

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 5 AUGUST 1880

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 5 August, 1880.

Speaker's Ruling.—Petition.—Formal Business.—Motion for Adjournment.—Rabbit Bill—second reading.—Bonus for Iron—committee.—Mail Service Committee.—Joint *Hansard*.—Post Card Bill—second reading.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

SPEAKER'S RULING.

Mr. HENDREN said he wished to refer to what appeared in the papers in reference to a ruling of the Speaker, when he got up to speak yesterday. He would move the adjournment—

The SPEAKER: The hon. member will be permitted to make a personal explanation, but it is not necessary to move the adjournment of the House, unless he choose; but the ruling having been given and not disputed at the time, he cannot now dispute it.

Mr. HENDREN said he saw by the *Courier* of this morning that the Speaker ruled him as a person intoxicated, last night, without ever allowing him to say one word. He did not get

an opportunity of expressing the views that he intended before he was put down. He bowed to the ruling of the Chair, as he hoped he always should do, but he did not like to be victimised for faults of which a great many members might be just as guilty as himself who were never victimised by the Chair. It was very unfair, with the greatest respect to the Chair. He did not know exactly how to bring the matter up, being a young member of the House, and had never questioned any of the work of members of the other side;—although they sat upon different sides, they could agree to differ upon points while they retained their friendship for each other. He never found fault with any gentleman on the other side in any shape, but he was held up to ridicule and contempt for being intoxicated, and would like to know how the Speaker knew he was intoxicated. For six months previously he had never tasted a drop of grog—he had been an abstainer, as hon. members knew perfectly well, until after the ruling of the Chair. The night previously he had a very bad cold, and he felt that gentlemen on the other side as well as on that knew perfectly well that he had not been down to the Refreshment Room at all. The Speaker might even say that he was intoxicated now, and put him down. He should be always obedient to the ruling of the Speaker, believing that it was supreme, but in that matter the public were to judge. He was afraid the Speaker was mistaken, and it was not the first time that his ruling had been called into question.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Chair! Chair!

Mr. HENDREN said that he was sorry that, being a young member of the House, he should have to call a Speaker's ruling into question, and should like to know upon what authority he was silenced and put down.

The SPEAKER: I have already called the attention of the hon. member to the fact that my ruling not being disputed at the time it was given cannot be disputed now. I thought he was going to make an explanation only, but he has gone beyond that. I must remind him again that he cannot dispute my ruling.

Mr. HENDREN said he should say no more about it. Every hon. member knew perfectly well that the Speaker's ruling was wrong; all who had seen him, before the ruling and afterwards, knew perfectly well that he was not intoxicated; and with those few remarks, believing that the Speaker was mistaken, he moved the adjournment of the House. He did not think that he should be singled out, and, with the greatest respect to the Speaker, whose order he should always obey, he thought he was mistaken.

The SPEAKER: The motion not being seconded, the question cannot be put.

PETITION.

Mr. MILES presented a petition from the Selectors of East and West Prairie, praying relief.

Petition received.

FORMAL BUSINESS.

On the motion of Mr. RUTLEDGE, it was resolved—

That there be laid upon the table of the House, a Return showing,—

1. The Areas and situation of the Unalienated or Unsold Lands in the Electorate of Enoggera.

2. The different Reserves made in the same Electorate for Recreation Grounds, Public Parks, or other public purposes, their areas, and the localities in which they are respectively situated.

3. Lands granted by the Crown or dedicated to Educational or other purposes, specifying the objects for which such Grants were made.

4. Lands applied for in the same Electorate for either of the foregoing purposes, with the results of such applications.

On the motion of Mr. HENDREN, it was resolved—

That there be laid upon the table of this House,—

1. A Copy of all Claims for Compensation by persons owning land through which the Branch Line, Ipswich towards Fassifern, has been surveyed.

2. The distance which any Survey of said Line runs along the public roads.

On the motion of Mr. LUMLEY HILL, it was resolved—

That there be laid upon the table of the House, Copies of all Correspondence between the Honourable the Colonial Secretary and Messrs. Lukin, Layton, and any other persons connected with the Queensland Commission at the late International Exhibition in New South Wales.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

THE HON. J. DOUGLAS moved the adjournment of the House to draw attention to the fact of there being an important omission in *Hansard* of some remarks he had made on the motion of Tuesday last respecting a breach of privilege. A somewhat lengthy debate occurred on a point of order that was raised previous to his reading the extract which was omitted, and which he considered of some importance, being connected as it was with the question. He certainly thought it should have been inserted in *Hansard*. There were certain other less important extracts which were inserted, and he did not know by what authority or on what ground the omission had been made. He took that opportunity of complaining of the omission, and hoped that it would be inserted in the permanent *Hansard* as a document which, in connection with the case, had a distinct bearing upon it, and, in fact, was the groundwork of the whole defence. If it had been omitted inadvertently, he hoped it would be rectified in the permanent publication.

THE SPEAKER: I am not certain whether the hon. member refers to the omission in *Hansard* of part of his speech or the omission of the evidence read by him.

Mr. DOUGLAS: Yes; that is it.

THE SPEAKER: That omission was made by my instructions, in consequence of the 161st Standing Order. It seemed to me an act of absurdity for the House to publish in its own *Hansard* anything which violates its Standing Orders.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he was permitted to read the extract, and so far it became part of the proceedings of the House.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Palmer) said the hon. gentleman ought to be very well satisfied. He had got off very lightly—a great deal better than he deserved, or expected. If every member was to get up and complain of part of his speech being omitted from *Hansard*, they would have no end to it. He himself might complain that a great deal of what he said was entirely omitted. A great deal of the judicious and paternal advice he had given to the leader of the Opposition and the member for Maryborough had been omitted, but he (Mr. Palmer) did not complain. *Hansard* only professed to give a *résumé* of the speeches, and if hon. gentlemen opposite expected every word they spoke—and they spoke enough nonsense, Heaven knew—to be reported, no staff in the world would be able to report them.

THE HON. S. W. GRIFFITH said he did not understand the hon. member for Maryborough to complain about the omission of any part of what he had said. There were some omissions for which hon. members ought to be very grateful to

the reporters. The hon. gentleman, for example, ought to be grateful for the omission of that paternal advice he spoke of. But the hon. member for Maryborough complained of an omission of that which was the very gist of his defence. There had been a long discussion as to whether he should be allowed to make a defence, but as the hon. member was allowed, his defence ought to be reported in full. There were other violations of Standing Orders demanding frequent rulings, and why were they reported? There was just as much ground for their omission. The objection of the hon. member for Maryborough was a sound one, for the whole of his defence turned upon what was not reported, and his defence was unintelligible without reference to the subject-matter to which it was addressed. If *Hansard* was to be a true record of what took place in the House, it ought none the less to be a record because the Speaker conceived something that happened to be wrong. The only way to exclude matter was to exclude the public. So long as violations of Standing Orders were allowed to be discussed, they ought to be reported, no matter what it was or however bad, unless it was in some way subversive of public morals, and then the proper way was to exclude strangers from the House—not prevent a full report of what occurred. If they excluded strangers they would have to exclude reporters, but when reporters were there what was said ought to be reported.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS said he would like to point out to the hon. gentleman who had just sat down that what he wished the House to do was to violate its own Standing Orders. It was quite enough for him to stand up in defence of a member who had violated the Standing Orders and was found guilty of contempt, without asking the House to violate their own Standing Orders: whether it was the gist of the hon. member's defence or not, they would be violating the Standing Orders if they allowed that so-called evidence to be published in *Hansard*. With regard to what the hon. member had said about being grateful to reporters, the reporters, he believed, would be grateful if some hon. members did not re-make their speeches after they had been published.

