

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1887**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, 15 September, 1887.*

Claim of E. B. C. Corser.—Message from the Governor.—Questions without Notice.—Questions.—Petition.—Formal Motions.—Lying-in Hospital Land Sale Bill—first reading.—Prisoners Discharged on the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee.—Gratuitous Supply of Mansard.—Supreme Court Judge at Townsville.—Supply—resumption of committee.—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

## CLAIM OF E. B. C. CORSER.

Mr. ANNEAR presented the report from the select committee appointed to inquire into the claim of Mr. E. B. C. Corser, together with the proceedings of the committee, the minutes of evidence, and appendices, and moved that it be printed.

Question put and passed.

## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a message from His Excellency the Governor announcing that the Royal assent had been given to the Copyright Registration Bill.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

Mr. BLACK said: Mr. Speaker,—I wish to ask the Colonial Treasurer a question without notice. I see in this evening's paper a paragraph headed "Financial Separation," which is as follows:—

"Instructions will be issued to the Treasury officials by the Executive, on the recommendation of the Colonial Treasurer, that the public accounts are to be kept from the 1st July in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Districts Bill now before Parliament."

I should like to ask the hon. gentleman if instructions will be issued to have the Customs duties on goods collected in Brisbane, which are afterwards transhipped to the North, also properly recorded.

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. Sir S. W. Griffith) replied: It is, of course, impossible to do that unless the House will pass a law enabling it to be done; to that extent the returns must necessarily be incomplete. Until the House will agree to pass the necessary law regulating the keeping of accounts, the Government cannot do it.

Mr. CHUBB said: Mr. Speaker,—I wish to ask the Colonial Treasurer another question without notice. Has he yet ascertained the position of affairs with reference to the Loan Fund?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Will the hon. member be good enough to give notice of the question?

## QUESTIONS.

Mr. PALMER asked the Minister for Works—

When did the public accountant last visit the Etheridge Gold Field to inspect and audit the accounts there, and how often is he supposed to visit the Northern districts?

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir S. W. Griffith) said: This question should have been put to me as Treasurer. The answer is:—

The Auditor-General reports as follows:—

“There being no audit inspector at the time available, Mr. John Archibald, warden, on behalf of the Auditor-General, and with the consent of the late Minister for Works, examined the accounts of the clerk of petty sessions and mining registrar at Georgetown in June last. An audit inspector, who is now at Normanton, has been instructed to proceed from thence to Croydon and Georgetown. The Audit Act provides that every public accounting office throughout the colony shall be visited not less frequently than once in every six months; but the Auditor-General's staff is not sufficient to enable the provisions of the Act in this respect to be strictly complied with.”

Mr. KATES asked the Minister for Works—

1. Are the parliamentary plans, specifications, &c., for the direct line to Warwick prepared and ready to be laid on the table of this House for adoption?

2. If so, when will they be submitted?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Works) replied—

The plans, sections, and books of reference are not yet ready to be laid on the table.

Mr. KATES asked the Minister for Works—

1. Are the parliamentary plans, specifications, &c., for the Warwick and Thane's Creek railway line prepared and ready to be laid upon the table of this House for adoption?

2. If so, when will they be submitted?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Works) replied—

The plans, sections, and book of reference were laid on the table on the 12th of October last, but as they were sent to the Legislative Council it appears to be necessary to lay fresh copies on the table, which will be done next week.

## PETITION.

Mr. DONALDSON presented a petition from the Cooneana Coal and Iron Company, Limited, praying for leave to construct and maintain a branch line of railway connecting with the Southern and Western Railway; and moved that it be received.

Question put and passed.

## FORMAL MOTIONS.

The following formal motions were agreed to:—

By Mr. BROWN—

That there be laid on the table of the House, all papers, minutes, and correspondence relating to applications for gold mining lease No. 972, at Charters Towers.

By Mr. FOOTE—

1. That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, and leave to sit during any adjournment of the House, to inquire into and report upon the petition of Francis Porter, presented to this House on Wednesday, the 14th September instant.

2. That such committee consist of Mr. S. W. Brooks, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Lator, Mr. Stevens, the hon. the Secretary for Public Lands, and the mover.

By Mr. W. BROOKES—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to enable the trustees of two allotments of land in the city of Brisbane, parish of North Brisbane, granted for the purposes of a lying-in hospital, to sell the whole or part of the said land, with the buildings erected thereon, and to devote the proceeds to the purchasing of a new site and buildings for the like purposes in a more convenient locality.

## LYING-IN HOSPITAL LAND SALE BILL.

## FIRST READING.

Mr. W. BROOKES presented this Bill, and moved that it be read a first time.

Question put and passed.

## PRISONERS DISCHARGED ON THE OCCASION OF HER MAJESTY'S JUBILEE.

Mr. NORTON, in moving—

That an Address be presented to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of the House a Return showing,—

1. The names of all prisoners who have been discharged before the expiration of their sentences, on the ground that an unusual exercise of clemency was justifiable on the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee.

2. The offence which led to conviction in each case.

3. The term of sentence in each case.

4. The date upon which each prisoner would have been entitled to be discharged, had no exceptional consideration been extended.

—said: Mr. Speaker,—I expected that this would be allowed to go as a formal motion, and so far as I know there is no very serious objection to it. I think the information asked for is information which it is desirable to have, more especially since the report of the Gaols Commission has been laid on the table of the House. Some curiosity has existed in regard to the names of the prisoners discharged on Jubilee Day, and since the Gaols Commission report and the evidence connected with it have been laid on the table that curiosity has been largely increased. I do not feel it necessary to say any more on the subject, which, I think, is admitted to be of some importance by all members of the House.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I have no objection to give the substantial information asked for by the hon. member; but I think it would be a pity to give the names of the prisoners, unless special reasons can be given for it in individual cases. People have forgotten that many of them have ever been in prison, and the publication of their names in a return would make public the fact that they have just come out of gaol. So that I think the hon. member should not ask for the names, which of course can be given afterwards, if in any case it is suspected that there may have been anything like an arbitrary exercise of the prerogative of mercy. Information as to the names in such cases can, of course, be given, and I would suggest that the hon. gentleman should modify his motion so as to secure the information being given without the names. The hon. gentleman might ask for a return of the “number” of prisoners discharged; and the information as to the offence which led to the conviction, the term of sentence, and the other information asked for, can be given in every case.

Mr. NORTON, in reply, said: Mr. Speaker,—I am not one of those who profess a great deal of sympathy for people who have been shut up in a prison for a number of years, as they were put there, I take it, for a very good reason. Considering that their names were known, and the reason of their conviction, at the time they were convicted, I do not see that there is any good reason why the names should be kept secret now. I think the tendency at the present day is to be a great deal too lenient with prisoners, and I am sure the evidence before us, with the Gaol Commissioners' report, shows that this leniency is carried in some cases to an extraordinary and unjustifiable extent. I think when a man is set free, after having completed the term of his sentence, he should be treated, as far as possible, as though the crime for which he was convicted had been expiated, and the matter should be allowed to drop. But this is not like an ordinary case, where a man is sentenced and has completed the full term of his sentence. I presume that in the case of these discharged prisoners some exceptional circumstances must have arisen, apart from the fact of this year being Her Majesty's jubilee year, which justified their release

when others have not been released. However, I am not going to stand by the exact wording of the motion, and I suggest that perhaps the Premier would acquiesce in an amendment of it, giving the date and place at which the prisoners were convicted.

The PREMIER: Of course I will give all the information. I do not want to conceal anything; only not to put the names in the return.

Mr. NORTON: I do not want to publish the names.

The PREMIER: Say "the number of prisoners."

Mr. NORTON: So far as I am concerned the other information will be ample, but other persons may think that something is purposely concealed. I presume the names will be available to hon. members, and the dates of conviction.

The PREMIER: Certainly.

Mr. NORTON: I accept the suggestion of the hon. gentleman, and propose to amend the motion by substituting for the words "names of all" in paragraph 1 the words "number of," and for the words "which led to" in paragraph 2 the words "and date of."

Amendments agreed to; and motion, as amended, put and passed.

#### GRATUITOUS SUPPLY OF HANSARD.

Mr. W. BROOKES, in moving—

1. That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient in the public interest that the daily *Hansard* be supplied gratuitously to all newspapers in the colony, upon the understanding that their proprietors circulate it with their papers to their respective subscribers.

2. That the foregoing resolution be forwarded by address to His Excellency the Governor.

—said: Mr. Speaker,—I was beginning to despair of having an opportunity of bringing this motion forward, and hon. members would be justified to some extent if they thought I had no serious intention of doing so; but I wish to say that I regard the object I have in view as a very important one, and one which will conduce very much, as it is stated, to the public interest. It may remove some misconception if I say at the outset that this question is not brought forward by me with any intention of disparaging the newspaper Press of this colony. I have a good opinion of the newspaper Press of this colony. It is fairly and well managed, and its comments on public affairs are as well considered as we can expect them to be. I have no quarrel with the newspapers; but the newspapers cannot supply the want which I wish to have supplied in this way. I look upon it as of immense importance—an importance it is difficult to overrate—that every man and woman in this colony should have within reach the means of obtaining information as to what is said and done in the Legislature of Queensland. You see, Mr. Speaker, all political power dwells in the people. We in this House are the representatives of the people, and yet, in consequence of the impossibility without some such measure as this of getting reports of what takes place here spread universally throughout the colony, many of the people are in ignorance as to what is done; and such ignorance I regard as working an immense amount of injury. This is no party question; it is as much for the benefit of one side as the other; and I consider it of supreme importance that a knowledge of what is going on here should be spread as widely as possible over the colony. Our political purity would be added to by the adoption of this suggestion. What we have to dread is political indifference; and I think the adoption of this plan would draw constituents and members closer together. As it is now, there is only one newspaper in the colony which

even professes to give a long report of the proceedings of this House from day to day; and I am sure that the proprietors of that journal would not hesitate to admit that the report they publish every morning, while it is the best they can do, might be a great deal better. All the other newspapers are quite unable to present to their subscribers an account of what goes on in Parliament, and it seems to me that we are driven to some such step as this. Now, do not let anyone say that it is impracticable. I know very well that it is an awkward time to add to the public expenditure in any way, but I would ask the attention of hon. members to this fact—that *Hansard* now costs between £7,000 and £8,000 a year. We have a full and competent staff of reporters, and the Government Printing Office is at work all the same whether this motion be accepted or rejected; and this motion of mine might be accepted for an additional outlay which will be represented by the net cost of the paper—about £1,000, or perhaps not so much. I cannot conceive of any better way of politically drawing the colonists closer together than by spending this £1,000 in this particular way. The present circulation of *Hansard* is, I believe, about 4,000. In the country districts they hardly ever see it, and I am given to understand that the principal papers up north do not take more than fifty copies; so that we have an expenditure of £7,000 or £8,000 a year going on, and we are not effecting the purpose for which we spend the money. We certainly do not have *Hansard* for our own edification, though it must be confessed that if it were abolished hon. members would be saved a great deal of time and trouble investigating those two long rows on the table, for they are very often appealed to. I press this proposal upon both sides of the House, not on one more than another, and I base my claim to have it accepted upon the fact that it is of the utmost importance to save our colonists from that absolute indifference to all politics which do not affect them personally or their neighbourhood. I do not think there could be a better corrective to that failing than to place within easy reach of every person in the colony a copy of *Hansard* as it is issued. The electors, whatever may be their political views, would then know what is being done by the public men in this House, and by the members in the other House. I seriously commend this motion to the consideration of the House. The money objection at first weighed with me a good deal, but I find that that disappears. We are now spending between £7,000 and £8,000 in the production of *Hansard*, and for an additional expense of within £1,000 we can make it a hundred times more useful and beneficial to the colony.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—The hon. member raises a question of very considerable importance by this motion. I have in my hand the report of the debate when this House directed the publication of a daily *Hansard*. It took place on the 20th May, 1875, on the motion of Mr. Buzacott, then member for Rockhampton, and I take the reasons he urged, because they were the reasons that induced the House to authorise the printing of a daily *Hansard*:—

"He said he desired to remind the House that he brought the motion forward at the request of hon. members on both sides; and to state also that he had taken up the subject of *Hansard* because the work the House required to be done was not, as heretofore, done by private enterprise; and as it was done in the other colonies, as seen in the reports of debates in Parliament published by the *Sydney Morning Herald* and by the *Melbourne Argus*. He should not have thought for an instant of bringing forward such a motion, but that it had been long notorious that the debates in the House

were not reported as they ought to be, and that the observations of hon. members were not fairly sent forth to their constituents by the newspapers. Hon. members would acknowledge that the evil had very materially increased during the present session; and there was not one in the House who had not seen his speeches distorted and curtailed in such a way that he could not recognise them. He was not going to impugn the impartiality of the proprietors or the editors of the Brisbane newspapers; he had merely to say that they would not go to the expense of furnishing accurate and fair reports; and seeing that hon. members' speeches were so misrepresented, and that there was no redress for the grievances of which they had to complain, there was no alternative but for the House to take the subject up as he proposed, and have reports prepared at the public expense."

Now, sir, it is a rather singular thing that the gentleman who then made that motion and spoke in that way of Brisbane newspapers should have come to be the manager of the very newspaper on whose conduct he was then commenting; and I am afraid the paper is liable to exactly the same animadversion at the present time as it was at that time. But that is, after all, only part of the Brisbane Press; there is no other paper in Brisbane that publishes full reports, or anything like full reports. And suppose the *Brisbane Courier* did publish full reports, they would only be read by persons who read the *Brisbane Courier*. The object of publishing a daily *Hansard* was to enable the public to know what is going on in Parliament, and I am of opinion, as I have said when I have had an opportunity here, and elsewhere when I have been asked my opinion, that the publication of daily *Hansard* when it was circulated through the colony was the very best means of forming public opinion; and we are really governed by public opinion. It is impossible for a proper public opinion to be formed unless the electors have the means given to them, and they can only get that by knowing what is going on in Parliament; and they have no opportunity of judging of the conduct of their representatives unless they see what they do and say in their places in Parliament. I consider that it is of the utmost importance that they should know what is going on in Parliament. I am quite aware that we incur considerable expense at the present time by forwarding newspapers free of charge, and if we forward these there will be some additional expense on that score. There will also be an additional expense for paper; there will be little extra expense beyond that, because the type is already set up. I therefore am disposed to agree to this motion on this understanding; that, if it is carried, the various newspapers should be asked to ascertain from their subscribers how many of them desire to receive *Hansard*. Some of them may not desire to receive it. Many people in the colony take in several newspapers, and would not require a copy of *Hansard* with each of them. Having ascertained how many would be wanted, a sufficient number to meet the demand could be furnished to each newspaper. It will cost, as my hon. friend and colleague in the representation of North Brisbane says, something under £1,000 a year more than the *Hansard* does now. That is to say, instead of the large amount we spend now—some £7,000 or £8,000 a year—we shall spend a little more, and we shall gain, at any rate, ten times as much benefit from it. I was at first inclined to hesitate very much about supporting this motion, but during the long time it has been on the paper I have had an opportunity of considering it pretty fully, and am glad to be able to give it my support.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said: Mr. Speaker,—I shall most cordially support this motion. I never ask for anything but fair play from the newspapers; but I wish to take from them the responsibility they have of misreporting and mangling

speeches of members of whom they may not entertain a good opinion. I have never shrunk from accepting the responsibility of what I have said from my seat in this House, but I have often shrunk from accepting the responsibility of what some of the papers have wilfully and maliciously said I said. I think that this motion could be amended so as to effect a considerable saving instead of an additional expenditure of £1,000 a year. If a sheet of *Hansard* were taken up with all the Government advertisements we should save £12,500 a year, which we now spend in advertising, and in bribing and corrupting newspapers. That the money is devoted to that purpose there can be no doubt. If a paper does not get sufficient Government advertisements it turns round at once, and instead of supporting the Government begins to denounce it in every possible way; while on the other hand, if it is well fed with Government advertisements, it will support any Government, no matter how rotten or corrupt it may be. I trust the hon. member for North Brisbane will see his way to amend his motion in the direction I have indicated—namely, that Government advertisements should be sent round with the daily *Hansard*. The newspapers which circulate it will still continue to enjoy the privilege of having their papers carried about the country for nothing. If the newspapers refuse to circulate *Hansard* with its Government advertisements for nothing, then it will be time to consider about putting a stamp on them, and making them pay their own carriage about the colony. At present they give nothing whatever in return for what they receive from the State; and it is about time they did. I was very much edified and surprised to hear that the present manager of the Brisbane Newspaper Company was the very man at whose instance a daily *Hansard* was introduced into the colony. I am glad to know that at one time of his life that gentleman had an idea of what was fair and proper, and it surprises me to find that he has reverted to the very thing he complained about at that time since he has had the management of that gigantic monopoly. I shall certainly support the motion, which I believe to be a most useful one. It will keep the people fully informed of the actions of their representatives, and they will have knowledge to go upon in approving or disapproving of their conduct in the House; they will know whether they ought to send them back again to their seats here or to leave them out in the cold. The people in the country do not get half enough information about what actually takes place in this House. A little while ago I obtained the information that the daily circulation of *Hansard* is about 4,000 copies. Sometimes as many as 25,000 to 30,000 copies are printed on important occasions, such as a budget speech, or the debate on financial separation. On other occasions, perhaps, the number may be as low as 2,000. I have done a little towards distributing *Hansard* in the North, having devoted a considerable portion of my two guineas per diem to that purpose. I have sometimes sent 1,000 copies at a time through the Northern newspapers. I have no hesitation, as I said before, in supporting the motion, and I think it will be a capital good job if it is properly carried out.

Mr. MACFARLANE said: Mr. Speaker,—We have had another illustration this afternoon of the unexpected turning up. I little thought that either the Premier or the hon. member for Cook would have supported this motion. For my own part, I have never been able to see what the object of the motion was, unless it was to minister to the vanity of some hon. members who are in the habit of making very long speeches, and who want to have their speeches circulated all over the colony. What good object is to be

gained by giving *Hansard* to every newspaper which chooses to accept it? What would the inhabitants of Queensland think if they read in *Hansard* how the time of the House was wasted last night?

The PREMIER: Hear, hear!

Mr. MACFARLANE: What would they think about it?

Mr. MURPHY: You will find out what they think before long.

Mr. MACFARLANE: The hon. member for Cook threw out a good idea, and one which seemed acceptable to the House—and I judged from the Premier's face that he seemed tickled with the idea—that the Government should be their own advertisers through the medium of the daily *Hansard*. I do not think it would be wise for any Government to place itself in opposition to the whole newspaper Press of the colony, nor do I think they are very likely to do so—which they would do by becoming their own advertisers. A Government ought to deal out even-handed justice even to the Press, although the conduct of some of them may be selfish and their reports somewhat one-sided. As a rule the Press of Queensland is as fair as that of any other colony. I thought the hon. member for North Brisbane wanted to have a little bit of fun in the House—that the motion was altogether a hoax—something like the motion which Mr. Douglas tabled some years ago, when he was a member of the House, for giving a bonus to the first bacon-curing factory established in the colony. Some people thought Mr. Douglas was serious with regard to the motion, but the reverse was the case. I do not think the hon. member for North Brisbane is really serious in bringing this motion before the House. I cannot support it. It is only a waste of money. What has been the constant cry during the last few weeks but, "Where is the money to come from?" Even if the cost of the paper only involves an extra £1,000, it will cost £1,000 more to carry it all over the country; and it will give offence to everybody.

The PREMIER: How?

Mr. MACFARLANE: It will offend the electors.

The PREMIER: But they need not take it in unless they like.

