

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1880**

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### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Thursday, 18 November, 1880.*

Appropriation Bill No. 4.—Dry Dock.—Gulland Railway.  
—Gulland Railway Bill—third reading.—Marsupials Destruction Bill.—Adjournment.—Toowoomba Lutheran Church Lands Sales Bill.—Adjournment.

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN took the chair at 4 o'clock.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL, No. 4.

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN read a message from the Legislative Assembly forwarding this Bill for the concurrence of the Council.

The Bill was passed through all its stages, and ordered to be returned to the Legislative Assembly with the usual message.

### DRY DOCK.

The HON. W. H. WALSH laid upon the table the report of, and the evidence taken by, the select committee appointed by the House respecting the Dry Dock at South Brisbane, and moved that the papers be printed.

Question put and passed.

### GULLAND RAILWAY.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL, in moving the motion standing in his name, said that although the plans before the House showed that two branch lines were intended to be constructed originally, the resolution he would ask the House to pass only referred to one line, and the other would of course not be adopted. He believed that Mr. Gulland had discovered since he applied for permission to construct these railways that one branch would be sufficient. The mistake which caused the postponement of the motion yesterday occurred through the motion having been tabled before the message came up from the other House. This was a private railway; its construction would put the Government to no expense, and it would be open for the use of the public on equitable terms, as would be seen by the Bill before the House. He begged to move—

1. That this House approves of the Plan, Section, and Book of Reference of the proposed Branch Line, starting on the plan received by message from the Legislative Assembly on the 16th November, at a point on the Southern and Western Railway, marked 18 miles 31 chains 00 links, and terminating at a point marked on the plan of the proposed branch, 1 mile 12 chains 49 links, portion 265.

2. That such approval be notified to the Legislative Assembly by message in the usual form.

The HON. F. J. IVORY said that it seemed to him that some alterations had been made in regard to the plans laid originally on the table, and he should like to know if the motion referred to the plans and sections of the line from the coal-mines to the railway, or whether the line from the railway to the river was comprised in it. He might say that he had heard it stated that the opposition to the South Brisbane line had been connected with the matter of this railway. He believed that the Hon. Mr. Mein, who he was glad to see had just arrived, was in full possession of information on the subject, and that the refusal to sanction the South Brisbane line, in which the hon. member took such an active part, was intimately connected with the approval of the plans now under discussion. He was merely repeating what he had heard, but he hoped the hon. gentleman would be able to explain the matter to the House.

The HON. J. SWAN said that they ought to pass the Bill, and let Mr. Gulland make the best of the line.

The HON. W. H. WALSH said he could only say, once more, regarding the subject of these private railways, that it was ridiculous work for them to proceed in the manner they were doing. They were not acting so much as legislators as in a judicial capacity. They had not sufficient information regarding this line, and it could now be seen that a grave error was committed in suspending the Standing Order, which would have made it necessary to refer the plans to a select committee. On looking at the books of reference he saw that there were no less than six or seven persons from whom land was to be taken for the avowed object of enabling a private individual to make a railway for his individual benefit. Had all these individuals received sufficient notice of the invasion that was to be made on their property? Had the time or opportunity been given to them of objecting to this

matter, either here or in the other Chamber? And if it had not, hon. members ought to hesitate before proceeding further. Of all railway projects, a private one should be thoroughly investigated by a select committee. But that had not been done in this instance, so far as he knew, and he said, with all due deference to the wisdom of hon. members, that he doubted whether there were two members present who sufficiently understood the matter to justify them in taking violently from one man and handing to another. It had not yet been shown that this railway was a public want, or that the public would benefit to an appreciable extent by the passage of the Bill.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he merely rose to inform the House the reason why the other branch line was not adopted as originally designed. It appeared that Mr. Gulland was desirous of making the line from the railway to the water a private one, and the Assembly declined to sanction it being made as such. The other line had been advertised; owners of property had all the usual information by advertisement in the *Gazette* and otherwise, of the construction of the line, and everything had been done regularly. The Legislative Assembly had well considered the project, and after fully inquiring into it had sanctioned it. The line was only a little over a mile in length, and could not possibly do any harm; and, as would be seen by the Bill, its availability to the public upon equitable terms was secured. He quite agreed that where private interests were concerned the greatest care should be taken that no injury was done. In this matter all precautions had been taken to protect private and public interests.