Mr. GARRICK said that when the point was raised in the House, the hon. member for Maryborough (Mr. Douglas) stated that his defence would be incomplete unless he was allowed to read the extract which had not been republished. The House then made no objection. The Premier stated that he, personally, had no objection whatever to the reading of the evidence. The Secretary for Works also said that he, personally, had no objection whatever; and after a considerable discussion the evidence was read, even after attention had been called to the 161st Standing Order. As the evidence had been read in the House it was entitled to be published.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

Mr. GARRICK said he thought it was, and that the time to object was when the matter was under discussion and when the House yielded permission to the hon. member for Maryborough to read the report, which he (Mr. Garrick) thought was necessary to his defence. In consequence of the omission that defence did not now appear.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Beor) said the hon. member for Maryborough having committed one breach of the privileges of the House, having proceeded by the permission of the House to commit another, now desired to commit a third. By the permission of the House, the hon. member for Maryborough was certainly allowed to read out the extract. That was one

breach of the rules of the House, but the House for that occasion waived that breach of its rules. It was because the hon. member was very anxious to make it a part of his defence the House waived the order, but the House never consented to waive another breach of the rules—namely, that this should be published further in *Hansard*. That, as he took it, would have been a separate violation of the rules again. The House consented to one violation of the rules as a concession to the hon. member, but never for a moment considered that another breach of the rules would be committed by the extract being published again in *Hansard*.

Mr. DOUGLAS said it seemed to him that if there had been any breach at all it was when the House permitted him to read the extract. The fact of his reading it was the publication. When it appeared in *Hansard* it was merely a report of that publication, and he thought it was a very small way of paying him out, as it were, for an infraction of what was considered a privilege of the House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : Chair !

Mr. DOUGLAS : Does the hon. gentleman wish to question my words ?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : Yes, I do. He says it is a small way of paying him out, and that is a direct insult to the Speaker.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that he need not say, at once, that he had no such intention. He freely withdrew any remarks that appeared insulting. The intention he had was more in reference to the appreciation with which the act appeared to have been received by the opposite side ; but he still said it was an act of indiscretion on the part of the Speaker. The judgment he had displayed in doing so savoured, to his mind, of oppression, inasmuch as the publication was made by him, by leave of the House ; the report of this publication in *Hansard* necessarily followed, and without the permission of the House it was such an infringement of the administration of *Hansard* as was unjustifiable. He said this with complete respect to the Speaker, but it was such an infraction that if he had been placed in the Chair himself he should certainly not have done it. It was a disagreeable responsibility to attach to any Speaker that he should be the censor of *Hansard*. The hon. gentleman, he was quite sure, had no wish to constitute himself such ; and although he was free to admit that there were occasions upon which it might be well to exercise such authority, still he thought the more the *Hansard* reports were left to the reporters themselves the better. If they were sitting in the House while strangers were not excluded everything that occurred should be reported, because it seemed to him that there were violations of order constantly occurring for which the Speaker's ruling was required ; and if the reports of those proceedings were to be called in question it might then become a question for the Speaker whether he should authorise their publication. It did not very much matter to him, but it certainly impaired the utility of *Hansard* to a very great extent. It had also been admitted by all hands that it did not much matter whether the report appeared in *Hansard* or not ; still, the power to exclude it was an exceptional one. And he would point out that, after all, this was not an exact report of the proceedings of the Select Committee, but a *précis* purporting to be a report—a mere abstract. And, after all, it was not the evidence, though he believed that, as far as it went, it was correct.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : No.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that it as nearly approached correctness as a *précis* could be. He

had only now to express his regret that such action had been taken. He moved the adjournment of the House.

The SPEAKER : I would remark to the House that what has occurred shows the undesirableness of allowing our Standing Orders to be violated. The hon. member acknowledged on a former occasion that he had violated a Standing Order, and he now pleads that the violation should be continued by the House itself. He had omitted to notice that the House decided, on the evening when the subject was debated, that the publication of this extract was a breach of the Standing Orders and contempt of the House. I do not see how, under these circumstances, I could authorise a publication which the House itself decided was contemptuous.

Mr. HAMILTON said that he understood that the reason now given by the hon. member for Maryborough was, that unless the evidence was read members would not be in a position to know whether a breach of privilege had been committed by him or not. It now appeared that his reason for wishing to read it was that advantage should be taken of the forms of the House to circulate a libel in *Hansard*. He spoke advisedly when he said so. Of course, the hon. member for Maryborough stated that his report was a fair and impartial statement ; but the statement of one of the witnesses, whose evidence was taken in that Committee, was to the effect that the report of the hon. member was a garbled and unfair statement, and that witness ought to be well able to judge as to the manner in which his evidence had been rendered. The hon. member had attempted to circulate that garbled report throughout the colony by means of *Hansard*.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. BAYNES moved the adjournment of the House, in order to call the Colonial Secretary's attention to the inefficiency of the police in the Burnett district. An aboriginal named Campbell was in that district for some months, but was now, he was happy to say, in gaol. Another aboriginal was convicted not long ago, by the local bench at Nanango, of larceny, but unfortunately, through the inefficiency of a policeman, he was allowed to escape three nights since at the Rosalie Scrub. What he wanted to urge upon the Colonial Secretary's attention was, that there should be more efficient police in the outlying districts, and that the efforts of the Administration should not be directed to Brisbane alone. A number of his constituents had had their huts robbed and their lives imperilled by this Robin Hood. It was a notorious fact that the policeman who allowed his prisoner to escape allowed the outlaw Campbell to escape more than half-a-dozen times on runs in the Burnett district. He considered it a disgrace to the Police Department that such men should be kept in the service. He brought the matter forward now, thinking it was far better to do so than to write letters about it in the newspapers, as he had been requested to do by a number of his constituents. The outlying districts ought to have a better class of policemen than the Colonial Secretary gave them. That hon. gentleman was the junior member for Brisbane, but it did not follow that for that reason he should neglect the outlying districts. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would promise that there should be more efficient police placed in the Burnett district—men who would not, after catching a scoundrel like this aboriginal Robin Hood, allow him to escape.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had had no report as to the escape of the blackfellow

alluded to; but the hon. member might depend upon it that an inquiry should be made into the matter, and if the facts were as stated the policeman should be punished.

Question put and negatived.

RABBIT BILL—SECOND READING.

