

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 1879

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 9 July, 1879.

Border Patrol and Revenue.—Savings Bank Securities.—
Provision for Lady O'Connell.—Assent to Bill.—
Lady O'Connell Pension Bill.—Conduct of Business.

BORDER PATROL AND REVENUE.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL laid on the table a Return to an order made by the House, on the motion of the honourable Mr. Box, showing the Expenditure upon the Border Patrol, and the Revenue collected by the force, from Customs duties and other sources, during three years past.

Ordered to be printed.

SAVINGS BANK SECURITIES.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had received a letter from the Auditor-General relating to the inspection of the Securities held in trust for the Savings Bank, together with a statement showing the correctness of the same.

Ordered to be printed.

PROVISION FOR LADY O'CONNELL.

The PRESIDENT said he had received a letter from the Colonial Treasurer, as follows:—

The Treasury, Queensland,
Brisbane, 5 July, 1878.

GENTLEMEN—I am directed by the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated June, 1879, urging upon the Government, for their favourable consideration, the claims of Lady O'Connell for an annual allowance, and to inform you that a Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of providing for Lady O'Connell in the manner proposed.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

E. B. CULLEN,
Under Secretary.

The Honourable J. P. Bell,
and the other Gentlemen signing the Memorial.
He directed that the letter should lie on the table.

ASSENT TO BILL.

A message was received from the Governor, informing the House that his Excellency had assented to

The Impounding Bill.

LADY O'CONNELL PENSION BILL.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved the second reading of "a Bill to provide a Pension for the Widow of the late Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell, Knight, late President of the Legislative Council of Queensland." He said it was quite unnecessary for him to occupy any lengthened time in recommending the Bill to the House; as he was sure every honourable member would be only too happy to give his vote in favour of the provision intended to be made for the widow of their late honoured President. The amount named was, no doubt, small; and they would all rather have seen it much larger than what the Bill provided.

Mr. SANDEMAN: Hear, hear.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: At the same time, the Council had no power to increase the amount. Therefore, they would have to accept the Bill as presented by the other branch of the Legislature. The pension was £250 per annum.

Mr. MEIN said he could not allow the Bill to pass without expressing his approval of the principle of it. He had already expressed, on a former occasion, his views of the services of the late honourable President; and he could only avow his regret that those services had not been more substantially compensated than they were now in the Bill before the House. True, as pointed out by the Postmaster-General, it was impossible for the Council to augment the amount of pension mentioned in the Bill; still, at the same time, he could not overlook the fact that if the Government had been a little more generous in their impulses, the other branch of the Legislature would have concurred therein.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIN: He regretted that the Government did not see their way clear to propose a larger pension for the widow of the late President than that provided by the Bill. In making those remarks, he did not wish it to go forth that he was in favour of having pensioners on the public purse;—he was decidedly opposed to the burdens of the taxpayers of the country being increased under a system of pensions. But Lady O'Connell's case was different from others. The country had had the eminent services of her husband extending over a long period of years; such services as it could hardly expect to receive, except at long intervals; while the emoluments that were attached to the important offices the late President held were so disproportionate—to his (Mr. Mein's) mind—to the duties he was called

upon to fulfil, that the Government might have entertained those considerations, and have accorded to his widow, under the circumstances, a larger pension than was provided by the Bill.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIN: At any rate, he and other honourable members who thought with him must be thankful for small mercies. He felt sure that it was the unanimous desire of the House to see the Bill passed speedily into law.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Question put and passed.

On moving the committal of the Bill for Wednesday next,

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL stated that it was his intention on that day, should there be a majority of the whole Council present, to move the suspension of the Standing Orders to admit of the passing of the Bill through its remaining stages forthwith. It had been his intention to do so, to-day, but the absence of a sufficient number of members prevented his making such a motion.

Question put and passed.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

On the motion of Mr. MEIN, the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, and the Bills of Exchange Bill, were read a third time and passed, and forwarded by message to the Assembly, for the concurrence of that branch of the Legislature.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL announced that the only business on the notice paper for to-morrow was one Order of the Day, and the honourable gentleman in charge of it—the adoption of the report of the Parliamentary Buildings Committee—consenting to its postponement, he moved the adjournment of the House until Wednesday next, the 16th instant.

The House adjourned accordingly.
