

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**TUESDAY, 13 MAY 1879**

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1879.

QUEENSLAND.



DEBATES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

DURING THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE COLONY  
OF QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA,

APPOINTED TO MEET

AT BRISBANE, ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF MAY, IN THE FORTY-SECOND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF  
HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1879.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Tuesday, 13 May, 1879.*

Meeting of Parliament.—Appointment of President.—  
The Governor's Opening Speech.—The President's  
Commission.—New Member.—Member Sworn.—  
Death of the late President.—Leave of Absence.—  
The President.—Assertion of Privilege.—Address in  
Reply to Opening Speech.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

PURSUANT to proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, bearing date the 10th April last, convening Parliament "for the despatch of business," the Council met this day.

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT.

The Honourable JOSHUA PETER BELL took the chair, and produced his writ of summons as a member of the Council and the oath of allegiance subscribed by him; also an instrument under the great seal of the colony appointing him President, which instrument

The Clerk of the Parliaments read, as follows:—

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

To Our Trusty and well-beloved The Honourable JOSHUA PETER BELL,

Greeting:

Know you, that we, confiding in your loyalty, wisdom, and integrity, have constituted and appointed, and do hereby constitute and appoint you, the said Joshua Peter Bell, to be President of the Legislative Council of the

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Colony of Queensland, to hold the said office during the pleasure of the Governor for the time being of our said colony.

In witness whereof, Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir ARTHUR EDWARD KENNEDY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies, hath caused this Instrument to be sealed with the Seal of Our said Colony, at Government House, Toowoomba, the third day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, and in the forty-second year of Our Reign.

[L.S.] A. E. KENNEDY.

By His Excellency's Command,

A. H. PALMER.

Entered on Record by me in Register of Patents, No. 5, page 368, this third day of April, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

FRED. RAWLINS,

[For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar].

The proclamation was also read at length, in order to the opening of this Session.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon, His Excellency the Governor, was announced, and the President, the Postmaster-General, and other honourable members, with the officers of the House

received His Excellency at the main entrance and accompanied him to the dais in the Council Chamber.

Being seated,

The PRESIDENT directed the Usher of the Black Rod to carry the message, That His Excellency desired the presence of the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker and members of the Assembly presented themselves below the bar in the place reserved for them, and they being seated,

His EXCELLENCY read the following Speech:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—

1. I have much pleasure in again meeting you, and, notwithstanding the delay consequent on the change of my Advisers, in seeking your aid in the legislation of the colony at about the usual time of the year.

2. The Local Government Act of 1878 has been sufficiently long in operation to show that, whatever its value as an amendment of the Municipal Laws, its principles will not be availed of voluntarily by any district while hope remains of local works being undertaken by the central authorities. You will therefore be asked to sanction the necessary steps for relieving the Government of the colony from its responsibilities in connection with purely local affairs. To further facilitate the general adoption of local government, my Ministers will initiate legislation providing machinery less cumbersome and better adapted to the circumstances of sparsely populated districts than is supplied by the Act at present in force.

3. The Royal Commission appointed to investigate the working of the Real Property Office have concluded their labours. Their report and evidence, together with the departmental arrangements approved and carried out by the Government, will be submitted for your consideration.

4. In December last, my late Advisers gave notice to the Australasian Steam Navigation Company of the termination, on 30th June proximo, of their contract for the conveyance of coastwise mails. They also invited tenders for a new contract, subject to the condition that no Asiatic or Polynesian seaman or fireman should be employed in the service. In reply, the only tenders received were from the Company now performing the service, and these involved a subsidy of at least £2,320 in excess of the amount now paid. My Ministers declined to enter into a new contract on the terms demanded; and a subsequent offer by the Government to withdraw the notice of cancellation,

and carry out the existing contract, was rejected by the Company.

5. It has become clear to my Advisers that in some parts of the colony reasonable facilities for settlement have not been afforded by the lands already thrown open for selection. For the purpose of meeting the demand which has arisen contiguous to the Central Railway line and elsewhere, schedules of lands proposed to be resumed will be laid before you on an early date.

6. Within the last two years several exchanges have taken place between the Government and certain landowners, chiefly in the Darling Downs district. The lands thus acquired for the public, my Ministers consider, should be alienated on conditions differing from those imposed in the case of other Crown lands. To secure the *bond fide* settlement upon and the actual farming of all the areas so acquired, a Bill will be shortly submitted for your approval.

