

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 1878**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, 5 September, 1878.*

Question.—Order of Business.—Port Douglas Road.—Road between Tallebudgera and New South Wales.—Roma and Mitchell Water-supply.—Road from Beaularaba to Toowoomba.—Road between Emerald Downs and Clermont.—Gratuity to Mrs. Tregarthen.—Mackay Roads.—Motion for Adjournment.—Roads in the Burke District.—Roads in the Stanley Electorate.—The late Dr. Lang.—Supply.—Ways and Means.—Loan Bill.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past three o'clock.

## QUESTION.

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Colonial Secretary, without notice, whether any petition had been received by him from the residents of Tambo, relative to the case of Mr. Sadlier, police magistrate at that place?

The PREMIER (Mr. Douglas) replied—  
I have not received any such petition.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Upon the first Order of the Day (general business)—“Road across the Granite Range, Port Douglas; report from committee”—being called,—

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Mr. Dickson) said, as this and the five following Orders of the Day were provided for in the Supplementary Estimates brought down yesterday, he moved that the six Orders of the Day be discharged from the paper.

Mr. McILWRAITH said the Supplementary Estimates were not passed yet, and why should these Orders of the Day be discharged from the paper? Let the business go on to a conclusion.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Griffith) said these Orders of the Day were for addresses to the Governor, praying that the amounts mentioned in the resolutions adopted by the House be placed on the Supplementary Estimates; but that request had already been complied with, and it would be absurd to request the Governor to-morrow to do what he had already done.

Mr. McILWRAITH said the orders could be discharged from the paper after they were passed. The whole of them would not take five minutes.

Mr. PALMER said if this motion to discharge these Orders of the Day from the paper were acceded to, the Government would take credit for placing the amounts on the Supplementary Estimates. Honourable members in charge of these motions wanted to see them passed through in regular form. It could not be disputed that it was in consequence of the action of honourable members themselves that the amounts had been placed on the Estimates.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said the difficulty might be got over by postponing these Orders of the Day until to-morrow.

Mr. McILWRAITH: What is the difficulty in passing them?

Mr. GROOM said surely there could be no objection to carry out the usual forms of the House in regard to these motions. He quite concurred with the honourable member for Port Curtis that the honourable members representing the districts interested in these motions were entitled to have them placed on the Estimates in due form in consequence of resolutions to that effect being carried through the House. Why discharge them from the paper when it would not take five minutes to run through them all? Why go out of the ordinary course in regard to these motions more than any others? It had never been done before.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Every session.

Mr. GROOM said he did not think such a course was ever adopted before, and he contended that they should not depart from their usual rules of practice.

Mr. McLEAN said another reason why these resolutions should be received in the usual way was, that people outside did not understand the practice of the House or the manner in which business was done, and if they saw that certain Orders of the Day were discharged from the paper, they would immediately come to the conclusion that the money their representatives had asked for was not granted, and honourable members would immediately have the whole of their constituents down on them. He, therefore, maintained that the whole of these Orders of the Day should be proceeded with in the usual way.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said, if the first resolution was adopted, it would be necessary for the Speaker, as soon as possible, to present a request to the Governor to place on the Supplementary Estimates a sum of £1,500 for this road, and it seemed rather absurd, and not very respectful, to ask the Governor to do what he had already done, that sum being now on the Supplementary Estimates, and being stated to have been placed there in accordance with a resolution of that House.

Mr. WALSH said these remarks came very well from a member of the Government, who had allowed a sum to be put on the Loan Estimates which had been ordered to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates. The honourable member seemed very careful of the honour of the Governor or the duties he had to discharge; but he had totally forgotten that it was his bounden duty to protect the Governor from an infraction of the practice of that House. It was just like the whole conduct of the Attorney-General, who always found some excuse for doing wrong, but never found an excuse for doing right. He hoped honourable members would insist on these Orders of the Day going through in regular form, and not allow the Government to monopolise or arrogate to themselves the credit of

doing certain things which they would not have done if it had not been for coercion and pressure which they were not able to resist.

Mr. McILWRAITH said it might look a little absurd for the Speaker to go to the Governor to-morrow, and ask him to place certain amounts on the Supplementary Estimates, seeing that it had already been done; but if the Orders of the Day were not proceeded with, there was another absurdity quite as great, because he found there was a foot-note to these items on the Supplementary Estimates, stating that they were placed there on resolutions of the Legislative Assembly which had not yet been passed. What honourable members desired was, to pass those resolutions.

The PREMIER said this was a matter where the opinion of the Speaker might be taken as to whether it would be in accordance with the practice of Parliament and the usual form of procedure, to adopt the course proposed. As far as the real merits of the case were concerned, it did not matter a fig. He thought it would be in accordance with Parliamentary practice that the Orders of the Day should be discharged.

The SPEAKER said he did not think this was a question for him to decide. As the honourable member for Maranoa had pointed out, whichever course of action was taken, there was a certain amount of absurdity. It would be absurd to present an address to the Governor, asking him to place sums on the Supplementary Estimates which were already there; and, on the other hand, it was stated that these sums were placed on the Supplementary Estimates, in accordance with resolutions of the House, which had not yet been finally decided.

Mr. GRIMES said another view of the matter was, that if addresses were presented to the Governor on these matters, second sums might appear on the Estimates.

Question—That the Orders of the Day be discharged from the paper—put and negatived.

#### PORT DOUGLAS ROAD.

On the motion of Mr. MURPHY, the report of the Committee of the Whole recommending that £1,500 be placed on the Supplementary Estimates, for the road across the Granite Range, Port Douglas, was adopted.

#### ROAD BETWEEN TALLEBUDGERA AND NEW SOUTH WALES.

Mr. McLEAN moved that the report of the Committee of the Whole recommending that £300 be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for the road, be adopted.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he would take that opportunity of showing that the

invariable practice had been to move that the Orders of the Day be discharged as had been done on this occasion by the Colonial Treasurer. One instance appeared on page 1271 of *Hansard* for 1877, on the 11th of October, in which it was stated that, "on the motion of the Colonial Treasurer, the following Orders of the Day:—Clermont Hospital—report from committee; Leichhardt District Hospital—report from committee; were discharged from the paper, the amounts voted in committee having been placed on the Supplementary Estimates for 1877-8." That had been the practice ever since he had been in the House.

Mr. J. SCOTT said, in reference to the cases quoted by the Attorney-General, if his memory were not in fault, he pointed out at that time that the course taken was not the usual practice. Until the last two sessions, it had always been the practice to adopt the report from the committee on the same day that the resolution was passed.

Mr. MCILWRAITH said it was the unreasonable haste the Ministry made in putting these sums on the Supplementary Estimates that had led to all this confusion. He was sure that if the Attorney-General considered the matter, he would be inclined to think that when the Speaker took up the addresses to the Governor tomorrow, it would be necessary for him to say a few words to His Excellency, intimating that the Government had put these sums on the Estimates, stating that they were in accordance with resolutions of the Assembly, when such resolutions had never been passed.

Mr. GROOM said there could be no doubt that during the last two or three sessions several innovations had been introduced with regard to the practice of the House. On the second reading of a Bill of minor importance, for instance, in place of the gentleman in charge of it at once moving that the House go into committee to consider it, it was now the practice to postpone the committal for a week, and the consequence had been that many valuable Bills of comparatively minor importance had been entirely lost by being included in the slaughter of the innocents at the end of the session. It was only within the last few years that these innovations had been introduced; and the fact of these items being on the Estimates without the resolutions having been passed through all their stages showed that they appeared there erroneously. The Attorney-General might refer back as much as he pleased; but he (Mr. Groom) was perfectly satisfied that it was only within the last two or three years that these innovations had occurred, entirely upsetting the practice of the House in previous years. He quite agreed with the honourable member for Logan that when a member had charge of

a motion, it should go through all its stages as soon as possible. The public did not see the Estimates, but simply what appeared in the newspapers, and if they saw that an honourable member's motion had been discharged from the paper, they at once came to the conclusion that the vote was lost; and unscrupulous persons might take advantage of that, to the injury of honourable members. The public could not know whether the money had been granted or not in such cases; but if the resolutions went through all their stages, it was a guarantee to them that their representatives had done their duty.

Question put and passed.

#### ROMA AND MITCHELL WATER-SUPPLY

On the motion of Mr. WALSH, the report of the Committee of the Whole, recommending that a sum of £1,000 be placed on the Supplementary Estimates to provide a water-supply for Roma and Mitchell, was adopted.

#### ROAD FROM BEAUARABA TO TOO-WOOMBA.

Mr. TYREL, in the absence of the honourable member for Aubigny, moved that the report of the Committee of the Whole, recommending that £2,000 be placed on the Supplementary Estimates, for a road from Beauaraba to Toowoomba, Westbrook, No. 1 and 2 Homestead Areas, be adopted.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said it had been stated that the instance he previously referred to was an innovation; but he was certain that he could show from any volume of the Votes and Proceedings he turned to that it was no innovation, but the universal and regular practice. The volume he had taken up happened to be for 1872, when the honourable member for Port Curtis was at the head of the Government, and strangely enough the member who moved that the Order of the Day be discharged from the paper was the honourable member for Toowoomba. He found that on the 15th of August, 1872, on the second Order of the Day for the consideration in Committee of the Whole of an Address to the Governor relative to providing a supply of water for Highfields being called, the Order of the Day was discharged from the paper on the motion of Mr. Groom; and he found in the Supplementary Estimates for that year a sum of £200 for water-supply for Highfields, with a foot-note, "resolution of the Legislative Assembly." The same thing occurred on the same day in connection with a vote of £1,500 for the Museum, on the motion of Dr. O'Doherty; and it had been the invariable practice.

Mr. WALSH said the Attorney-General, with his usual forgetfulness, drew no distinction between the Government moving that the Orders of the Day be dis-

charged from the paper, and honourable members like the honourable member for Toowoomba or himself doing so in consequence of the sums asked for appearing on the Supplementary Estimates. There was a vast difference between the two cases. Here the Government got up and proposed that the business of private members, initiated in the interests of their constituents, should be discharged from the paper; and the Attorney-General, most unfairly and unjustly, as usual, quoted a case in which the honourable member for Toowoomba proposed to discharge business from the paper. The two cases were entirely different, and it was of a piece with the ordinary character of the Attorney-General to make such an explanation. The retribution had fallen upon the honourable gentleman, that he was obliged, in order to support his theory, to misquote precedents not at all applicable to the present occasion.

Mr. J. SCOTT insisted that he was quite correct in saying that this was an innovation. The cases cited by the Attorney-General were not reports from committee, and it was those alone to which he had referred.

The PREMIER said the whole matter seemed one not worth fighting about. The end had been accomplished by the amount being placed on the Supplementary Estimates; and how it was done really did not matter.

Mr. PALMER: Then why did you allow the Attorney-General to interrupt the business of the country with captious opposition?

The PREMIER said he presumed it all arose from honourable members desiring to gratify their constituents.

Mr. GROOM said the matter referred to by the Attorney-General was quite different from that to which objection had been taken to-day. On the occasion referred to, he (Mr. Groom) moved a resolution to provide water for the district of Highfields. Before going into committee with it, the Government introduced their Supplementary Estimates, which contained the sum for which he had asked, and there was no necessity, therefore, for his moving that the House go into committee on the resolution. Such being the case, he moved that the motion be discharged from the paper. In this particular case, the House had affirmed that the resolution should go into committee, and a member of the Government had moved its discharge from the paper. In the one case the honourable member for the district received due credit for his efforts, and in the other the Government sought to get the credit for the whole transaction.

Mr. McILWRAITH said it was rather absurd for the Premier to attempt to put down a debate of this kind after the Colo-

nial Treasurer had initiated it, and the Attorney-General had tried three times to revive it. The debate ought to have some results. For instance, the first motion on the paper was by the honourable member for Burke for £2,000 for roads in that district. If the Government told the honourable member he had better drop his motion, as the amount had been placed on the Supplementary Estimates, the honourable member would acquiesce, no doubt, and save time by not going through all the other forms of the House. That was what the honourable member for Toowoomba did. He should like to see some good coming out of a debate of this sort, by the adoption of his suggestion with regard to the motion of the honourable member for Burke.

Mr. IVORY thought the Attorney-General, from the way in which he was constantly trying to twist the business of the House, must be a lineal descendant of the famous firm of Quirk, Gammon, and Snap. Surely, the honourable gentleman ought to be clever enough to see that his own arguments were utterly valueless. But it was true, as the honourable member for Kennedy remarked the other day, the Attorney-General was neither more nor less than a sophist, whose duty was to try to make the worse appear the better cause. He hoped that in future the Attorney-General would confine himself to the business before the House.

Mr. GRIMES thought honourable members seemed far more particular about having their names attached to their motions, than to seeing the motions agreed to.

Question put and passed.

#### ROAD BETWEEN EMERALD DOWNS AND CLERMONT.

On the motion of Mr. J. SCOTT, the committee's report, recommending £1,500 for a road between Emerald Downs and Clermont, was adopted.

#### GRATUITY TO MRS. TREGARTHEN.

On the motion of Mr. FRASER, the committee's report, recommending a gratuity of £100 to the widow of Daniel Tregarthen, was adopted.

#### MACKAY ROADS.

Mr. BEOR moved—

That the House go into Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed on the next Supplementary Estimates, the sum of £3,000 for the purpose of repairing that portion of the main road between Nebo and the Pioneer River, which lies nearest to the Mackay wharves.

Question put, and the House divided.

AYES, 11.

Messrs. Ivory, Beor, Haly, Graham, Groom, J. Scott, Macrossan, O'Sullivan, McIlwraith, Palmer, and Walsh.

NOES, 13.

Messrs. Douglas, Dickson, Griffith, Garrick, Miles, Fraser, Grimes, Hockings, Kingsford, Foote, Macfarlane (Ipswich), Tyrel, and McLean.

Question, therefore, resolved in the negative.

# MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. PALMER said he would conclude with a motion, and in the meantime he would state his opinion that the Government would gain nothing by stealing a division in the manner they had just done. It was a bit of sharp practice which would not advance their business one iota. Not a member on this side had the slightest idea that the Government were going to a division on the question. It was, in fact, totally unexpected. The House had been led to believe from a statement of the Treasurer that he would allow the motion to go into committee, and then move an amendment as to the amount. Instead of that, the Government had stolen a division. However, he would read a telegram he had received, which would, no doubt delight the Colonial Treasurer. It was from the mayor of Mackay, and was as follows:—

“At special meeting of council held this day resolved that you be informed statement of Treasurer relative to revenue derived from wharfages is untrue which he was made aware of through claim submitted to him last year the wharves excepting at ends of streets which are comparatively valueless being private property Will you kindly confer with and support the motion of Mr. Beor as road to wharves is main thoroughfare to stations and mines as well as to plantations from which municipality derives no revenue.”