Mr. STEVENS, in moving the second reading of a Bill to prevent the introduction of rabbits into the colony, said his reasons for introducing the Bill was to prevent rabbits from becoming as great a pest in this colony as they had become in New Zealand, Victoria, and New South Wales. The rabbit was one of the most prolific of animals, the female producing young twelve times a year, with from eight to ten at each litter. A pair of rabbits turned out would, at the end of a year, under ordinary circumstances, multiply to 1,700 or 1,800. In the Colac district of Victoria rabbit preserving had been in operation for some three years; but, although from 25,000 to 30,000 couple of rabbits were preserved there every month during the season, which lasted about four months, there was no perceptible diminution in their number. The small farmers in that district had been utterly ruined and driven away by the rabbits. Nothing could keep them out but spending thousands of pounds in building stone walls and filling up the burrows. Messrs. Robertson, who had a large station at that place, had spent considerably over £20,000 in trying to keep rabbits off their run and had not succeeded. In the north-west of Victoria the pest was still worse. Rabbits, there, were turned out in scrub country for the purpose of affording sport; but they had taken entire possession of the country, and hundreds of square miles of land occupied by squatters, and formerly carrying large numbers of sheep, had been given up to the rabbits, and the farmers had been obliged to fly before them. In New Zealand, a few years ago, a few rabbits were turned out, and now they swarmed in millions, while many thousands of pounds had been ineffectually spent in trying to get rid of them. By the latest English papers he noticed that the farmers at home were agitating for legislation to protect themselves against rabbits. He had heard that rabbits had been turned out in various parts of Queensland—at one place not more than fifty or sixty miles from Brisbane; the reason given being that they would afford good sport, and that some of the selectors living in the neighbourhood would be able to shoot them and use them as food. That might be a very good reason just now, but in the course of a few years, when they had increased to many thousands, they would ruin those very selectors. Hundreds of thousands of pounds had been spent in the various colonies in the endeavour to exterminate rabbits, and he wished to save that money to this colony by careful and inexpensive legislation. On the principle that prevention was better than cure, he hoped the Bill would commend itself favourably to hon. members. He would not say more at present in justification of the measure, but would go more fully into it in committee. He moved that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. MESTON said the hon. member who last year nearly made a political martyr of himself with his Travelling Sheep Bill had this session confined his attention to a Bill for the prohibition of the breeding of rabbits. He had only just had time to glance at the Bill this morning, but when it was brought forward last year by the hon. member (Mr. Davenport) he gave some little attention to it. In his opinion the Bill was a very important one. What they had to do in the matter was to be careful to nip the evil in the bud. The case of South Australia

ought to be taken as a warning, for if the pest was once allowed to gain a footing it would be almost impossible to eradicate or even to restrict it. The evil had become so serious there that rabbit-preserving establishments had been started for the purpose of endeavouring to make some little profit out of them, and it was regarded as almost hopeless to eradicate them entirely. It was necessary before all things to guard against the spread of rabbits in the beginning, and no Bill could be too stringent in its clauses with respect to that. The Bathurst burr was at first a harmless thing, but it had obtained an immense hold in the colony. The Scotch thistle—a vegetable for which he had the profoundest respect—had spread to such an extraordinary extent on the Darling Downs that it was beginning to do an incalculable amount of injury. In the same locality the prickly pear was spreading extensively; it might have been easily checked at the outset, but now the eradication of it would necessitate a vast amount of trouble and expense, and indeed it was a question whether it would ever be got rid of. In committee he intended to move one or two amendments in the Bill. The first clause appeared altogether too stringent. He saw no serious objection to people keeping rabbits for amusement, or for occasionally utilising them for food. He should certainly support the second reading of the Bill, and he saw no valid reason why any hon. member should oppose it.

Mr. SIMPSON said it was conceded by everybody that rabbits would be a nuisance if once they were introduced into the colony, and also that every possible precaution should be taken to prevent it. He knew for a fact that a few persons were turning out rabbits, and this Bill, if passed, would not be passed one day too soon. He was told the other day by a friend—on whose word he could place absolute reliance—that in his neighbourhood on the Darling Downs rabbits were being turned out at the present moment, under the idea that they would never spread, those which had been turned out previously not having spread. In Riverina, where rabbits were such a pest, they were turned out for twenty-five years, and hardly seemed to increase at all. Yet all at once they sprang up on every hand as if by magic, and were a terrible pest. He presumed rabbits could not be got rid of all at once, for in places where they had been poisoned and destroyed in every way they seemed to spread over the whole country, and it was generally known that ruin had followed wherever the rabbits had gone. The Bill ought to be passed at once; but, if there was to be any alteration, the clauses should be made more stringent, and hares should be included. If they were to judge from report, English farmers suffered nearly as much from hares as from rabbits, and it would be just the same in Queensland. He had been told by a neighbour of his on Jimbour that a few hares turned out by him a short time ago had increased in an incredibly short period to hundreds. The only difference between the hare and the rabbit was that one was supposed to breed faster than the other. But one would do just as much injury individually as the other, and in Queensland there would be very little difference in the rate of breeding. It was only a few years since the first hares were turned out at Bathurst, and now they were a perfect pest. So that if any alteration were made in the Bill, it should be towards making it more stringent, and including hares.

Mr. HENDREN thoroughly agreed with the spirit in which the hon. member for Maranoa had introduced the measure, believing that rabbits were a great nuisance. He would like, however, to see a clause added dealing with the

lying-fox, which came in myriads about gardens and orchards. They had a Marsupial Bill, and there was a laudable Bill now introduced for dealing with rabbits. The rabbit, however, was not half so venomous as the flying-fox, and he should therefore like a clause added dealing with that animal.

Mr. BAILEY said if they were going to abolish vermin by Act of Parliament, they would have to go further than the flying-fox. The Bill before them proposed to deal with what would inevitably become a nuisance before many years, unless such a measure were passed. In the Wide Bay and Burnett districts, within the last few years, rabbits had been turned out on the supposition that they were perfectly harmless. But it appeared, after the statement of the hon. member for Dalby, that rabbits might be turned out, and be apparently harmless for some time, and afterwards suddenly appear and prove very destructive. There was, therefore, some necessity for a clause for the destruction of rabbits as well as for their prohibition. There was no doubt that rabbits had been introduced in several districts, and were increasing; and they would probably have to deal with them in a few years as they had to deal with marsupials some time ago. Rabbits might have died out in the Wide Bay district; but there were some turned out on Woody Island some years ago, and to-day rabbits might be found there in hundreds and thousands, and people went there for the purpose of shooting them. He did not know whether what he had heard was correct or not, but he believed that the rabbits which had been turned out in the Wide Bay district were increasing to an enormous extent. In the first instance he believed these rabbits had been introduced for the amusement of children, who had kept them for a time, after which they had been turned out. Whether they would prove like the rabbits spoken of by the hon. member for Dalby he did not know, but serious consequences might arise from the increase of rabbits, as had been the case in other places. He should vote for the Bill with pleasure, hoping that a clause would be added for the destruction of the rabbits at present in the colony.

