

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

FRIDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1880

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He (Mr. Palmer) gave the reply which he received from the department, namely :—

“1. No moneys have been paid for wages due to deceased islanders.

“2. Yes. Demands have frequently been made on employers, but there are legal difficulties in the way of enforcing them.”

Since that date the hon. member for Blackall had called his attention to the fact that the firm of which that gentleman was a member had in two instances paid wages which were due to deceased islanders; and on making further inquiries he found that the answer supplied to him by the department was totally incorrect. He found that the payments altogether amounted to £218 3s., most of them being payments to the Curator of Intestate Estates under the provisions of the Intestacy Act of 1877. In two cases the amounts had been paid to the relations of the deceased, but such payments had been the exception and not the rule. He knew of several cases, however, in which wages that were due had been paid to the relations of the deceased islander. He now laid on the table the correct list of payments, and moved that it be printed.

Question put and passed.

SUPPLY.

On the motion of the PREMIER (Mr. McIlwraith), the Speaker left the chair and the House went into Committee of Supply.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £1,814 be granted for the services of the year 1880-1 for salaries and contingencies in connection with the establishment of the Governor. The only difference between this amount and that actually voted last year was the addition of £250 for uniforms, forage remounts, postage, and incidentals—that item having been cut down last year.

Mr. DICKSON asked whether any intimation had been received from His Excellency with regard to the probable date of his return to the colony?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said no official intimation had been received, but he had received private letters informing him that there was nothing to prevent His Excellency from returning at the time originally fixed—November—and that His Excellency was very anxious to get back.

Mr. DICKSON asked whether the country residence of His Excellency was held under lease. As a considerable portion of the year had expired, probably the whole amount would not be required.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the residence was not held under lease; but it mattered very little whether it was so or not, because the amount was only wanted for rent of a residence during the summer. The hon. member, as an ex-Treasurer, should know that the rule had always been to allow His Excellency the money and allow him to do what he liked with it in the way of providing himself with a residence.

Mr. MILES said it was hardly a fair thing that a sum should be voted for the residence of the Governor when His Excellency was not in the colony. He did not see how His Excellency could be entitled to the sum of £300 for a country residence while he was in England.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he could not hear what the hon. member had been saying. If the hon. member would not speak out he could not expect to be answered. If the whole of the amount was not wanted it would not be spent. His Excellency was likely to be back in November, and the residence was required for the summer months.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 10 September, 1880.

Wages of Deceased Islanders.—Supply.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past 10 o'clock.

WAGES OF DECEASED ISLANDERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Palmer) said that on the 3rd August last the hon. member for Port Curtis asked the following question—

“Have any employers of Polynesian Islanders, who have died before the expiration of their agreements, paid to the Colonial Treasurer the amount due to such labourers at the time of their death?”

“2. If not, has the Government in any instance demanded the money thus due?”

Mr. GRIMES said he noticed that an extra sum of £250 appeared on the Estimates for uniforms, forage, &c. Would the Colonial Secretary inform the House how that amount was proposed to be spent?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said if the hon. member would keep his ears open it would be a very great improvement. He stated that the estimate last year was cut down. Afterwards the amount had to be supplemented, but if the hon. member wouldn't take the trouble to keep his ears open when an explanation was made he could not help it. The estimate was improperly cut down last year, and, therefore, the amount this year was not extra.

Mr. MILES said it was much to be regretted that when hon. members wanted information the Colonial Secretary should get up and abuse members and tell them to keep their ears open. Surely an hon. member when he asked a question had a right to expect an answer. He would like to remind the hon. gentleman that he was the servant of the country and of the public, and hon. members expected him to be civil. They would have an answer.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY would remind the hon. member that he was not the servant of the hon. member, and never would be. The information had been given once, and it was ridiculous for the hon. member to ask for it twice over. He spoke loud enough, and the hon. member would have heard if he had kept his ears open.

Mr. MILES said it was true the hon. gentleman was not his servant, and he would take good care he never should be.

Mr. GRIMES said it appeared to him that the Colonial Secretary had fallen into the same fault as the hon. member for Darling Downs—namely, speaking in too low a tone of voice. Neither he nor other hon. members near him had been able to hear the hon. gentleman; and they felt that had the hon. gentleman spoken in his ordinary tone of voice they should not have failed to hear. When hon. members did not hear, very little harm would be done if the Colonial Secretary repeated his answer without making a great ado about it.

Mr. MILES said it was very unfortunate that the Colonial Secretary should get up and kick up such rows, preventing the business of the country from being carried on. The hon. gentleman first attacked him for speaking too low, and afterwards snubbed him and the hon. member for Oxley for not keeping their ears open in order to hear him. He would take precious good care the hon. gentleman did not proceed very far unless he altered his manner and became a little more careful for the future.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had heard those same threats every year since he had been in the House, and they took not a particle of effect upon him. They were the same every year and might be stereotyped.

Mr. MILES said he knew the hon. gentleman did not care for public opinion. The people from the southern border to the Gulf of Carpentaria knew the position the hon. gentleman held as a director of the Queensland National Bank, and that he conducted business there on behalf of the Government. He knew that the hon. gentleman set public opinion at defiance; but a day of reckoning was coming when the hon. gentleman would have to answer.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he knew who would be in the background when the day of reckoning came, but it would not be the Colonial Secretary.

Question put and passed.

The following sums were voted:—£689 for the service of the Executive Council; £3,450 for the service of the Legislative Council; and £4,745 for the service of the Legislative Assembly.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £4,739 be granted for the service of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly. There were two alterations in this vote to which he would draw attention. In the first place, an additional messenger to the library had been placed on the staff at £100 a year. The present messenger to the library was a very old and exceedingly useful servant of the House. Hon. members would probably agree with him in thinking that he was one of the most useful servants in the House, and a great deal more useful than the Librarian. He found that pressure had been brought to bear on the messenger, because he was in ill-health, to induce him to resign; but he thought hon. members would support him in keeping an old servant in his place and giving him all the assistance possible so long as he did his duty. For that reason an additional messenger had been put on the staff to assist the old messenger, and relieve him from a great deal of work which had recently been most improperly put on his shoulders, and which should have been performed by the Librarian, and had been performed by him until within the last few months. There was also an increase in the vote for the daily *Hansard*, which, as hon. members would judge for themselves, had been rendered quite necessary. With those exceptions the vote remained the same as that of last year.

