

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 1887**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Tuesday, 18 October, 1887.*

Question.—Motion for Adjournment—Through Railway Communication with Sydney.—Lady Bowen Lying-in Hospital Land Sale Bill—third reading.—Motion for Adjournment—Influx of Chinese from Port Darwin.—British New Guinea (Queensland) Bill—second reading.—Queensland Fisheries Bill—Consideration in Committee of Legislative Council's Amendments.—Electoral Districts Bill—committee.—Adjournment.

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

### QUESTION.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN asked the Minister for Works—

1. What is the estimated quantity of cement concrete required on the second section of the Cairns Railway?
2. How much has the contractor's price for cement concrete been reduced, and at what date was the reduction made?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. C. B. Dutton) replied—

1. 14,503 cubic yards.
2. The price of cement concrete under iron bridges was reduced from one hundred shillings (100s.) per cubic yard to eighty shillings (80s.) on 9th June, 1887, and further reduced to seventy shillings (70s.) on 5th October, 1887.

### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

#### THROUGH RAILWAY COMMUNICATION WITH SYDNEY.

Mr. MORGAN said: Mr. Speaker,—I wish to direct the attention of the head of the Government to a matter of some importance to the people of this colony, and, if necessary, I shall conclude with a motion for adjournment, although I do not suppose the matter will take up very much time. It is in reference to the delay in establishing through railway communication between this colony and New South Wales. I understand that the rails on the New South Wales side, between Tenterfield and Wallangarra, have been laid, that the line is now complete, and has been so for some time. Trains were run by the contractor for a short time, and passengers were conveyed at their own risk; but this practice has now been discontinued, and the line, though finished, is lying idle. Passengers on the Queensland railway have to embark on a coach and undergo a journey of twelve or fourteen miles at night time, and the effect of this is, of course, to deter females, or at any rate the majority of females, from using that route, the result being

that a large quantity of passenger traffic, which would go by that way to the southern colonies, is diverted to the steamers, and the Queensland Government is the sufferer. I am well aware, Mr. Speaker, that this is not a matter which the Government of this colony can be blamed for, as I believe that they have been making representations to the Government of the mother colony, and trying to make arrangements for the opening of this line. It seems to me, sir, in reference to this matter, as well as in reference to the matter of the future government of New Guinea, that New South Wales is determined to take up a dog-in-the-manger position. I think, however, that it is just as well that attention should be drawn to the subject here, so that Ministers should have an opportunity of explaining the cause of the delay, and showing that it is not due to any fault on their part. I beg to move the adjournment of the House.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said: Mr. Speaker,—Nothing has been done up to the present time by the Government of New South Wales in regard to arranging for a joint station at Wallangarra. A proposition was made to them, accompanied by plans of the station, but that they would not accept, and proposed instead that the Commissioner for Railways should meet their Commissioner for Railways at Newcastle to arrange the matter there. But it is a matter that can only be arranged upon the ground, and we declined to accept their proposition. They say the difficulty in arranging the traffic was that they could not get the steamship companies to fall in with their proposed time-tables. That was a difficulty that I certainly could not understand. I think they might have made their time-table and compelled the steamship companies to run to their time. The New South Wales Government will not come and arrange for the joint station, and we are prepared to carry out our own plans on our own side of the border and leave them to arrange theirs, if they will not meet us half-way. We have done all we possibly can to induce them to come here and arrange; but no progress has been made. They shelve the matter or place more obstacles in the way, or ask us to go to Sydney to arrange it. It is a question that can only be arranged upon the ground where we can discuss the arguments for and against it. At present we can do nothing more than arrange plans for our own station, and leave them to do the same for theirs.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said: Mr. Speaker,—I am very glad this matter has been brought before the House, although I do not think it is at all likely that anything we can say here will influence the New South Wales Government in the least degree. Sir Henry Parkes, their Premier, I believe, has been pretty much bothered with his own affairs, and has not had much time to attend to the business of his own colony, much less that of any other colony, lately. I do think that if the matter were brought forcibly before the people of New South Wales, and of Sydney, that they had gone to the expense of making this line, and now it was not being used, and there was not the traffic upon it which might legitimately accrue to or belong to it—they would stir up the Government in some way. If the Press would only lift up its voice in the matter and stir up the people of New South Wales, we might get some redress. Surely the people of New South Wales would not be content to put up with the absurdity of constructing a line and paying for it, and then not running any traffic upon it of any kind. It seems absurd, when they have a line already made and paid for, that coaches should run alongside it, and

that there should be great inconvenience to passengers who wish to go overland. I myself do not see any remedy. I think we shall have to declare war against New South Wales directly, if she will not attend to us, or offer us any more facilities than at present. We do not seem to be able to get any satisfaction out of them at all, but I hope that when Sir Henry Parkes gets his difficulties comfortably arranged he will show us a little more consideration than he has done up to the present time.

Mr. KATES said: Mr. Speaker,—This colony is a great loser in consequence of the delay, because we have extended our line as far as Wallangarra, with the object of getting passenger traffic from New South Wales into this colony; it would have been perfectly useless to have extended it for any other reason, because there is no traffic between Stanthorpe and Wallangarra. There is already a large increase in the traffic from New South Wales to Queensland overland, and if the remaining link were completed, the bulk of passengers from New South Wales would come to Brisbane by that route, especially women and children, who prefer travelling by rail to travelling by sea. I hope this discussion will be read in New South Wales, and that it will induce them to hurry on and complete what they ought to have completed some time ago.