Mr. MACFARLANE: But it is their money which will carry it to those who will take it in.

Mr. MURPHY: It will be information for them.

Mr. MACFARLANE: It is information which very few care about reading.

The PREMIER: You are very much mistaken.

Mr. MACFARLANE: Well, I cannot see my way to support the motion.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. H. Jordan) said: Mr. Speaker,—The hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Macfarlane, seems to think that the only effect of the proposed motion, if carried, will be to minister to the vanity of members who wish to have their long speeches circulated in the form of *Hansard* all over the colony. I do not count myself a vain man at all. I am a very good listener, and, as a rule, I really enjoy the debates in the House. The only drawback, to my mind, is having occasionally to speak myself. I would rather listen to almost any member of the House than have to speak myself. I have no fault to find with the Press in this matter. Indeed, I cordially agree with what was said by the hon. member for North Brisbane, that the Press generally act fairly towards the House. But they have not space in their papers to convey anything like a full report of

what is said in the House. It is very desirable that our constituents throughout the whole colony should understand what takes place in Parliament. Why do they send us here? Surely they must have an interest in what takes place here; and what can they know about it from the very brief reports of the speeches of hon. members which appear in the papers? I think it desirable that *Hansard* should be read. It costs at present between £7,000 and £8,000 a year; for what purpose, but that our speeches may be correctly reported? And here I may say that I think the *Hansard* reports are remarkably correct. I have often been astonished at the correctness with which what is said in this House is taken down—always the sense and often the actual words of the speakers. Well, if it is worth while to have a staff of reporters, costing I do not know how many thousands a year—£4,000 or £5,000, I believe—is it not folly on the other hand that *Hansard* should not be circulated? We spend a large sum of money every year upon it and comparatively few people are benefited by it, because it is not circulated. The hon. junior member for North Brisbane has, I suppose, interviewed the proprietors or managers of newspapers on the subject and they fall in with the idea; they concur in the proposal and are willing to receive *Hansard* and circulate it, the Government sending it by post free of expense. Under those conditions they are willing to take the trouble of receiving *Hansard*, and sending it to their subscribers all over the colony. Now, I think we should do one of two things—either abolish *Hansard* altogether and save the £7,000 or £8,000 a year it costs or adopt some system by which the whole colony may be benefited by it. I shall cordially support the motion.

Mr. MOREHEAD said: Mr. Speaker,—From the year 1875 up to the present time we have done without this great boon to the people, as it has been described by the hon. junior member for North Brisbane; and he proposes now, when the finances of the colony are in a worse position than ever they were during that period, and at the fag-end of a pretty bad session and a not very good Parliament, that *Hansard* should be supplied to all the newspapers of the colony for distribution. Well, sir, the proposition seems to me to be wrong and improper; in the first place, on the ground of expense, and, secondly, because it seems to be absurd, at this period of the day, and at this period of the existence of this Parliament, to make such a proposal. When the new Parliament is called together, if it is desired that the speeches *in extenso* of its members should be sent to their constituents or to the subscribers to newspapers, let them say so. But I protest against this Parliament, in the present stage of its existence, doing anything of the sort. As regards what fell from the hon. junior member for Cook, we know perfectly well that he is crazy on the subject of the Press. He lays great stress on the fact that he is an independent member and does not care for anything the Press may say about him, but there is not a member in this House so touchy as he is. If the Press dare to attack him, or comment upon him, he gets up in his place in this House and says he does not care a fig about it and all that, but at the same time he winces under the very slightest application of the editorial whip; and I shall be very glad if they apply it often. If it does him no good it will not do him any harm. I think, sir, the members of this House ought to pause before they vote for this resolution. We are asked to go into an expense for which we shall get no adequate return, at any rate at the present time; and, as I said before, at this

period of this Parliament it would be worse than useless to carry out such a proposition. We have done without it for twelve years, and I think at any rate we can do without it until another Parliament meets and decides whether it should be done or not.

Mr. KATES said: Mr. Speaker,—I also feel inclined to oppose the motion on the ground of the expense that it will entail upon the country. At present those subscribers to newspapers who wish to read *Hansard* can get it at a very low figure. I think you yourself, Mr. Speaker, can issue *Hansard* with your paper at a very small consideration for the session. If I am not mistaken, the Government Printing Office issue *Hansard* at 3s. a hundred—scarcely  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. apiece; so that those who really do take an interest in the speeches made in this House may get it for that very small sum. Besides, sir, I think we have no reason to complain of the reports of the *Courier* every morning. It gives a *résumé* of what transpires in this House, and a very correct one—very correct indeed. I think we ought to have more data in connection with this matter. We ought to be told how many copies of *Hansard* would be required every morning. There might be something like 40,000 copies required every morning, which would cost a good deal more than £1,000 during the session. I am inclined to think it would be more like £4,000 or £5,000, considering paper and the labour necessary in connection with it, and I really do not think we can, in the present state of our finances, afford to go to an expense like that. As I said before, those who wish to read *Hansard* can buy it at less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. apiece.

Mr. BLACK said: Mr. Speaker,—I entirely endorse the opinion expressed by the last speaker. I think in the present condition of the finances of the colony it shows a great want of consideration on the part of the Government in proposing to expend even £1,000 a year, which, in my opinion, and I believe in the opinion of many members of this House, is unnecessary at the present time. The session has already lasted a considerable time, and most of those people in the country who take an interest in what is going on in Parliament have already made their arrangements by which they can get *Hansard* sent to them during the whole session for the small amount of 3s. The charge has been reduced from 5s., which it was last year, to 3s. this session. Another thing, Mr. Speaker: if it is desirable that *Hansard* should be more widely circulated—and I admit that it would be a very good thing if it could be—why should the circulation be confined merely to the subscribers to newspapers? Why should not every elector get a copy? If it is desirable to distribute *Hansard* so that the public of the colony may see what is going on in Parliament, they should all be placed on the same footing. Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of electors, poor men, who are not able to pay £1 or 25s. a year for a newspaper, and who would be very glad to have *Hansard* distributed to them free. Why should they be passed over, and only newspaper subscribers receive this consideration? That is a point which very likely has escaped the notice of the hon. junior member for North Brisbane. If he desires to benefit the people of the colony at large, let him amend his motion, and make it that all the electors of the colony shall receive a free copy of *Hansard*.

The PREMIER: It would involve great cost in distribution.

Mr. BLACK: I am not advocating it, but I say if the hon. gentleman is in earnest let him do that. This proposal, as far as I can see, is merely relieving the newspapers or editors of the colony of a considerable amount of expense and

trouble. It will relieve them of the necessary expense of printing that amount of parliamentary news which they have at present to give to their readers. And there is another point that should not be overlooked. That is, that many people in the country, and no doubt in town, receive several newspapers. I know a gentleman who receives no less than seven Queensland papers, and according to this proposal in each of those papers he will find a copy of *Hansard*. How does the hon. gentleman propose to prevent that? Again, papers with a circulation of so many hundreds or thousands will draw that number of copies of *Hansard* from the Government Printing Office, but may not afterwards circulate them amongst their subscribers. Very probably they will make a market of it as waste paper. You will probably find that it will be a great boon to storekeepers who sell butter and sausages, and so on. They will get an ample supply of waste paper for nothing. I think, Mr. Speaker, primarily on the ground that the finances of the colony are not in a state to justify the unnecessary expenditure of £1,000—assuming that to be the amount required—I say on that ground alone this House ought not to entertain the proposal, which I understand, if carried, would only be binding on this Parliament—it would not be binding on the next. My second objection is that if it is to be carried it is not sufficiently comprehensive, inasmuch as every elector of the colony should be entitled to have a copy of *Hansard* sent to him. I shall oppose the motion.

Mr. FOOTE said: Mr. Speaker,—I think the suggestion of the hon. member for North Brisbane is a very good one; that is to say, that the populace of Queensland should be placed in a position to be able to read *Hansard* and be educated in the politics of the country—to see what their members are doing and what they are not doing in this House. The idea is a very good one, but I do not see how it is to be attained. The hon. member is rather short and concise, I think, in his resolution. If I read it rightly, a copy of *Hansard* is to be forwarded and circulated with every newspaper distributed in Queensland. Well, if that is the case, it would amount to a very large number of copies, and it would be very questionable whether *Hansard* would fall into the hands of the electors. I think it very desirable that the electors should receive *Hansard*, but I really do not see how that is to be accomplished by this motion. I think that the suggestion of the hon. member for Cook is a very good one—that is, that the Government should become their own advertisers; have advertising agents in various parts of the colony who would take a certain number of copies of *Hansard* and pay for them in the same way as they pay for newspapers, and that there should be an advertising column in *Hansard* devoted to Government business. It is not long ago since there was a great hubbub about the money spent upon various papers that were not very popular, for advertising the various electoral rolls. These amounted to a very considerable sum of money, and I think it would be well to carry out the hon. member for Cook's idea, and thus save expense. The Government are supposed to be pursuing a very strict line of economy—adopting a cheese-paring policy; but I am much afraid that they strain very much at gnats and swallow camels very readily. I do not, however, see my way to support this motion as it now stands, although I think the electors of the colony ought to be better posted up in the business of this House and the politics of the country. I know from conversations I have had with electors that there are very few of them ever see *Hansard*, and the reports they get are most meagre. I fully agree with the Premier

that it is right that the electors should know as much about the proceedings of the House as possible, but I should like to see this motion take a more tangible form. I am not frightened of the £1,000 which this will cost, or of the £10,000 more, probably, which it would come to. I see no reason to be frightened of that with the present prospects that are before the country. I am satisfied that there will be no financial difficulties if the funds of the colony are properly handled. However, that is apart from the question. I cannot support this motion unless it is put, as I have already said, in a more tangible form.

Mr. ADAMS said: Mr. Speaker,—The hon. gentleman who has just sat down said he had met many electors who had never seen *Hansard*. Now, if *Hansard* were distributed to the newspapers I doubt even then whether all the electors would receive it. I know very well that there are hundreds and thousands of people who do not take papers, and the consequence would be that they would not get *Hansard*. Therefore, on that ground alone, I cannot support the motion. But there is another reason for not supporting it, and that is on the score of expense. When I find £1,500 put on the Estimates for a post-office at Bundaberg, and struck off this year on the grounds of economy, I think it would be unwise on my part to support a motion of this description. I am satisfied that I have frequently heard members on the other side accuse us of not assisting the Government to economise, and of endeavouring to harass them; and yet this is only one of the economical proposals coming from the Government side. The Minister for Lands distinctly states that he believes it would be desirable for every person in the colony to receive *Hansard*. Doubtless it would be a great benefit, but this proposal will not give it to them. It is not every man who can pay his two guineas a year for the *Courier*, and there are many other papers that many people cannot freely afford to pay for; and if they cannot afford to take a paper they will not get *Hansard*. If *Hansard* is to be distributed at all, the proper way would be to take the electoral rolls and distribute it according to the names found on the rolls. Then each elector would get a copy, although the whole populace would not. I think it would be very unwise to vote for this expense. We are told it will not be great. Now, I do not know the cost of the paper without printing, but it must be 6d. per lb.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No.

Mr. ADAMS: It would also cost many thousands a year to distribute. It must not be forgotten that all these papers have to be carried free—that is, if they are posted within seven days of publication. I think that concession is quite enough. There is no doubt that, as the Premier says, to distribute *Hansard* among the whole populace would be an expensive proceeding. We all know that; but I say that if one man is entitled to read *Hansard* every man is entitled to read it, and see what has been said in the House. But on the score of expense, and taking into consideration the financial state of the colony at the present time, I shall be obliged to vote against the motion.

Mr. MORGAN said: Mr. Speaker,—I would very much like, if it were possible, to see this motion carried into effect; but I think the difficulties in the way are such as this House is not likely to overcome, in the present state of our finances at any rate. It would undoubtedly be a good thing if *Hansard* could be placed in the hands of every elector in the colony who could read it and who would read it, because I believe people would be benefited thereby, and the benefit they would derive would be reflected in succeeding Parliaments. It would enable the

electors to judge of the conduct of their representatives in Parliament, and they would act accordingly when those representatives came before them for re-election. The junior member for North Brisbane, in moving the resolution, and the Premier, who followed him, talked about £1,000 being sufficient to meet the expense that would be necessary to give effect to this motion. I think it would cost a great deal more than that. The junior member for North Brisbane said we had the type and machinery at hand, and the only extra cost would be the cost of the extra paper necessary, which he estimated at about £1,000. I do not think that is so. The machinery in the Government Printing Office is not sufficient to meet the demand that would be made upon it to carry this motion into effect, and it would therefore be necessary to import more powerful machinery; and the only machinery that would meet a demand of this kind is the webb machinery; and the webb machinery, as you are aware, sir, is very costly. A webb printing machine would entail, I think, a first cost of about £6,000 or £7,000, and it would also entail the cost of introducing a staff of stereotypers, and it would further entail importing experts from England or America competent to work that machinery, and when they came here they would keep their secret so close that they would not impart it to anybody else. A similar case has lately occurred in this city. Experts were imported for this work on an agreement for very considerable salaries—very high salaries I should call them—and the moment they landed here they struck for still higher salaries, and the persons who imported them had no course open to them but to give the higher salaries demanded; and so too it was with the stereotypers. So that I say the first cost of giving effect to this motion would be a very large outlay for machinery and a very large outlay for experts to work that machinery, who would have the Government to a certain extent at their mercy. Now we come to the cost of the paper. I think there are about eighty papers altogether in Queensland. It would not be necessary to supply the whole of them with *Hansard*; but I take it that the number that would be supplied with *Hansard* if this motion were carried would be about seventy-seven. I put the average circulation of the seventy-seven papers at about 1,000 each issue. I think that is about a fair average. That would be 77,000 copies of *Hansard* daily for every day that *Hansard* is published. There are on an average about seventy numbers of *Hansard* per session. The cost of the paper then—and I can give my reasons for the estimate—would be £30 per day, and for seventy days would be £2,100; that is for paper alone. Added to that you have the first cost of machinery, and the wages for experts, and in addition to that there is also the additional cost that would be entailed upon the Post Office and Railway Department for the carriage of the *Hansard*. The junior member for Cook talked about the necessity for placing the electors in possession of reliable reports of parliamentary proceedings, and he suggests we should insert in *Hansard* such things as Government advertisements, and make the papers contribute something for the benefit they receive in having their papers carried free of charge through the Post Office. I think the hon. member for Cook is the greatest offender in this House in that respect, as it is known that *Hansard* has been circulated through his district pretty frequently. If the hon. gentleman had to pay postage on each *Hansard* he distributed, the country would derive some benefit from it, which I doubt very much whether it derives at present. Though personally, probably, I should derive some considerable benefit if the motion is passed,



and though for some reasons I think it would be a good thing that the people should know what hon. members are doing, still I think I have shown that the cost would be very much more than Ministers anticipate, and would be so great that this House should not adopt this motion.

Mr. NORTON said: Mr. Speaker,—There is nothing like having the opinion of an expert. I think it is a great pity that before the Premier consented to this proposal of his colleague the junior member for Brisbane he did not take counsel with some one competent to form a reliable opinion as to whether this scheme could be practicably carried out. It must be patent to everyone that the proposal of the hon. member would not have the effect of sending *Hansard* to every elector in the colony, and that no other scheme than that suggested by the hon. member for Mackay would have that effect. If the electors are to have the benefit of *Hansard*, which the Premier thinks desirable, the only way that can be secured is by sending a copy of *Hansard* to each elector throughout the colony. I do not know what the cost of that would be, but the hon. member for Warwick has given us a good idea of the approximate cost. We are spending money in many parts of the colony for the carriage of mails by horse service. Imagine an addition of 400 or 500 copies of *Hansard* to the mails now carried in that way to one particular place, and it will be seen that it would be necessary to have coach services established instead of horse services. I believe the mere expense of paying the mail contractors for conveying *Hansard* to the different parts of the colony would be more than £5,000. There is another very important consideration which has not yet been referred to, and that is this: People who wish to take *Hansard* now can get it at the very small cost of 3s. per session. Thirty-six pence for the whole of the *Hansard* published during a session! I would ask hon. members whether men who will not set aside that small amount of 3s. for the inestimable advantage of having *Hansard* to read in the evening should have it sent to them free. Though we may send it to them we cannot compel them to read it. I daresay that if *Hansard* were sent to the electors throughout the colony only portions of it would be read, and the great bulk of the electors would certainly not go carefully through the whole paper.

The PREMIER: I do not say they would.

Mr. NORTON: I am not sure that they would read even the whole of the Chief Secretary's speeches. The mover of the motion said the additional cost would be about £1,000, but it has been shown by a gentleman whom we regard as an expert in the matter that the cost would be many thousands of pounds. If we talk about practising stringent economy, let us practise it; but if we are going to assent to every proposal that will cost we know not how much, let us give up talking economy, and spend the money as freely as we can, and glory in our indifference to the cost to the country. Let us look at the matter fairly. We know that the proposal cannot be carried into effect without a very large expense, and that there are, besides, practical difficulties in the way which the hon. member for Warwick, Mr. Morgan, has shown with a reasonable amount of certainty to be almost impossible to overcome. I hope the junior member for North Brisbane will withdraw the motion, and not press it to a division.

Mr. CHUBB said: Mr. Speaker,—I had made up my mind to vote for the motion, because I believe the advantage of making the public acquainted with our doings here cannot be too highly estimated; but I recently made a calcula-

tion, which I have since verified, showing that the cost will be too great. I am not an expert like the hon. member for Warwick, but I made my calculation from figures which are open to hon. members in documents laid on the table of the House this session. I assume that 3s. per 100 is the cost of supplying *Hansard* to the public. It is supplied for that at present, and I suppose it is a fair price—that there is no profit, but possibly a loss. Amongst the returns there is one showing the number of electors on the various rolls of the colony to be just under 50,000. Now, suppose every one of these gets a *Hansard*?

The PREMIER: A very absurd supposition.

Mr. CHUBB: Suppose everyone gets it at the price I have named, there would be 50,000 a day, or 250,000 a week; and these, at 30s. per 1,000, would come to £375 a week.

Mr. ALAND: *Hansard* is not published five days a week.

Mr. CHUBB: According to that calculation the cost would be about £7,500 a session. But supposing you gave *Hansard* to the newspapers to be circulated, seeing that there are 77,000 subscribers, the cost would be £10,000; and if you gave it to every adult male in the colony, seeing that there are 92,000 odd as shown by the papers, the cost would be £15,000 per session. I say that is an enormous sum for us to pay in the face of the present state of the finances, and it is quite out of the question to vote for such a motion.

Mr. DICKSON said: Mr. Speaker,—When I first saw this notice on the paper I thought it was a huge joke perpetrated by the hon. member for North Brisbane, with the peculiar eccentricity which sometimes marks his public utterances. I must confess that the motion comes at a most inopportune time—in fact, I cannot conceive how any member of the Ministry could, in the face of the present state of the finances, countenance a motion of this sort. The Government of late have made a reasonable advance in the matter of circulating *Hansard* as extensively as possible. The cost to the public has been reduced to 3s. for the session, and the cost to the newspapers has been reduced to 2s. per 100 copies; and surely that is sufficient. If we are to supply *Hansard* gratuitously to the newspapers, I cannot see why we should not give it to every individual member of the community on application at the Government Printing Office. I am inclined to think that what is given so freely will not be appreciated, and after the able manner in which the hon. member for Warwick has explained the cost to the country, and as I cannot see that there will be a benefit commensurate with the expenditure, I trust the motion will be withdrawn. I am certain the House will never support it at the present time in the face of the strong necessity for retrenchment.

