

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 1887

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.*Wednesday, 28 September, 1887.*

Question.—Question without Notice.—Motion for Adjournment.—Misstatement by an Hon. Member.—Timber used in Railway Bridge Works.—Electoral Districts Bill.—committee.—Adjournment.

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

QUESTION.

Mr. DICKSON asked the Colonial Treasurer—

Is it the intention of the Government, in sending away from Brisbane the "Octopus" dredge before the "Hydra" is ready for work, to reduce the number of dredges at present employed in the port and river of Brisbane before a minimum depth of 21 feet below low water has been attained?

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. Sir S. W. Griffith) replied—

The "Hydra" is expected to be ready to begin work in a few days, and will be retained in the port of Brisbane until work can be begun at the Norman Bar. Having regard to the importance of that work, and the work of deepening the bar at Cairns, the Government think it desirable that those works should be proceeded with as soon as possible, notwithstanding that there may for a time be only one dredge employed in the port of Brisbane.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE.

Mr. HAMILTON said: Mr. Speaker,—Yesterday evening I brought before the notice of the hon. Premier the wish of the residents of Croydon to have an opportunity of enrolling themselves in the next electoral roll by obtaining electoral forms. I wish to know from the Premier, in order that the people there may be provided with a quantity of electoral forms, if he will give instructions for them to be printed there. I also brought under the notice of the Premier the desirability of having a revision court established at Bloomfield. The Premier said he would consider the subject and give me a reply, and I would like to know if it has had his consideration.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. B. B. Moreton) said: Mr. Speaker,—The matter belongs to my department as regards sending out electoral forms. A telegram was sent to Normanton, and this was the reply to it:—

"Re your wire to-day parcel referred to forwarded on the 17th instant immediately after landing per carrier Tiernay with light dray C.P.S. Croydon been advised considered would be at Croydon before coach which would not leave for four days later."

I may also say that instructions were given that, if these did not arrive in time, printed forms were to be obtained immediately in Croydon itself.

Mr. HAMILTON: When did they leave Normanton?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The telegram says "immediately after landing." I do not know what day that was.

Mr. HAMILTON: Three or four days ago?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; they ought to be there by this time.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir S. W. Griffith) said: Mr. Speaker,—In respect to a revision court at Bloomfield, it does not appear necessary to appoint a special court there, as it will involve dividing the electoral district into divisions. All that the revision court, which sits next week, has to do is simply to receive applications and pass them. It does not require a special court for that purpose.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

MISSTATEMENT BY AN HON. MEMBER.—TIMBER USED IN RAILWAY BRIDGE WORKS.

Mr. HIGSON said: Mr. Speaker,—I will conclude with the usual motion for the adjournment of the House. I wish to bring under the notice of hon. members the language used by the hon. member for Blackall in regard to myself, in a speech he made on September 7th in this

House, in which he said that I was nobody and that nobody cared what I said. I should not have referred to the matter had I not seen that, last week, instead of being in his place in the House, as representative of the district of Blackall, the hon. member had gone to Rockhampton, and had attended a public meeting called by the mayor, Mr. Kelly, in regard to the Redistribution Bill. The hon. member got on to the platform at that meeting, and made certain false statements regarding myself, while I was here attending to my duties. He made statements behind my back which he dared not make in my presence. I will read to this House what the hon. member said in the speech he made at that meeting:—

"No doubt most of those present read what took place in Parliament, and they would notice that one member for Rockhampton never raised his voice when the interests of Rockhampton were at stake. This was not as it should be. What on earth good was it to send a stick like that to nullify the work that the other member tried to do? It was a serious thing for the Central district that it could not find a man who had brains to represent it; he did not say that Mr. Higson had no brains, but he had never used them in his parliamentary career."

That is what the hon. member might think, and I do not find fault with him for that; but I do complain of what he says further—

"As he had already said, he would not go into the matter any further now. He was pleased to read that Mr. Higson had opposed the Redistribution Bill; but he feared he would find it convenient to be outside, as he had done on former occasions, when the thing came to an issue, or simply give his vote to the Premier, as he generally did."

I challenge the hon. member for Blackall to prove that on any occasion while I have been in this House I ever once stopped outside instead of giving my vote independent of influence on one side or the other. I have always listened attentively to the debates and given my vote in the interests of my constituents, and there was only one occasion, when I could not decide in my own mind, that I did not vote, during the four years I have been in this House. Therefore it is very unjust and unfair of any hon. member—and very ungentlemanly—to go before my constituents and make statements that are thoroughly unfounded and thoroughly false. All the hon. members of this House who have known me since I have been here know that I have fearlessly given my vote on every occasion, as the records of the House will show. I know where the shoe pinches the hon. member for Blackall. If he could only get me on his side, I should be one of the best members in creation, and he knows that perfectly well. The hon. member wanted me to be on his side against "Nobbs," and he was very much pleased to get me with him on the toll-bar question. On that occasion I said, "Yes; I am going with you, because I believe in doing away with the toll-bar." The hon. member knows that when he took me to McEachern's banquet he tried to get me on his side, but I have an instinct of my own, which I got from my father—I believe in following out my own ideas, and not being led by any member. I beg to tell the hon. member for Blackall that there was no necessity for him to go behind my back and make a false assertion before my electors, insulting not only me but the gentlemen who elected me, and who still have confidence in me, as will be proved when I go before my constituents again. If anybody has a right to speak of me before my constituents it is the senior member for Rockhampton, and not the hon. member for Blackall, who has nothing to do with us, because he is an outsider. I beg to move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. PATTISON said: Mr. Speaker,—I have no intention of occupying the time of the House beyond saying that, during a speech of the hon. member, I did interject that nobody took any notice of what the hon. member said. I simply

repeat that now; and I take no notice of what the hon. member said just now. That is all I have to say in reply to the hon. member.

TIMBER USED IN RAILWAY BRIDGE WORK.

Mr. BLACK said: Mr. Speaker,—I wish to take advantage of the motion for adjournment, to refer to a matter which I think is of some significance in connection with the decentralisation proposals of the Government in connection with the North. Yesterday the hon. member for Northern Downs asked the Minister for Works a question as to whether the timber being used on the Cairns to Herberton railway was of a serviceable description, and whether the contractor had the sanction of the Government to use it, and the Minister for Works replied:—

“The hon. member’s questions were wired on Saturday to the Chief Engineer, who is now at Cairns, and he replies this morning as follows:—

“Two excellent descriptions of local timber are being used for bridges on Cairns Railway, section 2. They are strictly in accordance with specifications; no concession of any kind with regard to timber has been made to contractors.”

Mr. Nelson then said—

“Mr. Speaker,—I did not hear the answer given to my question by the hon. gentleman, but having now had an opportunity of reading it, I should like to draw his attention to the fact that it is not an answer to one of the questions I asked, which was”——

and so on. The question of the soundness of the timber does not affect the remarks I am making. The Minister for Works then said—

“Mr. Speaker,—The only information I could supply was such as I could get from the Chief Engineer. I admit that the answer is not satisfactory to myself, but it is the only information I could get. It is, as the hon. member is aware, difficult to get a satisfactory answer to questions by telegraph. I may, however, receive further and complete information on the subject by post. The question asked by the hon. member was wired to the Chief Engineer, so that he might not have any difficulty in answering it.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, we on this side have long since contended that it is almost impossible to administer the government of the northern part of the colony from Brisbane owing to the very great distance; and I, as well as others, have taken a very determined stand in this matter. We consider that any proposal such as is now suggested will result in failure—I refer to the Decentralisation Bills—because everything will have to be remitted to Brisbane for consideration, and the Government, sitting, as they are, down here, cannot grasp and give immediate effect to matters relating to the progress of affairs in the North. The hon. the Premier, in his report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, gives this as one of the reasons why he contended the Imperial Government should not assent to the proposal for the formation of a new colony in Northern Queensland; it is in paragraph 34:—

“For this purpose it is proposed amongst other things to establish branches of the Government departments at suitable places in the Central and Northern districts of the colony under the supervision of competent officers (to be styled Government Residents or by some other appropriate name), who will have authority to conduct the ordinary executive functions of the Government in the same manner as is now done by the permanent heads of departments at the capital, making reference when necessary to the proper Minister by means of the telegraph, which now extends to almost every part of the colony, and certainly to every centre of population of any importance.”

The contention was, that as the different parts of the colony were connected with Brisbane by telegraph, there would be no delay in carrying on the affairs appertaining to each particular district. Now, this affair which cropped up yesterday shows how entirely the Works Department, at all events, is unable to grasp even such a simple matter as that. The Minister for Works is unable to get a satisfactory reply by

telegraph, which the hon. the Premier states brings all parts of the colony into immediate communication with Brisbane, and we have to wait for information by post. How long that will take I cannot say; it may come down very speedily or it may not. This is comparatively a small matter, but the same difficulty will arise in matters of very much more importance. It might be a very serious matter for the colony generally whether proper timber is being used or not, but the hon. Minister for Works is evidently unable to exercise that control over the Government works in the northern part of the colony—and this is not the extreme north—which I maintain any Government should exercise. Cairns is a comparatively near place to Brisbane, and what must the difficulty be in the extreme north of the colony? What control can the department in Brisbane have over the works that are being carried on in the North? It is quite evident that they are unable to get the information they wish by telegraph, and if Northern works are to be deferred until communication comes by post, and if matters are then again perhaps referred to Government officers in the North, hon. members will plainly see that the North is likely to be placed at a very serious disadvantage, and that the Government cannot possibly exercise that control over the expenditure on Northern works that the colony has a right to demand that they should.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. C. B. Dutton) said: Mr. Speaker,—The hon. member was very ready to take up a trifling circumstance of this kind and make capital out of it in support of the views which we know he entertains with reference to the North. Now, as to this particular case, a difficulty of that kind might just as readily arise on the Southern and Western extension or on the Central line as at Cairns, if you happen to have a chief engineer who is either stupid enough or obdurate enough to fail to understand a plain question or is unwilling to give the information which the telegram directed him to give. I sent a telegram to him this morning, requiring a distinct and emphatic answer at once to the telegram sent him before. It was put to him plainly enough, and he had nothing to do but answer it if he knew his duty. I am prepared to admit that the answer given yesterday was not satisfactory, and I explained that at the time; but if you have a chief engineer who will not answer your inquiries distinctly and clearly, of course the information asked for cannot be furnished. However, I will take care that the Chief Engineer for the Northern districts does furnish the information I require, or he will have to clear out and let somebody else go there, and that very quickly. Now, in pursuance of that I sent him a distinct telegram this morning, and if he does not answer that I shall see if I cannot find somebody else to take his place.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said: Mr. Speaker,—The hon. member has missed the point of the speech of the hon. member for Mackay. The point he takes is that it is impossible to administer properly this very large colony, especially the northern portion of it, by telegraph, as is intended to be done by the decentralisation scheme proposed by the Government. That point is entirely overlooked by the hon. Minister for Works. The hon. gentleman says the same thing might occur on the Southern and Western line; I say it would not occur, because the Chief Engineer is here in Brisbane in constant communication with the Minister for Works, or his deputy is. The administration here is personal, but it cannot be so 1,000 miles away; and I do not care what department it is, the same blunder is inevitable if an attempt is made to govern this colony through the telegraph. Now, I think the

hon. Minister for Works is quite right in compelling the Engineer-in-Chief for the northern part of the colony to give a distinct answer to the question that was asked. Any person acquainted with the timber in the northern scrub behind Cairns and Port Douglas must know the importance of the question, and the gentleman who sent the telegram did not answer it. The question was, if any timber of that kind had been tested upon any railway bridge; and no attempt was made to answer that. Now, I have known timber from the northern scrub to be used in buildings and they crumbled away, till in twelve months the buildings came down. The timber was excellent as far as appearances went, but people had to gain their experience. Now, the Chief Engineer up there has to gain his experience also, and I hope he is not gaining it at the expense of the country.

Mr. FRASER said: Mr. Speaker,—I would like to take advantage of this motion to refer to something which fell from the hon. member for Port Curtis yesterday. He alluded to the report of a short speech I made a few days ago, in which I am represented to have said that the first duty of a member of this House was to his party—that the duty of a member to the colony and his constituency was subordinate to his duty to his party. The hon. member did me the justice to suppose that I was not fairly reported. I saw the report of that speech, but I did not think it of sufficient importance to take any notice of it, and I should not have mentioned it this afternoon had it not received some importance from the fact that the hon. member has thought proper to take notice of it. The fact is that on that occasion the hon. member for Fassifern gave us one of his philosophical disquisitions upon the duties of members of Parliament, and he said distinctly that the first duty of a member was to his country, and next to his constituency. To that extent I said distinctly I agreed with him, but where I did not agree with the hon. member was where he came to deal with the duties of a member to his party; and in that I did differ from him. That is the simple explanation of the matter, and I think the hon. member for Port Curtis will accept the explanation. I am obliged to him for the generous construction he put upon the matter, because, as I have stated, it was a case of misreporting. I am not often found sheltering myself behind misreporting, and I am quite sure that hon. members who were present will bear me out that what I say now is the correct version of the facts.

Question—That the House do now adjourn—put and negatived.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS BILL.

COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the Speaker left the chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider this Bill in detail.

On clause 1—"Short title"—

The PREMIER said he thought that the most convenient way of discussing the more important part of the Bill would be to do it on clause 4. Any alteration in the boundaries of electorates would, of course, involve an alteration in the schedule, and any alteration in the number of members might also involve an alteration in the schedule. Those matters might therefore be very fairly discussed on the 4th clause, which defined the districts and the number of members to be returned by each. For instance, if it were proposed to give any district an additional member, that could be discussed conveniently on the line mentioning that electorate. If it were proposed to extend the boundaries of

an electorate, and give it two members instead of one, that also could be conveniently discussed on the line mentioning the electorate. He would take a case in which a suggestion had been made—namely, the Cook electorate. It had been suggested that the boundaries of that district should be extended and two members given to it. That would be conveniently discussed on the line "Cook," and other matters could be dealt with in the same way. If it was proposed that two single electorates should be formed into one double electorate, that could be done by giving one of the electorates two members, which would, of course, involve leaving out the other. He proposed, therefore, to postpone the 3rd clause, which fixed the number of members, and to proceed to the 4th, and then take the other districts in the order in which they stood in the Bill. He thought that would be found the most convenient way of dealing with the measure, and he remembered that a similar course was followed on a previous occasion.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2 passed as printed.

Clause 3—"Number of members of Legislative Assembly"—postponed.