Mr. DICKSON said this might be an appropriate time to refer to the fact that the House was unprovided with a parliamentary draughtsman. A provision, he thought, should be made for such an officer, in order that hon. members should have assistance when they required it in framing Bills for the consideration of Parliament. Hon. members would agree that it was highly desirable that such professional assistance should be forthcoming, so that Bills might be more complete in their character when presented, and not require so much alteration in the course of their passage through the House.

Mr. MOREHEAD said while this vote was under consideration he should like to say a few words about the vote for the library. As a matter of fact the sum proposed to be voted had been nearly all expended. The present Library Committee had found that for the last two years there had been debit balances continually against the library, and that these balances had increased until now it would take nearly the £600 to enable the committee to start with a clean sheet; and they would have to get more money if any new books were to be obtained. He would suggest that in the future both the Library and the Refreshment Rooms Committees should be compelled to submit a statement of accounts in each year. The present state of things was to a great extent the result of the way in which books had been purchased at home. He was quite certain that no hon. member with the exception of those on the Library Committee were aware of the facts he had stated, and if accounts were submitted, as he had suggested, such a state of things could not exist.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Beor) said the present was not exactly the place in the Estimates to discuss the question of a parliamentary draughtsman. It would come in better when the vote for his own department was before the Committee; and he would then be happy to give his opinion on the subject.

The Hon. J. DOUGLAS said that in his opinion a parliamentary draughtsman ought to be an officer of the House, accessible to private

members as well as to the Government. Whether the office was to be associated with any other or not might be a matter for further consideration. It might be advisable that that should be done, for it was doubtful whether there was sufficient work to keep a draughtsman constantly employed. But whatever was done in that direction he should be a parliamentary officer, for he would be placed in a more independent position with regard to his duties as a draughtsman than if he was directly under the control of any Minister. With regard to the Library Committee, he quite concurred with what had been said by the hon. member for Mitchell. It was desirable that every year that committee should bring up and lay before the House a statement of accounts, so that they might be kept square. The committee had been getting into arrears for some time, so much so that the supply of new books was seriously interfered with. It was perhaps hardly fair that the account for stationery, which was a very heavy item, should be charged to the committee. When that item was deducted, and also the charge for warming and lighting the Library, the sum at the disposal of the committee for the purchase of books was considerably reduced. The committee had lately made some economical arrangements with respect to the supply of periodicals and newspapers, though they had not yet been carried into effect. An application had been made to the Colonial Secretary, on behalf of the committee, with the view of placing on the Supplementary Estimates a sum sufficient to meet the indebtedness of past years, and he understood that the Colonial Secretary had intimated his willingness to do so.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he disagreed with the statement of the hon. member (Mr. Douglas) that a parliamentary draughtsman should be a parliamentary officer. When hon. members considered that nine-tenths of the Bills were brought in by the Government, they would see that he should be a Government officer. That a parliamentary draughtsman was wanted he fully admitted, but it was an admirable suggestion of the Attorney-General that he should be attached to another office. It might be combined with the office of Solicitor-General, and the officer might conduct prosecutions, which counsel were now paid large fees for doing. That was an idea which he intended to take into serious consideration. With respect to the Library Committee, he had been informed that there was a considerable overdraft, but the communication reached him after the Estimates were printed, and could not be included in them. He knew nothing whatever of the facts, but the state of affairs was not creditable to the Librarian, who, as secretary to the committee, had allowed things to go on in that way year after year, and the House knew nothing about it. That gentleman did precious little work of any sort. A catalogue compiled by him came before his notice recently, and it was so badly made up and so interlined that the printers could not look at it—could not make it out. That was the only work, as far as he knew, that the Librarian had been engaged in. He thought they could do very well without a librarian.

Mr. KING pointed out that the overdraft had originated in several ways. First, purchases of books had been made by the Agent-General in England on behalf of the Library Committee, and at the same time the committee expended large sums directly. Secondly, during the last two years they had commenced to bind periodicals, of which a large quantity had accumulated, and which were liable to be destroyed; and thirdly, a sum was wanted to defray the cost of printing a new catalogue, which was estimated

at £250. The Colonial Secretary had been scarcely fair to the Librarian in speaking as he did of the manner in which the catalogue had been compiled. While preparing the catalogue new books were constantly coming in by every mail, and the Librarian had to interline them all. There would be no trouble in printing the catalogue as soon as the money to do so was provided.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said any person compiling a catalogue for a large library ought to leave space enough between the lines for the insertion of the titles of new books.

Mr. RUTLEDGE wished to draw attention to the fact that certain officers of the House took periodicals off the table, and when members inquired for them they were told, much to their inconvenience, that "Mr. So-and-so has taken it away."

Mr. KING said the committee had put a stop to that at their last meeting, when it was decided that no periodicals should be taken off the table until the new numbers came in, and that newspapers should not be taken out of the building.

Mr. McLEAN said the ordering of books ought to be left entirely with the Library Committee, for if the Agent-General acted independently both authorities might order the same books.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said instructions had been sent to the Agent-General three or four months ago not to send out any more books without the orders of the Library Committee.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that originally the Agent-General was authorised by the committee to make a selection of books and send them out at short intervals. The amount spent by the Agent-General was not very large—not more at the outside than £10 a month. That was not an unreasonable expenditure for securing new books at the time they were published.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that would not matter so much if the selection was a good one; but let hon. members look at the table, and say what they were good for. If the Library Committee did its duty it would sell most of them for old waste-paper, or for whatever they would fetch. They were not fit to be in a parliamentary library.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he shared the opinion of the Colonial Secretary on that point, and he had suggested to the committee that a large number of the books should be sent to an auction mart. Two-thirds of the new books were never read, and the rest were not well selected. They ought not to fill up the shelves of the library with books of the sort sent out by the Agent-General.

Mr. DOUGLAS said some of the books were certainly not standard works; still, most of them were books of some merit, and the advantage was that they were sent out as soon as published. They were certainly not rubbish, as the Colonial Secretary seemed to imply, and they ought not to be sent to auction. The selection, on the whole, had been very fair, and for such a library it was necessary to take in some of the current literature of the day in the shape of new books.

Mr. PERSSE drew attention to the miserable condition of the parliamentary stables. There was no accommodation whatever; they were a disgrace to the building, and were liable to be burned down at any moment. It would be advisable to place a sum of money at the disposal of the Buildings Committee to erect proper stables.