Mr. ALAND said: Mr. Speaker,—I think it is a pity we have not in this House another expert besides the hon. member for Warwick, who placed such a fearful array of figures before us, because I do not think there is one of us who can disprove in any way what he has stated. There is one item, however, which strikes me as being unnecessary in the expenditure which he mentioned, and that is the stereotyping machine. The hon. member laughs. I suppose he thinks I am only exposing my ignorance, but I do not see the necessity for the machine. It is true that a very much larger number of copies will have to be printed off supposing the resolution is carried; and the whole number would have to be printed off within a given time supposing all the *Hansards* were required by a particular hour of the day; but I take it that in supplying *Hansard* to the different newspapers they would not all want it at 5 or 6 o'clock in

the morning. There is only one—the *Brisbane Courier*—that would require to have it at that early hour; the other newspapers would receive theirs at different hours in time to catch the afternoon or next morning's mail possibly, and thus all the copies could be printed on the ordinary printing press with the ordinary kind of type. Now, I am not an expert, as I have said, but I give this as my own opinion on the matter. I think it is a pity that this motion has been brought on at this particular time. We are all particularly anxious to be economical, but there is such a thing as false economy. If, as stated, the additional expense is only to be £1,000—of course I do not admit that that will be the amount, because according to the figure of the hon. member for Warwick, which I cannot dispute, the paper alone would cost more than that—but if at a cost of £1,000 or £1,500 we could secure what *Hansard* was originally published for, which we do not secure now, it would be very false economy on our part not to expend that extra £1,500. However, there is this to be said: that this resolution, if passed, would not be binding on another Parliament, and I am informed that there is not a sufficient stock of paper in the Government Printing Office, and that the Government Printer himself could not obtain a sufficient stock of paper this session to carry the resolution into effect. I think, therefore, that the subject having been ventilated, the mover might withdraw the resolution. Now, sir, I want to say that I resent what the ex-Colonial Treasurer said with reference to my friend the member for North Brisbane. This is not a joking business; the hon. member is not given to joking. I am quite sure that in sober earnest he placed this resolution on the paper, believing that he was going to accomplish a great good. I would like also to say, in reply to the hon. member for Ipswich, that it was no joke at all when Mr. Douglas introduced that motion of his to give a bonus to the bacon-curing factory. It would have been a very good thing if that had been carried; at the present time we should possibly be manufacturing very large quantities of bacon and hams which we now get from the other colonies, because it is admitted that bacon and hams cured in the colony, through inexperience—

Mr. CHUBB: Mr. Speaker,—I rise to order. I do not see the connection between bacon and newspapers, unless the one is wrapped in the other.

Mr. ALAND: I was merely making reference to what had occurred in a previous part of the debate. The hon. member for Ipswich asserted that it was a great joke when Mr. Douglas brought forward his motion relative to the bacon factory. I say it was no joke at all; that it would have been a good thing for the House and country if that resolution had been carried. However, I have nothing more to say.

Mr. BROWN said: Mr. Speaker,—I felt very much inclined to support this motion when I understood that the maximum cost was not likely to exceed £1,000; but I would have recommended also that the hon. member should have adopted the suggestion of the hon. member for Mackay, which was, that if *Hansard* was to be distributed at all it should be sent direct to the electors. I do not see why an elector should have to pay for a newspaper at a cost of, perhaps, 26s. a year in order to get *Hansard*, which is supposed to cost 3s. I do not see why they should not be posted to all the electors of the colony who choose to apply for them. However, since hearing the statement of the hon. member for Warwick, who may be considered an authority on the subject, I do not see my way to

1887—2 P

support the resolution, as it seems the expense would be very much greater than we anticipated. At all events, I would suggest to the hon. member for North Brisbane that he should withdraw the proposition for the time and bring it forward at a later date, say the beginning of next session, by which time, no doubt, some data would have been obtained by the Government. If it is going to cost £2,000 for paper, and probably a large outlay for machinery, I should hesitate to support the motion.

Mr. PALMER said: Mr. Speaker,—I think the arguments of the hon. members who have spoken against this motion, if carried to their legitimate issue, would involve the abolition of *Hansard* altogether. I do not suppose if the motion were carried it would increase the cost very much, and now that *Hansard* is established, the distribution of it amongst the people of the colony is a matter of very great consideration. I am often requested to forward copies of *Hansard*, and with that object I have ordered the Government Printer to send me the number I am allowed to receive—half-a-dozen copies—with the intention of forwarding them to people in distant parts of the colony. I am quite surprised at the interest that is taken in *Hansard* by men in various parts of the country—men who earn their living by hard work. It is quite consoling to know that these men do take an interest in the affairs of the government of the country, and it is in their interest that I speak. I speak on behalf of people who have not the opportunities hon. members have been referring to, of reading the reports in the *Courier*. Hon. members have expressed their appreciation of the reports of the *Courier*, and no doubt they are very correct and clear; but there are many people in the interior of the colony who do not receive the *Courier*, and who would be very glad to receive a copy of *Hansard* with their local paper. Most men will subscribe to the local paper, and if a copy of *Hansard* is circulated with it, it will make the local paper more appreciated. I believe that for some reason *Hansard* is not distributed throughout the colony—I do not know why—but perhaps if this motion is carried it will do away with that, and will allow the people to reap the benefit of what, no doubt, is a very great institution—especially in the manner in which it is carried out, for I think it is carried out to the satisfaction of everyone in the House. Now as to the expense: that, no doubt, may be a very serious point, but I think I heard the Colonial Treasurer say the cost would not be more than £1,000. That hon. gentleman must, by this time, have the spirit of economy pretty well instilled into him, and I do not think he would make that statement without he had some sufficient ground. Even if it cost a little more, I fancy the money would be very well spent. It is in the interest of people in the interior, who have not the opportunities possessed by the residents in the town, that I speak.

Mr. MURPHY said: Mr. Speaker,—It was my intention to support this motion until I heard the figures stated to the House by the hon. member for Warwick.

The PREMIER: He was quite mistaken.

Mr. MURPHY: If those figures are correct it would cost something like £10,000 a year, without counting the cost of the new machinery, to print this *Hansard* to be given away by the country with each issue of the newspapers. If those figures are not correct I shall certainly support the motion. I am left in this difficulty—that not being an expert I cannot analyse those figures at all to see whether they are correct or not. If the hon. member for North Brisbane will withdraw his motion, and bring it up again at

another time, when he or some other hon. member can lay a proper statement of what it will cost before the House, then I will support it if the cost is reasonable. I am in this position now: I am told on one hand that the cost will be £1,000, and I am told on the other hand that the cost will be £10,000. If I am in error I am anxious to err on the right side; and in order to save the country from this enormous cost of £10,000 I shall vote against the motion. I like the idea very much, but I do not like the expense if it is to cost £10,000. If I could have been certain that it would only cost £1,000, or even £2,000, I would willingly have supported the motion.

Mr. SCOTT said: Mr. Speaker,—If it is intended to distribute *Hansard* to the electors of the colony, there is a very easy way of getting at the cost. There are 50,000 electors on the roll, and if we estimate the cost of each copy at 3s. for the session—which is what the Government are at present charging—that will, of course, be 150,000 shillings, or £7,500. But I do not suppose that nearly all the electors on the roll would require a copy, for many reasons, which will be obvious to hon. members. But that is likely to be about the expense if it is to be distributed to all the electors.

The Hon. G. THORN said: Mr. Speaker,—I am inclined to support the motion of the hon. member for North Brisbane, and I do so because I fully believe that it will not cost more than £1,000. Indeed, I am quite certain of it. How is the cost of *Hansard* incurred? The first and greatest expense is that of the shorthand writers; then come the transcribing and the setting up of the type. When that is done, all is done except purchasing the paper on which it is printed, and the merely mechanical work of turning out the printed copy.

Mr. BLACK: What about the cost to the Post Office?

The Hon. G. THORN: I fully believe that all the extra work can be done for £1,000. The hon. member for Warwick seems to be an expert at this kind of work. I am not, but I know the grinding out of the paper is nothing; a boy can turn the handle of the machine; and it makes very little difference whether 20,000 copies a day or 50,000 copies are turned out. I hope the hon. member will persevere with his motion.

Mr. KELLETT said: Mr. Speaker,—I cannot support this motion, and my reason is the expense. I do not think it advisable, at the present time, to incur expenditure of this kind. I take it that the hon. member for Warwick knows as much about what it will cost as any man here, and very likely he is not very far outside the mark. If it costs even half the amount he states, it would be too much. Considering that for 3s. any elector can get *Hansard* sent to him for a whole session, those who wish to read it will buy it. If it is scattered broadcast all over the colony for nothing, there will not only be a great waste of money, but *Hansard* itself will stand a chance of being treated as so much waste paper.

Mr. JESSOP said: Mr. Speaker,—When I first saw the motion I felt inclined to support it, but after having heard the estimate of cost, stated by several hon. members, I now feel bound to vote against it. There is one thing concerning it which has not yet been referred to, and that is the breach of contract with the coach mails. The weight they will have to carry—especially those going very far into the interior—will be multiplied four or five fold; and it would not be fair to ask them to carry the additional burden at the price of their current tender.

Mr. DONALDSON said: Mr. Speaker,—When I first saw the motion on the paper, I resolved to suspend my judgment upon the matter, because I hoped to be enlightened by the hon. member who has introduced it. I thought he would have furnished us with some figures, from which we might learn the amount it would cost the State to carry it out; but the hon. member—though he made a tolerably long speech, considering the subject—did not give us the slightest information on that most important subject. The House, I consider, is entitled to the information before such a departure as this is taken. Whilst I should like to see *Hansard* circulated very freely throughout the country, so that the electors may be informed of all that takes place in this Chamber, I object, in the interests of the country, to doing it gratuitously. If persons are anxious to know what we are doing here, they should put their hands into their pockets and pay the very reasonable sum which is charged for the very great information they would obtain. Instead of giving this premium to the papers, I think the papers should be a little more enterprising than they are at present. They can buy *Hansard* at a very low rate, and they can distribute it to their subscribers. In the Western district of the colony I am pleased to see that the *Thargomindah Herald*, which has only a small circulation, and the subscription to which is £1 per annum, is circulating *Hansard* free to its subscribers. They are paying for *Hansard*, and giving it to their subscribers for nothing. That shows a considerable amount of enterprise in a small paper like that. I very much regret that the *Courier*, last year, discontinued circulating *Hansard* along with the paper. Then a true report was given; now hon. members have often great reason to complain of the way in which they are reported in the *Courier*. Of course they have their remedy by circulating *Hansard* themselves. It is within my knowledge that a large number of members on this side of the House have posted a considerable number of copies of *Hansard* to their constituents.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: And some on this side, too.

Mr. DONALDSON: That may be so, but I know that on this side it is done very frequently in order that our proceedings on all important matters should be made known. Until more information as to the cost is forthcoming, I cannot see my way clear to support the motion. When the Colonial Treasurer, who is anxious not to be considered extravagant, spoke, I expected that he would have offered some objection to the motion on the score of expense. But he readily accepted it, without, I think, due consideration.

The PREMIER: The advantage of it will be so great.

Mr. DONALDSON: If it would only cost £1,000 a year I should be one of the last to oppose it. I hardly think the Colonial Treasurer has had an opportunity of inquiring into the question, because if he had he would have found that such a statement as that the extra cost would only be £1,000, could not be true. There is the cost of the paper, and of the extra hands employed in the Printing Office.

The Hon. G. THORN: There would be no extra hands required.

Mr. DONALDSON: The hon. member referred just now to the cost of reporting, of transcribing notes, of setting up the type, and said that that expense was incurred now, and that there would be no greater expense if there was a very large number of additional copies of *Hansard* to be sent out. But I venture to say that we should require an additional staff of

reporters in the gallery. It is within my knowledge that the gentlemen at present on the staff have to sit up until very late hours at night to get through their work; and if a large additional number of copies of *Hansard* had to be printed and circulated by an early hour in the morning, as they would have to be, to be of any public utility, additional hands would be required, so that their notes might be translated quicker and the work be done immediately, or as soon as possible after the House adjourned. Of course, in addition to that there would be the extra work it would give to the Postal Department, and the extra cost of carrying the mails. All these, Mr. Speaker, are serious objections to it. I hope that the hon. gentleman who has introduced this motion will accept the suggestion that has been made, and withdraw it for the present. Then let him come down here again prepared with figures to show what the country would lose by this transaction. I am as anxious as he is to see *Hansard* freely distributed over the country, so that a full and accurate report of our proceedings may reach the people. I am certainly surprised that he did not get a report on the subject from the Government Printer. If he had done so it would have given us a great deal of information. I shall certainly, upon every opportunity, not only now, but upon future occasions, while I have the honour of being a member of the House, oppose motions where sufficient information has not been given by the introducer. I think when matters of this kind are introduced the House ought certainly to get every information. The hon. member has neglected to furnish it on the present occasion, and until I am satisfied that this is not going to be as costly as we have been led to believe it will be, by the hon. member for Warwick, who, I believe is an authority on these matters, I shall feel bound to oppose the motion.

Mr. ISAMBERT said: Mr. Speaker,—Most hon. members of this House seem to be impressed with the desirability of the electors of the colony being placed in a position to know what takes place in this Chamber.

Mr. DONALDSON: They can get it by paying for it.

Mr. ISAMBERT: And I believe hon. members would support the motion if it were not for the great expense and trouble involved in it. When I saw the motion first I felt impressed with the idea that something of the kind was practicable. One great difficulty, and to my mind the greatest difficulty—is that a large number of newspapers would consume more *Hansards* than they really required, and there would be practically a waste of material—of *Hansards*. As has been stated by an hon. member, some people get no less than seven newspapers, and what would be the use of sending them seven copies of *Hansard* through seven newspapers? There would certainly be a loss in that way. Then there is the difficulty with regard to those who only read weekly papers. I believe some offices would not feel inclined to go to the trouble of distributing *Hansard* for nothing. Then there is the difficulty that has been touched upon by the hon. member for Burke, Mr. Palmer, that *Hansard* is cheap enough, and yet it is very little read in the country. How is that? Well, there is a difficulty connected with it. I know a good many people who would read *Hansard*, and would willingly pay for it at a low figure, such as that which is now charged, but they do not know how to get it supplied. In that respect I think our postal arrangements are very defective. Why not take a lesson from the postal arrangements on the Continent? There anyone who wants to read a newspaper need not necessarily go to a

stationer. He goes to the postmaster of the place, pays in his subscription, and gets the paper sent to him. The postmaster gets so many papers sent to him, and he addresses them and delivers them to those who have addressed to them. I believe there is a way out of this difficulty. The price of *Hansard* has been reduced, and very properly, to the low charge of 2s. a hundred to newspapers, and 3s. to subscribers. Now, if we take the lower charge of 2s., permit the postmasters to take orders for *Hansard*, and pay them 1s. for their trouble, the other 1s. going into the Treasury—

Mr. DONALDSON: Civil servants are not allowed to take fees. It is contrary to law.

Mr. ISAMBERT: Anyone really anxious to read *Hansard* would not mind paying 2s. to get it delivered to him, while to send it to those who did not want to read it, would be downright waste. As most hon. members would be willing to vote for the proposal of the hon. member for North Brisbane, but cannot see their way out of the difficulty, on the one hand because of the expense it would incur, which would be considerable, and on the other, because so many papers would be wasted by sending them to the newspapers, I think the best way would be to refer the question to the Printing Committee to report upon. I therefore beg to move as an amendment that this question be referred to the Printing Committee to report upon as to the cost and practicability of gratuitous *Hansard*.

Mr. BAILEY said: Mr. Speaker,—I think, sir, that if the resolution is not practicable, the proposed amendment is rather more absurd. It appears that we have amongst us some members who flatter themselves that the electors of the colony are much more anxious to read their speeches than they really are. I think the result of the publication of *Hansard* since the commencement ought to have proved to us that the electors of the colony rather regard a man's actions and his votes than his speeches in this House. Speeches are very valuable as matters of argument between man and man, but I do not think the electors as a rule take as much interest in them as we fancy they do. But I am quite certain that they do take an interest in our votes and what we do, and that I think the newspaper Press of the colony, as a whole, gives them pretty fairly. I think, sir, this proposal is almost an interference with private business. The business of a newspaper is a private business. Their business is to collect news which they supply through the columns of their papers to their subscribers; and I think we are not warranted in supplying this news at the cost of the country and thus interfering with private business.

The PREMIER: They need not take it if they do not like.

Mr. BAILEY: If the people were so anxious to get the news, pressure would be put upon newspaper proprietors, and they would be obliged to give what their readers required; but now we are attempting to foist upon everybody a kind of news which newspaper proprietors themselves do not think it worth while supplying them with. I do not like the proposal for many reasons. First, that it is interfering with the private business of newspaper proprietors; secondly, that it will involve considerable loss to the country, as the money will have to come out of the revenue, and we are not able to afford it; and thirdly the idea that this House should delegate an inquiry to the Government Printer.

The PREMIER: The Printing Committee.

Mr. BAILEY: I do not think the proposal is a good one, and I hope the House will not, without thinking, assent to either one proposal or the other.

Mr. W. BROOKES said: Mr. Speaker,—I am not at all sorry that I have brought this subject before the House, and it has been very fully and freely talked over. I can see some of my weak points, and also some very weak points brought forward against the proposition; but none were weaker than those brought forward by the hon. member for Warwick. Now, we know where he got filled up with his figures, and it is not necessary for me to say where.

Mr. MOREHEAD: I would like to know.

Mr. W. BROOKES: Well, you will not know from me.

Mr. MOREHEAD: I do not believe you know yourself.

Mr. W. BROOKES: However, it is quite clear, from what has taken place, that I have no alternative but to withdraw the motion, and for two reasons—one of which is something like the reason given by a captain of a ship for not firing a salute.

Mr. CHUBB: He had no powder.

Mr. W. BROOKES: We have no powder. We are in that position; and then, again, the session may not last very long. I will not prophesy.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: You are a bad hand at that.

Mr. W. BROOKES: And the second reason is that we have no paper. Some of the arguments I may just mention in passing. The hon. member for Wide Bay spoke about an interference with business. Surely he could not have sufficiently thought that remark over before he made use of it. The fact is that the gratuitous distribution of *Hansard* is proposed to assist the newspapers in doing what they cannot do themselves.

Mr. MOREHEAD: How can you assist them in doing what they cannot do?

Mr. W. BROOKES: The hon. the leader of the Opposition is a little too sharp. He cuts his own fingers with his own sharp-edged weapon. I repeat that the object of gratuitous distribution of *Hansard* is to assist newspapers to do what they are not able to do.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: You cannot do that.

The PREMIER: That is perfectly right.

Mr. W. BROOKES: That is right enough. I am not going to teach hon. members the use of the English language. They understand what I say perfectly well. The difficulty is this, and it is insuperable to newspapers: In the first place they cannot reprint *Hansard*—and here I am speaking chiefly of the country newspapers—and then again, they cannot afford to buy *Hansard* even at the present low figure. However, my point is gained. There has been a general acknowledgment from those who differ, and from those who agree, that it is desirable in some way or other to place within reach of every man and woman in the colony a copy of *Hansard*. It is said they will not read it, and others say they will read it. I am sure they will read it, and that the demand will increase with the supply. I am quite sure of that, and we should be astonished with the increased demand if we once began to supply. However, I need not detain the House. I will withdraw my motion in order that I may vote for the amendment, and I trust that the amendment will be carried.

The SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot withdraw his motion unless the hon. member for Rosewood withdraws the amendment.

