

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

MONDAY, 30 OCTOBER 1876

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 30 October, 1876.

Adjournment.—Supply—Education Vote.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. PECHAY moved the adjournment of the House to call attention to certain matters connected with the convenience of members. First, he would refer to the defective manner in which letters were received and delivered in the House. The honorable member for Maranoa called attention to the subject a few days ago, but instead of there being an improvement, things had been rather worse since. Letters were brought to the House for members and not delivered for days afterwards. Not only should there be a better system of letter delivery, but the boxes should be cleared at times that would be most convenient to members. The pillar post-office, which was now cleared at 5.20, ought to be cleared at a much later time. He believed, also, it would pay for the Government to keep a telegraph operator in the House to despatch messages direct.

The SPEAKER said he was not prepared to say where the fault exactly lay, but he was certain there was no neglect to be charged to the messengers.

Mr. STEVENSON said he quite approved of the suggestion made by the honorable member for Aubigny respecting a telegraph wire and operator in the House. Such an arrangement would be a great convenience to the Premier, and would save the time of his puppets; telegrams might then easily be sent all over the country, and the honorable the Premier would have much more success with the constituencies. He had in his possession a telegram that he had no doubt emanated from the Premier. He did not say the honorable gentleman actually signed the telegram, but he had no moral doubt that he was the author of it. He felt perfectly certain of that in his own mind, because the Premier told him something during last week which he could not have known unless he had been the author of the telegram. During the last week, the Premier in the House told him that within a couple of days an indignation meeting was

to be held at Clermont to censure his conduct in not supporting the present Government, and that he was to be asked to support the Ministry in the future. He had since then received a telegram containing the following remarks :—

“Stevenson has opposed Government all through session and not carried out request of constituents in petition sent in as resolved at public meeting. Have it on good authority that original railway scheme to Peak Downs would have been carried out had it not been for his opposition. It would be greatly to the advantage of Clermont if Stevenson supported Government especially in railway policy as promised and as requested by meetings and petitions. See Thompson and others and urge upon these necessity of again requesting Stevenson to support Government. You may be assured that Government is favorable to our district.”

That was the production, and he felt that he must be a very important individual if his opposition had changed the policy of the Government.

Mr. PALMER: Who signed the telegram?

Mr. STEVENSON: It is signed by a certain Fowle bird who wishes to take wings and fly into the Government service.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Who is it?

Mr. STEVENSON said it was W. L. Fowles, and, no doubt, the Premier knew him well. He thought the conduct of the Premier was very disgraceful, and showed a great amount of corruption, if not on the part of the Government at any rate on the part of the Premier, although the Minister for Lands, during a previous debate, said the sending of these telegrams was merely a matter of taste, and that the Premier was perfectly justified in doing it. But most honorable members would agree with him that they had come to a very bad state of things when the Premier of the colony, by pulling the wires, and by other means, tried to intimidate members though their constituencies.

Mr. WALSH said it was a most serious matter when day after day and week after week these accusations were brought against the Premier.

The PREMIER: There is no accusation made against me here.

Mr. WALSH said he did not hesitate to say that another distinct charge of wire-pulling had been brought against the honorable the Premier, although the wire-pulling in this instance had been done by a gentleman who was well known to the Premier, and who was seeking a government situation. Whether the charge were true or not he would not presume to say, but it was a singular thing that accusations were being continually brought forward to the effect that the Government were trying to do the most inominous work of setting constituencies against their representatives. A more disgraceful piece of work no men, or set of men, could do; the hangman's duty would be preferable to that

of a Government which deliberately parcelled out the duties to any single individual of setting constituencies against their faithful representatives—men who were conscientiously doing their duty in the House, and who by false information, by startling telegrams, performed this disgraceful work. Was ever such a thing heard of in the annals of parliamentary history? Imagine the thrill of horror and disgrace which would pervade the House of Commons if such a thing occurred, and he was sorry to say that it was driven home to the Government by the direct charge made against the Premier—a charge which was disgraceful to them as representatives of the people, and, therefore, disgraceful to the colony itself. The Minister for Lands was, as usual, smiling at his remarks, and was, no doubt, quite ready to get up and speak of the thing as a joke. It was no joke: it was a crime, and the men who committed it were enemies to their country. They were afraid of fair play being done, and they were in every way practising that which to him appeared to be the very opposite of an Englishman's love of fair play, and proper parliamentary representation. The honorable member who exposed this matter left out something which his modesty no doubt prevented him from reading. There was in the telegram this remark, “Your actions are fully endorsed by your Copperfield constituents.” Thus, notwithstanding the treachery and intrigery emanating from Brisbane against every honest man who endeavored to do his duty in the House, here was a proof that there was some independent feeling left in the colony.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Who signs that?

