on the bench for the purpose of granting licenses, and he thought it was an insult to any justice of the peace to ask him to do so; but when those on the other side went in such large numbers, it could not be looked upon in the same light as it would, if the Good Templars did not take up the position they had lately. So far as the numbers of public-houses were concerned, he thought they might be diminished to a very large extent, with great advantage, not only to the public and to the young, but also to the publicans themselves. He was quite sure that if the numbers were considerably reduced they should find that publicans would not require to resort to drugging their liquors, or giving credit, or to any other such means for the purpose of getting and keeping a trade together. They would be independent of anything of that kind, and they should find them very much more respectable, and there would be much less abuse of them. How that was to be brought about he scarcely thought the Bill provided. The hours during which public-houses should remain open might be abridged with advantage also. He could not see why they should open so early and be kept open so late as they were now, and he thought that the hours proposed in the Bill would be ample for all purposes, and might be adopted with great advantage, not only to the publicans themselves, who had to keep unnecessarily late hours, but also to the public. With the portion of the Bill providing that public-houses should be closed on Sundays, he cordially agreed. The honorable member for Normanby had taken exception to that, and stated it was necessary that they should be kept open in country districts for the accommodation of travellers; but he thought the present Act provided all that was requisite in that way. It provided that any traveller might have refreshment,

and he thought that was all that was necessary to meet the case. If the honorable member for Normanby only took exception to country public-houses being shut, he would find that this Bill, read in connection with the Act now in force, would meet all the objections on that point. He thought the honorable member for Logan, in getting up that part of the Bill, had scarcely taken the care he had in statistics and other matters in connection with moving the second reading. He thought some portions of the Bill were antagonistic to the Act now in force, and it said, "This Act shall be read and construed with and deemed to be incorporated in the Publicans Act of 1863." He should like to point out that there were several clauses in the present Act which it would be necessary to repeal before this measure came into operation, otherwise they should have on the Statute Book two Acts antagonistic to each other; and he thought that was one reason why it should be reconsidered. However, that could be done in committee, if the second reading were carried; but he should strongly advise the honorable member to withdraw the Bill, and he thought the Government might take the matter into consideration during the recess, and introduce a Bill next session. But he did not agree with the honorable member for Port Curtis that they should simply deal with the licensing system, because he thought the present Acts required to be altered in many respects and consolidated, and that might very well be done during the recess. He did not think, at this late period of the session, it would be prudent to attempt to legislate in that direction. If the honorable member would withdraw the Bill, he thought the Government might give a promise to bring in a Bill dealing with licensing and some other portions of this Bill, which might be very well incorporated in any measure that would consolidate and amend the present law. He was quite sure if the honorable member succeeded in carrying the more stringent parts of it, they should alienate the sympathies of a large number of the public, and when that was done it invariably tended to the evasion of the law, because people considered it no disgrace or crime to violate a law they looked upon as a hardship. On that ground he thought the more stringent portions of the Bill ought to be omitted, and altogether he considered it would be advisable for the honorable member to withdraw it and allow it to be brought in a better shape.

Mr. AMHURST, by permission, withdrew his amendment.

Mr. MURPHY said, by way of explanation, he thought it right to say, with respect to what the honorable member for Port Curtis had stated with regard to the Good Templars sitting on licensing benches, that he (Mr. Murphy) made no reference to Good Templars specially. What he said was, that it was the opinion of the applicants for licenses, that gentlemen went on the bench who were

predetermined in a particular direction, and they, for their own protection, asked gentlemen, who were supposed to be perfectly disinterested, to sit. He did not know who the Good Templars were, and it would be manifestly unjust for him to make any charge against them.

Mr. McLEAN said, having brought forward this measure, upon what he considered to some extent —

The SPEAKER: I must inform the honorable member that he is not entitled to a reply in moving an Order of the Day.

Mr. McLEAN said, after the expression of opinion the House had given, he would ask leave to withdraw the Bill for the purpose of introducing another measure.

Bill, by leave, withdrawn accordingly.