

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**TUESDAY, 4 JULY 1882**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

1882.

QUEENSLAND.



DEBATES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

DURING THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE COLONY  
OF QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA,

APPOINTED TO MEET

AT BRISBANE, ON THE FOURTH DAY OF JULY, IN THE FORTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER  
MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1882.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 4 July, 1882.

Meeting of Parliament.—Appointment of President.—  
The Governor's Opening Speech.—New Members.—  
Resignations.—Leave of Absence.—Death of the late  
President.—Bill *pro forma*.—Privilege.—Address in  
Reply.—Adjournment.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

PURSUANT to Proclamation of His Excellency the  
Governor, bearing date 1st June last, convening  
Parliament for "the despatch of business," the  
Council met shortly before noon this day.

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT.

The Honourable Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer,  
K.C.M.G., took the chair and produced his writ  
of summons as a member of the Council and the  
oath of allegiance subscribed by him, also an  
instrument under the Great Seal of the Colony  
appointing him President, which instrument—

The CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS read as fol-  
lows:—

"Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

"To our trusty and well-beloved The Honour-  
able Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer, K.C.M.G.

Greeting:

"Know you, that we, confiding in your loyalty,  
wisdom, and integrity, have constituted and  
appointed, and do hereby constitute and appoint  
you, the said Honourable Sir Arthur Hunter  
Palmer, to be President of the Legislative  
Council of the Colony of Queensland, to hold  
the said office during the pleasure of the Governor  
for the time being of our said colony.

"In witness whereof our trusty and well-beloved  
Sir Arthur Edward Kennedy, Knight Grand  
Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St.  
Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most  
Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and

1882—B

Commander-in-Chief of our Colony of Queens-  
land and its Dependencies, hath caused this  
instrument to be sealed with the Seal of our said  
Colony, at Government House, Toowoomba, the  
24th day of December, in the year of our Lord  
one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, and  
the forty-fifth of our reign.

[L.s.] "A. E. KENNEDY.

"By His Excellency's command,  
"THOMAS McILLWRAITH.

"Entered on Record by me in Register of  
Patents No. 6, page 74, this 24th day of Decem-  
ber, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-  
one.

"R. J. GRAY.

"For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar."

The proclamation convening Parliament was  
also read at length by the Clerk.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came in  
state to the Parliamentary Buildings, and was  
received at the main entrance by the President,  
the Postmaster-General, and other members of  
the Legislative Council, and conducted to the  
dais in the Upper Chamber.

The House being seated, a message was sent  
to the Legislative Assembly to the effect that  
His Excellency desired the presence of Mr.  
Speaker and hon. members in the Council  
Chamber; and the Assembly being seated in the  
place reserved for them below the bar,

His EXCELLENCY read his Opening Speech  
as follows:—

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGIS-  
LATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"I have great pleasure in again calling you  
together to seek your advice and counsel on  
the various important matters which I have to  
submit for your consideration.

"The recent attempt on the life of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, which under the blessing of Divine Providence was so happily frustrated, sent a thrill of horror and indignation through the colony. The expressions of feeling which were evoked throughout the length and breadth of the land demonstrated the depth of loyalty and affection of Her Majesty's loving subjects. It is gratifying to find that the belief which was universal that the attempt upon the life of one so pure and so exalted could have been made only by a person bereft of reason has turned out to be well founded.

"I am sure you will join with me in an expression of deep regret for the untimely death of the late President of the Legislative Council, Sir Joshua Peter Bell, who occupied for so many years positions of the highest responsibility with honour to himself and advantage to the colony.

"I am pleased to be again able to congratulate you on the increasing prosperity of the colony. Our country has not suffered the disastrous effects caused by the drought in the southern colonies; but for the most part abundance has prevailed in our pastoral districts. Our mining and agricultural industries have started forward with renewed impetus, and population which is so much wanted to ensure the lasting prosperity of the colony has been flocking to our shores.

"Another year's experience of the working of the Divisional Boards Act has proved the value to the colony of local self-government. Several improvements have been suggested in the measure which will duly be submitted for your consideration.

"The British-India Mail Service has continued to prove of great advantage to the colony. Doubts at one time were expressed as to the route being suitable for immigrants, but our late experience has proved it in that respect to be a distinct success. From the fact of immigrants being able to come in steam vessels, and by a shorter route, a better class of people is offering at home, and considerably less difficulty is found in recruiting immigrants of the right stamp for the colony. Delay, which we did not anticipate, has occurred in putting a quicker and better class of vessels on the service. This, I understand, has been occasioned by the enormous tonnage of steamers being constructed at the present time in the British ship-building yards. Several new steamers, however, have been promised, which we expect soon to add to the efficiency of the service. The value of the service for mail purposes has been much impaired by the action of the London Post Office, and my Ministers have been compelled to protest in the strongest language against the obstructive action and want of consideration for our interests manifested by the authorities there in charge.

"Negotiations have been in progress between the Transcontinental Railway Syndicate and my Government in reference to the construction of a line to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and with other bodies in reference to the construction of lines from the Southern and Western Railway to the New South Wales border. The proposals of the

latter have been declined on account of the terms asked being too high. The offer of the former was also declined, but my Ministers believe that terms will be satisfactorily arranged such as will justify them in asking your authority for the construction of the line this session.

"Offers have been made by a company to construct a railway from Rockhampton to Port Alma with no land grant except such Government land as might be required for the purposes of the railway and wharves. The Government have accepted the offer by agreeing to support a private Bill to give powers to the company to construct and work the line.

"The Public Works of the colony have been very much retarded by the extraordinary and unprecedented demand for labour in every part of the colony. My Government have taken exceptional steps to increase immigration; and to supply the existing demand no efforts on their part will be spared.

"Confidence in the future of the colony has manifested itself strikingly during the past year in the increased desire to acquire land in almost every district. Land suitable for sugar cultivation is eagerly sought after, and an immense area has been selected for that purpose in the northern portions of Queensland. These lands were withdrawn from selection last year, and again declared open at an advanced upset price, without affecting any diminution in the rate of selection. The cultivation of sugar land promises a great future for Northern Queensland.

"Draft regulations for Indian immigration into Queensland, approved by the Indian Government, have been under the consideration of my Ministers. Amendments, with the object of ensuring the return of the labourers to their country on the completion of their term of service, have been proposed and submitted to the Indian Government. When mutually agreed upon, the regulations will be presented for the approval of Parliament.

"The low cost at which railways have been lately constructed, and the increased settlement in the various districts of the colony, will, I think, justify my Ministers in submitting to you during the Session proposals for the construction of several lines. Those proposals, however, will be subject to modification should no arrangement be come to by which the grand trunk lines can be constructed by land grants.

"A commission to inquire into the present position of the Volunteer Force of the colony has sat during the recess. Their report, which I am sorry to say establishes the thorough inefficiency of the force, will be laid before you, and proposals will be submitted for putting the defences of the colony on a permanent and more satisfactory basis.

"The oft-recurring periods of drought in both this and the neighbouring colonies have satisfied my Ministers that much greater provision should be made than heretofore for the conservation of water. Measures will be introduced for the purpose of securing and conserving enlarged supplies.

"My Government consider the time has arrived when a trigonometrical survey of the colony should be commenced, and you will be invited to sanction arrangements for carrying it out.

"The leases of certain pastoral lands in the colony will shortly expire. As no power is at present in the hands of the Government to deal with these lands, a Bill will be submitted for your consideration.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"I am happy to inform you that the Revenue has increased beyond our most sanguine expectations. The financial year closed with a gratifying surplus, a portion of which my advisers propose to appropriate to particular services instead of carrying it over as a balance to the following year. The Estimates of the present financial year will be duly submitted to you, and I hope you will find that they have been framed with a view to the strictest economy consistent with efficiency.

"Proposals will be laid before you for the abolition of coast light dues and the reconstruction and reduction of the pilotage rates.

"The six-per-cent. debentures issued in 1863 fall due in January, 1884. Provision will require to be made during the present Session to meet this liability.

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"The following Bills, among others, will be submitted for your consideration:—

"1. A Bill to authorise the Construction, Maintenance, and Working of Tramways on Public Streets and Roads in such manner as not to impede ordinary traffic.

