

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 1878

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 5 September, 1878.

Acting Chairman of Committees.—Telegraph Extension.—Suspension of the Standing Orders.—Maryborough Gas Company Bill.—Conduct of Business.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that, owing to the resolution of the Council that the Chairman of Committees should preside during the absence of the President, it was necessary to make some provision for the presidency of the House when in Committee of the Whole. The honourable Mr. Heussler had done duty when the Chairman had been acting otherwise; and the House could not do better than pass a resolution that he should be Acting-Chairman of Committees while the Chairman was Acting-President for the remainder of the session. There might be some business to transact to-day; and he, therefore, moved without notice—

That the Honourable J. C. Heussler do act as Chairman of Committees so long as the Honourable D. F. Roberts takes the Chair, in the absence of the President.

Question put and passed.

TELEGRAPH EXTENSION.

The Hon. A. H. BROWN said, no doubt the Postmaster-General would give the House some information about his department. He had knowledge of an appeal to the honourable gentleman, a short time since, relative to the extension of the telegraph to the Coen River Goldfield. That goldfield had turned out to be of very great value, and, of course, it was of importance that telegraphic communication should be established between the community there and the capital, and with the other centres of population on the coast and throughout the colony. He had been informed that directions had been issued by the department for telegraphic extension to the Coen River; and he asked the Postmaster-General, if that was so? He had no doubt the honourable gentleman would not object to answer the question directly, without notice, as being sufficiently acquainted with all matters in a department over which he presided.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: With the permission of the House, he would state that, as at present advised, the Government had no intention of extending the telegraph to the Coen Goldfield: they would have to be satisfied that the diggings were likely to be of a permanent character before anything like so extensive an undertaking should be initiated. There were a number of important districts in the interior of the colony with interests established that required the advantage of telegraphic communication at a far earlier date than the present condition of the Coen

appeared likely to entitle it to have. Provision was made in the Supplementary Loan Estimates for electric telegraph extension by new lines, from Cunnamulla to Thorgomindah, *via* Eulo; and from Aramac, by way of Bowen Downs, to Hughenden—or, from Charters Towers to Hughenden;—and to Thornborough from Island Point. Since those lines were under consideration, his attention had been directed to the requirements of the district out on the Diamantina, and that the township of Coen was entitled to be brought into telegraphic communication with the settled districts; and, as the Supplementary Loan Estimates to which he had referred were likely to be shelved this session, he would have an opportunity of considering, during the recess, he thought favourably, the proposition of extending the line westward from Aramac to some point in the westward interior of the colony on the Diamantina—so that those important and rapidly extending districts should have the advantage of being in telegraphic connection with the centres of population in the other parts of the colony.

SUSPENSION OF THE STANDING ORDERS.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved, pursuant to notice—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as will admit of the passing of Bills through all their stages in one day.

From the motion it would be apparent to honourable members that they were approaching the termination of the session. Bills were soon to come before the House of a character upon which there was likely to be no discussion; and it was desirable that they should be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. There was now present a full majority of the whole House; and he took it that there would be no objection to the motion. It would be passed on the understanding that it would be in force for the remainder of the session; but, of course, if any question for discussion arose, the House would rescind the resolution so far as that question was concerned, and they might rest assured that he would not take advantage of it, so far as it related to any measure objectionable to honourable members, to hurry it too rapidly through the House.

Question put and passed.

MARYBOROUGH GAS COMPANY BILL.

On the motion of the Hon. A. H. BROWN, who took advantage of the resolution just affirmed, “a Bill to enable the Maryborough Gas and Coke Company (Limited), incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1863, to light with gas the town of Maryborough and its suburbs, and

for other purposes therein mentioned," was passed through all its stages without discussion. The honourable gentleman explained that since the Bill had been received from the Assembly, the Standing Orders of the Council relating to private Bills had been complied with, and the fee of £20 paid into the Treasury, the certificate of which was now in the hands of the Clerk. The provisions of the Bill were similar to those of the Toowoomba Gas Company Bill, passed this session, and to other Statutes already in existence relating to the other towns of the colony.

The Bill was then returned to the Assembly.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL, in moving the adjournment of the House, expressed his hope that honourable gentlemen would make it convenient to form a quorum next day; because he expected the Appropriation Bill and the Loan Bill to come up from the Assembly, after the passing of which, he should be in a position to announce the prorogation of Parliament.