The PREMIER said he was very much mistaken if the Agent-General had anything whatever to do with the selection of books. Before taking office, he (the Premier) was a member of the Library Committee; and, when it was found that a great deal of time was lost in waiting for the catalogues before ordering books, it was arranged that discretionary power should be left with some person at home to send out new publications. But that discretionary power rested with the booksellers, not with the Agent-General. He did not suppose the Agent-General had selected a single book.

The HON. J. M. THOMPSON said that, with reference to the Parliamentary Draughtsman, his opinion was that that official should be under the Government, but separated from all other departments. The suggestion that he should be joined to another department would not be found to work at all. After quoting from the work on the subject written by Sir H. Thring, the English Parliamentary Draughtsman, and recommending it to the attention of the Government, the hon. member said there were several legal matters in which the colony was behind the age—such as the law of petition, and the administration of lunacy in the Supreme Courts. The Courts had chosen to hold that they had adopted the English practice, but how long that would hold good nobody could tell, because the English practice was by statute. Those and many other matters would never be attended to until they had a parliamentary draughtsman, whose duty it would be to keep legislation abreast of the age.

Mr. STEVENS said that, with regard to the stables, there were frequently eight or ten horses standing outside because there was no room for them, and liable to catch cold, while the inside was so crowded that horses were liable to do each other serious injury. Something ought to be done to abate the evil.

Mr. DOUGLAS said there was no doubt the stables were a source of possible danger to the building. When the refreshment room was enlarged last year, it would have been far better to have erected a substantial building, for as it stood it was as serious a source of possible danger from fire as the stables themselves. It might be desirable to pull down the stables and erect them further back. It was just possible they might have to build a house for the Clerk of the Assembly, who, he understood, had to leave his present residence, and it was considered essential that he should reside near to Parliamentary Buildings. That also might have to be considered. They certainly ought to have decent stables of a character not likely to catch fire. If a fire broke out in the existing stables the result might be very serious indeed. With regard to a parliamentary draughtsman, he might say that when he was in office the whole duty of drafting Bills fell upon the Attorney-General for the time being—the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Griffith)—who received no extra pay for doing so. It was not a duty that ought to devolve upon the Attorney-General, but, as the hon. member (Mr. Thompson) had suggested, on an expert who devoted himself entirely to the work. They had had samples of Bills, especially—if the Government would allow him to say so—during last session, which indicated that the Government were not possessed of such an officer. An expenditure of this kind might result in a real saving if they got their statutes drawn in a form consonant with those legalised elsewhere, and the results, therefore, which would follow from a clearer statement of the principles embodied in words would be productive of the greatest benefit hereafter.

Mr. MILES said the amount down for the refreshment rooms was the same as last year—

£1,040. They were not refreshment rooms, but a boarding-house. Several members hired bedrooms elsewhere, but had all their meals at the refreshment rooms, and yet these were the gentlemen who regarded the principle of payment of members with horror; one of them also had a motion on the paper for the abolition of free railway passes. He could not see how gentlemen holding such opinions could make use of the refreshment rooms to live cheaply. He was glad to hear the Colonial Secretary say that the Librarian was not required, and should move that the sum of £4,739 be reduced by £400, being the Librarian's salary.

Mr. KING hoped the hon. member would not go to a division upon the motion, because it would be an undignified position for the House to take. He was aware that the Parliamentary Librarian was unpopular with many members; but if there was any specific complaint against him it should be referred to the Library Committee. Any complaint against the management of the library should be referred in the first place to the committee, and the House could then deal with the matter on the report of the committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said there were some officers in the Civil service who were incompetent for their positions, but against whom it was yet impossible to prefer a specific charge. He looked upon the present Librarian as incompetent; he was not half as good as the old one. He did not see members go near him; any information that was required was got from the messenger. It might be necessary to have someone to keep the accounts of the library, but he did not see what use the Librarian was.

Mr. DAVENPORT said he should have much pleasure in voting for the amendment. He looked upon the Librarian as a sort of nonentity. Whether it was necessary to have someone to keep the accounts and books of the library was another matter to be considered afterwards.

Mr. NORTON said he should not vote for the omission of the item. He did not profess to know the whole of the duties of the Librarian, but he did not think it was part of his work to follow every member to see what he wanted. If a member wanted anything he could surely go to him and let him know. He could say that whenever he wanted any information from the Librarian he got it without any difficulty; and that whenever the Librarian saw him looking for anything in the library he came to him and offered to help him in every way. He believed that the officer was unpopular, but why he did not know, for as far as he could judge the Librarian did everything that any member could reasonably expect from him.

Mr. KING said there was another point which he had omitted to mention, but which the House should take into consideration—namely, that the Librarian was the joint officer of the two Houses, and that the Library Committee was a joint committee. It was therefore scarcely the duty of one Chamber to deal with this officer without consultation with the other House.

Mr. MESTON said the attacks upon the Librarian were in exceeding bad taste. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary would graciously inform the Committee what he considered the duties of the Librarian to be. Did he think that they were similar to those of a messenger? The preparation of a comprehensive catalogue was a work requiring unusual ability, and he believed that the one now in course of preparation would prove to be one of the most comprehensive and lucid catalogues, perhaps, of any library in existence. He did not think that any member could justly say that the Librarian had on any occasion refused to give him attendance and assist-

ance. If the office of Librarian was abolished they would get the library in such a state of confusion that after a time it would be perfectly impossible to find any work. The present Librarian was, perhaps, one of the ablest men in the colonies; he was a gentleman, a scholar, and a man of extensive knowledge.

Mr. MILES said it was presumptuous of the member for Rosewood to lecture hon. members as to what they should say. If he (Mr. Miles) saw his way clear to reduce public expenditure he should attempt to do so, and in this instance he had moved his amendment on the authority of the Colonial Secretary, who said that the Librarian was of no use. He had not said a single word against the officer.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not think it was any part of his duty to point out to the member for Rosewood what the duties of the Librarian were, but he would tell him that it was no part of the duty of Librarian to spend a great part of his time communicating with public papers and stirring up religious strife; and, unless he was belied, that was what the Librarian had been doing for a considerable time. It was the duty of the Librarian to devote his time to the work of his office, but he had not done so; and it was not his duty to try and hunt out of the public service an old and valued servant. The Librarian had tried very hard to hunt the messenger out of the service, and for that he should never forgive him. If it had not been for his intervention that old man, who had served the House so well, would have been out of the service. He had actually sent in his resignation, because the Librarian was thrusting duties unfairly upon him.