Mr. W. BROOKES: I don't want him to do that.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and passed.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Then the amendment is disposed of.

The SPEAKER: I do not think the House quite understands the decision that has been given. The question I have put is, that the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—that means the original motion of the hon. member for North Brisbane. I will put the question again.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put, and the House divided:—

AYES, 18.

Sir S. W. Griffith, Messrs. Jordan, Moreton, Thorn, Fraser, W. Brookes, Mellor, Isaubert, White, Scott, Foxton, Lumley Hill, Stevenson, Palmer, Aland, Grimes, Brown, and Philp.

NOES, 28.

Messrs. Norton, Morehead, Dickson, Chubb, Hamilton, Adams, Nelson, Sheridan, Morgan, Salkeld, Bailey, McMaster, Bulcock, Foote, Kellett, Ferguson, Kates, Donaldson, Wakefield, Lalor, Pattison, Black, Jessop, S. W. Brooks, Macfarlane, Higson, Allan, and Buckland.

Question resolved in the negative.

#### SUPREME COURT JUDGE AT TOWNSVILLE.

Mr. BROWN, in moving—

That, in the opinion of this House, the time has arrived for the appointment of a judge of the Supreme Court to reside at Townsville—

said: Mr. Speaker,—My object, of course, in moving this resolution is to draw the attention of the Government and of the House to what I consider a very serious want at the present time, and that is an opportunity for transacting Supreme Court business in Townsville more frequently. The principal reason is this: The populations of Townsville and Charters Towers together aggregate something like 20,000 persons, and then there are Ravenswood, Norwood, and other important places on the railway line, connected with Townsville by daily trains. Ayr is also in close proximity to Townsville, and the people there would use Townsville, if they had the opportunity, for the transaction of judicial business. I can safely say, therefore, that there are 25,000 people who are within an easy radius of Townsville, and who are at present practically debarred from the advantages of a supreme court in consequence of the only judge in the district residing at Bowen. In consequence of the difficulty in reaching Bowen a large number of insolvency cases are brought down to the capital. In referring to the Supreme Court at Bowen I do not for a moment pretend to say that the Supreme Court should be removed from Bowen. The Government have gone to considerable expense in building a Supreme Court there, and in appointing a judge who has a very large amount of travelling to do. Last year that judge tried no less than 79 criminal cases, and in comparison with the other Supreme Court judges of the colony that is a far greater proportion than he should have had to try. He has, of course, a very much larger extent of territory to travel over, and hon. members have only to look at the maps on the walls of this Chamber to see what an enormous area the one judge in the North has to travel over. I believe his circuit has now been extended to Normanton, and no doubt it will shortly be extended to Croydon and

to Hughenden. It is impossible for one judge to get through the business for the north of Queensland, and as legislative action is necessary for the appointment of a second judge, I desire now to bring the matter under the consideration of the House and of the Government.

The PREMIER: What do you propose? One at Bowen and one at Townsville?

Mr. BROWN: One to reside in Townsville and one travelling judge. As I said, the Northern Supreme Court Circuit will shortly be extended to Croydon—it must soon be, I think—and if the Northern Judge has to go there it will take him away from Bowen for five or six weeks at a time. Even if he were to remain all the time at Bowen, he would not be accessible to a large portion of the population of North Queensland, because Bowen is not in a central position. I say a large amount of business has to be transacted by 25,000 people within easy radius of Townsville—a large amount of insolvency and civil business—and a great part of it has to be brought down to Brisbane because the people will not go to Bowen with it. I do not say the Supreme Court at Bowen should be closed, because the Government have gone to considerable expense in connection with it, and it may be desirable to have a judge there; but I say we should have a judge in Townsville. It is, of course, a matter for the Government to decide, and they can determine what business one judge can get through; but I am of opinion that one judge is not able to get through all the business in the North of Queensland, looking at the enormous extent of territory he has to travel over. It is necessary to make early provision for this, and therefore I draw the attention of the House to what I conceive to be a very important subject. I say again, and I cannot too often repeat it, that there are 25,000 people, at least, residing in and contiguous to Townsville who are at present compelled to transact a very large portion of their civil and insolvency business in Brisbane; and I say that such a state of things should not be permitted to exist. The Government have lately given some evidence of a desire to decentralise, and they propose to establish some Government offices in Townsville and Rockhampton; and the establishment of a Supreme Court at Townsville should be one of the first changes made. We are to have a branch of the Real Property Office at Townsville and heads of departments there, and I consider we should have a Supreme Court judge there, and that as soon as possible. I know that a very great deal of inconvenience and expense is caused to suitors in North Queensland by being compelled to come to Brisbane. It is as much trouble for them to go to Bowen as to come to Brisbane, and if they did go to Bowen the judge might be away, as he has to spend a good deal of his time in travelling. There are a very large number of people who have court business to transact, and if it is to be done we must have a judge residing in Townsville. As it is near the time for the suspension of private business, and I am anxious the Government should have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon this matter, I will conclude by moving the motion standing in my name.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I should like to have heard the opinion of some of the Northern members on this matter before expressing my own, because it is a matter on which a great deal of deference will be naturally paid by the Government and by the House to the wishes of the Northern members themselves, as was done in the year 1874. I was in the House, but was not a member of the Government at that time, when additional judges were appointed, one of them in the North. It was a question

then as to the best place for the Northern Judge to reside, and practically it was left to the Northern members; and Bowen was selected. Since then the circumstances of North Queensland have altered very much, and it is perfectly true, as the hon. member says, that practically the court at Bowen is of no use to the people of the North. I know, as a matter of fact, that a great proportion of the business of the North is done in Brisbane, because Brisbane is more accessible than Bowen. It will not always be so, but it is so at the present time. It would be perfectly absurd, however, to have one Supreme Court judge at Bowen and another at Townsville, with two registrars, two sheriffs, and all that sort of thing. That is quite out of the question; so that it is for the Northern members to say whether they desire to have their Supreme Court at Bowen or at Townsville; they certainly cannot have both. My own opinion is that Townsville is more convenient, and that if the judge resided there a great deal more local business would be done there than is done at Bowen—probably five times as much. The hon. member referred to another matter—and I am endeavouring to leave time before 6 o'clock for some Northern members to speak on that point, otherwise I should have spoken at greater length—that is, whether one judge can now do all the work in the North. That is a very important point, and deserves very serious consideration. The judge has to go on circuit to Mackay, Townsville, Charters Towers, and Cooktown; and Normanton is proposed to be added almost immediately. Under those circumstances his absence from Bowen will be so great that practically there will not be a resident judge there at all; so that the matter deserves serious consideration. And if one judge cannot do the work there must, of course, be two judges; but it must be settled where the Supreme Court is to be, because it must be distinctly understood that as far as I am concerned I shall never consent to have two rival judges, one at Bowen and another at Townsville, within 100 miles of each other.

Mr. CHUBB said: Mr. Speaker,—As the representative of the district in which the Northern Judge resides I wish to say a word on this question, though I do not suppose it can be determined in the five minutes remaining for private business, but must go over to another day. I did not expect there would have been time to bring forward the motion at all to-day, otherwise I should have been prepared to have gone into the question more fully; but I have looked at the statistics bearing on the question and I think the real questions are—first, whether a second judge is necessary to administer the Northern business; second, where he should reside; and third, where the court of appeal should have its sittings. It has not yet been pointed out that the Northern Judge sits as a court of appeal. He first of all tries a case as a court of first instance, and from that there is an appeal to himself, with an ultimate appeal to the court in Brisbane. Therefore, if a second judge were appointed, that judge would, I suppose, sit as a member of the Northern court of appeal, and he should properly have his residence where the other judge resides. I do not contend for a moment that the two judges should be resident in Bowen, because that would deprive Townsville, Charters Towers, and other places of the benefit proposed to be conferred by the appointment of another judge. Another point is whether Townsville is sufficiently central for Normanton, Cooktown, Herberton, and other places. Looking at the statistics—if I have taken out the figures correctly—the Northern Judge tried seventy-nine criminal cases last year, while the three judges in the South only tried eighty-two; so that his criminal work was as

heavy within three cases as that of the three Southern Judges. And I believe I am correct in saying that it was heavier in this sense, that the calendar comprised offences of a much graver nature. Considerably more murder cases are tried in the North than in the South; and that will be the case for some time, because a great many of the criminals in the North are aboriginals and members of other coloured races. Looking at the civil business, there were thirteen civil cases tried in the North against forty-five in the South; so that the Northern Judge did about as much civil work as each of the three Southern Judges. The amount involved in the cases tried in the North was £28,000, and that in the South was £70,000; so it will be seen that the Northern Judge had a very large amount of work to do. I think I am correct in saying that the papers in connection with Mr. Justice Cooper's travelling expenses show that he was away on circuit last year between sixty and seventy days. During that time, of course, he was absent from Bowen, and the business to be done in chambers had to come to Brisbane, unless it could be taken before him while on circuit. To that length of time we must add the two vacations—four weeks in winter and ten weeks in summer—which make fourteen more weeks to be added to the ten weeks he is on circuit. And if Normanton is added to the circuit this year—I will not hazard a positive statement—I believe the two sittings there will take up four weeks each, because according to the way the steamers are now arranged it will take the judge four weeks to go to Normanton and back and hold his court; and if he happens to miss a steamer he will have to wait a fortnight. That will add two months more to the time he is away from Bowen, during which time business that could otherwise be done in Bowen will have to be taken to Brisbane. Of course, it is considerably to the advantage of the barristers practising in Brisbane that the business should be done here, but it is no advantage to the people of the North, who would get their business done much more quickly if they had more frequent communication with Bowen, or if they had a judge residing in Townsville. But if Mr. Justice Cooper were removed to Townsville, and people took all their business there instead of as now sending a good deal of it to Brisbane, it is very evident that he could not do all the work.

At 7 o'clock,

The SPEAKER said: In accordance with the sessional order, the private business which has been under discussion now stands adjourned until after the discussion of Government business.

### SUPPLY.

#### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the Speaker left the chair, and the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, to further consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

#### COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Question—That the sum of £5,635 be granted for the Colonial Secretary's Office—salaries and contingencies.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. B. B. Moreton) said he was sorry that it had taken a very long time to make out the returns promised, and that they were not yet forwarded to him; he expected, however, that they would be in a quarter of an hour. They had been very voluminous.

Mr. NORTON said that perhaps the Colonial Secretary could recollect some of the information the Committee had asked for. Could the hon.

gentleman tell them whether the clerks of petty sessions had authorised the insertion of the electoral lists in any papers other than those published in the districts? Did the clerk of petty sessions at Warwick, for instance, authorise the insertion of the lists for that electorate in any papers but the paper in Warwick?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he could not say for certain, but he did not think they had.

Mr. NORTON said he was sorry the returns were not before them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: So am I.

Mr. NORTON said he was sorry, because it appeared to him that what he had expected all along would be the case, was so—that the clerks of petty sessions had only done what they were authorised to do; that was, to advertise the lists in the local papers. That was so, and they might have been told that at once. Then, if the clerks of petty sessions had only done that, who had given authority for the insertion of the lists in all the papers about Brisbane? That was the point they wanted to get at. Who had authorised the insertion of those advertisements in the *Evangelical Standard*?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I told you that last night.

Mr. NORTON said he did not hear the hon. gentleman say that he authorised the publication in the *Evangelical Standard*.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; I did say that.

Mr. NORTON: In all these small papers?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; this year.

Mr. NORTON: I am talking of last year.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not know who did it last year.

Mr. NORTON: If the clerks of petty sessions only authorised the publication in the local papers, somebody else must have authorised it in the other papers.

The PREMIER said it might be taken for granted with respect to any advertisement in any paper other than those published in the districts that the department in Brisbane was responsible for them. Whether that was so or not the Government were ready to take the responsibility; right or wrong they would take the responsibility of having done it.

Mr. BLACK said he had no doubt the Colonial Secretary had looked into the matter to some extent since last night's debate. Now, with reference to one item—the account sent in for £1,050 for advertising the electoral rolls last year in *The Planter and Farmer*—the hon. gentleman had promised last year that it would be subjected to a very minute scrutiny for the purpose of reducing the amount. Had the hon. gentleman looked up that matter, and could he give the Committee any information as to the result of that minute scrutiny?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had been very busy that morning receiving two deputations, and had had very little time to look into the matter himself; but he had made the inquiry the hon. member referred to, and had been given to understand that the amount was cut down by some £400 or £500.

Mr. BLACK said he was sorry the returns they had been led to expect had not arrived.

The PREMIER said they would be there in a few minutes.

Mr. BLACK said he would suggest that they should adjourn for a quarter of an hour till the returns arrived or else postpone the item and go on with the next vote. He did not see any objection to its being left till the end of the Estimates; the necessary advertising for the department would go on just the same.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said considerable exception had been taken on the previous evening to his discrediting the assertion of the Colonial Secretary that the papers would be laid on the table that afternoon, if he had only got the money voted last night. If the Colonial Secretary had got the money last night they would not have been able to get the papers that afternoon or any other afternoon during the present session. Ten months ago the information was asked for, and now the extent of the information the hon. gentleman could give was that the little advertising bill of *The Planter and Farmer* had been cut down by £400 or £500, so that it was still exceedingly excessive. It was undesirable that they should pass that item before they had the fullest information. Could not the Colonial Secretary himself propose the postponement of the item till the end of the Estimates or have an adjournment for the purpose?

The PREMIER said the fact that the clerks in the department had been engaged from 10 that morning until now preparing the returns asked for yesterday was very good evidence of the unreasonableness of the request that the Colonial Secretary should supply the information at a moment's notice. The compilation of the return was commenced at 10 that morning—he had seen it half finished about 1 o'clock; it was then very voluminous, but he was told it was not half ready, and could not possibly be ready before 7 o'clock.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he contended that the return ought to have been made out ten months ago during the recess. The information was asked for in October last, and the returns ought to have been in the hands of the Colonial Secretary long before the beginning of the session. There was plenty of time in the recess to make them out. It disclosed an amount of negligence in the administration of the Colonial Secretary's Office that he did not think any member of the Committee contemplated. The further they went into the matter the worse was the aspect it assumed.

Mr. W. BROOKES said he did not understand the thing in the way the junior member for Cook put it. His recollection of what took place last year was that the explanation then tendered from the Government benches was held to be satisfactory.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Oh, no!

Mr. NORTON: It was not.

Mr. W. BROOKES said that even supposing that point to be arguable, it was not arguable that the Government did not give a distinct pledge to prepare the returns which they had been preparing that day. The Government had been distinctly taken by surprise.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: No.

Mr. W. BROOKES said he was not speaking from a party point of view; on a question of that sort he would as soon side with the leader of the Opposition as with the Premier; but he wanted to have the right, just thing, and the remarks of the junior member for Cook would entirely mislead the public. They would not mislead anybody in the Committee, excepting only those who were actuated by motives rather lower than purely political ones. He would repeat that there

was no understanding, no promise, no engagement, no undertaking, to provide the returns which the junior member for Cook had just spoken of as having been distinctly promised, and which, because they were not before members, that hon. member considered to be equal to a breach of faith on the part of the Government. It was all an exaggerated statement made by the hon. member in party interests.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Which party?

Mr. NORTON said it was useless discussing whether a distinct promise was made last session or not. They expected the information to be given, and they were led to understand that it would be given, even if a distinct promise to that effect was not made. One portion of the information they asked for last night they had obtained that day, and that was that the department took the responsibility of advertising the whole of those rolls in the papers to which exception was taken by the Committee. He had strongly suspected that all along; that the clerks of petty sessions were not to blame at all, but that those advertisements were inserted on the authority of the Colonial Secretary.

The PREMIER: No, they were not.

Mr. NORTON said he was glad to hear it. That was one of the reasons why he was anxious for the information. If it was not done on the authority of the Colonial Secretary, he should like to know on whose authority it was done. He did not know whether that was what was called "job printing," but it looked as if there was a "job" somewhere about. It could not but be looked upon as offering a sop to certain papers—that was about the gist of the matter; and it was hoped one effect of the debate last session might be to prevent anything of the kind being done in the future. Yet, notwithstanding what took place last session, they found a repetition of the same thing admittedly done on the authority of the Colonial Secretary. It was perfectly useless to talk about practising stringent economy when things like those were allowed, apparently for the purpose of offering a sop to the papers for their support. If there was any other object in view he should like to know what it was. But he did not suppose the *Evangelical Standard* would get any more of those advertisements. The gentleman who had that paper now was, he believed, a supporter of the Opposition; so that as far as that paper was concerned they need be under no apprehension.

Mr. W. BROOKES said it was rather a curious thing to see the hon. member for Port Curtis posing as the deadly enemy of all lavish expenditure. He (Mr. Brookes) remembered a Ministry of which that hon. gentleman was a member. At that time there was a paper—he wished to call the junior member for Cook's special attention to this—a disreputable paper—the very antipodes of a Christian paper—and there was a standing order in the Government Printing Office that all land advertisements should be inserted in it.

The PREMIER: All advertisements from every department.

Mr. W. BROOKES said that after what had just fallen from the Premier, the hon. member for Port Curtis would give him credit for great moderation, and while remarking that "two blacks do not make a white," he would simply tell that hon. member that if he would throw his memory back he would find that his record was not so spotless as he would have the Committee think.



Mr. NORTON said that he certainly was not responsible for any standing order of the kind mentioned by the hon. member for North Brisbane being given in reference to any paper. He knew nothing whatever about it, and it was given, if given at all, without his knowledge. But that was not the question at issue. The question was that the Government, while professing to be guided by motives of the strictest economy, were throwing away money in sops to newspapers, and the Committee wanted to know by whose authority that was done.

Mr. HAMILTON said it was amusing to hear the junior member for North Brisbane compare the economy of the present Government with the extravagance of the last Government. He would give one or two facts which would make the comparison a little more complete. During the McIlwraith Administration the hon. members who now sat on the Government side attacked the then Government on account of the extravagant manner in which they subsidised papers. The consequence of that was, that during the last year of the McIlwraith Government a return was called for, and that return showed that the amount spent in advertising during a whole year, and over the whole of the colony, was £4,135 13s. 6d. Now, let them compare the amount spent by that extravagant Government with the amount spent for the same purpose by the present economical Government. The amount spent in advertising by the present economical Government during the year 1885 was £10,802, and during the year 1886 it was £12,500.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Without any standing order.

Mr. HAMILTON said he would show how that had been done. He had it on good information that orders were given to insert the rolls for North Brisbane, Enoggera, and the Valley in the *Southern World*, the *Sandgate Directory*, and the *Valley Vindicator*. Those three papers were all owned by the same proprietor; they were all published in the same office, and the same setting up of type answered for the whole lot. All that had to be done was to alter the blank heading—to call one the *Valley Vindicator*, one the *Sandgate Directory*, and the other the South Brisbane paper—stick in a fresh leading article and a few locals, and the same setting up of type would do for all. *The Valley Vindicator*, he believed, was dead, but it lived long enough. It was a strong supporter of the present Government.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No, no!

Mr. McMASTER: Of the Opposition.