The HON. W. D. BOX said he believed the Hon. Mr. Foote could tell them more about the line than most people, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would be good enough to give the House some information respecting it. For himself he felt very much aggrieved that it should pass in the way it was doing, through the suspension of the Standing Order requiring the reference of railway plans and sections to a select committee. Private interests might be seriously injured, but the House had no information to guide them. This matter showed how valuable the Standing Order was. He should like to have from hon. members an expression of their views regarding the value of the Order, so that if it should again happen that the suspension of the Order should be moved the opinions of hon. members respecting the effect of the previous suspension might be on record.

The HON. J. C. FOOTE said that from what he knew of the circumstances he felt confident that everything was all right, and that no person would suffer injury through this short line. No interest would be disturbed by carrying it out.

The HON. W. PETTIGREW said that he had lived in the neighbourhood of the line for several years, and he could say that as regarded the soil the land was very poor and miserable, but as to the value of the land for minerals he could say nothing. The Bill, however, made ample provision for the protection of the public, and if any of the owners of the land referred to in the book of reference wanted to convey minerals by the line they would have the opportunity of doing so by paying for it, which was a right and proper thing. As to the South Brisbane line his vote had been given on the merits. He opposed that line, firstly, because by no possibility could it pay, and, secondly, because the same end and object could be accomplished at one-third the expense, and he did not see why the country should be

needlessly saddled with the other two-thirds expense. He considered the South Brisbane line a piece of jobbery.

The HON. C. S. D. MELBOURNE said the measure authorising the construction of this railway was in the nature of a private Bill, and in England no such Bill could be brought in until it was first referred to a select committee, who took evidence and made a report: and thus members were enabled to decide on the merits. See to what a state they were reduced here! They were obliged to depend upon the information of one or two members, who knew the facts. Their experience in this matter showed how unwise it was to depart from their Standing Order, and how necessary it was to adhere to it for the future.

The HON. C. S. MEIN said he believed that during his absence the Hon. Mr. Ivory had taken the opportunity of stating that he (Mr. Mein) had some motive, which was connected with the line before the House, in helping to throw out the South Brisbane line. He did not think that any member of the House who was acquainted with him would believe that he had any personal motive whatever in the action that he took with regard to the South Brisbane line, and it was sufficient for him to now state, for the benefit of the Hon. Mr. Ivory—he would not say for the benefit of any other hon. members—that he had no personal motive as insinuated.

The HON. F. J. IVORY said he certainly did not insinuate that the Hon. Mr. Mein had any personal motive. Nothing was further from his thoughts.

The HON. C. S. MEIN said his objection was based upon public grounds: he stated it at full length, and he was vain enough to think that his arguments were not refuted. The line now under consideration was not connected with the South Brisbane one. If the promoter were concerned in any way with the South Brisbane line, his interest would be benefited by the construction of that line, for he would have the opportunity of taking to deep water the coals intended to be conveyed by his short railway. He did not know what steps Mr. Gulland would now take for the conveyance of his coal to deep water. Unless the Southern and Western Railway was extended to deep water, he did not see how Mr. Gulland would utilise for shipping purposes the line before the House. However, it was for him to look to that. This line was to a certain extent a public, and to a certain extent a private, railway. The Government had taken the responsibility of asking Parliament for the approval of the plans and sections, but on the distinct understanding that the line would be carried out at Mr. Gulland's expense. Looking at it from a comparative point of view it was a trumpery piece of business, being only a mile and a few chains long. It had been prominently discussed for weeks past. Notification had been given in the *Government Gazette* that Mr. Gulland had made a proposition to the Government for the construction of the line, and intimating that certain powers were likely to be conferred upon him. He believed the owners of the properties through which the line would pass, or upon which it abutted, were limited in number. They were residents in the colony, and if they had felt that their rights would be interfered with in the slightest degree they would have made themselves heard by petition and through the strong advocates they had. The Bill had been brought in to the Assembly, who had fenced it round with all sorts of restrictions, to enable these owners of property and the general public to have the use of the line.

Question put and passed.

### GULLAND RAILWAY BILL—THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time and passed and ordered to be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a message in the usual form.