Mr. ARCHER said he did not see that an attack should be made upon the member for Rosewood for defending the Librarian. He was as much justified in defending that officer as hon. members were in attacking him; and it showed pluck on the part of a young member to defend a man who was being attacked by members on both sides. He believed in what the member for Rosewood had said regarding the Librarian.

Mr. MESTON said he quite believed that the messenger was an old and efficient servant. In reference to what the member for Darling Downs had said, he would point out that he did not make the slightest allusion to the hon. member, who was perfectly right in making any motion that he pleased. If it was any satisfaction to him, he would also admit that the hon. member was possessed of a more extensive literary knowledge and was better qualified to judge of the duties of Librarian than he was.

Mr. MILES said he would repeat that he had not said a single word against the Librarian, and he had no desire to persecute him. With the permission of the Committee, he would withdraw his amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said it was very seldom that he troubled the Librarian, but that officer had never hesitated to assist him in getting what he wanted. He was sorry to hear that there was something more at the bottom of the Colonial Secretary's objection to the Librarian, but he hoped that the hon. gentleman was not one of those who would never forgive. The Committee had nothing to do with anything that was done by the Librarian outside the library, and there was nothing to show that he had been corresponding with the newspapers and stirring up strife. The whole question resolved itself into this—if the Librarian was wanted and was fit for his position he should be kept, but if he was not his services should be dispensed with. With respect to the messenger, he would say that a more active

and nicer man he had never met; the old man never thought that he could do enough for one. The whole matter should be left in the hands of the Library Committee.

Mr. DAVENPORT said they should guard against a needless increase of salaries. He noticed that in the item of £4,739 there was an increase of nearly £800, most of which arose in the bringing out of a daily *Hansard* as authorised by Parliament. There was, however, £100 down for an extra messenger, and, as he did not think one was required, if the Librarian did his work, he would move that the Librarian's salary be reduced by that amount.

Mr. KING thought a salary of £400 was not too high for a good Librarian, who should possess an amount of knowledge entitling him to that amount per annum. If there were any objection to the present Librarian, it should be laid before the Library Committee. He did not think they could expect a man for a salary of £300 to perform the duties of Librarian as they ought to be performed. He ought to be well acquainted with books, and, besides possessing a capacity for selecting good literary works, should be able to assist hon. members in making references.

Mr. FEETZ reminded the Committee that many Government officers of great skill and ability in this colony had had their salaries reduced, and in some cases had been dismissed. He thought the reduction of the Librarian's salary by £100 quite consistent with a sound policy of retrenchment, the more so as his salary had been recently increased by a considerable amount.

Mr. ARCHER differed from the hon. member for Leichhardt. He could understand the wisdom of dismissing the Librarian if he were incompetent; but it was absurd to suppose that they would obtain a good man to perform the duties of the office at a less salary than £400 per annum. They had better strike off the salary altogether rather than reduce it, although he agreed with the hon. member for Rosewood that if the office were abolished the library would fall into a great state of confusion.

Mr. MOREHEAD thought the hon. member for Blackall imperfectly understood the circumstances of the Librarian's appointment. He was appointed at £300 a-year, and he obtained an extra £100 in a very peculiar manner—namely, by the representation that more money was voted than was necessary for the purchase of books.

Mr. ARCHER: That shows he was not devoid of sense.

Mr. MOREHEAD thought that if the Librarian made mistakes, and allowed his negligence to increase the expenses of the department, he might fairly expect that his salary would be reduced to the amount at which it originally stood.

The PREMIER said his experience during the whole of the time he was a member of the Library Committee was that the Librarian performed his duties unsatisfactorily. So much so, that upon one occasion he was deputed by the committee to tell the officer what his duties were. He must confess that he had since seen no change in the library; and if the Librarian had performed his duties properly they would not have required an extra messenger. He thought it a reasonable proposition to take £100 off the salary. The hon. member for Mitchell was partly right in what he had said with regard to the representations of the Librarian with a view to an increase in his salary. Within the past twelve months, or a little before, he asked several members of the committee to assist him in getting another £50 added to his present salary. The reason he gave

was, that he could not spend the whole of the money voted upon books. When the accounts were made up, however, it was discovered that there was a large deficit on account of books purchased in London. It was palpable that there must have been misrepresentation. He had never considered that the Librarian was worth another £100 a-year, and he thought it would be a judicious thing to take it from his salary.

Mr. PERSSE said he would be the last member to cut down an officer's salary unless good reasons were assigned. He had intended to support this salary at £400 until he heard the remarks of the Premier and the hon. member for Mitchell. He maintained that the Librarian had obtained an extra £100 per annum under false representations. There were plenty of officers in the service at the present time who were more deserving than the Librarian of £300 per annum.

The PREMIER said he would not like an injustice to be done to the Librarian. The increase of £100 was not obtained by misrepresentation. It was after the Librarian was in receipt of £400 that he represented that there was a surplus, and endeavoured to get his salary further increased. If when the first increase was given him the Library Committee knew what they knew afterwards he would not have obtained it.

Mr. WELD-BLUNDELL said that if it had been necessary through the Librarian's neglect of duty to furnish an extra messenger at £100 per annum, it was only fair that that amount should come off the Librarian's salary. If the Librarian would not do more work in the library and give such assistance to members as would dispense with the necessity for a messenger, his salary should be reduced.

Mr. DICKSON thought that the Library Committee were to some extent to blame, and that if the Librarian had not performed his duties satisfactorily he should have been dismissed. He would vote for the maintenance of the salary intact.

Mr KING said that, in answer to what had fallen from the Premier, he might say that since he had been a member of the Library Committee only one complaint had been made against the Librarian; it was that he spent too much of his time in his private office and was not in the habit of sitting in the library. The Librarian was communicated with and told that members desired his presence in the library. Unfortunately, since he had attended in the library he did not appear to have mixed with members very much. He was rather a stiff man, and he feared that members who frequented the library had very little more to say to him now than they had when he was in the habit of sitting in his office down stairs. It would be rather hard to reduce the Librarian's salary for no greater complaint than that. He did not remember that the increase of £100 in the salary was made upon the officer's representation that there were surplus funds.