Mr. ALAND said: Mr. Speaker,—I agree with previous speakers that it is a pity this connecting link is not completed, so that any passengers who do want to travel between the two colonies overland may avail themselves of that route, but I do not agree with the member for Darling Downs that we should have the rush of passengers which he seems to anticipate. I am of opinion that the passengers between the two colonies hitherto have been those who have not had to pay their own way—that is, they have travelled on railway passes, either as members of Parliament or as officials belonging to New South Wales or to Queensland; I am also of opinion that a person will stand a great deal of sea-sickness rather than pay something like £14 for what he can get for £5. I hope we shall have a large number of passengers travelling borderwise, but if that is to be brought about we shall have to make some different arrangements in our railway charges—something like the rates between New South Wales and Victoria—so that the price of a return ticket shall not be very much in excess of what is charged by the steamers. If Brisbane, however, is the goal aimed at, the journey is very much quicker by steamer than by the overland route—at all events, the way passengers have to come now and will have to come for some time until the bridge across the Hawkesbury is finished. I am glad that attention has been called to the matter, because it is a pity that the fourteen miles of line forming the connecting link should remain unused.

Mr. KELLETT said: Mr. Speaker,—I think the hon. member who last spoke is wrong in his figures. I think the fare to Sydney overland is under half what he stated; and even at the present rate the great majority of passengers will prefer to travel by rail, not only on account of the sea-sickness connected with travelling by steamer, but also on account of the many mishaps that have occurred to steamers lately. It is most unaccountable to me that New South Wales should leave the line as it is, and I think it a great pity that the lines of the two colonies are not connected. When I was there, more than three months ago, the rails were laid on our line, and there was nothing to be done but to connect the two lines. I think the Minister for Works, or whoever has charge of the matter in New South Wales, might be asked to run trains

to a temporary platform, if it is not convenient to erect a proper station at present, and then the people behind the Minister might push him on to take the necessary action.

Mr. ALAND, in explanation, said: Mr. Speaker,—I wish to say that I was comparing £14, the return fare overland, with £5, which is the price of a return ticket between Brisbane and Sydney by steamer.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: I don't think you can get a return ticket for £5.

Mr. ALAND: I paid £5 for a return ticket last Friday.

Mr. WHITE said: Mr. Speaker,—I cannot help noticing the simplicity of the hon. member for Darling Downs, Mr. Kates, in his desire to see the New South Wales people coming here. The New South Wales people do not want a rush of people from there to Queensland; they do not want to complete the railway to let the people all out of New South Wales to Queensland; therefore he is simply stimulating them by his little speech to keep the railway as it were shut off. I reckon we want to go from Queensland to New South Wales, and, of course, to have passengers going backward and forward; but the hon. member alluded altogether to the rush of people from New South Wales to Queensland. That, I think, would really debar them from completing the railway if they took that view of it themselves.

Mr. MORGAN, in reply, said: Mr. Speaker,—After what has fallen from the hon. member for Stanley, Mr. White, I make no doubt that if the line had been made with the Phillips's steel sleepers he would have been a strong advocate for opening the railway immediately; but as it is only made with the orthodox ironbark sleepers he is willing to let it remain unused till the white ants have destroyed it. As to the figures quoted by the hon. member for Toowoomba, he may be right as to the steamer fares, but he certainly rather overstated the cost of travelling overland between Brisbane and Sydney. There is very little difference between the steamer fares to Sydney and the actual railway fare from Brisbane to Sydney; there is some difference in favour of the steamer, but not any material difference. You can get from Brisbane to Adelaide and back for £18 by rail by taking a return ticket. The question, however, is this: A main high road between the colonies of Australia is practically completed, but not in working order, simply because the Government of the mother colony gets its back up, and assumes a dog-in-the-manger attitude, and nobody can oblige her to make use of the connecting link. I think the people, not only of Queensland but of their own colony, ought to be made aware of the fact. But there is another and more important matter bearing on this question than the mere passenger traffic, and that is the despatch and delivery of mails. At present, as we know, the mails between the southern colonies and Queensland are delayed daily by that break in the overland route. It is surely of great importance that the delivery of mails should be expedited as much as possible, and I believe that if this short coach service were dispensed with, and the short piece of line there were utilised, there would be a saving of time of something like two hours in the carrying of mails between Brisbane and Sydney. I think, therefore, that some fresh representation, couched in pretty strong language, should be conveyed by the Government of this colony to the Government of New South Wales. The matter is one of importance, and I am not sorry that I drew attention to it. With the permission of the House, I beg to withdraw the motion for adjournment.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

## LADY BOWEN LYING-IN HOSPITAL LAND SALE BILL.

### THIRD READING.

On the motion of Mr. W. BROOKES, this Bill was read a third time, passed, and ordered to be forwarded to the Legislative Council for their concurrence, by message in the usual form.

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

### INFLUX OF CHINESE FROM PORT DARWIN.

Mr. PALMER said: Mr. Speaker,—I have just received a telegram from Croydon on a subject of importance to that goldfield, and I wish to call the attention of the Premier to the matter contained therein, and that is the probable introduction of Chinese overland from Port Darwin. There is said to be a very large influx of Chinese overland by way of Burketown and the Nicholson River, evidently drawn there by the reports which have reached them about the Croydon Gold Field. We all know that there is a very large Chinese population on the goldfields at Port Darwin. I think the reports of their prospects on that field have not been very favourable lately. There are thousands of Chinese on the field, and no doubt the pressure of bad times will have some effect in inducing them to try their luck in the long overland journey from Port Darwin to Croydon. The inducements to this are twofold: one is that they will thus evade the poll-tax, and the other that they will at once secure a good means of livelihood at Croydon. I have always been very much averse to the introduction of Chinese on goldfields in any shape or form. We know that that is where the trouble begins. Where Chinese and diggers meet there is always trouble. I do not see what business Chinese have on goldfields at all. The miners at Croydon are determined that they will prevent this threatened influx of Chinese from Port Darwin. They are pretty well informed that there are 500 on the way overland, and there are already about 500 on Croydon, which I think is more than ample for the number of European miners on the field. I should like to know whether the Premier has received any information on the subject, and whether he will take any steps to prevent those Chinese coming overland by the Nicholson River across the north-west border of Queensland. There is no police station there, and it is very easy for any number of Chinese to find their way into the colony from that direction, come across the country, and evade the poll-tax. There is to be a monster meeting of miners at Croydon in a few days to take steps to prevent the introduction of the Chinese, who are reported to be on their way to that locality, and I think this timely warning should induce the Government to take such action as will prevent any disturbance in a short time to come. In calling the attention of the Government to the matter, I would like to refer to another, which is open to any member who looks at the statistics in the "Year Book" of Victoria. There I see that 1,178 Chinese were naturalised in Victoria during the year 1886. That is a very large number, and it is more than has been naturalised in any one year for six or seven years previously, which shows, I think, that there has been some motive that has induced them to become naturalised. I should like to know what position the goldfields of this colony, and the colony itself, are in with regard to Chinese naturalised in another colony. How are we to distinguish between those who are naturalised and those who are not? Surely those Chinese who are naturalised in another colony are on the same footing here.