7. My Ministers have given serious attention to the subject of Immigration from the United Kingdom and the continent of Europe. The general character of the immigration, and the disproportionate number of persons landed here during the hottest months of the year, made radical changes necessary in the conduct of the department. At the same time, the lessened demand for labour in consequence of the late disastrous droughts, the depreciated value of pastoral products, the diminished yield of our goldfields, and the decreased returns from our other mineral districts through the low prices ruling for metals, made it evident that immigration on the scale recently carried out ought not for the present to be continued. In February, therefore, my Ministers instructed the Agent-General to suspend emigration until the receipt of further advices, and they intend that, when resumed, it shall be conducted under more effective supervision.

8. The agreement with the Union Bank of Australia expiring in March last, tenders were invited from the several banking institutions for the conduct of the Government account. In reply, two tenders only were received, and the Queensland National Bank submitting terms more favourable than those previously obtained, as well as better than those offered by the other tenderer, the proposal of the former was accepted.

9. When Parliament last met, in January, no action had been taken by the then Government to put into operation the provisions of the Settled Districts Pastoral Leases Act of 1876. The leases having all expired in December last, my present Advisers took immediate steps to offer the sale of new leases by

auction, in accordance with the law. The result was in every respect unsatisfactory. A Bill will be shortly introduced making other provisions for leasing these runs.

**GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—**

10. The Estimates for the latter half of the present financial year, prepared on the same scale as those already voted by Parliament, will be laid before you.

11. The revenue anticipated by the late Government will not be realised; and a considerable deficit on the year's account will be the result. For this deficit you will require to make provision, as well as for the ordinary annual expenditure. The Estimates for the approaching financial year have been framed with the strictest economy, to meet the present failing revenue. By removing from the Central Government certain local responsibilities, by carefully supervising the public disbursements, by fostering extended settlement on the land, and by diverting back into the Consolidated Revenue certain funds appropriated to other purposes by the Railway Reserves Act, my Advisers believe that the necessity for increased taxation through the Customs—already heavier here than in any other Australian colony—will be rendered unnecessary.

**HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—**

12. My Ministers are of opinion that the settlement of population and the increase of land revenue depend upon the speedy extension of our facilities for internal communication. They are also of opinion that the slow progress of harbour improvements hitherto has deprived the colony of much of the advantage which ought to have been derived from the sums from time to time expended. You will therefore be asked to make provision, by loan, for carrying on these and other public undertakings with vigour. Full details of the works requiring Parliamentary sanction will in due course be submitted for your consideration.

13. The present mode of supplying the capital and its suburbs with water has proved totally inadequate for their increasing population. An engineer of experience has therefore been instructed by my Government to collect data, and report on the best means of augmenting the supply and improving the quality of this necessary of life. The question of water supply, as affecting other centres of population in the colony, will also be submitted for your consideration.

14. Important measures for the following purposes, namely:—To amend the electoral law; to provide for the regulation and inspection of mines and collieries; to constitute separate financial districts; to provide for the better regulation of the Civil Service; to make better provision for the granting of publicans' licenses; to provide for the sale of food and drugs in a pure state; to impose duties on the succession to real property; to regulate the storage and sale of mineral oils; to prevent the influx of foreign and other criminals; and other measures, will be submitted for your consideration during the session.

15. The depression in commerce and manufacturing industry which prevails in Europe having reacted upon this colony, has aggravated the losses suffered by our producers through the late disastrous seasons, and must force upon us economy, personal as well as national. Happily, the drought has at length everywhere broken up. In our pastoral and agricultural districts scarcity has been succeeded by abundance; and I trust that, when duty again calls me to this Chamber, it will be my privilege to congratulate you on the return of that prosperity which this richly-endowed colony is certainly destined to enjoy.

The Governor and his suite then left the Chamber, and the Assembly having also withdrawn, the sitting was adjourned until half-past 4 o'clock.

At the time appointed, the PRESIDENT resumed the chair, and read prayers.

**THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION.**

The PRESIDENT produced a Commission from the Governor authorising him to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, required by law to be taken and subscribed by members of the Council.

The Clerk read the Commission.