### MARSUPIALS DESTRUCTION BILL.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that when that Bill was before the House on the previous evening he stated his intention, if he found that stockowners—hon. members who were interested in the Bill—were in the same frame of mind that day as they were at the time he made the statement, he would move that the Bill be discharged from the paper. He found that it would be quite hopeless to attempt to proceed with the Bill during the present session. Hon. members on that side, as well as several hon. members on the other side, seemed determined to oppose the Bill. He had no alternative, therefore, but to move that the Order of the Day be discharged from the paper.

Question put and passed.

### ADJOURNMENT.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that, as far as he could ascertain at that time, the business of the session, as far as that House was concerned, was completed; but he had been informed that it was not improbable that during the evening some business might come up from the other House which it would be desirable for hon. members to entertain. He therefore moved that the House adjourn until half-past 7 o'clock.

Question put and passed, and the House adjourned accordingly.

The House resumed at a later hour.

### TOOWOOMBA LUTHERAN CHURCH LANDS SALES BILL.

A message was received from the Legislative Assembly forwarding this Bill for the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

On the motion of the HON. F. T. GREGORY, the Bill was read a first time.

The HON. F. T. GREGORY, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it was one of a similar character to several which had passed through that House very recently to enable religious bodies to dispose of certain lands and apply the proceeds to the erection of churches on other portions of land that they had purchased in far more suitable positions. In the present instance, the German Lutheran community had a portion of land granted to them some eighteen years ago by the Crown, but they were unable to utilise it in consequence of its being in a very undesirable locality, and five or six years ago they purchased a portion of land consisting of about 1½ acres, on which they had erected a very suitable church at a cost of about £2,000.

The HON. W. H. WALSH rose to a point of order. It was worthy of consideration whether the hon. gentleman was in order in endeavouring to pass through all its stages a private Bill during the same sitting. With regard to the motion that was moved by the Postmaster-General and carried, suspending the Standing Orders to enable Bills to be passed through all their various stages in one day, he thought that if hon. members had known that it referred also to private Bills they would probably not have acceded to it. He did not think it was intended at all that the suspension of the Standing Orders with respect to public matters should be made available for the passage of a private Bill. He should like to ask the Chairman's

ruling upon the question. There was nothing more dangerous for them to indulge in than that of suspending the Standing Orders, and there was evidence of it. He was quite sure the Postmaster-General never contemplated that a private Bill, which should receive the closest and fullest deliberation and investigation, should be rushed through the Chamber in one day. The hon. member had given no information, and was there any member who knew one jot about this Bill?—and yet under the cloak or privilege of the motion carried by the Postmaster-General, the Hon. Mr. Gregory, with his usual ability of the kind, brought in this private measure. They were waiving, probably, the right they should insist upon, that every private Bill should go before a select committee. They were waiving that right in consequence of the action taken during last session, but that should not prevent them from exercising all the other precautions necessary to take in the passage of a measure of this kind. Probably this was a Bill which would enable the trustees, whoever they might be, to go in direct violation—for all the information hon. members had before them—of the trusts reposed in them, and he put it to the Chairman whether such a Bill could be passed through all its stages in one day? He thought it was not in order to do so, and he hoped it was not, because it would be a very dangerous provision to agree to. He did not think anybody's interests would be materially injured if they postponed this Bill to another session, and he should move as an amendment that it be read a second time that day six months.

The Hon. F. T. GREGORY said he thought the House would fully appreciate the watchfulness and care which the Hon. Mr. Walsh always endeavoured to throw over the proceedings of the House in order that they should be proper and regular, but he thought it possible that it might be strained to the length of being—he would not say a nuisance—but likely to interfere with the passage of useful measures. In the present case it was really unnecessary, because the Bill had been a long time before the other House; it had also been for some time in the hands of hon. members, together with the report of the select committee; and, finally, he might say that the other branch of the Legislature had performed exactly the same operation to which the hon. gentleman now took exception. The hon. gentleman complained that he (Mr. Gregory) had afforded no explanation of the Bill, but he would point out that when he was explaining its provisions the hon. gentleman interrupted him and thereby prevented him from doing so. He certainly could discover nothing, himself, to support the hon. gentleman in objecting to this Bill being proceeded with. If there was any objection after the explanation he (Mr. Gregory) made, it would then be for him to endeavour to remove all doubt upon the matter when the Bill went into committee. He hoped the hon. gentleman would withdraw his motion, as it would only detain the House unnecessarily.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said of course they all appreciated the unceasing desire displayed by the Hon. Mr. Walsh to protect the privileges of the House and maintain order and decorum, but unfortunately his example was not always in accordance with his precept. On the present occasion he rose to a point of order, and concluded by moving a substantial motion that the Bill be read a second time that day six months. As an old Parliamentarian he should not have fallen into such an error. He (Mr. Buzacott) would point out that when he moved the suspension of the Standing Orders, he said it was possible that the Brisbane Race-