Mr. WALSH said it was the Mayor of Copperfield, a man who was too honest to be influenced by the Government.

The PREMIER: Who is the mayor? I do not know him.

Mr. PALMER: An honest man.

Mr. WALSH said it was a man whom it was not likely the Premier would know. It was disgusting that the House could not meet without some member having to pull out of his pocket some intimidating telegram. His honorable friend behind him (the member for Springsure) had received a similar communication, and he hoped he would do his duty and read it to the House, and he was sure when the House heard what it was, they would attribute it to the proper source.

The PREMIER said it was scarcely necessary to answer the observations that had been made. He knew nothing of the Mayor of Copperfield, and he had sent no telegrams, although he had received information as to the views entertained by the honorable member's constituents respecting his conduct. He knew nothing whatever about wire-pulling. He had received information from Clermont and Copperfield, but not of the kind indicated. Who was the Mayor of Copperfield? Was it

a Mr. Woodhouse? If so, that gentleman was the manager of the Peak Downs Copper Company, and representative of an absentee proprietary. With the exception of that gentleman, he believed the electors were to a man against the views of the honorable member for Clermont.

Mr. PALMER said he was quite certain that the PREMIER did not know the Mayor of Copperfield; he was not the style of man that honorable member was generally acquainted with. The honorable gentleman had forgotten to tell the House whether this Mr. Fowles, who sent this telegram, was an applicant for a government situation.

The PREMIER: I am not aware of it.

Mr. PALMER said perhaps the honorable Attorney-General might know a little more about it. This William Lambert Fowles appeared to take great interest in the honorable member for Clermont, and he must be in communication with the Government in some way, because he said he had it on "good authority" that the Government were disposed to carry out the wishes of that constituency. Any man of common sense could see that some member of the Ministry instigated that telegram, and from the well-known wire-pulling propensities of the Premier, which were acknowledged and threatened by himself before he had been twenty-four hours Premier, they came to the conclusion that he, of course, was the wire-puller. He (Mr. Palmer) should very much like to see the original of that telegram. He was as certain as he was standing there, that it was sent on Her Majesty's service; and he should like to have a return of all telegrams sent on Her Majesty's service by the honorable the Premier. There was never an evening that they did not see him writing telegrams at the table. They were not blind; they saw that constantly, and the messenger from the Colonial Secretary's Office was kept waiting there during the whole time of the sitting of the House, for no other purpose than to run with telegrams to the Telegraph Office—and such a thing was never known before. He did not look upon the matter so seriously as the honorable member for Warrego. He despised any attempt made to set constituencies against their representatives; and they must have a frightfully weak case indeed when they stooped to such practices. But they could depend upon it, that all the wire-pulling of the honorable the Premier would have no effect on the constituencies. It might have some effect upon a few partisans of that honorable member, or a few loafers about public-houses, who could be easily got together to form a public meeting when required, but on the bulk of the constituencies it would have no effect whatever. He had too great respect for the constituencies to suppose that they would be influenced in any way by it, and he believed they would treat all such attempts with contempt.

