

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 1885**

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**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

*Thursday, 19 November, 1885.*

Prorogation of Parliament.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 12 o'clock.

**PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.**

The USHER OF THE BLACK ROD presented himself at the bar of the House and stated that His Excellency the Governor requested the attendance of Mr. Speaker and hon. members of the Legislative Assembly in the Council Chamber.

The SPEAKER, accompanied by hon. members of the Assembly, accordingly proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and heard His Excellency read the following Address proroguing Parliament :—

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

“I am glad to be able to release you from further attendance in Parliament.

“I congratulate you upon the fact that Queensland has been the first of the Australasian colonies possessing representative government to adopt the Federal Council Act which was prepared by the Convention held at Sydney in 1883 and lately passed by the Imperial Parliament. I trust that the Act will, without delay, be adopted by a sufficient number of the other constitutional colonies to bring it into active operation. Although its provisions are admittedly of a tentative character, I am confident that experience will speedily show that common action amongst the colonies for purposes of general interest is both practicable and advantageous. I anticipate that before many years the result will be the establishment of such a legislative and administrative union as will enable the Australasian dominions of Her Majesty to take that place and exert that influence in the councils of the Empire which their growing importance and population entitle them to claim.

“Various important and useful measures have been passed into law during the present session.

“You have proved by the Additional Members Act your desire to admit all parts of the colony to a fair share of influence in the Legislature. The same spirit of fairness, shown both in legislation and administration, cannot fail to have the effect of binding closer together the several portions of Queensland.

“The operation of the Elections Act will, I trust, have the effect of removing the difficulties that have been found to exist in securing the registration of electors, and of effectually preventing corrupt and improper practices at elections. The question of improving the constitution of the tribunal for trying disputed elections will receive the attention of my Government during the recess.

“The Licensing Act, to which you have devoted long and careful attention, contains provisions calculated, I believe, to effect large and beneficial changes in the social condition of the colony.

“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for Her Majesty’s Service. The strictest economy shall be exercised in the expenditure of the moneys which you have placed at the disposal of my Government.

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

“I congratulate you upon the moderation and mutual forbearance that you have shown in dealing with a difficulty which at one time appeared likely to endanger the efficient administration of the government of the colony, and to cause a serious strain upon the relations of the two Houses of Parliament with one another.

“For the successful working of a Constitution like that of Queensland, in which, as in the older Constitutions on which it is modelled, much is unwritten and left to the tacit understanding and good sense of the persons charged with the duty of legislation, such moderation and forbearance are essentially necessary. I will take the earliest opportunity of transmitting for Her Majesty’s consideration the Joint Address to which you have agreed, and which I think affords a fresh proof of your desire and determination to be guided by sound constitutional principles in the performance of your high and important functions.

“It has afforded me much satisfaction to know that the natives of New Guinea and the adjacent islands, who were sent back to their homes at the expense of the colony, were all returned in safety. I have reason to believe that the action of my Government in this matter has produced highly beneficial results, both in New Guinea and elsewhere. I trust that the payment to the employers of these islanders of the compensation for which you have made provision will bring to a close this melancholy chapter in the history of the Pacific Island labour trade. Your action in definitely fixing a period after which the trade shall not be allowed to continue will, I am confident, be a source of general satisfaction.

“I earnestly hope that the colony may shortly be favoured with the long-looked-for and much-needed rain, and that under the favour of Divine Providence I may, when I next have the pleasure of meeting you, be able to congratulate you on a renewal of that prosperity which cannot but be seriously affected by a continuance of the present severe drought.

“I now declare this Parliament prorogued till Tuesday, the 29th of December next.”

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