Here was a deliberate contradiction by the mayor of Mackay to the statement of the Colonial Treasurer, and the Colonial Treasurer, according to the telegram, was aware when he made it that the statement was not correct. He (Mr. Palmer) should not use the strong language of the telegram, but would content himself by saying that the Colonial Treasurer wilfully misled the House, on the honourable member for Bowen's motion, by saying that the corporation derived a large revenue from the wharfages.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I did not state any amount of revenue.

Mr. PALMER: I did not say the honourable gentleman stated any amount of revenue. He said a large amount of revenue.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: No.

Mr. PALMER: Yes.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: No.

Mr. PALMER said distinctly yes, and that the Colonial Treasurer did it wilfully, knowing that such was not the case. What were they to think of a Colonial Treasurer who wilfully misled the House

in that manner, and then finished by stealing a march by dividing the House when it was least expected. He could assure the Government that such conduct would not expedite their business. He moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. BEOR said he merely wished to make one observation. The committee had lately voted enormous sums of money for 165 roads in the neighbourhood of Brisbane; and when an exactly similar case came before the House, the Government took this most unusual course to defeat it. Since he had been in the House it had been the custom to allow a motion to go into committee to pass without opposition; and such being the case, no Ministry with the least sense of honour, honesty, straightforwardness, or decency would have adopted the course now taken. If they had intended to divide upon it, they ought at least to have given him some indication of it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he was sorry honourable members had taken this matter so much to heart as to lose their tempers over it. He could not admit that the Government had stolen a march. A division was called for and taken on the merits of the question, and no doubt, had it gone into committee, the result would have been precisely the same. This was not the first time the motion had been debated, and when first introduced by the honourable member for Bowen, it was withdrawn by that honourable member, on the understanding that an additional loan should be given to the municipality, on the usual terms, for £2,000.

Mr. BEOR: There was nothing of the kind promised. I never made a shadow of such an agreement.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he understood the motion was withdrawn on that understanding, notwithstanding the honourable gentleman's statement. He (the Colonial Treasurer) stated then, as now, that the corporation was in receipt of wharfages—not from private wharves, of course, but from the ends of five streets, where vessels moored at an embankment made by the Government, and also from the Government wharf at the end of Brisbane street. What the amount of the wharfage thus collected was, he was not in a position to state; but with the increasing trade of the port the corporation revenue from this source must necessarily increase. For these reasons, he argued, the municipality ought to be satisfied with a grant of money in the shape of a loan.

Mr. McILWRAITH said the Colonial Treasurer had given a flat denial to the statement of the honourable member for Port Curtis, that he had wilfully misled the House by saying that large revenues accrued to the municipality from the wharves. It might be true that the honourable gentleman did not use those

exact words, but he certainly misled him (Mr. McIlwraith) and the whole of the House. Here were the Treasurer's words:—

"But he (the honourable member for Bowen) had omitted to state that the entire revenue derived from those wharves was in the hands of the corporation. Such being the case, they ought to be prepared to maintain the streets in order."

What could that mean but that the revenue derived from those wharves was sufficient to maintain the streets in order? He would say again, that the Colonial Treasurer did mislead the committee, and that it was entirely owing to those mis-statements that the motion was withdrawn. The Government ought to be ashamed of the way in which they had treated this motion, especially after the statement of the Minister for Works, on the last occasion, that he would allow the motion to go into committee, and then move an amendment on the amount. He heard the Treasurer say so distinctly, and any action of that kind would have been perfectly legitimate; but for the Minister for Works to dribble out, when nobody was prepared, the word "division," was an act which he saw the Attorney-General was ashamed of. By this action, the Government had not only broken faith with the Opposition but with the House.

Mr. GROOM said that two evenings ago the Premier said that he (Mr. Groom) would avail himself of every opportunity to make a speech to damage the Government. He could safely say now that if a division was calculated to damage the Government, or to bring about the shipwreck of the Liberal party, and put the honourable member for Maranoa into power, it was such a division as that which had just been snatched by the Government. He spoke disinterestedly in this matter; but he said again that the Premier and those who aided him in such divisions, were doing their best to sacrifice perhaps the best interests of the country, and to put gentlemen into power whom possibly they would not like to see there. Let them judge from surrounding facts. After the motion had been passed by the House, and honourable members who had supported it had gone away in the full belief that no opposition would be offered, a division was snatched without a single word being said. It was one of the most dishonourable actions he had ever seen. It had always been the practice to provide for main roads through municipalities at the expense of the country. It had been done in Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Dalby, Warwick, Roma, and other towns in the southern district. Why should Mackay be made an exception? Was it because its representative sat on the opposite benches that it was to be

denied justice? How could the Government reconcile their opposition to it with the two amounts placed on the Supplementary Loan Estimates, viz., £20,000 for the Brisbane Grammar School, and £10,000 to take a water-supply outside the Brisbane municipality? It was disgraceful to the Ministry and to the party who sat on the Government benches that the motion should be opposed because the honourable mover of it sat on the opposite benches. He voted for it on the broad principle recognised heretofore, that main roads through municipalities should be constructed at the expense of the country. That principle had been recognised by Mr. Herbert and every other Premier who had succeeded him. He repeated that justice had not been done to Mackay. He had not been in that town, but he took the statement of its mayor and its representative, that the claim was a substantial one, and should have been admitted. They were sacrificing thousands in directions probably where the money was not necessary. Here was a *bond fide* claim which had been thrown out by the Government stealing a division; but there would come a time very shortly when they would perhaps reap the reward of their tactics.

Mr. KINGSFORD said the honourable member for Toowoomba had made one remark which he would not allow to pass unnoticed. He had said that the motion was opposed because the money was to be spent beyond the boundary of Brisbane. Greater political clap-trap could not be uttered. The honourable member for Toowoomba was, however, perpetually using the cry—"it is a Queen-street Ministry," or, "it is beyond the boundary of Brisbane"; and was assigning every unworthy motive to honourable members who did not vote the same way that he did. It would much better become the dignity of the House, and of the honourable member, if he had any, to refrain from these imputations. He (Mr. Kingsford) had not voted against the motion because it applied outside of Brisbane; he should be sorry to be actuated by such motives. He had voted according to the best of his judgment, and considered the honourable member's insinuation as nothing short of a personal insult.

Mr. IVORY said, with regard to the way in which the division had been snatched, he never anticipated, after the words which had fallen from the Treasury bench when the matter came previously before the House, that they would have been prevented from going into committee as they had been through the action of the Minister for Works. It was that honourable gentleman who called for a division, rather in opposition to the Colonial Treasurer, he (Mr. Ivory) was happy to see. When they found the Minister for Works stating on a

previous occasion what was equivalent to saying that he would allow the matter to go into committee and there oppose it—it was anything but a straightforward act on his part to have called for a division. The honourable gentleman closed the debate on the matter on the 30th August thus:—

“The Minister for Works said he would not call for a division at the present time, but in committee he should oppose the motion.”

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have done so.

MR. IVORY said he would leave it to the House to say whether they did not gather from that statement that there would be no division upon the motion to go into committee.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS said the honourable member had read out exactly what he had said on a previous occasion in reference to the matter. By some cause there was only one member sitting on the Government benches—the honourable member for Logan. What was the use of him opposing the motion under those circumstances? He took advantage of the occasion to state that the Government would not press for a division then, but should oppose the motion subsequently, and he had done so.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No; not in committee.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS said it was not necessary to debate the motion this afternoon, as it had been fully debated before, and withdrawn by the honourable member for Bowen at the suggestion of the honourable member for Maranoa.

MR. McILWRAITH rose to a point of order. The honourable gentleman accused him of using words which he had never uttered.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS said it was usual for the honourable gentleman to say one thing one day and contradict it the next. He (Mr. Miles) warned the honourable member for Bowen that when the motion came into committee he would oppose it, and he had done so effectually. They had heard a great deal about the “broad principle” on which these matters should be dealt with, from the honourable member for Toowoomba, who ought to be thankful to the Government for giving him another opportunity of making another electioneering speech. Where was the honourable member when the motion came forward last Friday? He was on his way home; and yet, he had the audacity to contradict statements made as to what had transpired then. He (Mr. Miles) did not regret what he had done that afternoon. If his attempt to protect the public interest was going to damage him or the Government, let it do so. If he could not hold his position, except by making raids

upon the Treasury, he would rather stop out of the House. According to the dictum of the honourable member for Toowoomba, the man who could scramble best for a share of the public money, and made the most raids upon the Treasury, was the best qualified to be a representative of the people in that Chamber. It was not every honourable member who could knock at the doors of Government offices in the way that the honourable member was continually doing—there was not a public office in Brisbane at which the honourable member had not knocked, or introduced a deputation. That was not his idea of the way an honourable member should represent the interests of his constituents. If he (Mr. Miles) could not defend the rights and interests of his constituents in that Chamber, he would not knock about Government offices.

MR. O’SULLIVAN said the honourable gentleman who had just sat down could not be severe without being unparliamentary. He boasted that he was not sorry for what he had done, but he ought to be ashamed of himself. As a northern member, he (Mr. O’Sullivan) felt insulted at the trick which had been played that evening. There were two matters for which he found fault with the honourable the Colonial Treasurer. The honourable gentleman stated as plainly as possible that the Mackay corporation was receiving a large revenue from the wharves, and that he would propose an amendment when the motion went into committee. The honourable Minister for Works also said that he would oppose in committee, but neither had allowed the motion to go into committee. He was surprised at honourable members representing southern parts of the colony, and who had received money for the main roads through their towns—voting against the motion of the honourable member for Bowen. Mr. Macalister, when Premier, put £2,000 on the Estimates for the main road through Ipswich, and the main roads of other towns had always been provided for out of the general revenue, because the general public availed themselves of such roads. Was it fair, therefore, that a small Northern municipality like Mackay should not have money granted for its main highway? The honourable member for Bowen had altered the motion to the form in which it was last moved at his suggestion, and if he had carried it, Mackay would have only received what it was entitled to. The refusal of the motion was, however, only another instance that similar votes to those granted for the South would be refused for the North. He had intended to have spoken on the motion when it got into committee, and fully expected that the Colonial Treasurer’s implied pledge of letting it go into committee would have been kept; but the trap employed by the



Government had taken him in. He did not expect a division.

Mr. HOCKINGS wished to correct an error made by the honourable member for Toowoomba, when he stated that Brisbane had received money from the general revenue to make the main highway running into the interior. Such statement was totally at variance with the facts of the case. It was very probable that the honourable member's sense of justice had led him astray—that knowing how highly favoured Toowoomba and other towns had been in this respect, and that such grants had been seldom denied to them, that his sense of justice had led him to suppose that Brisbane had been similarly dealt with. Such was not the case, however, and it was not for the want of requests. Continual requests had been made that the same privilege which was granted to other towns should be extended to Brisbane, and all had been refused. He was connected for many years with the Brisbane municipality in its early days, and was also its mayor for two years; therefore he was able to speak from actual knowledge. Owing to the enormous traffic from the southern districts causing a large amount of wear and tear upon the main outlets, and involving a heavy charge upon the revenue of the municipality, efforts were made to obtain the same assistance as was granted to the inland towns for their main roads; but those efforts were resisted and refused, and no aid of the character mentioned had been granted to Brisbane. It would be remembered that during the present session it was so well understood that no aid in any sense should be given to Brisbane for its streets, that when a sum of money appeared on the Estimates for making roads outside the municipal boundary, that honourable members had not failed to inquire whether the particular grant was not for a road within the municipality. He might further say that if it had been, as stated by the honourable member for Toowoomba, a well understood practice to grant aid out of the general revenue for main roads in municipalities, he should have voted for the motion of the honourable member for Bowen; but it had not been a clear and well-defined principle to do so. It was only as a special favour to particular municipalities—to municipalities represented by able men like the honourable member for Toowoomba, that such votes were given. It was because the claim made on the part of Mackay was contrary to the general principle laid down that municipalities ought not to get such votes that he felt it his duty to vote against it. Mackay was a prosperous little community, and he should like to see it progress; but he was given to understand that it could not lay claim to special consideration, and that its

claim had not hitherto been overlooked, as money had been frequently granted for urgent requirements; there was consequently no good case for this additional sum. His object, however, in rising, was to correct the statement of the honourable member for Toowoomba, and to say that no such principle as he had mentioned, had been applied to Brisbane.

Mr. GROOM: What was the bridge passed for?

Mr. HOCKINGS said that did not come under the category. From the establishment of Brisbane, to the present time, every application for money for its main roads had been refused.

Question put and negatived.

#### ROADS IN THE BURKE DISTRICT.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN, in rising to move the following motion—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates of 1878, the sum of £2,000 for the purpose of repairing roads and culverts in the Burke district, as follow viz:—Hughenden towards Townsville, Hughenden towards Diamantina and Cloncurry, Cloncurry to Normanton, thence to Georgetown, and from Georgetown to Thornborough,—

said he was sorry to say this was another attempt to get a Northern vote. There was a great drawback against it, for his district had already got £250, and he was unfortunate enough to think that it would take £500 to send a party there and spend the money. He would wish to alter the resolution by substituting the words "at a later hour this evening," for the words "at its next sitting," so that it could be taken into committee during the present sitting. The resolution represented about one thousand miles of road, and, as he had said before, only £250 had been granted on this year's Estimates-in-Chief. He was satisfied the honourable the Minister for Works did not put this small sum down to insult him or his district; it must have been put down in mistake, for the idea of granting only £250 for the largest district in the colony was absurd. He had fully expected to see something extra on the Supplementary Estimates, but had been disappointed. There had been a district inspector stationed at Georgetown, but he had been dismissed. How a road party was to be found to expend the £250 was a problem which he would leave the Minister for Works to solve. He would not detain the House longer, but hoped the Colonial Treasurer would allow it to go into committee at a later hour that evening.

The SPEAKER said he did not think the amendment could be made, unless the

Standing Orders were suspended. The 272nd Standing Order said:—

"If any motion be made in the House for any public aid or charge upon the people, the consideration and debate thereof may not be presently entered upon, but shall be adjourned till such further day as the House shall think fit to appoint, and then it shall be referred to a Committee of the Whole House before any resolution or vote of the House do pass thereon."

He did not, therefore, think that, unless the Standing Orders were suspended, an order could be made to consider the motion in committee at a later hour of the evening; and he would put the question as it stood on the paper.

Mr. WALSH was understood to say that it would be well if the clerk were to read out the motion respecting the suspension of the Standing Orders passed on the previous day on the motion of the Colonial Treasurer.