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. PALMER: I am very glad to hear the Premier say that they will have no standing here. I began to think that the matter was rather serious, but with regard to this probable influx of Chinese from Port Darwin to Croydon, I think it is my duty to bring the matter under the notice of the Government.

The PREMIER: What is the telegram? Tell us what it is about.

Mr. PALMER: I will read the telegram. It is from the Progress Association of Croydon. There is really the prospect of a very alarming influx of Chinese. The miners at Croydon are naturally alarmed at the prospect, and I sympathise with them very much in that respect. I do not believe Chinese have any right whatever to be on our goldfields; they do no good, on the contrary they do a great deal of harm. They prevent a lot of miners getting the livelihood they would otherwise obtain. The telegram is dated "Croydon, 17th October," and is as follows:—

"Reported here that five hundred (500) Chinese are coming over from Port Darwin and evading the poll-tax. All the water sites are being taken up by them. They are daily increasing in numbers and competing with white men. Please see Macrossan and bring the matter before the House. A monster meeting is called for next Saturday night to take steps to prevent the influx of the Chinese on this or other goldfields. There are already five hundred (500) Chinese on the field. As Macrossan knows we do not want the Palmer repeated here. If immediate action is not taken there will be serious disturbances on the field."

"CHARLES F. GARDINER,

"Chairman Progress Committee."

I think it my duty to bring the matter before the Government. I very well know that years back there were great obstacles in the way of Chinese venturing across that overland journey from Port Darwin. I know the difficulties of the road from blacks and the long distances between houses of accommodation, and it was thought, at one time, that those things would deter them from taking the overland journey; but I anticipated three or four years ago that they would come. It is a well-watered road, though, as I have said, there are but few houses of accommodation, and anyone undertaking the journey must start with sufficient rations to take him right through. We know the Chinese have a terror of blacks, and that would be one deterrent, but when there are 500 of them they will, from their numbers, overcome that terror; and possibly that is taking place. The evasion of the poll-tax is one inducement, and the prospects of the Croydon Gold Field another, so that some action should be taken to prevent an influx of Chinese from Port Darwin. I move the adjournment of the House.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I have not received any recent information with respect to the influx of Chinese over the border by way of the Nicholson River from Port Darwin. A little while ago there was a rumour that a number of Chinese were coming into the colony from that direction. Careful inquiries were made, and it was found that these numerous Chinese resolved themselves into one Chinese cook who had come from Burketown to Camooweal by the road which crosses the border at several places, and that Chinaman was reckoned up a great many times. As far as I could discover he was the only one who had crossed the border, and that gave rise to the alarming accounts that were heard of. I am aware that there are a large number of Chinese at Port Darwin, but I do not think it is likely that they will come across the border. As to their going to Croydon, of course that field is not open to them at the present time, as it has not been discovered for three years. It is a new goldfield, and before the three years have expired

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this House probably will be asked to deal with the Chinese question in a very radical manner; so that I do not think there is any occasion to be alarmed at the present time.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said: Mr. Speaker,—I take this opportunity of calling the attention of the Premier to my previous suggestion, made at the end of the last session on a motion for adjournment, on which occasion I pointed out that the Government should prevent Chinese from coming here by stopping the issue of miners' rights. I also asked a question this year as to whether the Government were contemplating anything of that kind, and received the answer, "No." Now we are told at the end of the session that the Government really are going to consider the Chinese question and alter the law in a radical direction. I consider it is time they did. I think there is some danger of an influx of Chinese into our gold, tin, and silver mines through the road that has been mentioned, although the difficulties of that road have been somewhat exaggerated by the hon. member for Burke. The road from Port Darwin to Burketown is by no means a difficult road for Chinamen to travel. They can replenish their stores at the Macarthur River, where there is a pretty large dépôt. Of course they were formerly deterred by the blacks, but 100, or even 50 of them, travelling together, would overcome that difficulty, and they can travel along in a way that would astonish white people. The Chinese are not affected by the heat or the malarious nature of the country in the same way that white people are, and they can carry large supplies of food with them. I have visited Port Darwin since last session, and seen the Chinamen who are there. They are extensively employed in mining, at wages much lower than they take in Queensland, and if a great number of them can see their way to a profitable exodus into this country, they will soon be here. The difficulty of want of water does not exist along the road between Port Darwin and the Gulf of Carpentaria. There is plenty of water, and I believe the Chinamen will come along if the present Government continue to hold out the inducements which exist for those people to come to this colony. I do not believe in dealing unfairly with the Chinese—of bullying them when they are here under the existing law; but I believe the law will have to be altered so as to diminish the inducements offered to them to come here. I think we have a perfect right to protect ourselves against them. I do not see at all why Chinamen should be allowed to mine at all in Queensland, and I do hope that the Premier will at an early period consider the advisability of bringing in a Bill to limit and restrict the privileges possessed by Chinamen in this colony. We should not be so much better off by levying an annual poll-tax upon them, as has been suggested by someone, because it is a tax which would not be easy to collect. The first poll-tax can be collected easily enough, but as Chinamen are so much alike I do not see how a residential tax could be collected.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said: Mr. Speaker,—I think, even if there was no probability of the number of Chinese mentioned in the telegram going to Croydon, we still have reason to be alarmed. If the information I have received is correct they are not coming that way yet, but they may come in the future. They are very unlikely, I think, to come to Croydon for mining purposes, because they must know that they will not be permitted to mine there. I should like to know what the 500 Chinamen who are there already are doing? The telegram says there are 500 Chinese on Croydon Gold Field already, and if so there are 500 too many, and they may do an immense amount of

