

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 1876

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 24 October, 1876.

Western Railway.—“Hansard.”—Adjournment.—Resumptions from Runs in the Settled Districts.

WESTERN RAILWAY.

Mr. McILLWRAITH gave notice that to-morrow he would ask, whether tenders had been accepted for Nos. 3 and 4 sections of the Western Railway, and when full information as to tenders and contracts would be laid upon the table?

The PREMIER said the schedule and tenders of sections 3 and 4 would be laid on the table to-morrow. The contracts had not been formally accepted, but the bonds were being prepared.

Mr. McILLWRAITH begged to state that he should not consider this an answer to the question, of which he now gave formal notice.

“HANSARD.”

Mr. PALMER begged to call the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the fact that “Hansard,” just placed in the hands of honorable members, went no further than the reports of the previous Tuesday, the debates of Wednesday and Thursday being entirely omitted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the delay occurred through the reporter of the Council not having forwarded his reports to the Government Printer up to the proceedings of last Wednesday. There would, therefore, have to be a supplementary “Hansard,” probably to-morrow, giving, at least, the Legislative Assembly reports of Wednesday. But not a line of Thursday’s and Friday’s reports had been received from the Shorthand Writer in the Council.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. PALMER said he would move the adjournment of the House to call attention to the partial publication of “Hansard.” He could not see why the debates of the Assembly should depend upon the reporter of the other House, nor could he think there was any excuse for his report not being sent in. The work in the Legislative Assembly was a great deal heavier than that of the other chamber, although it was divided amongst three Shorthand Writers; and why they were to wait for the reports of another place, and have their own debates kept back in consequence, he was at a loss to imagine. He had ascertained from a friend who had taken the trouble to go through the

session's "Hansard" for the purpose, that the difference between the work done in the two Houses was enormous, as a simple statement of the reports furnished by the respective Shorthand Writers would show. The House would find that the figures spoke for themselves. The Legislative Council reports in "Hansard" (including the reporting of the House in committee), made, up to last week a total of 79½ pp., while the Legislative Assembly reports made 848½ pp., or an average of 282 pages for each of the Shorthand Writers of the Assembly. The Legislative Council report had never this session exceeded 21 pp. in one week. Once, a week's reports amounted to that number; once to 15 pp.; otherwise it never exceeded 11 pp. The Legislative Assembly reporters, besides unusually numerous and heavy committees, had written as many as 34 pages each in one week; often 20 pp. and upwards. It thus appeared that the Shorthand Writer in the Council had done about one-fourth of the work done by the Shorthand Writers in the Assembly. It was perfectly absurd, therefore, that they were to wait the convenience of the reporter of the Upper House for the publication of "Hansard." If the Council chose to let their reporter go to sleep, that was no business of theirs, but it was no reason why "Hansard" should be stopped. If they were to continue the expense of a weekly "Hansard," they expected, at all events, to get their reports laid before them on Tuesday at the latest, and sooner if possible. The reports of the debates of last week in the Assembly were, he understood, quite ready, and might have been out that afternoon, but the whole thing was delayed by the Shorthand Writer of another place not having sent in his reports. This was a question that the honorable the Speaker, as chairman of the Printing Committee, should take notice of, and the Printing Committee should make an order at once that the reports of the Legislative Assembly were not to wait for the reports of the other House, even if they were published alone.

The SPEAKER said his attention had been called to the delay during the afternoon, and it was his intention to communicate with the President of the Council, to point out that the publication of "Hansard" had been delayed, and perhaps it would be well to wait the communication of the Legislative Council, before taking any action in the matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was informed that according to the way in which "Hansard" was now printed, it was necessary that the proceedings of the Council should be reported and brought in before those of the Assembly could appear. It had always been the custom to print them together, and the Council reports must always take precedence unless there was some alteration in the binding and getting-up of the volumes. He did not exactly see how this was to be done. So far as the Printing Department was concerned, there was nothing want-

ing; the matter lay with the President of the Council. Their reports might be issued in the shape of a supplement, and afterwards bound together; but that was a matter he could say nothing about without consulting the head of the Printing Department. Meantime, unless some understanding was come to that the custom hitherto followed—that the proceedings of the Council should take precedence—should be broken, they would have to wait.

Mr. WALSH said the matter could be very easily remedied if they published their "Hansard" in the same way as the Legislative Council published their votes and proceedings—that was to say quite independently. They might choose to delay their reports a week or fortnight, as the reporter, or the President, or the members chose. The Assembly was, however, anxious to have their "Hansard" punctually delivered, and he could see no reason why it should be kept back simply because of the old-fashioned way in which it was the custom to publish the reports of the two Houses together. If an order were given by the honorable the Speaker to the Principal Shorthand Writer and to the Government Printer that the Assembly "Hansard" should come out in a distinct form, it would not add anything to the cost, but would save the House from a repetition of the inconvenience from which they now suffered. He hoped, therefore, the honorable the Speaker would order the "Hansard" of the Assembly to be published in a separate form, just as with the "Votes and Proceedings;" then, they would not have these complaints in consequence of the dilatoriness of the reporter in another place. If the matter were brought before him, he would solve it in five minutes, without asking the consent of the House. He would take advantage of the motion for adjournment to call attention to the extraordinary reply given by the Premier to the question respecting the tenders for the third and fourth sections of the Western Railway. He could not, for the life of him, see why there should be any obliviousness, perspicuity, doubt, difficulty, or denial upon a question of that kind. If the Government were beginning to enter into a contract, and the Engineer-in-Chief had recommended that certain tenders should be accepted, he could not see why they should not be in a position to come down and say that such arrangements had been entered into, and why the Premier should distinctly shelve the question put to him. What did the honorable gentleman mean by saying that no tender had been formally accepted, and then referring to a bond of some kind? He was not aware that the Government were under the necessity of calling for bonds at all. He knew perfectly well what the Government were about, and did not believe there was any necessity for delay in preparing the contracts, because the tenderers knew very well the work they had to do, and the Government were supposed