The SPEAKER said the honourable member would observe that the motion in question only referred "to the suspension of so much of the Standing Orders as would admit of the reporting of resolutions from the Committee of Supply and of Ways and Means on the same day on which they shall have passed in these committees." It was not a general suspension of the Standing Orders.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said he hoped he would not be misunderstood this time in his intention to oppose the motion. He would point out to the honourable member for Burke that there was £1,000 down for his district on the Supplementary Estimates—£500 for the road from Charters Towers to Conn's Waterholes, Diamantina River, and £500 from Charters Towers to Wongalee, Flinders River.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: What has that to do with the Burke?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said the honourable member would surely not deny that Conn's Waterholes and Wongalee were in the Burke district. He did not intend to take up the time of the House in discussing the motion. The Government had made provision for an additional £1,000. He could inform the honourable member that in putting £250 down on the Estimates-in-Chief, the recommendation of the Engineer of Roads had been strictly adhered to. Since then, an additional £500 had been placed on the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. WALSH said the Government had already been told that the engineer whom the Minister for Works relied so much upon, had hardly been within a thousand miles of that district; he might venture to say he had not been there at all in the whole of his career.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: His subordinate has,

Mr. WALSH said the honourable gentleman had endeavoured to palm off his estimates by saying they had been framed on the recommendation of the engineer, and when he was contradicted, he said it was subordinates—probably native troopers or something of that kind who went to the places. The honourable member who so worthily represented the Burke district, complained that only £250 had been put down on the Estimates for the whole expenditure on roads and bridges in that district, and he was met with the paltry reply that £1,000 had been put down on the Supplementary Estimates. Had the Minister for Works said £50,000 it would not have been too much for the purpose. Why should not that district have its railways, tramways, roads, telegraph lines, and bridges made? No; honourable members were told by this Queen-street Government that £250 was enough for the richest, most thriving, and promising district of all Northern Queensland. The honourable member was told that he should not bring forward the motion because £1,000 was put on the Estimates. It was perfectly disgraceful that such an excuse should be made for such a flagrant omission from the Estimates. He trusted the honourable member, unless he got justice, would throw every obstacle in the way of the Government proceeding with their business to the consummation of the session. The district, on account of its distance alone, ought to commend itself to the sympathy and attention of members of the House; but the feeling of the Minister for Works, at all events, seemed to be, out of sight out of mind—the greater the distance the greater the neglect. He did not think that any other member of the Government, except the Minister for Works, would deal so unfeelingly and so unjustly with this outlying portion of the colony. He himself (Mr. Walsh) should be ashamed of the Estimates, and would dismiss from the department any officer who had furnished information upon which such an item was submitted. He trusted that the honourable member who had to fight the battle of his district single-handed, and who was, so to speak, double-banked, would not submit to anything less than a fair measure of justice. The Government having discovered that they were not fairly advised by an officer of the department, should have acknowledged their error and endeavoured to prevent any injustice from being perpetrated. The hard-hearted representative of the Government, the Minister for Works, persisted in doing this injustice; but he (Mr. Walsh) trusted that the honourable member for the district would persevere and exercise something like coercion in order to get a fair measure of justice.

Mr. MACROSSAN said the Minister for Works had read from the Supplementary Estimates certain sums put down for this district, but he must recollect that the honourable member was asking for money for other portions of that district. For instance, there was the road from Georgetown to Thornborough at the extreme northern end; and there was the road from Georgetown to Normanton, a distance of over 200 miles. The road from Georgetown to Thornborough was 160 miles in length. The Minister for Works should have been better aware of where that portion of country which he called Burke was situated. If he referred to his official map, he would find that it was not in the Burke district at all, but that the road to which he had referred was in the Kennedy district, and went into what was now called the Gregory, but formerly the Mitchell district. That sum of money on the Supplementary Estimates was asked for by him (Mr. Macrossan), and though he would be happy to ask for money for the Burke district, he had been under the impression at the time that he was serving the people of the Gregory and Kennedy districts. The Minister for Works had tried to prejudice the House against this motion, in the same way that the Colonial Treasurer had been charged with doing on a former occasion. It was very unfair on the part of Ministers who sat beside the honourable gentleman, and who knew better, not to correct his statements. They were equally guilty and equally responsible with him, because they ought to correct him. Whether the Ministry agreed to the motion or not, the people of every portion of the colony must be aware that £250 was not sufficient for the purpose. It required £500 to spend £250, as by the usual method of road-making in the North, for every penny spent on the road, about a shilling was spent on overseeing and expending. At the present time there was not even a road inspector in the district, and he was not certain that there was a road party. A sum of money had been spent by the people of Georgetown and neighbourhood, under their own superintendence, and unless the £250 were spent in that way, it would not be spent at all. If, on the other hand, the money were given to them to be spent, none of it would be devoted to any other portion of the district. There were hundreds of miles of roads which had no connection with Georgetown, and many teamsters never saw the town. The very least the Minister for Works could do would be to let the motion go into committee; he could then amend it by reducing the amount or fixing the places where the amount would be spent.

Mr. HALY said it was not because the Burke district was in the far north that no

justice should be done to it at all. He had before called attention to the very paltry amount put down on the Estimates, and he was astonished that the honourable member who represented the district had only asked for the sum of £2,000. No doubt he had done so thinking that the motion allotting so small a sum to such an immense district would pass without comment or discussion. But it was no matter how little was asked; so long as the district was a great distance from Brisbane, no money could be got for it without a fight—and a jolly good fight sometimes. The Government had already taken a mean advantage of the absence of Northern members from the House, and they evidently meant to take another. He would advise them, however, not to do so, because the day would surely come, before ten years was over, when those immense districts, which only required population now, would retaliate upon Brisbane for the way in which their interests had been treated. He had asked the other day for £100 for a punt over Cooper's Creek; but the Minister for Works shook his head, as he always did to any application for expenditure out of Brisbane.

Mr. FOOTE said at first blush he had been inclined to vote against this resolution; but from the information—especially that of the honourable member for Kennedy—which had been given, he was inclined to think a very fair case had been made out for going into committee. He had looked upon the district previously as a very sparsely-populated one, with a population of hardly more than a thousand in the whole district. But when he heard of numbers of teams on the road, he came to the conclusion that there must be a great amount of traffic going on, and he thought the honourable member would have done well to give some account of the trade going on in order that honourable members might form some adequate idea. The honourable member for Leichhardt said the district only wanted population. That was all Queensland wanted to make it a great and very wealthy colony; but he (Mr. Foote) feared that the Burke district had not got a very large amount of population. At the same time £250 was by no means a sufficient sum. He should have been misled about the £1,000 had it not been for the explanation of the honourable member for Kennedy; but since that had been explained, he was inclined to vote for the motion. It was evident that there were no boards of works in the district to spend money; but he could not agree with the honourable member for Kennedy with regard to the conduct of the Works Department. He considered they got as good value for money as other

parties; the men on road parties worked hard, and the overseers took care to see that they did good work for the pay they received. He should vote for the amount going into committee.

Mr. BEOR said, while he appreciated the remarks of the honourable member for Leichhardt, he did not at all agree with him in thinking that Brisbane would ever have to pay for the faults of the Ministry. His own belief was, that by paying proper attention to the country districts Brisbane would itself be more benefited than by the narrow and short-sighted policy adopted by the Ministry at the present time in spending a far larger proportion of revenue on the immediate neighbourhood of Brisbane than they ought to do. The House in time would become tolerably well accustomed to hear motions of private members opposed by the Ministry by misrepresentations and snatch votes. The course adopted by the Ministry in reference to the motions of private members was one which must defeat its own object, as honourable members would learn to place no reliance upon any statements made by the Colonial Treasurer or the Minister for Works with regard to any motion put upon the table, or any facts stated by them in connection with it. Such a course of conduct would shortly bring its own end. It had been said that the inspector of roads could know little about the roads for which money had been asked. He wondered how many of the Ministry had made it their business to become acquainted with the towns in remote parts of the colony. The Government were pretending to legislate for a country of great extent, of which they knew very little, and of which they took no trouble to become acquainted. He wondered whether any member of the Ministry before the last recess had ever been to Townsville. Had any member of the Ministry ever been to Georgetown?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Has any member of the House?

Mr. BEOR said, to be sure they had. However much the Ministry might try to bring themselves down to the level of private members, they could not make the fact of private members not having been there an excuse for not making themselves acquainted with the country. What efforts, with the exception of a few flying excursions, had been made by the Ministry of the day to become acquainted with the country? They had flattered themselves that they were doing so by visiting the North recently in steamers, stopping a couple of days in one place and a day in another. Except the opportunity afforded to the people of the North to see what an honourable Colonial Treasurer, an honourable Attorney-General, or some other honourable was like, what advantage were

such trips either to the places visited or to the persons themselves? After going through the Estimates, and observing how the constituency of Burke was almost entirely unrepresented on them, it must have occurred to every honourable member that something was wrong. The honourable member for Burke was now taking action on behalf of his constituency, and endeavouring to get some portion of the amount of public expenditure to which it was fairly entitled. He (Mr. Beor) felt none of the reluctance expressed by the honourable member to detain the House. He found the Ministry was not one to be dealt with by fair means, or to be met as an ordinary Ministry, or ordinary men would be met. He had hitherto shown the utmost consideration towards them, and had been as reluctant as possible, to occupy the time of the House, or delay carrying on business; but when he found that a motion he had brought forward was opposed by a scheme or trick, he saw it was impossible to meet the Ministry on fair terms. The result of his previous conduct was, that the Ministry had come to the conclusion that he was to be treated with the utmost neglect, and that it was not necessary to pay any attention or show any courtesy towards him. When an honourable member was so treated, he could not be blamed for taking up such weapons as were afforded him. He should look with a very scrutinising gaze over the items brought before the House, and whether the House was counted out or the session prolonged to an indefinite extent, he should not trouble himself about the matter.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN, in reply, said he purposely refrained from making a long speech in proposing this resolution, because he had no wish to throw any obstacle in the way of this lingering session being brought to a close. Another reason why he refrained from doing so was, because he thought that the very moderation of the sum he asked for would be speech enough to recommend it to the favourable consideration of honourable members. He was sure no one could say that £2,000 was too much to ask for such an extensive district as that of Burke. When he found that the Minister for Works had not put anything on any of the Estimates for this district, he arrived at the conclusion that there must be some mistake; and at first it was his intention to ask for a large sum to be placed on the Estimates, but on further consideration he thought the only possible way of doing some little benefit to his district was to ask for the most moderate sum possible. He was sorry to say that the district for which he was nominally member had been completely disfranchised during the greater part of the session, owing to his illness, which prevented him from attending the House; and his knowledge of the

honesty and honour of the chief of the Works department led him to believe that, as he was unable to attend, that honourable gentleman would have come forward himself, and put down a reasonable amount for this district. If the honourable gentleman had done so, he was sure the House would think quite as much of him as they did now. The honourable member for West Moreton had shown his liberality and manliness more than once by his objections to centralization; and in compliment to him, he might tell him that the district of Burke had now three or four good and prosperous towns, and others were rapidly springing up in different parts of it. Some time ago the Burke district was rather low in point of population, the Flinders became deserted by the settlers being attracted elsewhere; but a re-action had lately taken place, which had resulted in six or seven hundred miles of country being occupied and towns being established. With regard to returns being furnished to show the revenue from the ports which supplied this district, he could say that the imports for the Burke district generally came through Townsville, and consequently they were put down to the Kennedy district; and those from Port Douglas were counted for the Cook district. They got also some imports from Normanton. If he had thought there would have been any opposition whatever offered to this small sum, he could have produced figures which would easily prove the justice of it. In fact he applied last week for a return of the gold from this district. He was told that it would be almost impossible, from the way in which the district had been treated, for anybody to offer opposition to this sum. It was for that reason that he did not bring forward any figures; and also because he did not wish to prolong this miserable session. Returning now to the honourable the Premier, he must congratulate him on the knowledge he displayed of geography. The honourable gentleman said that the two sums the honourable member for Kennedy had asked for his district were for his (Mr. O'Sullivan's) district, and other equally ridiculous mistakes had been made by him. The honourable the Minister for Works had stated that the Estimates were made out in strict conformity with the estimates sent in by the Engineer-in-Chief; and with regard to that officer, he (Mr. O'Sullivan) could say that he was living in the very south-eastern portion of the North—at Bowen—and had for more than three years, and he (Mr. O'Sullivan) doubted that he had ever, in his life, put his foot in his district; and yet he had the coolness to set down for that district the miserable sum of £250. In fact, he knew nothing whatever about the

district, which laboured under the great disadvantage of not having a local member; but he (Mr. O'Sullivan) hoped that evil would be remedied. He was thoroughly acquainted with the geography of this district and, from constant correspondence with men on whose integrity he could rely, he knew its wants a great deal better than that engineer. His opinion was that that engineer was minding his own private business in Bowen, and getting paid for it by the State. What excuse had the Minister for Works to offer—or he would explain why one of his officers had never visited that part of the colony for the last three years? There was, however, one comfort—if the Southern members, or the main portion of them, did not vote for this sum, all he could tell them was, that he should be glad to give them the £250 put down for his district to help to paint the Brisbane Bridge. He saw that there was £1,000 down for that purpose, and for the whole of his district there was exactly one-fourth of the sum that was put down to paint that bridge. He had always made it a practice to vote for sums for districts that he knew required them; for instance, he had always voted for sums for the Darling Downs, and East and West Moreton, for he knew those districts personally, and was aware that they required all the expenditure that was voted for them, and twice or three times as much, if the revenue could afford it, and he was very glad to find that some of the gentlemen representing those districts reciprocated the feeling he had shown towards them. The honourable member for West Moreton also very sensibly pointed out that in the outside districts there should be road trusts, or, at any rate, some inspector who would give reliable information to the Government. That, of course, should be done in all districts; but what would the House think when he told them that when he first came into the House, the session was somewhat advanced, and on looking at the engineer's report, he found that £1,200 of the money that had been granted by loan for this district, had never been expended. He then went to the Works Office, called attention to the matter, and insisted that this loan should be immediately spent, and that a communication to that effect should be wired by the Government to the district. There was at that time a road trust in Georgetown, and, in compliance with his telegrams and letters stating that this money was at their disposal, they insisted upon getting it, in order that it might be expended for the purpose for which it was granted, and, would the House believe it, that, in order to avoid doing so, the Government actually smashed up the road trust, put an inspector in their place, at £250 a-year, and he now found that even that man had gone away? There was not

a soul in the district to look after it; and would the Minister for Works tell him that the traffic on the roads in this district was such that £250, or even five times the sum he had asked for, would be of any use in making culverts and bridges along the salt-water creeks, which in certain seasons were impassable? Would anyone say that £2,000 was too much for such an immense district as that of Burke. He hoped not; and he would put it to the common sense of the House whether this district was not fairly entitled to the sum he asked for.

Question put and passed.

#### ROADS IN THE STANLEY ELECTORATE.

On the following motion, standing in Mr. Pettigrew's name, being called—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates, the sum of £3,000 to be expended on the roads on the extended Stanley electorate,—

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said that through the medium of a telegram which had come to the House to-day, he had to state that Mr. Pettigrew was dangerously ill, and he had been requested to propose this motion.