harm if they are allowed to remain there. Now, the sender of that telegram speaks about all the available water sites being taken up by Chinamen, and that is the most important part of the telegram to my mind. If the water sites are being taken up by Chinese I can quite understand what the result will be. They will have to be sent away, legally or illegally, from those sites. It had to be done on Charters Towers when there was a warden there rather predisposed to Chinamen. He gave the Chinamen all the available water sites along the creek for garden purposes, and sites which should have been used for crushing machines were used by Chinamen for growing vegetables. Now, if they want to grow vegetables they should be made to do so at a reasonable distance from the goldfield. They can grow them twenty or thirty miles away very profitably, judging by the prices they charge. I think the Chief Secretary should not make so light of this telegram, and quote the instance of the solitary Chinese cook who crossed the border several times, and was multiplied until he became hundreds of Chinese. I think it is as well to take time by the forelock, and I am certain the hon. gentleman can spare from somewhere in the colony a gang of native police—there need not be a large number, four or five would do—and if the hon. gentleman would give an officer of these police power to deal with the Chinamen and extract the poll-tax from them as he met them, they would probably send back word to their countrymen which would have the effect of deterring them from coming in such large numbers. Besides, the funds in the Treasury just now are rather low, and 500 Chinamen at £30 each would produce a very respectable sum, so that even from a Treasury point of view he might accept my suggestion and get a gang of native police to patrol as near the border as convenient, and prevent any Chinese coming over that way to evade the poll-tax. The Premier made a statement I should like to have verified—that is, that a naturalised Chinaman could do no good by coming into this colony. If that be the case I would like to know why it is, that in our different Acts of Parliament which we have passed in this House preventing and regulating the operations of Chinese on the goldfields of this colony, we have always used the terms, "Asiatic or African alien." If a Chinaman is naturalised he is not an alien.

The PREMIER: I referred to Chinese not naturalised here.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: If he is a naturalised British subject he can come here.

The PREMIER: Yes; if he is naturalised as a British subject by a law having the force of law in Queensland.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: I do not understand the nice distinction drawn. For instance, if a Chinese was naturalised in Hongkong—that, I believe, was the difficulty always, if a Chinaman was naturalised in Hongkong he could come here and the poll-tax could not be enforced in his case.

The PREMIER: It is enforced.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: I should certainly like this question cleared up, for the off-hand way in which the Premier has dealt with it is not sufficient, I think, to convince the House. He must explain to us why words similar to those to which I have referred are used. What is the use of the naturalisation papers if they are not to give the person who obtains them all the privileges of an Englishman? If a Frenchman, German, Dane, or Swede gets naturalisation papers here he is admitted to

all the privileges of an Englishman. How can we treat Chinese differently? Have we any special authority delegated to us upon that point by the Imperial Government to prevent Chinese who are naturalised having the privileges accorded to other aliens who may become naturalised? It seems to me rather a strange assertion to make. Although there is great danger, as the hon. member for Burke has pointed out, in the number of Chinese naturalised in one year in Victoria, I think the Victorian Government have lately come to the conclusion to naturalise no more Chinese. I think it would be a good thing, also, if this Government issued instructions to their officers to see that no more Chinese are naturalised here.

The PREMIER: The Government have determined to do so.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: I think, also, it would be a very good thing to issue special instructions to the warden at Croydon with respect to the water frontages spoken of, so that none of them may be granted to Chinese, whether naturalised or not, as they are as great an injury in that way as by mining on the fields.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. A. Rutledge) said: Mr. Speaker,—The hon. gentleman seems to be under a misapprehension as to what is the law regarding Chinese naturalised in other British possessions. The Legislatures of Victoria, New South Wales, or any other British possession has no right to make a law regulating the naturalisation of Chinese which will extend beyond the limits of the territory over which it has jurisdiction.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: Does that refer to Germans or Swedes?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Yes, but I am referring particularly to a statute dealing with Chinese apart from aliens generally. We have a law here by which the right of Chinese to come into this colony is regulated, and section 5 of the Chinese Regulation Act says:—

"Every Chinese arriving in the colony after the passing of this Act otherwise than by any vessel shall pay, or have paid for him, to some officer whom the Governor in Council may appoint, at any place on or near the borders of the colony, or otherwise conveniently situate for that purpose, a like sum of £30."

If hon. gentlemen will look at the interpretation clause of the Act they will find Chinese defined for the purpose of the Act as "any native of the Chinese Empire or its dependencies, not born of British parents." That definition seems to have been purposely made by the Legislature, and the meshes of it are small enough to catch every Chinaman. If the Chinaman is a native of the Chinese Empire, and is not born of British parents, and not naturalised in this colony, he must pay the poll-tax. I suppose that Act was made so specific in its limitations as that in order that the poll-tax might not be evaded.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: Why do we use the term in our Gold Fields Act, "Asiatic or African alien"?

Mr. W. BROOKES said: Mr. Speaker,—I must confess I share in a good deal of the doubt expressed by the hon. member for Townsville. Even yet the Attorney-General has not made it clear to me. The interpretation clause to which he referred us defines Chinese as "any native of the Chinese Empire or its dependencies, not born of British parents." This may not be the time to say so, but I think we can hardly call the 100,000 Chinese coolies in Hongkong subjects of the Chinese Empire, and I believe they can come here from there in any number. I may be wrong in that, but I believe that what the hon. member for Townsville has said is perfectly correct.