Mr. WELD-BLUNDELL was glad to see the strong feeling on both sides that the Bill should pass. Although various points might require consideration, and various amendments might be made, there was no doubt such a Bill was necessary under the present circumstances. Very few who had been up the country were unaware of the fact that rabbits had been turned out, though whether they had propagated to any extent or were lying by in the scrubs it was impossible to say. In his own district some people, whether intentionally or not, turned out some rabbits. These rabbits had not been seen since; but it did not necessarily follow because they had not been seen that they were not in the scrubs and the grass, and increasing. Rabbits increased and became so numerous, when turned out in suitable localities, that there was great danger in turning them out. He could not help feeling that the Bill ought to be made more stringent in the matter of rabbits being allowed as playthings. It might seem odd to pass an Act of Parliament forbidding children having rabbits; but the rabbit question was of such importance, and the dangers arising from their increase was so great, that they ought not to consider the amusement of a very small number of the population in passing such an Act as would guard the country from being absolutely cursed with a plague of rabbits. Anyone who had been in the colonies of New Zealand, New South Wales, Victoria, or South Australia knew the curse they had proved there—in many in-

stances valuable properties becoming valueless in consequence of the pest. Although the Bill provided for all present requirements, it would not in any way suffice for the increase which would take place in a few years. In England the plague had been advancing year by year, sometimes fast and sometimes slowly; and it was recognised in New South Wales that the plague was advancing further and further north. Wherever there was a dry climate the rabbit would propagate and thrive; and before long they would be called upon to pass a more stringent measure than the one now before them.

The Hon. G. THORN said his experience was altogether different from that of hon. members who had already spoken on the question. He had never been able to get rabbits to propagate. There was no use in passing the Bill before the House, because the wild cat and the domestic cat wild would keep the rabbits down. He had never been able to get rabbits to increase, though he had often tried; and he had heard of others who had turned rabbits adrift who had also failed to get them to breed because of wild cats. If half-a-dozen wild cats and half-a-dozen domestic cats gone wild were turned out on Woody Island they would soon clear out the rabbits. So far as the interior was concerned, people could never be prevented from turning out rabbits if they liked to do so. He considered the Bill a useless piece of legislation. A Bill for the destruction of the flying-fox would be of some use; and some means ought to be devised for eradicating the *Xanthum strumarium*; but he did not see why they should waste the time of the House on a measure like the Bill before them.

Mr. McLEAN thought it was quite time such a Bill was introduced and passed into law. He quite agreed with previous speakers who had said rabbits were on the increase to a considerable extent. About fourteen years ago a considerable number of rabbits were turned out within fifteen miles of Brisbane, and they had not increased to any considerable extent; but that was to be accounted for by the fact that native cats and other vermin were numerous in the district. The reason why the rabbits had increased in Victoria was because native dogs and cats had been to a large extent destroyed. The hon. member for Northern Downs talked about native cats destroying rabbits, but there were plenty of them in Victoria. He had never seen so many native cats in Queensland as in Victoria, so that they could not affect the rabbits much. Some hon. members thought the Bill ought to be made more stringent, but he (Mr. McLean) could not see in what respect it ought to be made so. Provision was made for the destruction of straying rabbits; the importation of rabbits was prohibited, and the 2nd clause provided that no person should have or keep in his possession any live rabbits unless they were securely confined within hutches or boxes, constructed of hardwood timber of not less than half an inch in thickness; therefore he did not see how the Bill could be made more stringent. His opinion was that it was a little too stringent, if anything. Notwithstanding that opinion, he should support the second reading of the Bill, believing that it was no use to "lock the door after the horse was stolen." They knew very well how rabbits had increased in other colonies, and the sooner they legislated on the question the better.

Mr. SCOTT would not object to the second reading of the Bill, but should like to see some of the clauses modified in Committee. The 2nd clause, for instance, which provided for the manner in which rabbits were to be kept, he should like to see modified. Then, again, the 4th clause dealt with persons turning rabbits loose. Supposing a doe rabbit got loose, and had

a litter of young ones—was the owner to be punished for the damage done by the young ones also? Clause 6, which prohibited the sale of live rabbits, appeared to sanction pure confiscation. Many persons had rabbits which were marketable property—he had known them to sell for as much as five guineas a pair—and if such property were rendered valueless some means of compensating the owners must be provided.

Mr. FEEZ said the hon. member for Northern Downs treated the matter, as might have been expected, in a very jovial manner. The hon. member had been a boy once, fond of rabbits, and no doubt he was fond of them still. He (Mr. Feez) had had some little experience on the subject, and had increased his knowledge by gathering the opinions of others. In 1861, when first visiting the Peak Downs, he remembered trying for a week to catch a kangaroo, but could see none, and he saw very little at that time to foreshadow the necessity of introducing a Bill for the destruction of kangaroos. In 1854, when camping in the New England district, he turned out some rabbits he had with him, as nobody would give anything for them. Eight or nine years afterwards he received a letter from a gentleman in that district advising him never to show himself in New England again, as the rabbits he left had increased to such an extent that the best land was being destroyed, and extreme measures would have to be resorted to to get rid of the pests. The inhabitants afterwards enclosed their lands with close-paling fences, but still they could not keep them out. The hon. member (Mr. Thorn), who represented an agricultural constituency, should take notice of that fact. In some districts, no doubt, the increase was kept down by wild cats, native dogs, and other natural enemies; but in other parts—notably, in New England—the increase was very rapid. He strongly recommended the adoption of the proposed measure, believing that such legislation was not a waste of time, and that if the Bill was defective in any respect it was so in not being sufficiently stringent.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he could corroborate the remarks of the hon. member for Wide Bay. On Woody Island, he believed, the rabbits had increased to a very great extent, though in some other places—for instance, on Stradbroke Island—they had not bred. In the immediate vicinity of Brisbane he had seen large numbers running about in a half-wild state, although there was no want of domestic cats in the neighbourhood. There could be no doubt that rabbits were a frightful pest, and no measures could be too stringent to keep them down. He would go so far as to absolutely prohibit the keeping of them. They promised to be a more serious infliction than the *phylloxera*; and yet Parliament had not hesitated to prohibit—very properly, he considered—the introduction of vines altogether. He would have every rabbit killed that could be got hold of, even if it were necessary to give compensation to the owners, so that the pest might be got rid of by hook or by crook.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he fully endorsed the remarks of the hon. member for Maryborough. Throughout the Australian colonies rabbits had become a plague, and in New Zealand hundreds of square miles had been desolated by them and the inhabitants starved out. On the Colac estate in Victoria, the Robertsons had expended £30,000 in trying to clear 30,000 acres from rabbits, and they had not entirely succeeded. In South Australia, also, the same plague was experienced. A gentleman in charge of a station in that colony had informed him that he made five attempts to introduce rabbits. Four times he was unsuccessful, the rabbits disappearing, but the fifth time they bred and in-

creased to such a mischievous extent that he was thoroughly ashamed of himself for having introduced them. No doubt, in many cases the increase was at first stopped by native cats and dogs, but if they once got a start there was no stopping them. The marsupials had been found to be quite bad enough, but rabbits, if they once got ahead, would be infinitely worse—in a sparsely populated country he could hardly imagine a greater curse. If necessary, it would be advisable to put a sum of money on the Estimates to be expended in compensation—it would be profitable to buy up the rabbits, even at five guineas a pair, and destroy them, rather than let them overrun the country. A little sentiment might be indulged in about children's toys, but the children would grow up to be men and women, and their future interests were of greater importance than their immediate pleasures; besides which children had plenty of other pets. The last time he was up the country he had seen a couple of tame rabbits, and had offered to pay the value of them to the owner if he would allow them to be destroyed to prevent the possibility of their progeny getting away and breeding. The owner, however, refused to sell them. The Bill, in his (Mr. Hill's) opinion, was not half stringent enough—every policeman ought to be empowered to destroy every rabbit he found anywhere, whether in a hutch or loose. He should support the Bill, and he hoped it would be made much more stringent.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was then read a second time, and the third reading was fixed for Thursday fortnight (August 19).