**NEW MEMBER.**

The PRESIDENT informed the House that he had received a letter from the Governor to the effect that His Excellency had been pleased, with the advice of his Executive Council, to summon the Honourable William Henry Walsh to the Legislative Council.

**MEMBER SWORN.**

The Honourable CHARLES SYDNEY DICK MELBOURNE was sworn, and took his seat.

**DEATH OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.**

The PRESIDENT said: The melancholy duty now devolves upon me of announcing to the House the decease of one of its members, Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell, Knight, late President of this House, whose name I have directed to be removed from the alphabetical list of members.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The PRESIDENT said he had received a letter from the Governor, dated 30th January, 1878, informing him that His Excellency had been pleased to grant leave of absence to the Honourable Henry George Simpson, a member of the Council, until 31st December, 1879.

## THE PRESIDENT.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said: Honourable gentlemen—Before the active business of the session commences, I think it becoming in me, as the representative of the Government in this House, to offer my sincere and hearty congratulations to the honourable the President.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: I do so feeling that the selection made by His Excellency the Governor is one which this House must approve. The honourable gentleman who now occupies the Chair of this House has been identified with public affairs in Queensland for a long time—I think, fifteen years—during nearly the whole of which he occupied a prominent position as a member of the other House of Legislature; and, also, for a considerable period, he held office as a Minister of the Crown. And, during his whole career, he has invariably shown moderation and courtesy, and a desire to promote the well-being of every section of the community, which everyone must appreciate and admire. Moreover, the President is a Queenslander. As a colonist who has spent nearly the whole of his lifetime in the colony he has become intimately connected with the Conservative interests of Queensland; and I think, therefore, it must be acknowledged that he is peculiarly fitted to occupy the high and dignified position to which he has been appointed by His Excellency.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: I will not occupy the time of the House; but as I believe one or two members are desirous of expressing their opinions on this subject, I will conclude by moving—

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. MURRAY-PRIOR said: Honourable gentlemen—I do not know how far, before the commencement of business, this is regular; but the Postmaster-General gives an opportunity to any member of the House to rise;—and, as one of the oldest members of the Legislative Council, as it has been deemed advisable to choose a President out of this Chamber, I, who have so long known the honourable gentleman who is now in the Chair—known him intimately for many years—from almost the commencement of the colony, which dates back for more than fifteen years, I

believe—I think I ought to give him my most sincere congratulations on his appointment to the office. I believe there is no person, either in this House or in the colony, who is not gratified at his appointment.

Mr. MEIN: Honourable gentlemen—As one who has been but very recently connected with the administration of the affairs of this country, it may not be out of place for me to join with those gentlemen who have already spoken, in expressing my feeling in this matter. I heartily congratulate the President upon his being appointed to take the honourable position to which he has been promoted. I feel satisfied that he possesses all the qualifications which will enable him to fill that position satisfactorily; and I am quite sure that the experience which he gained elsewhere—as has been alluded to by the representative of the Government—will serve him well in his new position. He will have a difficult performance in endeavouring to emulate the labours of our late and much-beloved President.

Mr. MURRAY-PRIOR and HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIN: I think, however, that the selection of the Governor and his advisers has been a happy one, and that our President will bid fair, not to surpass, for I believe it would be impossible to surpass the qualifications of his predecessor, but to emulate them.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. HEUSSLER: Honourable gentlemen—I do not think that I can let pass this opportunity without saying a few words. It is just twenty-five years since I arrived in this colony—then Moreton Bay, a dependency of New South Wales; and it was to my advantage then to make the acquaintance of the worthy gentleman who is now our honoured President, and who has been one of my personal friends ever since. About three or four years ago we enjoyed a nearer friendship than usual, when I had the pleasure of travelling with him from England to Queensland. Everyone knows that on such an occasion the character of a man will come out more than on any other; it is quite impossible, when you are such close neighbours as on board ship it is necessary to be, not to see that. I found the honourable Mr. Bell to be a man of a large, liberal, and progressive mind;—he is a man who known must be pronounced as one who has no narrow feelings: and he always was one of whom it appeared perfectly plain to predict that in the course of years he would have a prominent position in this colony. I congratulate him personally on this occasion with all my heart. At the same time, I may say that I have not the slightest doubt that he will endeavour to follow in the footsteps of our late very

able, revered, and beloved President. With these few remarks I beg to offer my congratulations to him as President of this honourable House.