The PREMIER: The Act does not say "subjects" of the Chinese Empire.

Mr. W. BROOKES: The Premier reminds me that the Act does not say "subjects" of the Chinese Empire, but any native of the Chinese Empire. Well, I would like to know how many of the 100,000 coolies in Hongkong are natives of the Chinese Empire; I think very few of them are natives. There is a large coming and going from that empire to Hongkong, I daresay, but a very large number of the 100,000 have been born in Hongkong. Hongkong has now been a British possession for so long that I think it is fair to suppose that almost all the coolies there have been born there, and are therefore British subjects. All I wish to say, however, is that there may be gentlemen besides the hon. member for Townsville and myself who are of opinion that this matter should be made a great deal more clear than it has yet been made.

Mr. MOREHEAD said: Mr. Speaker,—While we are on this question I should like to ask the Premier whether the Government have received any information with regard to a report which is said to have been made by the two Chinese Commissioners who lately visited this colony. The reason I ask is because I see in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of Saturday last that such a report is said to have been made, or is in progress of construction, and the tenor of it is stated to be such as, if not to alarm, at any rate to lead the Governments of the Australian colonies to take immediate action upon the matter. I will read the *Herald* sub-leader, in which this information is contained. It is as follows:—

"Some information is published elsewhere, throwing new light upon the proceedings of the Chinese Commissioners during their visit to Australia. It goes to show that they were sent, not merely to ascertain the condition of the Chinese who are in the colonies, but to form a judgment as to the character of these colonies as a field for emigrants from China. Apparently the Commissioners arrived at a favourable conclusion upon both points. This may not be quite in accordance with some of their expressions of opinion here, but it is to be remembered that although they saw many deputations, and were asked many questions by inquisitive people, they were diplomats, saying as much as they liked, and keeping back as much as they thought fit. They were not in the witness-box under obligation to tell the whole truth. They had reason generally to be satisfied with their reception, but it is not improbable that they went away with a poor impression of some of the men they met, and that in their minds there may be an idea that the question of the status of their countrymen in Australia is one to be discussed in London and Peking rather than here. This is suggested by the reference to a possible revision of treaties between Great Britain and China. We cannot at present tell what weight is to be attached to those suppositions, but, if there is anything in them, they are premonitory of future trouble. The strong antagonism throughout Australia to Chinese immigration is an established fact. The visit of the Commissioners has been answered by a movement for legislation that would in effect prohibit it. But if the Chinese Government should say, 'This is an Imperial question which cannot be settled by provisional authorities,' the English Government might feel some embarrassment in meeting the assertion with a direct negative answer. Great Britain has broken down the Chinese policy of exclusiveness by force of arms, and it would not be easy to stand up in defence of a policy of exclusiveness, directed specially against the Chinese in any part of the British Empire. In view of possible complications in the East, and also the need for opening fresh markets to British trade, the maintenance of friendly, if not cordial, relations with China is now recognised as a matter of high expediency. By the annexation of Burmah Great Britain and China have become next-door neighbours; and it is significant that, in the lately executed Convention between the two Governments, which recognises that fact, England has conceded the continuance by the Burmese authorities of certain observances which imply a recognition on their part of Chinese suzerainty. Now, if the Chinese Government press upon Great Britain the justice of redressing Chinese grievances in this part of the British Empire,

and intimate that the discontinuance of friendly relations would be the alternative, there would be no escape from giving offence on the one side or the other. It would be bad policy to quarrel with the colonies, but it would also be bad policy to quarrel with China. The problem could be solved here if we were all willing to content ourselves with compelling the Chinese to live up to our high standard. There would not be a rational insult in that, but it would take the sting out of Chinese competition with the working man."

If there is any truth in that, I trust and I think the Premier will take the earliest opportunity of giving the Imperial Government to understand that on the Chinese question—in this colony at any rate—there are no two opinions. There may be two opinions on many other questions that come before us, but on the Chinese question there is only one. Referring to that article, I do not suppose there is one member of the House who is desirous of educating the Chinese up to what is called our high standard. We do not want to have the trouble of educating them up to our high standard. Still there is a good deal in that article which requires the immediate attention of the Premiers of all the colonies. The question is an intercolonial one—it concerns the whole of Australia; and I trust the Premier will take the earliest opportunity—as I am sure he will—of informing the Imperial authorities that if they insist upon keeping friends with China on the terms suggested in that article, they had better make up their minds to part with us. If the Chinese, or rather the Chinese trade, is of more importance to the Empire than the Australian colonies are, let us understand it, and then we shall know what to do.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—With the permission of the House I should like to say a word or two in reply to the hon. member. I have not had my attention called to any statement with regard to the report of the Chinese commissioners, nor was I aware that they had made any, although I saw a rumour that they had sent in their report. As soon as we have the information I shall do whatever may be necessary to convince the Imperial authorities as to the unalterable opinion of this colony, as one of the Australian colonies, on the Chinese question. But not much, I think, is required to be said on that subject. The Imperial Government thoroughly understand our views—thoroughly know what they are—and I think it will be a long time before they do anything in opposition to them. I should like to be permitted to add that the Government arrived at the conclusion, a short time since, to refuse to issue any more letters of naturalisation to Chinese. They are not compelled to do so, and the Government came to the conclusion not to do it.

Mr. PALMER, in reply, said: Mr. Speaker,—With regard to the number of Chinese naturalised in Victoria, I find I was in error as to the year. I said 1886, but it was in 1885 that 1,178 Chinese were naturalised in that colony. There were more Chinese naturalised there in that year than there had been in the previous eleven years. The poll-tax there is only £10 per head, and ships are allowed to bring one Chinese passenger for every 100 tons of cargo. I did not quite follow the Attorney-General, but I gathered from him that the Acts of other colonies naturalising Chinese have no effect in Queensland. Is that so?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Yes.