course Bill would have to be accelerated, and that with the exception of that and the Appropriation Bill he was not aware of any other measure; but he hinted that there might be others. He thought that distinctly met the Hon. Mr. Walsh's objection that the Standing Order which they had suspended was not intended to apply to private Bills. He would further point out with regard to the objection that this Bill had been hurried through—that it had been before Parliament for the last eight weeks; and, under the circumstances, he thought the least that House could do was to expedite its passage. If there was any objection to it, no doubt the Hon. Mr. Gregory would be able to explain it in committee. He hoped the Hon. Mr. Walsh would not press his point of order.

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN said the Hon. Mr. Walsh rose to a point of order, and concluded by moving an amendment to the motion of the Hon. Mr. Gregory, and he was therefore out of order in doing so.

The Hon. W. H. WALSH said: Did he understand he was not to be permitted to rise to a point of order?

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN said the hon. gentleman was out of order.

The Hon. F. T. GREGORY, continuing his explanation of the provisions of the Bill, said the German Lutheran body, in erecting their church upon the new site they had purchased, had gone into debt to the extent of £500, and being anxious to get rid of their liability, they had now applied to Parliament for this Bill to enable them to sell the land previously granted to them, and to apply the proceeds to the liquidation of their liability. He need only add that the evidence before the House went to show that not only the pastors of the Lutheran denomination, but the whole of that body in the town of Toowoomba, approved of this measure, and there was no body or set of individuals who had any reason to object to it. It had been advertised in the local papers that such a measure would be introduced, and all the requirements of the law in that respect had been complied with.

The Hon. C. S. D. MELBOURNE thought there should be very little difficulty in passing this Bill through all its stages that evening. Had it not been for the Trustees of the Public Lands Act of 1869, this body could sell the land, as they now asked to do, without coming to Parliament for an Act to enable them to do so. Under that statute Parliament interfered, and said that from and after the passing of it no land granted for purposes such as this should be alienated or mortgaged; and hence the necessity for the present Act. Under the circumstances, he thought it was only a fair and reasonable request to make, and that it should be acceded to.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was then passed through all its remaining stages, and ordered to be returned to the Legislative Assembly with the usual message.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said they had now completed the business of this session, and it became his duty to move the adjournment of the House, preparatory to proclamation by the Governor proroguing Parliament. But before doing so there were one or two matters upon which he desired to claim the indulgence of the House while he said a few words. The first was with regard to *Hansard*. He thought it was only due to the *Hansard* staff that at the