to know also. When a question was put in the House as to the names of the successful tenderers who were to receive these large sums of money from the public purse, and for important public work, the Government ought to be the foremost in announcing to the Assembly who these individuals were; but they were the most backward people in the land in giving information of this description. There was something wrong about all this. He maintained that it was the duty of the Government to answer these questions in the most frank manner, and announce who were the tenderers for these two sections; and if one tender was accepted and another rejected, the House should be informed why. He believed, when the question was analysed and the House had proofs such as would be ultimately attainable, it would be found that the rejection of one tender would redound more to the discredit of the Government than the acceptance of the other, bad as that might be. He should like these hidden things to be brought to light. People in this country had a right to know how money was being spent, and how Government were conducting their business. The people would like to know in what way contracts were dealt with. He protested against the hidden mystery which had hung over these tenders for a long time. The matter ought to have been reported to the House weeks ago. In his time, tenders were opened in the presence of the tenderers; within a very few hours they were told who were successful and who were not, and the public were informed invariably upon what grounds this tender was accepted and that rejected. This, however, was not the way in which business was done now.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he would for a moment return to the original subject upon which the adjournment of the House was moved. So far as he knew, many honorable members were under the distinct impression that the gentleman who occupied the position of chief of the reporting staff of the Assembly was to have the whole and sole control of the reporting arrangements of both Houses. If this was not the case, the sooner some step of the sort was taken the better. It seemed to him that common sense dictated that the reporting arrangements of both Houses should be under one head, who should be responsible to the House for "Hansard." With such a system, these difficulties would not arise with reference to the issue of "Hansard." He hoped something of the description he had indicated would be done forthwith. He, however, had intended to move the adjournment of the House, if the honorable member for Port Curtis had not done so, to point out a great grievance under which the western districts were suffering at the present moment, and which the honorable the Colonial Secretary and the Premier ought to attend to. There was a great want of magistrates in the outlying districts. One

could not go up Queen street without meeting a magistrate; he believed there were two hundred magistrates in Brisbane and its boundaries, but in the outlying districts where, as a rule, men were available of a higher order of intelligence than one-tenth of the Brisbane magistrates, they found people had to ride three hundred or four hundred miles before they could get a magistrate. How was it possible that a poor man could secure justice under these circumstances? He must point out also to the House the extreme discourtesy—he might put it stronger, and say the disgraceful manner—in which the requirements of the outlying districts had been attended to by the occupants of the Treasury benches. He spoke to the honorable the Premier, and that gentleman said he did not intend appointing more magistrates in the western districts. This was just after his famous charge against the honorable member for Maranoa of being a partner in Overend and Co., on account of which he got into such trouble: but whatever personal rebukes the honorable Premier received in the House, he should not be led to do anything which was unjust to the colony. He (Mr. Morehead) wished to obtain what was right for these outlying districts. He had, over and over again, lately recommended certain gentlemen, who were particularly well qualified to be justices of the peace, for appointment, and they had been passed by; whereas any supporter of the Ministry was appointed directly he was suggested. It was very hard that his constituents should be punished because he did not support the Government. This was not fair to his constituents or himself, but these were the tactics that had been adopted by the Colonial Secretary and the Minister for Works, who had resolutely refused to appoint magistrates for the outlying districts. The Premier distinctly told him, in one case, he would not appoint any, and he could tell the honorable gentleman that in a district of the north-west, for a distance of 400 miles, there were not half-a-dozen magistrates—not three, he believed; yet, although in these outlying parts of the colony, no magistrates were appointed, nothing was to be done. But in Brisbane or Ipswich, or anywhere else where supporters of the Government were interested, they would appoint small tradesmen and many men who should not be appointed. He sincerely trusted the Colonial Secretary would see his way, after the matter had been brought so prominently before him—and he (Mr. Morehead) could assure the House he was not alone in his complaints—to remedy the existing evils. He wished the Government also to deal with this question of railway contracts. He did not like indulging in personalities, but when it was openly talked of outside of the House that the member for Northern Downs was one of the partners in Bashford and Co., and when the honor of the House was at stake, it was no longer a question of personality. He appealed to the Premier to

deny whether his brother, the member for Northern Downs, was a partner in that firm. If one of the members of the House became a Government contractor, the honor of the House was at stake, because, concurrently with the time that honorable member became a contractor, ought to have come the time when he should have sent in his resignation. Many honorable members had heard this rumor and believed it, and were of opinion with him that immediately the notification of the successful tenderers appeared in the *Courier*—which seemed to be now the inspired organ of the Government—the resignation of the honorable member should have appeared. But irrespective of the rumors that came from outside, the conduct of the Government was suspicious. The extreme reticence they showed was a great element of suspicion. If things were all fair and above board, why should they be so mysterious and secret? These very ugly rumors—rumors which, if he wished to indulge in personalities, might make the Minister for Works himself very uncomfortable in his place—must have some foundation. He hoped the Premier would state openly that he did or did not know that the honorable member for Northern Downs was partner in the firm he had mentioned. It was rumored outside that the Premier had stated that he was aware that his brother was a partner in the firm of Bashford and Company. This had been stated by at least a dozen people. Was it true?

The PREMIER, in answer to the honorable member for Mitchell, stated that the tenders for sections three and four were only received last Friday and Saturday, and when the bonds were signed, the documents would be laid upon the table of the House. It might satisfy the honorable member to know that they would probably be laid upon the table to-morrow. With regard to the honorable member for Northern Downs, he was not aware that he was a partner in the firm of Bashford and Company; he had heard that the honorable member was one of the sureties; but had only heard it. He had no doubt that to-morrow or next day it would be well known who were the contractors of the third section. With regard to the appointment of magistrates, he was not aware that the honorable member for Mitchell had sent in a list of magistrates for appointment; if he did so, it would, no doubt, be carefully considered, for the honorable member would not send in names that would not be favorably received; and he might mention that new appointments would be made at the end of the year. The practice had been to issue commissions once a year only.

Mr. MOREHEAD: I have sent in a list.

The PREMIER said he was not aware of it. With regard to the printing of "Hansard," he thought it was a mistake to have any alteration at present. If the reports were to be printed separate, they should have been printed separate at the beginning of the session. He

did not himself see any great hardship in the present arrangement. He knew the reporter of the Council said he was very hardworked, and was not in good health; consequently his work had not been done in good time. No doubt the necessity would be apparent to the President of the Council of getting temporary assistance. If that were obtained, the reports of the Council would probably appear simultaneously with those of the Assembly.