Mr. PALMER: That is not generally understood, and we now know what grounds we are going on. I am perfectly aware of what the leader of the Opposition read—that Great Britain had forced her trade at the four principal Chinese ports; they forced the Chinese to open their ports to them for commercial purposes.

But I do not see why that should interfere with those colonies in their efforts at settlement and self-government. We have no right to be bound by the results of the Chinese war. We were not bound by the results of the Burmese war, or the Afghan war, or any others, and I do not see why we should be with the Chinese. We are working on our own lines, and we have arrived at the conclusion that Chinese are not desirable settlers in these colonies; and holding those opinions we should pay very little regard to the opinions of those who are interested solely in British trade or in the policy of the British Government. I beg to withdraw the motion.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said: Mr. Speaker,—I should like, with the indulgence of the House, to point out that the Premier, in his second speech, did not reply to the statement of the hon. member for Brisbane, his colleague, as to the Chinese of Hongkong. The Chinese coolies there are British subjects, and there are 140,000 to 160,000 of them.

The PREMIER: We will make them all pay the poll-tax, anyhow, when they come.

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

#### BRITISH NEW GUINEA (QUEENSLAND) BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

The PREMIER moved that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. MOREHEAD said: Mr. Speaker,—Of course I do not rise to oppose the second reading of this Bill, nor do I rise to make many remarks with regard to it. I think, however, it is a matter of universal regret to this House that when the annexation of New Guinea first took place, in the time of the late Government, the Imperial authorities did not see fit to confirm that action. The result is that we have New Guinea whittled down, so far as Great Britain is concerned, to very small proportions. I suppose, however, that we shall have to be satisfied with the small mercies the Imperial authorities, as a rule, serve out to us, except when they want the expenditure of money. They are then very liberal in their ideas, as a rule, as to what they should expect from the colonies. I do not intend to say anything at all hostile to the passing of this measure, although, as I have said, I cannot but regret that we have now to deal with such a comparatively small portion of New Guinea. It is also, I think, matter for regret on the part of this House that there is not that unanimity amongst the three colonies which we might fairly expect upon this question. In dealing with the southern colonies we have always received justice and consideration at the hands of Victoria. That colony has always been willing to reason and discuss and decide upon all matters likely to tend to the general advantage of the Australian group. I am sorry to say that that has not been our experience with regard to New South Wales, and I take this opportunity of expressing my opinion, which I believe is shared by most members of this House, that the Government of this colony have been treated with the most marked discourtesy by the Government of New South Wales. For what reason I know not. I have read the correspondence carefully, and there is nothing in it, so far as the Premier of this colony is concerned, that would lead one to expect anything but decent courtesy and consideration at the hands of the Government of New South Wales. That, sir, this colony has not received, and I am very pleased to find, as I am sure this House is, that should New South Wales stand out in the matter of making the

pecuniary obligation connected with this question the Government have determined to take it up in conjunction with Victoria—in fact, even if Victoria were also to stand out, which I do not think very likely—I should support Queensland going on alone with it. We, of all the colonies, are most interested, being intimately connected with New Guinea, and it is of paramount importance to Australia, and Queensland in particular, that we should have some control over the government of that colony. I think, Mr. Speaker, that that control is fully and fairly provided for in this Bill; therefore it shall receive my hearty support.

Mr. DICKSON said: Mr. Speaker,—This Bill is a matter of considerable importance, and should, I think, receive careful consideration. Although I am not in any way opposed to it—in fact, having been a member of the Ministry that initiated it I do not—I cannot—express disapproval of it—still, as I have said, I think it is a matter that should receive very careful consideration. Not only is it of some financial consequence to us at the present time, but we should see that we are making a fair bargain with the mother-country for the financial administration of New Guinea. It is only proper, I think, that we should learn what the Imperial authorities intend to do in pursuance of their part of the agreement. The present arrangement with regard to New Guinea is a comparatively light one for the colony. We only contribute per head of population equally with New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and, I think, Fiji and Western Australia; and up to the present time the annual contribution by Queensland has been of very small pecuniary amount. According to the statements which have been published, the amount paid by the Queensland Government up to the 31st May, 1887, was £581 11s. 11d. Under this Bill we shall be called upon to bear primarily a direct annual contribution of £15,000. Now, that is a very large amount for us to bear single-handed; and although, from the correspondence that has been published, I have no reason to doubt the *bona fides* of Victoria in the matter, still under this Bill we have primarily to bear the responsibility of furnishing £15,000 to provide for the administration of New Guinea. I have no doubt, as I have said, that Victoria will continue to contribute her proportion; but I do not think New South Wales will do so. At least, from the silence of the Premier of that colony, I am inclined to infer that he is very lukewarm in the matter. There is nothing in the correspondence to show that Victoria will join us equally in the cost of administration.

The PREMIER: They have not been asked.

Mr. DICKSON: As the Premier says they have not been asked, I think it has been exceedingly generous on the part of Victoria to come forward and contribute to the extent she is willing to do. She has come very prominently forward in the past and has paid very handsomely towards the expenses of the protectorate. I should like to learn from the Premier—possibly we shall get the information more conveniently in committee than on the second reading—I should like to learn whether the Government have received any further information from the Imperial authorities as to the fulfilment of the 5th condition, to this effect:—

“The Imperial Government to make a reasonable contribution (by way of loan or otherwise) towards the cost of efficiently starting the Government, and the necessary Government buildings.”

The PREMIER: Look at the second schedule. The first schedule is the one originally made, to which New South Wales was a party.



Mr. DICKSON: The 5th condition in that schedule is:—

"Her Majesty's Imperial Government to contribute a suitable steam-vessel for the service of the territory, at a cost not exceeding £18,500, with the cost of its maintenance during the first three years, estimated at £3,500 a year."