BONUS FOR IRON—COMMITTEE.

On the motion of Mr. HENDREN, the House went into Committee to consider the desirability of offering a bonus for the production of Queensland iron.

Mr. HENDREN moved—

That the Committee agree to the following resolutions, viz.:—

“This House recognises the importance of establishing local industries.

“That this House is prepared to offer the sum of £5,000 as a bonus to be given to the person or company who will first produce 500 tons good marketable iron, smelted from ores raised in Queensland, said bonus to be paid in the following manner, viz.:—£2,500 to be paid on the production of the first 250 tons of such iron, and the balance (£2,500) to be paid on production of the remaining 250 tons of such iron, whether or not said quantities of iron be produced from one and the same mine, or by different parties from a different mine.

“That an address be presented to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, praying His Excellency to issue a proclamation offering the foregoing reward.”

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said when the motion to go into committee was before the House he had stated that he did not regard the proposition as a useful one, and he was still of the same opinion; but he should strongly object to the resolution passing in its present shape. If the resolution were passed in its present shape ore might be smelted in any of the other colonies and this colony would have to pay. The thing was a downright absurdity. The resolution stated that the ore was to be raised in Queensland, but it did not say that it must be smelted in Queensland. Consequently, the ore might be smelted anywhere, and a door was opened for all kinds of fraud. He did not look upon it as a useful resolution, and if any attempt were made to move it in its present shape he should propose an amendment to alter the form of it.

Mr. KING said if the resolution was to be passed, he took it for granted that the Com-

mittee would make the amendment indicated, to ensure that the iron should be smelted as well as raised in Queensland; otherwise, 500 or 1,000 tons of iron might be raised somewhere near the Bremer, sent by steamer to Sydney or Newcastle, and smelted there. He did not intend to oppose the motion, because he recognised the importance of establishing local industries. At the same time, he did not believe this resolution would be of any effect, for the reason that this was one of those industries which could not be established by any reasonable amount of protection. At the present time the demands of the colony were not sufficiently great, the whole quantity of iron imported in a given time not being equal to the produce of one blast furnace. He did not see how it was possible to acclimatise the manufacture of iron in the colony until population had increased to such an extent as to create a demand sufficient to keep one or more blast furnaces in constant operation. At the same time, he was willing to let the motion go as an expression of his desire to favour the establishment of such industries, though he feared that in this instance no practical result would follow. An amendment would have to be made, however, to prevent the possibility of fraud.

Mr. THOMPSON moved, that after the word "smelted" the words "in Queensland" be inserted, in order to carry out the wishes expressed by the hon. members who had spoken.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and past.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That the words "whether or not said quantities of iron be produced from one and the same mine, or by different parties from a different mine" should be omitted.

If they were to offer a bonus, the 500 tons of iron should be produced from the same mine and same furnace, otherwise they would be leaving the door open to additional fraud. They would have parties in the colony clubbing together for the sole purpose of gaining the bonus.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted be so omitted—put and passed.

Mr. GROOM said he presumed the Colonial Secretary would have no objection to the resolution as amended.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Not the slightest.

Mr. GROOM said the resolution might do no good, but it would certainly do no harm. The House must not overlook the fact that there was a general desire on the part of the people that it should do something to increase industrial occupation in the land. Queensland presented a good field, labour being plentiful and employment for it scarce, and any step by which an increased amount of employment would be given would be beneficial to the colony. Although the resolution might produce no actual benefit it would show that there was a disposition on the part of hon. members to assist in every way that they could to give employment to labour. It might be a step in a good beginning. Other matters might spring up where the offering of bonuses would do good, and to show that by this means industries could be successfully established he need only instance the Ipswich Woollen Manufactory. He would give his adherence to the resolution, it being the affirmation of a sound principle.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he had not yet heard anyone show that there was the slightest probability or possibility of 500 tons of iron being produced within a reasonable time—within the present generation, in fact. The mover of the resolution had said nothing as to the situation of extensive ironfields in the colony, and they

knew perfectly well that unless iron and coal deposits existed close together, and that unless richer fields could be discovered than were known in Australia, the manufacture of iron would not pay. They also knew that, with the exception of one small patch in New South Wales, the ironfields of Australia were not first-class, and, so far as they knew, were absolutely unknown in Queensland. It was absurd to offer a bonus for a thing which could not be produced. Let the bonus, if it was to be given, be for something reasonable—something tangible. He did not, however, believe in bonuses. He believed in free-trade, and in every industry helping itself. If it was good it would go ahead, and if it was not it would not prosper. They knew what the effect of the cotton bonus had been—when the bonus ceased the growing of cotton also ceased. The resolution before the Committee was worse than absurd, but no doubt it would be carried through the votes of those members who believed in the principle, and of those who knew perfectly well that it would be a dead-letter. The mover of the resolution was simply trying to get a little cheap popularity, for he had not attempted to show that there was the least possibility of the 500 tons of iron being raised; he had not even offered a remark in favour of the resolution. To pass such a resolution seemed to him (Mr. Morehead) to be simply playing with the time of the House. If they were to deal with the question of free-trade and protection, let it be on a broader basis and better issue. He knew there were members in the Committee who were not protectionists, but who might vote for the resolution knowing that it would lead to nothing, and it might be that the resolution was only an insidious attempt on the part of the hon. member to get certain members to nail their colours to the mast. At any rate the hon. member had not adduced any reason in support of the resolution—in fact, he was clever enough to so word the motion in the first instance that the iron might have been brought from any part of the world, and the bonus claimed. As he had been defeated on his original motion, he might possibly withdraw it, for it would be only a dead-letter as the money would never be asked for. To pass it would be establishing a precedent and playing with the time of the House.

Mr. THORN said he was aware of a place near Ipswich where there were deposits of iron ore, coal, and lime—the constituents for the successful establishment and prosecution of an iron smelting industry. The only objection that he saw to the resolution was that it would be possible for someone to produce the 500 tons, claim the bonus, and then let the thing drop. Some members had said that great expense would have to be incurred to engage in the industry, but they were mistaken, as only crude appliances were required. At any rate, the ore at the place that he named was of high per cent., and someone might easily produce the quantity of iron named in the resolution, obtain the bonus, and let the industry drop. He was also aware of large deposits of carbonate of iron on the Darling Downs. No coal had been found in the vicinity, but there was any quantity of timber available, and 500 tons of iron might easily be fused there, and after the handsome bonus had been secured, the industry might go to the wall.