Mr. McILWRAITH said nothing showed the necessity of having documents laid upon the table more than the remarks of the honorable the Premier. The honorable gentleman had talked about sureties; he had never heard that sureties were required in connection with railway contracts. He had always understood that a money surety was sufficient, but now they heard for the first time that what they wanted was a personal security. He declined, however, to discuss this matter at present, hoping that the Minister for Works would give the House full information, as he had promised, to-morrow. The information had really been in the public prints for more than a week, stating who were the tenderers, and the House certainly ought to be treated with at least the same courtesy as the Press. The matter brought forward by the honorable member for Mitchell had not been treated with the gravity which it deserved. The honorable the Premier had given them to understand that the Commission of the Peace was published once a year, and it had been suggested, rather than stated, that if the names handed in were eligible, they would be put on. To his knowledge, however, this was the first year in which eligible magistrates, who were much wanted, had been purposely kept off. As long as he had been a member of the House, whether he sat on the Opposition benches or not, until now, applications from himself as a member of Parliament, with a guarantee that the individuals he required were eligible for the Commission of the Peace, had been treated with courtesy by the Government, and the appointments had been gazetted. It was with the object of facilitating the Government of the colony that gentlemen took the work upon their shoulders. People wrote to him from the outlying districts of the colony showing how badly they were off for magistrates, and how they had to ride from two to three hundred miles to get the signature of a justice of the peace. Applications for magistrates under these circumstances had always been responded to, but this year a new principle had been introduced. He had occasion himself to place the names of four or five gentlemen before the present Colonial Secretary, and when he did that he expected that the names would be gazetted on the Commission of the Peace. But nothing of the sort. He called repeatedly at the honorable gentleman's office, and could quite sym-

pathise with the position in which he was placed, a position very different from that of the Premier. The Colonial Secretary and the Under Secretary did not hesitate to say that their position was a difficult one. The honorable gentleman assured him that there were from three to four hundred names that the Government shrank from publishing, yet he made it a sort of patronage that each member should be allowed to recommend so many members to be put upon the Commission of the Peace. He himself was allowed the privilege of appointing three; the gentlemen he nominated were all good. He put forward the names of five gentlemen, and two of these were struck out. One of them was wanted badly as a magistrate away down in the far end of the colony, on the borders of New South Wales. He had no personal acquaintance with this gentleman, but from the borders of the colony he got letters from men who possessed property in South Australia and Queensland, setting forth that magistrates were very much wanted there, and that when the people thereabouts desired to refer matters in dispute to a justice of the peace, there was no such person to be found. He (Mr. McIlwraith) took a great deal of pains in the matter, and proposed an eligible gentleman to the Government. This was immediately refused, because he was only allowed, as his share of the patronage, to nominate three magistrates. Personally, it did not matter to him who was appointed; he wished to do what was for the good of the district which he represented, and he took the best means of ascertaining who were the best men to do this gratuitous work. He would illustrate, further, how the appointment of justices of the peace was carried out at the present time. He represented the important town of Roma, which was rising into greater importance every day, and there was only one resident justice of the peace in that town at the present time, and he was appointed at his recommendation a month ago; but in order to secure that appointment, he had to give up his right to demand a justice of the peace for a district on the borders of South Australia. In order, therefore, to secure a justice of the peace for Roma, he was forced to put a number of men doing business in this colony and the next to great inconvenience. He sympathised with the Government to some extent, for he saw their difficulty. There were two or three hundred men they dared not appoint, and they could not face the publication of their names, and that was why they restricted members to the nomination of only three magistrates. It was not a matter of patronage at all, and, instead of thinking they were doing a service, they ought to be thankful to have recommended to them men who were willing to assist them in doing Government work. This was not the last time in which he intended to mention the matter; he was determined to bring it before the House in

another and different shape, and it would have to be discussed by the House before the session came to an end. He wished to say a good deal more upon the question, because, from the large increase of business in the western districts of the colony, there were not a sufficient number of men to do the work there; and as long as the Government looked upon it as a piece of patronage, there would be no end to the difficulty.

Mr. DE SARGE said he could fully corroborate all that had been said as to the appointment of magistrates in the western parts of the colony. Pending the appointment of a police magistrate on the Aramac, there was only one magistrate in the neighborhood, and he was very often absent, and beyond that, the nearest magistrate was at Bowen Downs; the township was therefore virtually left without provisions for settling small cases. It was not satisfactory to contrast this state of things with what he saw in other townships. At Toowoomba, for instance, there was an enormous number of magistrates appointed by the pressure of political influence; magistrates of every class and creed were appointed there at one time from political pressure. Further west, however, they found but one solitary magistrate in a township and district of equal importance. The system was one that demanded not only fresh appointments of magistrates throughout the colony, but purification and revision to a great extent. To appoint every magistrate that was asked for by every representative would produce, no doubt, a miscellaneous crowd, to the exclusion of excellent men, while many who were not nominated would be unfit for their position. It was said some of the magistrates in the favored townships drove up their carts to the door of the police court, put on their coats to sit upon the bench, and took them off directly they left the court. This might be all very well in its way, but he should not like to see the appointment of such men to the exclusion of those in the interior who were really fit to exercise the very important office of J.P.

Mr. PECHER said he agreed to a great extent with the remarks of the last speaker. He believed a great many persons were forced into the Commission of the Peace, and in the township mentioned by the honorable member there were to his knowledge many who might, with great credit to themselves and advantage to the community, be placed upon the Commission of the Peace. He would remind the honorable member that in the olden time men were called from the plough to take the government of an empire, and it was found advantageous that they should do so. The fact of a man taking off his coat to do an honest day's labor surely did not debar him from using his intelligence in a manner that might be of benefit to his fellow-man; so long as a man was respectable and honest, he might be a credit to the position of justice of the peace. He had himself

urged upon the Colonial Secretary the appointment of gentlemen to the magistracy which had been totally disregarded. He hoped the honorable member for Maranoa, therefore, would not think, because he sat on the Opposition side of the House, that was a reason why his recommendation would not be attended to.

Mr. McILWRAITH : I never said so.

Mr. PECHAY was aware of that, and what he said was, that he trusted the honorable gentleman would not suppose so. He gave the Government great credit for resisting demands to put people upon the Commission of the Peace. There had been too much of that sort of thing going on, and when the Government announced that they did not intend to give way to political pressure, they should have every assistance from members on both sides of the House, without reference to party or political feelings. This was one reason why the present Government had a right to receive the support of all those who sought the welfare of the colony. Former Governments had gone a great deal too far in yielding to political pressure of this kind. He did not wish to make any accusation, but he had not the slightest doubt honorable members who formerly occupied the Treasury benches, if they were to reconsider their action in this particular, might see cause to regret it. It would be well perhaps, if the appointment of magistrates were taken out of the hands of the Government of the day, and vested in the hands of the judges of the Supreme Court, or some quarter that would not be amenable in any way to political pressure. The honorable member for Normanby's recommendation as to purging was perfectly justified. There were many men in his own district who were a disgrace to their position as magistrates, and who rarely sat upon the bench unless they were requested to do so, and whether the bribe came in the way of cash or in the shape of some influence which they supposed they gathered from the position, he had not the slightest doubt there was some *quid pro quo* of that kind offered, and the sooner it was done away with the better. The present Ministry had taken one step towards wiping out the system by refusing to put names on the Commission of the Peace; and he hoped they would now accept the suggestion of the honorable member for Normanby, and purge the Commission of the Peace; and he believed that any Ministry that took the matter up would receive the support of all well-wishers of the colony. In his own district, benches had been repeatedly packed by people from outside districts. On the occasion of the granting of publicans' licenses last year in Toowoomba, a bench was brought together there, he believed, simply from personal motives. It was time this sort of thing was done away with, and he was only too happy to have an opportunity of raising his voice in support of the honorable member for Normanby.