The SPEAKER said the honourable member could not propose a motion standing in the name of another honourable member.

Mr. McILWRAITH said that course had been adopted before this session.

The SPEAKER said it had been allowed for an honourable member to make a motion in his own name without notice.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN asked the permission of the House to make the motion in his own name without notice.

Mr. WALSH said he cared more for the correct practice of the House than for these questions of expediency, and so long as he was there he would do his duty in preserving intact the rights and privileges of the Chamber. He maintained that the motion could not be put.

The SPEAKER: Do I understand that the honourable member for Warrego objects?

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: I beg to withdraw the motion.

Mr. FOOTE said that in moving the motion tabled by him to meet the views of his honourable friend the member for Stanley, it was only necessary for him to say that it referred to a district in which he was himself much interested, and therefore thought it proper to table the motion so as not to lose time. It was a very large district. It was large before; but under the new Electoral Bill it was much larger, and had to return two members. It had a large population, and this sum of money was much required. He did not pretend to say that the district

had been neglected, or anything of that sort, but that in consequence of the increased settlement which had taken place there, and the vast amount of fencing which had been done, there was a larger expenditure of money required for roads and bridges than had hitherto been the case. He would, therefore, without further remark, move—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates, the sum of £3,000 to be expended on the roads on the extended Stanley Electorate.

Mr. WALSH wished to make an explanation, because there seemed to be some misunderstanding. When he saw the notice of motion on the paper in the name of the honourable member for Stanley, he felt sure that that honourable member would not be here to move it, and did not wish to see it lapse; therefore, he suggested to the honourable member for West Moreton that he should give notice of motion, because no honourable member, either by the permission of the House or under any other circumstances, could move a resolution standing in the name of another honourable member. It was hard, having endeavoured to serve the honourable member for Stanley, to be taxed with endeavouring to thwart him or his constituents.

Mr. McILWRAITH said he had not the slightest doubt that the House had the right, if it chose to exercise it, of allowing any honourable member to move a motion of this kind without notice. It had been done this session. The member for Warrego should not object to this motion coming forward, since it was the motion of a member who was sick. Anyone, considering the circumstances of the case, would have refrained from taking the extraordinary course which had been taken by the honourable member for Warrego. He should have allowed any honourable member who wished, to move the motion. He (Mr. McIlwraith) must say, that the honourable member for Stanley had been treated with very scant courtesy by the honourable member for Warrego.

The SPEAKER said that with reference to the point of order raised by the honourable member for Warrego, the Standing Orders undoubtedly declared that no motion should be made except in pursuance of notice given on a previous day. The 286th Standing Order, however, provided that by consent of fourteen members a motion might be made without notice to suspend the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders might, therefore, be suspended, and then a motion could be made without notice. When the House was unanimous in desiring that a motion should be made, it was considered that the suspension of the Standing

Orders was a mere matter of form, and it had been the practice to permit motions to be made by consent of the House, without first putting the question for the suspension of the Standing Orders.

Mr. McILWRAITH said it was exactly a similar case with a motion of Mr. Morgan's; and the House allowed it to go at once.

Mr. HALY said that the honourable member for Warrrego showed that he was quite willing to advance the interests of the honourable member for Stanley, but did not wish to advocate an irregularity in the practice of the House.

Mr. BEOR said it was not necessary to have an intimate acquaintance with the electorate of Stanley to know that it had been badly treated in the Estimates; it must be in great need of the sum asked for, though the honourable member who introduced it said he did not accuse the Government of any neglect, and urged an increasing population as the reason why the money should be given. The fact was, the honourable member for West Moreton was not correct in ignoring the neglect of the Government, because, if the motion was necessary, they must have been guilty of neglect. It was the duty of Governments to make themselves acquainted with all the constituencies and their requirements. It was only necessary to know that the Stanley electorate was not one of the pet constituencies of the Government—to know that it wanted more money than had been placed upon the Estimates for repairing its roads. In a short time they would not be called upon for such a large expenditure in the electorate of Stanley, and that might be a reason for not being quite so reluctant now to grant this sum. It was to be hoped that in a few years they would see the Stanley electorate a perfect net-work of railways. He looked forward to that state of things; and it might reasonably be expected, with the prospect that had lately been placed before them, of a system by which the House might rationally go in for the construction of railways to a larger extent than they had been able to do previously. They were informed, and, no doubt, there was truth in the information, that railways, suitable for such a constituency as this, which was almost entirely an agricultural one, could be constructed at a very cheap rate indeed—at something like £2,500 per mile. He called attention to the state of the House.

Quorum formed.

Mr. BEOR, continuing, said he had stated some of the reasons which would induce him to vote for this motion, and he would now proceed to state the reasons which would lead him to vote against it. He was sorry that these reasons appeared to his mind much more weighty than any of the reasons which could be brought for-

ward in favour of the motion. His first reason was, that he was not very well acquainted with this electorate; and although he was persuaded it was one very much neglected, still, for numerous reasons, he could not support the motion. He thought the partiality displayed by the Government in regard to particular portions of the colony was sufficient to bring disgrace on any Ministry in any country whatever. They had seen during the present session votes, which could not be stigmatised by any milder term than most extravagant, passed for some electorates, while votes were passed for other portions of the colony which were niggardly and parsimonious in the extreme; and there had been no reasons whatever suggested which would recommend these large votes to the understanding of honourable members other than the partiality which was shown by the Government towards those particular constituencies. That partiality was illustrated in a remarkable degree. It was not as if the Government had taken particular electorates all over the colony—not, as if they had taken East Moreton here, Burke in the North, and Wide Bay in the Central districts; but a most curious circumstance, which he thought was full of warning to everybody in the colony—a circumstance which, if pursued for any length of time, would lead to the serious detriment, and injury of the colony—was, that the finances were not distributed in that way; the partiality had not occurred in that particular form, but had occurred in the extraordinary mode of confining the gifts of money, which were exorbitant, to one small portion of the colony, to the exclusion of the outside districts. There was no doubt as to the extreme partiality shown by the Government to that portion of the colony which lay within a small circle of the place where they were now assembled; and in reply to the charges made against them of gross partiality, they had not been able to give a single reason which would recommend itself to any person of sober understanding for the course they had pursued. Why should honourable members have to come down in large numbers to ask the House to do bare justice to their electorates to redeem the balance which had been weighted to such an extraordinary degree in favour of those electorates which lay in the immediate neighbourhood of that place? Why was this so? For the reason that the Ministry of the present day had not attempted to make themselves acquainted, as they ought to have done, with the requirements of the different parts of the colony. They had not performed the duty of a Ministry in that respect. They had not searched out the holes and corners of the colony where need really existed for grants of money, but they had confined their attention, and



limited the circuit of their gaze, within the very confined district of which he had spoken. He saw with dismay and fear for the future of the colony that the reason why the Government did not make investigation into the wants of the colony outside that limited district was, because they had no desire to do so. Their sole object and desire was to foster and encourage at the expense, if it were necessary, of the greater portion of the colony, the particular district to which he had referred. He considered that their policy was short-sighted and injurious in the extreme, even for that portion of the colony to which their attention was chiefly directed. He contended that the prosperity of the capital of the colony could be best encouraged by directing attention to the requirements of every portion of the colony to its utmost limits. The more attention they paid to the outside districts, the more would the capital prosper. The Government had, no doubt, entered upon the policy they were pursuing after deliberation; for, however incapable some of them had proved to be throughout this session, he did not believe there was one of them so utterly incapable as to venture to enter upon the administration of the finances of the colony without mature deliberation. But of what good was their mature deliberation? Whether they acted hastily or with deliberation the result was equally injurious to the colony. He was delighted to find that his remarks afforded amusement to one member of the Ministry. He was sorry he could not contribute more to the mirth and humour of the House, but the subject of which he was treating was too serious for mirth and humour. It was all very well for honourable members representing constituencies close to that House to look upon this matter as one for mirth and laughter, and treat it with indifference; but the outside districts did not look upon it with such lightness. They looked upon it with very different feelings; and he said that the course pursued by the Government was a crying grievance in the Northern districts. He had intended to put before the House views which he had kept back on previous occasions, because those views had been presented to the House by other honourable members with far greater force than he could present them; but he thought it was not wise to allow one's feelings to be put before the House vicariously. He had come to the conclusion recently that it was just as well for every honourable member to express his opinions, even though other honourable members gave expression to the same opinions; but as it had been represented to him, not by honourable members opposite, to whose representations he should pay no attention, but by honourable members on that side

of the House, that they were anxious to get on with the business of the country, he should abstain from laying before the House any further views, which he thought it would be for the good of the country as well as the good of the House, he should abstain from laying before it.

Question put and passed.

#### THE LATE DR. LANG.

Mr. GROOM in moving—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates, the sum of £1,000 to be paid to the widow of the late Rev. John Dunmore Lang, as a testimony of his public services in promoting the erection of Queensland into a separate colony,—said he desired at once to inform the House that he was carrying out a promise which he made to the deceased gentleman when he had a personal interview with him in April of this year. While in Sydney in that month, he received an invitation from Dr. Lang, and on calling upon him at his residence, he found him very weak and infirm, and felt perfectly sure, from what he saw then, that the inevitable end was near. They discussed what happened in this House when he (Mr. Groom) had the honour of bringing forward a similar motion two years ago, and he told him that he would make one more effort to obtain the vote. It was very possible that some honourable members would entirely disagree with him; but he (Mr. Groom) had always been of opinion that the credit of the colony was pledged to Dr. Lang to the extent of £1,000. In 1864 the present Premier brought forward a motion to this effect,—

“That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the petition of the Reverend Dr. Lang, of Sydney, presented by the honourable the Colonial Secretary on the 2nd instant, with a view to the adoption of an Address to His Excellency the Governor, praying, that in recognition of the services rendered to this colony by Dr. Lang, during a series of years, in promoting the separation of Queensland from New South Wales, His Excellency will cause to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for this year, a sum not exceeding £5,000 sterling as a grant to Dr. Lang.”

The Colonial Secretary of that date, Mr. R. G. W. Herbert, spoke very highly of Dr. Lang, and was in favour of giving him what he was pleased to call “a large-sized land order.” Sir R. R. Mackenzie, Mr. Lilley, and Mr. J. P. Bell, also gave a cordial support to the motion. That motion was passed without a division, and in committee it was agreed that the sum of £1,000 should be given. Circumstances occurred afterwards which it was not necessary now to



refer to, as the gentleman more particularly interested had gone over to the majority, and it was a wholesome rule that this House had always observed, that of the dead they should say nothing but what was good.

Mr. PALMER: Nothing but what is true.

Mr. GROOM said he was willing to accept in this case the remark of the honourable member for Port Curtis, and would say nothing but what was true, and he would say that, whatever might be the capabilities and attributes of both present and past members of this House—and he was not prepared to depreciate a single member who had disappeared from our political horizon—not one of them had done more to assist Queensland to attain to its present position in the Australian colonies, than the deceased gentleman, Dr. Lang. Some honourable members might take a different view; but he would ask such to go back many years, to go back to the time when the colony had neither liberty of the Press nor representative Government, and to look at the character of the men who gained for them the privileges they were now enjoying; and they would find figuring most prominently in that list of worthies, the late Rev. Dr. Lang, of Sydney. Dr. Lang had his faults, as who had not?—and no doubt in his lifetime he paid dearly for them. He (Mr. Groom), however, preferred to dwell upon the words of Sir John Robertson, uttered by the deceased gentleman's grave, that there had been no greater champion of popular rights and representative government in the Australian colonies. Another eminent New South Wales politician, on the same occasion, said that if Dr. Lang, instead of devoting his time and attention to the political organisation of the different colonies, had devoted it to private enterprise, he might have been the owner of property valued at £100,000. But Dr. Lang did not seek his own personal aggrandisement. He threw himself into the arena of political life, as he (Mr. Groom) believed, entirely for the public benefit—as was abundantly testified to by the thousands who surrounded his open grave in Sydney a very few weeks ago. He had reason to know that those whom Dr. Lang had left behind were not in such circumstances as his friends might wish. When he brought forward this motion in 1876—a motion which he had always thought, and thought still, a just one—events were referred to which had long gone by; but now that Dr. Lang was no more, he thought it would be a gracious act on the part of Queensland, when all the other colonies had more or less recognised his services, when party animosities were buried, that this motion should be passed on the present occasion. He believed sincerely

that when some future Macaulay came to write the history of the Australian colonies, the men whom he would laud in highest terms would be such as William Charles Wentworth, Dr. Bland, George Robert Nicholls, and, more, perhaps, than any other, John Dunmore Lang. Not one would descend to posterity surrounded with a brighter halo as the steady and unflinching advocate of popular rights and privileges. Under these circumstances he felt pleased to be able to discharge the promise he made to Dr. Lang in asking the House to reconsider the motion which was negatived two years ago.

The PREMIER said that, as he had always previously spoken and voted in favour of this resolution, he should do so on the present occasion, although he should not trouble the House with any lengthened remarks in connection with it. He had always looked upon Dr. Lang as a public benefactor, not only so far as this colony, but all the Australian colonies generally, were concerned. The recognition of those services had been long deferred, and they might be appropriately recognised in this form. He regretted that the motion should have been brought forward at this late period of the session, and when so many honourable members had left. The present generation were not perhaps so well acquainted with Dr. Lang's services in connection with Separation as their elders were; but those who remembered what he did, said, and wrote, and how much of his time he gave up to that cause, would agree with him that it was not even now too late to recognise those services in some degree by voting a sum of money to Dr. Lang's widow. He would not detain the House further, as he did not suppose there was any desire to discuss the matter fully. He hoped the motion would be carried, although, as he had before stated, it would have been better if it had been brought before a larger proportion of the representative opinion of the colony than it was likely to be on the present occasion.

Mr. PALMER said this question had been discussed nearly every session since he had been in Parliament, and it had always been vetoed; and it was, as even the Premier had admitted, a most improper time to bring it forward at the tail-end of a session when many honourable members had left the House without the slightest idea that any such business was to come up for discussion. He did not intend to war with the dead; but if this motion was pressed, he should feel it his duty to say what he had always said on this subject. They were not to be carried away by the fact that Dr. Lang had gone over to the majority. They had all to go over to the majority some day, and it did not make the slightest difference to him whether Dr. Lang was on this or the other side of eternity. This was the wrong time

to bring this motion forward, especially as it had been thrown out time after time, and it would not succeed. There were quite enough members in the House to stop it. He should not oppose the motion going into committee, but in committee he should oppose it tooth-and-nail. He would not consent that a question that had been negatived over and over again should be carried at the tail-end of a session, and by such a very small proportion of the House as was now assembled. He should oppose it in committee in every possible way, and if the Ministry wished to prolong the session till Christmas, they would support this motion.