Mr. HAMILTON said he would ask—was not the system of advertising adopted most absurd, when they found the Darling Downs rolls published in the *Evangelical Standard* for no possible reason? The hon. member for North Brisbane had regarded with horror the fact of the Government advertising in any paper until they had first discovered what were the morals of that paper; and any paper which did not come up to the hon. member's standard was a disgrace to the colony. He did not know whether there being no advertisements in the *Australian* was on account of the morals of that paper or on account of its proprietors. He could hardly think that. In the first place it was utterly absurd to publish the Darling Downs rolls in the way they had been published. According to the Act it was quite sufficient to publish the rolls in one paper in the district, and why publish them in the *Evangelical Standard*? He did not know whether it arose from the particular moral tone of that paper. It could hardly be that, because the *Australian* had a far larger circulation than the *Evangelical*

*Standard*, and yet it did not get the publication of one single roll. But there was another paper which did get the insertion of those advertisements, the *Evangelical Standard*; and perhaps it was on account of the proprietors, whose names, according to the last return, were Robt. Bulcock, S. Grimes, J. Grimes, Grimes and Petty, E. Griffith, A. Midgley, J. Macfarlane, and J. McMaster. It said "John Macfarlane, of Ipswich"; therefore they knew who was meant. From that they could now form their own opinions as to the reason why that paper had got those advertisements.

Mr. ALAND said there was a disingenuousness about the remarks of the hon. senior member for Cook; he did not think he should have taken notice of them only—

Mr. MOREHEAD: Only it was pointed out to you.

Mr. ALAND said he did not think he should have taken any notice of those remarks, only they were also made last night by the hon. member for Bowen, and on that account they were worth being taken notice of. Great stress had been laid on the fact, or alleged fact, that the McIlwraith Government in their last year of existence expended only £4,000 in advertising. That was altogether a mistake. A return was never made to that House as to the whole amount for advertising spent by that Government during the last year of its administration. The only return furnished, and which had been mentioned by the hon. member for Bowen and the senior member for Cook, was a return of the advertising in Brisbane newspapers, and if hon. members would look at it they would see for themselves how much the *Evangelical Standard* got. The return showed the following payments:—*Brisbane Courier*, £712 3s. 8d.; *Daily Telegraph*, £666 1s. 5d.; *Observer*, £774 3s. 8d.; *Queenslander*, £467 2s.; *Week*, £127 3s. 6d.; *Leader*, £99 15s. 3d.; *Tribune*, £124 18s.; *Planter and Farmer*, £216 19s. 6d.; *Figaro*, £448; *Punch*, £252; *Good Templar*, £5.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Mr. ALAND: *Nord Australische Zeitung*, £144 15s.; *Sugar Planter*, £12 9s. 6d.; *Queensland Evangelical Standard*, £8 12s.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Mr. ALAND: So that they were only making up for lost time. *Queensland Trade Review*, £12 9s. 6d.; *Australian*, £109 0s. 6d.; *Daily Leader*, £64 11s. 6d.; *Southern World*, £47 11s. 3d.; *National Association Catalogue*, £7; *Queensland Guardian*, £5 7s. 6d.; *Mercantile Gazette*, £3 17s. 6d.; *Brisbane Directory*, £2; *Pugh's Almanac*, £2; *Australian Sketcher*, £1 12s. Total, £4,315 13s. 6d. So that if hon. members would really like to know how those amounts would compare with the advertising of the present Government they should call for a return of the advertisements published in the Brisbane newspapers.

Mr. HAMILTON: Move for it.

Mr. ALAND said he did not want to know. He wished to point out most emphatically that it was very unfair to use figures in the way they had been used by the hon. member for Bowen and the senior member for Cook.

Mr. SHERIDAN said that during the debate last evening several newspapers were mentioned as having published the Enoggera electoral roll. The names of those papers were the *Evangelical Standard*, *Southern World*, *Courier*, *Telegraph*, *Observer*, *Moreton Mail*, *Sandgate Directory*, *Farmer and Planter*; and further on it was stated that *The Farmer and Planter* received a sum of

£1,000. Now, he wished to ask the Colonial Secretary this question. He held in his hand a very respectable newspaper, well printed, full of intelligence, most of it historical; it consisted of twenty-seven pages, ten of which were advertisements, but not one from the Government. He alluded to the *Australian*, a paper representing to a certain extent the views and opinions of a large section of the community—an orderly, peace-loving, law-abiding people, who contributed very largely to the taxes of this colony. He must say it seemed strange, and he could not in his own mind account for it, except in a way that he would not like to utter—that that paper was denied a solitary Government advertisement. He would ask the Colonial Secretary if there was any reason for that. His own knowledge of the hon. gentleman was such that he was perfectly satisfied he was entirely free from prejudice, and therefore he thought there must be some great mistake in denying to that paper, which represented almost one-third of the taxpayers of the colony, so much as a shilling of Government money. He trusted the Committee would bear him out—for he felt sure hon. members were animated by a spirit of fair play. He would not say a word against other papers, either *The Planter and Farmer*, the *Evangelical Standard*, or any other, but he maintained that the paper to which he referred should receive something like fair play. It was, as he had said, a most respectable journal, against which there had never been entered an action for libel—careful in its words and expressions, and, he thought, conducive to the well-being of the whole community. Therefore, he would ask the Colonial Secretary if there was any reason why no advertisements had been given to the *Australian*?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he really could not tell why no advertisements had been given to that paper. He supposed it had not asked for any. At the present time there was an application from it on his table asking for advertisements, but it had not yet been dealt with.

Mr. STEVENSON: Since when?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Some short time ago.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he had just taken the trouble to pick out the amount paid to the Brisbane newspapers in the return which was called for last year by himself, and as far as he could make out, it amounted to about £3,700, as against £4,500 paid by the late Administration. That, of course, was not counting the country advertisements. He had not the slightest doubt that had the whole of the returns been called for during the McIlwraith Administration, they would have shown a very substantial increase over the amount paid by the present Government. He was perfectly certain there was an excess of advertising going on then. He could only say that the discussion tended to show that if one had to fight people with sticks he must fight with a bit of a stick himself, and it showed, too, that the advertising business was a thoroughly immoral business, and that the sooner some means were adopted to put a stop to it the better. The suggestion had been made that afternoon that an advertising sheet should be issued with *Hansard*. He saw no reason why that should not be done, and during the recess it could be issued with the *Government Gazette*. Then there could be no imputations on either side, or one side hurling charges of undue bribery of newspapers against the other. If none of the papers got advertisements, no one could grumble, and neither party would have the opportunity of throwing mud at the other. With regard to the complaint made by his

hon. friend the member for Maryborough, Mr. Sheridan, that the *Australian* received no advertisements, he should like to get a little information about a friend of his—the disreputable paper which the hon. member for North Brisbane alluded to. He referred to *Figaro*. Why should he not get a show? He believed he was receiving £14 a week from the late Government, and he (Mr. Hill) found there was no trouble at all about getting the rent then. He really thought *Figaro* was hardly treated, as last year he was put down for £39 14s. 10d. for the whole year. Now, that was playing it rather low down on *Figaro* considering that he was getting £14 a week before. He (Mr. Hill) hoped the Colonial Secretary, especially, would see the error of his ways and give *Figaro* a little more.

Mr. STEVENSON: Does he not pay the rent now?

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he took very good care of that. There was no trouble about it.

Mr. STEVENSON: Is there no trouble now?

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said: Well, there was a little. The Government did not appear at all inclined to assist *Figaro*, and that was rather a pity, he thought, considering what a staunch supporter they had in his landlord.

Mr. SHERIDAN said it appeared that the Colonial Secretary had received an application from the *Australian* newspaper for advertisements, but he had pigeon-holed it. He would like very much to know the date of the application, and whether it was received before the Enoggera roll was published, because that was a very material fact. If the hon. gentleman's memory would not serve him, would he supply the information to-morrow?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he forgot the exact date of the application, but he knew it must have been after the lists for Enoggera were out, because the application was to have the same lists as the *Evangelical Standard* received.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he was glad to hear that from the hon. gentleman. It was quite evident that the persons who applied for advertisements knew that the proprietors of the *Evangelical Standard* would get the best share, especially as the registered shareholders comprised a number of members on the Government side of the House. He quite understood the proprietary dying after getting the advertising of the July rolls paid for. That was the least that could be expected from the present Government. It was probably thought the time of the Government had come, so the proprietary died, and the paper got into other hands. Probably the present Government would not be so good to the present proprietors as they were to the old ones. Of course, the hon. junior member for Cook never got up that he did not attack the Press, and combined that with forcing a lot of uninteresting information upon the Committee: that he was a large householder, a landlord, a very wealthy man, and that he had, among other tenants, a poor devil of a newspaper proprietor. No doubt it was great fun for this very wealthy gentleman to poke fun at some poor man who ran a paper. It was great sport for him. No doubt the hon. member did get his rent. God forbid that he (Mr. Morehead) should ever have anything to do with the hon. member, or have any monetary relations with him when he would be in a position to take anything which it might not be convenient for him (Mr. Morehead)

to pay, because if ever there was a man living who extorted his pound of flesh it was the junior member for Cook. He would spare nobody, neither friend nor foe; he appeared to have no particular place in that Committee, and it would be very much better if some particular spot could be assigned to him, either in the Committee or in the next world. In the next world they pretty well knew what would become of him. He would be treated in the same way as a certain person was treated who went to the place where he ought to have gone, but who made himself so obnoxious that he was provided with a box of matches and requested to go and make a separate department for himself. The hon. member should be put in that position. He was no use in that Committee, and he (Mr. Morehead) doubted very much whether he was any ornament.

Mr. HAMILTON said the hon. member for Toowoomba had read out a return of the amounts paid to certain papers for advertising by the last Government, and he would now show how some of those papers were treated by the present Government in 1885. In 1885 *Figaro* received £529s. 6d., and the *Leader*, a Government paper, with not one-tenth of the circulation of *Figaro*, and which had since died—it was strange that all those papers should appear to be anticipating the death of the Government—the *Leader* received £207. The *Australian* received during the same year £6, while the *Christian Messenger* received £12 11s. 9d., and the *Evangelical Standard* received over £107. This year the *Australian*, it appeared, had not received a solitary advertisement. The *Christian Messenger*, according to its own statements—and being a religious paper he supposed it would not tell a lie—had twice the circulation of the *Evangelical Standard*. The Colonial Secretary admitted that the *Australian* had asked for advertisements which had appeared in another paper, and the mere fact of their asking for the right to advertise those rolls indicated that the time had not passed when it would be too late to advertise them.

Mr. CHUBB said the hon. member for Toowoomba had accused him of having made an unfair statement last evening in connection with that matter. That statement he now found was unfair, but he had made it quite inadvertently. While the debate was going on he went to the bookcase, and, taking down a book, looked for the return very hurriedly, and quoted from it without knowing that the return moved for by Mr. Hamilton was only in regard to the Brisbane newspapers. He had naturally concluded that the return was for all the newspapers in the colony, the same as the return moved for by Mr. Lissner. He therefore did not know the total cost for 1883, but he was right in stating that the cost for the year ended June 30th, 1885, was £10,802.

The PREMIER said no one thought the hon. and learned member for Bowen would make statements in that House unless he believed them to be true. The hon. member had made a mistake, and he admitted it. He could not say the same with respect to all the members of the House.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said he thought it would be far better in the interests of all concerned if no advertisements at all were given to either of those religious papers. It gave rise to unseemly discussion and remark every year. He thought every newspaper started in the interests of any religious denomination or form of religious belief should be supported by those professing that belief. If they were strong enough to start the paper they ought to be strong enough to keep it

going. They all knew pretty well that while the last Government were in power the *Australian* had the drawing-room and the *Evangelical Standard* the kitchen.

Mr. MOREHEAD: No.

The PREMIER: *Figaro* had the drawing-room.

Mr. W. BROOKES: Is *Figaro* a religious paper?

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said he was not dealing with *Figaro*, and he believed it did not claim to be a religious paper. The two papers he was dealing with were the religious papers—the *Australian* and the *Evangelical Standard*.

Mr. SHERIDAN: The *Australian* does not claim to be a religious paper.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said the hon. member was outside the lines altogether, and knew as well as he did that the *Australian* was a religious paper, and, at any rate, was believed outside to be a religious paper. He said it was far better that neither of those papers should get any Government advertisements, and then they would have no more of such discussions.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said it would be better to go still further, and give no advertisements to any paper. That would be a considerable saving in the present hard times. It would be better again to call upon all the papers to insert Government advertisements free, as a *quid pro quo* for having their wares hawked about the colony free. It was only right to call upon them to do something for the privilege they enjoyed.

Mr. STEVENSON said it was time the discussion came to an end. They were told at ten minutes past 7 o'clock that they would have a certain return in a quarter of an hour, and the Premier had promised they would get it in two minutes, and they had not got it yet. The Premier, by way of paying a compliment to one member, had accused other members of saying what was untrue, without mentioning names. But if he wished to pay any member a compliment he should not call another member a "liar" in doing so. They all knew to whom the hon. gentleman referred. He referred to a gentleman he never liked to see get up and make a speech in that House, and if he wished to make such an accusation as that he should have the manliness to make it outside and not inside the House. If the Government seriously intended to go on with the business they had better postpone that vote until the information asked for was supplied. He trusted, therefore, that the present unseemly discussion would come to an end. Before he sat down he wished to correct a statement made in *Hansard* that morning. It was reported that he had stated last night that he had never seen the *Evangelical Standard*, and that statement was repeated in the *Telegraph* that afternoon. He did not intend to say that, and did not believe he did say it. What he did say was that he did not often see it now—just as the Premier had said he had not seen it more than once or twice within the last few months. He had often seen the *Evangelical Standard*, and that was the very reason he did not see it now—because he did not think it worth seeing.

Mr. MOREHEAD said it was a matter to be regretted that the Premier should so far forget himself as to say of any member of that Committee that, though that member was not in the habit of making an untrue statement, he was sorry he could not say the same for some other members. That was a general charge of falsehood levelled against every member of the Committee, and unless the hon. gentleman specified

to whom he intended it to apply, some explanation was due to the Committee. If the statement was true it was a very damaging one for the reputation of members of that Committee, and if, on the other hand, it was untrue, it was a very damaging statement for the reputation of the Premier himself.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had just received the return asked for. It was very voluminous, and he would lay it on the table for any member who wished to see it.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL asked if the Colonial Secretary could not give the Committee a digest of the return? If the return was to be laid on the table and scanned by individual members, by the time they had all had a look at it there would not be much time for any more business that night.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the amounts paid to the different newspapers for advertising electoral lists during the year 1886-7 were as follow:—

Australian Christian World	£29	4	3
Bundaberg and Mount Perry Mail	11	15	0
Brisbane Courier	360	10	0
Border Post	5	4	0
Bundaberg Star	17	2	6
Cairns Post	1	16	0
Charleville Times	8	10	0
Cooktown Courier	6	11	6
Cooktown Independent	7	7	0
Carpentaria Times	6	17	6
Cunnamulla Express	8	1	0
Capricornian	4	14	0
Charters Towers Herald	31	1	0
Cairns Chronicle	5	0	0
Darling Downs Gazette	45	7	4
Darby Herald	13	15	0
Evangelical Standard	261	18	10
Gladstone Observer	5	12	6
Herberton Advertiser	12	19	0
Hughenden Ensign	5	0	0
Ipswich Advocate	62	3	0
Logan Witness	16	1	0
McLutye Herald	3	16	0
Maryborough Chronicle	34	10	6
Morning Bulletin	60	18	6
Mackay Standard	14	4	6
Mackay Mercury	11	16	0
Moreton Mail	143	13	6
Northern Miner	12	6	0
Norran Chronicle	1	13	0
Nord Australische Zeitung	269	17	5
Northern Argus	37	6	0
North Queensland Telegraph	22	2	0
Northern Standard	24	16	0
Northern Bulletin	31	16	6
Observer	354	18	0
Palmer Chronicle	7	8	0
Peak Downs Telegram	11	0	0
Port Douglas Chronicle	2	15	6
Port Douglas Times	2	7	6
Port Denison Times	6	15	0
Planter and Farmer	495	0	5
Queenslander	1	0	0
Queensland Leader	145	19	6
Quiver	80	14	0
Queensland Times	31	7	0
Ravenswood Mining Journal	9	7	0
Roma Free Press	12	10	6
Southern World	372	4	0
Sandgate Directory	176	13	9
Southport and Nerang Bulletin	29	12	0
St. George Standard	7	10	0
Townsville Telegraph	1	6	0
Townsville Weekly Herald	26	9	9
Thargomindah Herald	9	6	0
Toowoomba Chronicle	44	13	0
Telegraph	371	2	6
Valley Vindicator	62	15	0
Wide Bay and Burnett News	30	19	6
Winton Herald	9	17	0
Western Star	13	7	0
Warwick Argus	19	11	0
Warwick Examiner and Times	18	12	6
Western Champion	45	16	3
Total	£3,996	4	0

Since the 30th June there had been paid £114 3s.

Mr. MOREHEAD: What is owing?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not know. The amount of £114 3s. was made up as follows:—

Brisbane Courier	£5	4	0
Capricornian	2	12	0
Charters Towers Miner	2	0	0
Cooktown Courier	1	5	0
Cooktown Independent	2	2	0
Cairns Chronicle	1	7	0
Evangelical Standard	29	2	0
Howard and Isis Advocate	0	15	0
Ipswich Advocate	13	8	0
Moreton Mail	1	2	0
Morning Bulletin	4	0	6
North Queensland Telegraph	1	4	0
Northern Miner	2	0	0
Observer	11	0	0
Peak Downs Telegram	1	7	6
Port Douglas Times	0	17	0
Port Douglas Chronicle	0	14	0
Queenslander	0	15	0
Ravenswood Mining Journal	1	4	0
Southern World	7	14	0
Telegraph	14	2	0
Wide Bay and Burnett News	3	3	0
Winton Herald	0	16	0
Zeitung	6	9	0

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he did not wonder now at the difficulty they had in getting the return out of the Government. It was most discreditable to them to be compelled to put such a return on the table, and he was glad they had been compelled to do so, because it showed how the money had been wasted on papers that really had not much circulation. As far as he could gather from the figures read by the Colonial Secretary, the money had been exceedingly badly expended and very unfairly apportioned, taking it upon the basis of circulation, which he believed was the true basis for the apportionment of Government advertisements. If that kind of thing went on they would soon come to such a state of things that the advertising business must be taken out of the hands of the Government. He did not say that the present Government was a bit worse than the late Government. The late Government was just as bad; they all appeared to make fish of one and fowl of another. The only difference was that the late Government directed their efforts in a direction the reverse of the present, and supported papers like *Figaro*, instead of sanctioning ones like the *Christian World* and the *Evangelical Standard*. In the one case the disreputable papers got the best of it, and in the other it was the Christian papers. He did not think it right at all that religion should enter into politics in any way; and because certain papers were religious it was no reason why they should be fed up with Government advertisements and kept going by them, he did not care which side gave the advertisements. He thought it a very wrong thing, and very immoral, and if those papers would only practice what they preached they certainly would never touch the filthy lucre that was acquired by those means. It was an act of fraud almost on the people of the colony to distribute their money in that way. He did not blame one Government more than another for the way those advertisements were distributed; but it must be very evident to the Committee from the discussion which had taken place that it was time to put a stop to that method of procedure. He thought hon. members on both sides would gladly endeavour to join in putting a stop to it. No doubt as they were on the eve of a general election hon. members were very much frightened of their respective organs, but he thought their influence a little overrated, and the people of the colony would honour their representatives and give them all due credit if they put their feet down firmly, and endeavoured to stop iniquities of that sort.

Mr. GROOM said it would have been better if the hon. the junior member for Cook had drawn a distinction between the metropolitan

Press and the provincial when making his raid with regard to the question of advertising. In the list the Colonial Secretary had read the hon. member must see that the provincial papers had not received anything like what the metropolitan Press had. The hon. gentleman would see there was a difference. When the matter was under discussion last session, there had been some talk of a certain class called "Press vampires," who were never satisfied unless when they were knocking at the door of the Government departments requesting Government advertisements. Who had the control of the advertisements in those papers was really a question that would be very interesting to know. He took it that at least half of the money spent had been expended in advertising electoral lists.