Question of adjournment put and negatived.

RESUMPTIONS FROM RUNS IN THE SETTLED DISTRICTS.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS moved—

(1.) That, in order to encourage the settlement of population in the Settled Districts of the colony, and in pursuance of section 10 of "*The Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868*," this House resolves to resume from the leases of the undermentioned runs the areas hereinafter specified, as described in the Schedule laid on the table of this House on the 19th October, of the lands proposed to be resumed from the runs in the said districts.

SETTLED DISTRICT OF MORETON.

		To be resumed from the
94,080 acres		Colinton East and West Run.
120,320 "		Mount Stanley East and West Run.
107 sq. m.		Kilcoy Run.
120 "		Eskdale Run.
127 "		Cooyar Run.
59,670 acres		Cressbrook Run.
150 sq. m.		Emu Creek Run.
6,601 acres		Waverly Run.
33,000 "		Tandary or Taromeo Run.
About 22,100 "		Coochin Coochin Run, as per description marked A.
" 17,000 "		Nindooimba Run, as per description marked A.
" 38,000 "		Telemon Run.
" 34,000 "		Durundur Run.
" 11,600 "		Bronelton Run.
" 11,000 "		Graham Run.
" 18,000 "		Tarampa Run, as per description marked A.
" 72,000 "		Mount Brisbane Run.
" 26,000 "		Buaraba Run.
" 11,500 "		Undullah Run.
" 35,000 "		Helidon Run, as per descriptions marked A, B.
" 52,000 "		Fassifern Run.
" 58,500 "		Melcombe Run.
" 58,000 "		Franklin Vale Run.

SETTLED DISTRICT OF DARLING DOWNS.

About 46,000 acres		Canning Downs Run.
" 21,700 "		Westbrook Run, as per description marked A.
" 51,600 "		Cecil Plains Run, exclusive of 29,400 included in the Western Railway Reserve.
" 5,200 "		Ellangowan Run, as per description marked A.
" 11,000 "		St Ruth Run, exclusive of 20,000 included in Western Railway Reserve.
" 35,000 "		North Branch Run.
" 83,000 "		Yandilla Run.
" 54,000 "		Tummalville Run.
" 11,000 "		Talgai Run, as per description marked A.
" 5,600 "		Pilton Run.
" 74,560 "		Rosalie Plains Run.
" 40,624 "		Jondaryan Run, as per descriptions marked A, B, C.
" 46,500 "		Canal Creek Run.

		To be resumed from the	
About	7,800 acres	Peel's Plains or Felton Run, as per description marked A.	
"	7,200 "	Eton Vale Run, as per description marked A.	
"	37,000 "	Beauraba Run.	
"	81,000 "	Jimbour Run, as per descriptions marked A and B, and exclusive of 92,000 acres included in the Western Railway Reserve.	
"	8,740 "	Clifton Run, as per description marked A.	
"	70 sq. m.	East Prairie Run.	
"	30,000 acres	Irvingdale Run.	
"	128,380 "	Rosenthal Run.	
"	7,300 "	South Toolburra Run, as per description marked A.	
"	10,094 "	West Prairie Run.	

SETTLED DISTRICT OF WIDE BAY AND
BURNETT.

28,500 acres	Conandale Run.
54,300 "	Tahiti Run.
14,350 "	Toweran Run.
54,080 "	Kolonga Run.
72,080 "	Molangul Run.
50 sq. m.	Moolboolooman Run.
17,280 acres	North Kenilworth Run.
16,000 "	Cambrook Run.
58,000 "	Teebar Run.
46 sq. m.	Glenbar Run, as per descriptions marked A and B.

Mr. WALSH rose to a point of order. He did not wish to annoy the honorable gentleman, but he would point out that if the motion were put in this way, it would be impossible for honorable members to speak more than once. If he, for instance, took exception to the first resumption proposed, he should be debarred from taking exception to all the others because he should have spoken. Hitherto, when the honorable member for Bremer had charge of a motion of this kind, the resumptions were moved one by one, and every honorable member might address himself to each question.

The SPEAKER: I may say, in reply to the remarks of the honorable member for Warrego, that the honorable the Minister for Lands has an undoubted right to move the motion in the form he thinks best. It will be open to the honorable member, if he thinks it advisable, to move that the schedule be referred to a Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Mr. WALSH said if the honorable gentleman was going to do that, probably it would cut the ground from under his feet; but the course now proposed was not the practice that had been hitherto adopted. If the motion were put as proposed, it would prevent him from dealing with each resumption, because having spoken once he could not speak a second time.

The SPEAKER: I cannot object to the motion being put in this form. There is no rule to enable me to do so.

Mr. WALSH asked, was the honorable the Minister for Lands going to move that the motion be considered in committee, or was he (Mr. Walsh), because he raised an objection to the resumption of 94,080 acres from Colinton East and West Run, to be considered to have spoken, and not be allowed to speak or to move amendments on the other proposed resumptions? That was the question, and it was one of great importance, and he thought the honorable the Minister for Lands must see the force of it.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said the honorable member was very discourteous. He not only interrupted him when moving the motion, but remained standing even when the honorable the Speaker was addressing the House.

Mr. WALSH said, rising to the point of order—

HONORABLE MEMBERS on the Ministerial side of the House: Chair, chair.

Mr. WALSH said he rose to the point of order, for it was a point of order still: It was, whether, if he moved an amendment on any one of these resumptions while the honorable the Speaker was in the chair, could he move a further amendment upon the other resumptions proposed by the honorable the Minister for Lands? He (the Minister for Lands) might try to override the rules of that House, or to hoodwink the country, or to do whatever he chose—

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Order.