Mr. MACROSSAN said he had the same objection to this motion being pressed as had just been stated by the honourable member for Port Curtis; and if it was pressed to a division he should certainly oppose it, as he had done on two former occasions. The question might very well be left over till next session, to be decided on by a full House. He, for one, had no appreciation of Dr. Lang's merits as a Separationist, and believed that Separation was brought about in Queensland several years too soon, and that if the colony had remained an integral portion of New South Wales, it would have been better for the people to-day. But he would leave that on one side for the present. The honourable member for Toowoomba had referred to Mr. Lilley as a supporter of Dr. Lang's claims. He would give the honourable member a little of Charles Lilley—enough to do him for this session, and the next also. Mr. Lilley was the chairman of a committee appointed by Parliament to inquire into those claims, and the first paragraph of the report said:—

"Your committee, having carefully considered the evidence given before them by the Rev. Dr. Lang, and the several witnesses, have resolved that his scheme of immigration, although he intended it to subserve in some measure certain views of a philanthropic character, was initiated as a commercial and strictly sectarian effort; and that no claim can be made on the Legislature of this colony to award compensation for the loss that may have been sustained by him in prosecuting his objects."

The less said about Dr. Lang the better, seeing that he had gone over to the majority.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that on previous occasions when this question was before the House, he had never expressed an opinion or given a vote, for various reasons not necessary now to be enumerated. If the present motion was pressed to a division this evening, he should vote against it, on the ground that a motion which had been negatived twice during a Parliament ought not to be brought forward again. Any claim that Dr. Lang might have had against Queensland should be left to the

next Parliament to decide; and, in order that the matter might not be prejudiced in any way by an adverse division now, he would move that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. FRASER said this might be an inconvenient period of the session for bringing the question forward. Although some honourable members might entertain opinions adverse to Dr. Lang, and be disposed to estimate his services at a very low rate, there were others who entertained quite different opinions, and who were not disposed to accept the report of the committee of which Mr. Lilley was chairman, as settling the question. No doubt Dr. Lang had, in passing through life, made himself many enemies; but that was the misfortune of nearly every man of strong character who was not to be diverted from carrying out the object he had set before him. He was much struck by the remark of a writer in the *Australian Sketcher*, who seemed to have known Dr. Lang intimately, that if his motives had been of a more mercenary character, if he had refrained from jeopardising and drawing upon his own property to carry out his purposes, he might at the time of his death have been worth £100,000. He would not trespass further on the time of the House. He thought the honourable member for Toowoomba was perfectly justified in bringing the question forward; still, this might not be the best time that could have been chosen for doing so, both in justice to the House and to the memory of Dr. Lang. He believed that a full House, representing the general opinion of the colony, would be willing to grant a much larger sum than that now asked for; and that although this generation might refuse to do justice to Dr. Lang, their successors would erect a monument to his memory.

Mr. KINGSFORD said he had a distinct recollection of Dr. Lang's first visit to England, and did not believe that that gentleman was actuated by mercenary and sectarian motives, as stated in the extract read by the honourable member for Kennedy. Dr. Lang's sole motive, he felt convinced, was pure benevolence; and to say that he was actuated by mercenary and sectarian motives was to cast a slur upon his character which he did not deserve.

Mr. McILWRAITH said that similar motions to this had previously been opposed on two grounds—first, that Dr. Lang's work was not entitled to any consideration in this colony, and, secondly, on the ground of Dr. Lang's conduct towards the Parliament when they voted him a sum which he considered insufficient. He (Mr. McIlwraith) thought it quite possible that Dr. Lang had done great service to Queensland; and as Dr. Lang was now dead, they could afford to overlook what they considered his errors of conduct towards the Parliament. This

was not the proper time to bring the motion forward, and it would be no compliment to get £1,000 for Dr. Lang's widow in a thin House, especially after it had been refused by a full House on two occasions. If the motion was pressed to a division, he should support the amendment of the Attorney-General.

Mr. MURPHY said that as he previously voted in favour of the motion, he should not vote against it now, for he believed that during his public career Dr. Lang had rendered great services to this colony, and he was actuated solely by views for the benefit of his fellow-men in the land of his adoption. Now that Dr. Lang was no more, he thought they ought no longer to delay showing some respect to his memory, and he should therefore support the motion of the honourable member for Toowoomba. The best testimony to the deceased gentleman's public career was furnished by the vast concourse, headed by such men as Sir John Robertson, Sir Henry Parkes, the Honourable W. B. Dalley, and others of equal standing, who followed his remains to the grave. Dr. Lang always advocated the cause of the people, and helped greatly to secure for them that freedom and liberty which they now enjoyed. His services to this colony ought to be recognised without further delay; and it seemed to him that Parliament was morally pledged—having passed the vote many years ago, and suffered it to lapse—to grant the amount now asked for. He should have great pleasure in supporting the motion of the honourable member for Toowoomba, intended as it was to recognise in a small degree the public services of the late Dr. Lang.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said he would strongly advise the honourable member for Toowoomba to withdraw the motion, or consent to the amendment of the Attorney-General. Seeing that so many members had left, the present was not the proper time to bring it forward. He did not intend to say one single word against Dr. Lang. He had said enough on previous occasions, but he was not prepared to retract anything that he had said. If the matter went to a division now he should vote against it, but if it was brought forward in a full House next session, and carried by a majority, he would not oppose it.

Mr. GROOM said it was not his wish to enforce Dr. Lang's claims upon the attention of the House or the country, nor yet to enforce the motion he had moved that evening, if honourable members thought the House was incompetent to deal with it. He was carrying out a promise which he had made, and he would take a division so that the public might know who were the friends of liberty, progress, and the rights of the people in this country. He was

sorry the honourable member for Kennedy had thought proper to refer to a report brought up in 1860. If the honourable member would look at the composition of the committee he would have a sufficient reason given why that report was brought up. He would read what the honourable Charles Lilley said in relation to it, on the motion of Mr. Douglas in 1864, that some compensation should be granted to Dr. Lang. According to Vol. 1 of *Hansard* he said:—

"When the committee was appointed, of which he (Mr. Lilley) was chairman, finding from the temper of the committee that no substantial recognition of Dr. Lang's services was likely to be accepted, he had contented himself with what he could get, and had brought up a report, the third paragraph of which stated, 'that with reference to the valuable exertions of Dr. Lang in bringing about Separation between Moreton Bay and New South Wales, and founding the new colony of Queensland, they are of opinion the thanks of the committee are due.'"

If the honourable member for Kennedy would look at the composition of the committee, and if he had been a resident of Moreton Bay, and had seen the contest which took place in 1856 or 1857 for the representation of the county of Stanley, when Mr. Arthur Hodgson polled 49 votes against Dr. Lang's 50, the honourable member would understand why the committee were only prepared to give Dr. Lang an empty vote of thanks. The honourable gentleman should wash his hands completely of the men who supported that report. He had been one of the most earnest in preventing the colony from being inundated by Chinese. The men who opposed Dr. Lang and supported that report, wanted to make what was now Queensland, fit only for Coolies, to be introduced from India, and to banish white men. There was no political object to serve in relation to this motion. Dr. Lang had gone from them, and as had been well observed by the honourable member for Cook, his remains had been followed to the grave by the ablest and most talented men of New South Wales. He defied any one to prove by reference to Dr. Lang's political writings that there was anything of a sectarian character in his composition, and no better tribute on that point could be paid than the fact that the Honourable William Bede Dalley followed his remains side by side with Sir Henry Parkes and Sir John Robertson. He would take a division upon the question so that it might be seen who were the friends of a man who was a friend of not only this colony, but all the Australian colonies. In whichever way Dr. Lang was regarded as a public man, and judging him by his public actions, he would figure pre-eminent among the men of his day, and the impartial historian would have to record that there was no

name which appeared brighter than Dr. Lang's. He would not move further than take a division on this occasion, but should he be returned to the new Parliament, this should be one of the first motions that he would introduce.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.

The House divided:—

AYES, 12.

Messrs. Macfarlane (Ipswich), O'Sullivan, Beor, J. Scott, Ivory, Macrossan, Haly, Palmer, McLlwraith, Miles, Dickson, and Griffith.

NOES, 11.

Messrs. Douglas, Garrick, Kingsford, Hockings, Foote, Grimes, Murphy, Groom, Beattie, Fraser, and McLean.

Question, therefore, resolved in the affirmative.

#### SUPPLY.

On the COLONIAL TREASURER moving that the House should go into Committee of Supply,

Mr. MACROSSAN said, that before the Speaker left the chair, he wished to make a statement in regard to a matter brought before the House the other evening. He mentioned then the discrepancy between two returns from the Colonial Treasurer's department—one for last year and one for this—in relation to the credit balance due to the North. He would read a few extracts to show the position he took up, and some cause why the discrepancy had arisen, and he would prove that there was something rather discreditable in some of the public departments. He stated, the other evening, that the Financial Separation Commission made certain recommendations upon which the Government founded their Bill by which the proportions to be paid by the different districts were fixed according to their populations. The eighth paragraph of the Commission's report said:—

"We recommend that the general expenditure of the colony be met, first, from the general revenue, and secondly from the local revenue of the districts in proportion to the gross population of each, calculated from the tables in the latest statistical returns available."

It would be evident that the larger the population was in any district the larger must be the contributions of that district to the general expenditure; so that if a district containing 20,000 of a population was returned as having 30,000, and the general expenditure per head amounted to 30s., that district would be rated at £45,000 instead of £30,000. An advantage would thus be given to the districts in which the population was rated too low, and a corresponding disadvantage would be pressed upon those which were rated too high. The report also made provision for the calculation of the

population—namely by the latest statistical returns available, which of course meant the latest Census returns, and the estimate usually made from year to year by adding the excess of arrivals over departures, and births over deaths to the last Census, thereby making up the estimated population for the current year. The Census was taken in 1876, and there was some difficulty in taking that for the Northern district, and in the Western district; in fact, as soon as they left the towns, difficulties arose in enumerating the Census as it ought to be done; but on the whole the Registrar-General expressed himself well satisfied with the returns of the Census. In relation to the Palmer district, he mentioned the report of its enumerator, Mr. Selheim, who said:—

"Owing to the breaking out of the Hodgkinson, no more unfavourable time for the taking of the Census could have been chosen as far as my district was concerned. The whole population, European as well as Chinese, were on the move, and it has been a matter of extreme difficulty and expense to secure anything like a correct return."

The enumerator said, however, in addition, that the returns showed a near approach to the population; and he (Mr. Macrossan) thought this might be believed, and that much credit was due to Mr. Selheim for his energy in collecting the returns. He had been quoting from a Parliamentary return. After twelve months' consideration, the Registrar-General put, in 1877, the report upon the table of the House, and in that full statement of the Census, after mentioning the difficulties which had existed in the way of taking the Census, he said that some complaints had been made that the papers had been left and not called for; but on inquiry had been found to be groundless with the exception of the case of the collector for the Rosewood Scrub. He then went on to pass his opinion on the way the duties had been performed, and in clause 32 said:—

"Judging from the experience of most of the enumerators, who had assisted on previous occasions, and from the evident ability and energy manifested in the performance of the work entrusted to their management, there is every reason to believe their duties were carefully and well performed."

In paragraph 34 he said:—

"The work of collecting the Census was, no doubt, on the whole efficiently done, and allowing the usual two and a-half per cent. for some omissions which must occur in numbering a comparatively small population, scattered over so wide an area as 669,520 square miles, the results may be relied on as substantially correct."

No stronger language could be used. They found now, when he moved for a return, as he did at the beginning of the year, of the revenue and expenditure for the last eight

years, apportioned on the basis of the Financial Districts Bill introduced by the Government, and providing that the general expenditure should be met first from the general revenue and next from the local revenue, according to the gross population—that the Registrar-General, instead of taking the Census as he should have done, and adding the excess of arrivals over departures and births over deaths, in some unaccountable way evolved out of his own consciousness 9,000 and 10,000 of a population, which he added to the Northern district, thereby placing an additional tax upon each of these imaginary individuals, and making a discrepancy between the two statements, actually taking about £14,000 from the credit balance of the Northern districts for 1877. He would ask whether such a proceeding could be justified? Here was a gentleman to whom they paid a high salary for certain duties which he presumed the officer in question was supposed to perform impartially; they paid a large amount for the collection of the Census, and on that data he was supposed to work; yet he was not satisfied with that, but took upon himself to alter the population of the North to the disadvantage of the North and the advantage of the South. This alteration could not be denied. If they went back to the Census of 1876 they found the Registrar-General making a certain estimate of the population at the end of 1875. There was a difference between that estimate and the Census of 1876, of between 9,000 and 10,000 on the whole colony. The Registrar-General now went back to his former estimate independent of the Census, and tried to make himself appear right in his estimate of 1875 by actually clapping on the difference to the Northern district. After such a statement, which he defied any member of the Government to contravene, how could it be expected that Northern members could be satisfied with returns laid before the House? He maintained that if the returns in question had not been falsified on purpose, they were incorrect through the inability of the officers, and in either case the Ministry could not defend the action. He did not know whether the Colonial Treasurer, in whose department the Registrar-General was, was responsible for this inaccuracy, and he did not wish to impute motives; but he would say that in 1875, when he moved for the return of expenditure, it was said in the Treasury to make it as favourable to the South as possible. Probably the same spirit prevailed in the preparation of the other return. But whether this was so or not, the fact remained that an addition to the population of the North of nearly 10,000 had been made through the imaginary estimate of the Registrar-General, and that the addition had caused the credit

balance of the Northern district, which ought to be £25,000, to be reduced to £14,000. He would say in conclusion, that if the session were not so nearly ended, and if his doing so would not delay the business yet to be finished, he should table a substantive motion which would bring the Registrar-General to his senses very quickly.

Mr. GRIMES said he was surprised at the different position the honourable member took up on this subject compared with that which he occupied when the question of representation was before the House. On that occasion he thought it desirable that there should be as many people as possible in the North. Then the tables were too small, but now that the proportion of revenue was to be calculated, they were too large for him. The honourable member should rectify his own conclusion before he tried to rectify the conclusions of others.

Mr. BEOR said the conclusions of the honourable member for Kennedy were right, and the boot was on the other leg. When, for the purpose of representation, the numbers supplied were too small, the honourable member wished them corrected; and when the Government returned too large a number, the honourable member wished them to be reduced to the proper number. Who, therefore, was anxious to misrepresent, and who tried on one occasion to represent the number as too small, and on another occasion as too large? Not the honourable member for Kennedy, but the Ministry and their agents.

Mr. GRIMES said he wished in explanation to say that the same tables were used in both cases.