Mr. DE SATGE thought the honorable the Premier made another mistake in his statement that the constituents of Clermont were to a man against the action of their present representative. He had known that constituency ever since it had returned a member, and he was sure the people there were not at all likely to change their opinions so soon. From the very commencement they had always returned a member to the Liberal-Conservative side of the House, or in other words, to that side of the House.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said he was quite alarmed at the sensitive state at which honorable members opposite were getting. The other day the House was treated to a dissertation about a newspaper article, which created quite a sensation, and now some obscure telegram, sent by somebody whom nobody knew, and who was supposed to be an applicant for an appointment in the Government service, was trotted out to signify that there was some desperate conspiracy on the part of the Government to upset the Constitution. It was really amusing to notice the dreadful state of excitement into which the honorable member for Warrego got over this little affair. An obscure telegram, in which the public took no interest, was brought forward to prove all sorts of crimes against the Ministry, and they were told that this was an instance of the treachery and intrigue of the Government; that it was most ignominious, disgraceful, and that the hangman ought to be entrusted with the duty of finally disposing of this telegram.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Finally disposing of the Ministry.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS said they were told that such a thing had never been heard of in the history of parliamentary government; the House of Commons was brought into the scene; and all this was very ridiculous and amusing. The Government knew nothing about the telegram, and was it to be supposed that the Government were to be held responsible for all the little intrigues which were going on throughout the country, or that every telegram was to be raked up, because some constituencies lying at a distance from the centre of Government felt a little anxious about some matter, and immediately connected with the policy of the Government in some obscure way? He could not see why the honorable member, whose conduct had not been called in question, should have dragged this before them to indicate that the Government were doing what everybody knew they were not doing; and he really thought these references to newspaper articles and stray telegrams should be allowed to drop.

Mr. J. SCOTT said the honorable gentleman said these matters were very amusing, and he (Mr. Scott) had received some telegrams lately which were very amusing, and he thought he could trace them also to the honorable the Premier, because that honorable

gentleman had stated that he would make it very hot for him in his electorate, and see that he was turned out on the first opportunity. The telegrams he had received were the first-fruits of the wire-pulling of which that honorable member was so fond, and he had no doubt he (the Premier) was very proud of his performances in that respect. He (Mr. Scott) was perfectly satisfied with the telegrams he had received, and he hoped the honorable the Premier was satisfied.

Mr. IVORY said the honorable the Minister for Lands thought it was very absurd that these matters should be dragged out, and said he did not know why they should be brought forward. The reason was simply this:—That the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government, under whom that honorable member acted, had openly stated that he had command of the wires, and that he would make use of them for the express purpose of doing what he was now doing. It was no matter of astonishment at all, and no one should be astonished that notice was taken of it, because it was merely calling the attention of the House to what had been already stated to be the course of action the honorable the Premier himself had promised to adopt. They had made no charge against the honorable the Minister for Lands. No doubt, with his refined taste, he would not do such a thing; but the honorable the Premier, not having such refined taste as that honorable gentleman, was, he was afraid, guilty of such proceedings. It was all very well for the honorable member to get up and say he knew nothing about it, but it was a very easy matter to make a cat's-paw of somebody else, and he, no doubt, exonerated his conscience of any guilt in the matter; but, at the same time, a person might do a thing without being actually perpetrator of the action himself.

Mr. McLEAN said he knew nothing of the telegram; neither did he suppose that the opinion of one member was to be taken as the opinion of a whole constituency. Some few weeks ago he received a communication from a gentleman in his electorate asking his opinion of the quality of the land through which the railway was supposed to run, from Emerald Downs to Copperfield. This gentleman stated that he had received a letter from a gentleman in Copperfield wanting to know his (Mr. McLean's) opinion of the quality of the land there, and he also stated that Mr. Stevenson's constituents expected that he would support the Government.

The PREMIER: Hear, hear.

Mr. McLEAN said he had never been wire-pulling, and neither did he show the letter to Mr. Stevenson or to the Premier.

Mr. PALMER: He knew all about it.

Mr. McLEAN said, neither did he write to the gentleman who asked for his opinion. He knew pretty well what the views of the honorable member for Clermont were, and he did not wish to attempt to change his views,

because he thought members in that House should vote just as they thought best. He did not suppose that the opinion of one man was the opinion of the Clermont constituency; but that was the statement he got—that the honorable member for Clermont was supposed by his constituents to support the Government in their railway policy.

Mr. PALMER: They have got none.

Mr. PECHÉY said he had no idea when he moved the adjournment that such a discussion as that which had taken place would have arisen, and he was sorry it had; but he did not suppose it would carry any great weight. He still thought, with regard to the matter he had brought forward, that some better arrangement might be made for receiving and despatching the correspondence of honorable members; and he also thought it would be a great convenience to honorable members, if a cabstand of a limited number of cabs were stationed near the House. The matter was mentioned last session, but no notice was taken of it, and he thought the sooner something was done respecting it the better.

Question—That this House do now adjourn—put and negatived.

SUPPLY—EDUCATION VOTE.