The PREMIER: There is a mistake as to the £100; but there is no mistake as to the suggested increase of £50.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Mr. Macrossan) thought he could explain how the increase of £100 was sanctioned. The Librarian came from Victoria at a salary of £300; but there was some understanding between him and Mr. Walsh, who had the appointment, that he would be recommended for an extra £100. After the Librarian had been there for a considerable time, he himself (Mr. Macrossan) represented to Mr. Hemmant that if the Librarian were worthy to hold his position he was worth £400

a-year. Mr. Hemmant thereupon placed the extra £100 on the Estimates.

Mr. KINGSFORD thought that if blame were to be attached to anyone in the matter, it should be attached to the committee. Even if the salary had been increased upon the Librarian's representation as to surplus funds, the committee would have been to blame, because they should have known what funds there were, and not have accepted the *ipse dixit* of the Librarian. On the other hand, if such a charge had been proved against the Librarian, he should have been dismissed. Until the charge was proved the Librarian should be allowed to remain in his position.

Mr. KING said he could not understand why the committee were to blame. Perhaps the hon. member for South Brisbane entertained extraordinary ideas as to its duties.

Mr. AMHURST pointed out that the representation as to surplus funds was made to the Premier personally, and not to the committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he would not say anything as to the reduction in salary; but he thought it would be well for the committee to direct a rearrangement of the books in the library. At present they were both improperly and inconveniently arranged.

Mr. HAMILTON thought a salary of £400 little enough for the Librarian if he were a competent man. It was said that the Librarian was not qualified for his duties because he was not in the habit of placing himself at the beck and call of hon. members to supply them with books. He thought that would be a most undignified position for a librarian. If they wanted men for that purpose they could obtain several for the salary they were paying the Librarian. If hon. members were of opinion that the Librarian did not discharge the duties of his position, the proper course to pursue was to refer the matter to the Library Committee.

Mr. MESTON thought, as there seemed to be no unanimity of opinion as to the duties of Librarian, it might be well for the committee to draw up a schedule of what they considered the Librarian's duties, and to ask the Librarian whether he was prepared to discharge them. The Librarian was a man of peculiar temperament, and he seemed to be unpopular—not because he neglected his duties, but because he attended to them and kept to himself. Probably, if the Librarian had gone about smiling and hobnobbing with everyone, and had joined fishing parties, he would have been popular. They might obtain a Librarian at £300 a-year, but possibly he would be a man to whom the country would do well to pay £300 a-year to stop away.

Mr. RUTLEDGE said he did not know whether the Librarian was unpopular or not; but taking him as an officer of the House he regarded him with great respect. In a matter of this kind they should lay aside personal feeling. They were voting £400 for a librarian, and not to Mr. O'Donovan. They ought to consider whether £400 was a proper salary for a model librarian.

The PREMIER said the hon. member for Enoggera was wrong if he supposed that he had any personal feeling in the matter. All he knew was, that when he was a member of the Library Committee the Librarian discharged his duties unsatisfactorily. If the Librarian had improved since then he knew nothing about it. It was all very well to say that the Library Committee should have recommended the dismissal of the Librarian, but the good nature of some of the members of the committee would cause them to shrink from such a course. The hon. the Speaker was one

whose heart was so soft that he would not recommend the dismissal of the Librarian. It had always been the opinion of the Library Committee that the Librarian's duties were not properly performed.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN could not understand the Premier saying that there was no personal feeling in the matter when the Colonial Secretary had said that he would never forgive the Librarian.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I said I should never forgive him for his actions. I do not care twopence for the man himself.

Mr. MOREHEAD disclaimed any personal feeling in the matter. He did not think the officer was likely to create likes or dislikes, as he sat in his office like a dummy. He believed the man could speak, but he had never heard him do so.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said it was like robbing Peter to pay Paul to take £100 from the Librarian and give it to a messenger.

Mr. DAVENPORT said the reduction was made because the Librarian would not do his duties, and, in consequence, it had become necessary to appoint an extra messenger.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said he believed that the Librarian had always done his duty.

Question—That the item be reduced by £100—put.

The Committee divided:—

AYES, 15.

Messrs. Palmer, McLlwraith, Blundell, Stevens, Pesse, Morehead, McLean, Bailey, Miles, Davenport, Fraser, H. W. Palmer, Baynes, Grimes, and Feez.

NOES, 19.

Messrs. Dickson, Macrossan, King, Perkins, Archer, Rutledge, Meston, Hamilton, Horwitz, Thompson, Beor, Beattie, Kingsford, Lalor, O'Sullivan, Amhurst, Kates, Norton, and Douglas.

Question, therefore, resolved in the negative.

Mr. DICKSON thought that before the votes for the Legislature were passed, the Attorney-General should express an opinion as to the advisability or otherwise of appointing a parliamentary draughtsman, so that when the Estimates for the Attorney-General's Department came on hon. members would be able to express a definite opinion on the subject. It was really important that hon. members should have the assistance of a professional draughtsman in the preparation of Bills which they might desire to introduce.

The PREMIER said the hon. member must see that he was discussing something which was altogether foreign to the department the estimates for which were under discussion.

Mr. DICKSON said if the Government declined to accede to his request there was an end of it. He thought he was quite in order in referring to the matter, as, if a draughtsman were appointed, he should be an officer of Parliament.