On clause 4, as follows:—

"The colony of Queensland shall thereafter be divided into the following electoral districts, returning respectively the number of members set opposite to their names, that is to say:—

Aubigny	...	...	...	One member
Balonne	...	...	...	One member
Barcoo	...	...	...	One member
Bowen	...	...	...	One member
Brisbane, North	...	...	...	Two members
Brisbane, South	...	...	...	Two members
Bulimba	...	...	...	One member
Bulloo	...	...	...	One member
Bundaberg	...	...	...	One member
Bundamba	...	...	...	One member
Burke	...	...	...	One member
Burnett	...	...	...	One member
Burrum	...	...	...	One member
Cairns	...	...	...	One member
Cambooya	...	...	...	One member
Carnarvon	...	...	...	One member
Carpentaria	...	...	...	One member
Charters Towers	...	...	...	Two members
Chinchilla	...	...	...	One member
Clermout	...	...	...	One member
Cook	...	...	...	One member
Cunningham	...	...	...	One member
Drayton and Toowoomba	...	...	...	Two members
Enoggera	...	...	...	One member
Fassifern	...	...	...	One member
Fitzroy	...	...	...	One member
Fortitude Valley	...	...	...	Two members
Gregory	...	...	...	One member
Gympie	...	...	...	Two members
Ipswich	...	...	...	Two members
Kennedy	...	...	...	One member
Laidley	...	...	...	One member
Leichhardt	...	...	...	One member
Logan	...	...	...	One member
Mackay	...	...	...	Two members
Maranoa	...	...	...	One member
Maryborough	...	...	...	Two members
Mitchell	...	...	...	One member
Moreton	...	...	...	One member
Mulgrave	...	...	...	One member
Musgrave	...	...	...	One member
Nerang	...	...	...	One member
Normanby	...	...	...	One member
Nundah	...	...	...	One member
Oxley	...	...	...	One member
Port Curtis	...	...	...	One member
Rockhampton	...	...	...	Two members
Rosewood	...	...	...	One member
Stanley	...	...	...	One member
Toombul	...	...	...	One member
Toowong	...	...	...	One member
Townsville	...	...	...	Two members
Warrego	...	...	...	One member
Warwick	...	...	...	One member
Wide Bay	...	...	...	One member
Woollongabba	...	...	...	One member
Woothakata	...	...	...	One member."

"Aubigny—One member"—

The HON. G. THORN said that a large part of the proposed district of Aubigny had no interests in common with Toowoomba, and ought to be included in the Stanley district. He alluded more especially to the country about the Blackbutt Range, and the district close to Nanango, and including Taromeo and near the Baramba Division. The Baramba Division was in the Stanley electorate, and all that part of the district had interests in common with Esk, and not with Toowoomba and Aubigny. The part about Crow's Nest should, of course, be included in Aubigny, for it had interests in common with it, and there was already a railway there from Toowoomba. People were very dissatisfied with the Aubigny boundaries, and if the Premier would consent to the change he suggested it would give great satisfaction.

Mr. CAMPBELL said he did not agree with the hon. member for Fassifern. The interests of the people in the entire district were in common with those of Toowoomba, with the exception, perhaps, of a small portion towards the Blackbutt Range and the Taromeo boundary. But Cooyar, Rosalie, and all along the eastern slope of the Main Range had interests identical with those of Aubigny. If any member had a right to complain about his electorate it was he, for two of the most populous parts of it had been lopped off. However, as it was necessary to do so in order to subdivide the Darling Downs he was prepared to accept it.

The HON. G. THORN said he could assure the hon. member for Aubigny that the interests of the country he alluded to were identical with those of Esk, where the people went regularly.

Mr. CAMPBELL asked how many people were residing there?

The HON. G. THORN said there were not many people there at present, but there would be. The thing looked suspicious. It seemed as if it was intended that the railway should be sent "gerrymandering" round to Nanango, and people going from Brisbane to Nanango would have to travel 200 miles *via* Toowoomba instead of 100, as would be the case if they took the train to Esk and the coach from there to Nanango. The only populous part of the district was that around Crow's Nest, and that might properly belong to Aubigny, as there was already a railway to it from Toowoomba. He could assure the Premier that the people in his district looked upon the proposed boundary with a great amount of suspicion.

The PREMIER said the total population of the district to which the hon. member referred, when the census was taken, numbered ninety-three, of whom thirty-four were adult males. To take part of it from Aubigny and put it into Stanley would make a very curious excrescence in the north-west corner; and it would be necessary for people going from Toowoomba to those places to go through the Aubigny electorate to get into the Stanley electorate.

The HON. G. THORN said the coach road from Nanango to Esk went within a stone's throw of the Aubigny electorate, and the railway would also go that way. Consequently he did not see why that part should not be added to Stanley. It was true there were very few people there now, but it would be thickly populated hereafter. There was some of the best land in the colony there, and when it was open for selection it would be very closely settled.

The PREMIER said he did not think the hon. member quite knew where the boundary was. Some of the places to which he referred had always naturally belonged to Aubigny, and the part taken in, about Emu Creek, had interests identical with those of Toowoomba.

The HON. G. THORN said he knew that part of the country very well, and he could assure the Premier that the part about Emu Creek properly belonged to Stanley. That creek emptied itself into the Brisbane River near Colinton head-station. The watershed between Esk and Nanango ought to go with Stanley.

The PREMIER said that so it did, as the hon. member would see if he would only take the trouble to look at the map. The hon. member wanted to take a small area—200 or 300 acres—off the electorate and put it into Stanley. The hon. member admitted that the boundaries of the electorate north and south were correct, but wanted a little slice in the middle put into Stanley.

The HON. G. THORN said he was not asking for a small slice, but for a large area that already belonged to Stanley, and ought to remain in that electorate. The portion he asked for was in the police district of Esk.

Mr. CAMPBELL said the fact of the matter was the hon. member for Fassifern knew there was a nice bit of country in the neighbourhood of the Blackbutt Range, and would like to get the trade from it brought down to Ipswich.

The HON. G. THORN said he could tell the hon. member for Aubigny that the residents in the portion he referred to had no interest whatever in common with Toowoomba. They were 60 and in some parts about 100 miles away from the Crow's Nest railway. It was not in the police district nor the divisional board district of Toowoomba. It was in the police district of Esk, and ought to be kept in the Stanley electorate.

The PREMIER said it would be convenient if the hon. member would give notice of an amendment in the schedule showing how he would get the ten or twelve people he was so anxious about, removed from one electorate into the other. He should show practically how it could be done. At present the population of that particular portion of country was under one hundred. With regard to ten-twelfths of those people the hon. member admitted that the boundaries were right, and he ought to suggest some feasible modification in order to secure the few people he desired to get in the Stanley electorate.

The HON. G. THORN said the proper way was to take the boundary of the police district, which was an excellent boundary. That would save all further trouble. He thought they ought to have maps showing the police districts, and also the census papers showing the population of every district. At present they were going to work blindfolded.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he would like to ask the Premier whether the amendment suggested by the hon. member for Fassifern would affect only ten or twelve individuals?

The PREMIER: Yes; as far as he could understand it. There were under 100 people there. The hon. member for Fassifern admitted that about nine-tenths of the district ought to be in Aubigny, and contended that the other tenth ought to be in Stanley, but he (the Premier) could not discover which part he meant.

Mr. KELLETT said as far as he could gauge, from looking at the map, the Stanley electorate was pretty fairly drawn out. He thought the hon. member for Fassifern was a little bit in error in pointing out the portion he had referred to. He said that the boundary was along the road, but on examining the map he (Mr. Kellett) found that it was a long way from the road. It did not go near the road at all, as he had pointed out to the hon. member. The principal objection he (Mr. Kellett) had was that

they had taken a piece off Stanley first at one end and then at the other, to make up the quota of other electorates. If those portions were left as they were, West Moreton would be entitled to another member—to eight instead of seven members. One piece was taken off and put into Aubigny, so as to give additional strength to Toowoomba, and, in fact, pieces were taken off all round, which if left on would entitle West Moreton to eight members. That was rather rough on West Moreton. The alteration so far as the upper part of Stanley was concerned was all right. It properly belonged to Toowoomba; the people about Crow's Nest did all their business in Toowoomba, more especially now as the train ran to that district. He thought it was right to take the portions in the way proposed, so as to make the centres lie in the proper direction.

The HON. G. THORN: Take the police district boundaries.

Mr. KELLETT said that would not give another member to West Moreton. If the hon. member could show how to manage that, he (Mr. Kellett) would assist him. He did not see why Toowoomba should get so much more consideration than other electorates. It got an extra member under the Bill, so that it had actually four members.

Mr. ALAND: No.

Mr. KELLETT said he would explain it. Toowoomba had two, Cambooya made three, and Aubigny four. He called that simply four members for Toowoomba, and was sure the hon. member, Mr. Groom, would acknowledge that it was tantamount to the same thing. Of course, there was a difference of opinion on that point, but it was generally recognised that Toowoomba would have four members, and was a very well-represented body. He certainly held that the people of West Moreton were entitled to another member, and that the hon. the Premier must see it himself. He did not thoroughly understand how the mistake had arisen, but probably it had occurred by a piece being carved off here and there before the Premier considered what the electorate was entitled to.

Mr. FOOTE said he was not very well satisfied with the Bill so far as the electorates were concerned which were within his personal knowledge. It was very difficult to understand, and also very unfair in many instances. There was very great unfairness in the treatment of the Ipswich and West Moreton group. Opportunity had been taken, in making the geographical arrangement, to crop off a piece here and there from some electorates to make up the population of others. They were properly entitled to another member in West Moreton. Instead of having seven they ought to have eight. The hon. member who introduced the Bill said that the Toowoomba group had been reduced by one member; but according to the Premier's own argument it ought to have been reduced by two members, and West Moreton increased by one, which would have been fair. But somehow or other there was a determination on the part of the Government not to allow West Moreton an increase even if they were fully entitled to it. They had a very clear case to show that they were entitled to an additional member on account of the increased population and the growing interests of the district. By the way it was to be portioned off, one large block would go to one place and another large block to another. The Moreton district actually went down to Humpybong, and what common interest there was between that part and the upper part he did not know.

The PREMIER: They are under the same divisional board.

Mr. FOOTE said if the hon. gentleman had confined himself to the divisional board boundaries they would have known where the boundaries were. But he was unable to find them on the maps which were issued for the instruction of members. It would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to find the electorate of Bundamba; he was positive of that. It would take a week's study to enable a man to find the lines. The whole thing bore out the argument he advanced the other night that there would be many electors disfranchised, because when they put in their applications it would be found that they had put them in for the wrong electorates—electorates for which they did not possess qualifications. So far as the increase of members was concerned, he thoroughly agreed with the Premier; but he should certainly desire that the electoral boundaries should be left as they were. The additional members should be given to the districts that were entitled to them.

Mr. GROOM said the hon. member for Fassifern, Mr. Thorn, was fighting a shadow.

The HON. G. THORN: Toowoomba is not a shadow.

Mr. GROOM said the proposed addition to the Aubigny district comprised what was known as No. 1 subdivision of the Highfields Division, and that subdivision had not the remotest connection with the district of Stanley—in fact, it was 100 miles from Ipswich; whereas Crow's Nest, where the railway went to now, was only twenty-seven miles from Toowoomba. Would any of the residents care to go 100 miles to Ipswich when they could transact their business at Toowoomba, which was only twenty-seven miles off?

The HON. G. THORN: It will not affect their business in any way.

Mr. GROOM said it had been put as a matter of business. Perhaps the hon. member did not know that the people of Murphy's Creek were anxious to be included in the Toowoomba electorate upon the ground that they were much more likely to get their wants attended to by having their members in closer proximity than at present. But the Toowoomba members had not given the people the least encouragement in that direction, nor did they ask the Government to adjust the boundaries, but he happened to know that if the present alteration had not been made the Crow's Nest people would have petitioned the Government to attach their district to Aubigny. They would have asked the Government to remove the disabilities under which they at present laboured. At one time the Crow's Nest people did all their land business at Ipswich, and they brought the matter under the notice of the late Government, and the late Government were so well satisfied as to the justice of their case that they transferred their district to the Toowoomba land agent's district. That was done at the request of the people themselves, and it was a reasonable request, and only a matter of justice. He was sure the hon. members for Stanley, Messrs. White and Kellett, would bear him out when he said it was the wish of the Crow's Nest people to be included in the Aubigny electorate. There was not the slightest intention to do any injustice to the West Moreton electorates. The hon. member for Fassifern referred to the Blackbutt Range. At the present time that was only partially settled; but he had no doubt it would be thickly settled in the course of time. The natural place for those people to go would be the Toowoomba land agent's district, and not travel a long distance to Ipswich.

The HON. G. THORN: They could go to Esk.

Mr. GROOM said all their commercial relations were with Toowoomba, to which town they could go by railway, so that so far as the

division of the Aubigny electorate was concerned he could not see that it made any material difference. He did not think the member for Aubigny would object to having it attached to Stanley if the Committee decided that that should be done. As for an attempt being made to strengthen Toowoomba, there was no intention of doing anything of the kind. A part of the Aubigny electorate had been annexed to the Toowoomba electorate, which made it larger, but that would not strengthen it, as the hon. member for Fassifern supposed was being attempted. As to Cambooya, it was a special district in itself, and the headquarters would be at Beauraba—a very compact electorate indeed, and one of an agricultural character. On the Darling Downs the agricultural settlements were isolated, and there were large intervening areas where there was no settlement at all—large estates fenced in by wire fences; and in order to form an electorate they had to bring in isolated districts like Beauraba, Leyburn, Greenmount, and Back Plains. All those places had to be taken in to form that electorate; so that on the whole he did not think there was much to complain of. In regard to Crow's Nest, he had received a letter from an influential resident there, in which the writer expressed his surprise that there should be any opposition to that district being annexed to Aubigny.

The HON. G. THORN said he had stated already that he had no objection to the Crow's Nest part being added to the Aubigny electorate, but he did object to the other part. The Nanango coach travelled along the road not more than two miles from where the red-line boundary was marked. He had been along that road, and knew it well. That part of the district had nothing in common with Aubigny, and he thought the Premier might well take the police district boundary and keep Esk in the Stanley electorate.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said that after the remarks of the present member for Aubigny, and the hon. member for Toowoomba, Mr. Groom, the matter was hardly worth fighting about.

The PREMIER: I cannot tell what the hon. member for Fassifern wants.

The HON. G. THORN: I want the boundaries of the police districts to be the boundaries.

The PREMIER said the boundaries laid down were the most convenient that could be arranged, but he should be glad to alter them if it could be shown that other boundaries would be better. He did not think the hon. member knew what he was talking about.

Mr. KATES said it was the wish of his constituents that the name "Darling Downs," which had been the name of the electorate for twenty-five years, should be retained; and he should be prepared to move an amendment to that effect when the proper time came. He would suggest also that instead of "Cunningham" they should have the electorate of "Eastern Downs," which was in former times a constituency.

The PREMIER said it would be more convenient to take the electorates in alphabetical order instead of dealing with them all in a general discussion. If practicable, it would be very convenient to move that each line as it stood should stand part of the clause; and he did not see why it should not be done, seeing that sometimes the different paragraphs of a clause were taken one at a time.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said the suggestion was a very good one, and if it were adopted the discussion would be regular instead

of irregular as it now was. They might dispose of the clause line by line, but whether they could take the disposal of every line as final was another matter.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he believed the alteration of the Aubigny electorate affected a good many existing electorates; and the suggested boundaries must be discussed now instead of waiting till the schedule came on for discussion.

Mr. JESSOP said the clause was the most important of all; in fact, it was the Bill; therefore it ought to be thoroughly discussed. The proposed arrangement of the boundaries of the Aubigny electorate affected those from the Maranoa to the coast, and the people in several constituencies objected to the proposed alteration. According to the census and to the basis of representation, Dalby had not a large enough population for one member; but instead of adding some to Dalby, a slice was taken from Dalby and given to Aubigny. Then a slice was taken from Dalby to feed Cambooya, and the rest of Dalby was put along with the remainder of Northern Downs to form the new electorate of Chinchilla. Then a slice was taken out of Darling Downs and thrown into Toowoomba, and to make up for that a slice was taken out of Northern Downs and thrown into Carnarvon. It would have been better to have added Rosalie and part of Cambooya to Dalby, so as to make that electorate large enough in regard to population; and if a little of Aubigny had been given to Dalby instead of part of Dalby being given to Aubigny, he was sure that Dalby would still have been large enough to return a member.