On the motion of the honorable the COLONIAL TREASURER, the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in moving the first item under the head of "Secretary for Public Instruction"—salaries and contingencies, £3,210—said: I may take this opportunity of explaining, as briefly as possible, what action has been taken in this department since the 1st January last, when the State Education Act of 1875 was brought into operation. From my short experience as Chairman of the Board of Education, and from the information which came under my notice then, I was enabled to form some idea of what would be necessary to set the department going in a satisfactory manner, and I was fortunate at the end of last year in securing the services of Mr. Graham, the former member for Clermont, as Under Secretary. I thought it desirable, however, to get as much information as I possibly could, not only with respect to the best method of managing the education of the colony under a Government department as distinct from a Board, but also as to the possibility of coming to some arrangement with the adjoining colonies for the substitution for the school books now in use, which are highly unsatisfactory in many respects, a better series of books, and with that object I thought it desirable to visit Victoria, where the Department of Public Instruction, under an Act similar to our own, has been in operation for some years, and also New South Wales, where the Council of Education manage the schools. Almost as soon as I became Chairman of the

Board, I could see that it was important, particularly in a Government department, that there should be some record in the office of the character and competency of the teachers, and of the nature and requirements of the different schools, because for the efficient management of the department it is essentially necessary that there should be some such record, for this reason:—We have in the department many persons who are admirable teachers in small schools, but who, if they were placed in charge of a large school, would be practically useless, and so injure their own reputation as teachers. On the other hand, we have teachers employed as assistants in large schools who are not well fitted to take charge of schools. So the accommodation at some schools is suitable for a man with a large family, at others it is not, and so on. Finding that there was no available record of information of that kind in the office, I thought it of great importance that it should be ascertained and recorded. The only person who had any complete knowledge on matters of that kind was the late General Inspector, Mr. MacDonnell, while from the other inspectors information could be obtained according as they might or might not happen to remember certain particulars about individual persons or schools. This seemed to me to be a great defect, and I desired to ascertain how this matter was managed in New South Wales and Victoria, considering it one of the greatest and most essential points in the good management of the department. However, with regard to these matters, I was unable to get much assistance. I found no very satisfactory system in operation in either of those colonies, but I got a great deal of information from which I was able to learn some valuable lessons, and which, I believe, have resulted in the management of the department being placed on a satisfactory footing. Registers are now kept; they are not yet complete, because arrears have had to be made up from searches in pigeon-holes and other places; but when they are complete, all the information possible will be found in them respecting every officer and every school in that department of the public service. That takes up the whole time of one officer of the department. With regard to the school books, I was able to make preliminary arrangements with the Council of Education in Sydney and the Minister of Education in Victoria, to hold a conference in New South Wales, and, if possible, to fix upon some satisfactory way of arriving at an improvement in the school books now in use. I found that in New South Wales the Council of Education had been in communication with Collins and Co. on the subject, and had made preliminary arrangements, which they were willing to modify to this extent: Both the contractors and the Council of Education were willing to submit the books, before being finally adopted, for the approval of the department in this colony, and to adopt any

reasonable suggestions that might be made. That was necessary because the system in New South Wales differs from that in force in this colony, for although it is called a secular system, the word "secular" is defined by the Act to include religion. In Victoria I found that steps were being taken with a view of getting the books now in use re-written by some of the officers of the department in order to publish a revised edition. I was completing arrangements for the conference, when I received a communication from the Council of Education in New South Wales to the effect that they had determined to adopt Collins' books without reference to the other colonies. At the same time, Victoria declined to go any further. The proposed conference therefore fell through, and I am very sorry for it, because by the combined action of the three colonies we might have got a much better system of books than could be got otherwise. I have since heard that Victoria has adopted Wilson's series. However, we shall have the advantage of seeing the books adopted in New South Wales and Victoria, but I regret to say that neither of the series adopted in those colonies could, in the form in which I have seen them, be used here unless they were very much modified. Referring to the department, another difficulty that occurred in the management was this:—In times past, as honorable members who have sat on the Board of Education are well aware, everything came to the Board through the General Inspector. All the reports of the inspectors were made to him, and practically the Board knew nothing except through him. That system seemed to me to be inconsistent with the proper management of a Government department, where everything ought to go direct to the permanent head of the department, and be submitted by him to the Minister. I found, however, on inquiry, that the same system existed in the other colonies, and that the result was unsatisfactory. I found that nobody had a general knowledge of the teachers or the schools, except the General Inspector, and that seemed to me extremely undesirable, for the reason I have adverted to. Under the system now in force, which, I am happy to say, is working perfectly smoothly, we have succeeded in obviating that difficulty; and I have every hope that the system will continue to work well in the future. With regard to what has been done in the department during the year, I have very few remarks to make. In the first place, the vote for last year for buildings was £10,000 altogether, but by the time the Board ceased to exist, on the 31st of December, there was less than £1,000 to operate upon for the first six months of this year, so that our resources were crippled to a great extent; but I have been able to carry on, and I think deserve some credit for having been tolerably economical. Of course, the work of the depart-