"2. A Bill authorising the Surrender of Freehold Land to the Crown, and the issue of Deeds of Grant to the owner thereof in certain cases.

"3. A Bill to Amend and Consolidate the Laws relating to the Distillation of Spirits.

"4. A Bill to Amend the Divisional Boards Act of 1879.

"5. A Bill to make better provision for the regulation of Immigration into the Colony of Queensland.

"6. A Bill to Provide for the Sale to Local Authorities of Land required for Local Works or other purposes.

"7. A Bill to Amend the Law relating to the right of Stoppage *in transitu*, and for other purposes.

"8. A Bill for the Protection of Oysters and the Encouragement of Oyster Fisheries.

"9. A Bill to Consolidate and Codify the Laws relating to Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes.

"10. A Bill to Amend the Law relating to the Rights and Liabilities of Married Women.

"11. A Bill to Amend the Savings Bank Act of 1872.

"12. A Bill to Consolidate and Amend the Laws regulating the Sale by Retail of Intoxicating Liquors within the Colony of Queensland, and for other purposes relating thereto.

"13. A Bill to Amend the Pastoral Leases Act of 1869.

"14. A Bill to Provide for the Construction, Maintenance, and Management of Works for the Storage and Distribution of Water.

"15. A Bill to Consolidate and Amend the Laws relating to the Insane.

"16. A Bill to Amend the Navigation Act and Amend the Laws relating to Merchant Shipping.

"17. A Bill to Amend the Laws relating to Jurors.

"18. A Bill to Amend the Law relating to Mineral Lands.

"19. A Bill to Amend the Settled Districts Pastoral Leases Act of 1876.

"All these measures I submit for your consideration in the full confidence that you will deal with them to the best of your judgment and ability, and I trust that your labours will result, under the blessing of Divine Providence, in adding to the progress and prosperity of this great country."

His Excellency and suite then left the Chamber, and the Assembly having also withdrawn, the sitting was suspended until half-past 3 o'clock.

The PRESIDENT resumed the Chair at half-past 3 o'clock, and produced a Commission from His Excellency the Governor, empowering him to administer the oath of allegiance to members of the House, which Commission was read at length by the Clerk.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of letters intimating that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to advise the Executive Council to summon George King, Esq., Andrew Joseph Thynne, Esq., and Joseph Capel Smyth, Esq., to the Legislative Council, and that His Excellency had administered to them the oath of allegiance.

The Hon. George King and the Hon. Andrew Joseph Thynne were then introduced, and, having subscribed the roll, took their seats.

#### RESIGNATIONS.

The PRESIDENT also read letters from Government House stating that during the recess His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to accept the resignation of the Hon. Alfred Henry Brown, the Hon. Thomas Rome, and the Hon. Henry George Simpson, of their seats in the Legislative Council.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The PRESIDENT further announced that His Excellency had been pleased to grant leave of absence to the Hon. Thomas Lodge Murray-Prior for twelve months from March 11th, 1882; the Hon. Gordon Sandeman for twelve months from 14th April, 1882; and the Hon. Charles Stuart Mein for twelve months, from the 30th June, 1882.

## DEATH OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.

The PRESIDENT said : I have also to inform hon. members with deep regret, which I am sure will be fully shared by them, of the death of the late President, Sir Joshua Peter Bell ; and I have to state that, in consequence of that event, I have ordered his name to be removed from the list of members.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Hon. B. B. Morehead) said : Hon. gentlemen, I am sure hon. members will not think it out of place on my part to state—speaking, I hope and feel sure, on behalf of every member here present—how deeply we all regret that one who was with us last year and presided over our deliberations has left us, and that

“ The place that knew him shall know him no more for ever.”

I do not intend, nor is it at all necessary that I should pass any panegyric upon a man whose life was open to us all, and whose memory will, I feel sure, always remain green with us ; a man whom I may say that to know was to love ; a man whom we all respected in every position he occupied while here amongst us. Whether as a legislator or as a private individual, he had endeared himself to the hearts of every Queensland colonist, and everyone he met elsewhere.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS : Hear, hear !

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL : We regret his loss, I am sure, immensely, and I need not say, I think, any more on that point but this : that I will take the earliest opportunity of asking you gentlemen to follow the course adopted when his lamented predecessor, the late Sir Maurice O'Connell, left us—to prepare an address to be sent to Lady Bell showing the estimation in which he was held by those over whom he so lately presided. Now, to come to another point, I beg, Sir, on behalf of this House, to congratulate you upon being appointed to the most honourable position that any colonist can aspire to. And, although I may possibly—I do not think I am—but although I may possibly be carried away to a certain extent by personal feelings regarding yourself—feelings of friendship, and loyalty and affection, which have lasted for many years—yet I believe that every colonist considers that you have achieved a well-earned honour—an honour which I am certain you will bear and wear well, and an honour which I hope you will long live to adorn.

The HON. W. H. WALSH : I need not say that hon. gentlemen sitting on this side of the House most cordially reciprocate the estimable words uttered by the Postmaster-General with regard to our late estimable President. I think this opportunity—although probably if notice had been given, there would have been a larger attendance of hon. members to do honour to the memory of that gentleman—should not be lost of showing that both sides of the House heartily concur in the eulogium passed—so well passed—by the Postmaster-General upon our late respected President, Sir Joshua Peter Bell. I trust the Government will quickly carry out the intention expressed of presenting to Lady Bell some tangible proof that she may hold that this House does revere the memory and bear witness to the value of the departed gentleman as a colonist, and not only as a member of this House, but also of the other Chamber.

The HON. W. D. BOX said nearly twenty years ago he came to the colony, and ever since he had observed the life and enjoyed the friendship of the gentleman whose loss they grieved to-day—Sir Joshua Peter Bell. As the hon. the Postmaster-General had said, he had endeared himself to all who knew him, and he

had filled the highest position in the colony with credit to himself and with advantage to the community. He (Mr. Box) looked upon him as a typical Australian gentleman. He could not imagine a better life—a life they must all admire. While surrounded by inducements that might have led him away from the straight path, he always seemed to move along steadily, to win the esteem and regard of all who knew him, to do his duty fairly and honestly, never to move out of his way to avoid it, but to do it fearlessly and manfully. He (Mr. Box) rejoiced to be here to-day to add his testimony to the estimation in which they held that lamented gentleman. Passing from that subject, he might say he believed that his place had been worthily filled. Sir Arthur Palmer had been with them for many years, his career was known to them all, and he hoped he would long fill the position he now so worthily occupied. He thought that Queensland had been particularly fortunate with its Presidents—first, Sir Maurice O'Connell, then Sir Joshua Peter Bell, and now Sir Arthur Palmer.

The HON. J. F. McDOUGALL said he could, with very much pleasure, endorse every word that had been expressed by the hon. gentleman who had preceded him. It had been his privilege to be acquainted, for a long period of years, with the hon. gentleman whose loss from amongst them they so much deplored. He had nothing to say of him in his public capacity, which was well known to them all, but, speaking of him in his private capacity, he could say that he had seen him in times of trial and difficulty on many occasions, and he had never seen him anything but what he really was—a good Christian and a gentleman in every sense of the word. He thought they must all deplore his loss ; but these were things over which they had no control ; and he thought it was fortunate for the country that his place was so ably filled by the gentleman who had succeeded him. That gentleman, who was now President of that Chamber, he had also had the privilege of knowing for very many years, and his career was well known to him, as it was to the colony at large ; and the honours that were now conferred upon him he well deserved. They were the highest honours that, he believed, could be conferred in this colony, and he was happy to be able to congratulate him upon his appointment.

## BILL PRO FORMA.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL presented a Bill to amend the law relating to toll-bars, which was read a first time *pro forma*.