The PREMIER said he had stated before that no places were more difficult to deal with than the electorates of Northern Downs and Dalby. They were very small, and the Darling Downs group altogether had more members than they were entitled to, either on a population or any other basis, and it was necessary to make some change. At the present time the electorate of Dalby contained 2,449 persons, and the adult male population was 543; and constituencies like that could not be allowed to remain in any fair scheme of redistribution. The electorate of Northern Downs contained 2,573 persons, while the adult male population was 907. That gave a total population of about 5,000, and an adult male population of 1,450, for the two electorates—a little more than sufficient for one member. Of course, they could not deal with any electorate without considering the electorates that surrounded it. Now, first of all they had to remember that the electorate of Northern Downs was particularly attached to Dalby; the interests of those two places were specially connected—Dalby and the district to the west about as far as Yeulba. East from Dalby, before going very far, they came into country that naturally belonged to Toowoomba, and part of the present electorate of Dalby really belonged to Toowoomba, and not to Dalby—the part now proposed to be taken into Aubigny. Then the electorate of Northern Downs had to be enlarged. One way suggested was to join on Taroom, but that, as he had pointed out, would be like joining the two ends of an hour-glass, and would be very inconvenient. What was proposed was to join Dalby on to the constituency with which it was most clearly connected, and the result of adding the two together was to make an electorate rather larger than the average. Then the part of the Northern Downs south of the Condamine might very conveniently be attached to the Balonne electorate—no objection could be taken to that. Then the electorate of Carnarvon had to be enlarged. All those things had to be taken into consideration at once, and it was not until after the trial of many schemes that the present one was

arrived at as the fairest. No objection could be made to it except that it was not in force at present. No one could say that all parts of the proposed electorate had not a similarity of interest; no one could contend that the electorate of Balonne did not contain homogeneous interests; no one could object to Goondiwindi being joined on to Carnarvon; no one could say the population of the proposed electorate of Chinchilla was too large or too small. All those things were fair, and all that remained was that there were a few people on the eastern and southern corner of the electorate of Dalby, which were connected commercially and locally a great deal more with Toowoomba than with Dalby—

Mr. JESSOP: They do not want to be represented by the Toowoomba members.

The PREMIER said perhaps the Toowoomba members did not want them, and it would not matter much, so far as that was concerned, if they were thrown back on Dalby. It could not be said that in any of those electorates diverse interests had been joined together. All Rosalie properly belonged to Toowoomba, and so did the country lying between Rosalie and Toowoomba. The hon. member seemed to think Irvingdale was taken in, but that was not the case; it was only Rosalie and the country between Rosalie and Toowoomba. That was joined on to Aubigny, and south of that, a small bit that certainly could not be conveniently joined on to Dalby, when the other had been taken out.

Mr. NELSON said the Chief Secretary had demonstrated the chief fault of the Bill, which was its extreme rigidity. He had attempted to deal out representation with mathematical precision, which was impracticable. They could not measure out representation with a gallon measure in that way. The hon. member, in his remarks upon the Northern Downs, was all astray in his calculations as to the direction in which business tended and the shape the country would assume. If he would take the boundary of the Wambo Division as a guide, he could make an electorate which would have homogeneous interests and also have a very good shape, which seemed to be a great point with the hon. member.

The PREMIER: There is another side to that.

Mr. NELSON said they could not have mathematical precision if there was to be any fairness. It was never attempted in any other country. In the last Bill in Great Britain they gave a margin of 15,000. Any borough which had a population over that was entitled to a member; if the population was below that it was thrown into the county. It had occurred to him that a way to solve the problem would be to divide the whole colony into groups, and refer each group to a select committee composed of members familiar with the particular district. With regard to Toowoomba, he thought it would be a good thing to reduce that. Let the municipality be represented by one member, and then make the surrounding district into another electorate, where the population would consist almost entirely of small freehold farmers. He only suggested that; he did not say it was altogether practicable. But it seemed to him that it would be a good plan if the Committee fixed a certain number of members for the Darling Downs, and left it to a select committee to apportion them.

The PREMIER said that for a long time the Government were disposed to take the Wambo Division as the basis for the boundaries of that electorate, but that was found to be impracticable. If it had been done, they would then have been left with Dalby on their hands with only 500 people.

Mr. JESSOP: With what?

The PREMIER: With 500 adults. They must do something with Dalby. Those very small electorates had given the Government more trouble than anything else in preparing that Bill. They could not wipe such districts out altogether, but must join them to some electorate. It would be very unfair to join Dalby to Toowoomba, or to an electorate containing a large number of people, where another interest predominated. That would practically be disfranchising Dalby. Hon. members were aware that no two persons starting to frame a Redistribution Bill would make exactly the same Bill. What was done in other countries was to settle the names of the electorates and leave the boundaries to be fixed by a commission; and the commission was outside Parliament altogether. That would take a very long time, and he did not know that it was an expedient thing to do; besides, he did not know that the Committee were prepared to trust any commission to fix the boundaries of the electorates. In New Zealand the other day a commission was appointed for that purpose, but there the country was not nearly so large as Queensland, and it might work in that colony. He believed that if hon. members would consider what he had pointed out, they would see that any scheme other than that adopted would involve the wiping out of Dalby, or merging it into some district whose interests were entirely diverse. The Government had therefore put Dalby with those whose interests were the same.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he thought it would take a very long time to get the Bill through committee. He was very much dissatisfied with it on broad lines. He did not at all adopt the hard-and-fast line of the exact number of adult males, or any other population, as a basis for a Redistribution Bill. In the discussion on the second reading of the measure he quoted from a speech delivered by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone in his Midlothian campaign in 1879, in which that gentleman expressed the opinion that other matters should be taken into consideration—namely, the revenue and the distance from the capital. He (Mr. Hill) thought that the Bill, framed as it was on the bare basis of population, was entirely in favour of the Southern division of the colony, increasing the representation of that division in the proportion of two to one as compared with the increase granted to the Central and Northern districts. There were six additional members given to the districts below the southern boundary of the Central division, while only three were given to the districts above that boundary.

The PREMIER: If it is wrong, alter it.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he contended that it was wrong, and wished to alter it; but if the hon. gentleman adhered to the population basis they could not alter it. They would have to accept it if they were not to take any other basis, such as distance from the metropolis, revenue, and the future prospects of a district, which he maintained should be taken into consideration. At the present time the Northern and Central districts, as depicted on the maps hanging on the walls, returned twenty-one members, while the Southern division returned thirty-eight, having therefore a majority of seventeen members. If that measure became law the Northern and Central divisions would have twenty-four members and the Southern division forty-four, so that the South would then have a majority of twenty, as against the North. As far as he could see he was the only Northern representative, besides the Attorney-General, who supported the Government. The bulk of the Government supporters were really Southern representatives. He believed that the Government was a fair Government, and one

anxious to do right; therefore he supported it. But that might not always be the case, and he did not see why those three bunches of the Brisbane and Ipswich electorates, coupled with the Darling Downs and Wide Bay districts, should be able, if they combined, to boss the whole colony. They were the very people who had the least knowledge of the general requirements of the colony, particularly the distant parts of it. It was no use talking to them as their heads were so thick. He unhesitatingly said that the metropolitan and suburban representatives were the most obtuse members in the whole of that Committee. They would talk one way and invariably vote straight. That was the only use they were; they were straight voters like the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, Mr. McMaster, who talked about voting against the Government, but never did it. With regard to the representation of the more distant portion of the colony, the Bill was lamentably deficient. To attempt to frame such a measure on hard-and-fast mathematical lines would not conduce to the prosperity of the colony. Speaking of his own electorate, the Cook, he noticed that it had been cut and carved about a good deal. If there was any district in the colony that was a progressive district it was that district; if there was any district that was far away from the capital it was that district; if any district in the colony was a producing district, and contributed largely to the revenue, it was that district. And on those grounds alone it was entitled to double the representation it had at the present time. But what did they find? Why, that it was carved about, and a lot of country and a large additional population were thrown into it from the Burke, and it got one additional member. There would be a member representing the district of Woothakata. He certainly did not envy the member who would have to contest that electorate. It was the most frightful electorate he ever saw for any individual to contest; it would contain no end of "California Gullies." Anyone who contemplated contesting that electorate would find that it was a very awkward one indeed. The Cook district went quite far enough as it was, without adding to it additional country from Burke. It would have been better if the Redistribution Bill had been entrusted to a committee of the House, or even to a commission outside, before it was submitted to the Assembly and laid on the table for hon. members to worry. It was a herculean task for one man to undertake to produce a measure of that kind, and the present Bill gave anything but satisfaction to the general body of hon. members, none of whom, as far as he could learn, had been consulted about it. It was a one man's Redistribution Bill, and as such he could hardly see how it was going to get out of committee. If they took as long over every electorate as they were taking over Aubigny, it would be a very long time before they finished.

Mr. JESSOP said he was glad to hear the Premier say he was prepared to accept amendments, and he trusted the hon. gentleman would accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Northern Downs, which was a good one. He would point out some inconsistencies in the scheme. The electorate of Aubigny was reduced by one-fourth from its original size.

The PREMIER: On the contrary, it is considerably increased. It is doubled in size and increased in population.

The Hon. G. THORN: It has got as much again from Stanley as it had before.

Mr. JESSOP said he should like to know why the electorate of Dalby had been swept out of existence in order to make others larger? The boundaries could easily have been arranged so as to have retained it.

The PREMIER: It could not possibly have been done.

Mr. JESSOP said he could have done it in ten minutes if he had been asked. It should be remembered that at the time the census was taken the drought prevailed, and a large population of the adult male population were at a distance trying to keep stock alive. Even now there were 500 names on the electoral roll, and it was not usual for more than half the number of persons entitled to be put on the rolls, at any place, whose names actually appeared there. He hoped the Premier would take the suggestion into consideration, and accept it.

The PREMIER said, in reply to the hon. member for Cook, he did not think it was practicable to refer a Bill of that kind to a commission. Hon. members must face the matter fairly. The Government were called upon to introduce a Bill for the redistribution of seats—a thing which had to be done periodically. It was an extremely difficult thing to do, as anybody who had tried knew. If every member was going to insist upon having his own particular electorate left exactly as it was there would be no end to the discussion. Many of the electorates did not contain any particular natural boundaries; they were made for various reasons. He could tell the hon. member for Dalby a secret. The electorates of Northern Downs and Dalby would have been made one years ago. They were kept separate, not because they were entitled to two members, but out of the great respect which was entertained towards the then member for Northern Downs. That was the only reason why Dalby had a member given to it in 1878. As to a number of the population being away when the census was taken, that had nothing to do with the question. They had always been over-represented; and when it came to redistribution, with an addition to the number of representatives, the small electorates which were over-represented before must be prepared to take the consequences. They could not expect to have the over-representation continued. If hon. members would face the matter fairly, and discuss it fairly, he was certain they could make progress.

Mr. JESSOP said it was not reasonable that Dalby should be wiped out. The richest and most populous corner of it had been cut off and added to another electorate to make it larger. He was prepared to discuss the matter fairly, if the Premier would only give his district fair play, but he objected to the way it had been treated. It would have been quite possible to have so altered the boundaries as to bring it up to the population basis entitling it to a member.

The PREMIER: Where would you take it from?

Mr. JESSOP said he could easily point that out.

The Hon. G. THORN said that if every member of the Committee was going to air his grievances they would be kept sitting there till Christmas. They were dealing now with the Aubigny electorate, and he had suggested that the boundaries of the police district should be substituted for those proposed in the Bill. He wanted that part of Stanley proposed to be put with Aubigny to remain as it was. It would make very little difference as far as population was concerned. The populous part was about Crow's Nest, which would still remain in Aubigny. With regard to the Bill itself, he might say that when he spoke on the second reading he had an idea of proposing that the Bill be referred to a committee of experts, but he did not think the Premier would agree to it. He had no intention of shelving the Bill, and

consequently he did not care to make that proposition. He repeated that if they went on talking as they were doing they would arrive at no practical result in regard to settling the vexed question of the boundary lines of the new electorate of Aubigny. He had suggested that they should take the police district boundaries in lieu of those proposed in the Bill.

Mr. MOREHEAD said, of course, the hon. member for Fassifern was fighting for the portion of the district that he knew best, but he must bear in mind that the reconstructed electorate of Aubigny was the key to a large number of other electorates. Constructed in the way proposed it interfered with the boundaries and areas of many surrounding electorates—with Northern Downs and Dalby, which was to lose its member altogether, with the Burnett district, and with Carnarvon, the Balonne, and Darling Downs electorates. Therefore it was not to be expected that members who were affected by the proposed change should sit silently by and let that operation go on. He thought there was a good deal in what fell from the hon. member for Northern Downs in proposing an addition to Northern Downs or Chinchilla—as it was proposed to be named—by taking in Taroom, and the southern portion of the Burnett, which was included in the Maranoa electorate. That would bring together a community of interests, and make it a very good electorate. He had received letters from the South Burnett complaining of the form of that electorate in its present shape, and pointing out that their interests were more with Northern Downs and Dalby. Those two additions would make a large increase to the population of Northern Downs and Dalby, and if it were found necessary to further enlarge that district so as to give it the original number of members—two—Yeulba and that portion of Northern Downs which had been put into Balonne could be added to it, and the district of Balonne could, if necessary, be extended further west. There could be no objection to that, on the ground of want of community of interest. It would really tend to centralise the representation, and the southern part of the group would get the member it was deprived of under the Bill. Of course the Premier would admit that the question of population should be maturely considered when passing a Redistribution Bill, and when they found that the number of adult males in the Southern pastoral group was 50 per cent. in excess of the number required as the basis of representation in the Darling Downs group, it would not be asking anything unfair to adjust the boundaries of the eastern portion of the Darling Downs group by taking in a portion of the Southern pastoral group, and to give them another member, still retaining four members for the Southern pastoral group. That would have the effect of doing something like justice to Northern Downs and Dalby, and would also be a more just apportionment of the electorates. He thought that in that way the difficulty might be easily overcome. He objected to the hon. member for Fassifern thinking that because there was a small portion of Aubigny that he wished to get attached to Stanley, therefore there was no occasion for any other portion to be considered. The hon. member appeared to altogether forget the fact that the Bill in its present form practically disfranchised one of the oldest constituencies in the colony.

The PREMIER said the hon. member who had just spoken had made a practical suggestion, and that was the way in which he should like to see the debate proceeding. The hon. member for Dalby had confined his remarks to general denunciation, and made no

suggestion whatever. He understood the hon. member for Balonne to suggest that the Taroom district should not be attached to the Maranoa electorate, and that the southern part of the Burnett—he was not prepared to say how far—should also be detached from it, and given in some way to Dalby. There would be a difficulty in uniting the southern part of the Burnett with Dalby. He did not think it would be at all a fair or reasonable union of people or of interests. The southern part of the Burnett had always been extremely difficult to deal with. It did not belong to Gayndah or to Maryborough. The hon. member for Fassifern said it belonged to Ipswich, and the hon. member for Dalby claimed it for Dalby. They seemed to be a kind of lonely people who did not belong to anywhere.

Mr. FOOTE: West Moreton.

The PREMIER: His hon. friend the Colonial Secretary, who represented the Burnett, thought they did not belong to his constituency properly, and now they were claimed by both West Moreton and Dalby. It was therefore very hard to know what to do with them. If they joined them on to the remnant of Dalby, which was too small to have a member, the change would probably necessitate more members, which was a serious question. Of course the great object was to make the division as equitable as possible. The suggestion required to be elaborated a great deal more than it had been, and he should like to hear it further discussed. It was quite true, as had been stated by the hon. member for Balonne, that Aubigny was to a large extent the key to a number of electorates. That corner—Aubigny, Dalby, and Northern Downs—had been the most difficult thing to deal with in the whole scheme, excepting, perhaps, the districts around Rockhampton. It was certainly one of the greatest difficulties in the Bill. He should like to hear more said about it.

