

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

TUESDAY, 23 DECEMBER 1884

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 23 December, 1884.

Prorogation of Parliament.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at 4 o'clock

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

Shortly after 4 o'clock His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Musgrave, K.C.M.G., came to the House, in state, and was received at the main entrance by the President and other hon. members accompanied by the other officers of the Council, and was conducted thence to the dais.

The PRESIDENT directed the Usher of the Black Rod to acquaint the Legislative Assembly that it was His Excellency's desire that they should attend on him forthwith in the Council Chamber.

The Assembly being in attendance, and seated in the places reserved for them below the bar,

The SPEAKER (Hon. W. H. Groom) made the following address:—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, offer to your Excellency our respectful congratulations upon the close of the session.

"It is now my duty to present to your Excellency, for the Royal assent, a Bill to authorise the raising of a loan for the Public Service of the colony and for other purposes; and

"A Bill to authorise the appropriation out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of certain further sums towards the service of the year ending on the last day of June, 1885, and for the year ended on the last day of June, 1884."

The CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS brought up the money Bills, and read aloud their titles; and thereupon the Royal assent was signified in the customary form.

HIS EXCELLENCY also gave the Royal assent to the Defence Bill, the Crown Lands Bill, the Officials in Parliament Bill, the Maryborough and Urangan Railway Bill, and the Bundaberg Gas and Coke Company (Limited) Bill.

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HIS EXCELLENCY then addressed the Parliament as follows:—

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

"It affords me much pleasure to be able to release you from your labours at the close of a session which has been of more than ordinary length, and has resulted in an exceptional amount of important legislation.

"In compliance with the wishes of Her subjects in Australasia, Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to establish a protectorate over a portion of New Guinea and some of the adjacent islands. I regret that I am not yet in possession of full information as to Her Majesty's intentions with respect to this matter. The boundaries of the protectorate, as originally declared, have already been enlarged, and my Ministers have strongly urged a still further extension. The invitation which has been given to the Australasian Governments to appoint a Council of Advice to assist the High Commissioner in the performance of his duties indicates a desire on the part of the Imperial Government to give effect to the wishes of Her Majesty's subjects in this part of Her dominions, so far as is consistent with the general interests of the Empire.

"Notwithstanding the vigilant care that had been exercised in the supervision of the Pacific Island labour trade, grave atrocities have lately been disclosed in connection with it. Several of the offenders have been convicted in the courts of this colony of their crimes against the laws of the Empire. I should be very reluctant to think that the labour trade is characterised by outrages such as those recently brought to light. If, however, it should appear that such or like abuses are inseparable from the traffic, its immediate abolition will become an imperative duty, of which my Government will not hesitate to undertake the responsibility.

"I trust that the facilities for introducing European immigrants offered by the Immigration Act Amendment Act of this session will materially assist in solving the difficulties connected with the supply of labour for the important agricultural interest which has hitherto been mainly dependent for its labourers upon the South Sea Islands. Immediate steps will be taken for bringing the Act into operation.

"I congratulate you that your long and arduous labours in the consideration of the Crown Lands Act have resulted in the enactment of a measure whose operations will, I confidently anticipate, encourage, to a very large extent, *bonâ fide* settlement throughout the colony, and at the same time secure that the public estate shall be put to its best use, and yield an adequate, continuous, and increasing return to the revenue. The necessary administrative action to give effect to the provisions of the Act will at once be taken, and every possible facility will be offered to all classes of persons desirous of becoming settlers upon the lands of the colony.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"I thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the necessary charges of the Government.

"I trust that the several lines of railway and other public works which you have had under your consideration, and for the construction of which you have authorised the raising of a loan of nearly ten millions, will conduce to the continuous development and prosperity of Queensland.

"There are now open for traffic in the colony 1,200 miles of railway; 536 miles are under construction, or formally approved; and the loan which you have now authorised is intended to provide for a further addition of upwards of 1,000 miles. The extensions of telegraph lines which you have sanctioned will add nearly 2,000 miles to the 7,000 miles already in use. These figures testify to the vigour that has characterised the Public Works policy of the colony.

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATURES UNDER WHICH NATIVES OF NEW GUINEA AND THE ADJACENT ISLANDS HAVE LATELY BEEN INTRODUCED TO QUEENSLAND. IF SHOULD APPEAR THAT ANY

"I propose to cause an inquiry to be immediately instituted with respect to the circumstances under which natives of New Guinea and the adjacent islands have lately been introduced to Queensland. If should appear that any

of them have been taken by force or decoyed by false representations, my Government will at once take the necessary steps to secure their return to their native islands.

"Amongst the various important measures which you have passed, special mention may be made of the Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Insane, the Act to codify the law relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques, and Promissory Notes, the Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to Patents for Inventions and the Registration of Designs and Trade Marks, the Act to make better provision for Securing and Maintaining the Public Health, the Act to prevent the Improper Employment of Aboriginal Natives of Australia and New Guinea on Ships in Queensland waters, the Act to provide for the Drainage of Lands, and the Act to make better provision for the Defence of the Colony; all of which introduce into the law changes and amendments of the first importance. The greatest care will be exercised in bringing these measures into operation, and I hope that they, as well as the other results of your labours, will, under the blessing of Divine Providence, prove of great and lasting benefit to Queensland.

"I now declare this Parliament prorogued to Tuesday, the 17th day of February next."

The Assembly then retired, and His Excellency and suite left the Council Chamber.