end of a very long and arduous session the House should acknowledge that the reports, although perhaps on some occasions somewhat defective, had been on the whole highly creditable to the staff, and gave a faithful representation of the proceedings of the House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he deemed it necessary to say this, not because he wished to propitiate the *Hansard* staff, but simply as a matter of justice. When it was determined to bring out a daily *Hansard* in both Houses a certain maximum was specified, which should not in any case be exceeded, as to the quantity of matter the sheet should contain in one day. That maximum, although he did not think it had ever been exceeded, had on several occasions towards the end of the session been quite reached, and there had been far more work thrown upon the staff than was originally anticipated when the new arrangement was entered into. He did not think ever since the establishment of the colony both Houses had sat so many days in the week, during the latter half of the session, as they had done during this. The Legislative Assembly had sat five days in the week, and there had been several very heavy committees. In the Council there had also been several heavy committees, owing to the operation of the Standing Order referring all railway plans to a select committee, and they had therefore made very great demands upon the *Hansard* staff for committee work. Therefore the staff had been called upon to do a great deal more work than ever those who projected the *Hansard* in its present form, or the head of the staff himself could have anticipated that they would have been called upon to do; and if there had been some deficiencies during the last week or two, when the burden of the work had been unsupportable, and when the energies of the shorthand writers were taxed beyond reasonable limits, he was sure there was no sensible, impartial member of either House who would not be prepared to make full allowance for any defects of that nature. He believed the reports had been impartial, and there was no want of will, but simply a want of power from overwork. The other matter upon which he had to make a few remarks was personal to himself. He would rather, under the circumstances, that nothing had been said upon this point; but as it was probable that during the recess circumstances might arise which would prevent his continuing a member of the present Government, he deemed it necessary to inform the House that if he left the Government, it would not be from any want of sympathy with their policy or cordial co-operation with them in the work which the country had entrusted to their hands. He had derived very much pleasure from the performance of the duties which had been imposed upon him as the representative of the Government in that House, although he felt, looking back upon the last two sessions, that he must have often taxed the indulgence of the House; still, on the whole, he thought they had got on pretty comfortably, and had sustained the reputation of the House. They could have done a great deal more work—and intended to do a great deal more work this year—had the other Chamber sent them up more Bills to deal with. They had already initiated a very important measure in the Chamber—one very much required—one to which they had devoted a great deal of time, and which was sent down from that Chamber in a very acceptable and useful form; but, owing to party exigencies in the other House, it had no chance of becoming law this year. He referred to the Insanity Bill; and although it had not been adopted in the other House this year, he felt satis-

fied the work they had done had not been thrown away, and it would, no doubt, be passed into law next year with very little discussion. His position in the Ministry, of course, had necessitated his co-operating with the other members of the Government in carrying out their policy. He did not pretend to say that in all minute details they had agreed. As a man who formed his own opinion on public questions, there had been matters in which he differed from his colleagues, but on the broad questions of public policy which they had submitted to Parliament they had had his hearty concurrence and cordial sympathy; and he hoped that whatever changes might happen he should still be able to give his support to the measures they introduced for the benefit of the colony. At the same time, it was necessary for him to state that he should require to sever himself from party associations. It would be necessary for him in the duties he intended to undertake to occupy a perfectly impartial position. He made this statement in order that no misunderstanding might arise as to his further course. While a public man was a member of a party and a member of a Ministry it was his duty to be loyal to that party, and to that Ministry, and to endeavour to push forward the measures which they thought it necessary to initiate; but it should not be assumed that in every case he was individually responsible for everything that might be done. A great deal had been said against the development of party government in these colonies. In their system of government there were only two alternatives; it must be government by party or government by persons—that was, members must be influenced by personal feelings, personal aims, and personal objects; or they must be disciplined and influenced by party objects. By experience and by the history of the British Constitution, it was clearly a far better safeguard for the public interests that men should combine for party purposes than that isolated individuals should combine together; because individual action often degenerated into the promotion of personal objects and personal aggrandisement. So that he did not quite sympathise with the prevailing desire which had been expressed sometimes by members of that House, that there should be no party lines there. He held that the representative of the Government and the leader of the Opposition in that House ought to have their respective followings. It was the best possible safeguard that they could have for good legislation that the leader of the Government should be supported by a party more or less united. He did not mean a servile party, but as united and compact a party as they could have. He made these remarks with no wish to complain of anything that had occurred, because he was conscious of his own defects, but for the benefit of his successor; and he hoped whoever might be charged with the representation of the Government in that House would receive a cordial and hearty support. He did not mean that he should ride rough-shod over the members of the House, but that he should be supported in such a way that measures might be discussed intelligently and exhaustively, and be deprived of all the obnoxious elements which would creep into measures of legislation which were not maturely digested. He had now the honour of expressing his best thanks to hon. members of that House for the consideration he had received at their hands, and he begged to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday next.