The SPEAKER: With reference to the question put by the honorable member, as a matter of course any member can only speak once on the main question.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (continuing):—

About	12,870 acres	Warrah Run.
"	107 sq. m.	from Gigoongan Run.
"	5,480 acres	Tantitha Run.
"	25 sq. m.	Sarahanna and Agnes Vale Run.
"	6,000 acres	Lower Doongal Run.
"	32 sq. m.	Toomolongyore Run.
"	66 "	Stanton Harcourt Run.
"	20,200 acres	Doongal Run.
"	67 sq. m.	Yabba Run.
"	39,000 acres	Walla Run.
"	11,000 "	Toogoom Run.
"	68,360 "	Tagigan Run.
"	9,300 "	Kolan Run.
"	34 sq. m.	Imbil Run.
"	68,300 "	Munduran Run.
"	23,350 acres	Curra Run.
"	8,300 "	Kulogum Run.
"	10,960 "	Clifton Run.
"	43½ sq. m.	Bingera Run.
"	43,000 acres	Widgee Widgee Run.
"	34,000 "	Gin Gin Run.
"	38,900 "	Kilkivan Run, as per descriptions marked A, B.
"	16,500 "	Wonbah Run.

(2.) That the foregoing resolutions be communicated to the Legislative Council, for their concurrence, by message in the usual form.

Mr. PALMER said, before the question was put, and continuing the point of order raised by the honorable member for Warrego, he submitted that if the question were allowed to be put in this way, it would be establishing a very bad precedent. Any Ministry could bring in resolutions of this sort, and each member could only move one amendment. With respect to these resolutions, there were not members enough in the House—the Government had not members enough on their own side to move even the amendments they themselves wanted; and if the question were allowed to be put in this way, the House would be absolutely debarred from making amendments. He did not speak so much with reference to the matter now under consideration; but if this practice were adopted in this instance, it must be adopted in all, and the Government could put as many resolutions as they liked into one, and honorable members could only take exception to one. They had a very clear practice laid down when the honorable member for Bremer introduced resumptions some time ago. In that case each resumption was introduced by a separate motion, and that was the way it should be done now. He thought it was most irregular to put a whole lot of motions together in this way. By so doing, it was thrown completely out of the power of members—of the whole of the members of the House—to object to the motion. There were not sufficient members in the House to object to each resumption as proposed; and he said it would be a very bad precedent, and ought to be put a stop to at once.

Mr. J. SCOTT pointed out that the last clause of the resolution was to the effect that “the resolutions be communicated to the Legislative Council,” and yet the honorable the Minister for Lands proposed to deal with it as one resolution. He thought this was a very strange course of proceeding.

The SPEAKER: I think there are two ways in which this motion may be proceeded with. Under the the 52nd Standing Order, the House may order a complicated question to be divided. Therefore, if the House orders it, each of the resumptions may be put as a separate question; or any honorable member may move by way of amendment, on the question being put, that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider the resolutions.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said, rising to the point of order, he had no wish to adopt any course which would be inconvenient to the House, but, at the same time, he desired to say that these resumptions included all the runs in the Settled Districts.

Mr. WALSH: No.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said they did—with the exception of those that con-

tained portions less than eight square miles. On the last occasion, when the schedule was brought before the House, he regretted that an error appeared in it, but it had since been very carefully gone over by the Under Secretary and the Deputy-Surveyor-General, and every boundary had been carefully compared with the descriptions in the leases, and the descriptions, now in the schedules, were as correct as they possibly could be. That was to say, that, presuming the descriptions in the leases to be correct, the schedules were as correct as they possibly could be, so far as as any machinery in the hands of the Lands Department enabled them to be made correct at all. He therefore thought they might now very fairly discuss the question on its general merits without proceeding to detail. The Government, certainly, were not prepared to submit to going into details in deciding the question. They had taken all the runs in the Settled Districts, with the exceptions he had mentioned, because they did not wish to show any favor, as had been described by the honorable member for Warrego on the last occasion when the matter was discussed. They believed it was necessary to resume considerable areas, namely, the whole of the runs in the Settled Districts of Moreton, Darling Downs, and the Wide Bay and Burnett districts; and such being the case, it would, in his opinion, have been amply sufficient to have tabled a motion to the effect that the whole of the runs in those districts should be resumed without even specifying the runs. But he had done so in these resolutions; and he thought he might safely say that the descriptions were now as correct as they could possibly be from any source of information in the possession of the Government.

Mr. PALMER: Don't be too sure.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said if the leases were correct at all—and the titles must be the descriptions in the leases—the descriptions in the schedules must be held to be, at any rate, approximately correct, and he hoped the time of the House would not be wasted by discussing the details of the resumptions which might be very well treated as a whole.

Mr. McILWRAITH said, speaking to the point of order, he did not think any speech could have been made that so thoroughly proved the position taken up by the honorable member for Port Curtis as that just made by the honorable the Minister for Lands. That honorable member had told the House that he believed it was quite competent, and that perhaps the best way in which the business could be done was to have brought forward a motion that all the runs in the settled districts of Moreton, Darling Downs, and Wide Bay and Burnett, should be resumed; and why did he not do that? That was the very motion he ought to have brought before the House, instead of

bringing forward a complicated motion in detail which the House could not possibly discuss. It had been shown the other night that they could not discuss it in detail in the House. The motion had been before the House in detail for about three months, and when a glaring error was pointed out by an honorable member on that side of the House, the honorable the Minister for Lands came forward and admitted that there were eight or ten more errors in the schedule; and the number of members on his own side of the House was not sufficient to move the amendments that he himself sought to make, and he told the House that the further amendments required, would be moved in another place. He admitted that he had put the resolution in such a way before the House that the machinery of the House was perfectly inadequate to deal with it. If he had been manly enough to have come forward three months ago, and say it was the intention of the Government to resume the whole of the lands in the settled districts, the matter would have been settled long ago, and it would have been left to the head of the department to fill in the boundaries of the runs. It was not a matter for the consideration of that House whether so many acres should be resumed from one run and so many from another. They would have had simply to deal with the resolution, and the details could have been filled up by the department; but the Government had brought forward these resolutions in such a way that the machinery of the House could not cope with them, and he thought they should take the responsibility on their own shoulders, and bring it in in a way that they understood—and that even the honorable the Minister for Lands admitted they might have done. He could see that the honorable the Speaker was anxious to stop him, but he was not going any further from the point than the honorable the Minister for Lands, who had fully discussed the matter. He said there was very great danger in allowing such a complicated motion as this to be brought forward. If it were allowed, a tyrannical minority, instead of a tyrannical majority, could force anything through the House that they chose. He should like to know, before they disposed of the point of order, how the Government were going to get this motion through the House. It was quite possible that he might have an amendment to move in the boundaries of one of these resumptions; other honorable members might have others; and the honorable the Minister for Lands himself might have more; and supposing eight or ten honorable members on that side had amendments to move, how was the motion to be got through? It was useless to suppose they could take it for granted that the honorable the Minister for Lands was perfectly immaculate after what occurred on the previous occasion when the question was under discussion.