The Hon. G. THORN said he thoroughly endorsed everything that had been said by the hon. members for Northern Downs and Balonne with regard to the boundaries of that part of Northern Downs. He thought that the southern part of the Burnett, not the Nanango end, but the stations about Hawkwood and Redbank, should go to Dalby; and on the other hand the Nanango end—the country about Baramba, Taabinga, and Tarong—should go to Ipswich. There was a coach line between Esk and Nanango twice or thrice a week, and there was railway communication between Esk and Brisbane; so that it was possible to get from any of the stations he had mentioned to Brisbane in a day. The interests of those particular places were identical with Ipswich and the southern part of the colony, while the interests of the other portions of the country he had named were identical with Dalby. He had made a practical suggestion that the police districts should be substituted for the boundaries in the Bill. He would assist the hon. member for Northern Downs afterwards to alter the boundaries, so that Taroom and that portion of the Burnett should be included in Northern Downs and Dalby, which would give them sufficient population to be entitled to two members. He would leave the western boundaries the same, because he considered that the boundaries of the Toowoomba group went too far towards Dalby, taking in Jondaryan. He did not think it was right that the people of Jondaryan, who did business principally in Dalby, should be tacked on to Aubigny.

Mr. CAMPBELL said he was rather surprised to hear the hon. member say that the Jondaryan people did their business principally with Dalby. It was absurd on the face of it. It

was well known that nine-tenths of the population in and around Jondaryan were graziers. They forwarded their station produce to Toowoomba, and it was not likely they would go up the country for their goods. It was absurd to say so, and the hon. member himself knew better. In respect to the suggestion to throw part of the electorate of Aubigny into Stanley, they might as well wipe Aubigny out altogether. The hon. member for Dalby might suggest one thing and the hon. members for Toowoomba something else, and there would be nothing left of it. It was impossible to divide it again.

Mr. NELSON said he might mention that Burrandowan, Hawkwood, and the Auburn, and all that part of the Burnett were anxious to be attached to the Wambo Division. They sent in a petition to that effect some time ago; and Taroom was also naturally connected with the Northern Downs. When he was speaking before, he mentioned the Dawson, but that naturally belonged to Roma. The whole part of the Upper Dawson and Burnett was naturally connected with Miles and Chinchilla, and there were coaches running between them. Besides, all their produce went in that direction; and, so far as he was able to ascertain, those places he had referred to were also desirous of being attached to Northern Downs if there were such an electorate. He was referring to the people about Taroom, not to the extreme end of the Upper Dawson, which belonged to Roma. Mount Hutton belonged to Roma. The heads of the Auburn and Boyne Rivers naturally went in with Northern Downs. Hon. members might think it rather peculiar that the people on the eastern side of the range should take their trade to the western side. But at that particular place there was really no main range at all. They could hardly tell where it was when crossing it. In fact, between Boondooma and the Western Railway there was no more range than there was from where he was standing to Gregory terrace.

Mr. SCOTT said he did not know what interests the Upper Dawson had in common with the Maranoa electorate, and he did not see why it should be cut off from the Leichhardt electorate. He admitted that there was a great deal of difficulty in the matter, because altering the boundary in one case entailed altering boundaries in a great many others. The Leichhardt, on the map, seemed to be a very fair district; but he did not think it fair that the Upper Dawson should be given to the Maranoa. It would be better to tack the Upper Dawson on to the Burnett than on to the Maranoa.

The PREMIER: That was suggested in 1878.

Mr. SCOTT said that would be much better if it could be done without upsetting all the other boundaries.

The PREMIER said there were only a few people in the part of the Burnett referred to, and that was quite as far as they could go northward, taking in Hawkwood, but not Nanango. The proposed boundary would go up the Boyne on the east to Hawkwood and Redbank, taking in the Auburn. They would have to go as far as that to get 200 people, and the adult male population would be less than 100, besides leaving the Burnett an extremely curiously shaped electorate. He did not think anything would be gained by the alteration. The district about the southern part of the Dawson, Taroom, only contained 520 people, with an adult male population of about 240. All those added together would not entitle them to another member, as there would only be some 700 or 800 people. That was where the difficulty came in with regard to sparsely settled districts where there were natural boundaries. By none of the modes suggested could they give Dalby sufficient people to entitle it to a

representative. If the hon. member would suggest any other boundaries he could at once state what the population would be. It could only be extended east or west. If it were extended east, it must go right up to the boundary of Toowoomba; but Dalby and Aubigny together were not entitled to two members. With regard to Northern Downs, if 500 people were thrown from Leichhardt into that electorate the population would not be large enough even then; and if a sufficient number were taken from Dalby, that electorate would be left still smaller and nothing could be done with it but absorb it into Aubigny. But it would be inconvenient to do that, because that would be in effect wiping it out, as the other end of the electorate would entirely control it.

Mr. JESSOP said that Dalby might easily be made a separate electorate, and he would not ask anything more than to let the eastern portion remain as it was at Jondaryan, take in East Prairie, then strike a line farther southward crossing the boundary where Northern Downs joined the Balonne. Then going back to the point of commencement at Jondaryan, the marked boundary should be taken, and, instead of cutting off four miles forty chains west of Dalby, carry it on past Macalister, eight miles further, and strike a line thence to Daandine and Greenbank. That would make the electorate of Dalby large enough, and would interfere very little with any other electorate; or they might include Jimbour and a portion of Cattle Creek, and make Dalby large enough in point of population in that way.

The PREMIER said the consequence of adopting the suggestions of the hon. member would be to wipe out Northern Downs and also Cambooya.

Mr. JESSOP: I don't want to do that.

The PREMIER said that would be the effect of taking a large number of people from those electorates.

Mr. JESSOP said he only proposed to take East Prairie, which had been taken from Dalby to make up Cambooya.

Mr. GROOM: East Prairie is not in Dalby now.

Mr. JESSOP said a portion of it was. What he had proposed would make Dalby large enough without interfering much with Northern Downs; and to make the population of Northern Downs sufficient they might give it that part of the Burnett containing the stations which at present got their supplies from Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles, Boondooma, Burrandowan, and Auburn. They might then throw Warra into the Dalby electorate without affecting the electorate of Northern Downs. From conversations with the managers of the stations in the Burnett district to which he had referred he knew that the people there would rather be in the Northern Downs electorate than in the Burnett. If the Burnett electorate had to be adjusted it could be extended northward.

The PREMIER said that what the hon. member had proposed would give a very fair population to Dalby, but would leave Northern Downs with less than half enough to entitle it to a member, besides making Cambooya too small.

Mr. JESSOP: There is no electorate of Cambooya at present.

The PREMIER said it would interfere with the electorates to the east, which were far more important in point of population. The hon. member considered himself only; he proposed to take away 1,000 people from the Darling Downs to get his population for Dalby; but he seemed to forget that the group was entitled to only seven members. Of course they might make another constituency with a large enough population, but

they could not do that without disturbing other electorates. Ten would not go more than seven times into seventy, and when they had to make seven constituencies out of eight they could not do so without altering the boundaries. If the group was to get another member, of course the boundaries must be re-arranged.

Mr. JESSOP : That is what I want.

The PREMIER : If that was what the hon. member desired, he should move an amendment to that effect, and if it were carried it would be the duty of the Government to submit an alteration of the schedule to meet the amendment. With the numbers as they were he was certain they would not get fairer boundaries.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said that if the Bill passed, and the boundaries were hacked and altered as they seemed likely to be, there would be tremendous confusion at the coming election. The electors would hardly know what electorate they were in, or where they were to vote. He believed the exigencies of the case would have been fully met by bringing in an additional members Bill for the Northern and Central divisions. He believed the Darling Downs district was amply represented, and he was quite certain that the Metropolitan group was more than amply represented, especially if they took intelligence into consideration, and counted the mere voting machines that came from there. It would have been better even for the city of Brisbane if they had given more members to the Northern and Central divisions. It was an absurdity and an anomaly to concentrate the whole of the representation in the southern corner of the colony, and it was that which had caused dissension and a clamour for separation in the North. If the people of the North saw that the representation of the South was to be increased as two to one against them, there would be still more agitation and excitement and a tendency towards separation. He wanted for the present, as they were not likely to get separation in the immediate future, to smooth over the difficulty. He wanted to see the North fully represented in the House. There should be some other basis besides that of population.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER : Acres.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL : Yes, acres required representation.

Mr. MOREHEAD : Wiseacres !

Mr. LUMLEY HILL : There was not the slightest doubt that a district with an enormous acreage required representation. If people were not there it required representation to put them there.

The PREMIER : I suppose you would give the uninhabited part of Cape York Peninsula two members.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said that probably if it had two members it would progress faster than it was likely to do at present, and would add to the material prosperity of the colony and of Brisbane itself. The metropolitan people were so short-sighted and so narrow-sighted that they could not see the advantage of getting men down from the country districts to become actually, as he himself had become, a resident of Brisbane in order to represent an outside district. He did not like to instance himself, but it was an obvious advantage to Brisbane that men should be drawn here from the far corners of the colony to represent their various districts, and to enlighten the members of the Metropolitan group, many of whom had never been beyond the gutters of their own streets, as to what legislation was necessary to be conducive to the benefit of the colony as a whole.

Mr. WHITE said some hon. members were said to be only voting machines ; but there were talking machines there too, and the country was watching to see who were actually trying to gain plenty of days for their two guineas by wasting time with simple talk. He was not going to interfere with the present electorates at all ; he was not going to complain on any point, because it only wanted a beginning, and all sorts of confusion would ensue. He would support the Bill as it stood.

Mr. NELSON said he would like to know what reason there was for attaching to the electorate of Cambooya a part of the Wambo Division, and taking in part of his (Mr. Nelson's) property, which was close to Dalby. He did not complain, because it would give him a vote in more than one electorate, but he could not see the reason for it. It came down close to Dalby and took in a large portion of St. Ruth's and Cecil Plains.

The PREMIER said he was not familiar with that part of the country, and he had had to be guided in his recommendations by those who were. Of course, minor points like that could be amended without any difficulty. He had met with several errors of that sort himself, to which he would draw the attention of the Committee. He did not for a moment propose that all the minute details of the boundaries should necessarily remain unaltered.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said that, with regard to what the hon. member for Stanley, Mr. White, had said about voting machines and talking machines, he would like to say that he (Mr. Hill) was not one of those who voted themselves two guineas a day, at all events, so that he could have no object in prolonging the session on that account.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER : You draw it.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he did, and he used it as he liked, and he had very good amusement with that two guineas a day. His constituency got the most of it, at the expense of the Government. The hon. member for Stanley was, no doubt, perfectly satisfied with the Bill, as he had a very nice constituency created for himself.

Mr. NELSON said he thought he had made out a very good case with regard to the division of the electorate of Northern Downs, except in one particular, and that was with reference to the question of population. The Premier looked upon population as the sole basis of the matter of representation ; but he (Mr. Nelson) thought identity of interests had quite as much to do with it as a few people more or less. Moreover, he would like to point out that it was seventeen months since the census had been taken, and there had been a great many changes in that time ; and, besides, it did not give the average population during the past five years, but was liable to give an incorrect return of the population of a district, as it was only a return of the numbers on one particular day—the 1st of May. He knew, for instance, that that was the slack time of the year in country districts, when numbers of people were travelling about, and circumstances of that sort prevented their names appearing in the districts to which they belonged. He had not been in his electorate on the 1st of May when the census was taken, and his name was not only omitted from the electorate of Northern Downs, but he believed it was added to that of Toowoomba. He thought all that went to show that any attempt at infinitesimal precision such as was being attempted in regard to the redistribution question could not be carried out, and it would be far better to take population, together with an identity of interests—to

which he attached very great importance—and in that way they would arrive at a much better plan than by going simply and solely upon that one basis of numbers. That basis itself, as he had shown, was not quite to be depended upon. They could not depend upon its being absolutely accurate, and to attempt, therefore, to divide the people in that way into a certain number of thousands, or whatever it might be, would not give them any better representation than if they took into consideration more than they had done the principle of identity of interests. If hon. members would look at the map he would point out how the object to which he had referred might be effected—namely, to secure a large section of population whose interests were identical in one electorate. The heads of the Dawson River were crossed by the 149th degree of longitude. Starting from a point on that longitude, and running down southward to the heads of the Dawson, which naturally belonged to the Burnett district—

The PREMIER: You cannot make a parallel of latitude a boundary.

Mr. NELSON said he did not mean to say that they could make a line of longitude or parallel of latitude the boundary, but he was merely making a rough suggestion. The line he suggested would throw Taroom into the electorate of Northern Downs. Then starting from the right of Taroom, leaving Redbank in the Burnett district, they would come down to the north of Hawkwood, and strike down from there to the heads of the Stuart.

The PREMIER: Where would you take in Dykehead?

Mr. NELSON: That will remain in the Burnett.

The PREMIER: Where would you go then?

Mr. NELSON: Strike down south to the head of the Boyne River.

The PREMIER: Right down south?

Mr. NELSON said they would then go down south to the Main Dividing Range, to the heads of the Stuart River. That would take in the whole of the Burrandowan Run. Burrandowan Run would be the boundary, in fact. Boondooma and Yeulba would both be included, and also that tract of country which originally belonged to Northern Downs, where the Condamine township was situated. The boundary might be extended southward if necessary, but the country there was not very thickly populated, and it would not matter much whether the boundary was extended in that direction or not. However, the Condamine township naturally belonged to Northern Downs. The whole of its trade was with Miles on the Southern and Western Railway. It had no connection with Surat whatever; the trade of Surat went to Yeulba. He thought by adopting the boundaries he had suggested they would have a very fair electorate, with a population nearly up to the number required, and it would be an electorate in which the whole of the interests were identical.

The PREMIER said the hon. member had made a practical suggestion which was deserving of consideration. The district suggested would contain an adult male population of about 1,100. But if those boundaries were adopted they would still be left in the difficulty with regard to Dalby. The hon. member had taken in nothing for Dalby, which was still left with only 543 adult males.

Mr. NELSON said that could be provided for by extending Dalby westward. Let the eastern boundaries of Dalby be left as they were, and

extend the electorate westward as far as Warra, on the Western Railway. Then take a little of the Balonne to add to Dalby, and complete the Balonne by taking a piece out of Warrego.

The PREMIER: But what you take from the Balonne you must put to Northern Downs, not to Dalby.

Mr. NELSON said that would just do as well, so long as the respective boundaries were properly adjusted.

The PREMIER said that if it was considered desirable to give an additional member to the Darling Downs, the question might be raised by the hon. member moving the insertion of the words, "Dalby, one member." The real question was, was there to be another member for the Darling Downs?

Mr. NELSON said the question was not one of the Darling Downs. He was going beyond it. The Darling Downs had not a very definite boundary line, and although a certain group of electorates was spoken of on the schedule as the Darling Downs group, it was not a strictly accurate definition.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he hardly knew where they were in the schedule. There had been a good deal of desultory skirmishing going on with regard to the representation of the Northern Downs and Dalby. He agreed with the hon. member, Mr. Nelson, that the census was taken at a very bad time, when the men were away in the country districts. In all the Western districts the men had been driven out by the drought, and had not returned. The adult male population in those places was much greater now than it was when the census was taken. With regard to the North, he was credibly informed that since the census was taken the population of Cooktown and the immediate vicinity, especially about the Bloomfield tin-mines and the Annan River, had increased by fully 1,500.

