

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 1885

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.*Thursday, 27 August, 1885.*

Absence of President.—Message from the Legislative Assembly.—Acting Chairman of Committees.—Seat of the Hon. J. Gibbon.—Crown Lands Act of 1884 Amendment Bill—committee.

The House met at 4 o'clock.

ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Hon. T. Macdonald-Paterson) said: Hon. gentlemen,—In the continued absence of the President, I beg to move that the Hon. D. F. Roberts, Chairman of Committees, do take the chair for this day.

Question put and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly, forwarding, for the approval of the Council, the plans, sections, and book of reference of the Isis Branch Railway.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved that the Hon. A. J. Thynne be appointed Chairman of Committees for this day.

Question put and passed.

SEAT OF THE HON. J. GIBBON.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL brought up the report of the select committee on the question of privilege relating to the seat of the Hon. J. Gibbon, together with minutes of evidence and appendices, and moved that it be printed.

Question put and passed.

QUESTION.

The Hon. W. APLIN asked the Postmaster-General—

1. When will the plans for the new post and telegraph offices at Townsville be ready?
2. When will tenders be called for the erection of said buildings?

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL replied—

The plans are expected to be ready about six weeks hence, and tenders will then be called.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884 AMENDMENT BILL—COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, the Presiding Chairman left the chair, and the House went into Committee to consider this Order of the Day.

Preamble postponed.

Clause 1—"Short title"—passed as printed.

On clause 2—"Power to suspend operation of section 43 of Crown Lands Act of 1884; selec-

tions must be marked; selector may employ a licensed surveyor if survey is not made within three months"—

The Hon. F. T. GREGORY said there was only one thing which had been pointed out, and perhaps it would be well to draw the attention of the House to it. Subsection 4 of the clause said:—

"If any selection of unsurveyed lands is not surveyed by the Minister within three months from the date of the approval of the application by the commissioner, the selector may apply to the Minister for a refundment of the survey fee, and, if the survey is not made within two months from the date of such application, may employ a licensed surveyor to effect the survey at the cost of such selector, and on such survey being made and approved by the board, the survey fee shall be refunded to the selector."

According to the marginal note a period of three months was mentioned, and therefore, practically, if the survey was not made within five months the selector would then be able to get his land surveyed. He drew the attention of the Committee to the point in case hon. members might be misled by the marginal note. He was well aware that in Acts of Parliament, although the marginal note ought to be in accordance with the body of the Bill, still it did not override the clause itself or any part of it. Perhaps it would be as well to alter the marginal note, and mention five months as the period.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he thought it would be better to stop at the word "surveyor." The marginal note would then read, "Selector may employ a licensed surveyor."

Clause put and passed.

On clause 3—"Conditions of occupation dispensed with in certain cases"—

The Hon. T. L. MURRAY-PRIOR said he did not rise to move any amendment in the Bill, but simply to draw the attention of the Postmaster-General and the Council to this fact—that the Bill was an alteration of the former Bill such as was predicted by hon. members last year. Most likely, next session they should have another amending Bill, and then another one, until the framer of the original measure would not know the measure he had attempted to frame.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4, 5, 6, schedule, and preamble, passed as printed.

The House resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment.

The report was adopted, and the third reading of the Bill made an Order of the Day for Wednesday next.

The House adjourned at twenty-four minutes past 4 o'clock.