ment could not be stopped altogether; repairs were absolutely necessary in many instances and could not be left, and yet the amount asked for on the Supplementary Estimates for the whole six months is less than £3,400. Notwithstanding that, we have been able to carry on and increase the number of schools. At the commencement of the year there were 157 State schools; since then, twelve new schools have been opened, most of which, of course, must have been commenced under the Board of Education; three new ones are about to be opened immediately, and there are several others which will be opened before long. I believe the amount on the Estimates will be sufficient to cover all the necessary expenditure of the year. On the 1st of January there were forty-five provisional schools in operation; since then, twenty fresh ones have been opened, and three have been closed; so that the operations of the past half-year, although they have not cost the country a very great deal, have been, on the whole, tolerably satisfactory. There is only one matter in connection with the department that I am not satisfied with, and that is with regard to Orphanages; but I do not propose to say anything about them until we get to the Orphanages vote, except this:—I regret that I have not had sufficient time at my disposal to visit and inspect those institutions as fully as I should like. Honorable members will bear in mind that after returning from Melbourne at the end of January, the framing of the regulations, which was a matter of very serious difficulty, and required great care and attention, occupied all my time, and left me little leisure until the meeting of Parliament, and since then Parliament has been in continual session, and I have not had an opportunity of visiting them. That is my excuse for the apparent neglect in dealing with that part of the department. I shall confine myself now to the salaries asked to be voted. The salary of the Under Secretary is £700, which is the same as other Under Secretaries, and cannot be objected to. The Chief Clerk was Secretary to the Board of Education, and is retained at his previous salary. The Registrar is the officer who keeps the records I have spoken of; a very valuable officer indeed, whose labors certainly conduce materially to the efficiency of the department. The clerks were four in number last year—one was paid £200, one £150, one £50, and one at £40; an additional clerk is proposed at £150, and we propose to increase the salary of the clerk who keeps the accounts of the department to £250. He has a considerable amount of work to do; there are over 600 persons employed in the department, and payments have to be made to most of them every month, and he does the whole of the work himself. I may inform the committee that I believe it will be necessary to have another junior clerk at £100 a-year, and should honorable members think that this is an un-

due increase in the proportion of clerks, I think they will be of a different opinion when they hear that during the time of the Board of Education, all the Inspector's reports were sent to the Government Printing Office, and printed, and this cost, I believe, several hundred pounds a-year. The work of the additional junior clerk will be to copy and send to the teachers such parts of their reports as have to be sent to them. I believe that something like £500 or £600 a-year will be saved by the discontinuance of the printing. It will require the whole time of one clerk to do that work, and even now it is somewhat in arrears in consequence of the shortness of hands, and I think this will not be considered an undue increase. With regard to the messenger, the late officer, Sweeney, who died recently, held the combined office of officer-cleaner and messenger, and was receiving £170 a-year; the duties of office-cleaner have been handed over to his widow at £100 a-year, and a messenger will be appointed at £100, so that there will be an increase of £30. I will be glad to explain anything to the committee that I have not explained.