Dr. O'DOHERTY said: I merely rise to add a few words to the general chorus of congratulation on your having been elevated to the very honourable position that you hold. I do so especially as an old campaigner of yours in another place; and I can speak from my experience of your character whilst you held a position in the Lower House;—I can speak of those very high qualities which you have ever shown there, and which I am sure especially qualify you to fill the onerous and very honourable position which you now hold with due dignity and with safety to the members of this House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Dr. O'DOHERTY: I will add to what the honourable Mr. Mein has already stated, that you may find it somewhat difficult to fill that position to the full satisfaction of the House, following immediately upon the departure of the late Sir Maurice O'Connell. I think every member of the Council will heartily join in the words used by Mr. Mein on this occasion; and I, for one, feel confident that the House will lose nothing in the substitution of you for our late President. I heartily congratulate you, sir. I congratulate you on another ground. You have retired from a very noisy scene—a scene that must remind you very much of your bachelor days, when you had freer range allowed than when you entered the tranquil circle of a benedict. In the quiet and ease of the Presidential chair of the Senate, as compared with the turmoil and activity of the arena in which you so lately moved, you will be reminded of the calm and comfort of home and family, in contrast with the liberty and unrest of bachelor quarters.

Mr. GREGORY said: I can hardly sit still. I have listened to the expressions of sincere and thorough appreciation of the qualities of our new President; and I feel how thoroughly he is fitted to fulfil the new functions to which he has been called, that I can add nothing more to what has been already said. I feel quite sure that our President is one of those who is not at all desirous of having expressions of this sort put upon him. I may simply state, that there is no man in this House who more sincerely congratulates him than I do in the position in which he is placed.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: In rising, now, to ask leave to withdraw the motion on which honourable gentlemen have spoken, I shall add one or two words that I ought to have said at first. I believe that I can assure the President that in the arduous and responsible duties he has undertaken, he will receive the warm sup-

port and co-operation of every member of this House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: And, also, I give expression to my hope that he will long continue to occupy the position to which he has been appointed.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Motion for adjournment, by leave, withdrawn.

The PRESIDENT said: Honourable gentlemen—I should be dull indeed if I were insensible to the highly complimentary remarks that have been expressed to me by the good feeling of the honourable members who have spoken, and to the congratulations which have been offered upon my acceptance of the honourable office of President of this Council. If I could find words adequately to express my feelings at this moment, they would be words conveying to you in the warmest possible manner my high appreciation of the reception which you have given me on my first appearance among you as your President. I am aware, honourable gentlemen, that without that which I hope to receive from you—your indulgence and your assistance in tiding me over the earlier or first stages of my duties as President of this Council—I should not be able to fulfil them satisfactorily either to the House or to myself. But, from the good feeling that has been expressed towards me, and that has been shown to exist in the minds of most honourable members present, I feel I shall obtain that which will enable me to satisfactorily fulfil my duties. I am aware, also, honourable gentlemen, that I have a special difficulty in the position which I hold, owing to the fact of my having succeeded a man whom I believe to have been born to the position of President of the Legislative Council.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The PRESIDENT: I may use the word, that my lamented predecessor in the Chair was a heaven-born President.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The PRESIDENT: I feel, therefore, honourable gentlemen, that my difficulty is much the greater in consequence of that fact. However much I may strive to satisfy myself in the earnest performance of my duties, I feel that any satisfaction derived therefrom must be gauged by comparison with that to which you have been accustomed from my predecessor. It would be useless for a man who has been a number of years in this colony, mixed up with the political questions that have from time to time arisen, to say that he is perfectly free from party prejudice or prepossession; for no public man in this or any other free country can be otherwise than attached to one party or the other in regard to legislation and administration.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL and HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The PRESIDENT: But I hope, honourable gentlemen, that no act of mine, in the future, no decision of mine, as your President, will ever be found to have been dictated in the slightest degree by party feeling.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The PRESIDENT: If ever I should feel incapable of performing my duty in this position, irrespective of any such weakness as the being affected by party prejudice, I should consider myself unfit any longer to hold this position. I think, having told you at the outset that I cannot find words to express fittingly my acknowledgments of your reception of me, it would be inconsistent that I should at the latter end of my remarks attempt to acquaint you with my feelings. I have only to thank you for that which, I confess, was one of the chief anxieties I had since I accepted the office of President—namely, my reception by the Upper Chamber;—because I am not blind to the fact that, coming from another place, there might have been a taint of prejudice against me which would not have existence had I risen to my present position from a seat in the Legislative Council. But I hold now the opinion as regards my present position, that, next to the honour of my appointment as your President, the honour of the reception which you, honourable gentlemen, have accorded me is the greatest that I could receive.