The SPEAKER said the honourable member having already spoken, could only make an explanation with the permission of the House.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said it was somewhat inconvenient that a matter of so much importance should be brought before the House without notice, especially as the report of the Registrar-General had only been recently laid on the table, and had not been thoroughly considered by honourable members. He only rose to call attention to the fact that the report of which the honourable member complained as being unsatisfactory in result, was framed in the Treasury on the data of this report of the Registrar-General. It was based upon the Census population of 1876, as amended by the Registrar-General and the figures for the consecutive years from 1871 to 1877 were obtained from the Registrar-General. An inaccuracy was pointed out by the Registrar-General, and thereupon the amended figures were made the basis upon which the return was framed. He (the Colonial Treasurer) had promised the honourable member the other evening that he

should have the matter looked into at the Treasury: but sufficient time had not yet elapsed for the matter to be attended to satisfactorily. He would say, however, that the different bases of population would at once effect the result referred to, and reduce the credit balance of the Northern district as represented. All the Government desired was, to have a correct statement of the actual facts of the case, and if the Treasury statement had been worked out on a wrong basis, he could promise the honourable member to have it worked out on the basis of the original Census population. He could not promise that it would be printed in time for this session, but it would be ready for the next. The only way anything like accuracy could be obtained was by the progress of time, and by comparing the results of the quinquennial Censuses. By that means they would be able to arrive at something better than the conjecture of the Registrar-General to guide them in finding the exact population of different districts. It was incumbent upon him also to refer to the statement which had been made, that in 1875 instructions were given to the Treasury officers to make out a certain statement as favourable as possible. He regretted to hear such a statement, and should have hesitated to believe it if the honourable member had not been so positive. He could hardly understand how any gentleman occupying the position of Treasurer could give such instructions. The officers of the Treasury with whom he had come in contact had assured him that there must be some misconception, as no such instructions had ever come to their knowledge. It was a most disagreeable statement to make concerning any Government department, and he was convinced that no permanent heads of departments would allow themselves to be influenced by Ministerial instruction of that sort to issue a document which sooner or later would be found to be not in accord with facts.

Mr. McILWRAITH said the Colonial Treasurer had not answered the very lucid argument of the honourable member for Kennedy. The statement of the honourable member was calculated to throw grave doubts on returns from the Registrar-General's department. His statement was, that after the Census of 1876, both the preliminary return and the return after investigation, the Registrar-General stated he had come to the conclusion that the Census was very well taken throughout the colony, and he especially referred to the Palmer district, upon the returns of which some doubts had been thrown. Up to the present time, honourable members had remained under that impression, and business, both last session and this, had been carried out on the strength of those returns. During this session the electoral districts had been re-

formed on the basis of those returns. The contention of the honourable member for Kennedy was, that the Registrar-General then furnished what was, in his opinion, a correct account of the population of the North, for the purpose of forming a basis for the Electoral Districts Bill. He stated then that he believed the return to be correct, and he now said he believed there was an error to the amount of nine or ten thousand. That return suited the South quite well while the Electoral Bill was passing through, but when it came to a question of the amount of revenue which ought to be contributed by each district in the colony to the Consolidated Revenue they found out that the population of the North had been under-estimated. The Registrar-General found that a great mistake must exist somewhere, and he came to the conclusion it must be in the Northern district. The case was as clear as possible, whether it had been caused with any special object or not. The returns had been so furnished that the Government had passed a Bill founded upon them which gave an unjust amount of representation to the South as compared with the North, and the returns were corrected when they were wanted for another purpose. The case was not met by the Colonial Treasurer, who simply said he would try and get the returns made as correct as possible. A grave error had evidently been made by the head of a department. After mature consideration, he said a certain return was correct; and after maturer consideration, but without giving any reason, he said they were incorrect, and that the inaccuracy must be in the North. Grave suspicion must necessarily be caused, because the purpose of the Government was suited in each case.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he hardly thought the honourable member for Maranoa was right in his assertions. The honourable member complained, that for the purposes of the Electoral Bill of 1878, the population of the North had been understated, and that, therefore, they did not get a fair amount of representation, and that now it was a question of the contributions to general revenue to be estimated on the basis of population, the assumed population was increased. The honourable member for Maranoa, he contended, simply mistook the facts, and the honourable member for Bulimba was right. If there was an error, there was an error both ways, because the same calculation upon which the representation had been fixed had been used to ascertain the proportion of expenditure. The nine or ten thousand had not been added, as was asserted by the honourable member, for the purpose of arranging the contributions to expenditure from the North, and de-

ducted when the question of representation had been settled. If it had been added wrongly, it had been added in both cases; and the representation had been arranged on the same basis as that upon which the expenditure was now sought to be placed. He (the Minister for Lands) agreed with the view taken by the honourable member for Bulimba. On the question of distribution, nobody had contended stronger than the honourable member for Kennedy, that the population of the North was under-estimated; and he (the Minister for Lands) as a member of the Government, complained of the action of the honourable member in bringing forward a question of this sort at the last moment, as a surprise, when there was no opportunity of fairly meeting it, in order that the speech which he had made might go uncontradicted against the Government. The honourable member had not treated the House or the Government rightly. He should have given notice of what he intended to do. The honourable member for Bulimba was correct when he said that the honourable member had frequently contended that the population of the North was not rightly estimated. He had continuously done so, had referred to electoral rolls, compared them with the statement of the Registrar-General, and endeavoured to show that the population was greater, and the North entitled to more representation. Now that the question of expenditure came, the honourable member said "You have over-estimated our population; you are now seeking to put us under heavier contributions." He (the Minister for Lands) would state that the honourable member for Maranoa was inaccurate when he asserted that this 9,000 of population were omitted for the purpose of representation while they had been put there for the purpose of estimating expenditure.

Mr. MACROSSAN said, with the permission of the House, he wished to explain that the honourable gentleman had misrepresented him when he said that he (Mr. Macrossan) had brought forward the question at the last moment, and taken the Government by surprise in order to make a speech which should go uncontradicted. It was only two days since the return was laid upon the table. He had, therefore, had no previous opportunity of speaking, and the session was now too near its close to admit of his making a substantive motion on the question.

The SPEAKER said the honourable gentleman had already spoken, and he could not speak again except with the permission of the House.

Mr. MACROSSAN said he had been charged with taking the House by surprise, and he hoped the House would allow him to explain. For the last two days the subject had been discussed by himself, the

Colonial Treasurer, and the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Treasurer knew the whole afternoon that he was going to make the statement. He did not intend to make a speech which could not be answered; the Government had had fair warning, and the Colonial Treasurer had been in conversation with the head of the department all the afternoon on the subject.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said, in explanation, that he did not understand that the honourable member was going to bring the matter before the House. The honourable member said he might do so; but had he (the Colonial Treasurer) known he intended to enter into the matter, he should have been better prepared.

Mr. IVORY said the Minister for Lands should be more moderate in the tone of his remarks, seeing that the paper had only been put in the boxes of honourable members this morning. He would ask the Minister for Lands, whose fault it was that the return was withheld so long, and why a member should not bring such a matter immediately under the attention of the Government? The Government had winced under the remarks of the honourable member for Kennedy, and the Minister for Lands accused him of bringing the matter forward at the end of the session. It was grossly unfair of the Minister for Lands to make the speech he had, imputing motives to the honourable member for Kennedy.

Question put and passed.

The SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply.

Question—That a further sum of £246 17s. 9d. be granted for salaries in connection with the railway department—put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS moved that a further sum of £6,740 be granted for expenses in connection with the Southern and Western Railway.

Question put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS moved that a further sum of £3,400 be granted for salaries and contingencies Northern Railway.

Question put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS moved that a further sum of £10,100 be granted for roads and bridges, Southern division.

Question put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS moved that a further sum of £500 be granted for roads in Northern division.

Question put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS moved that a further sum of £6,913 2s. 6d. be granted for buildings.

Mr. KING wished to draw the attention of the Minister for Works to the item of £230 for additions to the Commissioner of Railways' office. This addition was a



wooden building placed immediately behind the Works' office and close against the new Supreme Court building. The Supreme Court, when completed, would have cost £35,000, or, when furnished, £40,000; and it was not right that it should be in any way endangered. Wooden buildings should not be erected in that block at all; but the one he referred to would jut out at the back within a few feet of the Supreme Court House. Anyone who had visited the Works department would agree with him (Mr. King) that the wooden buildings which had been put up within the last two years were a great source of danger. They were crowded together in such a manner, with the messenger and his family living in the middle, that there was great danger of fire. There was, he believed, no building in town which was more exposed to fire; yet there was none, the destruction of which, with the papers and records contained in the Lands and Works offices, would be felt more severely. He believed the loss would be simply irreparable, and a spark from the messenger's fire might at any time result in a conflagration which would be a disaster to the whole of Queensland.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said that the remarks of the honourable member were no doubt correct; the place was like a rabbit-warren, but there was no getting money voted for new public offices. The repairs to the old Supreme Court buildings were absolutely necessary; the rain came through, and it was necessary to make the place at least water-tight, for the new building would probably not be ready for six months. The additions were quite of a temporary character, easily removed, and they did not interfere with the New Supreme Court. It had become absolutely necessary to have additional accommodation.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that a further sum of £2,800 be granted to defray expenses in connection with water-rates. The item was, he admitted, a novel one. The first sum of £350, for Rockhampton, was an amount accruing for water-service to the departments in that town for two years ending 30th June, 1878. There had been no adjustment of rates due to the corporation, or of interest payable by them for the loan on account of water-supply, up to that date, and the adjustment resulted in a net gain to the revenue of £1,200. This settled up the accounts, and there would probably be no cavil at the arrangement. The Rockhampton corporation had always paid its liabilities on loan. With respect to the sum put down for Brisbane, there would probably be a difference of opinion. Up to the time of this adjustment, there had been no attempt made at any settlement for interest due, or rates owing by

Government. It was advisable that some settlement should be made, even if all the older matters remained in abeyance. It was a moot point whether interest could be demanded on the two loans amounting to £65,000. The point was not yet decided. The rates to which the Board would be entitled up to the year 1875, when a fresh loan was asked for, were also left in abeyance pending the settlement of the whole question. A loan of £25,000 was then granted, followed by a further amount of £5,000, and the present rates were allowed as a set-off against the interest due on that amount of £30,000. The total of £2,450 was made up of rates charged for the years 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878, together with a special claim for water supplied to the Locomotive department in 1877-8. The balance of interest received up to the 30th June amounted to £3,000. It might be contended that the whole of the rates should go against the interest on the former loan; but in that case no settlement could have been obtained to cover the interest on the second loan. This was not a final settlement, but he considered it better to get interest on some loan than to allow the whole matter to remain in an indefinite condition. The Attorney-General had the whole matter under his consideration; but if they were to obtain interest on recent loans with regularity, it would be necessary to vote the amount due for water-services to the departments.

Mr. PALMER hoped that the committee would not stultify itself by voting the amount asked. Rockhampton was in a different condition to Brisbane. That corporation had always paid interest on its loans, and was entitled to its water rates. By dexterous manipulation of the Act when passing through Parliament, it had been left without any distinct specification that interest should be paid on the loan granted to the Brisbane Board; but there was no doubt whatever that it had been the intention of the Legislature that interest should be paid. When he (Mr. Palmer) was in office the Board was allowed to charge rates as a set-off against the interest on the original loan. They made the claim for rates, and though the Attorney-General of the day affirmed that they had no right to charge rates at all, yet the claim was allowed on the condition he had stated. This agreement would be found recorded in the books of the board, and in the Government office; he challenged denial of its existence. The rates so claimed would only go a short way towards paying the interest they were morally and justly entitled to pay. The Treasurer seemed to regard the board as a private corporation which had constructed the waterworks at its own expense; he had taken no notice of the old agreement, and he proceeded to rob the country by allowing



the charge to go against interest on the new loans. He hoped the committee would not allow him to do so. If any rates were due at all, they should go against the interest on the old loan. The Treasurer was as well acquainted with the agreement as he (Mr. Palmer) was. If honourable members would look up the printed papers on the subject, they would see that this Government had called upon the board to pay up arrears. Now they wanted to let those arrears slide. They had no right to do so, and he hoped the committee would not allow them. He did not believe the citizens of Brisbane wished to get out of their responsibility in this respect. How a Government which had lately claimed those arrears, which had, he was informed, even refused a fresh loan until those arrears were acknowledged, should come down with such a demand as the present one, he failed to understand. He moved the reduction of the item by £2,450.

Mr. KING said there was a more serious aspect of the question even than that brought forward by the honourable member for Port Curtis. He understood the Treasurer to say that the reason why he had agreed to this charge was, because the board would pay no interest on the last loan of £30,000 unless it was agreed to, and therefore accepted the settlement, as he could get no other. This was nothing short of direct repudiation; and, if allowed, it would be followed by similar repudiation on the part of every municipality and corporation which had borrowed money from the Government. The interest on the original loan, amounting to £3,200 per annum, was a sufficiently handsome contribution towards the supply of water to the city of Brisbane; and, when the board applied for a fresh loan, it was granted on the distinct stipulation that interest at the rate of 5 per cent. should be paid on it. The Treasurer now told them that he despaired of getting that interest, and he considered it better to cover it up by paying a nominal sum to balance the account. In the report issued by the Board of Waterworks, it was distinctly stated that interest at the rate of 5 per cent. was payable on the loan of £30,000, and that all interest had been paid up to 30th June, 1877. That statement in the report must be entirely false, if he understood rightly that the Government had made up an account to show a balance in order to cover repudiation. And this repudiation was wilful, not occasioned by want of means. In the abstract of accounts appended to the report an income was shown of £14,665. Of this £5,000 was loan, £1,605 Government rates, and the rest rates. The expenses for maintenance, and cost of working were £3,570, leaving a balance of nearly £4,500 to the good from revenue. If the board had paid £1,500

interest in cash, they would still have had £3,000 to the good; but they had expended these balances in works of construction and extension. The Waterworks Act, clause 24, ran thus:—

“All moneys derived from the rates charged for the supply of water shall be placed to the credit of a separate fund and after defraying the expenses of maintaining and preserving the said reservoirs and waterworks shall be paid to the Consolidated Revenue in liquidation of the advance of any sum or sums of money made to the said municipal council in pursuance of section four of this Act until payment of the same.”

In this there was not a word about construction or extension. The income of the board after paying for working expenses and maintenance, should go into the Consolidated Revenue to pay interest and reduction of principal. That clause had been deliberately violated, and though in receipt of an income sufficient to pay the greater portion of the interest on the £65,000, they had spent it in works of extension. The Treasurer knew the amount of debts due by municipalities and public bodies. If this repudiation was allowed by a body quite able to pay its debts, it was not to be expected that other bodies which were indebted to Government would continue to pay. This would result in a loss to the revenue and the country, for Parliament would refuse to sanction further sums to corporations for water-supply. He had always held that such loans were most useful. The water-rates in Brisbane were £6,000, levied on a population of 20,000 who used the water, or only 6s. 8d. per head. If this amount were compared with the sums paid by residents in other towns who bought water from carriers, it would be seen how great a boon it was to have a regular water-supply. It was impossible to do better with money than to lend it for water-supply to all places where there was a population sufficient to pay interest; but if this repudiation were allowed, it would stop all grants for the purpose; it would check the progress of the colony. He was surprised that this item had only been brought forward at such a late period of the session. The demand had been made some time ago, yet there was no mention of it in the Estimates-in-Chief last year, nor even in the Estimates of this year though a further amount appeared in the Supplementary Estimates lately brought down. If this sum had appeared in the Estimates-in-Chief, there would probably have been a longer debate on it; but even as it was, he did not think the committee would sanction this vote.