## PRIVILEGE.

The HON. C. H. BUZACOTT said he had a subject to bring before the House which he considered a matter of privilege. He regretted that he should have to take that course, but he was quite sure that, when the attention of the President was directed to the matter to which he intended to refer, that hon. gentleman would take steps to prevent its recurrence. Of course every member of that House was only too happy to see the large number of visitors in attendance on the occasion of the opening of Parliament. They regarded it, as he did, as an evidence of the public interest in the proceedings of their free Parliament, and as a healthy indication of the interest taken in the institutions of the colony. At the same time he thought that there were rather more visitors that morning than they could properly accommodate in the House, and that some persons were admitted who ought not to have been admitted. While His Excellency was delivering his Speech that morning a person in the gallery interrupted the proceedings in a manner distinctly audible

to them below, although they could not hear the words that were uttered. He (Mr. Buzacott) had had a complaint made to him by some ladies who were in the gallery that the person referred to indulged in the most profane and blasphemous expressions they had ever heard; that they were spoken in a loud tone of voice; that he was remonstrated with by other persons in the neighbourhood, but that there was a policeman within a few yards of him who took not the slightest notice of his misconduct. He might say that the expressions were directed to the highest personages in the Empire, some of whom they all respected and revered, and he was assured by the ladies who heard them that they never heard such language anywhere before. He thought that, as the individual was well known, at least he would be debarred from the opportunity of interrupting the proceedings in future. He would not have referred to the matter publicly had it not been for the number of visitors there that morning who received very great annoyance from that person's misconduct. He knew the hon. President would take the necessary steps, and that they should not have in future to complain.

The PRESIDENT said no other hon. gentleman seemed to have anything to say upon the subject. He could only say, so far as he was concerned, that if the hon. member would mention the name of the individual he would take very good care that he was excluded from the House on all future occasions. It was impossible for him to act upon the general information of some individual. He had not the slightest idea who the individual was; he had no information whatever upon the subject.

The HON. K. I. O'DOHERTY said he might state that the Hon. Mr. Buzacott had mentioned the name of the individual to him, and he happened to have professional knowledge of the fact that the man was a madman.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why is he not in Woogaroo?

The HON. K. I. O'DOHERTY said the man was not in Woogaroo at present, although he had been there on various occasions, but was now in the Government service, and a very efficient officer. He took these hallucinations occasionally, but he (Dr. O'Doherty) believed the man was perfectly harmless, and irresponsible for what he did. He did not think he would mention the man's name, as it was very well known to every hon. member in the House. The individual was harmless, and had no idea of insulting anyone.

The HON. W. H. WALSH said he considered a man not altogether harmless if he intruded himself upon the society of others and used bad language, but it was a notorious fact that that individual lived always either in the Lunatic Asylum or in a Government office. Where did that individual get all the influence from that he could walk straight from Woogaroo to the Lands Office? It had long been a discredit to the Governments of the colony that that individual should have been received after his repeated terms of insanity, and that other clerks had to associate with him in the office. That had been going on for a series of years, and could they wonder, if Ministers chose to put up with the vagaries of that man, that he now came to that Chamber and gave them specimens of what he was able to do in the Government service? The fault lay with the heads of departments in the first instance; and, if the man had been properly checked in years gone by, members would not have been subjected to such insults as they had been to-day. It was the laxity of Governments which led to those events, which should not be put up with any longer.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he thought that hon. members who had spoken

should have mentioned the name of the man; he was quite aware who it was, but he was not going to mention the name. He could tell the hon. member (Mr. Walsh) why that gentleman—for gentleman he was—was retained in the Government service. It was, to a certain extent, the feeling of great charity which existed in the mind of the Hon. Mr. Walsh himself when he was a Minister. He did not blame that Government or any Government for retaining this unfortunate man in their service when he was in good health. He was a very good clerk, he (Mr. Morehead) had been told, and he had made many inquiries with reference to him. He remembered him years ago—years before the hon. member ever saw him—and recollected that he was very far away from Brisbane in the Government service and did his work very well, and there it was that he was first struck with this most unfortunate calamity; and the reason that he had given was the reason why he had been kept on by succeeding Governments, and why they had looked very charitably upon the most unfortunate malady which he now and again suffered from. As the Hon. Dr. O'Doherty had told them, there was no risk to life or limb or danger to anyone. He (Mr. Morehead) thought it was a pity in the first instance that the gentleman's name was not mentioned. He thought, himself, with the Hon. Mr. Buzacott, when the offender was so well known, that the police should have interfered. That was where the error was. The police should most certainly have interfered, and not allowed him to get into a position where he could use language which was certainly, from what the Hon. Mr. Buzacott had represented to him, most gross, and to which no lady—in fact, no individual whatever—should be subjected within the walls of that Chamber.

The HON. C. H. BUZACOTT said in explanation he knew the man by repute, but did not know him personally, and the object was to bring the conduct of the police before the House and the country. There was a policeman standing there for the preservation of order, and who, on hearing this man, took no steps.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he could assure the hon. gentleman that he would take the necessary steps to bring the conduct of the police before the proper authorities.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT having acquainted the House that for the greater accuracy he had obtained a copy of the Speech which His Excellency the Governor had delivered to Parliament, and having read so much of it as was addressed to this House,

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved—

That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, such committee to consist of the Hon. George King, the Hon. A. J. Thynne, the Hon. J. F. McDougall, and the Mover.

Question put and passed, and the Committee retired.

The Select Committee having returned, brought up the following Address in Reply, which was read by the Clerk:—

“To His Excellency Sir ARTHUR EDWARD KENNEDY, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies.

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

“We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Council in

Parliament assembled, desire to assure your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the person and Government of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and we thank your Excellency for the Speech with which you have opened the session.

"We shall give our careful and serious consideration to the various measures submitted by your Excellency; and we trust that our labours may result in promoting the advancement and prosperity of the colony."

The HON. G. KING said he begged to move that the Address as read by the Clerk be adopted, and in doing so he claimed the indulgence of the House while he made a few remarks upon His Excellency's Speech, with which he might say he almost altogether concurred. He was sure they all concurred with the second paragraph of the Speech relating to the attempt on the life of the Queen, and they also joined in the universal sorrow and expressions of regret for the death of the late President. They were all glad to learn that their mining and agricultural industries had started forward with a new impetus, and could heartily congratulate the country upon such a state of things. The Divisional Boards Act had proved of great benefit to the colony, and any little defects that existed in it would, he was sure, be amended in the Bill which would be submitted to Parliament during this session. With regard to the British-India Service he had heard on all hands that it was an undoubted success, and had been of great good to the trading and commercial community. This contract was the more satisfactory, as it was equally serviceable as a route for the conveyance of immigrants; and it was further very satisfactory to learn that upon the construction of their larger vessels the postal service would be conducted in a shorter time. The seventh paragraph of His Excellency's Speech referred to the negotiations between the Transcontinental Railway Syndicate and the Government with reference to the construction of a railway to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and with other bodies in reference to the construction of lines from the Southern and Western Railway to the New South Wales border. He thought the Government were entitled to the thanks of the community for having set their faces against the exorbitant demands made by these syndicates, and that the construction of these railways is still an open question; and it might suggest that, if syndicates asked so much, could they not better make their own railways? With regard to the Port Alma railway he could say nothing, having no local knowledge of it. That the public works of the colony should have been retarded for want of labour was a matter of regret, but it was highly satisfactory to think that the Government had taken exceptional steps to increase immigration, and so obviate this inconvenience. The two next paragraphs he would like to read in full, because he considered them of so much importance. The first was—

"Confidence in the future of the colony has manifested itself strikingly during the past year in the increased desire to acquire land in almost every district. Land suitable for sugar cultivation is eagerly sought after, and an immense area has been selected for that purpose in the northern portions of Queensland. These lands were withdrawn from selection last year, and again declared open at an advanced upset price, without effecting any diminution in the rate of selection. The cultivation of sugar land promises a great future for Northern Queensland."

Then in connection with land came labour. The two went hand in hand.

"Draft regulations for Indian immigration into Queensland, approved by the Indian Government, have been under the consideration of my Ministers. Amendments, with the object of ensuring the return of the

labourers to their country on the completion of their term of service, have been proposed and submitted to the Indian Government. When mutually agreed upon, the regulations will be presented for the approval of Parliament."