The Hon. W. H. WALSH said he would refer to the remarks of the Postmaster-General which pertained more to business matters than others; and that was the laudation the hon.

gentleman had made with regard to the services of the *Hansard* reporters in that Chamber. He admitted these services—he admitted that they had been very great, but that they had been no more, he begged to assert, than that Chamber or Parliament had a right to expect. Why the Postmaster-General should have taken that opportunity for making that laudation he was at a loss to understand. Far be it from him on that their parting evening to carp at anything the hon. member had said: but he, as he was mainly instrumental in the employment of these reporters—in the initiation of the *Hansard* which had arrived at such grand and successful proportions—wished to withhold, as far as he was individually concerned, his assent to the proposition that there was anything like a debt of gratitude due to them. They were employed to do a certain amount of work; they were paid well for it; Parliament expected them to do it; and the obligations were equal on both sides. Hence it did not seem to him at all a fitting opportunity or subject for a Minister of the Crown to bestow that laudation upon. He (Mr. Walsh) would be very sorry that the excellent body of men whom they employed upon *Hansard*, and whom they paid handsomely, and who did their work so well, should consider that the House or Parliament was under any obligations to them. They were not: the obligations were mutual if they existed at all. It did appear to him not to be the duty of that House to tacitly assent to the laudation which the Postmaster-General for some reason or other had bestowed upon that body. There was no man in the country who thought higher of that Department than he (Mr. Walsh) did; no man was prouder of it—no man had had so much to do with its formation and probably bringing it to its present state of excellence. He doubted if in any other country there was a body of reporters who could surpass theirs for the way in which they did their work; but it was not becoming the dignity of that Chamber that they should go out of their way, or that a Minister of the Crown should go out of his way, and make a kind of valedictory address, or propitiation, or whatever it might be, to this body of paid servants who did their duty so well. No men could do it better; but they were paid well for it, and they knew it, and appreciated the position they occupied as the House appreciated their services; but they had no more right to pass a tacit vote of encomium upon them if they did their work than they had to do the same thing with regard to the gentleman who had so faithfully and so zealously performed the double duties he had had to do during that session. He referred to their Acting Clerk. Why had the Postmaster-General forgotten him; why had he not singled him out especially as one who had won their respect by the way in which he had performed the extra duty cast upon him during the session. He was afraid it was the proclivity or the fact of the Postmaster-General belonging to that profession which made him lean in that untoward way towards the members of it. He had not a word to say against the admirable reporting class they employed, but he did protest against being called upon to acquiesce in the laudation which they deserved, but which they should not receive in the way in which it had been offered to them that evening. He regretted deeply that the leader on that side of the House was not there to reply to the other remarks of the Postmaster-General. He was perfectly sure that that hon. gentleman would have acknowledged to the fullest extent the obligations they had been under to the Postmaster-General for the way in which he had conducted his department, and, as far as he possibly could, the business of that House. He (Mr. Walsh) could not do it—

he was not in a position to do it in the way in which he was sure the Hon. Mr. Mein would have done it. Therefore, he merely acknowledged his inability, and he was sure that if the Hon. Mr. Mein had been present he would have said much more than he or any other member of the House in recognition of the way in which the Postmaster-General had conducted the business of the House. He was glad of the opportunity of recording his opinion that a better Postmaster-General Parliament had never possessed; probably they would never get another like the hon. gentleman; and if it were within his (Mr. Walsh's) province he would not hesitate to move that a vote of thanks be given to the hon. gentleman for his services. But it was not possible to do so, and he simply said that whatever might have been their differences in that Chamber—and they had been very diverse and even stirred to an inordinate degree—he had never hesitated in expressing his opinion that as far as their Postmaster-General was concerned he had been unique because of his excellence. He had nothing more to say except to again express his regret that the Hon. Mr. Mein was not present to express in a better way than he could his appreciation as leader of that side of the House of the way in which the Postmaster-General had conducted the business.

The Hon. W. GRAHAM said he quite agreed with the Hon. Mr. Walsh that they were entitled to receive the services of the *Hansard* staff on account of the payment they received; but at the same time, as the Postmaster-General had pointed out, the duties devolving upon them were much heavier than were expected at the beginning of the session; and for that reason probably the staff provided for reporting the proceedings in that House was rather smaller than it would have been had they known the duties would be so heavy. He did not think those remarks had come very well from the Hon. Mr. Walsh, as he had in the most eminent degree been one of the causes of making the duties of the staff so heavy. He (Mr. Graham) did not object to the way in which that hon. gentleman had lengthened the debates or inaugurated them, because he had generally found that at the bottom of his argument there was something sound; but still the fact remained that probably one-half the time of the House had been occupied in reporting debates either inaugurated or carried on by the Hon. Mr. Walsh. He (Mr. Graham)—and he thought every member of the House—would most cordially endorse the expression of appreciation of the reporting of the debates in that Chamber which was spoken of by the Postmaster-General. That hon. gentleman then proceeded to assure them that he had been in perfect accord with the Government of which he was a member, and he (Mr. Graham) thought that was extremely unnecessary, because they all felt that in the conduct of business in that House the hon. gentleman was thoroughly in accord with his colleagues. If any fault could be found it was perhaps that he was occasionally a little too earnest and anxious to push on business. He should have remembered that in that Assembly there were a good many members over whose heads a great many more summers had passed than over his own, and if there was anything that most members of that House objected to it was being hustled. He (Mr. Graham) thought the hon. gentleman by his earnestness and anxiety to push on the business of the country had in a slight degree retarded it. He was sorry that the advice he was now giving would not be of any further use to the hon. gentleman, but possibly it might be of use, if reported, to the future Postmaster-

