

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER 1876**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Monday, 2 October, 1876.**Members' Expenses Bill.*

## MEMBERS' EXPENSES BILL.

The PREMIER moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of considering the desirability of introducing a Bill to provide for the payment of expenses incurred by members of the Legislative Assembly in attending Parliament, as recommended by His Excellency's message of 28th September.

He said it was unusual for honorable members not to allow a motion of this kind to pass as formal, and to discuss a Bill at this stage; it was generally the custom to wait until they resolved themselves into a Committee of the whole House. Three or four years ago, when the honorable member for Port Curtis was at the head of the Government, it was the custom, generally, to give an epitome of a Bill when it was introduced, but he (the Premier) was not introducing a Bill—it was to originate in committee. The Bill proposed to give honorable members, when they were absent from their homes, one guinea per day, to pay their steamboat passage, and one shilling and sixpence per mile for inland travelling. This was an epitome of the Bill, and further explanation might be given when it was in committee. This, certainly, was not the proper time to discuss the question, but when the question arose in committee, he would give the honorable member for Port Curtis all the information he could. He was surprised that there should be any discussion upon this question, because the principle had been affirmed four or five times, and he did not expect any opposition from the member for Port Curtis, (who objected to the motion being formal,) nor did he expect any opposition at all, for it must be evident to everyone that it was the general opinion of the colony that this Bill

would aid largely in promoting a true representation of the people, and was, therefore, advisable.

Mr. PALMER said it was hardly necessary that the honorable the Premier should have made these remarks. The honorable gentleman must be aware, if he was aware of anything, that any honorable member could raise a discussion at any period, on the motion for going into committee, or in committee. It was a very good plan in introducing any Bill to let the House have a synopsis of its contents; it saved a good deal of trouble. He had no intention of opposing the Bill in its present stage, but he thought he should oppose it in every stage later on. With the example of Victoria before them, he did not believe the majority of the people of the colony, whatever they might have thought at one time, would say it was desirable to pay members in any shape or form. He had, as he had said, no objection to the Bill being introduced, but he took the earliest opportunity of entering his protest against the payment of members in any shape.

Question put and passed.