In referring to the large quantity of land that had been taken up for the cultivation of sugar he would merely remark that the area taken up in North Queensland was equal to the whole area of the island of Mauritius. That island produced 120,000 tons of sugar during a year, of the value of three millions sterling as an export, and they were only at the foot of the ladder of that industry in this colony. The whole production of sugar in Queensland last year was estimated at 18,000 tons. A vast amount of labour would be required to develop this industry to its full extent. Not only European labour would be required, but, as an indispensable adjunct to the progress of this industry, either coolie or kanaka labour. If they had not that the sugar industry must stand still. There was a great objection—a great prejudice, he observed—to the introduction of coloured labour which was really not founded on reason, because it was assumed that it was hostile to the interests of the European labourer. The introduction of kanaka or coolie labour would be the means of creating a labour fund from which the European and higher skilled labourer would reap the greatest advantage. He hoped the House would bear with him while he referred to a few figures. He could not vouch for the exact correctness of his figures, but they were taken from certain statistics. He had found that the production of 18,000 tons of sugar last year produced a gross income of £450,000 and secured a labour fund of £270,000, giving, according to the statistics, £27,000 for kanaka labour and £243,000 for the higher European labour, and for the mechanics and everyone else engaged in the business. It was clear that without kanaka or coolie labour the sugar industry could not be developed, and the working men were participators in the labour fund to the extent of £243,000, which would not have existed at all but for the kanaka labour. Assuming that Northern Queensland would produce 50,000 tons, there would then be a labour fund of £750,000, of which £75,000 would go to the kanakas and £675,000 to the European labourer, including the artisans in the various trades in the towns. To persist in allowing prejudice to set the labouring men here in the colony against the introduction of coloured labour was, he thought, suicidal. Moreover, the white man was imported at the expense of the country, and the coolie or kanaka was imported at the expense of the person engaged in sugar planting. It seemed to him perfectly clear that there could not be any objection to the introduction of coloured labour unless it should be sentiment, but that was quite a different thing and should not enter into a statesmanlike view of the matter. If the sugar industry was to increase to the extent to which they were justified in expecting, it would open up a splendid field for the European labourer. He therefore thought that it was most desirable that the Government should carry on the introduction of European labour, and also that the coolie and kanaka labour should be sanctioned to such an extent as really to develop the resources of Northern Queensland. He was not connected with the sugar industry himself, and had not an acre of land in Northern Queensland, and therefore he was not prejudiced in his advocacy of coloured labour for the promotion of the sugar industry. The Government were to be congratulated upon introducing measures for the purpose of securing enlarged supplies of water, and the trigonometrical survey proposed was also a matter much to be desired. The leases of

certain pastoral lands shortly expiring, they were informed in the Speech that a Bill dealing with the matter would be submitted for their consideration. His Excellency then congratulated them upon the very great increase in the revenue. They were certainly indebted to the Government for exercising prudence and economy in the management of the affairs of the colony. Then came a list of several Bills to be submitted to the Legislature which he had no doubt would be duly considered, and would be of great advantage to the colony. His Excellency concluded his speech by saying—

“All these measures I submit for your consideration in the full confidence that you will deal with them to the best of your judgment and ability, and I trust that your labours will result, under the blessing of Divine Providence, in adding to the progress and prosperity of this great country.”

In which wish he (Mr. King) fully concurred, and trusted that His blessing might rest upon the deliberations of this Parliament now in session assembled.

The HON. A. J. THYNNE said he also begged to ask the indulgence of the House in seconding the motion made by the Hon. Mr. King. He, of course, addressed hon. gentlemen with a certain amount of diffidence, as, not having hitherto taken any prominent part in public life in this colony, it was somewhat of a trial for him to commence his duties as a member of that House. He thought he need add but little to what had been already said upon the various portions of the Speech by the Hon. Mr. King. That hon. gentleman had fully disposed of the question of the sugar lands and the immigration of Indian coolies into Queensland. He did not think there was any subject which had taken up so much of the public attention as this same question of coolie immigration; and he thought he might add this one thing to what the Hon. Mr. King had said, that it was satisfactory to find that the Government had taken precautions and had shown their determination to regulate that traffic in such a way as to prevent the coolie becoming a permanent resident in the colony so as to in any way oust the European labourer. That, he thought, would remove the greatest objection made by the working men to the introduction of coolies under any circumstances. The Speech was a very full one. It expressed in very clear language all the sentiments which were contained in the different clauses, and really it itself contained almost every word that could be said in support of it. He saw from examination of the Treasury returns that morning that there was a surplus of some £245,000. That was a highly satisfactory report, especially considering that for the last five years, he might say, they had suffered more or less from an almost continual drought which caused tremendous loss to the colony, and it was astonishing that though they had not since 1877 been favoured with an adequate rainfall in any one year, still instead of suffering a great loss during these years the colony had continued to progress so much. He would like to draw attention to the confidence expressed in the future of the colony as shown by the large amount of foreign capital as they had seen introduced during the last few years. He considered that the great prosperity experienced in the colony now, and the large surplus in the revenue, was due to the care which the Ministry had evidently taken in the expenditure of the finances of the colony. One of the best measures passed into law in this colony was, he thought, the Divisional Boards Act. He did not mean to say that it was a perfect measure; but its object and effect were such as to entitle its framers to the everlasting gratitude of the people of this colony. There was no doubt that before

the Divisional Boards Act came into force the system of the expenditure of public money upon the public works throughout the colony was of the most rotten kind, and there was no doubt, either, that the introduction and establishment of these divisional boards had been the means of teaching the people self-government and the principle of self-dependence. Notwithstanding, he might say, the cry of hostility raised against that measure when first introduced, it had, he thought, proved and been acknowledged throughout the colony, except perhaps in some of the outside districts, to be a very useful and desirable measure. The details of the Act, however, required some amendment, and he was sure that, with the trouble taken by the Minister to get suggestions from the various bodies who had had the working of the Act in their hands, they would get a very good measure before the House in the proposed Bill to amend the Act mentioned in the Speech. With regard to the mail service, he had no doubt that its establishment had been to a great extent the cause of the introduction of much of this foreign capital. It had been the means, too, of establishing the independence of this colony, and of showing that it was not a mere suburb of the other colonies. It had drawn a great amount of attention to the resources of the colony, which had been attended with the introduction of the capital he had mentioned. He could only confirm what the Hon. Mr. King had said with regard to the credit due to the Ministry for the manner in which they treated with the syndicates which had made offers for the construction of railways. The details of the Transcontinental Syndicate and the communications with them had been published up to a certain stage, and from every point of view he considered the Government had studied the best interests of the colony in their negotiations with General Feilding and his party. It was an excellent sign to see a company coming forward prepared to construct a railway at their own cost without any land grant except the Government land which would be required for the railway and station. No doubt, at Rockhampton there were certain inducements for establishing a railway, and he had no doubt the acceptance of the offer would depend upon what were the conditions upon which these gentlemen would be prepared to construct the line as to tariff and so on. Allusion was made in the Speech to the low cost at which railways had lately been constructed, and this was a matter he thought deserving of more than passing mention. A few years ago the construction of a railway, no matter how short, was a matter of immense importance, as railways cost £13,000, £14,000, and £15,000 a mile; but now they could make them for £2,000 and £3,000 a mile, and the consequence was that they were now enabled to extend their railways much more rapidly than heretofore, and it was a question that he had no doubt the Government had considered in dealing with the Transcontinental Syndicate. The question of the cost of construction they were now in a position to ascertain for themselves, and they could therefore tell the cost at which the various railways proposed by the syndicates could be made. There was one matter in the Speech upon which he was perhaps bound to say something, and that was the question of the Volunteer Force. A commission had sat upon the subject and presented a report. He did not know that he could altogether agree with the recommendations of that commission, or that their report established the thorough inefficiency of the force. He trusted, however, that another opportunity would be given him to speak upon the matter. The Government were, of course, in a matter of this kind guided to a great extent by

professional advice; and he thought that in this instance the professional advice given was not as good as it might have been. This, he thought, would be seen when hon. gentlemen had further information before them. The only question he had not yet touched upon was the question of the conservation of water, which was certainly one of the most important questions before the House. The necessity for a trigonometrical survey was also alluded to, and many Bills of importance were mentioned, and would shortly be laid before the House. With these remarks he begged to second the motion made by the Hon. Mr. King.