Mr. PALMER said that, in continuation of his previous remarks, and to show that the present Government were fully aware of the liability of the board, he would quote from the Votes and Proceedings of last

year, letters contained in a return furnished by the order of Mr. Stewart. The first letter ran thus:—

"The Treasury, Queensland,  
Brisbane, 31st May, 1877.

"SIR,—I am desired by the Colonial Treasurer to enclose herewith, for the information of the Board of Waterworks, a statement showing expenditure on account of the Brisbane Waterworks, with interest, to the 31st of December last, at five per cent. (5 per cent.) per annum. [*Vide* statement annexed.]

"It will be observed that the total sum now due and owing to the Treasurer for interest on account of these works to 31st December last is £37,559 6s. 6d.

On the loans of 1863 and 1866	£36,391	7	9
„ loan of 1875 ... ..	1,167	18	9
	£37,559	6	6

"The Colonial Treasurer directs me to remind the Board that no payment has yet been received at the Treasury on account of these works, and to request that the amount owing on account of interest may be forthwith paid.

"I have, &c.,  
"W. L. G. DREW,  
Under Secretary.

"To the Secretary,  
Board of Waterworks, Brisbane.

In face of this letter, the Treasurer denies that any adjustment of accounts had been made. The next letter was as follows:—

"The Treasury, Queensland,  
Brisbane, 22 June, 1877."

"SIR,—I am directed to call your attention to Treasury letter, No. 729, of the 31st ultimo, to which a reply has not been received, and to request that the amount mentioned therein (£37,559 6s. 6d.) as due to the Government on account of interest on loans to the Board of Waterworks may be paid into the Treasury before the close of the current financial year,—30th. instant.

"I have, &c.,  
"W. L. G. DREW,  
Under Secretary.

"To the Secretary Board of Waterworks,  
Brisbane."

The reply of the Board was to the following effect:—

"Office of Board of Waterworks,  
Brisbane, 23rd June, 1877.

"SIR,—I have the honour, by direction of the Board, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 31st ultimo, upon the subject of interest upon the several loans for the purpose of the Brisbane Waterworks.

"In reply, I am to draw your attention to sections 3, 24, and 25, of the Act 27 Vic., No. 19, a reference to which will make it clear that no interest is chargeable upon the loan of £50,000, in 1863, or that of £15,000 in 1866.

"That this has been well understood, both by Parliament and by successive administrations is to be gathered from repeated discussions which have taken place in the Legislative

Assembly, when this view of the liabilities of Brisbane in relation to the said loan has been successfully urged by members of the Board; while the annual statements of account, which made it evident that no interest was being paid, have never been challenged on that ground.

"The loan of £25,000 in 1876 is in a different position, having been advanced upon the distinct understanding that the Board should pay interest thereon at the rate of four per cent. per annum.

"The latter part of the clause of the Colonial Treasurer, referring to interest upon the last loan, the Board are, therefore, prepared to recognise by payment of its amount, and by the annual payment thereafter of the interest as it accrues.

"I have, &c.,  
"LEWIS A. BERNAYS,  
Secretary.

"The Under Secretary to the Treasury."

The answer to that was dated the 30th of July.

"SIR,—I am instructed by the Colonial Treasurer to acquaint you that the representations of the Board, contained in your letter of the 23rd ultimo, have received the full consideration of the Cabinet, and they cannot be entertained. I am to state that interest will be charged to the Board on the full amount advanced by Government from time to time by way of loan; and the Board is requested to render to the Treasury accounts for water supplied to the various Government departments.

"I have, &c.,  
"W. L. G. DREW,  
Under Secretary.

"To the Secretary  
Board of Waterworks, Brisbane."

After these letters having passed between the Treasury and the Board of Waterworks, the Treasurer came down and asked the committee to vote this amount to go as interest against the last loan of £30,000, which the letter of the secretary of the board not only admitted was due, but which, he said, would be paid immediately; and the board, in their report for the present year, said "interest at the rate of five per cent. is now payable upon the entire amount of £30,000; and all interest due has been paid up to 30th June, 1877." They deliberately stated that; and he wished to know why the arrangement, which he maintained was made between the Government and the Board, had never been carried out by the present Ministry or by the board? It would appear from the statement of the Treasurer as if the Government were dealing with a private body who owned the waterworks. It was the greatest farce for the Treasurer to condescend to correspond on the subject. The power that made the board could unmake it; its members had only to be gazetted out, and the Government should say, "these are our arrangements, and they shall be carried through." That was what the Government should do, instead of

treating the Board as an independent body, who had a right to demand this money from the Government. The Government actually refused to carry out their own arrangements.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said one would imagine, from the debate that had taken place, that this was a settlement of the whole question, and that the Board of Waterworks was to be absolved from all responsibility as to this £65,000; but he had never said anything that could lead to such a conclusion. He distinctly declined to recognise this as a settlement in any way, and the Board had never received any document from the Treasury absolving them from their responsibility in reference to this £65,000. But he maintained that it was desirable to try and introduce order into the accounts, and, if this had not been done, arrears of interest would have been accumulating without any attempt being made to strike a balance between the two accounts. Had the Board been able to pay the interest without giving them credit for rates, he could assure the committee that he would have been very glad to receive it; but not only were they unable to pay it, but they applied to the Government for a sum of £5,000 in addition to the £25,000, to relieve them of some embarrassments in which they had become involved under old Executive authority. It was with the view of getting the accounts in something like order that this sum was placed on the Estimates; and if the Attorney-General could assure him as to the mode of procedure to adopt to recover the interest due, he should not fail to endeavour to enforce it, because he maintained that all loans for water-supply should bear interest, and he should insist upon this view in all cases.

Mr. J. SCOTT said the course taken by the Government was a tacit admission that they could make no claim for this interest. If the action of the Board was resisted in regard to the interest on the £30,000, why was it not resisted with regard to the £65,000; and why should the Government propose to pay the water-rates now, if this interest could be claimed?

Mr. McLEAN said that if the Treasurer had told them that this £2,450 was to be placed as against the interest on the £65,000, the House would probably offer no objection to it. He contended it was clear from the Waterworks Act that interest should be paid on the loans, and however the Board might try to repudiate the interest on the £65,000, any person of common sense would come to the conclusion that interest was due on that amount. He for one would have no objection to vote this amount if it was to be set as against the interest accruing on the £65,000, and let the Government demand the interest on the £30,000 to be paid in cash.

Mr. McILWRAITH said the position of the Treasurer was this: He said his motive in putting this £2,400 on the Estimates was to bring something like order out of chaos, and made the disputed accounts intelligible. But the honourable gentleman said and maintained that the Board of Waterworks owed the Government £37,000, and the Government owed the Board £2,400, which he (Mr. McIlwraith) admitted was a fair charge for water-supply; and the Treasurer proceeded to bring order out of chaos by paying the board the amount of their claim, and then commencing to consider the claim of the Government against the board, which was a most extraordinary way of settling a disputed account. After the correspondence, the position of the Government was clear; the Cabinet came to the conclusion that the money was due; but by paying this £2,400, they admitted that the position they took up was not correct. The Treasurer said the matter was now under the consideration of the Attorney-General, and that was a reason why they should not now allow this vote. If the board owed the Government £37,000, it was not necessary to vote this sum; and if they did not owe it, this amount could be voted next year.

Question—That £350 only be granted for this service—put and passed.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the following items were passed without discussion:—£455 for goldfields, £443 Postmaster-General's department, and £404 from Loan Fund No. 3, for services, Agent-General's department.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that £1,520 be granted for Registrar-General, Police Department, Gaols, Medical Officers, and Government printing.

Mr. GRIMES suggested that, by way of saving time, the whole of the Supplementary Estimates should be referred to the new Parliament, as the money would not be required till next year.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER moved that £15,842 be granted for Volunteers. These were the estimates as amended after the passing of the Volunteer Bill. The first item was £235 for an inspecting officer. This was in consequence of an arrangement with the neighbouring colonies by which Queensland shared with them the cost of Colonel Scratchley's services. The other votes had been arranged in accordance with that officer's recommendations. The honourable member for Port Curtis expressed a hope the other night that the salary for the Colonel-Commandant would be done away with, with the view of placing a sufficient sum on the Estimates to obtain the services of a military officer from England. That, no doubt, was what Colonel Scratchley called a "radical reform," which probably

the colonies would some day arrive at, but he did not think they were prepared for it at the present time. A similar officer in South Australia was paid £1,000 a-year, and the second in command received £600, with a security of a three years' or five years' appointment. He did not think the colony was at present quite prepared for this outlay. The sum of £100 had been placed for the Commandant, on whom a considerable amount of extra work had been imposed by the Volunteer movement, and he had brought the force to a certain degree of efficiency. His services on that account were deserving of recognition, and the sum now asked for would bring his salary up to the amount voted for other Under Secretaries. There was also an item of £400 for a Major of Brigade and Staff Officer, Major Moore. That gentleman had been appointed temporarily on the recommendation of Colonel Scratchley, and the period of his appointment, six months, had not yet elapsed; but no report had been received from Colonel Scratchley to justify the Government in coming to the conclusion that this should be a permanent appointment. It had been considered necessary in addition to obtain the services of an adjutant and musketry instructor, for whom £300 was asked: and Colonel Scratchley had asked that this officer should be chosen under his direction, and after examination and personal tests. Passing on to contingencies, it would be seen that £2,185 was proposed to be given to enrolled Volunteers numbering 1,040, in accordance with the Volunteer Bill, being their allowance at the rate of 7s. per day, for six days' training, and 2s. 6d. each for the thirteen half-days during the year on which they would be called out for exercise. The capitation allowance, including uniforms, was placed at £3. It was contemplated not to reduce the actual strength of the force now embodied; and though payment for only 1,040 men was asked for, and 300 cadets, it was believed the amount would be sufficient for at least 1,300 men. Although there might be some discussion, and possibly amendments on this estimate, he hoped the honourable member for Port Curtis, who had done so much for the Volunteer Force in getting the Volunteer Bill passed, would be content to accept the estimate for the present year. No doubt the appointment of a military officer would give a consistency and strength to the Volunteer organisation which it could not otherwise possess; but he was not in a position to ask for such a considerable sum as that would require. Small amounts were set down for a Torpedo Corps and a Naval Brigade, those bodies being raised under the Volunteer Bill, and the discipline provided by it. They would be placed exactly on a par with the Volunteers, and

it was believed that men would be found willing to undertake the service for the sum here set down. If authorised, torpedo corps would be raised at Brisbane, Maryborough, and Rockhampton; and a naval brigade of twenty men each at Brisbane, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Cooktown.

On the suggestion of Mr. KING, it was agreed to take the items separately, and the PREMIER amended his motion by moving that £2,155 be granted for Volunteers.

Mr. KING thought it was time the committee should consider what it was about in playing at soldiers in this way. They were now asked for £15,000 for 1,040 Volunteers, and a few men in addition for a naval brigade, and a torpedo corps. He failed to see what good a naval brigade of twenty men would be. No corps of less than 100 men should be formed to act together, and that was the smallest company that would be efficient for actual service in case of attack at any one seaport. Indeed, the whole of the force for which this £15,000 was asked was so small that in case of attack it would be perfectly useless; while the expense would increase so rapidly that in the course of a few years the colony would have spent a quarter of a million on Volunteers and have nothing to show for it. The expenditure during ten years would be enough to make a railway, which would not only enable the people to concentrate in case of attack, but would develop the resources of the country as well. That would be far better than paying £20,000 or £30,000 a-year for playing at soldiers. The colony, unlike the countries of Europe, had no neighbour on its borders who might become a hostile power and cross the frontier at twenty-four hours' notice; but would have ample time to prepare for defence before an enemy could reach its shores. One of the great reasons why military barracks were favoured by military authorities was because they could only be properly disciplined and drilled by being kept in barracks. If they made provision to place under arms 5,000 or 6,000 men in case of necessity, six weeks or two months under canvas would make them better soldiers than any number of years of desultory training under the present system, and the colony would be only called upon to expend what was absolutely necessary, instead of having to stand continual drain on its resources by having to maintain a force during time of peace. The honourable the Premier had made one statement about the Colonel-Commandant which, perhaps, supplied the motive for providing for the Volunteers on the present scale. He said that the Colonel-Commandant was a very deserving officer in the Civil Service whose salary was not equal to that of other officers in the service of corresponding rank, and that, therefore, the £100

down in these estimates should be given him. He did not believe in that, and he believed that, in point of fact, if they passed the money now asked, the most of it would go directly into the hands of members of the Civil Service as so much pocket-money. The passing of the Volunteer Bill would be the means of subsidising to a considerable extent the men already employed in the public service, and the £10,000 or £12,000 down for contingencies would be principally distributed in Brisbane, Ipswich, and other towns, without the country getting anything substantial for it. The first item was the proportion of salary due by Queensland to Colonel Scratchley. He knew that the Colonel was a distinguished officer, and no doubt if they had a sufficient force to require a Colonel-Commandant, he would be an excellent officer for it; but he did not think that an inspection of the Volunteers two or three times a-year by him was worth £235. He did not believe that an inspection of that kind was worth anything. He believed that the services of officers whose inspection would be equally as good, could be had without the colony having to pay a special sum. Then, again, there were a number of staff officers, which he believed were not required so long as their force was a small one. They were beginning at the wrong end—they were getting officers before they had the men. They ought to get a force which would be acquainted, to a certain extent, with the use of fire-arms; they ought to have a large force to call upon in time of danger; and when they had that, then would be the time to look round and provide officers such as were mentioned in these estimates. His ideas on the Volunteer question were well known. They had always been that they should make provision for 5,000 or 6,000 stand of rifles, and a few field-pieces, and for the giving of £2,000 or so to be shot for in different parts of the colony as prizes. By these means they should get a number of riflemen who would constitute a formidable force. He was not present at the recent shooting at Victoria Park, but he heard that the result was most creditable; and if they encouraged the practice of rifle shooting, they might have amongst them a force which would be formidable, even if undrilled. He would also call the attention of the committee to this fact, that on the Estimates-in-Chief there was a sum of £4,500 for arms and ammunition, including Martini-Henry rifles. On this vote there was no such item; there was no provision for the purchase of arms; there was only an item of £1,000 for ammunition and stores. Their first attempt at all events should be to provide a stock of arms, so that in case of necessity they should have the means of arming men. He would move that the vote be reduced by £1,215, being the amount of the first five items. There were

several small increases in the latter part of the Estimates, but to these he did not object. He had no desire to oppose anything necessary in the administration of the department, but he contended that it was absolutely no use to have a large number of staff officers until they had at least the possibility of creating a tolerable force.