The PREMIER said, speaking to the point of order, it had been said that the Government ought to have come down and simply proposed to resume the whole of the lands in the Settled Districts; but he could tell the honorable member for Maranoa that this was the only way in which the lands in those districts could be resumed in accordance with section 10 of the Act of 1868; and the honorable member had shown utter ignorance of the matter in the way he had spoken. He (the Premier) understood on the last occasion this question was before the House, that the debate was concluded, and that honorable members opposite would allow the motion to pass without further delay. He thought it had been discussed long enough. Honorable members opposite were merely procrastinating and wasting the time of the House, and when the country had a chance to show itself, they would understand their position. On the former occasion, when the question was under discussion, there were some slight errors—he said “slight errors,” with one exception—in the descriptions, and now that they had been corrected, he thought honorable members opposite would allow the motion to pass without comment. A considerable amount of time had already been wasted; and, as he had said before, if they went on at this rate, the session would never end. He could not conceive why honorable members opposite should oppose these resumptions, when there was a demand throughout the country for land for settlement, which they did not deny; and now that they had the assurance of the honorable the Minister for Lands that the schedule was correct, having been taken from the leases, the motion should be allowed to pass.

Mr. McILWRAITH said the honorable the Premier had stated that land could not be resumed in any other way than they were doing in the present instance, but he (Mr. McIlwraith) defied him to show one instance in which it had been done in this way.

The PREMIER: The honorable member is out of order; he has already spoken on the question.

Mr. McILWRAITH said he was speaking to the point of order, and he could speak as often as the honorable the Speaker allowed him. The honorable member never rose except to tell the House he was very much grieved, or very much astonished, or very much ashamed, and he (Mr. McIlwraith) thought it ought to be the last more than anything else.

Mr. J. SCOTT said, speaking to the point of order—

The SPEAKER: I do not think there is a point of order at the present time. I would point out, that as far as I can see, the only provision in the Standing Orders or rules of the House is, for the division of the question.

Mr. J. SCOTT said the honorable the Minister for Lands said he would not allow that. It would be a perfect farce to put the

question to the House in the way proposed; and the only hope he (Mr. Scott) had was, that the honorable the Premier would get up and contradict the statement of the honorable the Minister for Lands, as he had done in regard to other matters. They had already heard the honorable the Minister for Lands express his determination to carry the resolutions *in globo*, and it would be perfect nonsense for any member to propose that they should be taken *seriatim* when he had a majority at his back, and could ride roughshod over the minority.

Mr. IVORY pointed out that if an honorable member raised an objection to one of the resumptions, other honorable members would wish to make remarks on that, and so on with the other resumptions, and this he contended ought to be allowed. He did not wish to make any remarks himself, but he thought the request that the motion should be put in a more simplified form than it was now placed before the House should be acceded to.

Mr. WALSH said there were sixty-nine or seventy resumptions proposed, and if a member spoke on one his mouth would be shut with regard to the remainder. He had objections to three items in the schedule, and he should like to move an amendment in each, but by addressing himself to one, his mouth would be shut against moving amendments on the other two. That might be the honorable the Minister for Lands' idea of justice; it might be the way in which the government of the colony or parliamentary tactics were to be carried on, but it was utterly opposed to his (Mr. Walsh's) idea of fair play.

Mr. PALMER said he presumed the next thing the Government would do would be to move the Estimates *in globo*. It would be just the same thing as they now proposed.

Mr. WALSH asked if he would be allowed to move three amendments?

The SPEAKER: Certainly not. When the main question has been put, it will be open to any member of the House to move that the question be divided.

Mr. WALSH said, there are about seventy resolutions, and he wished to know if he should be allowed to move more than one amendment?

The SPEAKER: Certainly not.

Mr. WALSH said, in that case, he should be debarred from moving amendments on sixty-nine out of the seventy, by a dodge of the Government, and he should be ashamed of it.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS asked would the honorable member specify the amendments he wished to propose?

HONORABLE MEMBERS of the Opposition: No, no.

Mr. WALSH said he had not had time to compare the schedule now brought forward with the wretched one produced the other day. It had only been put in the hands of honorable members that afternoon, and they

were not allowed even time to consider it in that chamber.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said if the honorable member specified the amendment he wished to make he (the Secretary for Lands) would offer no objection to them if they could be put with the consent of the House. He presumed they should require that consent, but he should offer no objection to the honorable member moving a reasonable number of amendments. He presumed if the honorable gentleman wished to make amendments he was prepared with them.

Mr. McILWRAITH said the remarks of the honorable the Minister for Lands had nothing whatever to do with the point. The real question was what had been said by the honorable member for Port Curtis, namely, that by adopting the course proposed they would be establishing a precedent that would be subversive of parliamentary government; and he had pointed out that in the same way the Government could bring down the Estimates *in globo* and persist in voting them in a lump.

Mr. WALSH said the honorable the Minister for Lands did not appear to see the absurd position he placed every member of the House in. Would he allow him (Mr. Walsh) to propose the three amendments he wished to propose if he specified them?—or would he allow honorable members to speak to those three amendments?—or would he bring in the resumptions in the way in which they were introduced on a former occasion by the honorable member for the Bremer?

Mr. PALMER said he hoped the honorable the Speaker would reconsider the decision he had arrived at, because it would be establishing a dangerous precedent. For his own part, he did not care a rap about these resumptions, but what he objected to was the establishment of a precedent by which sixty or seventy resumptions could be put at once, *in globo*, and he wondered the honorable the Minister for Lands could not see the danger of such a precedent. If he had taken them one by one they would have all been got through by this time. He (Mr. Palmer) was not going to object to them, and he did not believe any member on that side of the House was going to do so, but he did object to this precedent, which they would find a very inconvenient one if it were established.

The SPEAKER: The motion is not in violation of any Standing Order, and I cannot therefore interfere. If the question is a complicated one, it can only be divided by order of the House.

Mr. WALSH said there were forty-two members of the House; there were not more than thirty present, and according to the honorable the Speaker's ruling, a member could only speak once. Therefore, it was impossible to object to or to move amendments in more than thirty of the resolutions; and the result was that, by the honorable the

Speaker's ruling, he debarred the House from discussing about forty of the resolutions. That was the unfortunate position the Government had placed the honorable the Speaker in. If a member spoke on the first resolution, he was precluded from speaking on the other sixty-eight or sixty-nine. There never was such legislation in any House before.