The HON. W. H. WALSH said that notwithstanding that the Address had been so successfully moved and seconded by the hon. gentlemen, whom he was sure they all welcomed as new members, still he must confess that he was not satisfied either with the Address or with the Reply. He thought that one was much too long and the other a great deal too short. He thought that the Address in Reply should have made some reference to the dastardly attack upon Her Majesty the Queen, to which prominent reference had been made in the Governor's Speech. He thought that the leader of that House should not have allowed them to lose one moment in reciprocating the remarks made in the Speech, by cordially, and in the best and strongest language they could, expressing their horror at the attempt that had been made to assassinate Her Majesty, and their unfeigned pleasure at her happy escape. He thought that a great defect in the Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech, and he was astonished that it had not occurred to the hon. gentlemen who had charge of it when they retired as a committee; but he was afraid their consultation was but short, that they found that everything was cut and prepared for them, and that they had nothing else to do but to walk into the room and to walk out again. He, at any rate, availed himself of this opportunity of saying that he regretted the Address did not immediately convey to His Excellency the full assurance that that Chamber viewed with the utmost horror the dastardly and insane attempt made upon the life of Her Majesty. There was a good deal in the Speech of His Excellency—or rather, in the Speech of his Ministers—that he could not concur in. He (Mr. Walsh) knew that there would be no use whatever in a loyal Chamber like that attempting to reject the Address, or even in moving an amendment upon it, but he very much doubted whether the Speech was one which Parliament or the people of the colony generally would be satisfied with. He maintained that it did not contain in it evidence of sufficient matter to please the people or the country generally. There were large subjects left untouched by it—subjects which probably the people of this country thought more about, and had set their hearts more upon seeing legislation enacted upon than any matter in the speech itself. In fact, it was merely a re-hash of most of the subjects brought forward last session; it was a repetition of the promises that were made then that certain Bills should be introduced which were not introduced, and he (Mr. Walsh) warned hon. gentlemen that he did not believe that half the Bills enumerated in the Speech would ever be put into their hands or that they would be called upon to consider them. They had already expressed their feelings in respect to the painful subjects referred to in the first and second paragraphs of the Speech; and probably the following paragraph was one that commended itself to them all, because it must be a matter of congratulation to everyone as well as Ministers and His Excellency that the colony was at present in such a prosperous condition. Undoubtedly it was prosperous—the world was prosperous. At that moment every

country in the world was in a state of prosperity, and Queensland would be an unfortunate colony indeed if it did not share in the general prosperity that was everywhere so manifest. He did not agree with the hon. gentleman who had stated that the working of the Divisional Boards Act had proved of value to the colony in the way of developing local self-government; in fact, he could hardly see the relevancy of the two subjects. The people in this colony had been endowed and blessed with local self-government from the very day of Separation. What was their Legislative Assembly but as near an approach to local self-government as could possibly be bestowed upon the people! Every man, or at any rate every locality, could send its representative into that Assembly and have its views represented there, and he did not see that they should have extorted from them the congratulations upon this subject which the Government had inserted in the Speech. Again, if the Government, by talking of local self-government, meant the Divisional Boards Act, then he joined issue at once with those honourable gentlemen who sang its paeans to the extent they had. His (Mr. Walsh's) experience of the Divisional Boards Act was that it did not give universal satisfaction; and he thought it very strange that it was principally those gentlemen who were members of divisional boards who sung its praises. But he (Mr. Walsh) went amongst gentlemen throughout the length and breadth of the land, who had not the working or the manipulation of the Act, and he found anything but self-satisfaction expressed by them. On the contrary, they complained that money was exorbitantly extorted from them, and that they had very little control indeed over the way in which it was expended; that their voices were of little moment in directing the necessary local works that were being done. He did not hesitate to say, so far as his knowledge and the information that reached him went, that a great deal of money that was placed in the hands of the divisional boards was hardly spent legally, and was not spent fairly—he would say that. There were appropriations by these divisional boards that he was sure had been made by straining the Act considerably; and in more than one divisional board, he believed, by far the largest amount of money had been expended, not on main roads, not in improving the highways and byways for the people, but to improve the pasturage—to remove nuisances, in the shape of Bathurst burr and thistles, from pastoral tenants' grounds. He (Mr. Walsh) did not believe that it was contemplated, when the Act was passed, that so much attention and so much money should be laid out upon these things. Another thing in connection with the Divisional Boards Act that he had been obliged to notice during—what should he call it?—the hatching of boards in various parts of the colony,—was that they were invariably started by some needy individual who wanted a secretaryship—by some ne'er-do-well in the neighbourhood who had never been industrious enough to get a billet either from a squatter or in commercial enterprise; and, if he were a favourite in that neighbourhood, at once the big wigs came forward and put their heads together and concocted a divisional board; and this individual, who had not been able to earn a penny before since he had been in the country, was provided for as long as the funds lasted. The next paragraph to which the Speech referred was the British-India Mail Service; and it was contended that it had proved of great advantage to the colony. This, he maintained, was not a fact; and he did not think the honest facts of the case would prove that it was so. As a postal service it had been a failure. Even the leading newspaper of the colony had had to declare that at last, after strenu-

ously trying for a long time to prove otherwise. From north to south, and east to west, there had been one general outcry that it had been a failure as a postal service. That it had been advantageous to a few commercial men there was not the slightest doubt. Even if it took six months to bring their goods from England, instead of two and a-half months, it would be acceptable to them; for was it not a fact that upon every ton of goods brought into the colony on which freight was paid the people in the colony were called upon to subsidise that freight at least £1 a ton? He (Mr. Walsh) was talking, not very long ago, with a gentleman of some repute in Brisbane, and who imported largely by the service. That gentleman said he got goods out occasionally at £1 per ton from England; but, he said, "The people pay the other pound for me." He maintained that, for this subsidy, which was extracted from the people, they obtained no benefit whatever. People in the far interior, at the mines, and farmers, derived no advantage whatever from the subsidy. It was of little moment to them whether goods were carried at a certain rate by steam travelling or by sailship travelling; but they were compelled to contribute towards this tremendous subsidy that was being paid to this service. Again, allusion was made to the class of immigrants brought out by this service; but he denied *in toto* that they were of the value accorded to them in the Speech. He (Mr. Walsh) said they were not a superior class of immigrants that came out by the steam service from that brought out formerly in the sailing ships. He had watched both of them very closely, and he said there was no difference, as far as he could see, in regard to the quality. There was this difference between those who came to the colony by the steam route and those who came in sailing ships—that those who came by the steamships appeared to be only birds of passage. It was notorious that in the Northern ports those who had been landed at Townsville, Cooktown, and elsewhere, had gone direct from those ports immediately in steamships, and some of them as cabin passengers, to New South Wales. In no way did he think that the immigration service was satisfactory. He (Mr. Walsh) believed that immigrants were being brought in too rapidly; that there was not sufficient care exercised in their selection, and there could not be while they were being brought out so rapidly. He thought there was not sufficient care taken to import persons who intended to settle in Queensland. Only the other day, he (Mr. Walsh) was at a northern port where he saw a steamer about to start for Brisbane, and he was astonished at the assiduity with which the Government immigration agent at that port provided passages for immigrants who landed only a day or two before from a vessel that had arrived at that port; and, upon inquiring, he (Mr. Walsh) was told that those were immigrants that should have been sent direct to Brisbane, but they came out with the promise that although they came direct to Maryborough they would be sent on to Brisbane. He (Mr. Walsh) thought that was wrong, inasmuch that when the immigrant vessel arrived at Maryborough the people were gulled with the idea that there were, say, 300 adults being sent to that port to be distributed amongst them, whereas it was not so, because, as in the case referred to, many of the immigrants were sent on to Brisbane. There was another objection to it; he believed that the charterers of the ships who landed these immigrants at Maryborough received more per head than for bringing them on to Brisbane. Hence they would be induced to fill up ships for these ports; and probably these immigrants for Brisbane, who were sent to Maryborough at