The PREMIER: Oh! let us have that afterwards, by itself. We shall never get on.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: What electorate are we dealing with now?

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Aubigny.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: What has that to do with Northern Downs and Dalby?

Mr. NELSON: A great deal.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said they seemed to be wandering all over the colony instead of dealing with the main question, which was the representation of the Southern division as against the Central and Northern divisions. That was the main thing that required to be adjusted. He considered that the Darling Downs had ample representation already; it was the Central and Northern divisions which needed additional proportionate representation. The schedule gave six additional members to the South, as against three for the Northern and Central divisions together; and that was what he objected to. It was no use to talk about the South having additional representation unless it was seen that the Northern and Central divisions were going to be more amply represented. The present preponderance of Southern votes was going to be still further increased in the ratio of two to one.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS: The North has got double share now.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he would leave it to any member of ordinary intelligence to say whether the North had a double share, even upon the mere population basis. He did not believe in taking population as the sole basis of representation. He would draw the attention of hon.

members to the fact that Northern members laboured under considerable disadvantages. They could not be always present in Brisbane, even during the session of Parliament. They had to go away to attend to their business from time to time; whilst the members representing the Metropolitan group attended to their business in the morning, and it was a mere pastime to them to come to the House in the afternoon. They were always on the spot, and could bunch together and give effect to their votes and opinions at any time. Whenever the party representing outside districts had been in power, it had always been by a majority of one or two, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the Government in those days could keep their party together, because the business of certain members took them away occasionally. Northern and Central members were absolutely compelled to go away, and could not, therefore, consolidate their voting power as Southern members were able to do by reason of their residing in the immediate vicinity of Parliament House.

Mr. DICKSON said he had already expressed his opinion concerning the Bill, and pointed out the futility of attempting to make any amendments in it. Hon. members might feel that their own electorates were interfered with, yet if justice were to be dealt out to them in the manner they required, it would interfere with what he might call the equilibrium of representation as proposed by the Bill. What struck him in connection with the Bill was, that two very important divisions of the colony, instead of benefiting by increased representation under the Bill, actually had their proportionate representation reduced. That was extremely undesirable. He quite recognised the difficulty the Premier must labour under to afford an equitable share of electoral power to all the divisions of the colony. Considering the seasons they had passed through and the fluctuating character of the population in some of the districts—especially those of the western interior—they ought to be very chary in gauging their representative power merely by the census returns. Without going into the question at present as to whether the North should have increased representation allotted to it, what struck one on looking at the tables was that the Darling Downs group was deprived of one member and so was the Central division; and he must confess that he thought that in giving increased representation to the people at the present time they ought not to deprive them of the power they already possessed. If they were in a state of transition, as he believed the Central division might be regarded to be, because, having suffered severely from a drought, a portion of its population had perhaps left it for a time, he did not think they ought to reduce its quota of representation. And he said the same with regard to the Darling Downs. He certainly thought the number of representatives for the Darling Downs and Central division ought to be maintained at the present standard, and he thought the Premier might, by amending the unit of representation for the Southern pastoral group, be able, perhaps, to give the Darling Downs a sufficient quota to enable that group to maintain its nine members. And he could say the same with regard to the Central division, which certainly ought not to be reduced from eleven members to ten. He was not arguing now with regard to the North, because their power of representation was proposed to be increased. Doubtless they should hear further on why more members should be accorded to them. But he would like to see the Committee take up this position: that districts which had temporarily suffered from decrease of population under the census ought not to be reduced in their power of

representation at the present time. They ought to allow them reasonable time to recover from the depression, and he should like to see those districts which stood prominently forward as being curtailed of their fair electoral power, dealt with liberally, and reinstated in their present position. He trusted Northern members would not infer from what he had said that he wished to disregard any claims the North might make for additional representation. But the North did not appear to be suffering from a reduction of electoral power. Possibly Northern members would be able to show that they ought to have more representation, but he certainly thought that those most important districts, the Darling Downs and Central division, should not be reduced in their electoral power in that House.

Mr. MOREHEAD said, to come back to the question of the Aubigny electorate, after what had fallen from the Premier, he thought some solution of the difficulty might be arrived at by adjusting the boundaries between the Darling Downs and Southern pastoral groups, so as to give them thirteen members instead of twelve.

The PREMIER: An additional member!

Mr. MOREHEAD said he would point out why those two groups were entitled to another member, even under the quota that was intended to be established by the Bill. If they took total population, the Southern pastoral group and the Darling Downs group together had 48,450, giving a quota of 3,730 for thirteen members. Then taking the adult male population, there were 6,093 in the Southern pastoral division, and 8,501 in the Darling Downs group, making a total of 14,594. That divided by 13 would give as nearly as possible, on the adult male basis, 1,123. Comparing that quota with the Northern division, it slightly exceeded it as regarded total population, and was a little less as regarded adult males. Comparing the Central division it exceeded it as regarded the quota of total population, and was slightly below that of adult males. In the Wide Bay and Burnett group, which came next, the total population was about 500 less, and the adult male population was less than 100 less. He thought, under those circumstances, that group should receive due consideration at the hands of the Government. In England, when the last Redistribution Bill was introduced and carried by Mr. Gladstone, especial consideration was given to existing interests. That hon. gentleman stated clearly that it would be an easy matter to cut England and Wales up into certain divisions or subdivisions which would contain as nearly as possible an equal number of people, but he deprecated any such treatment of the constituencies in Great Britain, and carried his contention to a successful issue. In one county alone, Rutland, although the population was below 20,000, he reduced the number of members from two to one, and still preserved the representation, although the quota of population was lamentably short of that in almost any other constituency in England.

The PREMIER: He could not cut out a whole county.

Mr. MOREHEAD said that was quite true, and that was one of the strong points that was contended for by Mr. Gladstone when introducing the Bill—that he did not intend, where it could possibly be avoided, to interfere with existing interests, or to change existing circumstances, but only to modify them where it was absolutely necessary. In the same way Mr. Gladstone preserved, as far as he could, subject, of course, to modifications, the rights of municipalities which had returned members to Parliament for a considerable number of years, although their

population had decreased below that upon which the representation granted in the Bill was based. Now, if that could be done in the old country it applied with tenfold force here. In considering the suggestion he had made with regard to the Southern pastoral group and the Darling Downs group, they had to take into account the enormous growth of settlement that had taken place in the Western districts, and, in fact, the whole of the outside districts. Anyone who was cognisant of the way in which representation had increased in that House must know that those districts which not very many years ago had very sparse population were now increasing in that respect with enormously rapid strides. Therefore, even if it could be argued that the rate of progress about Dalby, or thereabouts, was not likely to proceed so rapidly as it had done in the past, yet by tacking those two groups together they should have an area of country rapidly growing in population, which would far more than compensate for any shortcomings of population in the other portions of the group. He thought he had shown pretty clearly that the proposition he asked the Government to assent to was not exceptional. He had shown that the quota was mathematically in accordance with those suggested in the measure by the Premier, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would see his way, more especially as an act of disfranchisement would be committed if the number were kept down to twelve, to adjust the boundary as he had mentioned, without touching the Burnett or any other district, so as to give thirteen members instead of twelve.

The PREMIER said the most convenient way would be to move the insertion of the words "Dalby, one member." They might as well finish the discussion regarding that part of the colony before they took the next question, which would probably be either the disfranchised constituency of Blackall or the Northern group. But an additional member was involved. If it were agreed to, the district of Northern Downs should certainly take in the heads of the Dawson and probably part of the Burnett waters; but the hon. member had not got over the difficulty about Dalby, which would still contain only 500 men.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Alter the boundaries.

The PREMIER said they would have to take the population from somewhere else if they did that. If they added 500 men from some other electorate, that electorate would be short.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the figures showed that they would not have to go outside the two groups he had mentioned.

The PREMIER said, take Northern Downs; they could not go so far east as Dalby.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Go west and south.

The PREMIER said they could take in the whole of the Wambo Divisional Board, which was almost coincident with the electorate of Northern Downs.

Mr. NELSON said the largest subdivision of that board was in Dalby.

The PREMIER said the eastern part of it was in Dalby. But Dalby was so small, and they could not go to the east of it.

Mr. NELSON said they proposed to keep the old boundary.

The PREMIER said that then they would have a population of only 500 men, and 2,000 total population. Hon. members had not, so far, pointed out in what way any addition was to be given to Dalby without destroying some other constituency, and if it were a question of destroying a constituency he would rather destroy a small one than a large one.

Mr. NELSON said it could be easily done. The eastern boundary of Dalby coincided with the Wambo Divisional Board.

The PREMIER: That will only give a population of 500 men.

Mr. NELSON said they might extend Dalby westward as far as Warra.

The PREMIER: That will only give about 100 more.

Mr. NELSON said the Premier's figures must be wrong. He knew the country—

The PREMIER said there was a population of one at Macalister. It was the smallest town in the colony.

Mr. NELSON said if they went as far west as Warra they would get a fair population, and would take in nearly the whole of the Wambo Division. The Northern Downs district could be added on to by taking a part of the Burnett. It had been shown that by adding together those two large groups—the Southern pastoral and the Darling Downs—there was sufficient population for thirteen members instead of twelve.

Mr. FERGUSON said that so far as the discussion had gone it was not very satisfactory. Hon. members would not come to any conclusions whatever, but were discussing matters all over the colony. He would like to know in what manner the discussion was to be carried on.

The PREMIER: I have asked hon. members to propose an amendment.

Mr. FERGUSON said he was pleased to hear what had fallen from the hon. member for Knoggara since the second reading of the Bill. He had studied it pretty carefully and found that considerable changes had been made since the census was taken. There were parts of the colony which were at present entitled to a member which were not considered in the Bill. There was Mount Morgan, for instance. At the time the census was taken there were only 600 people in No. 3 subdivision, which included Mount Morgan. There were several other towns in the subdivision, which was a most extensive one. Since then he had wired to the manager at Mount Morgan, who had been there since long before the census was taken, and had ascertained from him the number of the adult population on the field at the present time. He asked that gentleman, first, what was the number of male adults employed by the company, and then the number employed by the contractors, and also the approximate total adult male population of the place altogether. The manager took two days to consider, and the reply he sent was that the company employed 500 male adults, and the contractors 300 male adults, and that the total adult male population must be over 1,200. The total population of the place was over 3,000. He had obtained those figures to show that in the Central district there was one place which had sprung up since the census was taken, and which had at present as great a population of adult males as any other in the division, according to the Bill before them. That place was included in Port Curtis, which, at the time the census was taken, had not the number of male adults that Mount Morgan had at the present time. At the time the census was taken there were not more than 250 persons at Mount Morgan, so that all that increase was since then. It was a permanent population, and at the present rate of increase would soon be double the present number. He knew it was difficult to alter the boundaries, but he had indicated a very easy way of restoring the member taken

from the Central group without changing the boundaries at all—namely, by giving a member to Mount Morgan, which was entitled to a member.

The PREMIER: Not by itself.

Mr. FERGUSON said it was, according to the population. At all events, the Crocodile could be added, and then it would be entitled to a member. It should be borne in mind that the circumstances of the Central district were very different now from what they were when the census was taken. At that time they were in the middle of the drought, and a portion of the population had removed, but now they had gone back to work. Besides, it would not be fair to Port Curtis to leave the electorate as it was now, because the election of the member would be in the hands of the Mount Morgan electors, and the rest of the Port Curtis district would have no voice in the matter. He pointed that out now so that when the proper time came an amendment might be introduced, declaring Mount Morgan a separate electorate, taking in Crocodile or Gracemere if necessary.

The PREMIER said it would be more convenient to discuss the matter referred to by the hon. member later on. He had a good deal of information on the subject, and had considered all the possible changes of boundary that could be made in the electorates. But the question now was whether another member should be given to the Darling Downs group. If so, he would submit fresh boundaries to the Committee; but if not, he thought the present boundaries were the best that could be arranged. It should be borne in mind that additional members here and there meant an increase in the total number—though he did not attach any importance to any particular number. If hon. members wished to have another member in the group, the proper way would be to move the insertion of the words "Dalby, one member," or whatever words they thought proper, and then the question could be properly discussed.

Mr. PATTISON said he was pleased to hear the Chief Secretary lay down the lines on which to discuss the question, because it appeared to him that hon. members had been wandering from the question immediately under consideration. He had something to say with regard to the Central district, but would deal with it as a separate question; and he should very much prefer now to deal with the question at present before the Committee. The subject now was "Aubigny," and he hoped the Committee would follow the lead of the Premier and stick to the question proper.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he did not see how they could give Dalby, which was in the Southern division, another member, without doing away with the new electorate of Cambooya.

The PREMIER: Cambooya is not new; it is part of Darling Downs. Cambooya and Cunningham together make up Darling Downs.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he did not want to see an increase in the Southern representation, though Dalby had very likely been badly treated. He hoped that if an addition was made either Cambooya or Cunningham would be wiped out.

Mr. NELSON said they were not asking for an additional member, but simply that the present representation should be retained. And they had produced figures to show, and he believed they had proved, that they were entitled to what they asked.

Mr. KATES said the population of Darling Downs was rapidly increasing, and many of the young men there who were not adults at present would be voters in a year or two. A Redistribution Bill was not passed every year, and he maintained that the Darling Downs should not lose a member. He therefore hoped the Premier would see his way to let the number of members remain as at present, and let the Darling Downs electorates also remain as they were. He liked to see identity of interest; but a good many of the electors in what was proposed to be called Cambooya had been cut away from the electorate to which they naturally belonged. For instance, the Back Plains selectors, who were purely agriculturists, did not like to be cut away from the electorate of Cunningham, and be attached to a strange electorate with which they had nothing in common. He hoped the hon. member at the head of the Government would agree to give another member to the Darling Downs group.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said that, even on the adult male basis, the Darling Downs group was more amply represented than any other group of electorates in the colony, and it enjoyed the additional advantages of being within immediate reach and touch of Brisbane. The whole of the representatives could come from any part of the electorate in one day to attend on any important occasion; so that that group was superabundantly represented already. They returned one member for an average of 1,063 adult males, and that, he said, was over-representation. He would be no party to increasing the representation of the Darling Downs, unless the representation of the Central and Northern districts was increased also; and he believed there were quite sufficient members in the House already. The fifty-nine representatives they had at present were amply sufficient to represent the whole colony, and if they increased the number of Southern members they would have to increase the number from the Central and Northern districts in a more than proportionate amount in order to get anything like a fair and equal representation. If they did that the House would be overflowing with members, and he thought it would be a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth. If they could reduce the representation of the Darling Downs group it would be conducive to the best interests of the colony, and of Brisbane too.

The PREMIER said hon. members did not seem to understand the difficulty there was in making a redistribution without increasing the number of members. Any Government trying to do that had a very hard task. Hon. members could see the difficulty there was in getting rid of one member where a constituency was notoriously over-represented. Let any hon. member attempt to frame a Bill without increasing the number of members; he would be disfranchising all round—taking away three members from Darling Downs instead of one, two from the Central group, and so on. That was not the scheme the Government had brought down, and it was not worth while discussing anything which was not before the Committee. He thought the matter had been fairly raised by hon. members opposite.

Mr. NELSON said he would move that "Dalby, one member" be inserted after the 4th line. Of course, he supposed that if that were carried there would be a readjustment of boundaries when they came to the schedules. Aubigny would not remain exactly as it was.