Of course that is subsequent to the passing of the Bill. I should like to learn if the Government have received any information since this Bill was drafted as to the intention of the Imperial Government to provide a suitable vessel for the service of the protectorate; also, seeing that we are called upon to contribute a considerable sum annually, which is to be a first charge upon the revenue of the colony, shall we, under this Bill, have power to frame such a fiscal system for New Guinea as will recoup us? I see from the correspondence that the Governor in Council is to have a voice in the appropriation of expenditure, but I do not see anything in the correspondence that would justify me in inferring that the Treasurer of Queensland will have a voice in proposing the financial policy.

The PREMIER: Read section 18 of the second schedule.

Mr. DICKSON: That section says:—

"The Administrator, in the exercise of his legislative and administrative functions, to be guided by the instructions of the Governor of Queensland (subject to Her Majesty's power of disallowance of proposed laws)."

I doubt whether that is sufficiently comprehensive. The Treasurer of Queensland will have to formulate the financial policy in order that we may recoup ourselves for this expenditure. As I have already said, I have no intention of opposing the second reading, but I think it is well at the outset that we should have as full information before us as possible, to see that in making this permanent appropriation we are not saddling ourselves with a responsibility which may be inconvenient to discharge, and which we may be left to discharge alone. I do not believe that it was the intention of the Government solely to undertake the government of New Guinea; it has always been held that it was the duty of the Imperial authorities to provide for assuming the sovereignty; and I must say that it is a matter for general regret that their action has been so perfunctory in dealing with New Guinea up to the present time. I trust that when this Bill is passed the Imperial Government will assume sovereignty over the island, and that the affairs of New Guinea will settle down to some definite shape rather than remain in the chaotic condition in which they have been for some time past. Up to the present time New Guinea has been no man's land, and its condition has been eminently unsatisfactory to all who have considered it. It is to be hoped that, with this larger policy initiated by Queensland undertaking the sole financial responsibility, the affairs will be brought into proper order, and that the settlement of British New Guinea will be furthered to an extent beyond anything that has been attempted during the last few years.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said: Mr. Speaker,—I agree with the hon. member who has just sat down that this matter deserves consideration, probably more than hon. members seem inclined to give it; at the same time, if we had to take the whole of this responsibility ourselves to the amount of £15,000 a year, and if none of the other colonies contributed, I think we should be perfectly justified in taking it, rather than leave the affairs of New Guinea in their present unsettled condition. I do not think there is any danger of Victoria withdrawing from the arrangement, but it is quite possible that New South Wales will not contribute anything.

The PREMIER: I think they will. I think public opinion there is strong enough.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: Perhaps so, but I have a very poor opinion of the people down there. I observe in this Bill that the words "Governor of Queensland" are sometimes used in the schedule, and the word "Government," in other places. I also observe this:—

"An estimate of revenue and expenditure to be submitted by the Administrator to the Governor of Queensland, and approved by him before the passing of any Appropriation Ordinance. The Governor of Queensland to have power to disallow any item of proposed expenditure."

I should like to know whether that means that the Governor is to act in conjunction with the Government of Queensland, or whether he is to act as an Imperial officer?

The PREMIER: Paragraph 19 shows that.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN:

"The Governor of Queensland to be directed to consult his Executive Council upon all matters relating to British New Guinea."

I suppose that applies to disallowing any expenditure.

The PREMIER: Yes.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: He will not in that case act as an Imperial officer—he will be acting as the Governor of Queensland under the advice of the Executive.

The PREMIER: Yes.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: There is another thing I should like to point out. The 20th paragraph of the second schedule says—

"The Government of Queensland to consult the Governments of the other contributing colonies in all matters other than those of ordinary administration, and to report to them all action taken."

Now, let us assume that New South Wales does not co-operate. It is called here a contributing colony. Shall we by this schedule be compelled to continue to consult New South Wales, and agree with them, although they incur not one shilling of liability?

The PREMIER: Certainly not. They would no longer be a contributing colony.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: But it is called one of the contributing colonies in the Bill. Of course, I know it would not be a contributing colony if it did not come under the agreement, but seeing that it is mentioned as one of the three colonies who are contributory, will it not bind us, even although it does not pay its share? I hope it is not so, but we ought to take very great care before we pass the schedule. We ought to consider every paragraph very carefully, as was pointed out by the hon. member for Enoggera, and see that we do not put ourselves into a peculiar fix with the Government of New South Wales. I have no doubt about the Government of Victoria, but I do certainly doubt New South Wales, and I may say that I have some doubts about the Imperial Government performing their share of the contract to the letter: they have never done so yet with Queensland in anything they have undertaken. I think we have to watch the Imperial Government just as much as we have to watch our neighbour and friend in New South Wales. I suppose no member in this House will oppose the passing of this Bill, but we ought to guard ourselves carefully against agreeing to too much. I think the share the Imperial Government is going to pay is a very small part—a very mean part:—

"Her Majesty's Imperial Government to contribute a suitable steam vessel for the services of the territory, at a cost not exceeding £18,500, with the cost of its maintenance during the first three years, estimated at about £3,500 a year."

That is to be the total amount of their contribution. Are they, for their contribution of £3,500 a year, to have the appointment of the officers who are to administer the government in New Guinea? If they are, then good-by to good government in New Guinea. Unless the appointment of the officers rests with the Government of Queensland we shall be saddled with some noodle who is not worth £300 a year.