extra cost to the country, at the same time held in their pockets the right to be sent to Brisbane. But that was not the worst feature of that shipload of immigrants he saw. The next steamer that left for Brisbane he saw again crowded with immigrants. He (Mr. Walsh) was on the wharf, and observed many of them going on board with travelling *impedimenta* in the shape of boxes and luggage, and when they were asked if they were going to Brisbane, they answered "Yes," and down went their boxes into a certain part of the vessel. He then heard the chief officer say, "Now, passengers for Sydney"! And, then, what did he see? A quantity of luggage of immigrants for Sydney being put down into another part of the ship's hold; and, hence, he was forced to the conclusion that by the way both systems were carried on they were filling up ships with persons who merely took advantage of them to reach the other colonies. If the Government doubted his statement, let them call for an inquiry; if they wished for information on the subject, let them examine the means within their reach. Let them go to the Customs; let them go to their own agents and to the mercantile people who took cognizance of these things, and they would find that his statement was correct—that many of the immigrants who came here, and that cost the colony so much money, were merely birds of passage to go elsewhere and join their friends in the other colonies. There was an allusion made to there being no danger of bringing immigrants out by this particular route; but he maintained that there was a very great danger, and he maintained also that if the steamers that brought out these immigrants, or nearly every one of them, had been subjected to the old regulations that were adopted with regard to sailing ships when they arrived at the different ports of the colony, hardly any one of them would have received pratique. The quarantine laws had been abrogated in favour of this company; that he did not so much object to, because he had always been opposed to the quarantine laws, and had always looked upon them as a disgrace; but still he maintained that if the state of the immigrants landed on our shores now by the service was strictly reported, and reported in the Press, the people of the colony would demand that cargo after cargo, such as had been landed here, should be, as formerly, consigned to quarantine. Then, again, they knew that in the very last steamer that arrived measles were prevalent, and that there had been deaths from sunstroke—the very thing he had prognosticated when he first heard of this service—and that they were going to bring people through the Red Sea and again through the Indian Ocean; and it would occur again and again. It appeared to him that the immigrant service had been made to fit into the steam postal service, and not the steam postal service into the immigration service at all. One had been made to benefit the other. He should not say anything respecting the Transcontinental Railway Syndicate, or rather the paragraph in connection with it. It appeared there was still some mystery about it which probably this session would not clear up. The paragraph respecting the Volunteer Force of the colony, and of the result of the Commission, he was very glad to see. He had always maintained that they were merely throwing money away upon the Volunteer Force, and probably doing even more harm than that, because they were initiating the rising youth of the colony into a bad system in which there was anything but discipline, and a system that would not conduce to make them either defenders of the colony or become permanent soldiers. He had stated that repeatedly; and he was glad to find the Government that had so often checked him for the remarks he made and the warnings

he had uttered had arrived at the same conclusion. He had too frequently complained that the Government, or members of the Government, had too often stood by the Volunteer Force out of gratitude to them because of the notice which the volunteers took of them when their presence was seen amongst them. There was one subject which he had to congratulate hon. gentlemen upon, and that was that there was one measure in the Governor's Speech of last year which was not repeated in this—one which he took exception to then, and which probably had a very deterrent effect upon members of that House—that was, the threat made in the Governor's Speech in the year 1881 to do away with that Chamber in its present form, and provide for an elective Chamber. He (Mr. Walsh) could not help thinking that that had a very marked influence upon their proceedings of last session—that it appeared to have a deterrent effect. He had, therefore, to congratulate hon. members that they would be able to attach themselves to the duties they had undertaken without fear of being sent about their business as a reward for their performance. He maintained that whenever a subject like that was introduced into Parliament it should be by the express will of the people of this colony. He said so last year, and he repeated it, and he was very glad to see that the Government, for some reason or other, were able to exclude that measure from their "bill of fare" this session. Probably the same element that instigated the Government to insert it in the Speech of last year did not exist now. However, whatever might be the cause, he congratulated hon. members that, at any rate, without apparently being coerced, they should be able to attend to the duties imposed upon them. Perhaps this was a very good opportunity of paying a pretty correct compliment to those hon. members who were not members of that Chamber last session. It might be that the Government saw by their introduction of those hon. members that the House so represented the people of the colony, and was so improved by the fresh introductions, that there was no necessity for an elective Upper Chamber. The cause had gone, and therefore they had been spared the occasion of having to deal with their own self-destruction. There was one subject he should like to have referred to, as it was one of very great moment to the colony—that was the question of the colony's banking account. It had been mooted that the Government had renewed the contract with the Queensland National Bank for a further term of three years. He maintained that if the Government had done so without telling either Parliament or the colony, in whatever bank it was placed, it was a matter fraught with very great danger to the community. It should be most carefully proceeded with, and certainly should carry with it the entire sanction of the people of the colony. He maintained that, if it was true that the Government had renewed their contract with the Queensland National Bank for another three years, the people of the colony had been unjustly dealt with. The banking account, if not the management of it, should be on behalf of the people of the colony, and it was a matter of the very gravest moment. He had no complaint whatever to make against the way in which the banking business was done. He was simply complaining of the way in which the Government dealt themselves with the account; but he said it was a matter fraught with danger to the colony that any institution should have the use of a million or a million and a-half of the people's money, and the people to have no security whatever for that money. He was not aware that at that moment the colony possessed one atom of security for the money that must be

placed in custody, and safe custody too. He had no doubt of that institution, but it was not true commercial business. Would a private individual so go and lodge with any institution a million of his money and get no security for it? And yet the people of this colony were allowing their Government to do so, or the people's representatives were, as he was credibly informed, and it was a subject worthy of notice. He, at any rate, entered his protest against it. He made no sinister insinuations concerning that institution, but he said that some more interest should be taken in it by that House, who were so deeply interested in it. It was not done on strictly commercial principles. If so much as a million and a-half of money was delegated to any institution, that institution should give security for it. He was led to make these remarks by seeing the total omission in the Governor's Speech of that momentous subject, the banking account of the colony. In years past people took less interest in it, because the colony was always in debt; but now the colony was always in credit with the bank, and the bank must find use for the money. He did not care what bank it was, it must find use for the money, and the very use of that money might be advantageous to the colony. He did not say it was, but it might be if any large sum was placed at the disposal of an institution. He supposed the hon. Postmaster-General would give some explanation of the subject, and he begged that the hon. gentleman would bear in mind that it was only on behalf of the country that he had ventured so imperfectly to record his sentiments on the subject, and he did so from the strong faith he possessed that, while they were responsible for the public wealth—the public cash—they should not be doing their duty if they allowed it to be placed in any hands except in a strictly commercial way, and in such hands as ordinary mercantile people themselves would confide in. He repeated that he was glad indeed to see that the colony was in the highly prosperous state it was. He believed it had thrived in common with the rest of the colonies and the rest of the world. At the same time he would willingly give a good deal of credit to the Government for having placed the reputation of the colony in such a very high degree as it was possessed with at that moment. Much was due to the Government, he maintained, for the present state of the colony, but they should put such a check upon that Government as would prevent them, while endeavouring to do too much, bringing about a state of things that might end in something like a collapse.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that, before replying to the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Walsh, he would simply say that it must be a matter of congratulation to them all to have two such valuable additions to their number, as had been proved by the speeches that had been made by the Hon. Mr. Thynne and the Hon. Mr. King. It had shown to a certain extent that Mr. Walsh was right—that was to say, with reference to the necessity of an elective Upper House; but he would point out that the remarks of the hon. gentleman were certainly the greatest insult to that body of gentlemen who were there assembled that he had ever heard in his life. He actually told members of the Legislative Council of Queensland that they were kept by the Government in a state of fear because it had been proposed that a Bill to make this Chamber elective was to be introduced. He said if that was a fact it was the strongest argument in favour of introducing an elective Bill that had ever been adduced in that House. However, he did not share that opinion. He had a higher opinion of the hon. members of that House than the Hon. Mr. Walsh. He