Mr. THOMPSON said he regretted that he had not made himself acquainted with the exact particulars of the ores that the colony possessed, but he knew that Mr. Williams, the proprietor of the iron mine in New South Wales, once made a journey to Ipswich for the purpose of finding certain ores to mix with the New South

Wales ore and make the latter more valuable. He thought it was a kind of hæmatite that was deposited near Ipswich, and was also under the impression that a valuable iron could be produced from it by one process; whereas inferior ores required to undergo several processes before a marketable article was produced. Their ore was of that character that it required only a certain amount of work to constitute it a valuable class of iron. Specimens of smelted iron of a superior quality, which had been obtained from their ore, might be seen in the Museum; and he knew that the opinion of a friend of his, now deceased—who was a good chemist and good engineer—was that only cheap appliances would be needed to utilise it. He hoped the resolution would lead to that result. Exception had been taken to the principle of giving bonuses. It was unjustifiable in old countries, but when they came to a new country they would never have industries if they did nothing else than allow the gum trees in the land to propagate. They must go outside the principle of political economy, and do everything in new countries. Why should not the colony pay part of the expenses of an experiment that they wished to be tried? It was, in fact, colonisation, which was nothing more nor less than a succession of experiments. Was the colony prepared to pay a small part of the expense that would have to be incurred to make the experiment under discussion? Supposing a bonus was claimed, it would be a great benefit, for it meant the establishment of a new industry, and if it was not claimed the colony would not be deprived of anything. In regard to the Ipswich cotton bonus, he was not at all ashamed of the active part that he took in bringing it in. To this day the benefit of that bonus was being felt. It had settled a number of people in and around Ipswich who were still there. It had induced many Germans to settle, and had been the nucleus of the Rosewood Scrub settlement, which was always cited as an example of successful agriculture. He should support the motion, and believed that if they had a few more such it would tend to draw attention to the resources of the colony, and give employment to the ingenuity of chemists and engineers; and, in fact, attract some of the spare capital, both in talent and money, which was now available. He saw by late accounts that money was likely to be plentiful in the southern colonies, and some, it was to be hoped, would find its way to Queensland. They really must show that they had some field here for the employment of capital. He would admit the importance of sheep and cattle, but he did not see why they should not hold out to the world that iron could be produced in the colony.

Mr. MESTON said, the other evening when he addressed himself to the motion he said he was not in favour of bonuses, because history showed they had not been successful in permanently establishing industries, and in support of the statement he might instance the result of the cotton bonus in New South Wales. He did not know anything about the result of the cotton bonus in this colony, but the land grants given for the encouragement of sugar cultivation had induced a number of persons with insufficient capital to engage in the pursuit, and had resulted in a conspicuous failure. He also made the statement that if they did call into existence an iron manufactory it would not be able to sustain itself unless it was protected by a duty on iron, and here he could point to the experience of America, which so long ago as 1740 made a considerable quantity of iron. He also made a statement which was taken exception to by the member for South Brisbane (Mr. Fraser), that unless they had protective duties the British manufacturers would send their iron to the

colony and sell it at less than cost price, in order to shut up local factories. He would read what they had done in regard to America after the war of 1812—

"The English manufacturers at this stage of our history made great sacrifices in order to control our trade and break down our manufactures. Lord Brougham said in Parliament that it was even worth while to incur a loss upon the first importation, in order by the glut to stifle in the cradle these rising manufactures in the United States which the war had forced into existence contrary to the natural course of things."

There they had one of the most eminent of English statesmen advising English manufacturers to incur a loss so that they might shut up American blast furnaces; and, to show that this was acted upon, he would read another quotation:—

"In 1849 and 1850 the quantity of English railroad iron rushed into American markets was 200,000 tons, at \$40 per ton, to which low price we had forced it during our season of protection. Our mills, which produced 41,000 tons annually, and were then capable of producing 70,000 tons, were reduced to 16,500 tons average during these years. The furnaces went out of blast because the market for pig-iron was destroyed by the stopping of the mills. Under these circumstances, in order to save themselves from actual ruin, our manufacturers asked simply for protection against actual loss, or enough to allow them \$50 per ton for iron, which was one-third more valuable than English iron; but Congress refused to help them. They permitted our foreign rivals to crush out competition. Our production fell from 800,000 tons of pig-iron per annum to less than 500,000 tons, instead of increasing, as formerly."

"England then stepped in for our trade, and before competition could be again restored the price of iron went up from \$40 to \$80 per ton! At enormous prices England supplied us with no less than 1,000,000 tons of rails in the four years, 1851-54."

He contended that if the manufacture of iron in the colony was stimulated by a bonus—which he took to be an unsound principle—it would be utterly impossible for Queensland manufacturers to compete with foreign manufacturers who had complete appliances for carrying on the manufacture. At the same time, he did not agree with the hon. member for Maryborough (Mr. King) that if they could not get iron in sufficiently large quantities to keep a smelting furnace constantly going they should leave it alone, as he (Mr. Meston) believed it was essential to the progress of the colony that they should manufacture as much as they possibly could of those goods which they now obtained from foreign manufacturers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it might be thought somewhat inconsistent for him to first amend the resolution and then to move that it be thrown out altogether. Although the first resolution was one on which hon. members were pretty well agreed—namely, that it was important to establish local industries, the second resolution was objectionable in many respects, and therefore he thought it should be thrown out. It might happen that some speculator might discover some ore which was easily smelted, and he might erect cheap smelting works, in order to get the bonus and nothing more; or the iron might be smelted at such a long distance from water carriage as to be valueless, and the colony would be called upon to pay the bonus for what was of no earthly use to it. For those reasons he thought it would be better to throw out the resolution altogether. He had never heard of iron ore suitable for smelting having been discovered in large quantities, and he did not think that any geological surveyor had discovered it. That there were large deposits of iron there was no doubt, but that they were of good smelting quality he did not believe. Supposing 500 tons were smelted in the Mac-kinlay Ranges, for instance where it was said it

was found, it would be useless, and the colony would be very much better without the discovery.

Mr. DOUGLAS said the hon. gentleman had referred to the Mackinlay Ranges, but it was well known that there was plenty of very good iron ore along the Southern and Western line, in the vicinity of Ipswich and Warwick.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Good for smelting?

Mr. DOUGLAS said he could not go so far as that, but that there were large deposits of iron there was no doubt. He believed that the development of such an industry should be encouraged in any practical form. No doubt the requirements of the Queensland market were small at present, but the colony was going on making railways, and he apprehended that ultimately that might lead to the colony making its own steel rails. That should, in fact, be one of the chief aims they had in the establishment of such works. He was convinced the crude ore was to be found in abundance, and all they required was the necessary science and industry to turn it to account.

Mr. HENDREN said he had listened with patience to the arguments for and against the resolutions, and he had not heard any reason adduced against them; on the contrary, the preponderance of argument was in favour of them. As to what had been said by the Colonial Secretary about a speculator raising iron here and sending it to New South Wales to be smelted, it was absurd to suppose that such a thing would be attempted. What the colony wanted was encouragement given to private industries, so as to afford employment to the people in it. As a proof of the value of such encouragement, he might mention the case of the Woollen Company at Ipswich, which without the bonus given to it might not have been able to raise its head so successfully as it had done; and although it had been pointed out that the bonus to cotton production was a failure, he believed that if a cotton gin were erected in connection with the woollen mills at Ipswich another impetus would be given to the growth of cotton. He would not detain the House longer, but would move—

That the Chairman leave the chair, and report to the House that the Committee have arrived at a resolution.

Mr. KATES said an objection had been raised by the hon. Colonial Secretary that some speculator might come forward and produce 500 tons of iron merely to get the bonus; and, to meet that objection, he (Mr. Kates) would move the addition of the following words after "iron":—"Provided it can be proved to the satisfaction of the Government that a sum of £5,000 had been expended in the erection of furnaces and other appliances to produce these 500 tons of marketable iron."