Question—That the sum of £4,739 be granted for Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly—put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £3,510 be granted for services under the head "Colonial Secretary—salaries and contingencies." He said that with regard to the first item—Under Colonial Secretary—hon. members would observe that there was an increase from £720 to £800. When the salary was reduced there was an understanding that all salaries of the same character were to be reduced in the same ratio. However, the Committee altered their opinion immediately afterwards and did

not reduce the other salaries. One clerk in the department at £150 was to be dispensed with after six months. The office having been put in telegraphic communication with Cleveland, Dunwich, and St. Helena, it had been found necessary to appoint a telegraph operator at £100; this officer also acted as clerk. Those were the only alterations in the department.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £13,580 be granted for services under the head "Registrar-General." He said that in the General Registry Branch there was an addition of £125—the salary paid to an extra clerk. There was an increase of £60 in the Real Property Transfer Branch. The estimate for the department had been increased through its being necessary to make provision for taking the census in 1881. The sum of £5,000 was set down for that purpose, but hon. members must not be led away with the belief that that would be the total cost; he believed it would be double that. The amount asked would be sufficient for the service of this year, as a great many of the accounts would not be payable until after the commencement of the next financial year. The amount for District Registrars had been increased from £1,420 to £1,850, and there was a slight increase in the vote for contingencies. These increases were rendered necessary by the growth of the colony. The Registrar-General found that he must have additional District Registrars. The Divisional Boards Bill had thrown a great deal of additional work on the office, which would be provided for in Supplementary Estimates; however, the amount required would not be large.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he thought it very proper that the census should be taken, in accordance with the form adopted by the Imperial Parliament; but it appeared to him that there was a vast amount of clerical work in connection with the preparation of the returns which might be dispensed with. There were arrays of figures which seemed to him to be altogether unnecessary. He presumed that at as early a date as possible a summary of the returns would be prepared. He rose principally for the purpose of pointing out that it was advisable that they should have a tabulated return showing the number of children of school-going age in each district. Such a return would be valuable for the purposes of the Education Department. He trusted that the Colonial Secretary would give instructions to economise the returns as much as possible. A few clear tables would be of greater value to the public than the vast amount of figures which was now given.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the Census Bill, which had been passed by the House, provided for the manner in which the census was to be taken. It would be taken on tabulated forms to be sent out by the Registrar-General of England, and whatever returns were required in those forms would be furnished. For once he agreed with the hon. member (Mr. Douglas). He thought there were a great number of the returns which might be done without. He had always endeavoured to simplify them; but hon. members who had been in office knew how difficult it was to snip off red-tape. If a return of children of school-going age was not included in the forms sent out from England, he would, for educational purposes, take great care that such a return was tabulated for their own use.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £6,780 be granted for services under the head "Immigration." He said there was an increase of £160 in the item for wardsmen

at Toowoomba, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Ipswich.

Mr. MILES suggested to the Colonial Secretary the advisability of postponing the items of £2,600 for the salaries of the Agent-General and Secretary until the inquiry in connection with the Agent-General's office in London was concluded. There was a great deal of feeling on the matter, and he thought it would be a very proper course to adopt.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not see that the postponement of the items referred to could have any result with respect to the salary of the Agent-General. There must be an Agent-General of some sort; the salary was voted for the office, and not for the individual. If he could see anything to be gained by allowing the item to stand over, he should not have the slightest objection to do so. What had the secretary of the Agent-General to do with any committee of inquiry now sitting? There was nothing in this vote which could prevent a discussion respecting the Agent-General coming on at any time. Whether Mr. Macalister remained as Agent-General, and whether he had done wrong—which he (the Colonial Secretary) did not admit, for they had no proof that he had done wrong—was another matter altogether. If the items were to stand over they would have to stand over until the end of the whole of the Estimates, and he did not see that there could be anything gained by it.

Mr. THOMPSON said he understood that there was some idea of pensioning the Agent-General. As a rule, pensions were not a good thing, but still he thought it would never do to allow an ex-Premier to fall into poverty. He thought it would be a great indignity to the country if an ex-Premier should be allowed to be exhibited to the world in that position; it would be looked upon as an instance of the ingratitude of the country. He quite agreed with that view, although he did not like pensions. His own impression was that the sooner Mr. Macalister came back the better, and he simply arrived at that opinion from that gentleman's own admission that he was in such a state of health that the worry of his late secretary had driven him almost to resign. He (Mr. Thompson) knew both Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Macalister, and, if Mr. Macalister was in that state of health that his secretary could drive him to distraction, the sooner he came back the better, because if he were liable to be driven to distraction by his late secretary there were others who would do the same thing for him.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY entirely agreed with the hon. member (Mr. Thompson), and would go further than that hon. member, and say that the present Agent-General ought never to have been placed in that position. He (Mr. Palmer) had always expressed the same opinion on that subject, and he did not know that Mr. Macalister had done anything of late to make him more unfit for the office than his general incompetency for such a position. With respect to pensioning the Agent-General, he believed that the idea originated with the hon. member for Maryborough, who was reported—at all events, in his speech to his constituents—to have proposed to pension the Agent-General. The Government had heard nothing of it, and it would be quite time enough to debate the question when it was brought forward. If the Government did bring it forward no doubt they would be able to defend it; but he did not see why, in voting the salary of the Agent-General, the question of pensioning him should be dragged in.

Mr. THOMPSON wondered whether the present secretary to the Agent-General was a man

likely to worry him into resigning? He knew nothing about the present secretary, or whether he was a man of that character.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he could answer that the present secretary to the Agent-General was a gentleman in every sense of the word, and not in the least likely to worry anyone.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the suggestion of the hon. member for Ipswich (Mr. Thompson) was worth developing—that was to pension ex-Premiers. He thought it was possible that a friendly arrangement might be come to by which every member of the House might be appointed Premier for a few days, and by that means get a pension. It was a capital idea, and he hoped the hon. member would push it on. He was sure that it was a question upon which all members would be unanimous.

Mr. MILES asked the hon. member for Ipswich whether the commercial honour of the country would be affected if the ex-Premier should not get a pension? If they were going to pension all ex-Premiers he was afraid they should have a tremendous big pension list; and, so long as he (Mr. Miles) was in the House, the present Agent-General should get no pension if he could prevent it. He thought the Colonial Secretary made a mistake in not allowing the items he (Mr. Miles) had referred to, to stand over. He the (Colonial Secretary) knew perfectly well that they could not be allowed to pass, because it was evident to anyone that all the charges and accusations that had been brought against the Premier could not have taken place unless with the connivance of the Agent-General. He (Mr. Miles) thought that the present Agent-General should be kicked out of the office without a moment's delay. What had he done? There were contracts for the conveyance of steel rails, tenders were called for—

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: Wait till the case come on.

Mr. MILES said he did not wish to discuss the matter at present, but he would again recommend the Colonial Secretary to allow these items to stand over until the conclusion of the inquiry that was now being made.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that if he could see that anything would be gained by allowing the items to stand over he would not object, but really there was nothing to be gained by it. If the hon. member thought he could stop the Agent-General's salary he was very much mistaken; because the Agent-General paid himself at that moment. He (the Colonial Secretary) had no doubt that gentleman had drawn his salary for last month, and that he was equally prepared to draw it for this month; so that, really, the postponement would not affect the Agent-General's salary in the slightest degree.