The PREMIER said of course the amendment would involve a change in the boundaries of Northern Downs, Aubigny, Burnett, Maranoa, Balonne, Chinchilla, Warrego, and probably Cambooya, but that was only a matter

of detail. The real question that ought to be considered on that amendment was whether it was desirable to give an additional member to that part of the Southern district. Of course, it would take in more area than what was called the Darling Downs group in the table that had been circulated; but the additional population would not, so far as he could estimate it then, exceed it by more than 1,000. There would be about 700 from the North—that was to say, from the head of the Dawson and the Burnett waters—and about 200 from the South from what was now the north-eastern portion of the Balonne electorate. The result would be about 35,000 total population, to be divided by 9, which would give rather less than 4,000, instead of 4,295; while the adult male population, as nearly as he could guess, would be something over 9,000, which, divided by 9, would give about 1,000. That group would be the best represented in the colony. If they took the Northern Downs electorate out of the group and took it as part of the Southern pastoral group, the figures, of course, would be somewhat modified. The quota of adult males for the Southern pastoral group would be slightly diminished—that might be an advantage, because it was rather high at present—and the quota for the Darling Downs group proper would remain very much the same as at present. That was the result, so far as he could estimate it now. He thought the question of the division into groups was one on which the members of the different parts of the colony should have something to say. They had as yet heard nothing from any member of the Northern group, except the hon. member for Cook, Mr. Lumley Hill, who appeared to think that area ought to be considered, and he believed the hon. member was serious.

MR. LUMLEY HILL: Yes.

The PREMIER said other hon. members had spoken of it, but he did not think anybody but the hon. member for Cook was serious in the matter; and he thought possibly the hon. member should take the uninhabited portion of Cape York Peninsula as a separate district.

MR. LUMLEY HILL said he did seriously believe that area should be taken into consideration and represented. The Premier had twitted him about it, but he believed that a large and extensive district, although thinly populated, might be a very favourable place to settle people, and might add to the wealth and prosperity of the colony, and he thought such a district should be represented. It was within his recollection that when the leader of the Opposition was returned as the first representative of the Mitchell electorate, he represented not population, but simply a number of square miles—there certainly were not 100 electors in that district at first. He considered that the hon. gentleman, who was now the member for Balonne and leader of the Opposition, had, at all events, been a very useful member, and had given a great deal of valuable information to them, and had contributed greatly to the progress and prosperity of the district which he had first represented. That district was now one of the most important wealth-producing districts in the whole of the colony. He also remembered, when he (Mr. Lumley Hill) was returned as the representative of the Gregory district, he represented nothing but acres. He did not believe there were at that time twenty-five electors in the whole district. He had been returned as one who knew something of the capabilities of the district, to represent it in Parliament; and whether he had contributed in any way or not by his small efforts to the prosperity of the district, the fact remained that it had advanced by rapid strides in progress and prosperity until it had become one of the most important

wealth-producing districts in the colony. Now, he would ask the Premier to compare the representation of the Darling Downs group, with its average adult male population of 916, with the Southern pastoral group, including the Balonne, Maranoa, and Warrego, which had an average adult male population of 1,827. Was it fair to go on increasing the representation of the Darling Downs group, which had now, on the basis of adult male population, double the representation of the Southern pastoral group, without also increasing the representation of the latter group? He was taking that group as an instance, as he would confine his remarks to the South, and go entirely on Southern lines, avoiding his own constituency of Cook and the North, as Northern lines did not seem to agree with the Committee. Why should the Darling Downs people, who were near Brisbane, and whose members could easily come down and record their votes upon any and every important occasion, be represented in the proportion of two to one as against the people farther away, who were under greater disabilities in coming here? He could not understand it; the redistribution was not on anything like fair lines, or on lines likely to be conducive to the general welfare and prosperity of the colony.

MR. MOREHEAD said he thought the hon. gentleman misunderstood what had fallen from that side of the Committee, and also from the Premier. It was not, he took it, a question of giving another member to the Darling Downs, but one of readjusting the boundaries of the electorates in that and the Southern pastoral group. The adjustment of boundaries was what was intended, and would include the Warrego and Balonne. The hon. gentleman made reference to the trouble he had in getting to Brisbane from the North; but it appeared to him (Mr. Morehead) that the Western members had to suffer much greater inconvenience. They had no steamers running past their doors like the Northern members. The motion of the hon. member for Northern Downs was not one to give an additional member to the Darling Downs, but it simply, as he had said, dealt with the adjustment of the boundaries in the schedule of the Southern pastoral and Darling Downs groups.

MR. DICKSON said he did not rise to object to the amendment, which he thought a desirable one, in order to restore the present electoral power of the Darling Downs and Southern pastoral divisions conjointly, but he would like to ask why the districts should not be taken alphabetically? He took it that was better, because if the amendment was to insert the proposed electorate after "Cunningham," and before "Darling Downs," it would prevent debate upon the preceding electorates.

The CHAIRMAN: It will come in after the 4th line—after "Aubigny."

MR. DICKSON said it seemed to him that they would make greater progress if they took the electorates alphabetically and consecutively.

MR. MOREHEAD: They will be in the schedule.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said he presumed that that amendment would settle the Darling Downs and Southern pastoral groups altogether, so that there would be no more discussion upon any electorate in those two divisions, and, therefore, they were making progress. But hon. members must not forget the very important fact that this would give an additional member. The hon. member for Darling Downs made a mistake in saying it was simply a readjustment of boundaries; and he thought the hon. member for Enoggera made the same mistake in thinking that it was simply

replacing the representation at what it was before. It was more. If they took those two groups, at present they had twelve members, while by the proposed alteration they would have thirteen, and therefore they were not merely redistributing the districts, but disturbing the balance of power between the North, Central, Metropolitan, and Southern and Western divisions. That was a matter to be taken into serious consideration. Of course hon. members must be aware that he intended to propose a great addition in the North.

THE PREMIER: How many?

THE HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: Four.

MR. LUMLEY HILL: It should be eight.

THE HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said he thought he should certainly be able to get four if they kept on increasing the Southern representation. At any rate they would see when they came to "Burke" what they were entitled to. He was quite certain that, if he was able to show that it was just and fair, the Committee would grant the additional representation. But it must not be forgotten that the amendment would disturb the balance of power. He did not, however, object to it on that ground or any other ground, but would point out that the proposed amendment amounted to more than an adjustment of the boundaries between the Darling Downs and Southern pastoral groups, and if it was passed it would strengthen him in his demand for additional representation for the North when they came to the line "Burke."

MR. KELLETT said it was well for them to consider that proposal to give an additional member to the Southern pastoral and Darling Downs groups. If that were done it would certainly be only reasonable and fair that the West Moreton group should have another member. By adding the figures mentioned by the Premier those two groups would, if the amendment were adopted, have an average total population of 3,800 to each member, while the average for the West Moreton group was 4,385. If the former were entitled to an additional member the latter were certainly entitled to another member also, and he took it that if the amendment were carried there would be no objection to give an additional member to the West Moreton group. Then other districts would have to be treated in the same way, and if they went on in that manner they would soon have 100 members.

MR. MOREHEAD said he did not think the hon. member who had just spoken had regard to the figures which they had given them in printed tables, or perhaps he had not seen the tables. The quota of total population to each member in West Moreton was 4,385, and the proportion of the adult male population was 1,128. If another member were given to the Darling Downs and Southern pastoral groups the figures would be—total population 3,730, adult male population 1,123.

MR. KELLETT said the leader of the Opposition had stated that probably he did not understand the figures.

MR. MOREHEAD: No; I said that probably you had not seen them.

MR. KELLETT said he had the tables and referred to them when he spoke, adding the figures quoted by the Premier. That gave an average total population to each member of the Southern pastoral and Darling Downs groups of 3,581.

MR. MOREHEAD: Add the total figures and divide by 13, and you will find that the number is 3,730.

MR. KELLETT said the number was 3,581, while that of the West Moreton group was 4,385. If, then, the other two groups were entitled to an additional member, the West Moreton group ought to have eight members instead of seven, as now proposed.

MR. MOREHEAD said the hon. member still did not seem to understand the matter. The figures were arrived at by merging the totals of the Southern pastoral and Darling Downs groups into one and dividing by 13, which gave 3,730 total population and 1,123 adult male population. It was not proposed to define the boundaries at the present time.

MR. KELLETT said he would take the figures of the hon. gentleman, and even then it would be seen that there was a large difference in the total average population to each member in the two groups. The proportion of representation in the Southern pastoral and Darling Downs groups would be one to 3,700, while in the West Moreton group it would be 4,385, being a difference of 685 in favour of the West Moreton group. Therefore, if the former got an additional member it was only fair that an extra member should also be given to West Moreton. That was all he asked for.

MR. LUMLEY HILL said he thought that if the leader of the Opposition would take the East and West Moreton groups together he would find that on the adult male population basis they would be entitled to additional representation if another member were given to the Southern pastoral and Darling Downs groups. East and West Moreton were very much under-represented in comparison with the Darling Downs group. He did not, however, for one moment wish to increase the representation of East and West Moreton, because he thought they were fully and amply represented as they were; but he contended that if the one group got an additional member the other was entitled to the same consideration. And then, if other parts of the colony were treated in the same way, and they took into consideration other matters besides the population, they would have at least a hundred members before they had done with the Bill.

MR. MOREHEAD said he certainly hoped not, if they were all going to be like the member for Cook. He thought that the hon. member had shown contempt for the members representing the groups which had been referred to so often by calling them voting machines. If that was the opinion of the hon. member, though he (Mr. Morehead) did not share it, it might perhaps be advisable to increase the representation there. But the contention set up by the mover of the amendment was that the Southern pastoral group was under-represented, and that a combination of that group with the Darling Downs group, which ran from the west side of the Main Range to the southern border of the colony, was reasonable and fair, and in population approached very near to the ordinary quota in the various divisions.

THE PREMIER said he thought the most substantial ground that could be given for the amendment was the preservation of vested interests. Apart from that he did not think it had any basis at all. It was a disagreeable thing to wipe out any electorate altogether, but a still more difficult case would come on when they got further on, in the nature of a suggestion which he knew was to be made with respect to the Central district. He believed the hon. member for Port Curtis had a suggestion to offer.

MR. NORTON: I have a very good suggestion to make.

THE PREMIER said they must, of course, bear in mind—and he wished to emphasise the fact—that giving an additional member, as the hon. member for Townsville, Mr. Macrossan, had pointed out, disturbed the balance of power. The Government had endeavoured to adjust that fairly as far as possible. Whether they had succeeded or not was a matter of opinion. They had dealt with it in groups; considered how many members each group was entitled to, and apportioned them as fairly as was possible. It was a disagreeable thing, no doubt, to wipe out an electorate, and he hoped the hon. member for Dalby would not think they wanted to turn him out, for such was not the case. The scheme proposed by the Government gave the Darling Downs group quite as many members as it was entitled to. It was said that the Southern pastoral group was scarcely adequately represented. There was certainly some disproportion as compared with some of the other groups, but the boundaries could not be moved very far west. All the districts, with the possible exception of Balonne, had well-defined natural boundaries, and the Balonne was the only one whose boundaries could be shifted further west. But the Western districts would not get any more representation by the adoption of the amendment.

THE HON. G. THORN said he would support the amendment, because Dalby was one of the oldest places in the colony, and because it could be easily brought up to the basis of representation by clipping a big slice off Aubigny. No doubt the Darling Downs was not entitled to more representation than was proposed by the Bill. At present it had fewer adult males than West Moreton, and yet it had nine members, while West Moreton had only seven. The number of adult males on the Darling Downs was 8,247, and in West Moreton 8,617, or nearly 400 more. And yet they were now asked to give the Downs another member. He would not object even to that, provided Aubigny could be clipped all round. Indeed, by wiping out Aubigny they might preserve the Northern Downs without adding to the Southern representation. The best thing would have been to introduce an Additional Members Bill, giving three or four additional members to the North, and leaving the present boundaries intact. He would show the Premier how impossible it would be for the electors to get on the proper rolls. He would take the Stanley River, which had a great number of settlers upon it. Half of it was proposed to be left in the Stanley district, and the other half in Moreton. How would the electors know which roll they ought to be on?

THE PREMIER: Every man knows which district he pays rates in.

THE HON. G. THORN: They might have qualifications for both electorates and only be on the roll for one.

THE PREMIER: It will serve them right.

THE HON. G. THORN said he had a qualification for both electorates, and was only on one roll. How were they to be adjusted? He pointed that out to show the absurdity of altering the boundaries. So far as East and West Moreton were concerned, the old boundaries ought to have been preserved, which were the boundaries before separation, and had continued to be the boundaries till recently.

MR. DONALDSON said that when the Bill was being read a second time he objected to it on the ground that it increased the number of members. It was evident now that the measure had no chance of passing unless it gave a still further increase, and he feared that before it got through committee the increase would be very large indeed. He was going to be so far inconsistent as to vote, if it came to a vote, for giving

a member to Dalby. His reason for doing so was that by the proposed new boundaries the community of interests of the electors would be better preserved than they were under the boundaries proposed in the Bill. Complaints had been made in Maranoa on the same point; the people were not satisfied because there was no community of interests between the eastern and the western portions of that electorate. Dissatisfaction had also been expressed in the Burnett district, on the ground that there was no community of interests between the northern and the southern portions of it. The boundaries looked very well and regular on the map, yet it would be better, in some districts, to have a smaller population basis than to divide the community of interests. It must be remembered that when the census was taken the population of the interior was at the very lowest ebb, and he was certain that if it was taken now the outside districts would show a population 40 per cent. more than it was at that time. They had certain figures to work upon, but those figures were now quite fallacious. When the census was taken, the drought had compelled vast numbers of men to leave the interior and come to Brisbane in order to find employment. Something had been said as to the Darling Downs having the smallest adult male population in the colony. The hon. member for Stanley, Mr. Kellett, had said that that increase would lead the House to give larger representation to East and West Moreton. That was very true, if they were going entirely on the basis of population; but they must take other matters into consideration as well. It was necessary that they should do so, because, if they had representation entirely on the basis of population, it would result in handing over nearly the whole representation of the colony to the metropolitan districts and its surroundings. That he objected to. They should have a double basis of calculation, one for the inside districts and another for the outside districts. He knew the difficulty of drawing the line between the two, and that wherever it was drawn it would be an arbitrary one. But even if Brisbane had not a member at all it would be well represented by members of other constituencies.

THE PREMIER: We have heard that before.

MR. DONALDSON: If the hon. gentleman heard it again it would do him no harm whatever. He was likely to hear it over and over again when a Redistribution Bill was under discussion. The hon. gentleman knew that there was a great deal of truth in it.

THE PREMIER: Not necessarily.

MR. DONALDSON said there was a great deal of truth in it. If they only looked round that Chamber they would see how many members representing constituencies resided in Brisbane, and, of course, they would look after its interests. The hon. member for Fortitude Valley shook his head, but he was perfectly well aware that those members would look after the interests of Brisbane, where they resided, because they would probably be looking after their own interests in doing so. He believed that some members had no direct interest in the districts they represented. The hon. junior member for Cook, he believed, had no interest in the constituency he represented, nor the senior member for Cook either, so far as he (Mr. Donaldson) knew.

MR. LUMLEY HILL: I have.