The SPEAKER: I would point out that by our Standing Orders the House may order the division of a complicated question. I find "Hatsall" says:—

"When a question is moved and seconded, and proposed from the chair, however complicated it may be, the only mode of separating it is by moving amendments to it; and these must be decided by the House, upon a question: unless which sometimes happens, the House 'order' that it shall be divided."

I am unable to find any precedent for ruling that a complicated question cannot be put. However complicated it may be, it is within the power of the House to move, by way of amendment, that, the question being complicated, be divided. I shall therefore put the question to the House.

Question put.

Mr. PALMER said, objecting strongly as he did to a complicated question of this sort being put in this way, and seeing that it would lead to the debate on the question bring absolutely stifled in the House—he should move—and whether he carried it or not, it would place on record the feeling and opinion of the House—that this being a complicated question it be divided.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Into how many parts?

Mr. PALMER said he would move that each resumption be taken separately. They had a precedent for what he proposed now, in the course pursued by the honorable member for Bremer. When he introduced his resumptions, he brought forward each as a separate resolution, and that was the proper principle to go on. He believed very few members of the House cared whether one resumption or the whole were passed; but he repeated that was a dangerous precedent. It was gagging the House. When a member spoke to one amendment, he could not possibly speak to any more; and it was gagging the House. Whether his motion were carried or not, he should certainly take a division; and he hoped the honorable the Minister for Lands would see that the question at issue was not these resumptions at all, but the way in which they had been proposed. He moved—

That the question be divided, and each resumption be taken separately.

The SECRETARY FOR LANDS suggested that the motion might be divided into three parts, taking each district separately.

Mr. PALMER said that would not do at all.

Question put.

The House divided.

AYES, 14.

Messrs. Palmer, Thompson, Morehead, Amhurst, Walsh, J. Scott, W. Scott, Buzacott, Macrossan, Graham, De Satgé, McIlwraith, Ivory, and O'Sullivan.

NOES, 18.

Messrs. G. Thorn, Dickson, Griffith, Stewart, Foote, Fryar, Kingsford, Edmondstone, Bailey, Douglas, Morgan, Groom, J. Thorn, Tyrel, McLean, Pechey, Fraser, and Beattie.

Mr. IVORY would suggest to the honorable Minister for Lands that he would facilitate the progress of the business of the House very materially if he would consent to the proposition which had been made; it was a matter of expediting business entirely, and not connected in any way with the resumptions. Various honorable members had stated their intention to let the resumptions go, as they had no objection to them; and under those circumstances, and it having been stated by the honorable member for Port Curtis that it had been the practice to deal with resolutions for resumptions in the manner suggested by that honorable member, he thought it was carrying matters with too high a hand to force the House to do business in the way in which the Government wished them to do it. If the honorable Minister for Lands was not willing to accept the proposition already made, he should propose a further amendment, and carry it on to the end. It was not a party question, but simply a matter of business, and, therefore, he should like to know if the honorable member was prepared to make any concession.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said that he had offered to take the different districts separately, and to divide the resolution in that form; but beyond that he was not prepared to go.

Mr. PALMER: That is not the slightest use.

Mr. MCILWRAITH said that the matter was one of principle, and if the Government wanted to rule with an iron hand, they would find that they could not do it.

Mr. MORGAN thought they had wasted two or three hours that evening on points of order, but he failed to see that there had been one real point of order raised.

HONORABLE MEMBERS on the Government benches: Hear, hear.

Mr. MORGAN said that he had heard some honorable members opposite stand up to speak, but whether there was a point of order or not, he could not say; in fact he did not know what was the question before the House; and he only claimed the same right that had been accorded to other honorable members to address the House at the present time, although he knew that he was irregular in so doing. The resolutions had been before the House for months, and the honorable the Minister for Lands now came down with an amended schedule, as some important

errors had been discovered by the honorable member for Warrego, and had pledged the House that the amended list was as nearly perfect as it could be. He took it that that was correct, as nothing could be expected to be absolutely correct in this world——

Mr. WALSH wished to know what was the question before the House——

The SPEAKER said he would interrupt the honorable member by putting the question.

Mr. MORGAN said he had no further remarks to make on the matter, but he thought it was quite irregular, and not calculated to advance the dignity or character of that House for honorable members opposite to be interrupting the proceedings by their unseemly opposition to the progress of business. He would not mention any names, and he should be sorry to do so, but he thought it a deplorable spectacle to have constant interruptions, especially when he did not believe it was the intention of any honorable member opposite to oppose the resolutions, not even those who were interested in them. He believed the present opposition was merely a factious one, and that being the case, he would recommend the honorable Minister for Lands to put the resolutions *in globo*, and either have them carried in that form or negatived.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the honorable member who had just sat down had talked about a deplorable spectacle, but he thought that there was no more deplorable exhibition than that honorable member himself. He had seen that honorable member in his official capacity of Chairman exhibit a more deplorable spectacle than any other member of that House, and it was therefore a piece of gross impertinence for him to set himself up as the *arbiter morum* and to say what was or was not right in that House. If any honorable member should remain quiet, it was the honorable member who had last addressed the House. The idea of his lecturing the House upon points of order! why, the honorable member knew nothing about points of order, for a more ignorant Chairman of Committees there never was.

HONORABLE MEMBERS on the Government benches: Order. Chair.

Mr. MOREHEAD said that if he was out of order he would withdraw the words, but he believed his opinion was shared by every member of that House. If the honorable member had been a private member it would have been bad enough——

Mr. MORGAN rose, in explanation, to say that he had not attacked any honorable member opposite.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the honorable member might be so ignorant as not to know what his words meant, and therefore he would accept his denial, but the honorable member's getting up to raise a fresh flame after the discussion was dead, was most unpardonable on the part of any honorable member, but

especially so on the part of a gentleman who, in a few short minutes, would be asked to preside over the committee of that House. He had no doubt that numerous honorable members opposite, more particularly the honorable Attorney-General, were ready to get up in defence of the Chairman of Committees, who he believed had proved a most able henchman, although perhaps on the present occasion he had not acted in accordance with the directions of the astute gentlemen on the Treasury benches; in fact, he believed the honorable member had got up independently of those gentlemen. The honorable gentleman stood up, and after lecturing the Opposition, coolly told the House that he knew nothing about what was going on.

Mr. MORGAN; I did not say so.

Mr. MOREHEAD said that if he was wrong he was quite willing to retract; however, he would leave the Chairman of Committees, or the honorable member for Warwick, to his own reflections, and to think over the unjustifiable attack he had made on honorable members of that House.