Mr. THOMPSON suggested that the word "furnaces" should be altered to "appliances," as he believed that iron could be smelted without "furnaces," which he took to mean fires in which a blast was used.

Mr. HENDREN said the amendment of the hon. member for Darling Downs would entirely nullify the resolution, and would make it utterly useless for anyone to try and produce smelted iron. If the hon. member was sitting on the other side of the Committee he could understand him bringing forward such an amendment, but sitting on the same side with himself he must say he could not understand it. If the Committee did not wish to vote money, let them give land, of which there was an abundance. There was plenty of iron within five miles of Brisbane, and he

had picked up iron ore at Pine Mountain, a sample of which anyone could see. Underlying that iron there was coal, so that there was timber, coal, and everything that was necessary for manufacturing purposes. He hardly knew whether he was a freetrader or a protectionist; but, what he proposed was not protection but merely an encouragement to industries. But if they could put a little tax on those things they could manufacture themselves he considered they had a right to do so.

Mr. NORTON said there were some other things the hon. member did not know besides not knowing whether he was a freetrader or a protectionist—namely, that he did not know what he wanted in the motion he had just made. The hon. member had objected to the amendment of the hon. member for Darling Downs; but that was not the question before the Committee, as he (Mr. Norton) believed there was a previous question, that the Chairman leave the chair. It seemed that they were getting rather mixed, and he would like to know what was really meant.

Mr. McLEAN thought that the hon. member for Bundamba had put the motion in mistake. That hon. member was not accustomed to do much business in the House, and did not know what the routine in committee was. It was not the first time he had seen hon. members make mistakes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that was not the question. The hon. member for Bundamba had moved a resolution which was put from the chair and that was never withdrawn; but he went on to a different subject altogether to the consideration of the resolution on the paper as amended. He had no wish to take advantage of the hon. member, but let them do business in a proper way.

Mr. NORTON said he was not in the House when the resolution was moved; but he heard the hon. member for Bundamba move that the Chairman should leave the chair and report progress; and the Chairman stood up and moved that motion. He should like to know what really was the question.

Mr. HENDREN said that, feeling he had been out of order, he begged leave to withdraw the motion.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he understood the hon. member for the Darling Downs to say that £1,000 was the sum that should have been expended.

Mr. SIMPSON said he understood the hon. member to say £10,000. For himself he was a firm believer in freetrade and its principles, and as such he should vote against the motion in any form. He did not see why the Government should give £5,000 to produce iron without any warranting that it would be of any good to the country. It was the thin end of the wedge of protection, and he should vote against it.

Mr. MESTON said the hon. member for Dalby had told them that he was a firm believer in freetrade after supporting a project for the export of frozen meat. He had also called attention to the grant given to the Ipswich woollen factory. A sum of £2,000 was to be given, provided that mills, machinery, &c., to the value of £2,000 were erected; there was also a grant of 1,000 acres of land. The hon. member for the Darling Downs was so far reasonable in saying that there ought to be something shown for the value given, as the work might be done with the most primitive appliances, and after the manufacture of a sufficient amount to repay the outlay the appliances might be allowed to be destroyed.

Mr. FRASER said that he firmly believed that they would be encouraging local industries if they passed the amendment now proposed. If

they imposed reasonable conditions, the hands of any person who might undertake the scheme should be left as much at liberty as possible as to how they were to carry it out. They all knew that many great enterprises had begun on a small scale, and he would also point out that any man who succeeded in procuring 500 tons of marketable iron was not likely to give up the business for the mere sum named in the resolution. Besides, from what they knew of the ordinary process, he was perfectly satisfied that considerably more than the sum proposed would be necessarily expended. So that, looking at it altogether, if they were to hamper the proposal with such conditions as were now proposed they had better at once confess that they had no desire to see it a success. He would suggest that the amendment be withdrawn.

Mr. DE BURGH PERSSE considered the suggestion of the hon. member for South Brisbane an extremely sensible one, and thought that if a bonus were given it would be a pity to have it hampered. They ought to give it with as little trouble as possible. There was quite enough to contend against in getting the ore, without being tied hand and foot to erect appliances. If any one got 500 tons of marketable ore in a smelted condition and fit for use he was worthy of reward and would deserve support. It would be one of the finest things that could happen to the colony if they could produce iron in a marketable condition. He believed there was any quantity of iron ore in the district he represented, and people would be willing with the conditions proposed to produce it in a marketable condition, and such an industry ought to be fostered. Reference had been made to the bonus on cotton, and this led him to say he was sorry that they could not manage to keep cotton going, for it would be for the benefit of the colony if they could get a good marketable article—let it be what it might—to send out of the colony and sell.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he hoped the hon. member for the Darling Downs would not withdraw his amendment, as if there were any *bona fides* about the matter at all it would be in the course suggested. He trusted the hon. member would not be led away by any remarks from the other side of the House. The hon. member for the Darling Downs had stated that his great objection was that tenderers might come and take sufficient ore, and, having secured the bonus, go away. He himself wanted to say a few words with reference to that subject. Notwithstanding all that he had heard from hon. members opposite with reference to the fine nature of the ore about Ipswich, it had better be understood at once that they were not ores that were likely to be converted into good iron. That was a well-known fact, and it was no use winking at it. Allusions had been made by the senior member for Ipswich to what had been done by Mr. Williams, but that proved nothing. They were simply told that Mr. Williams came up, looked at the ores, and went away again, and as he did not take any with him, nor take any steps to mix them, as suggested, with the ore of New South Wales, it was a fair presumption that he at least did not think much of them. Yet they were told by hon. members opposite, and by the hon. member for Darling Downs particularly, that they had illimitable wealth that could be started by what?—why, by a bonus of £5,000. Here were millions waiting for that trifling grant. The State was to give £10 per ton for the first 500 tons. They only wanted the shove. It was really too absurd—to be plain, it was too much like touting to one's constituents. The hon. member for Bundamba did not often address the House, but when he did he came down and

made *ad captandum* speeches to tickle his constituents. They were intended to offer them some apparent sop—for it would be nothing when they got it. The hon. member wanted to be talked about as a man who was doing all he could for his electorate. Such men as that were the worst members in the House, for they were always log-rolling and trying to get their names prominently before the public. They got swelled up like balloons for a little while, and then becoming pricked collapsed like a bladder. If the hon. member had given them any statesmanlike exposition, or shown any great benefits to be derived by the colony from his proposition, the resolution might have received consideration; but he had said nothing that they could place reliance on. He (Mr. Morehead) trusted that the amendment would be carried, but, at the same time, if it were not carried he would vote against the whole resolution.

Mr. HENDREN said the hon. member for the Mitchell had spoken about the electorate of Bundamba. He represented that electorate, which was one of the most wealthy of the colony, possessing as it did large mineral resources, and he hoped yet to see it the Manchester of Queensland. The hon. member, who was the walking clothes-prop of the House, miscalculated altogether when he began lecturing him. That hon. member had powers surpassing his or many other members of the House, no doubt. Eight or ten years ago he remembered hearing him spoken of as an hon. member of promise, but he had sought in vain for any useful legislation he had introduced into the House, and now he wanted to crush this grand idea. For himself he was but a young member, but if the hon. member for the Mitchell would introduce an equally good measure he would support it. He would not treat him as he himself had been treated. When he went before his constituents he was quite assured that they would not burn him in effigy.