General, whoever he might be. The Postmaster-General then went on to discuss the question of party government, and in regard to that he (Mr. Graham) cordially agreed with him. He did not think that the exigencies of party were so strong in that House as in the other, and he did not think that during this session they had shown that there had been any servile following on either side. He considered that, as a general rule, all through the session members of that House had voted according to their consciences: certainly there had been no servile following. On that, the last evening of the session, although not deputed to do so, he (Mr. Graham) must express the feelings of all members of the House in saying that they had all been pleased with the manner in which the Postmaster-General had conducted the business. He had been reasonable, and always willing to listen to anyone on either side of the House, privately or publicly, and, where good reason had been shown for altering Bills sent from the other House, he had never attempted to force them through in their entirety, but had always been willing to receive any reasonable amendments, and he (Mr. Graham) thought it was to the credit of that House that they had made valuable amendments, which had been accepted by the other House. He was sure every member of the House would regret the loss of their Postmaster-General and leader of the House, and he was also sure that in the career the hon. gentleman was about to enter upon they would cordially wish him all success.

The Hon. F. T. GREGORY said the Postmaster-General had pointed out some of the difficulties in which he had been placed in conducting the Government business, and naturally had drawn the attention of the House to the necessity to a certain extent of Government being carried on by party. It was unnecessary for him (Mr. Gregory) to follow up the subject of the undesirability of their regularly taking sides in that House as they would in the other branch of the Legislature; at the same time, he thought it would be hardly fair to anyone in the position of representative of the Government that he should be left entirely alone; and he could assure the hon. gentleman that he more than once felt for him, when he found the very irregular way, at times, in which business had been conducted—that is, irregularly as far as party considerations were concerned. There were times when the hon. gentleman must have been in great doubt as to whether he was going to be supported or not. He (Mr. Gregory) had been a good many years in the House, and during that time he felt that no one who had the important position of Postmaster-General had had more to contend with than the hon. gentleman who was about to take leave of them. Until within the last twelve months the proceedings of the House were conducted in what might be considered a very slow manner; at any rate, with nothing like the force or vehemence they saw occasionally adopted elsewhere. But it must be remembered that they were presumed to be more a revising body, who would carefully look over the measures passed elsewhere, and see that nothing prejudicial to the interests of the public was allowed to pass. Of course their privileges as a branch of the Legislature entitled them to make any amendment they thought proper on any subject or any Bill, but at the same time, no doubt, their functions were to carry on their deliberations calmly, dispassionately, and without the force of party feeling. In further reference to this subject, he would now mention a matter which had occupied the attention of more than one hon. member in former periods—that was the desirability or not of the Government having at no distant period some recognised support in that

House to the Postmaster-General. There were various offices which could be very well filled—Executive officers whose duties were such as would not render their presence in the Chamber absolutely imperative, and he thought that one might be selected to aid the Postmaster-General in that House in the conduct of Government business. Many hon. members had felt that so strongly that they had endeavoured, so far as was consistent with their duties as private members, to aid the gentleman who filled the important post of leader in that House. He hoped this point would take root in the minds of hon. gentlemen, and that the Government would see their way at no distant period to supply this important deficiency. He heartily concurred in the expression of opinion that the Postmaster-General had conducted the business of the House in a highly creditable manner, and with great advantage and benefit to the country.