Mr. MORGAN: I deny it.

Mr. MOREHEAD thought that either the honorable member's memory must be weak or he did not understand the English language. Whether he did or not, the honorable member had shown very bad taste in reviving a discussion that would otherwise have died out.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he rose to state what had been the practice of the House in regard to resolutions for resumptions, but before doing so he must say that he considered the remarks of the honorable member for the Mitchell had been most uncalled for. He believed there had been many instances in which resolutions for resuming lands had been made. First, in 1872, when the honorable member for the Bremer moved one resolution for each district, making each resolution a separate paragraph. Next, in 1874, Mr. Stephens moved some resolutions, which were in the same form as those now before the House; and last year, when there were some resumptions, he believed the practice was exactly the same. During the present year, in the case of the Western Railway resumptions, the practice was just the same; and with regard to the present resolutions, when they were brought forward during the previous week, no exception to their form was then taken, but it was left to the honorable member for Warrego to do so that afternoon after it was supposed that the matter had been thoroughly discussed.

Mr. WALSH: You are wrong.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he was not wrong in regard to what was done in 1872, for he found on the notice paper for several days following—"Government Business, Mr. Thompson to move" so-and-so, and then a resolution covering three pages. Then again—"No. 3, Mr. Thompson to move," then came the settled districts of East Moreton,

West Moreton, Darling Downs, and Wide Bay and Burnett, one resolution following another.

Mr. PALMER: Wrong, as usual! quite wrong.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he did not know what the honorable member wanted; there were four motions. He was perfectly right, and the honorable member knew it.

Mr. PALMER: Wrong, as usual.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the honorable member might repeat that as often as he liked. Then he found that on page 350 of the "Votes and Proceedings for 1872" the honorable member for the Bremer moved the resolution standing on the notice paper with some verbal alterations, then followed the resumptions of land—No. 1, Settled District of Darling Downs; No. 2, Settled District of East Moreton; then West Moreton and Wide Bay and Burnett. Four times the question was put and passed; there was division of the schedule. That was how it was done in 1872.

Mr. PALMER: You are wrong; you must have the wrong volume.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had the volume for 1872; the honorable member must remember that he was in office in 1872, and therefore it was he who furnished the Government book shelves; possibly the honorable member had got hold of an Opposition volume. What the Government said was, was it worth while to waste two hours in putting seventy-nine resolutions when one resolution was enough for the whole? The resolution had been discussed, and the matter had merely stood over for the purpose of making a few verbal alterations in the schedule. Under the circumstances he did not think any one could say that the practice of the House had been evaded; it was fighting about a straw, and he thought it would be well for them to go on with the business before them.

Mr. THOMPSON said, on referring to what took place in 1872, that the resumptions appeared in separate paragraphs, and seemed to have been put at the same time, although each was a separate resolution, or what the honorable Attorney-General called a paragraph. He would read the first resolution.—

"That in order to encourage the settlement of population in the Settled Districts of the colony, and in pursuance of the 10th section of the Act, 31 Vic., No 46, this House resolves to resume from the lease of the Greenbank Run in the Settled District of the Darling Downs, an area of 8 square miles as described in a schedule laid on the table of the House, of the lands proposed to be resumed from the runs in the said district."

And so it went on, down thirty-four resolutions.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Separate resolutions but only one motion.

Mr. THOMPSON said that the resolutions were so put that if any honorable member

had wished to have them taken *seriatim* they could have been taken in that way, but there was no motion to that effect as there was on the present occasion. If the Government had known the proper course for them to pursue, they would have moved the House into committee.

Mr. PECHER said that if the course recommended by the honorable member for the Bremer had been adopted, there would have been a tremendous lot of verbiage. His object in rising, however, was to allude to the remarks which had been made by the honorable member for the Mitchell, in referring to the Chairman of Committees as a henchman of the Government. He wished to point out that the present Government was supposed to represent the House, and that the House was supposed to represent the colony, and that if those two suppositions were correct, then the honorable member for Warwick was a henchman of the colony, and in following out his duties as such, need not fear the satire of the honorable member for the Mitchell. He should like to know who had best consulted the interests of the colony in the vote just passed—the honorable member for the Mitchell or the henchman of the Government; the honorable member for Burke or the henchman of the Government; or the honorable member for Kennedy or the henchman of the Government. He thought that outside that House there would be no difficulty in answering such a question. He considered that from that day forward, instead of the word being used as a term of contempt, as intended by the honorable member for the Mitchell, it should be taken rather as a term of glory and endearment.

Mr. PALMER thought there was no necessity for the present debate to go on, as it was quite uncalled for. When he had risen before, it was merely to assert a question of principle, for he did not want to put off the resumptions. He was only opposed to the form in which they were put as a question of principle, and he still believed that the Government had introduced a bad precedent. As regarded the resumptions, they might go, so far as he was concerned.

Mr. WALSH said he wished to state, before the question was put, that he did not want to oppose the resumptions, but to make them more perfect than they now were. He contended that the House had not had time to consider the new schedule, and he had been assured by a person whom he could not doubt that there was still a mistake in the schedule. He had done his duty in pointing out to the Government the blunders and mistakes in the old schedule, and if they would delay passing the resolution for a few days longer, he believed he could point out other blunders in the amended schedule. He was informed that the Government had omitted one run altogether, which might be a mistake of the Government or of their officers; and he would repeat that if he had

a few days allowed to him he believed that he should be able to point out that, although the schedule was not so egregiously faulty as it was in the first instance, it still contained many mistakes. He did not intend to oppose a single resumption, as he wanted to see all the lands in the colony thrown open. That was a doctrine he had held for the last sixteen or seventeen years, and those who knew him were aware that that was his opinion; but, at the same time, he must say that it was hurrying on matters when honorable members were not allowed time to consider the amended schedule before them, and when he knew it contained serious mistakes, which would be to the detriment of the public, and not to the benefit of himself. The resolution was being hurried through in a most indecent manner, as he did not not hesitate to say that not one honorable member had been able to compare the present schedule with the old one—the imperfect one—which the Minister for Lands had to withdraw a few nights ago. As soon as he had time to make himself acquainted with the amended schedule, he should take steps to bring the matter before the House in a clear and distinct form. The honorable Minister for Lands had not explained with that candor which should characterise a Minister of the Crown how the mistakes had arisen, or how they had been discovered since he endeavored to force his schedule on the House, and he evidently did not intend to give honorable members an opportunity of revising the amended schedule; but when he (Mr. Walsh) had time he should show that there had been blunders in one direction, and favoritism in another.

The question was put and passed.