MR. DONALDSON said he did not wish to be personal to those two members; his remarks applied to several members of the Committee. He hoped, at all events, that no attempt would be made to increase the representation around the metropolis. He would like to see it decreased. He believed a better balance of power would be

obtained if such was the case. The first thing to do was to preserve the balance of power; then the Bill would be far more successful than if based upon population or a mere equality of members.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said that if he voted for the additional member for the Darling Downs group it would really only be with the object of stultifying the Bill, and the redistribution of the balance of power which it was intended to accomplish. They were commencing at the very beginning of the Bill to readjust it in the wrong direction. There was not the slightest doubt about that in his mind. He fully endorsed all that had fallen from the hon. member for Warrego with regard to the representation of Brisbane and the Metropolitan group. That hon. member had alluded to him personally and to his interests in Brisbane. Well, he had to come to live in Brisbane in order to represent an outside constituency, and he had become interested in the place, both directly and indirectly, as everybody who lived in it must become. Therefore Brisbane was never likely to suffer anything as far as he was concerned; on the contrary, it was likely to enjoy every advantage and get everything that was good for it.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: With your assistance.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Yes; he would assist all the aldermen, and even the voting machines, who were totally ignorant of the outside parts of the colony, to get all they could for Brisbane.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: In talking.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Yes, he would assist both by his voice and by his vote in doing all he could for Brisbane. But still he did not want to see the rest of the colony go astern. He wanted to see the ample resources of the colony, which were utterly unknown to those individuals—to those parish vestrymen or aldermen who got returned to that House—he wanted to see those resources developed, and in that way indirectly to push Brisbane ahead. He did not want to see £200,000 spent on a paltry two-mile line of railway to Fortitude Valley; that was not the kind of business he believed in. He would rather see £200,000 spent in running 100 miles of railway into the country to bring additional trade into Brisbane. He did not believe in that short-sighted, log-rolling kind of policy which had been adopted, and which was the policy of short-sighted members of that Committee, in order to get a few pounds spent in their own immediate neighbourhood at the expense of the whole colony, and which would be of no benefit to anybody after the work was done.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: What about the Cleveland railway?

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said the Cleveland railway could do as it very well pleased.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: It goes through your paddock.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he did not send it through; he did not vote for it.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes, you did; the terminus is on your land.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said though he did vote for the Cleveland railway, for anything he cared it might be knocked on the head; it was not likely to be a very reproductive line. They had been travelling all over the colony from north to south and a little out west, and a Bill of that kind opened up a very wide subject. He did not believe in any additional representation being granted to the Darling Downs group, and though he might vote for the amendment it was only with the view, as he said before, of stultifying the whole thing.

Question—That the words "Dalby, one member" be inserted—put and passed.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he wished to know where Aubigny was now. Had it one member?

The PREMIER: Yes.

The Hon. G. THORN said he presumed the boundaries of Aubigny could be amended in the schedule.

The PREMIER said the amendment would involve, as he had stated, the readjustment of the boundaries he had mentioned—Aubigny and the districts surrounding it as far west as the Warrego, and possibly it might involve Bulloo.

Mr. DONALDSON: Slightly.

The PREMIER: Possibly it might, but that was entirely a matter of detail. Of course it would take two or three days to arrange the boundaries and show what population there might be in the electorates, which he was sure the Committee would wish to know. He rose to suggest that it would be convenient now to raise the question, which he understood was to be raised, as to the creation of an additional electorate near Rockhampton, and he mentioned it at that stage, both because geographically it would be convenient to settle the question before they came to the Northern district, and because Blackall would probably be the name suggested. He thought it would be convenient to raise the question by proposing that "Blackall" be inserted after "Barcoo."

Mr. FERGUSON said he did not know whether the Premier was in possession of the same particulars that were in his hands. He had got all the particulars he could collect, and would like to know if they agreed with those which the Chief Secretary had received from the Central district. He had stated before that in the subdivision in the census of the Port Curtis district, which included Mount Morgan, the population was set down at 632 at the time the census was taken, and the male adult population was 441. Well, the subdivision included Bunerba, Dundee, and Calliungal, and several other places which were mentioned in the census, but Mount Morgan was so little known at the time that it was actually not mentioned anywhere, and he could only gather that it was included in some other subdivisions, although the other small places which he spoke of were mentioned separately. He had now ascertained the population of Mount Morgan from the manager.

The PREMIER: What is the present population of Mount Morgan?

Mr. FERGUSON: Three thousand five hundred, and the male adult population could be arrived at for a certainty.

The PREMIER: What is that?

Mr. FERGUSON: Within a radius of four miles of Mount Morgan, it took the manager, Mr. Hall, two days to get the particulars, and he said that there were at least 1,200 male adults. The company employed 500, the contractors who had works under the company employed 300, and there could not be less than 400 adults outside of the company's employ. So that there were 1,200 male adults at the lowest calculation, and the population was increasing. Before a year was over, he believed it would be doubled; and, moreover, it was not a shifting population. Every day large permanent buildings were going up, and families coming into the district to settle, so that in a very short time Mount Morgan would not only be entitled to one member, but to two. At the present time they could not calculate upon less than one additional member for that district, and whether the Premier was prepared to give Mount Morgan alone one member and create it into a separate

electorate, or was prepared to give additional representation in some other way, he did not care. There were several small settlements included in the proposed Port Curtis electorate, and, as he said before, Port Curtis would not have less than the number it had in the Bill if Mount Morgan were taken away altogether. Whether the members representing the Central district would be satisfied with one more member he did not know, but it was entitled to two more at least. The Bill provided for ten members; but he could show clearly that they were entitled to one more, and other members would be prepared to show that they were entitled to another. They knew very well that they should not take the basis of population only. They should remember that the territory of the Central districts was considerably larger than the territory of the Southern division, and, according to revenue, they contributed £11,000 more per member than the Southern districts did. Of course he knew that some hon. members ignored revenue and territory, but he thought those things should be considered to a certain extent. The ten members represented £11,000 of revenue each more than the Southern members, and considerably more than the Northern members did. Taking revenue and territory into consideration, they should have at least another couple of members for the Central district without counting population; but on the population basis alone, they were entitled to another member. He should like to know what the Chief Secretary's information on the subject was, and whether it agreed with what he had gathered since the second reading of the Bill.

The PREMIER said according to the scheme of the Bill at present the electorate of Port Curtis, which extended up to Mount Morgan, and took in the southern and western suburbs of Rockhampton, had a population of 3,391, and an adult male population of 1,104. That was according to the census. That included 493 as the total population of Mount Morgan, and an adult male population of 263 at the time of the census.

Mr. NORTON: What is the extent of Mount Morgan?

The PREMIER: That included the whole parish of Calliungal. But he quite recognised that it was extremely inconvenient to have Mount Morgan joined on to Port Curtis. It was equivalent to disfranchising Port Curtis, and the question was what would be the effect of cutting off that part of the district from Port Curtis? It must be remembered that that part would not be cut off from the district of Port Curtis without also cutting off what intervened between that and Rockhampton, unless they were going to create a new member for Mount Morgan; and although Mount Morgan might be very important, he did not think the Mount Morgan Company was directly entitled to representation in the House, but must fall in with some of their neighbours.

Mr. HAMILTON: The miners are, who live there.

The PREMIER said that was one of the trial schemes that had been considered. If it were joined to the parish of Gracemere and the southern and western suburbs of Rockhampton, it would form a constituency of very convenient boundaries; and if the southern boundary were made Raglan Creek, which divided the districts of Rockhampton and Gladstone, it might be convenient so far as geographical considerations were concerned. According to the census there would be in the constituency formed there, which might be called Blackall for the present, a population of 3,047 and of adult males 950. That population, of course, would be increased by the additional population at Mount Morgan since then. The Port Curtis district would be left with a total

population of 1,872 and an adult male population of only 522. It was hard to know how to extend the district of Port Curtis. They could not extend it northwards without including Mount Morgan, because then Mount Morgan would be left all by itself, and there was very little population northwards until they reached the Crocodile. He had had sketches prepared showing what the electorates would be like; but it was almost impossible to work out a fair division. The suburbs of Rockhampton, or that part of the municipality of Rockhampton not included in the proposed electorate of Rockhampton, would contain a total population of 766, and an adult male population of 177. It had been suggested that they might be added to the Rockhampton electorate, but it did not make much difference whether they were or not. It would not make the numbers too high, and the boundaries would be more convenient. At present they were included in the electorate of Normanby, which would be left very small without them. It was very difficult to adjust the boundaries, and if hon. members would consider the matter they would see that if Mount Morgan were to take in the western suburbs it would have to take in the intervening country near the heads of Crocodile Creek and Gaviel Creek, and go down as far as Raglan Creek, and then to the north, at any rate as far as the railway line. Then, letting Normanby keep what was called the Reserve, they would have a very fair division of population. That was the only way they could do it. That reserve included about 370 people, and he could see no difficulty at all if it were not for the unfortunate Port Curtis. The Reserve, which was now included in Normanby, contained a population of something under 200 adult males, and if that were taken away it would leave a very small constituency. If the Reserve were left, Normanby would be very much the same as at present, throwing the whole municipality of Rockhampton into the electorate, and making the railway on the north, Raglan Creek on the south, and the Dee Range on the south-west, the boundaries of the new constituency; that would suit very well geographically, and also as regarded population; but then there was the unfortunate Port Curtis again, what was to be done with it? They could not give a member to a constituency with 1,900 total population and 500 adult males. They could only do it on the same basis as a member was given to the county of Rutland, which was the smallest county in England. It had been suggested that Port Curtis should be joined on to Bundaberg, but that was absurd, as it would be entirely disfranchised; and he did not think they would like to be disfranchised by the people of Bundaberg any more than by the people of Mount Morgan. It could not be joined on to an inland electorate, because it had no commercial relationship with any of them, even if the range could be crossed there. Port Curtis electorate was the most difficult they had to deal with. It was worse than Dalby. Those two electorates were really the most difficult they had to deal with. He could show hon. members a sketch of the boundaries he had suggested if necessary; but he thought he had described them sufficiently. He should be glad to know what hon. members had to say on the subject.

Mr. FERGUSON said he quite followed the Premier in his description of the boundaries, as he knew the district well. But it seemed to him that that electorate would have a much larger population than any other of the settled district electorates, because the increased population at Mount Morgan had not been taken into consideration.

The PREMIER: Yes, it has.

Mr. FERGUSON said there was the increasing population as well as the increased. That electorate, which took so much from the Port Curtis electorate, would be the most extensive by far in the Central districts, or in any part of the colony, so far as population was concerned. At the present time there was a population of at least 1,200 adult males at Mount Morgan alone, not including Calliungal and other places. Mount Morgan was quite large enough for a member, and with the other places mentioned it would make one of the largest electorates in the district so far as population was concerned. The electorate suggested by the Premier was not very extensive, but it would include a large number of the electors that Port Curtis would lose and Mount Morgan could do just as well without, because the population of Mount Morgan was large enough. He understood the hon. member to suggest that the boundary of the Rockhampton Municipality should be the boundary also of the electorate, in which case the population of that electorate would be increased by 827. He did not object at all to the boundaries suggested if the Premier saw his way to treat Port Curtis properly.

Mr. NORTON said that, now the question was mooted, he should be glad, as member for Port Curtis, to say what he thought desirable. He did not think it would be fair to Port Curtis that Mount Morgan should be retained in the electorate, nor did he think it would be fair to Mount Morgan either. In case of conflicting interests—and interests were very likely to conflict in such an electorate—Mount Morgan would, under ordinary circumstances, wipe out the rest of the district. But Mount Morgan also would be at a disadvantage, because the great bulk of the population resided there; and if they were at all equally divided amongst themselves the Port Curtis electors would rule the election. There was another advantage in making Mount Morgan a separate electorate, because it would give the colony an additional mining member, which was very desirable. The mining interest was becoming, if it had not become, the greatest interest in the colony, and for that reason alone they should fully consider the desirableness and fairness of representing that interest more largely. As the Chief Secretary had pointed out, there was a meeting held at Gladstone some time ago, at which the people expressed themselves strongly against the proposal made in the Bill—and he thought they were quite right—but the alteration they suggested had more than one disadvantage. Apart from that pointed out by the Chief Secretary, there was the fact that the people of the district north of the Burnett included in the Mulgrave electorate, which it was suggested should be added to the Port Curtis, objected to forming portion of an electorate north of them in which they had no interest. In many respects, no doubt, their interests were identical, but their business connections were with Bundaberg, to which district they desired to be still attached. Under those circumstances there appeared to be only one other way of adding to Port Curtis to make up for the part proposed to be cut off. First, he would point out that the population of Port Curtis, according to the census, had decreased from causes which the Premier had not taken into consideration. At the time the census was taken a large number had left the district, owing to the drought, but a number had since returned; and in addition to that the population had increased very considerably, and would continue to increase through the establishment of chlorination works there. As to a division which would take Raglan Creek as the boundary between Mount Morgan—or rather Blackall, as the Premier suggested—and Port Curtis, he did not think it desirable to take that

line, because the people about Raglan were just as much connected with one place as the other. As it was important to enlarge Port Curtis as much as possible it would be desirable to attach Raglan to it as far as the present boundary.

The PREMIER: The present boundary goes nearly up to Gracemere.

Mr. NORTON said it was not desirable to amend the boundaries unless there was some very good reason given, because for some time people would not know to which electorate they belonged. They might adhere to the present boundary, following up the Fitzroy, then the present boundary, past the Crocodile, until they got to Mount Morgan itself, and thus exclude Mount Morgan and the country occupied by miners. Then he proposed to extend the present boundary out westward until reaching the Dawson River.

The PREMIER: I do not see that it has any connection with the Dawson.

Mr. NORTON said it had just as much as the Dawson has with the country towards Springsure, and it might follow the railway line to the Dawson; at any rate, it might follow the railway line from Westwood to the Dawson, and then follow the Dawson southwards to the Maranoa electorate. That would include Camboon and Banana, and make a difference of 300 or 400 in the population. The interests of the people at Banana would be just as much connected with Rockhampton as at present. The freight from Banana went through Westwood to Rockhampton, and Westwood was in the Port Curtis district. Camboon was just as much connected with the Port Curtis district as with any other, and was more connected with it than with the district in which it was at present proposed to include it. It was a matter of indifference to him which way the division south of Banana was made, but he would like to see the wishes of the people of Gladstone carried out as far as possible. At the same time the Premier had pointed out how inconvenient their proposal would be, and it had been pointed out to him by persons connected with the Bundaberg district that they would rather not be connected with the Port Curtis district, and would rather be left to their own district. He saw no other solution to the difficulty, and he therefore suggested the boundaries should be as he had stated.

Mr. PATTISON said he took it from the remarks made by the Premier that he was quite prepared to consider the reasonable requests of the Central districts. He took it the hon. gentleman was prepared to give one member to Blackall, and to that part of Port Curtis called Mount Morgan. He did not mean to say that Mount Morgan was entitled to any special consideration. Certainly, if they took the census returns, it was not entitled to such consideration; but it was well known that since the census was taken Mount Morgan had increased to such an extent as to become a place of vast importance. He would not further refer to Mount Morgan, beyond saying that it had become a place of considerable importance, and he was satisfied the Premier would recognise it as such. But, outside Mount Morgan, the Central district was entitled to consideration upon other grounds. Though it was considered a small place, North Rockhampton was fast losing that character and was becoming a very important place, and was entitled to consideration by the Committee. In asking for consideration for the Central districts North Rockhampton should not be lost sight of. He had only left Rockhampton on Saturday morning, and he knew that there was a great deal of dissatisfaction there concerning the boundaries. He said the boundaries were not satisfactory, and from the knowledge he possessed of the

place, his opinion as to the boundaries might be taken as coming from one who had some idea of what he was speaking about. The opinion of the people of the Central district, as expressed in public meetings, was that the electorate of Rockhampton should be the municipality of Rockhampton, and not as set forth in the maps submitted to them. The Premier had to some extent disarmed him by what he had said concerning the Port Curtis electorate, but the municipality of North Rockhampton was, he considered, entitled to a member. They had nearly 1,000 ratepayers, and he thought they might very well estimate the number of actual voters at 300 or 400 more.

