

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1878

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 10 September, 1878.

Prorogation of Parliament.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

The House met at half-past eleven o'clock, and at noon the honourable the Speaker, and the honourable members present, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, were summoned to the Legislative Council Chamber, where the following Prorogation Speech was read by his Excellency the Governor:—

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

"I am happy to be able to release you from attendance in Parliament at a somewhat earlier period of the year than usual.

"With this, the fifth session of the seventh Parliament of Queensland, you have closed a period which has been characterised by great legislative activity.

"Having commenced the session of 1874 with an addition to the number of members in the Legislative Assembly, as authorised by the Electoral Districts Act of 1872, the present Parliament has embodied in the Statute Book a large number of laws of unexampled importance.

"The Elections Act of 1874 secured to every adult male in the community the right of voting at parliamentary elections without restriction or impediment.

"By the State Education Act of 1875, provision was made for establishing a uniform system of free primary instruction available to every child whose parents choose to claim the privilege thus conferred on them, while at the same time complete religious toleration was confirmed by the elimination of all sectarian distinctions. The fundamental principle of equality before the law has thus been still further illustrated and maintained, and will, I trust, be handed down unimpaired to succeeding generations.

"By the land legislation of 1876, a marked impulse was given to the acquisition, for productive purposes, of the waste lands of the Crown.

"By the Western Railway Act and the Railway Reserves Act, in like manner, effectual means were taken to extend the areas available for selection in different parts of the colony, while at the same time provision was made for the construction of railways in various districts where they were required.

"During the present session a Local Government Act has been passed, which is calculated to extend the advantages of municipal institutions to all the populous districts of the colony, and provision has also been made for the better representation of the people in Parliament.

"In addition to these most important measures, valuable codifications of the law have been effected.

"It will become my duty to give effect to The Electoral Districts Act of 1878 before the end of the year, and I confidently anticipate that the people to whom the choice of their future representatives has been remitted will exercise their trust with discretion, and with an anxious desire to promote their own interests, to secure their own advancement, and to contribute to the maintenance of a well-ordered government.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

"In the Name of Her Majesty I thank you for the Supply which you have granted.

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

"I am happy to say that, in spite of a succession of unfavourable seasons which has caused some diminished production, and a consequent depression in trade, there are no grounds for serious apprehensions as to the condition of the various interests and industries of the colony.

"The territory included in the confines of your jurisdiction contains within it the elements of wealth, happiness, and comfort for many millions of human beings. Already something has been done during the brief period of your history to make this great country accessible and attractive. Much more undoubtedly remains to be done. But by courage, by fortitude, by temperance, and by the exercise of that indomitable perseverance which has characterised the Anglo-Celtic race in all parts of the world, you have it in your power to overcome these difficulties which have to be encountered by all infant States before they can contribute appreciably to the grandeur of their national inheritance.

"I now declare this Parliament prorogued until the 3rd day of October next."