Mr. SIMPSON said he would like to know what marketable iron was: it might be pig-iron. A person who got the subsidy was not likely to erect rolling mills. He might mix the iron with the hon. member for Maryborough's bacon. This motion might very well be taken with the next, and make it a bonus of £10,000, for the production of iron under the circumstances mentioned was just about as satisfactory as the production of bacon by a Government factory. He did not approve of it at all, for the test would neither prove the value of iron for manufacturing purposes or anything else; and he did not see why the sum of £10 a-ton should be given for the production of an article that had been, at any rate, as low in value as 30s. or 35s. a-ton. Pig-iron could be produced in quantities at almost a nominal price; but when produced, then really it was that the manufacturing began. As he had said before, he objected to the motion because he professed free-trade principles, and believed that bounties did no good; and he certainly did not think the production of 500 tons of crude pig-iron would do Queensland any good or be at all equivalent to the sum of £5,000.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he was sorry he had not had the privilege of hearing all the arguments in favour of this motion. It was not intended to confine the production of pig-iron to any particular district, but it would be applicable to all parts of the colony where iron was to be found. He disagreed altogether with the arguments of the hon. member for Mitchell. If manufactories were established and furnaces erected it would cost ten times £5,000, but it would be one of the finest things ever done for the country. They all knew the price they had to pay for iron at the present time, and if this

bonus had the effect of stimulating a company to start an industry beneficial to the colony it would not be money wasted. Iron works required a great amount of labour; in fact, the manufacture of iron was nearly all labour. It employed a great number of men, and, bearing in mind the fact that they all consumed dutiable goods, the industry would in a short time pay back to the Government the amount of this bonus. Furthermore, if no company should avail itself of the privilege, as many members predicted, the country would lose or gain nothing. Consequently, he did not see that the Government should stand in the way of allowing this motion to pass on the plea that no one would attempt to avail themselves of it without sufficient capital and labour. It would not be worth anyone's while to start a factory for the production of iron without a bonus, and hon. members would do wisely to let this motion pass, so as to induce some company to enter into the enterprise.

Mr. HORWITZ said he hoped the hon. member for Darling Downs (Mr. Kates) would withdraw his amendment. Although they felt inclined to vote a certain amount of money, the country would not lose anything by offering this £5,000. It took a great deal of capital to start an industry of this kind. The motion before the House was simply to offer £5,000 to a certain person or company, and the person or company who went into that industry must spend a lot of money by finding employment for a certain class of people, so that the country would not lose anything by it at all. Instead of having to get iron from Great Britain they might as well have such an industry of their own and get their iron from the colony of Queensland. It was well known by members on both sides of the House that iron was to be found here in large quantities. He had himself seen iron only four miles from the railway line between Warwick and Stanthorpe. It would be advisable for not only one side but both sides of the House to vote for it, and he again hoped that the hon. member for Darling Downs would withdraw his amendment.

Mr. KATES said there appeared to be a general wish that he should withdraw his amendment, and, not wishing to go against the wishes of friends on his own side, he would, with the permission of the House, withdraw his motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY and other HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No, no!

Amendment put and passed.

Question, as amended, therefore,—

"1. That this House recognises the importance of establishing local industries.

"2. That this House is prepared to offer the sum of £5,000 as a bonus to be given to the person or company who will first produce 500 tons good marketable iron, smelted in Queensland from ores raised in Queensland, said bonus to be paid in the following manner—viz., £2,500 to be paid on the production of the first 250 tons of such iron, and the balance (£2,500) to be paid on the production of the remaining 250 tons of such iron, provided it can be proved to the satisfaction of the Government that a sum not less than £5,000 has been expended for the erection of furnaces or other appliances to produce these 500 tons of marketable iron.

"3. That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government praying His Excellency to issue a proclamation offering the foregoing reward."

The Committee divided :—

AYES, 21.

Messrs. Douglas, Garrick, Miles, Hendren, Macrossan, Perkins, Meston, Dickson, Fraser, King, Thompson, Grimes, Kates, Rutledge, Macfarlane, Price, Horwitz, Groom, Griffith, Bailey, and Perse.

NOES, 11.

Messrs. Palmer, Hill, Beor, Archer, Simpson, Weld-Blundell, Amhurst, H. W. Palmer, Swauwick, Hamilton, and Peetz.

Question, therefore, resolved in the affirmative.

The CHAIRMAN reported the resolution to the House, and the consideration of the resolution was made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had no objection to make to it, but he wished to call the Speaker's distinct attention to the fact that on such a small question as that of pig-iron the Opposition made it a party question. They voted for it like one man. The Government side—even the Government themselves—split for and against it, thereby showing that they were not inclined to make a party question of it. The next order was a bonus for bacon, and they would no doubt find the Opposition voting like one man for bacon. They would "go the whole hog," as a friend behind him suggested. Even on these paltry subjects the Opposition would persist in making them party questions.

Mr. GRIFFITH said he was sorry the Colonial Secretary felt so hurt about the last division. He could assure him that the Opposition did not consult together as a party on the subject. They all voted according to their individual lights. He was not aware how a single member of the Opposition would vote. The Government made their questions party questions in a very different way.

Mr. ARCHER said there was no need to consult the party, for as soon as they saw the leader walk over they all followed him.

Mr. GRIFFITH said he was almost the last to take his seat.

Mr. WELD-BLUNDELL said he met a member of the Opposition outside who was decidedly opposed to the resolution, and yet he preferred to stay away from the division rather than vote against the motion because the whole of his party were on the other side.

Mr. SIMPSON thought it would be a very good thing if the Government party could only organise as well as the Opposition.

MAIL SERVICE COMMITTEE.

On this Order being called, Mr. SCOTT took the chair; but, on the motion of the Colonial Secretary, the CHAIRMAN reported no progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Tuesday.

JOINT HANSARD.

The Order of the Day being read for the consideration of the following Message from the Legislative Council, bearing date 15th July—

"Mr. SPEAKER,—The Legislative Council having come to the following resolutions, viz. :—

"1. That the Presiding Chairman, Mr. Mein, and Mr. Buzacott, be appointed to confer with the Hon. the Speaker and the members of the Printing Committee of the Legislative Assembly in reference to the issue of *Hansard*.

"2. That this resolution be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly by Message in the usual form, requesting them to fix a time and place for such conference,—beg now to intimate the same to the Legislative Assembly.

"DANIEL F. ROBERTS,
"Presiding Chairman."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved,—

1. That this House approve of the proposal made by the Legislative Council in their message of date the 15th July last, that certain members of that House should confer with the Printing Committee of the Legislative Assembly in reference to the issue of *Hansard*; but leaves the time and place of meeting for mutual arrangement among the members concerned.

2. That the foregoing resolution be embodied in a message, and transmitted to the Legislative Council."

He did not think it necessary to make any remarks on the motion.

Question put and passed.

POST CARD BILL—SECOND READING.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had no wish to press any business on the House unless they wished. This Bill, however, was a very simple Bill, and had been already carried in the Legislative Council, and, if there was no opposition, he should like to get it on a stage further. But as he understood the Opposition did not wish to proceed further with business, he begged leave to move that this and the succeeding Orders of the Day be postponed till Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to 8 o'clock till Tuesday next.