

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

THURSDAY, 3 JULY 1879

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 3 July, 1879.

Border Patrol and Revenue.—The Dry Dock.—Rescission of Orders.—Conduct of Business.

BORDER PATROL AND REVENUE.

Mr. Box moved—

That there be laid on the table of this House, a return showing—

1. The amount paid from the Consolidated Revenue for the maintenance of the Border Patrol for the years 1877, 1878, and 1879.

2. The sums received by the Colonial Treasurer from the officer in charge of the Border Patrol, on account of revenue, for the periods stated above; distinguishing the moneys received under the heading of wines, spirits, tobacco, *ad valorem*, fixed duties, and other sources.

He was understood to say that he desired to assimilate the practice of this colony and New South Wales, in respect to duties—mutual commercial relations over the Border—with that which had subsisted between New South Wales and Victoria; and that a proper basis for an intercolonial agreement could be obtained upon the production of the returns that he now asked for. The payment of a sum of money by the colony in favour of which the balance of export trade was shown to exist—it was against this colony at present—would obviate the necessity for maintaining the border patrol, which could then be done away with. He believed that free traffic should be established across the border; and that it would be in accordance with sound theory to make such an agreement as he suggested. He believed the border patrol cost the Government about £2,500 a-year; and the revenue collected was about the same.

Mr. THORNTON was understood to assure the honourable gentleman that it was about double that amount.

Mr. Box: He had no means of ascertaining the collections by the officers engaged; and he wanted to know, if those officers were removed, would the colony suffer. The only objection to what he recommended was, that the merchants of New South Wales would supply consumers in Queensland with dutiable goods. The tariffs of the two colonies were not, however, so dissimilar that some such arrangement could not be made. The long inland boundary line between the two colonies was a sufficient protection to Queensland traders.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he did not intend to offer any opposition to the motion now before the House;—in fact, it would be desirable to have the infor-

mation collected in a convenient form. With regard to the remarks of the honourable gentleman who moved for the return, he believed that the border patrol acted also as police, so that it could hardly be considered fair that the whole cost and salaries of the patrol should be chargeable to the collection of Customs duties. As to the importation of dutiable articles from New South Wales into this colony, across the border, he was afraid there would be a great deal of it. There were several articles on the tariff which were easily transported overland, and which in New South Wales were subject to very much lower duties than was imposed on them in Queensland. Tobacco, for instance, might be brought into this colony in large quantities, but for the border patrol. Although, perhaps, the amount of border duties collected, now, was small; still, if there were no Customs officers on the border, the importation of dutiable goods would become very extensive—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: And might do a very great injury to Queensland. However, he was very agreeable to the production of the return.

Question put and passed.

THE DRY DOCK.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL laid on the table a return, moved for by the honourable Mr. Walsh, showing in detail the cost and character of works at the Dry Dock, South Brisbane.

Ordered to be printed.

RESCISION OF ORDERS.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL, with the permission of the House, made a motion without notice. Since the Session commenced, two motions had been passed for the printing of papers which he had laid on the table. One of them related to correspondence on the Townsville and Charters Towers Railway, which was produced before the Assembly during the short Session at the commencement of the year; and, as the type was distributed before the papers were laid on the table of the Council, it would involve considerable expense to print it again in compliance with the order of the House. He thought there was no particular necessity to print it for the Council; and he should move that the order for printing be rescinded. On another occasion he accidentally moved for the printing of a return in connection with the Volunteers. That, also, would involve considerable expense for printing it; and it was not at all necessary to include it amongst the records of the House, as it had been already published in

the *Government Gazette*. He begged to move, therefore, that the order in reference to it be also rescinded.

Question put and passed.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

A message from the Assembly was received with the Lady O'Connell Pension Bill, which was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, and the Bills of Exchange Bill, were considered in Committee of the Whole and reported without amendment.