The Hon. C. S. D. MELBOURNE said, having differed from the Postmaster-General for years, he did not intend to go out of his way to laud him, or to say anything but that which he knew to be the truth. The Postmaster-General deserved every credit for endeavouring, by the legislation he had initiated, to advance the interests of the colony, and if he had only initiated and caused to be passed the Postal Notes Act, he would have done a great service to the colony, a service which could be more especially appreciated by those residing in the country. It might be said that anybody could have done that; but it was not done till the present Postmaster-General took the matter in hand, and brought in a measure far in advance of that in force in the old country, and which was a great improvement on the old system of money-orders. There was another measure the hon. gentleman had brought in which was a measure of great importance and required to become law, and he hoped that after the full discussion that had taken place in that Chamber the measure would next session become law. As to the remarks with respect to the retirement of the Hon. the Postmaster-General, he (Mr. Melbourne) could only say that he trusted whoever was to be his successor—and rumour said it was to be the Hon. Mr. Walsh—would receive that assistance the Postmaster-General said his successor ought to expect.

The Hon. W. H. WALSH said he hoped the Postmaster-General would relieve him from the imputation just cast upon him, and state who was to be his successor.

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN said he had much pleasure in adding his unit to the appreciation expressed of the manner in which the Postmaster-General had conducted the business of the House. The hon. gentleman had got through the work quietly and well. The Postmaster-General and he (Mr. Roberts) were in a similar position, as they would both be retiring shortly; and he should be sorry to leave the chair he had had the honour to occupy without also expressing his testimony of the kind attention and assistance he had received from the Assistant-Clerk of the Legislative Council.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL expressed his deep obligations to all the hon. gentlemen who had spoken for their kindly expressions. Indeed, if he had known there was going to be so much laudation, he did not know that he should have brought up the matter.

The Hon. J. C. HEUSSLER said he supposed the representative of the Government in that Chamber would always endeavour, as a matter of course, to form a party at the beginning of the session to assist him; but it was, notwithstanding, a matter for consideration whether party



Government was constitutional Government. He himself did not think so. No doubt Parliamentary Government would always be constitutional and could not be otherwise; but they must not forget that there were people who had no strong party feelings, people who had the courage to come to the front and improve measures according to their own lights; and they were also the people who from time to time, by their voting, decided what Government should come into power. He was sorry his hon. friend (Mr. Mein) was not in his seat to give a little dissertation on that subject. That hon. member had this session materially assisted the representative of the Government; and he (Mr. Heussler) had come to the conclusion that the hon. member was not a party man, though no doubt he held very decided views. The party government which had been established in America and in Australia was by no means the very best form of government, because it led to bitterness and the separation of friends. That should not be. It was a different thing in Great Britain, where, notwithstanding their party differences, they had the good sense not to carry them to extremities. He must say that the Postmaster-General had taken extreme pains in bringing forward useful measures and improving the measures that came before the House; and the hon. gentleman deserved all the credit which had been accorded him. The hon. gentleman had also got some lectures, and it was a good thing not to get all praise but also a little bit of wholesome advice, which no doubt the Postmaster-General had taken in good part. He was sure hon. gentlemen wished the Postmaster-General all success

in the new career before him in the very important post he was about to fill.

Question put and passed, and the House adjourned at five minutes past 10 o'clock.

*Parliament prorogued by following Proclamation in Gazette Extraordinary, Friday, 19th November:—*

“PROCLAMATION by His Excellency  
[L.S.] “the Honourable JOSHUA PETER BELL,  
JOSHUA P. BELL, “President of the Legislative Council  
Administrator. “of the Colony of Queensland,  
“and Administrator of the Govern-  
“ment thereof.

“WHEREAS the Parliament of Queensland now stands  
“Adjourned to Tuesday, the twenty-third day of  
“November instant, and it is expedient to Prorogue the  
“same: Now, therefore, I, The Honourable JOSHUA  
“PETER BELL, in pursuance of the power and authority  
“vested in me as Administrator of the Government  
“aforesaid, do, by this my Proclamation, Prorogue  
“the said Parliament to Tuesday, the fourth day of  
“January, 1881.

“Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government  
“House, Brisbane, this nineteenth day of Novem-  
“ber, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight  
“hundred and eighty, and in the forty-fourth year  
“of Her Majesty’s reign.

“By Command,

“A. H. PALMER.

“GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!”