would say, with reference to the subject, that he held to a great extent with the Hon. Mr. Walsh, that they should have the voice of the people on this point—that the people should be heard, and should be heard through a general election. Holding that view he thought that if the Government had done wisely, as the other branch of the Legislature had not a very long career to run, that it should be held in suspense until the voice of the people was heard on the subject. He, for one, was strongly in favour of an elective Upper House. That was only his individual opinion. He believed that the majority of his colleagues shared his opinions; and he had no doubt that, if they were fortunate enough to be in power after the general election came, that that would be part of the programme that might be submitted to the country. The hon. gentleman complained in the first instance when he commenced his speech, first of the length of the Speech, and then, which was an anomaly, of the shortness of the Reply. How were they to please the hon. gentleman? He would have complained if the Speech had been short and the Reply long. He (Mr. Morehead) did not quite know how they could please him. He (Mr. Walsh) also stated that he thought they should have had a longer Reply and, with that natural loyalty they all gave him credit for, thought that they should have alluded in the Reply to the most dastardly attack which was made on Her Majesty's life. He (Mr. Morehead) might tell that hon. gentleman and other hon. members that it was the intention of the Government to ask both Houses of Parliament to present an Address to Her Majesty with reference to it, and, therefore, it was considered necessary to be mentioned in the Speech and not alluded to in the Reply. That was the reason, and he gave the hon. gentleman every credit for calling attention to it. Then the hon. member passed on to the Divisional Boards Act. He (Mr. Morehead) had held a very strong objection to the Divisional Boards Act, and opposed it, believing it to be a bad one; but he had seen reasons for altering his opinion with reference to that Act. The Hon. Mr. Buzacott would know that he was opposed to it in the other place, and he had seen every reason to alter his views. No revolutionising Act, such as that, could be made perfect at first, but with the alterations the Government proposed to introduce they would make it even a better measure than it was at present. The Hon. Mr. Cowlishaw had been intimately connected with the working of the Act, and he was certain that that gentleman would bear him out that the Act, when amended, will work well. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Walsh) then went on to talk about what he must consider to be his (Mr. Morehead's) own particular department—the mail and immigration service; also, it was now, and he was very glad of the combination, the mail, trade, and immigration service—they could call it the whole three if they liked. It could not be denied that, so far as the postal service to Brisbane was concerned, it had not proved a great success; but so far as the ports north of Brisbane, or, at any rate, north of Maryborough, were concerned, it had proved a great success. Now as regarded the hon. gentleman saying that it might be a benefit to some few traders, merchants, so far as the trading service was concerned, it is of no benefit to the general public. He left it to anyone here or elsewhere, who knew anything about business, or about trading, to say whether the fact had not been this—that it has been an equal benefit to the purchaser and to the consumer, for the simple reason that they might go to any tradesman, he did not care where they took him, and he would tell them this—"Instead of getting thousands and thousands of pounds of stock in my store or

my shop, I can do with one-third or one-fourth, and I can bring out goods to suit the fashion in each mail steamer that is coming." Those are facts that no trader can deny. The benefit of that had been, of course, that the consumer had been able to buy at a lower price—at any rate, he (Mr. Morehead) had had his own experience amongst tradesmen in Queensland who were opposed to the mail service, and who had volunteered the information that they never would have believed what benefit they would have derived from it and their customers, for if the service benefited the traders it must also benefit the customer. With reference to it as a mail service he would say this—that the present Government had instituted the cheapest mail service in the world, so far as the general public were concerned. That was to say, that the 4d. long sea service rate was the cheapest rate for the distance in the world, and he was glad to see that month after month it had been more generally availed of by the public of Queensland. He had only before him that morning statistics with reference to the letters posted in Brisbane, and the numbers posted last month were 3,200 as against 2,800—that was to say, 3,200 sent by the fourpenny and 2,800 by the Brindisi—showing that, although we may have the more lengthy service, they had conferred a boon upon the lower classes of the community. This, he might mention, was of more consequence than time. The Hon. Mr. Walsh altogether omitted to make any criticism upon the Transcontinental Syndicate except one remark, "We will hear more of this by-and-bye; we have not heard the end of this." Therefore distinctly implying that there was something behind which the Government were afraid or ashamed to show. There was nothing with reference to that or another matter that the Government were ashamed to show that House, or any person in the world. They were quite prepared, when the time came, to put every paper on the subject on the table of that House, and give hon. members every opportunity of discussing them, and, in fact, to give them every information that lay in their power. He himself thought that it was hardly fair that by such a word a slur should be cast upon a body of individuals whom he did not believe anybody—

**THE HON. W. H. WALSH:** I was not dreaming of the explanation the hon. member put upon it. I was not supposing for a moment the Government were afraid to put the papers on the table of the House. I simply said I cannot understand them, and we shall hear more hereafter.

**THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL** said that if he misunderstood the hon. gentleman he expressed his regret, but certainly his remarks conveyed to him that impression. The hon. member then went on to speak of the volunteers. He (Mr. Morehead) was not going to discuss them then; there would be quite time enough to do so. The Hon. Mr. Walsh knew that he never was an advocate of the volunteer system. The hon. gentleman wound up his remarks by making a reference to the disposition of the banking account of the colony. If the hon. gentleman wanted information on that point he had only to ask for the correspondence, which would be readily put upon the table of the House. He was willing, and in fact wished, to discuss the whole merits of the transaction or transactions that took place between the Government and the Queensland National Bank when the papers were produced, and when they had the facts before them. If the hon. gentleman would give notice for the papers that he wished he would be only too happy to supply them. With reference to the policy of the Government; he thought it was fully and fairly set forth in the paper he held in his hand. The

hon. member (Mr. Walsh) stated that there were a large number of Bills set down that probably would not be introduced into the House. That was quite likely. There was never a Governor's Speech yet which did not contain a large number of Bills that were not brought forward, but it was not the intention of the Government to bring them all forward. They had certainly no intention to "burk" discussion on any one of those questions; he hoped to get them all through, and if he could not it would be simply owing as much to the fault of hon. members themselves as to the Government, and possibly to the difficulties that might arise elsewhere and in that Chamber. He thought the colony was to be congratulated on the almost extraordinary state of prosperity which they were enjoying, a prosperity which the Government had not the hardihood to say was caused by their efforts; but he had certainly the self-conceit, possibly, to say that he believed the Government, by their policy, and by their line of action, had considerably tended to bring about this most favourable state of affairs.

The Hon. C. H. BUZACOTT said it was not his intention then to discuss the whole of the matters referred to in the Speech, which, on the whole, he thought was a comprehensive and excellent one. If he could only think that Parliament would entertain the measures which were promised, and give thorough earnest consideration to them, he should be better pleased than he had been with the last and previous sessions. He deplored, and he had no doubt most members of that House did also, the very small amount of business that was submitted to them last session. They were there prepared to consider Bills and discuss them, and improve them, but they could not get the Bills up. He very much regretted to see that the very important Bill which they on two occasions sent down—he referred to the Insanity Bill—the other Chamber in its wisdom did not see fit to entertain, or more than formally entertain. It must be deplored that a great deal of their time had been spent in objectless discussions on obstruction and formalities. What they wanted was for members of the Legislature to bring in practical common sense to bear upon the important statutes. They had a great number of Acts on the statute-book which, he said—without pretending to reflect upon those who passed them, because they had outgrown them—were a disgrace to the present age. They had an immense amount of work to do in reforming the Acts of this colony and bringing them into harmony with the spirit of the age. It was, perhaps, a matter which they were bound to give consideration to that every Bill brought in was to repeal some Act. It was a confession that previous legislation had been a failure. Perhaps it would be injurious to the colony if they had too much legislation, as it had been to have too little. He should be sorry to have what he might call a diarrhoea of legislation, because it would sweep away very much that was valuable and good. But he thought they wanted very much more legislation than they had had hitherto. They wanted legislation of a higher kind and more effective character. Their legislation was constantly confined to small amending Bills; and it had been found by experience that whenever a good comprehensive or solid Bill was brought in there was very little disposition to entertain it. It got left over towards the close of the session, and there was no encouragement to the Government to bring in comprehensive and well-considered measures when they found the careless way in which members of the Legislature were apt to treat them. He was not going to defend, as the Hon. Mr. Walsh hinted, what was called the Divisional