Mr. MOREHEAD: All of it.

Mr. GROOM said he would draw the attention of the Committee to that matter. It appeared that almost every bench of magistrates had its own way of interpreting the Elections Act. He did not believe there would be found two benches who would agree upon any particular clause in that Act—as to its wording or interpretation; and in country districts there had been the greatest injustice done to many of the electors of the colony by the interpretation put upon the clauses in the administration of the Act. In Brisbane the interpretation was this: About August last year the bench went through what was called the "purging process." Now, unless a man put in an application to have his name retained on the roll, he was struck off as not possessing the requisite qualification. But in Brisbane they did this; and it was a remarkable fact that whilst in the country districts the electors were reduced almost one-half, and in some districts even more, in Brisbane there was a large increase. That occurred in this way: In Brisbane the members made it their business to institute a house-to-house examination, and took the names of the electors down. The result was that when the revision court took place upon those applications the clerks of petty sessions, in place of advertising only the names of new applicants, advertised the names of all on the rolls, and the *Courier* and *Observer*, as hon. members would remember, took almost a fortnight to publish the entire lists sent to them. On the North Brisbane roll alone there were 3,500 names, which had all to be published in those papers. He was surprised beyond measure when he saw those lists published also in *The Planter and Farmer*. He had turned over page after page of that paper, and wondered if they would ever come to an end. In fact it was inserted as a sort of supplement.

Mr. DONALDSON: The paper was published a few days before the time, to get the advertisements.

Mr. GROOM said the question was, who gave the order for that advertisement in that paper? In the country districts the order of procedure was this: The clerk of petty sessions was instructed to make out the list of names accepted by the bench, and the plan of advertising adopted there was not to publish all the names, but only those who were new applicants. The names of those who applied to have their names retained on the rolls were not advertised. That was a waste of public money, and someone was to blame for the extravagant expenditure as shown in the list read by the Colonial Secretary. In the country districts the clerks of petty sessions had an advertising order book given to them, and they were responsible for all the advertisements, which were afterwards checked by an officer of the Audit Department. The clerks of petty sessions gave the orders, and the Colonial Secretary had

nothing to do with them. He saw nothing of those orders till the quarterly returns were made out and sent to be checked by the Government Printer. The practice in Brisbane was different from that. The clerks of petty sessions were authorised by the Act to give orders for the insertion of those lists in the local papers, and he (Mr. Groom) was of opinion that if any person had given orders for their insertion other than the officers authorised to do so by the Act he should be made to pay for it. He did not think it a fair thing that the *Southern World* and *Planter and Farmer* should receive together £800.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: What about the *Evangelical Standard*?

Mr. GROOM said he would take those two, which together received £800; and it was really one and the same thing, as they belonged to the same office and there was no additional setting-up required. Tabular advertising was very costly.

Mr. STEVENSON: They have the same circulation also.

Mr. GROOM said it was a most extraordinary thing. *The Planter and Farmer* was a monthly journal, and it had a very limited circulation. The *Southern World* being published in South Brisbane, had no doubt a right to advertise the electoral lists for South Brisbane. That would have been reasonable, and no one would object to it; but he saw the lists for Darling Downs and for Aubigny in *The Planter and Farmer*. Now, what in the name of fortune was the use of advertising those rolls in that journal? Some person must have given the order for it outside of Aubigny, because the clerk of petty sessions at Toowoomba gave the order for advertising the roll for Aubigny, and he was sure that gentleman had not given the order for it in *The Planter and Farmer*. What he rose chiefly for was to say that when the hon. member for Cook was referring to matters in connection with the Brisbane Press he should not condemn as he did in a wholesale way the whole Press of the colony. He would tell that hon. member that there were connected with the Press of the colony as honourable men as himself, and they would scorn to accept bribes in the shape of Government advertisements. To a country newspaper the Government advertisements were a mere drop in the bucket. If they were withdrawn to-morrow who would be the sufferers? Not the newspaper proprietors by any means. The hon. member had made the suggestion that if *Hansard* were distributed gratuitously to the newspapers the Government should attach an advertising-sheet to it. Now, did he suppose for a moment that the newspaper proprietors would be such consummate fools as to circulate those advertisements for nothing? If the hon. member wanted to make a suggestion for stamping out *Hansard* he could not do it more effectually than by having what he called an advertising-sheet attached to it. It would be a most ridiculous thing. As to the advantages of advertising, he would call the attention of hon. members to a few facts. There had been statements made in a very fair way that parsimony had been shown by the Lands Department in advertising land sales. Well, about three months ago, the Government placed in the market for sale, at Toowoomba, some very valuable building sites on the top of the Main Range. In that particular case the Government did advertise a little more freely than usual, with the result that the land fetched over £4,000; whereas at a sale which took place five or six months previously, which was not advertised except in a very bald manner, the people being referred to the *Government Gazette*, the land fetched only the upset price, and nobody

seemed to know anything about it. Advertising was a purely business transaction, and the advertising business of the Government ought to be transacted by somebody who knew something of commercial transactions, at all events. He would point to another illustration of the same subject. It had been the custom every year for the Postmaster-General's Department to advertise the contracts for mail services. Now, hon. members well knew that that was a kind of advertisement that was looked forward to by many persons with great interest; they looked to see what mails were likely to run in their own district; and that advertisement having appeared annually before, was naturally expected by those persons this year. The advertisement had always appeared in the *Courier* first *in extenso*, and subsequently in the *Queenlander*, and then it was abridged in a proper way for all the newspapers in different localities. For instance, in the Darling Downs district the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, the *Darling Downs Gazette*, the *Warwick Argus*, and the *Warwick Examiner* would have the details of the contracts for that district, and so in other districts throughout the colony. This year that practice had been abandoned, and bald advertisements were put in the papers referring contractors to the *Government Gazette*. The result was, he was perfectly sure, that by attempting to save the small expense of advertising the mail services which did not perhaps cost more than £15 or £20 at the outside, hundreds of pounds would be lost on the contracts, and many men were looking forward anxiously and wondering why the usual advertisements did not appear. It was the colony that suffered by such conduct as that, not the newspaper proprietors. In that particular case it was a very small loss indeed to the newspaper proprietors, but a very great loss to the colony, and a very great loss to those men who were looking forward to those contracts, and now knew nothing at all about them. That was a case in illustration of what he had said—that advertising required to be conducted as any man conducted his business—on strictly commercial principles. He had risen particularly to draw the attention of the hon. member for Cook to the fact that when he ran amuck against advertising in general he was to a certain extent on the wrong track. The returns which had been laid on the table, and which he had heard read with very great interest, showed that the provincial papers were not bribed. For example, the journals in the hon. member's own district, the Cook electorate, had got no bribe.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: No; they have not had a fair share.

Mr. GROOM said it was quite clear, at all events, that the Government had not attempted to bribe them. Hon. members would see from the returns that there was a class of persons who did not seem to be able to live unless they got a large number of Government advertisements; and if a paper had to exist on Government advertisements only, the sooner it was abolished the better.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he was not generalising the whole of the Press when he made his uncomplimentary remarks, and he had specially said the other evening, in bringing in his Newspaper Relief Bill, that his remarks were not intended to apply to the Press as a whole. There were some journals in the colony which were conducted on very decent and honest lines, and were very respectable papers; he was only sorry that there were not more of them conducted on the same lines. The hon. member for Toowoomba had not met his argument about the newspapers advertising for nothing in consideration of the privileges they

enjoyed—giving a *quid pro quo* for having their newspapers carried for nothing. The hon. member had simply said that, if he ran amuck at advertising, he would not damage the country papers. Well, he believed in what Macaulay, he thought, said, "Whatsteam is to machinery, so is advertising to business." Judicious advertising was a very good thing, but if the newspapers were as philanthropic as they professed to be they would think it no hardship to insert advertisements that were of interest to their district or the State. If they would not do that, the Government should devise some scheme for circulating advertisements with their own machinery. He would like to refer to the stoppage of the advertisements about the mails, which were now published only in the *Government Gazette*. While the Government were paying the newspapers such a large amount a year for advertising, in a fit of cheeseparing they had stopped the *Government Gazettes* which were formerly issued to the justices of the peace. Now, it was a very small honorarium for a magistrate, who gave up a good deal of time and trouble to look after the affairs of the country, that he should receive a copy of the *Government Gazette* gratuitously.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No one opened them.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Every one of them nearly—that was to say, the literate ones. He did not mean to say it was any use sending the *Gazette* to magistrates appointed for political engineering purposes; but plenty of the magistrates did open their *Gazettes*. They had to keep themselves up, if they did their duty at all, in the fresh laws and enactments. It was a very small thing on the part of the Government to stop those *Gazettes*, unless it was that the Commission of the Peace was so full that it became altogether too expensive.

Mr. BLACK said he wished to endorse, and perhaps to add slightly to, some remarks which fell from the hon. member, Mr. Groom, just now, in which he deprecated the Press of the colony being attacked by the junior member for Cook in the way he had been frequently in the habit of doing of late, and which he thought should not be allowed to pass without some correction. He (Mr. Black) had analysed briefly the figures contained in the statement with which they had been furnished by the Colonial Secretary, and he found that the total amount paid last year for advertising the electoral rolls was £3,996. Of that sum no less than £3,190 was paid to the metropolitan Press, leaving for the whole of the country Press, including Ipswich, Southport, the Darling Downs and the whole of the Northern Press, for the same purpose, only £806. Those two papers, *The Planter and Farmer*, and the *Southern World*, were actually subsidised more than all the rest of the Press of the colony put together.

Mr. HAMILTON: That is bribery.

Mr. BLACK said he would not say it was bribery, but it certainly looked very strange. He would like to know how it was that the metropolitan Press, composed in many cases of very insignificant papers, came to be subsidised to that extent. Would the public not be justified in looking with suspicion upon a Government which did that? Were they so weak, was their policy so unpopular in Brisbane, that it was necessary to subsidise the metropolitan Press to that extent? It was the most extraordinary thing ever brought before the Committee, and none but a purely Queen-street Government, such as the present, would ever have dared to do such a thing. The debate of last night, which elicited those facts, would put before the country in its proper light the fact that, owing to the Colonial Secretary having lost control of his department, the public expenditure had been so abused, so extra-

vagant, so unnecessary, and he might add so suspicious, that they could hardly wonder at the Government having drifted into the fearful financial state they now found themselves in.

The PREMIER said the mock indignation expended on the matter was rather amusing. A stranger present would think that a new discovery had been made. Hon. members forgot that the whole thing was thoroughly ventilated last November, excepting that detailed accounts were not ready. Every hon. member knew perfectly well how it came about. He was not there to say that the expenditure was justifiable; indeed, he believed it was entirely unjustified, and so did his hon. friend the Colonial Secretary. But they all knew perfectly well how it came about—a how an officer of the department was got at in a weak moment by the proprietors of those papers.

Mr. STEVENSON: We never heard of that before.

The PREMIER said hon. members knew it last year, and had known it all along. Of course the Government were responsible, and did not deny their responsibility, but it was perfectly well known last November how it happened. Much had been said about one paper with good many names—he did not know how many—one of which was *The Planter and Farmer*, and it had been suggested that that paper was bribed by the Government. Anybody who had ever seen that paper would know that the suggestion was perfectly ludicrous; and it was probably the meanest thing about the whole affair that that miserable series of papers, after having received a great deal more than £1,000 from the Government, had not even the common courtesy to refrain from abusing them. That, at all events, showed the good faith, or rather the want of ill faith, of the Government. However, the thing had been done, and hon. members knew perfectly well that it was not at all likely to happen again.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the Premier seemed to treat the matter with a very light heart, and treated what he was pleased to call their mock indignation at that gross waste of money with rather indecent jocularly. The hon. gentleman had just told them that the reason for that large expenditure was that a Government official had been got at. He (Mr. Morehead) supposed that with regard to the later transactions the Colonial Secretary had been got at. And those statements were made in the most jocular, pleasant manner, even with hilarious laughter, if such a term could be applied to any laughter of the Premier's. He could assure the hon. gentleman that there was no mock indignation on that side of the Committee. If the Premier had no care for the moneys of the people, at any rate there were certain members of the Committee who had. The hon. gentleman was treating the matter in a very flippant way, a way which ill became the custodians of the public purse. The Premier had given them no information as to the large sums of money that had gone to the *Evangelical Standard*. Some of the proprietors of that paper, according to the last return filed in the Supreme Court, were strong supporters of the hon. gentleman and were members of the House. Amongst them were Mr. Bulcock, Mr. Grimes, Mr. Midgley, Mr. E. Griffith, Mr. McMaster, and Mr. John Macfarlane, of Ipswich. It was not a case for mock indignation, but for real indignation, when they found that large sums of money were paid to a joint-stock company in which those gentlemen were at the time shareholders. He supposed that they had not ceased to be shareholders, for he took it that although the *Evangelical Standard* had taken a higher flight and become the *Christian World*—

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: You are out there.

Mr. MOREHEAD: The paper has appeared again.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS: But under the same name, and with new proprietors.

Mr. MOREHEAD said those gentlemen were shareholders in the *Evangelical Standard* at the time those sums were paid, and when they found that those sums were paid to a paper which had no circulation to warrant the insertion of the electoral rolls, the only conclusion they could come to was that the money was paid for bribery purposes—that the shareholders of that paper should have the moneys of the State lavished upon them in return for their support. That was not a matter for laughter or for mock indignation. It was a fact that year after year enormous sums, compared with the amounts paid to the other newspapers of the colony, had been paid to the *Evangelical Standard*. Under the circumstances it was even worse than the case of *The Planter and Farmer*. Of course, it might be necessary that the *Southern World* and *The Planter and Farmer* should be subsidised in order to get a Minister for Lands or something of that sort. It might be necessary to subsidise the South Brisbane Press in order to keep the fire of Liberalism alight in that portion of the Brisbane constituency. That might be a necessity, and it, together with the railway to Melbourne street, had provided them with their present estimable Minister for Lands. The whole thing, on the face of it, seemed to present a very sinister aspect. It looked as if the Government had given those sums of money in order to have certain services performed by those who were interested in the papers in which those advertisements were published. He quite agreed with the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, Mr. Brooks, that it was time that all advertisements of that nature should be withdrawn from purely religious papers. They should have nothing to do with worldly matters. He did not see that such matters as electoral rolls were of any consequence to them. They ought to devote their advertising space in some other direction, and give up those mundane affairs. But he dared say that would not suit the hon. gentlemen whose names he had read out as the proprietors of that paper.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is all right.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS: They are out of it.

Mr. MOREHEAD said then he supposed they might expect the Government advertisements would cease, those gentlemen being out of it. He did hope that they would now have some explanation from the Colonial Secretary as to that enormous expenditure. The hon. gentleman told them last night that, as far as he could judge, it was something under £3,500, but it had now reached nearly £4,000—within £3 14s. of it. The hon. gentleman seemed to put monetary considerations on one side altogether. He reminded him (Mr. Morehead) of an exaggerated Mantalini; he not only "dem'd the ninepence," but he dem'd the hundreds. That was really the direction in which the Government were going. They did not seem to care a straw what expenditure they incurred. Possibly there might be some reason for it that did not appear on the surface. Probably they thought their term of office was drawing to a close, and they might wish by their inordinate expenditure to hamper those who came after them. He did not say it was so, but it almost looked like it. Night after night they had the Government coming down with new measures involving more expense upon the country. Even that night, what position did the Premier take up with regard to the motion of the hon. junior member for North Brisbane,

concerning the gratuitous circulation of *Hansard*? When he saw there was a certainty of the motion being lost he turned round to his foreign colleague, the hon. member for Rosewood, and told him to move an amendment.

The PREMIER: I was not aware of it until it was moved.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Then he did the hon. gentleman an unintentional wrong. But from the way it was done, and the skilful manner in which it was drafted, he thought he recognised the hon. gentleman's Roman hand. However, he accepted the hon. gentleman's statement. But it was worthy of the hon. gentleman, who voted for it, although probably it would lead to a very considerable amount of extra expenditure. He thought it was time that somestop was put to those continual proposals for increased expenditure; and that, in regard to the particular item of advertising, there should be some expression on the part of the Committee to prevent, if possible, any such excessive expenditure in future. The hon. the Colonial Secretary sheltered himself behind his clerks of petty sessions.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No, I did not.

Mr. MOREHEAD: The hon. gentleman would excuse him. It was reported in *Hansard*.—

"The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not know in what papers the clerks of petty sessions were advertising the electoral rolls. No advertisements of that kind were given by the Colonial Secretary's Department."

That was what the hon. gentleman said, and he (Mr. Morehead) remarked:—

"That was the first time he had ever heard of a Colonial Secretary sheltering himself behind clerks of petty sessions."

The hon. gentleman admitted last night that he knew nothing about what the clerks of petty sessions were doing, but now he took over the blame upon himself. He did not do it last night.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, I did.

Mr. MOREHEAD: No; he sheltered himself behind his clerks of petty sessions.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I disclaimed it last night, afterwards.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he had read the hon. gentleman's statement, and with that statement he would deal. The hon. gentleman came down that night, and his colleague the Premier came down also, and admitted *ad misericordiam*, that they had done wrong, and said they would try and not do it again. That was a humiliating position for a Government to be in: "We admit that we have done wrong; we are very sorry for it." He wondered what those hon. gentleman would have said had the late Premier made the same admission; would they have accepted without explanation or apology what he had done?

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Of course!

Mr. MOREHEAD said he maintained that they would have done nothing of the sort, and the hon. gentleman knew it as well as he did. It was all very well for men to blunder and make great mistakes, and then to simply confess that they had made a mistake and expect that their sins would be condoned. He said it would not be condoned.

The PREMIER: Well, don't condone it.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he did not condone it. The hon. gentleman need not think for one moment that he meant to condone it.

The PREMIER: All right.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the blame must rest on the head of the Government, who had plunged the country into its present financial

condition, and then came down, night after night, and said, "The finances of the country are in such a state that I do not think we can do so-and-so; I do not know how we stand; we have made an error; I am sorry for it, and will try not to do it again." Was that a position for a Government to take up? If any preceding Administration had made one tithe of the blunders which the present Government had made, they would have been hunted from office by the House, and also by the Press of the colony.

The PREMIER: Turn us out!

Mr. MOREHEAD said that while speaking of the Press of the colony he wished to say this: It was a thing to be noted, so far as regarded the metropolitan Press, that it had taken very little notice of the remarks that had been made in that Chamber as to the excessive sums of money that had been paid for advertising in the metropolitan journals, and he only wondered that the country Press had been so considerate as it had been in the matter; but no doubt it would not be so in future, when the figures that had been brought out were placed before them. He maintained that it was a disgrace to the colony, and a disgrace to the Administration, that out of £3,966 that had been paid for advertising, as pointed out by the hon. member for Mackay, over £3,000—nearly £3,200—had been paid to the metropolitan Press. He held that if it was not bribery at any rate it savoured of it. It looked as if the Government intended, at any rate, that those journals should have a friendly feeling towards the Government. There could be no other interpretation of it. As pointed out by the hon. member for Toowoomba, Mr. Groom, no possible good could be derived from advertising the Darling Downs electoral roll in the *Southern World and Planter and Farmer*.

The PREMIER: Nobody attempts to justify it.