Mr. PALMER said the proposition of the honourable member for Ravenswood simply amounted to this—that the committee were being asked to stultify themselves. They had passed a Volunteer Bill, without any thanks to the honourable member for Ravenswood, who gave it all the opposition he could, but failed; and it was exceedingly unfair, after the Bill had been carried by large majorities, to do away with all its goodness by refusing to vote the necessary funds. He hoped the committee would not stultify themselves. The Bill was certainly amended in that House and the other Chamber; but there was no serious objection to it except from the honourable member for Ravenswood, who failed, however, to carry a single amendment—of any importance, at all events; he was outvoted in every way. There might be a difference of opinion as to the estimates before the committee. He differed from the Government considerably in respect to them. He considered that they had not been doing their duty. He expressed the hope the other evening that in framing the new Estimates they would take into consideration the necessity of having a military man as Colonel-Commandant of the whole force. They had here a Colonel-Commandant at £100 a-year. This was making a farce of the Bill. He certainly agreed with the honourable member for Ravenswood in one thing, that to give £100 to the present Colonel-Commandant of the Volunteers, because he was Under Secretary of the Post Office and not so well paid as other Under Secretaries, was the greatest piece of nonsense.

The PREMIER: I did not say so.

Mr. PALMER said the Colonial Secretary had distinctly given that as the reason. He never heard such arrant nonsense. He admitted that Colonel McDonnell had done a good deal for the Volunteers, but he did not believe that he was the man to be at the head of the force, or that any man with no military knowledge, but only a holiday knowledge, should be the Colonel-Commandant. If the Government persisted in carrying out this idea of theirs of having a Colonel-Commandant who had never been in the army, and had only a holiday and book knowledge of military matters, they would ruin the force. They had better have put two of the salaries down for staff officers together and provided for a good military man as Colonel Commandant. For £500 a-year they could get one. The salary of a Lieutenant-Colonel in

the army was certainly under £500, and many a young man who had known service would jump at an appointment at that remuneration. He was sorry to say that there was very little discipline just now in the Volunteer Force. There were too many commanding officers—too many men who wanted to get their own way. He saw an incident the other night, where the officers were disputing with each other, and contradicting the orders of the Colonel-Commandant. A pretty kind of discipline that was! As long as the orders of the Major of the Brigade were not attended to, or were disputed, what was the use of the force? Without discipline, the force was no good, and discipline they had not got. He (Mr. Palmer) knew that the Colonial Secretary had agreed with him a short time ago, that they must have a military man at the head of the force, and he did not know why the honourable gentleman had gone back, and endeavoured to make the force useless by not putting down a sum sufficient to get an experienced officer, who would reduce the Volunteers to discipline without which they were nothing but a rabble. Sir Garnet Wolseley said that men without discipline were an armed rabble and worse than no army at all. If they passed a Volunteer Bill putting the force under regulations they had not been under before, they were bound to put a man who had had experience at their head to see that orders were carried out without grumbling or murmur. He should like to strike out the £400 and make it £500, to be spent as salary to a military commandant; but he did not know whether he should be in order. He trusted, however, an amount would be placed on the Estimates to provide for an officer who would have sole control under the Governor. He should support the motion as it stood in preference to the amendment of the honourable member for Ravenswood, which would stultify the whole thing.

The PREMIER wished to state that the officers themselves, including Colonel McDonnell, were anxious that a military commandant should be placed at the head of affairs as soon as possible. He would also say that he had only mentioned the salary received by Colonel McDonnell in his other capacity incidentally. His statement was, that Colonel McDonnell had done, and if the vote were passed, would continue to do, work which more than represented £100 a-year. Having placed the Volunteers under the new Bill the Government were bound to give effect to it, and a good deal of responsibility, time, and trouble, would necessarily devolve upon Colonel McDonnell. If even £500 or £600 were placed on the Estimates they would not be able to get a suitable military man for at least seven or eight months, and they were called upon to give immediate effect

to the Bill. The present staff might in some respects be insufficient, but they must make the best of it. He agreed that an armed rabble was a body of men they were better without, but he hoped honourable members did not estimate the discipline in the force by some little incident that might have taken place at the Exhibition. There were no doubt some deficiencies in the force; but the men were desirous of improving themselves. Defects in organisation might be removed, and it was the duty of honourable members to point them out; but he did not think they were so radical as to admit of no other cure than the appointment of a military commandant. He differed from the honourable member for Ravenswood as to the importance to be attached to an occasional inspection by Colonel Scratchley. His presence occasionally was calculated to give confidence to the men and officers; he could be appealed to on military questions, and he might be considered as a sound adviser of the Government. He (the Premier) should, therefore, be sorry if his services should be dispensed with. If the force were inspected three or four times a year in that way, a remarkable improvement would soon take place.

Mr. KING said it was perfectly true that he had stood almost alone in opposing the Bill, but the honourable member for Port Curtis must recognise the fact that he was virtually the only one who supported it. Many honourable members on the Government side supported it because the Government were pledged to assist in carrying the Bill: and many honourable members on the Opposition side voted for it because they did not like to go against the honourable member for Port Curtis, who had been so long their leader. He believed it had been carried by the personal influence of the honourable member, and against the opinion of the great majority of the House. He (Mr. King) had opposed it strongly, because he considered that the Bill actually prohibited volunteering in Queensland. There were a large number of men who asked for nothing but to be supplied with arms and ammunition, but the answer of the Government was that they could not afford to find the arms. Now one lot of men were to be maintained at a cost of £10 per head to do work which others were willing to do for nothing, if the Government would only provide them with arms. He contended that the force was being made an extension of the Civil Service—an extension of Government patronage. In the towns of Brisbane and Ipswich, Volunteers would be maintained while the rest of the colony would be ignored and not permitted to have any Volunteers. In every instance in which country residents had offered to form Volunteer companies, their services



had been declined, and under the new Bill the numbers would be still further restricted.

The PREMIER said at the present time he believed there were 1,600 stand of arms in the colony.

Mr. KING asked whether they would be served out to men willing to serve on the same terms as those offered by the Toowong company?

Question—That the sum of £940 only be granted—put.

The committee divided.

AYES, 7.

Messrs. King, McIlwraith, Ivory, Beor, O'Sullivan, Macrossan, and McLean.

NOES, 14.

Messrs. Douglas, Dickson, Garrick, Griffith, Miles, Graham, Tyrel, Groom, Murphy, Haly, Hockings, Beattie, J. Scott, and Palmer.

Question, therefore, resolved in the negative.

Mr. KING said he had taken one division as a test of the feelings of the committee, and should not be justified in persisting in further opposition. He would, however, mention that in 1862, at the time when volunteering in England was at its very highest, there were 140,000 Volunteers in England, who were probably the best Volunteers, as Volunteers, that were ever seen; and they cost the country £130,000. Considering that these few Volunteers in Queensland were costing the country £15,000, he must say they were setting an example that the old country would be very sorry to follow. He thought he was entitled, before this vote passed, to have a distinct answer from the Colonial Secretary, who had stated that he had 1,600 rifles in store, by which the honourable gentleman probably meant spare rifles. Would the honourable gentleman be willing to serve out these rifles to men who were willing to take them and ask for no pay or capitation allowance? There were companies that could be formed in the country of men who would take up arms on such conditions if they could get them; and it was very hard that they should be prohibited from learning the use of the rifle simply because the whole of the money voted for defences was to be spent upon riflemen in Brisbane and a few other towns.

The PREMIER said, that, as to the question whether the Government would be willing to grant what the honourable member for Ravenswood requested, he could not give an answer at once. He should have to consult both his colleagues and others. At any rate, if arms were given out it must be on certain conditions, and he could not pledge himself as to what they would be. He did not think it would be desirable to give out arms to men who were not organised as part of the Volunteer Force. It had never been

done before, although it might be admissible under some systems. He was very anxious to promote rifle shooting. He did not see why arms should not be given out to men who could be trusted to use them, but it would have to be under some security that the Government property was placed in proper hands.

Mr. KING said that men might be organised as much if they were unpaid, as if they were paid, and the men of whom he had been speaking would be quite willing to take upon them the obligations of Volunteers.

The PREMIER said no doubt there were one thousand, or a couple of thousand, men in the colony who would volunteer, but he could not say how the Government would exercise discretion in choosing them. Those that were accepted would be favoured, and those that were not would be offended. When applications of this kind were made to him, he felt bound to refuse them all on principle. Eligible offers had been made, but he felt that if he accepted in one case, he should have to accept in another, and this he was not authorised to do.

Mr. PALMER did not see why rifles should not be served out in the manner proposed by the honourable member for Ravenswood; it would be the simplest thing in the world. The remark of the Premier about favouritism was begging the question, because Volunteers, to be of any use, must be within a certain distance of the coast or conveyance to it. A most useful body of men could be raised by accepting the services of Volunteers living within reach of the railway—men who could ride well and who were accustomed to the use of small arms. He assured the Premier that better use could not be made of the rifles than placing them in the hands of men like these, rather than allow them to rust in store.

Mr. McLEAN said the people in the country districts already thought that the towns were favoured at their expense, because if any of them offered their services as Volunteers they were not accepted. He knew that numbers of men would be willing to enrol themselves without pay, so long as they could be supplied with arms.

Mr. BEATTIE said he would move, as an amendment, the omission of £100 for the Colonel-Commandant. When the Volunteer Bill was before the House, there was a clause inserted with reference to all officers finding their own uniforms and accoutrements, and it would be invidious to single out one officer for the receipt of pay. As to the first item, he (Mr. Beattie) thought the inspecting officer was very well paid for two inspections in each year, and, as to the valuable advice he gave, if his advice was always to be like that given as to the construction of forts, the colony would be better without it. He, therefore, moved

the reduction of the vote by £100, believing that the item he referred to was wrong in principle, and not conducive to the efficiency of the Queensland Volunteers, and that it was necessary to have a military man at the head of the force.

Mr. PALMER said he could see no reason why they should pay an honorary officer, such as the Colonel-Commandant, £100 a-year. If he were paid, why should not other honorary officers be paid? It was false in principle, and would be found false in practice. He was willing to give Colonel McDonnell every credit for the manner in which he had worked in connection with the Volunteer movement; but he had had no experience, and what they wanted was a military officer. So far from thinking that an Under-Secretary was a fit man to command the Volunteers, he did not see how he was to do the work, in addition to his ordinary duties, especially if he would have to do all the work shadowed forth by the Colonial Secretary. He thought the item had better be withdrawn, because it would only cause annoyance and heart-burnings, which they should endeavour to avoid as much as possible.

The PREMIER said he felt bound to take a division on this item, and if the opinion of the committee were found to be against it, he would submit to it. There was a considerable amount of work to be done by the Colonel-Commandant, and he did not think they should expect it to be done without remuneration.

Question—That the item objected to be omitted—put, and the committee divided.

AYES, 9.

Messrs. Palmer, Ivory, Hockings, McLean, King, Macrossan, Beor, Grimes, and Beattie.

NOES, 11.

Messrs. Douglas, Dickson, Griffith, O'Sullivan, Groom, Garrick, Murphy, Haly, Miles, J. Scott, and Tyrel.

Question resolved in the negative.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the following item was agreed to without discussion—Contingencies (Volunteers), £12,120.

The PREMIER moved, £1,567 for Torpedo Corps and contingencies; and Naval Brigade, and contingencies.

Mr. PALMER said, with regard to the Naval Brigade, he agreed with the honourable member for Ravenswood, that twenty men at each of the places mentioned—Brisbane, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Cooktown,—would be of very little use indeed. It was only playing at a Naval Brigade. He would also point out, that Gladstone was a much better port than some of those named; and why not have a Naval Brigade there? He thought the Government had erred very much in this matter. He did not

think they would get the men. However, he should not oppose the vote. His objection was that it was not enough.

Mr. BEATTIE said he hoped the Treasurer, in taking steps to form a Naval Brigade, did not intend to carry out what he suggested this evening; that was to have twenty men stationed at each of the ports mentioned. The recommendation of Sir William Jervois was to have fifty men at Brisbane, and twenty in one or two other ports; and the present proposal was carrying the absurdity of the scheme to the extreme. They would want two officers over every twenty men, while that number would be sufficient to command the whole force; and they would require a drill instructor at each port. He believed there was no force in existence that would be more popular, or do better service to the country, if ever they were called upon, than a Naval Brigade, properly organised. His idea of a Naval Brigade was this:—To have 120 picked men stationed in Brisbane, and as an encouragement to them when they were properly drilled, they should be appointed to openings in the Harbour and Customs departments. He would then draft them off to various ports of the colony where they would form the nucleus of a drilled body for the service. He believed in that way they could obtain a force that would do credit to the colony if ever their services were required. He hoped the Premier would take this matter into consideration before he decided finally on the subject.

Mr. PALMER said that splitting 100 men into five brigades like this would render them of no use whatever.

The PREMIER said that as the honourable member for Fortitude Valley had pointed out, twenty men were sufficient to man one gun. He thought it desirable to encourage the enrolment of bodies of men of this kind in the Northern ports, and this was also the opinion of Colonel Scratchley and other gentlemen competent to give an opinion. He did not care much about this estimate for a naval brigade, and was not sanguine as to his capacity to administer such a department without a competent head.

Mr. PALMER said it was the opinion of all competent military authorities that a gun was of no use against an enemy unless there was a force to back it. He would add that the two guns in Bowen Park during the Exhibition rightly belonged to Gladstone, having been borrowed specially for that port by Colonel Blackall.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER moved that £1,300 be granted for Charitable Allowances.

Mr. JOHN SCOTT asked why, after the promise of the Colonial Secretary when the subject was last under discussion, a



sum was not put down for the Sick Children's Hospital.

The PREMIER said he was personally in favour of it, but it had been disallowed by the Cabinet.

Question put and passed.

The CHAIRMAN then left the chair, reported the Loan Estimates to the House, and obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

The Loan Estimates having been read by the CLERK, they were adopted, on the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER.

#### WAYS AND MEANS.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that towards making good Supply for 1878-9, there should be granted a sum not exceeding £1,184,800—to be raised by the sale of debentures secured upon the Consolidated Revenue of the colony, and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding four per cent. per annum—to defray the expenses of executing certain public works and other purposes.

Question put and passed.

The CHAIRMAN reported the resolution to the House, and it was adopted.

#### LOAN BILL.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, a Bill was founded on the foregoing resolutions, read a first and second time; passed through committee without amendment; read a third time, and ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Council with the usual message.

The House adjourned at twenty-seven minutes past 11 o'clock.