Mr. MEIN: Well spoken!

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear, hear.

#### ASSERTION OF PRIVILEGE.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL presented, *pro formâ*, a Bill to Regulate the Laws relating to Toll Bars, and moved—

That it be read a first time.

Question put and passed.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY TO OPENING SPEECH.

The PRESIDENT informed the House that, for the greater accuracy, he had obtained a copy of the Speech which His Excellency the Governor was pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament this day; and he thereupon read such portions of the Speech as were addressed to the Council.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved—

That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, such Committee to consist of the following members, viz.:—Mr. Box, Mr. Hart, Mr. Murray-Prior, Mr. Gregory, and the mover.

Question put and passed.

The Committee withdrew, and upon their return to the Chamber,

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL presented the report of the Committee, which was, at his request,

Read by the Clerk, as follows:—

To His Excellency Sir Arthur Edward Kennedy, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies.

1. We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, Members of the Legislative Council of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards Her Most Gracious Majesty's Throne and Person, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech delivered at the opening of the present Parliament.

2. We shall give our best attention to the various measures submitted for our consideration; and we beg to assure your Excellency that it will be our earnest desire to unite with your Excellency and the other branch of the Legislature in enacting such laws as will tend to the advancement and prosperity of all classes of the community.

Mr. Box moved—

That the Address, as read by the Clerk, be now agreed to by this House.

He said that the House would excuse him for referring to the Speech which had been placed before them. If it was read by honourable members as it was by him, he was sure the Speech would be regarded as one calling for congratulation, as, upon its circulation throughout the country, it would prove to be a source of confidence. Such was the feeling with which the Speech inspired him. It appeared to him to be a fair and reasonable exposition of the policy the Ministry intended to carry out. He took it to mean that the Ministry had confidence in themselves; that they had confidence in the efficacy of the measures which they intended to propose; that they had confidence in the Parliament they now met for the first time and that they asked to pass their measures; and that they had confidence in the country which they had been called upon to govern. He believed that the Speech would do a great deal to restore throughout the length and breadth of the land that confidence which was so much required to enable Queensland to get in advance of her recent difficulties. The great bugbear of her present position, as in former crises—her great trouble—was want of confidence. The Government showed that they had confidence in the resources and capacities of the country, and they would thus secure, as they de-