Mr. MOREHEAD said they had the hon. gentleman again admitting it, and he seemed to think that was an answer to the accusation. The hon. gentleman pleaded guilty at once. And why should he not be punished? When a prisoner pleaded guilty that was no reason why he should be let off. That seemed to be the theory set up by the hon. gentleman. He said, "I am guilty; I did it; I am sorry for it; please let me off"—perhaps under the Probationers Act. But he thought an old offender like the Premier should have the full benefit of the law. If he had been a poor innocent like the Colonial Secretary he might be let off—but a keen old strategist like the Premier—they would not be inclined to let him down so softly. No doubt the Colonial Secretary had been sufficiently humiliated. While he had tasted the sweets of office, no doubt he had now found that there was a bitter side to it also; and possibly he might not do it again—that was, be a Minister again in a hurry. He felt really sorry for the Colonial Secretary, because he had still got some of the innocence of a young politician left in him; but as for that hard-hided leader of the Government with all his experience and knowledge, he decidedly objected to his being let off because he simply acknowledged that he had done wrong. He said, "I have done wrong—I am sorry for it," but did not even go so far as to say, like a child that had been punished, "I won't do it again." He had not even promised that.

The PREMIER: I did very distinctly.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he hoped at any rate the hon. gentleman would soon be in such a position that he would not be able to repeat the offence; and no doubt when they heard him in



opposition his experience in that direction would enable him to discover the faults in others which existed in himself. He thought a more miserable attitude than that taken up by the Government had never been taken up either in that House or any other House in the Australian colonies.

The PREMIER said he had been very much amused with the speech of the hon. member.

Mr. MOREHEAD: I always amuse the hon. gentleman.

The PREMIER said the hon. member did not always succeed in amusing him. His diatribe would have been excellent only for one thing—it wanted foundation. Everybody knew that.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Your statement was the foundation.

The PREMIER said that was the only thing that was wanting. The arguments were splendid, but the premises were missing. Of course they knew that technically the Government was entirely responsible, and he (the Premier) was responsible as a member of the Government. But the hon. gentleman had been giving him personally a good lecture for things which he knew he (the Premier) had as much to do with as the hon. member himself. Every member knew that perfectly well. He would just state the simple facts of the case, because, although they were well known to hon. members, they might not be so well known to people outside. A number of the Brisbane papers had for some time back been in the habit of receiving advertisements of the electoral rolls. Those advertisements did not amount on an average to more than two or three inches. When the great harvest was coming on last year those people came to the office and succeeded in getting an order for the advertisements as usual, and it did not occur to the officers of the department that the rolls would contain thousands of names. That was the history of the matter, and everybody knew all about it. It was an inadvertence. Of course it was very wrong; a Government officer should never be guilty of an inadvertence. The hon. gentleman talked a lot of nonsense on the subject, to which he would not take the trouble to reply. Hon. members knew that where a thing was done for several years and the cost only amounted to a pound or two it did not occur to anybody to complain or notice it, but when it suddenly came to thousands of pounds it attracted attention, and it was suddenly discovered that it ought to have been found out before.

Mr. NORTON said the hon. gentleman had previously given them his recollection of what had taken place in the House last year. Would he turn up *Hansard* and show the Committee the statement he said was made on that occasion? He (Mr. Norton) did not recollect anything about it. He did not remember any explanation about a clerk in the office having been "got at" as the hon. gentleman now stated. If it was he would like to see the explanation, but he did not believe it was there, because he did not believe it was given.

The PREMIER: Everybody knows all about it.

Mr. NORTON said he had never heard about it before, and, as far as he could recollect, the statement was not made. Hon. members on that side of the Committee did not appear to remember it either, and they would therefore be very much indebted to the hon. gentleman if he would turn up the explanation in *Hansard*. From what he recollect of last year's discussion there was a great effort at concealment.

Mr. HAMILTON said the Premier stated just now that they had had all that before. They could not have had all those sums before, because

some of them had been expended since last session. The hon. gentleman also said that some of the remarks made by the leader of the Opposition were without foundation. He (Mr. Hamilton) would show distinctly that it was the Premier's statements which were without foundation. The hon. gentleman stated that a Civil servant had been got at in reference to those advertisements. According to the paper which had been placed on the table that afternoon, giving the details of the expenditure in advertisements to the various papers, that was not the reason why some papers had received an immense subsidy and others a very little, as that paper showed that nearly all the large sums which had been paid were ordered by the Colonial Secretary. There was one item, *Plaster and Furner*, £415 18s. 5d., ordered by the Colonial Secretary. In August, 1886, there were ordered by the Colonial Secretary—*Plaster and Furner*, £39 4s.; *Evangelical Standard*, £198 8s. 10d. On another date, *Evangelical Standard*, £38 8s.; and another date, £13 10s. Then there was the *Seaside Directory*, printing of rolls, ordered by the Colonial Secretary, £150; the *Zitung*, £191. In fact, reference to the list of the sums for advertising would show that the large amounts for advertising which certain papers had received had, in nearly every instance, been ordered by the Colonial Secretary; but small amounts for advertising, where the amount was £1, £2, £3, or £4, had not been ordered by the Colonial Secretary. Any hon. member could see, on reference to the list, that what he said was correct.

Mr. DONALDSON said he dared say that the discussion would serve a useful purpose, and prevent any abuse of the kind in the future. The information afforded by the return was very useful, and he regretted that it had not been given sooner. It might have prevented what was almost an unseemly discussion, and the vote would probably have passed last evening. He did not think there was any danger of the same thing occurring again. However, the money had been spent; no further purpose could possibly be served by prolonging the discussion, and he thought the sooner it was brought to a close the better. The only publicity that would be given to the debate on that subject would be through *Hansard*. When the present important vote was before the Committee last session, the metropolitan papers passed it over in silence; probably they would do the same thing now; but he hoped they would have the decency tomorrow to give a full report of the proceedings. If they did not he should have no hesitation in characterising them as having their price, when they would not make public to the people of the country the enormous expenditure in which they largely participated, and explain that they were not justified in having such a large share of the expenditure; and he trusted they would enlighten their readers on the subject. When they had the audacity to criticise the actions, not only of the present Government, but of any future Government for the expenditure, he hoped they would explain how they participated in that large amount which they did not enlighten the public upon.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he imagined the paragraph that would appear in the papers tomorrow would be something like this: "An irreverent discussion took place in the House, in which the cupping member for Cook took part, and in which the amounts spent for advertising were discussed. The available space in our columns will not permit us to publish any part of the discussion, which was too frivolous altogether." He had been looking through the debate which took place on 2nd November last on the subject,

and he did not gather from that that any Government officer had been got at. It seemed that the Government Printer had told the Colonial Secretary that the cost of advertising would be something under £3,000.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That was up to that time.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Then more had been claimed since. However, he quite agreed with the hon. member for Warrego that the discussion would do a great deal of good, and he only regretted that the *Herald* containing the report of the debate was not likely to be more widely circulated, because he was perfectly confident, with the hon. member for Warrego, that it would not receive much consideration from the "three-barrel" newspaper company, limited.

Mr. STEVENSON said, before the discussion closed, he would point out that, notwithstanding that the Premier had admitted he was wrong in giving those advertisements, the mistake was being repeated this year. Now, the hon. member for Warwick mentioned last night that the *Evangelical Standard*, dated 22nd July, this year, contained columns of electoral rolls; and he could not see why, if the Premier found he had made a mistake last year, he should have repeated it this year. He ought to have looked out for it, and have told his Colonial Secretary to look out for it. They had had no explanation about that.

Mr. PATTISON said he had not spoken yet that evening, and he thought it only right after what occurred last night that he should say a word or two before the vote passed. Last night the Premier waxed very wroth at a few remarks he made to the effect that the Opposition really would insist upon having the information before the vote was passed. It would be apparent to all hon. members that the Opposition were perfectly right in so insisting, as certainly the disclosures made in the returns furnished were of a very extraordinary nature. He only rose to justify his action of last night. The Opposition had since attained their object, and they were now willing to let the vote go without any more discussion, as it would be only waste of time to continue it. No time had been wasted up to the present in extracting the information so grudgingly given by the Colonial Secretary, and he was now disposed to let the vote pass.

Mr. NORTON said that if the clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office was got at last year, he was not got at this year. It was the Colonial Secretary himself by his own admission who was got at. He rose for the purpose of asking the Colonial Secretary to have the returns printed and circulated in the same manner as other papers laid upon the table.

Mr. HAMILTON said if the statement was correct that the clerk in the office had been got at, then the return before them was a false one, because that return indicated the various persons who authorised the publication of the rolls in the different papers, and he noticed that nearly every sum to which they had objected was indicated as having been authorised by the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. STEVENSON said he would ask the Colonial Secretary the name of the person who was got at in the Colonial Secretary's Office before he went any further. The Premier had told them that a certain officer was got at, and he wanted to know who it was. He could not discover from the return whether the return was right or wrong until he knew the name of the officer.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Who is right or wrong?

Mr. STEVENSON said the Premier told them a little while ago that a certain officer had been got at, and had authorised the advertisements to be repeated, thinking they would be only of the same length as they had been in previous years. He found from the return that every advertisement was put down in such a way that it could not be discovered who it was who authorised it.

The PREMIER said if it was there the hon. member could surely see it himself. He observed on looking at the return, which he had never seen before, that each advertisement was stated to have been ordered either by the different clerks of petty sessions or by the Colonial Secretary. Now, he did not suppose that hon. members thought that "ordered by the Colonial Secretary" meant ordered personally by him.

Mr. NORTON: They were this year.

Mr. STEVENSON: Then that is a false return.

The PREMIER said he had no reason to suppose that it was a false return. He did not know whether the clerks of petty sessions went to the newspaper offices and ordered the advertisements, but he did know that the vouchers were signed by the clerks of petty sessions or somebody authorised by them; but when ordered by the Colonial Secretary it was not necessarily done personally. Ministers did not do all the work of their own offices by their own hands, and if hon. members pretended that they thought they did, then that was simply a specimen of the kind of argument which had been listened to for hours past.

Mr. STEVENSON: Will the hon. gentleman mention who the gentleman was who ordered the advertisements?

The PREMIER said the whole discussion was most disingenuous. Hon. members who knew anything whatever about the work of the departments must know that every trifle was not laid before the Minister. Sometimes those matters were formally placed before Ministers, and sometimes they were not, and without the production of the vouchers themselves it was impossible to say by whom they were initialled.

Mr. STEVENSON said, did the hon. gentleman not know the name of the man to whom he alluded? He had said that a certain gentleman made a mistake, and he (Mr. Stevenson) wanted to know who that was.

Mr. MORGAN: He said some officer.

Mr. STEVENSON: Surely he knows his name.

Mr. ANNEAR said he had taken no part in the debate, but it seemed to him it had been got up simply to badger the Colonial Secretary. Now, what the hon. member for Normanby wanted to get at he could find out by reading the Elections Act of 1885, which he assisted to pass, and which said that the rolls must be published by authority of the electoral registrar in some paper published in the district. Now, in the Bulimba, Oxley, and in another electorate there were no papers published in the districts, and as a matter of course the rolls had to be published in some of the metropolitan papers. He quite agreed with hon. members that no advertisements of the electoral rolls should be inserted either in *The Planter and Farmer* or the *Evangelical Standard*. The former was only a monthly paper, and the latter was read by very few people. Therefore

it was waste of money to publish in those papers. He wished to point out that the Colonial Secretary had nothing to do with the matter. The electoral registrars throughout the colony were supposed to authorise the advertisements, and they were obliged to do so under the Elections Act of 1885.

Mr. NORTON: You have not heard all that has taken place.

Mr. ANNEAR said when the Act was being passed the term "purging" the rolls was frequently used, and to "purge" them the names had to be advertised. He thought they could not give too great publicity to the rolls and assist people to get their names on. Hon. members opposite had been talking for the last two nights about waste of money, but he thought a very great deal more money had been wasted by the way in which the debate had been dragged on. He was one who believed that if he was paid a certain amount of money for certain work he should endeavour to earn it, and he asked hon. members opposite whether they had earned their money or whether they had not rather been wasting the time of the Committee in badgering the Colonial Secretary and in asking him to answer certain questions which they well knew they were able to answer for themselves by turning to the Elections Act of 1885. He thought the Colonial Secretary had acted very courteously indeed, and he thought it was no credit to hon. members opposite that they could find nothing better to do than to abuse the hon. gentleman as they had done for two nights. If he sat on the other side of the House he should be very sorry to use such language to Ministers sitting in their places and doing honest and faithful work for the country. Every right-minded person must come to the conclusion that there had been no political favouritism. The greatest opponent of the present Government was the proprietor of the *Southern World*, and the *Valley Vindicator*, and *The Planter and Farmer*. There had, therefore, been no political favour; could the same thing be said of the late Administration? He did not think it could; but he thought it had been shown that a paper that intelligent people did not read had received from the late Government £800 in twelve months. Now he hoped that farce, which had been carried on for two nights, would end, and that hon. members opposite would allow the business of the country to be carried on in an intelligent and sensible manner.

Mr. STEVENSON said he did not think the hon. member had been in the House during the discussion.

Mr. ANNEAR: I know as much as you do.

Mr. STEVENSON said he did not believe there had been any intention to badger the Colonial Secretary. He did not believe that there was one member of the Ministry who had more personal friends than the hon. gentleman. Personally he liked the hon. gentleman very much; but that was no reason why they should not get information when they wanted it. It seemed that they were not to get the name of the officer who was to blame for making the mistake, and he did not think it was worth while trying any longer to obtain the information. He thought they might let the matter drop now, but he considered they had placed the Government in a position which was not very enviable.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he had not up to the present taken part in the discussion, and he would not have done so but that he wished to protest against certain statements made by members on both sides against giving advertisements to certain papers.

Mr. DONALDSON: We shall have the whole discussion over again if you do not mind.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the hon. member for Cook, Mr. Hill, and the hon. member for Maryborough, Mr. Sheridan, agreed that such papers as the *Evangelical Standard* and the *Christian World* should not be favoured with advertisements from the Government. He would ask the reason why? Were the readers of Christian papers to have no political rights, no rights as citizens? Were they to be trampled on because they were Christians? Why newspapers professing Christian principles and having Christian readers should not be put at least on the same level as other papers he could not see. To argue that religious papers should be ignored was more than he could understand. He brought that matter forward because it appeared to be argued that because a man was religious he should lose his political rights.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he thought a man could separate his business and his politics from his religion, and the more he did so the better. There were several sects of religion, and he believed they were equally good; but the members of one fraternity could not set themselves up and arrogate to themselves the position of Pharisees, and say theirs was the right religion, and they were the only persons who should be fed with Government advertisements, while the member for Maryborough, Mr. Sheridan, told the Committee that the paper he believed in was not favoured at all. The other member for Maryborough, Mr. Annear, said the discussion was merely an attack upon the Colonial Secretary, to badger him, and would not tend to any useful end. He maintained that it would tend to a useful end, and would have tended to a useful end before if the Colonial Secretary had only held to the promise he gave on the 28th October last, when the matter was discussed before. The hon. gentleman then said:—

"I shall to-morrow receive a report upon the subject as to the papers in which the electoral rolls have been published, and until I get that information I can say nothing more upon the matter, except that I shall take care that it shall never occur again, and that no advertisement shall be inserted without my knowledge."

They found in spite of that that the same thing was going on still in one of those religious papers of the 22nd July last.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: That was with his knowledge.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said then the Colonial Secretary could not get a clerk for his scapegoat in that case. He was tolerably incredulous of the whole of the explanation that had been given, and he thought he was quite justified in saying last night that he had not that gospel sort of faith in the Colonial Secretary which that hon. gentleman appeared to consider himself entitled to receive from him.

Mr. ANNEAR said he had read in *Hansard* that morning that the *Evangelical Standard* had ceased to notice worldly affairs, and they had not even noticed the late changes in the Government. He believed in fair play, and, if they were to publish electoral rolls in the religious papers, a paper called the *Australian*, published in Brisbane, had a far greater claim to their insertion than the *Evangelical Standard*, because he would guarantee that there were 90 per cent. more subscribers to that paper than to the *Evangelical Standard*. He might say generally he was considered to be religiously inclined, but he had never seen a copy of the *Evangelical Standard* since he came to the colony. It might not get as far as his town, and he did not think it did. The hon. member for

Mackay had taken objection to the Aubigny rolls being published in that paper, but he understood that since the last general election the electors of Aubigny had subscribed pretty liberally to that paper. He hoped from that night out the Government of the day, whoever they might be, would see that neither *The Planter and Farmer* nor the *Evangelical Standard*, or papers of that class, would be favoured with the right to publish the electoral rolls for any district in the colony.

Question put and passed.

#### AGENT-GENERAL FOR THE COLONY.

The PREMIER moved that the sum of £3,300 be granted for the Agent-General in London. The vote, it would be seen, was the same as that for last year.

Mr. McMASTER said he thought that was the proper time to introduce a matter on which he had a word or two to say, and he hoped the discussion would not take as long as that on the previous vote. There was a document attached to the Agent-General's report, from a person who was sent by the Agent-General to report upon certain people who it was supposed might be desirous of emigrating to this colony. Considering the large expenditure upon emigration to the colony, it was desirable that they should appoint men who would inquire thoroughly into the emigrants to be sent out. The report he alluded to was from a person named Peter Fleming, who had been requested by the Agent-General to visit the Western Highlands of Scotland, or rather the Highland crofters, with a view to ascertaining whether they would be a desirable class of people to introduce into the colony. The report appeared to him to be an extraordinary one, and approached nearly to a libel upon his country. Peter Fleming got as far as the town of Oban, and in order to put himself right on his way he interviewed a gentleman who, according to the junior member for Cook, should of all men have been avoided, and that was a newspaper man. He interviewed the proprietor of the *Oban Times* with a view of ascertaining what prospects he would have in visiting the crofters to see if they were desirable colonists. The editor of that paper discouraged Mr. Fleming from proceeding any further. He was not surprised at that, because they read in the report that the *Oban Times* was "the organ of the crofters." He was inclined also to think that the editor must have treated Mr. Fleming to some "mountain dew." Immediately after the interview with that gentleman he retraced his steps and went back to Dundee. A few weeks afterwards he again made an attempt to get to the crofters' islands, and succeeded in getting a little farther than Oban, to some islands in the west of Scotland. After spending a day or two there he sent a report to the Agent-General, in which he informed that gentleman that the crofters were the descendants of Highland clans; indeed, the half of the report was composed of Scotch history. He said he did not think the crofters were a desirable people to induce to come to the colony; but, from what he (Mr. McMaster) knew of the crofters, they were a very desirable class of people to have in the colony. He also told the Agent-General that a great many of the young men had left the islands, many of them to enlist in the army. To prove that those men were brave men, able to endure hardship, and prepared to defend not only themselves, but their country also, it need only be mentioned that in the battle-field Highlanders and Irish regiments were always put in the front. Mr. Fleming stated, as a reason for their not being desirable emigrants, that their appearance

was very much against them, and that they had no stamina. It was probably because they had not the same gentlemanly appearance that Mr. Fleming had that he spoke in that way.

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. McMASTER said Mr. Fleming further stated that they were poor; and they could easily believe that, seeing how they were ground down by the great land-owners.

Mr. WHITE: Hear, hear!