Mr. DOUGLAS said there were certain matters to be discussed in connection with the Agent-General's office, and he thought it would be undesirable at the present time to have an active discussion upon them. It would be very much better to defer them until the inquiry was concluded. He agreed that the amount must be voted for some Agent-General. With regard to the present secretary to the Agent-General, Mr. Dicken, he made an admirable Police Magistrate at Charters Towers and Townsville, and certainly deserved his promotion, and the Colonial Secretary was perfectly correct when he said that officer was a gentleman. Mr. Dicken was a thoroughly faithful servant, but whether he was acquainted with the particular kind of business which had to be transacted in the Agent-

General's office, which was largely connected with shipping and mercantile matters, he (Mr. Douglas) was inclined to doubt. That gentleman's experience had not been such as to justify any such expectation. He (Mr. Douglas) should have been inclined to look to the Treasury officials for an officer to fill such an appointment; even to the Under Secretary. He did not, in saying this, wish to point to any particular gentleman, but merely to one who was thoroughly versed in figures; and he doubted very much whether the special experience in connection with shipping and commercial matters that was necessary would be found in Mr. Dicken. With regard to the staff of the office, he was aware that there were some very deserving officers who were dispensed with at the time that immigration was done away with altogether—when the present Government took office; and he understood that since that some officers had been employed new to the office altogether. He should therefore like to know upon what system the appointments had been made. He presumed that the Agent-General was allowed to appoint officers upon his own authority, that action being afterwards accepted by the head of the department, the Colonial Secretary, and authorised by him. There was one gentleman particularly deserving, Mr. Clare, who had done nearly all the work in connection with the Paris Exhibition. He was a gentleman of considerable attainments, thoroughly official, but he was discharged at the time referred to, and others had since been taken on who certainly did not deserve any such recognition at the hands of the Government as he did. He (Mr. Douglas) had made representations to the Colonial Secretary in reference to the merits of this gentleman which he had hoped would have been recognised, but he understood that Mr. Clare had not received any further employment from the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought the hon. member's idea about promotion in the service was about the greenest he had ever heard. He proposed to promote the Under Secretary of the Treasury, whose salary was £300 a-year, to an office with only £600 a-year in England. That was very Irish promotion! He (the Colonial Secretary) was of opinion—and thought the Government would join him in that opinion—that the less experience—such as they had had a sample of lately in the Agent-General's office—that the officer sent home to that position had the better. He did not know what experience in shipping matters Mr. Hamilton had when he was sent home. He (Mr. Hamilton) was buying hides for a firm at Harrisville for some time before he got appointed as Police Magistrate, and he (the Colonial Secretary) did not know that he showed any particular fitness for the position, but he (the Colonial Secretary) was quite satisfied that the gentleman who had been sent home as Secretary would prove himself to be thoroughly competent in every respect. He had had good instruction, good advice, and he (the Colonial Secretary) believed would be a credit to the Government who appointed him—in fact, he had no doubt of it, and he was glad to say that this gentleman had no experience such as previous secretaries to the Agent-General possessed. Mr. Clare, the gentleman alluded to, was offered an appointment in the Agent-General's office, but would not take it. He (the Colonial Secretary) did not know anything about that gentleman. He did not interfere with the Agent-General's appointments in the office, but held him responsible for the management of the office, such as it was; but under the instructions given to the secretary he would be held responsible for the management of the office, under the Agent-General. He (the Colonial Secretary) knew very little about the gentlemen who were in the office, but

he could say that they had done a great deal better since the late secretary had left.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he wished to discuss the matter fairly and with courtesy, and he expected the same courtesy from hon. gentlemen opposite. What he stated was, that he thought probably one of the officials in the Treasury or some other department would have been more suitable, and that even the Under Secretary might not be unsuitable for the position. Of course, he did not for a moment expect that such an officer would accept less salary, and if it were considered necessary to appoint him at all, his salary as secretary to the Agent-General would have to be raised. For instance, Mr. Gray had had considerable experience here in connection with the Immigration Department, and that fact alone would have made him very suitable for such a position, and if he were appointed the salary of the office might be increased. A good deal of responsibility rested upon the secretary to the Agent-General. He was the permanent officer in charge of the department, and whoever occupied that position should rank as an under secretary.

Mr. MILES must confess that he failed to see the force of the arguments of the hon. member for Maryborough. The Under Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Cullen, was, he thought, one of the worst appointments ever made. No doubt he (Mr. Cullen) was a careful officer, but what did he know about mercantile matters? He had had no more experience than the gentleman they had sent home. He (Mr. Miles) thought the Colonial Secretary might reply to hon. members on that side of the House in a more civil manner. It was an extraordinary thing that a member sitting on the Opposition side of the House never got up to speak but the Colonial Secretary tried to muzzle him. He (Mr. Miles) admitted that the hon. member for Maryborough sometimes made rather foolish suggestions, but he was always civil, and it would be well if Ministers followed his example. They would get on with business a great deal better if they did. He (Mr. Miles) did not know anything about the gentleman who had been appointed Secretary to the Agent-General, but he was glad to hear the Colonial Secretary say he was perfectly competent. All he (Mr. Miles) could say was that if that officer was competent to deal with the harpies that surrounded the London office he was a very good man. There were a lot of harpies about that office who robbed and plundered the country to the extent of something like £100,000 a-year, he believed, and if this gentleman could only prevent such practices taking place he would deserve great credit, and he (Mr. Miles) only hoped in the interests of the country that he would. They had always been led to understand that the British merchant was a man of honour—that they could take his word for anything, but they found that a lot of these harpies formed themselves into a ring, about the London office, for the purpose of plundering the country, and it appeared that officers who were paid high salaries to protect the interests of the country connived at and assisted them in doing so. He again urged upon the Colonial Secretary to postpone this £2,600 for the present.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: What is to be gained by it?

Mr. MILES said everything was to be gained by it. He did not feel justified in allowing it to go until these matters were cleared up.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that to meet the views of the hon. member—although he knew it would not have the slightest effect—he was quite willing to postpone the item of £1,300. It would have no effect, because, as he had already remarked, the Agent-General paid his own salary.