The PREMIER: There are not nearly 2,000 in the total population there.

Mr. PATTISON said that the statement he made was on the authority of the mayor of that municipality, who might possibly be a candidate for North Rockhampton. He was given to understand, on that gentleman's authority, that there were nearly 1,000 ratepayers in North Rockhampton, and he thought he was justified in saying that the actual voters would be a much larger number than that. The boundaries of that electorate might be extended by taking in Lake's Creek, as North Rockhampton was a small borough. If any district in Queensland was entitled to consideration, North Rockhampton was entitled to it. He would like to know whether they were right in discussing the boundaries or not at the present stage, but he might say that by the boundaries fixed at present North Rockhampton pastoral and selectors' districts were all mixed up together, and their interests were not identical in any way. The people of North Rockhampton said they wanted a local man to represent them, and they did not want a squatter. In the past they had been represented by a squatter, because, to some extent, Mr. Archibald Archer was one, and among his own various avocations he (Mr. Pattison) also was something of a squatter; however, people there wished to select a local man, and they were quite right in doing that if they could get the man. He was glad to see that they had a fair claim for consideration in the eyes of the Premier, because he understood that in what was supposed to be, at all events, the Ministerial paper, a member had been promised for North Rockhampton.

The PREMIER: For where?

Mr. PATTISON: For North Rockhampton. That was wired up, he believed, to a meeting held in Rockhampton upon the authority of a member of the Committee, who, he believed, was present, and who could get up and confirm what he said. North Rockhampton, had been promised its member, and he had been anxiously waiting to hear that announcement made in the Committee, and that, coupled with the consideration to be shown to the Mount Morgan part of the district, would satisfy him. The Rockhampton municipality should certainly return a member, and he did not care whether it was allowed to remain under that name or under any other. He did not know why the name should be altered, but if an alteration were made let it be associated with the name of the Archers, the pioneers of the district. But what he wanted to impress upon the Committee was that North Rockhampton was entitled to a member. It was a fast-growing district, and the time the census was taken was a most unfortunate one; there was not another district in Queensland that felt the drought so severely. If the census were taken now he thought the returns from the Central district would justify them in asking for three or four members instead of one. As far as Leichhardt was concerned, and if they came to the population basis, they had no

reason to complain. He was not satisfied with that basis himself; they had stronger claims in the extent of their territory, the wealth of the district, and the amount of their imports and exports. He was not going to throw a mass of figures before the Committee, but if the Central districts received reasonable consideration they should have two members at the very least, if not more. As far as Port Curtis was concerned—he did not wish to say one word about Gladstone—the people there were very ambitious, and they always received the extreme sympathy of the Rockhampton people, who were always perfectly willing to meet them in their hour of need and take them under their wing. They had not the full number of electors to entitle them to a member, but Rockhampton had more and could spare them some. The Rockhampton people would take them into the Rockhampton group, and then they could have three members, and go hand-in-hand together. But they always wanted to be the hub of the Central division. Their worth was recognised, but not at their own value.

Mr. HIGSON said he did not know that he could add very much to what he had said on the second reading. He had sent no telegram to Rockhampton, but when the case had been put before the hon. the Premier—the number of extra inhabitants residing in the Mount Morgan district, Rockhampton, and North Rockhampton—that hon. gentleman had given them to understand that there would be no objection to naming North Rockhampton as a new electorate. He (Mr. Higson) sent word to his manager informing him that he thought the request would be acceded to. He thought they had a right to at least two members. He was sure that if a census of the population at and around Rockhampton at the present time were taken it would be double what it was when the census was taken.

The PREMIER said it was entirely out of the question to give two extra members to the Central district. On either basis of population the electorates were extremely small. As to saying that North Rockhampton was entitled to a member by itself, without including the suburbs, the fact was that the population was not nearly 2,000 people.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: It is.

The PREMIER: As a matter of fact, there was a mistake in the tables; the population ought to be about 700 less than that stated. The total population of the whole proposed electorate of Fitzroy was less than 4,000.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: How do you know that?

The PREMIER said he was going by the census. They had no other data to go on except the general knowledge of different parts of the colony, as in the case of Mount Morgan, for instance, where they knew there had been an increase of population.

Mr. DONALDSON: And the Western districts.

The PREMIER: Yes, the population had increased in the Western districts, no doubt, since the shearing commenced, and it would decrease again when the shearing was over. The hon. member for Blackall had not referred to what would be involved in making the change he suggested. He (the Premier) had suggested that the boundary of Normanby should still be the Fitzroy River on the east, and the railway line on the south, and he understood that that was accepted as a desirable boundary.

Mr. PATTISON: I think I said I was not discussing the boundaries.

Mr. FERGUSON said that before the discussion on that subject closed he wished to propose, as an amendment, that on the 6th line the words "Blackall, one member," be inserted. He quite agreed with what the Premier had said with respect to the electorate of North Rockhampton. He must say that North Rockhampton was a very fair electorate at the present time. It was what he himself had suggested on several occasions during the last two or three years at public meetings in Rockhampton. He had even mentioned the very boundaries now adopted. He had a list of the population of the electorate at the present time, and he found that it was one of the smallest in that respect in the Central district. The population of the borough itself was 1,626, and that of the electorate over 3,000. The electorate as it stood was a nice, compact constituency, and took in Cawarral, Yeppoon, and Emu Park. He thought the people ought to be well satisfied with it, and he believed they would be when they had considered the matter fully. He did not know that it was of any importance whether they called the electorate Fitzroy or North Rockhampton. If the latter name were preferred it could easily be substituted for the one in the Bill.

Mr. PATTISON said that if that amendment was not carried his electorate would be virtually wiped out, and consequently he would have to consider whether he had any right to enter that Chamber-door again.

The PREMIER: We may all do that.

Mr. PATTISON said he would of course exercise his opinion on the matter. He was very much surprised at the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for Rockhampton, Mr. Ferguson, and was sure that when the report of his remarks reached North Rockhampton they would not be appreciated there in any way.

The PREMIER: He is not afraid of his constituents.

Mr. PATTISON said he trusted that no member of the Committee was afraid of his constituents. He was not afraid of his, nor of any other body. It was not a matter of fear, but a matter of duty and of the knowledge they could bring to bear upon the subjects that came up for discussion. Every member should perform that duty without fear. It had fallen to his lot on one or two occasions not to have pleased everybody, still he expressed his opinion without fear, and was doing so now, as he always did. He must say that he was sure the sentiments of the hon. member for Rockhampton would not be cordially received at North Rockhampton. On the authority of the mayor he (Mr. Pattison) could tell the Committee, though he had not the telegram or letter with him at the present time, that there were about 1,000 ratepayers in North Rockhampton.

The PREMIER: Eight hundred, he told me, and that includes people who do not live there.

Mr. PATTISON said he would favour the hon. gentleman by reading the telegrams to him to-morrow. There were nearly 1,000 ratepayers, and that meant 1,500 voters. The census returns were not a fair foundation for them to build upon blindly though they were entitled to some consideration. The circumstances of the colony were altered very much since the census was taken, particularly in the Central districts. North Rockhampton was entitled to its member, but they should alter the boundaries, and throw in Lake's Creek with it, and it would then have 1,200 or 1,300 ratepayers. When the works at Lake's Creek were stopped there were 400 or 500 men thrown out of employment, but he was pleased to say that the

works were going on again to the benefit of the district and the colony generally. If they included that in North Rockhampton then it would have its fair quota of ratepayers; but if they simply went on the census returns they would have no proper foundation to build upon. He had had no intention of getting up to speak again on the subject had it not been for the remarks of the hon. member for Rockhampton, who had, he believed, made a grievous mistake in speaking as he had done that evening.

Mr. FERGUSON said he was not afraid on account of what he had said. He would be very much to blame if he had not spoken as he did that evening, because on several occasions in the last two years he had publicly expressed similar opinions, and the hon. member for Blackall had, he believed, heard him state that when a Redistribution Bill came on he would consider that North Rockhampton, including Cawarral, Emu Park, Yeppoon, and as far as Yaamba, should be entitled to a member by itself. He had stated that several times, and if he now stated that the borough itself was entitled to a member with 1,626 electors, the people of Rockhampton would not have a very high opinion of him; they would think much more of a member who adhered to what he had said during the last year or two.

Mr. PATTISON: Have you advocated a member for Mount Morgan for two years?

Mr. FERGUSON said he was talking about North Rockhampton. He considered that according to population they could not expect more representation near Rockhampton under that Bill. It would not be fair to the district or fair to the rest of the colony. If the borough alone got a member, then Rockhampton would be entitled to three or four members.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he would certainly vote for the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Blackall, and for anything that would assist the representation of the Central and Northern districts. He was rather amused at the present member for Blackall aspiring to be dictator of that group of electorates about Rockhampton. The hon. member had straightened up both the senior and junior members for Rockhampton, and it would be a great pity if he were obliterated or if he obliterated himself out of the House after the way he had called those hon. members to order. He knew a little about North Rockhampton, and he knew that if there were 800 ratepayers on the municipal roll there must be quite double that number of men qualified to vote. The Premier admitted to 800 ratepayers, and there were plenty of people residing there who were not ratepayers, and there were a large number of men employed on Lake's Creek and at various other industries on the north side of the river.

Mr. SHERIDAN said that before the amendment was put he would suggest that the idea expressed by the hon. member for Blackall should be carried out, and that the new district be called Archer. There were already two Blackalls, and confusion would be created between them. He considered that the whole colony owed a debt of gratitude to the Archer family. One of them had served a long time in the House with credit to himself, another had been Agent-General, and they had all been identified with the colony since it came into existence. It would be a graceful tribute to their great services to call the electorate after their name.

Mr. MURPHY said he should support the amendment. But it was after all very absurd, when they looked at the population of the electorates of the Central division, to think that Rockhampton, with an adult male population of 2,383—that was 1,191 for each member—

should have what was virtually a third member. Fitzroy would have a member for a population of 1,104 male adults, and Port Curtis 1,068. Out west, where the representation should be larger, they found that Barcoo had an adult male population of 1,791, Gregory 1,444, and Mitchell 1,578. He did not see why the coast districts should have so much larger a representation than the outside districts. If the members for the Central divisions were to be increased at all they should be increased not on the coast, but in the far western portion of the division. But as there was no chance of their getting another member out west he should vote for the amendment as being a measure of justice to the Central division by restoring a member who had been taken away from it. He objected to the removal of a pastoral member, especially when the pastoral districts were so largely under-represented.

Mr. McWHANNELL said he thoroughly agreed with the hon. member for Barcoo that the Western pastoral group was fully entitled to another member. When speaking on the second reading of the Bill he pointed out that the districts of Gregory and Warrego were entitled, on the accepted basis of representation, to four members instead of three. If the pastoral districts of North Gregory and South Gregory each returned one member, then Warrego, with its large population, was fully entitled to two members to itself. An arrangement of that kind would be much more satisfactory than to give an additional member to the Central district. Both the Gregory districts were the farthest west of any district in the colony, and the farthest away from Brisbane, with the exception of Burke; communication was difficult, and in South Gregory there was not even telegraphic communication. Even if there were four electoral districts, instead of only three, each of them would have an average adult male population of 1,188—a population which compared favourably with that of the Darling Downs group, the average adult male population of which was very little over 1,000. Considering that the Darling Downs and West Moreton groups were so close to the metropolis, if they were to get their full quota of members the Western pastoral group was entitled to at least another member.

The PREMIER said that, although he was disposed to accede to the amendment, he was not at all disposed to accede to the demand of the hon. member who had just spoken. There must be some limit to the number of members.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Oh, no!

The PREMIER said he hoped hon. members would deal with the Bill with the view of improving it, not to make it absurd. He knew there were some hon. members who would like to see it transformed into an absurdity, but they had much better say openly that they intended to throw it out. The Government had attempted to deal with representation fairly, and he claimed the assistance of every hon. member to make the Bill as good a one as possible. He was disposed to accede to the amendment, although he did not know whether Blackall was the best name for the electorate. That, however, was a matter which could be dealt with afterwards. He preferred a good native name. If the amendment was carried he would propose fresh boundaries, which he would indicate again, so that hon. members might consider them before the subject was next brought forward. He proposed that the new electorate should consist of the Crocodile Gold Fields—that was, on both sides of the range, including Mount Morgan, going down to the Fitzroy River as far as Port Alma, choosing a convenient boundary thence to the range, going up on the north to the

municipal boundary of Rockhampton, and further westward to the railway line, or as convenient a line as could be found. He also proposed to make the boundary of Rockhampton the municipal boundary, and, of course, Normanby would be diminished to a corresponding extent. The alteration would bring Normanby down to a very small number, he was sorry to say. He might state that Fitzroy had not as many people as the figures given in the tables. By some mistake several people on the south side were included in the population of Fitzroy. That was what he proposed to do in the meantime.

Mr. PATTISON said he certainly thought that North Rockhampton was entitled to some consideration.

The PREMIER: It gets a great deal of consideration.

Mr. PATTISON said the question was one he could ask the Committee to consider. Although largely interested in Mount Morgan, he would by no means put it on the same footing as North Rockhampton, which, he was sure, would send a supporter to Sir Samuel Griffith. The hon. gentleman could take his assurance on that point. He could name the member who would be returned. He was not at present in that Chamber; but leaving that out of the question, North Rockhampton was really entitled to consideration before Mount Morgan. That was his honest opinion. They had certain population at Mount Morgan, and possibly in twelve months, on the basis of population, it would be entitled to claim two members, but let them wait for that. Upon the census returns North Rockhampton was certainly entitled to consideration before Mount Morgan.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said they had only got to the 3rd line of the clause, and had already consented to two additional members. He thought it was a regular *reductio ad absurdum*.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: An *incretio ad absurdum*.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Of course he was going to cordially support the amendment for an additional member to the Central district, but he hoped that would not be taken to cover all the additional members they should have. He thought the Committee should consider what they were doing, and how far they intended to go—how many members they intended to have to represent the colony. He was surprised at the equanimity with which the Premier swallowed additional members.

The PREMIER: Where have you got to now?

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said they had only got to the 3rd line of the list, and the hon. gentleman did not appear to object to additional members in any way. He could assure the hon. gentleman that they would have plenty of additional members by the time they got a little further down in the clause. He thought that, as far as the Bill had gone, it was a perfect absurdity. One additional member had been proposed for Dalby, and another for Rockhampton.

Mr. ALAND: Why did you vote for it?

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he did so to stultify the whole thing; he had no hesitation in saying so.

Question—That the words "Blackall, one member," be inserted after the 6th line—put and passed.

The PREMIER moved that the Chairman leave the chair, report progress, and ask leave to sit again. He said he did not intend to proceed with the Bill in committee to-morrow, for this reason: that they wanted money to carry

on—to be able to pay salaries at the end of the month—and he hoped to be able to make sufficient progress in Supply before Friday night to enable him to do so. He would therefore take Supply to-morrow, and by Tuesday next he hoped to be able to show hon. members the changes he proposed to make in the Bill in consequence of the two amendments that had been carried that evening. He hoped next week to be able to go right through with it.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed; the CHAIRMAN reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I move that this House do now adjourn. Supply will be the first business to-morrow.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Do I understand the Premier to say that he will require money to-morrow?

The PREMIER: I hope to be able to make sufficient progress in Supply by Friday night to be able to get it.

Mr. MOREHEAD: An Appropriation Bill.

The PREMIER: No; by voting money in Committee of Supply.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at eight minutes past 10 o'clock.