Mr. McMASTER said he was glad that the present Government were endeavouring to prevent the occurrence of that state of things in Queensland, for there was no doubt that many of the crofters had been driven to great straits by the large landed proprietors resuming their farms, or compelling them to pay such a rent that the burden was greater than they could bear. With regard to the immigration lecturers, there was one at home now, Mr. Randall, who was as able a man as had been employed in that capacity since the present Minister for Lands was immigration agent. Crofters were poor, as the report said, but he did not see any reason why they should not be encouraged to emigrate, and he would venture to say that Scotchmen generally had made as good colonists as any other people who had come to Australia. Further, if those crofters were enabled to come to the colony they would be as desirable a class of colonists as could be brought here. It might be said that he was taking the part of the crofters because he was a Highlander himself; but it was so long since he left the Highlands that he recollected very little about them. From his experience, and from what he had seen and heard himself, however, he knew they were a class of people who ought to be encouraged to emigrate; and he considered that Mr. Fleming had brought up such an evil report about those people that the Government should be very careful as to the class of men they sent to lecture, or to make inquiries as to persons coming to the colony. Mr. Fleming further said in his report that many of those people had emigrated, and a few of them were doing well. They had settled on the lands, made comfortable homes, and, having done so, sent for their friends; and then he wound up in this way:—

"Is there no hope for any of the crofters in Queensland? Yes, there is. A few of them have gone out already, and have done well for themselves, and have sent for their friends."

Now, a man who said they were not a desirable class of emigrants in one breath, because their appearance was against them, and in the next breath said they were a desirable class, was not a fit and proper person to employ to look up emigrants. The colony had been very unfortunate in regard to emigration agents in Scotland. He knew a gentleman sent home some years ago by the late Government, who, instead of going to the agricultural districts and endeavouring to persuade agriculturists with small capital to come to the colony, spent most of his time in the towns lecturing in large halls. No doubt the Minister for Lands would know more about the crofters than he (Mr. McMaster) did, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would tell the Committee what his opinion was. He was one of the gentlemen who searched out a class of people likely to settle on the land, and not simply to come out and settle in the towns. The English people were anxious to send out emigrants; he saw by the evening papers that a proposal was coming out to the Government for assisted emigrants. They had quite enough of the people who hung about the streets; what

they wanted was people to settle on the land ; and he was sure that if the crofters were brought out they would be found a very desirable class of immigrants. Mr. Fleming's report reminded him of the two elders who were sent to see if it was right and proper for the minister to play the fiddle at all. They forgot all about their mission ; but it came to their mind when they were home, and could hardly tell whether there was one moon or two. They then decided that it must be a religious fiddle, and there could be no harm in playing it. This Mr. Fleming seemed to have gone on the same principle. He went to the editor of a newspaper, who told him they did not want the crofters to emigrate ; they wanted to better them where they were. Of course, the landed proprietors and farmers did not want to part with the tillers of the soil ; they wanted to give the colony the outcasts and the scum of the streets. He (Mr. McMaster) had had a conversation with a gentleman who was passing through the colonies some time ago, and when the crofters were mentioned that gentleman said they did not want to lose the crofters ; they were too valuable at home. All they wanted was to better their position. That was just like the editor of the Oban paper, who got his living from the crofters by his paper circulating amongst them. He looked upon the report as a libel on the crofters, and he hoped the Government in future would send a better class of men to inquire about immigrants for Queensland.

The PREMIER said he thought the hon. member had to some extent misunderstood the report. As he (the Premier) understood it, Mr. Fleming, who appeared from the report to be a very intelligent man, was sent to inquire whether it was desirable that large bodies of crofters should be brought out, and his report was that it was not desirable ; but that, as in other cases, we should pick our own men, and get the best. He did not understand the report to be at all disparaging to the crofters as a class ; Mr. Fleming simply advised that a large number of them should not be brought without discrimination, any more than from any other class of people.

Mr. FERGUSON said he read the report as the hon. member for Fortitude Valley did. He knew nothing about Mr. Fleming, but the report was an extraordinary one ; it was an objectionable report, and he was sure a very untruthful one. The report spoke of the crofters' countenances wearing an expression of anxiety amounting almost to terror. That gentleman was there when two of Her Majesty's gunboats had been sent to assist in enforcing evictions ; and naturally, as a stranger advocating emigration, he was looked upon as one of the evicting party ; so he had no opportunity of judging of the character of the people. He was there when they were being evicted from the houses they and their forefathers had lived in for generations, and as he appeared on the stage at the same time they naturally did not receive him freely. In another paragraph he said :—

“ Young men and young women grow up into manhood and womanhood, destitute of training to fit them for any department of labour by which they might earn a subsistence.”

He (Mr. Ferguson) denied that there was such a thing as that amongst any body of Highlanders or Scotchmen. He did not believe there was a nation on the face of the earth so well trained to work diligently and hard as the Scotch people especially the Highlanders. Living in a country like that, if they were not trained to hard work they could not live at all ; so that was a libel on the country, and it was untruthful.

The PREMIER: We are speaking of different places.

Mr. FERGUSON said those were places he knew well, and had seen only twelve or eighteen months ago. There was not a word of truth in what Mr. Fleming said. The man must have been intoxicated or misled. He (Mr. Ferguson) believed he had taken too much whisky. He left it to the experience of all colonists if Scotchmen had not made the best colonists. Let a ship arrive in Brisbane to-morrow, and if there were twenty or thirty Scotchmen on board they would be the first run after ; yet that statement was made by a man who no doubt was paid a high salary to mislead the colony. He would read another paragraph of the report :—

“ Emigration to colonies, unless in some very exceptional cases, has hitherto proved a failure, and I do not believe that the crofters possess the stamina, nor are they endowed with that energy and fertility of resource, which are absolutely necessary to the success of any such undertaking.”

Could any man in his senses put a paragraph like that in his report ? Did hon. members not think that the hon. member for Fortitude Valley and himself possessed the same amount of stamina as any member of the Committee ? He would like to see any gentleman bold enough to say they did not. The report was untruthful, and the colony was losing by such reports. Instead of getting out men they knew would make the best colonists they were getting out the scum of the cities of Scotland, England, and Ireland—getting them out by hundreds. The institutions were full of them ; in Woogaroo there were dozens picked up in the streets of London ; and here they were paying a man to condemn the people who were about the best they could secure for the colony. The hon. member for Fortitude Valley was quite right in bringing up such a matter. He (Mr. Ferguson) had only got the report from that hon. member a little while ago, and he certainly thought it was misleading and untruthful.

The PREMIER said he did not think the hon. member for Rockhampton came from those islands, in the western sea, to which Mr. Fleming's report solely referred.

Mr. FERGUSON : It refers to Scotland as a whole.

The PREMIER said that Scotland contained many parts, and those unfortunate people in the western islands, had been for so long a time ground down and oppressed by their landlords, that he did not wonder they were not the same stalwart type of men as those who were found in other parts of Scotland. With regard to the hon. member's remark that the colony was now getting nothing but the scum of the cities, he might say that that was not correct. They were getting very few persons from the cities, scarcely any except nominated passengers. The people now selected by the Agent-General were almost entirely country people, some of whom had never seen a city until they saw London on their way out to Queensland.

Mr. MOREHEAD said there was a great deal in what the Premier had said, and the wild Scotchmen had been getting wild about nothing. He could see nothing in Mr. Fleming's report that was not likely to be borne out by facts. When last at home he had not an opportunity of visiting those islands, but he had read a good deal about them, and he quite concurred in what the Premier had said, that a people who had been for so long so oppressed and ill-treated by landlords were not likely, on the face of it, to be such stalwart men as the hon. members for Rockhampton and Fortitude Valley

had advertised themselves to be. It must be borne in mind that the crofters were not so very anxious to emigrate. Like the Irish, they clung to the soil if they happened to have any. Their great cry was that they were being driven away from the lands they had held for generations. The hon. member for the Valley had spoken of those men as having always been in the forefront of battle.

Mr. McMASTER: So they have.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the English were just as good as the Scotch; so were the Irish, and in the presence of the Premier he would even include the Welsh. Scotchmen made capital colonists, no doubt, but not better than the English or the Irish.

Mr. McMASTER: And the Germans.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he was talking of the British race; he was not going amongst foreigners. As a matter of fact, according to the statistics, it was found that the Irish were the most saving people in the colony; they sent more money home to bring out their relatives than people of any other nationality. What the Germans saved they generally kept for themselves. It was unfair to condemn Mr. Fleming's report until they knew all the circumstances connected with it; Mr. Fleming was entrusted with the work by the Agent-General, and, although Sir James Garrick differed from him in politics, he believed him to be a very capable man, and that he was not at all likely to employ a bad Scotchman, even if such a thing were possible.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said Queensland was greatly indebted to Scotchmen, who came out in large numbers in the early days of the colony. The hon. member for Fortitude Valley had stated that a former Agent-General had confined his attention to the large towns instead of going into the country. Perhaps that hon. member alluded to him.

Mr. McMASTER: No.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the remark would apply to him, inasmuch as when he occupied the position of Agent-General in the old country he lectured only in the great centres of population. When he went to England the Governor of the colony gave him some very good advice. He said, "Begin your lecturing in London; if you succeed in London you will succeed all over Great Britain." Although he trembled at the idea, he took the advice, and commenced his lectures in London, at the Polytechnic. He got a crowded assembly; the lecture was well reported in the daily papers, including the *Times* newspaper, and he never had any difficulty afterwards. In every part of Great Britain he proceeded in the same way: thus in the West of England he started in the great city of Bristol, where he had immense audiences at two lectures he delivered there. Leading articles on his lectures appeared in all the Bristol papers, besides long reports of the lectures themselves. A syllabus of the lectures was sent to all the villages round about, and people came from far and near to hear them. His lectures created great interest among intending emigrants; reports of them went through the length and breadth of Great Britain, and the result was that he sent out 36,000 persons, of whom 13,000 paid their own passages, besides a large number of assisted immigrants. Amongst the immigrants he sent out was the member for Fortitude Valley, and perhaps other hon. members, and as a whole they would compare favourably with any others that had come since. Since that time there

had been what might properly be called a pauper immigration. They did away with the land-order system; they did away with assisted immigration for a long series of years, and for twenty years nearly they had had a pauper immigration. But that was not the case now, and he believed the land-order system would be the means of bringing out a very large number of the best class of immigrants, who would settle upon the land. The Premier had just introduced a Bill which was to re-establish the old system of assisted immigration, and that would bring out the very best class of labourers. The best class of people would not accept a free passage to the colony; they declined to come out as paupers. Many of them said, "We object to go as paupers; we have been saving money for a number of years to go to America; but we will accept assisted passages." The Immigration Act of 1860 made no provision for assisted immigration, but he recommended the Government to allow him to adopt the plan of charging £8 to persons who wanted an assisted passage, and he sent out upwards of 6,000 of that class of people, who paid into the office £33,000. This paid all the expenses of the Immigration Department in Great Britain for six years, and left a balance of £3,000 a year as revenue to the colony, during the six years he was at home, and that assisted immigration was only in operation for three and a-half years. They were going to re-establish that, and he believed it would be a great success. Mr. Randall was a most diligent and enthusiastic lecturer, and he prosecuted his business successfully in the villages. He (Mr. Jordan) believed that in addition to that, the system which he established should be adopted, in which case the success, he was firmly convinced, would be very great indeed. With regard to the crofters of the western islands of Scotland, he found that everywhere in Great Britain the newspapers and the influential persons were opposed to emigration except of the poorer class. The idea existed in England that only the refuse of the people should be induced to emigrate. Every parish was burdened with a lot of useless, helpless people, and the idea at home was that they were the class of people that should go to the colonies. But in Queensland they wanted the best people they could get. Hence they offered to give land to those who paid their passages and would settle upon it. Hence they had assisted immigration, which brought out the best of labourers, and, of course, they gave free passages to female domestic servants. He did not think Mr. Fleming was at all correct in his estimate of the crofters. He (Mr. Jordan) only wished they were all in Queensland, every man-jack of them. He was certain that if they were here they would be of infinite value to the colony. They would make most successful settlers. Being industrious, hardworking, courageous men, they were bound to be successful in the work of colonisation. He did not blame Mr. Fleming altogether, because he did not know so much about emigration as he (Mr. Jordan) did. Under the old system the sub-agents in England were paid a commission upon the people they sent out—something like 5 per cent. on the passage money; and under that system, if they had free immigration, they would be sure to get the worst class that could be collected. The sub-agents did not care two straws about the class of people sent out as long as they got their commission. But that was not the system in operation now; and he was satisfied that with the Bill which was read a first time yesterday, and would probably be read a second time to-morrow, together with the land-order system, which he hoped would be in full operation very shortly, should succeed in re-establishing a

system of immigration to Queensland such as they had many years ago, which laid the foundation of the prosperity of the colony.

Mr. SHERIDAN said he had learned with some regret within the last few minutes that there was no emigration lecturer allowed to go or sent to Ireland. Why that was the case he could not understand.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: They might shoot him.

Mr. SHERIDAN said the only reason he could assign for it was this: that the Irish, when they came here, were, as described by the hon. the leader of the Opposition, a careful, thrifty race, who saved their earnings, and who devoted them to the good purpose of sending home for their friends. He contended that the best friends Queensland had ever had, and the greatest assistants to the immigration system, had been the Irish who came out here, and who, being generous, affectionate people, spent the first money that came into their possession in getting out their friends. They were of the same race as the Highlanders, or as the crofters, and were imbued with the same sentiments and courageous feelings; and he said again, it was very remarkable, and he could not but express his regret that there was no emigration agent or lecturer in Ireland, although those agents were paid by the taxpayers of Queensland, a large proportion of whom were Irish. The Irish were supposed to find their way out without emigration agents, and in nine cases out of ten the statements he had read of those lecturers appeared to be exceedingly erroneous. They never seemed to tell the truth to the people. They never told the people they would have to work and to be careful and thrifty. All they said was that they would be well kept, and well fed and cared for. The first consideration of an emigration agent was always to get as many people as he could. No matter of what class they were he got so much per head, and therefore the most unsuitable people were sent out by gentlemen who were receiving salaries for lecturing at home. He hoped that a great improvement would take place in the work of immigration lecturers.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said the discussion was getting too discriminating altogether. They had had the glorification of the wild Scot, the glorification of the wild Irishman, and the poor Englishman was left out in the cold altogether. Those poor unfortunate Englishmen got to the colony somehow, and they did not crowd our gaols or want to loaf upon the rest of the population, but tried to keep themselves respectably, and he did think that a little consideration ought to be shown to them. He felt very strongly upon the matter, and trusted that the sympathies of the Committee would not be exhausted entirely in the interests of the other races of whom they had heard so much just now, so as to leave not one jot or tittle of sympathy or kindly feeling remaining for the poor unfortunate English.

Question put and passed.

#### IMMIGRATION.

The PREMIER, in moving that £7,835 be granted for Immigration, said there was no change in the vote from last year, except that the salary of the superintendent of the Quarantine Station at Keppel Bay had been increased by £5. That officer had a salary of £80 as a wardman at Townsville, and took that salary with him to Keppel Bay. The only other matter he desired to mention was the establishment during the year of a labour bureau in the Immigration

Office, under the supervision of Mr. Okeden, shortly after that gentleman assumed the office of Immigration Agent. The result of it had been that practically they had had no unemployed in Brisbane since it had been in operation, because efficient arrangements had been made by which the head office in Brisbane always knew where labour was required in the country. Arrangements were made for communicating information from one centre of population to another, so that whenever labour was wanted it could be at once provided. Since then times had improved, and there had not been so many people wanting work, but the arrangements which had been made before the good times came round had been proved to work exceedingly well; and he thought they might congratulate themselves upon that new departure in the management of that branch of the public service. In fact, it was the establishment of a new branch of the public service. In other respects there was nothing that required special notice from him unless questions were asked.

Mr. BLACK said he did not understand that the Chief Secretary intended to go on with further business at that time of night, and he wished to make some remarks upon the subject to which he referred last session, as to the increase in that vote. Although £7,835 appeared to be a moderate sum for the immigration service of the whole of the colony, hon. members must not be under the impression that that was the only sum set apart for that purpose. They had immigration agents at Bundaberg, Ingham, Geraldton, Mackay, Maryborough, and Townsville, and out of 10,630 immigrants introduced last year, those places had absorbed 2,886. What he wished to point out to the Premier was that the whole of the cost of the immigration agents for European immigration in those districts was charged to the Polynesian Fund for the last five or six years. It was no wonder that the Polynesian Fund was decreasing.

The PREMIER: It is all right.

Mr. BLACK said it was all right certainly, but he did not think it was at all fair that the planters of the colony who contributed to the Polynesian Fund should be charged with the cost of all immigration officers necessary for the introduction of European immigrants. He thought hon. members would admit that that proposition was perfectly fair and logical. The Polynesian Fund should undoubtedly be debited with all expenditure for the introduction of Polynesians, and he had always maintained that those employing Polynesians should pay the whole of that, but it was not fair to charge the Polynesian Fund with the salaries of officers employed in the introduction of European immigrants. It was not his wish to provoke a lengthy discussion on the subject that evening, because there would be ample opportunity for discussing it when they came to the Pacific Islanders' Trust Fund, and the Premier would have time between now and then to see whether some more equitable adjustment of the account was possible. The fact was that Brisbane absorbed about 60 per cent. of the whole of the European immigrants that came to the country, and the outside districts absorbed the other 40 per cent.

The PREMIER: More than that, surely!

Mr. BLACK: No. The number Brisbane absorbed was 6,656, and the outside districts received 3,924. The number actually landed at the Northern ports he had mentioned—namely, Bundaberg, Ingham, Geraldton, Mackay, Maryborough, and Townsville—was 2,866. The whole expense of that, as far as the immigration agents were concerned, was charged to the Polynesian Fund. The result was that whereas the Immi-

gration Department in Brisbane asked for £7,835, the Polynesian expenditure, according to the Pacific Islanders' Fund for 1887, was £7,397. So that it would appear that it cost as much to manage the Polynesians of the colony as it did for the Immigration Department for Europeans. That was not the case. A very large sum, which he was not at that moment prepared to state, was improperly charged to the Polynesian Fund. He hoped that when they came to the Pacific Islanders' Fund they would be able to adjust the expenditure properly.

The PREMIER said the hon. member was quite right in directing attention to that subject. It was through inadvertence that it had not been dealt with this year. Last year the matter was brought under his attention, and he intended to deal with it. With regard to Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Townsville, he certainly thought that a part of the salary of immigration agents ought to be charged to the general revenue and not all to the Polynesian Fund. He had intended to propose a division this year. It would, however, not make very much difference—probably £500 would be all the difference. That the suggestion of the hon. member was right in principle he admitted, and it was entirely owing to inadvertence and the short time that had elapsed since his return to the colony that it was overlooked in the preparation of the Estimates. Possibly they might be able to make some arrangement before the matter was finally disposed of now.

Mr. BLACK said the hon. gentleman said that at Bundaberg, Maryborough, and Townsville, part of the cost of the immigration agents might be charged to the general revenue.

The PREMIER: I said I certainly thought so.

Mr. BLACK said he would suggest that Mackay should be included.

The PREMIER: I am doubtful about Mackay.

Mr. BLACK said that at Bundaberg last year 254 immigrants were landed, and there were 225 at Mackay. In addition to that, as the hon. gentleman was aware, there was a large number of labourers occasionally sent from Brisbane direct to Mackay; so that if Bundaberg was entitled to any consideration he thought Mackay also was entitled to it, as it did not come very far behind in the number of immigrants.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the House resumed; the CHAIRMAN reported progress, and the Committee obtained leave to sit again on Tuesday next.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I had hoped that we might sit to-morrow; but, on consultation with hon. members, I find that a great many hon. members did not expect that there would be a sitting to-morrow. Possibly it is fair that we should give notice before beginning the Friday sittings. After this week I certainly intend to ask the House to sit on Friday as well as on other days. As I believe it will be more convenient to hon. members, I move that this House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER moved that the House do now adjourn.

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