Mr. MILES said he was extremely gratified with the consent given by the hon. gentleman, as he knew from experience that, after a vote was once passed, it was extremely difficult to get rid of an officer.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the item of £1,300 be postponed.

Mr. McLEAN said it had often been stated in that House that the London office was in a very unsatisfactory state, and it was understood that when the Premier went to England one of his principal duties would be to make such arrangements as to prevent the continuation of such a state of things. He thought the Committee would be glad to hear whether the removal of Mr. Hamilton had had the effect of bringing about a better state of things—whether the previous unsatisfactory state of affairs no longer existed. He should like to know whether the unsatisfactory state of matters was due to Mr. Hamilton's action, and that since his removal things had been put into a better form.

The PREMIER said there was not the slightest doubt that the instructions which had been given to the new secretary would have the effect of placing matters on a more satisfactory footing.

Mr. DAVENPORT was understood to say that when the present Agent-General was appointed, and also the late secretary, Mr. Hamilton, hon. members who were then sitting on the opposite side of the House expressed the opinion that they were unfit for the office; so that possibly it was owing entirely to the good-nature of the present Government that immediately on their taking office they did not make fresh appointments. It was only on the occasion of the Premier's visit to England that it was found that a change was necessary so far as the Secretary was concerned; and, with the assistance of the hon. Colonial Secretary, the hon. gentleman had taken steps to prevent a similar unsatisfactory state of things to those the hon. gentleman found. He considered that the salary of £1,300 was too small, as it was a farce to expect to obtain the services of any really capable man for such a sum. He thought that if the Government in their next appointment made one that met with the approval of the House, the House would be inclined to increase the salary.

Mr. ARCHER thought that when the question came up again for a fuller debate, it would be to the advantage of the country to consider whether the London office might not be abolished, and whether the Government should not do as private individuals did—simply retain an agent in London as a means of communication between them and the mother-country for the transaction of business. He thought that by the employment of an agent, whose business it was to make himself acquainted with everything going on, the colony would be able to do their business better and cheaper than it was now done. Of course, the immigration must remain in the hands of the Agent-General; but all other matters should be taken out of the hands of the London office. By that means any man who was supposed to be politically or otherwise connected with a party would be swept away, and there would no longer be any chance of a "ring." It was well known that there were agents in London who could be trusted to do all the work of the colony, independent of immigration matters—agents who were men of well-known integrity—and they would be much better qualified to carry out the wishes of the colony than any person sent from the colony, and who might be appointed by party interest.

Question—That the item of £1,300 be postponed—put and passed.

Question—That the sum of £5,480 be voted for immigration—put.

Mr. DICKSON said he observed that in connection with salaries paid out of loan there was an increase of three officers or clerks in the London office. He should be glad to learn from the Colonial Secretary what was the necessity for that increase.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was astonished that an hon. member professing any knowledge at all of departmental matters should have asked such a question. Was not the hon. gentleman aware that last year immigration was stopped? Surely he knew that the salaries of the clerks and officers of the London office were, with three exceptions, paid out of the Loan Fund.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that the answer just given by the hon. gentleman was in the style adopted by him in replying to all questions from the Opposition, and he really began to think, from the hon. gentleman's conduct that morning, that he must have got out of the wrong side of his bed. He (Mr. Douglas) wished to have some information on various matters connected with immigration—on what scale, for instance, immigration to this colony was to be maintained during the current year; that was a matter of public importance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was delightful to hear the only member of the House who had ever been in contempt of the House in his rôle of lecturer. He thought the mantle would have fallen off the hon. gentleman so soon as he was judged to be in contempt—and, in fact, he was still in contempt of the House. The idea of the hon. gentleman lecturing any member of the Committee as to the style he should adopt was delightful. He (Mr. Palmer) should adopt what style he liked best, notwithstanding what the hon. gentleman might say. The Government intended to carry on immigration on pretty much the same scale as recently—namely, about eight ships in the year. That would depend, of course, on the state of the labour market here.

Mr. McLEAN said he should like to have some explanation of the increase of £160 on the item of six wardsmen.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he thought he had already fully explained that the vote was reduced last year in consequence of the stoppage of immigration. When it was resumed these wardsmen were put on their full salaries. Last year when immigration was stopped they were placed on half salaries, but now they would receive their full pay.

Mr. DOUGLAS said the hon. Colonial Secretary had referred once more to his being in contempt of the House. Although that might be so, the hon. gentleman, in referring so often to the matter, set a very bad example to his young followers, and he (Mr. Douglas) was not surprised that occasionally some of them made a sad exhibition of themselves. His contempt had been committed purposely in order to test a question which he considered of importance to the country, and the reason why he felt it necessary to maintain his position was in consequence of the endeavour of certain hon. members opposite to put him in disrepute. He showed the hon. members that they could not do so—that the law would not allow them to do it. He had never been in contempt of the House as regarded opposition to the ruling of the hon. the Speaker, and he should always submit to the rulings of the hon. gentleman so long as they were just. Whenever the taunt of being in contempt was thrown at him by the Colonial Secretary—as he had no doubt it would often be—he should assert his position whenever it seemed fit to him to do so, and also those rights in the justifiable assertion of a principle

which he was happy to say he had triumphantly secured, notwithstanding all the hon. gentleman might say to the contrary. Having disposed of that question of contempt, he wished to have some more information with regard to immigration. He was happy to hear from the Colonial Secretary that immigration was to be carried on on pretty much the same scale as recently, and he hoped they would not abandon it; at the same time he believed it must be carefully watched, so as to secure the well-being of immigrants, not only on the voyage, but on their arrival in the colony. He hoped to hear something of the decision of the hon. gentleman in regard to this matter. It was not only a question of bringing out immigrants, but it was this also—that they should do as much as they could to induce those immigrants to remain in the colony. In other countries, not only were immigrants brought out, but—and notably so in the case of Canada—they were provided with houses on their arrival, and every inducement given to them to settle in the country. He should wish to see something of that kind done here, as not only should they be properly cared for during their passage across the seas, but, on their arrival, inducements should be given to them to settle on the lands. He should also like to see some revival of German immigration, as the Germans had always proved to be invaluable as colonists, and, as a rule, remained in the colony. He hoped to see some indication that, so soon as immigration from Great Britain was revived, that from Germany would be resumed.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the House resumed; the Chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Monday.

The House adjourned at eleven minutes to 1 o'clock.