served, the confidence of their supporters in Parliament.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. Box: The first paragraph of the Speech was certainly a matter for congratulation—that, notwithstanding the change of Ministry, the present advisers of the Governor were enabled to meet Parliament not later than the usual time for opening the annual session. The Local Government Act, alluded to next, was an important piece of legislation which the country owed to the preceding Government. It appeared to be the opinion of the present Government that, although the Act had been in force a sufficient time, yet it had not afforded that relief to the central Government which had been hoped for under its provisions, in regard to the conduct of local works. It was now proposed that less cumbrous machinery than it provided should be applied to the outlying districts of the colony. He trusted that the Government would obtain from the Council the necessary assistance to give effect to their wishes. The report of the Royal Commission following what were known as the “Peterson frauds” was promised; and he hoped it would restore confidence in the working of Torrens’ Act. The fourth paragraph of the Speech referred to a new feature in the colonies, a “strike”—a strike of labour against capital. Certain capitalists endeavoured to introduce into Queensland an alien race. If they had succeeded in their desire, they would have driven from the maritime service of the colony sailors of our own blood and race. The sympathy of the Government and the community generally was with the working men; and it had spread not only throughout Queensland but through all Australia. The late Ministry consulted the feelings of the colonists and had acted in accord with the public voice, so strongly in favour of the working men, in laying down the conditions of contract with the A. S. N. Co. for carrying the northern mails, that they were unable to renew the agreement on similarly favourable terms to those which existed before the dispute. But he believed that as soon as trade improved, especially in the north, there would not be any difficulty in obtaining similarly favourable terms for the conveyance of mails. The usual paragraph in colonial Governors’ Speeches appeared with reference to the Crown lands, which were mentioned prominently in three places. The Ministry promised an important piece of new legislation—they would endeavour to settle a purely industrial class of colonists on the lands which had been exchanged for agricultural purposes, under conditions different from those now imposed in the case of other Crown lands. He hoped sincerely that they would be successful.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. Box: The eighth paragraph of the Speech referred to the transfer of the Government account from the Union Bank of Australia to the National Bank of Queensland—an action of the Ministry which had taken place within the past month, and which had been very much criticised in certain circles. Undoubtedly, honourable members would be enabled in a short time—as he saw that a notice of motion had been tabled calling for the correspondence on the subject—to form an opinion upon the wisdom or otherwise of the Treasurer acting as he had acted. He (Mr. Box) would remind the House that the honourable gentleman who occupied the position of Premier was amongst the ranks of men capable of giving an opinion on the subject, and was peculiarly possessed of financial ability.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. Box: Therefore, under the circumstances, he thought it was fair to say, as members of the Council, that, until they saw the contrary, the Premier had made a wise and skilful allotment of the business of the Government. The stoppage of immigration was, to his (Mr. Box’s) mind, a wise thing. It might be very much discussed in Parliament; but, under the circumstances, when it was believed that many most valuable immigrants, introduced at the cost of the country, merely landed in Queensland to travel further, and really went hence to the other colonies, the action of the Government was such as the House should commend. The action of the Government in employing an engineer for perfecting the water supply in large centres of population was such as he was sure would meet with the approval of honourable gentlemen. The fourteenth paragraph referred to many important subjects which the Government would from time to time bring before the House; and he had no doubt they would receive the attention they deserved. The concluding paragraph spoke of the depression which all honourable members knew too surely; but he believed in the conclusion of the Speech, that the worst had been reached, and that all that was required was the restoration of confidence, the absence of which had buried twenty millions of money in the coffers of the Bank of England, which would be released when confidence was restored, and when some of it might be attracted hither. The late drought was followed by abundance of grass all over Queensland, and the representations from England of the steady price of the great colonial product, wool, tended to the restoration of that confidence which we were so badly in want of; and he believed that when the Governor again met the Parliament, His Excellency would be enabled to say that,



in his opinion, all felt that the prosperity of this richly-endowed country had returned.

Mr. HART seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address. He should be very brief, as he had no desire to take up the time of honourable members; for, as a rule, he looked upon the passing of the Address in Reply by the Council rather as a matter of form for the purpose of enabling the business of the session to be proceeded with. He thoroughly endorsed the remarks of his honourable friend, Mr. Box, as to the satisfactory character of the Opening Speech, from the confidential point of view. It certainly tended to give confidence to the people in the resources of the country. When it became known throughout the colony that the Government felt they were justified in saying that they anticipated being able to meet any deficiency of revenue without increasing taxation through the Custom-house, it would be a great cause of congratulation.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. HART: There were many very important measures promised in the Speech; but he considered the proper time for debating those measures would be when they had been sent up to the Council for approval, after they had been decided upon in another place. Therefore, he should simply content him self by formally seconding the motion.

Mr. MURRAY-PRIOR rose to move the adjournment of the debate, as there was not much time before six o'clock to conclude it; and as the House would not have much work, to-morrow; and as he knew of several absent members, one in particular, who had expressed a desire to speak on the Address; and, as they had the Speech in their hands only a very short time;—therefore, he trusted that the Postmaster-General would think fit to agree to the adjournment.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he was, of course, in the hands of the House. At the same time, he always acted upon the belief that one should never postpone until to-morrow that which one could perform to-day.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: He should have been very happy to have fallen in with the proposal of the Honourable Mr. Prior, had that honourable gentleman assigned any very strong reason for it. But he thought it would be as well if the House should go on until six o'clock, and, if they found that they could not conclude the debate, then adjourn it until to-morrow afternoon. Further, there was not a great deal of business to transact to-morrow; and if honourable members thought that they would prefer twenty-four hours' considera-

tion of the Speech, he should be willing to fall in with the suggestion, and move, himself, the adjournment of the debate.

Upon deliberation,

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL formally moved the adjournment of the debate until to-morrow, which was carried.

The House, thereupon, adjourned until next day.

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