Boards Act. He was very much pleased to find the hon. Postmaster-General acknowledge that he had changed his opinion. He had a higher opinion than before of the Postmaster-General, for this reason—that a man who was not ashamed to change his opinion when wrong was always a better man than one who was wrong and yet adhered to his opinion. It was only what he had believed the hon. member would do when he saw the working of the measure—or not that particular measure, for he laid no stress upon that—but, when he saw the people managing their own affairs, he (Mr. Buzacott) was sure the hon. member would see that it was the best system yet devised for carrying out the details of administration in the colony. He offered no apology for the Divisional Boards Act. There was no hon. member who knew its defects better than he did. He would point out to the House that when the Bill was introduced it was a perfect impossibility to pass a complete and full measure. They had to bring in an elementary measure which would allow a great deal of elasticity, and under which a divisional board would not be compelled to have a solicitor at its elbow—that was the difficulty in the Local Government Act previously introduced. His experience was that when the Local Government Act came into operation the municipal councils felt themselves paralysed—they had to consult a lawyer—they could do nothing without the opinion of a lawyer. He had a very high respect for lawyers, but he thought their abilities were rather of a destructive than constructive character, and he preferred seeing the Government bring in a measure that would allow a good deal of elasticity and enable the members of the divisional boards to use their common sense; for he held the opinion that common sense was better than law. He hoped that the Bill which the Government intended to introduce would diminish many of the defects of the present measure, and that, further, the Government would see their way in amending the Bill to extend the power of the boards and repose more confidence in these local bodies, because there was nothing more injurious to the status of a local body than to ridicule it, or refuse to entrust it with responsibility. If the people found that they could not appeal for redress to the Central Government—that they must depend entirely upon themselves—they would then take a deeper interest in their own affairs, and take care to choose men with honesty, integrity, and ability. The Hon. Mr. Walsh was generally very accurate in his statements, but he did not think he was quite correct in stating that in originating the Divisional Boards Act it was found necessary to employ some poor men connected with the aristocracy of the neighbourhood. He (Mr. Buzacott) had a very clear recollection of the great howl raised throughout the colony at what was considered the despotic action of the Government in creating divisional boards even where the people themselves refused to take action. When it was seen that the Government then enforced the measure upon the colony, it could not be said that it was started by men who wanted to provide for their friends. He thought there was a discrepancy in this which the Hon. Mr. Walsh would have some difficulty in reconciling with his statement. There was no doubt the British-India Mail Service had given great facilities for the importation of merchandise, and enabled goods to be brought into the colony at a much cheaper rate than before. This did not, as was said, put the money into the pockets of the merchants, but into the pockets of the consumer. No doubt the first effect was to give a little profit to the merchants, but the ultimate effect was that the competition would re-

sult in benefit to the consumer. This mail service enabled their business men to introduce their goods direct from the best houses, instead of having goods forced upon them because perhaps they could not be sold in Sydney; and he said these facilities were calculated very much to promote the progress of the colony. He regarded light and pilotage dues as an obstruction to the business of the colony, and had opposed them ever since they had been put on. He did not doubt that they might be looked at from a mercantile point of view—that, as the Government provided pilots, they were quite justified in charging for their services. It was, however, a fact that with all the shipping trade of the colony they had got only £18,000 of revenue from these dues; and this £18,000 did not compensate for the obstruction to the shipping of the colony and the loss the people sustained through the let and hindrance they caused to the trade of the colony. They might depend upon it that every measure they could introduce to facilitate the shipping trade, to encourage vessels to come here—to encourage people to send their goods from one part of the colony to another—every assistance they could give of that kind benefited the whole of the people and promoted the interests of the colony. Everybody got some advantage from it, either directly or indirectly. For that reason he had read that portion of the Speech with very great pleasure, and he confessed that, if he had felt very strong objection to any other portion, this passage would have been a redeeming feature in it. He did not say that he was not satisfied with the Speech. On the whole he thought it an excellent one, and the only thing he was afraid of was that some things promised in it would not be carried out. He hoped that the Government would impress upon the other House that they must have their matters considered, and that they would not submit to those continual adjournments and waste of time which resulted in many important matters of legislation being deferred. He thought the Government should say, “We have brought in these measures because we believe the colony requires them and because public interest demands that they should be passed, and we will not consent to retain our places if Parliament persistently refuses to take these measures into consideration.” He was rather hopeful of the results from this session after all. They had had during the existence of the present Parliament a great deal of ill-feeling and a great deal of obstruction; but he hoped that a better day had now dawned, and that members of both Houses would now feel inclined to go earnestly into the business of the country, in order that it might not be said of the present Parliament that it had been the most unproductive Parliament that had ever existed in the history of Queensland. He hoped there would be so much done that the people of the colony would be able to say that the Parliament which now existed had been of real benefit. He could not endorse the Hon. Mr. Walsh's feeling with respect to the constitution of the Upper House. He believed no member of that House felt at all under coercion, or anything of that sort, from the announcement of the Government's intention to bring in a Bill for the establishment of an elective Upper House. He believed every member would be quite willing to consider a measure of that sort. He himself was not in favour of it, but still he held that there was a great deal to be said for it, and he should like to hear everything that might be said for it. He held, however, that the present system was capable of very considerable improvement, and that even a discussion on a Bill for making the Upper House elective would have a wholesome effect upon the nominated

House. He did not apprehend any such evil from the bringing in of a Bill of this kind as the Hon. Mr. Walsh seemed to think imminent. He should like to say one word respecting the Insanity Bill. He did not think it would be quite fair on the part of the Government to introduce this Bill to the Upper House a third time, and thought that it should first be passed in the other House. They had spent a great deal of time and trouble in considering its provisions last session, and when it was sent down it was shelved. He considered that they should absolutely refuse to consider this Bill again until it came up from the other House. It was a very important Bill, and he hoped the Government would press it upon the other House, and bring all the influence they could to bear upon the members of the other House to get the Bill through this year.

The Hon. F. H. HART said that hon. members who had already spoken upon the Governor's Speech left very little to be said on the matter. For his part, he considered the Speech a good one, and intended to support the Address in Reply. He should not have spoken at all did he not think that some remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Walsh required notice from him. That hon. gentleman had been replied to by the hon. the Postmaster-General; and he (Mr. Hart) could only say that the British-India Mail Service was looked upon as a very great boon indeed in all the Northern ports of Queensland. That this was so was shown by the very large cargoes coming out to these ports by the steamers of the company. The Hon. Mr. Walsh stated that the mail service was of no use to them, that they were being taxed by this large subsidy of £55,000, and they were getting nothing for it in return. In answer to that, he might state that up to the present time the British-India Company had spent in the port of Brisbane alone over £30,000; and if they considered an expenditure in the Northern ports in proportion, they could calculate for themselves that there was actually more than the amount of subsidy spent by the company in the colony. More than two-thirds of that £30,000 spent in Brisbane was spent among the labouring men of this port—the wharfingers and stevedores and lighter men. These steamers came out with coloured crews, and the whole work of discharging and loading their cargo was done by shore-labourers, not only in Brisbane, but going up and down the coast. Gangs of shore-labourers were carried to discharge and load the vessels at the Northern ports. The rest of the money was spent upon coals and stores. He thought it right that he should make these remarks, because he had heard it said out of doors that they were getting no return from the subsidy, whereas in reality the whole of the subsidy was being spent in the colony. The Hon. Mr. Walsh had made some remarks also about some of the immigrants who had come out by these steamers being for the port of Melbourne as well as for Rockhampton and Brisbane.

The Hon. W. H. WALSH: I distinctly stated a sailing vessel.

The Hon. F. H. HART said he understood the hon. gentleman to refer to the steamers of the company. He would also remind the hon. gentleman that immigrants coming out at the expense of the Government of this colony and going to the other colonies was nothing new; he had heard of the same thing for years. He omitted to mention in regard to what the Postmaster-General had said—“That this service as a postal service had not been a success;” but they must allow the contractors time to put things straight. They had accepted a contract for the construction of six powerful new steamers, and as soon as they

were finished they would be put upon the line, and, he had no doubt, would materially reduce the time between London and Brisbane, and make it a shorter mail service than any other. He should support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Question—That the address as read by the Clerk be adopted—put and passed.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved that the Address as agreed to be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the President, the mover and seconder, and such other members as might be present at noon to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved that this House do now adjourn till 3 o'clock to-morrow.

The Hon. W. H. WALSH considered that they should follow the usual practice, and meet at the usual hour until the alteration was carried by a resolution of the House.

The PRESIDENT pointed out to hon. gentlemen that until a Sessional Order was passed it was absolutely necessary for the hon. gentleman moving the adjournment of the House to name the hour to which he wished to adjourn.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said the motion he had made was quite in accordance with what had occurred before. He found in the report of the proceedings on the 5th July of last year—

“The House adjourned at twenty minutes to 6 o'clock till 3 o'clock to-morrow.”

He was merely following the precedent in existence. He did not wish to do anything but that.

Question put and passed, and the House adjourned at four minutes to 6 o'clock.

---