Queensland

Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

FRIDAY, 17 JANUARY 1879

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, 17 January, 1879.

Change of Ministry.—Chairman of Committees.—Member Sworn.—Adjournment.

CHANGE OF MINISTRY.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said: Honourable gentlemen—I have to announce to the House that in consequence of the vote that was carried in the representative branch of the Legislature, on last evening, my honourable colleague, the Prime Minister, has tendered to His Excellency the Governor the resignations of himself and his colleagues in the Government of this colony. His Excellency has been pleased to accept the resignations of Ministers, and has, I understand, entrusted a member of the other branch of the Legislature with the duty of forming a new administration; and the members of the present administration simply hold office until their successors are appointed. As this will be the last opportunity I shall have of addressing this House in my capacity as Minister, I avail myself of it to express my sense of the courtesy and consideration shown to me whilst occupying that position. There was, at the outset, a slight amount of irritation, perhaps pardonable, evinced once or twice; but that was very soon allayed, and I have since invariably received from honourable gentlemen the greatest courtesy and consideration. If my successor in office is as fortunate in that respect as I have been, he will have nothing to complain of.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The Hon. J. F. MACDOUGALL: As this is the last time we are to have the pleasure of meeting the honourable gentleman who now represents the Government in this House, I should be wanting in a sense of duty if I did not express my opinion that he has conducted the business of the Legislative Council with the greatest possible efficiency ——

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The Hon. J. F. MACDOUGALL: I can truthfully say that I shall regret his absence in the capacity he now fulfils; but, I hope that we may long retain his services, and that this is not the last time we shall meet in this Chamber.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The Hon. T. L. MURRAY-PRIOR: Honourable gentlemen—Being, perhaps, the person alluded to as having somewhat taken exception to the honourable gentleman on his introduction into this Chamber, I may be allowed to state, and the honourable gentleman will, I know, accept my assurance, that I did nothing from personal or improper motives, and that, as he must be aware, when I got to know him, and ever since, I have endeavoured in every way to treat him with the greatest courtesy —courtesy he has so well deserved. This, I think, I may say, for all other honourable members of the House as for myself, that our feeling is one of regret at his leaving the office of Postmaster-General.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The Hon. F. T. GREGORY: Although the last two speakers have almost identically uttered the sentiments which I should have liked to have given expression to, and, though not one of the oldest members of the House, yet I have been present on nearly all occasions with the honourable gentleman, and have had reason often to oppose him, and I will say that the courtesy we have received from the Postmaster-General has always been such as has afforded us very great pleasure. I hope that, in future, whether sitting on the same side of the House with, or opposite to, him, his connection with the Legislative Council will be a long one. I am happy to bear my testimony to the efficiency with which he has conducted the business of this House, and the satisfaction he has given to members of all shades of politics.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The Hon. F. T. GREGORY moved, pursuant to notice—

That the Honourable Daniel Foley Roberts be Chairman of Committees of the whole House during the present Parliament.

He remarked that the honourable gentleman whom he now brought forward had long sat as Chairman of the Legislative Council, and though he could not help expressing the general regret that of late his health had not been such as his friends could have wished, such as more than once had caused his absence from his place; yet he trusted that the improved health he had lately exhibited would enable him, in future, to conduct the business of the House in a satisfactory way to himself and honourable members. Although there was no prescriptive right in any gentleman to hold the office of Chairman, yet he should regret very much to see any other honourable member taking his place, unless time and circumstance should render it necessary.

Question put and passed.

MEMBER SWORN.

The Hon. W. D. Box took the oath and subscribed the roll as a member of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT.

In moving the adjournment of the House, until Tuesday next, the POSTMASTER-GENERAL suggested that their meeting on an early day would prove most convenient. In all probability it would be necessary to obtain Supply for the current half of the financial year, which would be granted by the Assembly on Tuesday. He expressed a wish that honourable gentlemen would make a full House, in order, if necessary, to pass a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day.