Mr. PALMER said the honorable the Attorney-General had informed them of the wants of the Board of Education, and he (Mr. Palmer) quite agreed with every remark he made about the General Inspector. He had often objected when on the Board that the General Inspector had a great deal too much to do with the subordinates of the department; in fact, as that gentleman said on more than one occasion, he was the Board. But he thought the honorable gentleman had gone rather far in saying that the General Inspector was the only man who knew anything about the abilities of the various teachers, because he (Mr. Palmer) was aware from his own knowledge that some members of the Board knew almost every teacher in the service. He might mention Mr. T. B. Stephens—there was hardly a man in the service he did not know, so that the Board were not entirely dependent on the General Inspector in that respect to the extent represented. Admitting that, he thought the honorable the Attorney-General had forgotten to inform the House how he now arrived at the abilities of the teachers, and what they were really fit for. He told them that there was a clerk employed almost solely in recording the abilities of the teachers, but he did not say how those abilities were arrived at.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: From the reports of the Inspectors from the beginning.

Mr. PALMER said he could only say he sincerely hoped the efforts of the clerks, and the Under Secretary, and the Minister would be crowned with success. There was no doubt there had been a great want of improvement in that department, as he had often said. He found, from a return which was placed in his hands the other day, that a

sum of £150 was voted for the salary of a Mr. Buhôt in the Education Office, and he should like to know how that gentleman could possibly be employed in that office. He had seen a letter from him, and he could not write English; he certainly could not write grammatically; his writing was nothing like good writing, and he should like to know what influence pushed a gentleman of that description into the Office of Public Instruction above all others? He remembered something about this gentleman's claims being brought forward by the honorable Attorney-General, who stated that he had made sugar in a three-legged pot, and if that was a claim for an appointment in the Office of Public Instruction, he could only say it was not what he voted the money for, and he should like to hear from the honorable the Attorney-General how this gentleman came to be appointed. If appointments under the Secretary for Public Instruction were simply to be given as a refuge for the destitute he should strongly object to it. He thought there was no department in the public service in which the Government should be more careful in making appointments than in that of Public Instruction. He hoped this record would be fairly kept, and that the teachers would be promoted according to their deserts. There could be no such thing as a system of seniority in a department of that kind, but he sincerely hoped there would be no favoritism, but that teachers would be promoted as they deserved it, and that they should hear no more of Mr. Buhôt being shoved into the service.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said Mr. Buhôt was appointed to give temporary assistance during the absence of the Chief Clerk, who was allowed three months' leave in consequence of ill health, and he (the Attorney-General) was under the impression when he appointed him that he could spell well. He believed he could write a good hand, from communications he had received from him, and that he was competent for the work, but he subsequently discovered that he did not spell correctly, and even if his time had not expired, he would not have been retained longer in the service. His duty was simply to copy certain memoranda and reports.

Mr. PALMER said he regretted that any letter written by Mr. Buhôt should have been allowed to leave the office. The teachers must have laughed at it, and he thought there could be nothing more disgraceful, and that the matter ought to have been reported to the Secretary for Public Instruction, and that he should have attended to it. He had heard that long before Mr. Buhôt was dismissed, he was not allowed to write any more letters.

Mr. WALSH said it was well known that this man had a certain amount of political influence in a certain electorate. He was kept in the Government service, receiving £150 a-year, until it became known that there

was evidence in the possession of a member of the House that he was unfit to occupy the position he held. He said the Government should be ashamed of making such a political rascally appointment. He wished to ask the Government, what had become of a former officer of the department, Mr. Randall Macdonnell? He had always heard that gentleman was a most zealous officer, and had served the country well from the beginning, and why was there no provision made for him on the Estimates? The honorable the Attorney-General had given no explanation of what had become of that gentleman. Was he alive? Was he in the service, or had he left it?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he did not mention anything about Mr. Macdonnell because that matter would more conveniently come under the items for "Inspection." He might, however, state that Mr. Macdonnell had resigned. The honorable gentleman subsequently explained that he had acceded to every request made by Mr. Macdonnell with one exception, and that was that he should be practically the head of the department, and he resigned, giving as his reason that he did not feel disposed to act in the position in which he was placed.

Mr. MACROSSAN said he understood the honorable the Attorney-General to state that the Registrar was to keep the record of the abilities of the teachers, and had nothing else to do. He should like some further information as to that officer's duties. He had heard him described as the teachers' tormentor.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he was wrong in stating that the Registrar had nothing else to do. He had also to keep all the statistics of the office, the average capitation allowance, and to compare the returns to see if they were sent in regularly.

Mr. MACROSSAN said he had also heard that this officer caused an immense amount of useless labor in the Printing Department, hundreds and thousands of forms having been printed and thrown aside as useless.

The items were then put and passed.