The PREMIER: There is no fear of that.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: I should like to know distinctly whether they are to have the power of appointment—but we shall find out all these things in committee before the Bill goes through.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said: Mr. Speaker,—It was not to be expected that this Bill would meet with any other reception than it has met with this afternoon at the hands of hon. members on both sides of the House. This colony is distinctly committed, I think, to take definite action with reference to the British occupancy of New Guinea, and any Bill proposing to give effect to the will of the people of this colony in regard to New Guinea deserves to meet with a cordial reception, not only in this House, but outside it. I must join in the expression of regret that has fallen from the hon. leader of the Opposition in regard to the want of interest shown by the colony of New South Wales with reference to this matter. When I contrast the readiness with which the colony of Victoria has fallen in with the scheme, and backed up the action of its representatives in London, with the action of the Government of New South Wales in virtually repudiating the action of its representatives in London, I feel, Mr. Speaker, almost ashamed of my native colony. Things have come to a pretty pass there when the Government of that great colony, to which the other colonies are accustomed to look up to with respect, can show so little courtesy as not only not to follow up the action of their representatives in London, but to refuse to take the slightest notice of the urgent communications made upon this subject by the head of the Government of this colony. I am quite sure, however, that whatever little interest may be shown by the Government of New South Wales in the matter, that feeling is not shared by the people of that colony, and I believe the time is not far distant when the people there will insist that those who govern them shall display a little more readiness than has been displayed in the past in co-operating with the other colonies of the Australasian group in matters which tend to the promotion of the welfare of the colonies as a whole. Although £15,000 seems a large sum to be contributed by the various colonies for the government of New Guinea, it is not for one moment to be supposed that this will be a perpetual charge. With the institution of something like order and proper government in New Guinea, there will certainly be an annual revenue constantly increasing in dimensions, and the receipts from the revenue of that colony will go in liquidation of the expense of government, and in relieving the contributing colonies of the liability which they incur by passing Acts of this kind. Although the hon. member for Townsville, Mr. Macrossan, seems to have some doubt as to whether the British Government will appoint the right kind of officers to administer the affairs of New Guinea, I am quite sure, from what one is able to learn of the anxiety of the Imperial Government to consult the colonies upon all matters of great concern in the Southern World, particularly affecting Australasia, they will not be likely to make any appoint-

ments of this kind that would be distasteful, especially to Queensland, or that would run counter to the views of the Government of Queensland. I do not think it would be too much to expect the Imperial Government to permit the colony of Queensland to have a voice in these appointments, so far as that they may suggest, as to what kind of appointments should be made. The practice that once existed in Downing street of disregarding the views and feelings of the colonies has, I think, fairly passed away, and from what we have seen of the disposition of the Imperial Government during the last few years, we may rest perfectly satisfied that no appointments will be made that will be likely to be in opposition to the views of the contributing colonies on the subject—more especially the colony of Queensland—which will have so large a share in directing the future policy of what I hope will be the British colony of New Guinea.

Mr. W. BROOKES said: Mr. Speaker,—I do not share the opinions of the Attorney-General in the confidence he has in the Imperial Government. I am sorry to have to say so, but the fact of the matter is that the raising of this question of New Guinea appears to me to be a foreboding of the time when all the Australian colonies will take a very decided stand and assert their opinions with a little more force and more combination than they have ever done yet. From what I have been reading lately, I have not a very high opinion as to the disinterestedness of the Imperial Government in any of its dealings with the Australian colonies. The Attorney-General said a great change has come over the spirit of the dream. I do not think so, and the hon. Premier would be able, and, no doubt, will be able at a proper time, to show the feeling of the Imperial Government as he witnessed it when he was in England. Now, this is a matter that has led to a deal of comment, and I share to some extent, perhaps to the full extent, in the misgivings that are evidently entertained by some members of the House, that if there is a chance of making New Guinea a kind of retreat or asylum for some old worn-out incompetent men—England is full of them, military and naval—such a good opportunity as this will not be allowed to pass unimproved.

Mr. NORTON said: Mr. Speaker,—I confess I am one of those who do not share in that great confidence in the Imperial Government that has been spoken of by one or two previous speakers. I cannot think that the action of the Imperial Government in connection with New Guinea has been such as to inspire much confidence in the people of Queensland. From first to last they have been backing and filling about this question, and then they come down and drive the hardest bargain they can with us before they will undertake to assume the sovereignty of New Guinea—a sovereignty not over the whole island, but over the remnant of it which is now under the protection of Great Britain. I think we have great cause to complain of the delay and the shuffling manner in which the whole question has been treated by the Imperial Government, and I say that in asking for this guarantee of £15,000 a year for ten years they are driving a very hard bargain. Can it be supposed, sir, for one moment that if Great Britain was not willing to assume the sovereignty of that island it would go wanting for someone to take it up? Do we not know—at least, have we not every reason to suppose—that the Germans who have taken the portions which Great Britain would not take, would be very glad to get this part and pay all the cost without ever hesitating one moment about it? But Great Britain,

unfortunately, has an expensive way of managing these isolated pieces of country over which she assumes sovereignty. I believe the cost in all these places is very much greater, and the cost even here will be very much greater for the work which is done than the cost of managing the German portion of New Guinea. I believe the Germans intend adopting very economical means of dealing with their portion, and I think probably we shall find that the cost of managing British New Guinea will be a great deal in excess of the cost of managing German New Guinea. I regret, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that I do not feel the same confidence in Great Britain carrying out her portion of the arrangement satisfactorily as some hon. members seem to have. So far as New South Wales is concerned, I do not join in the apprehension that the Government of that colony intend to retreat from the agreement which was entered into by her representatives some time ago. The Government there have undoubtedly been in a difficult position for some considerable time. I think, however, in neglecting to reply—I will not say refusing to reply—to the communications made to them by the Premier of this colony, they have shown a want of courtesy; but I doubt very much whether that has been intentional. For my part I do not look upon New South Wales as some hon. members do; I believe the Government are willing to act with us and with the other colonies as members of one great nation.

Mr. PALMER said: Mr. Speaker,—The hon. member for Enoggera, Mr. Dickson, with the instincts of a Treasurer still upon him, referred to the revenue likely to be derived from New Guinea as a set-off against the subsidy, and I think he was quite right in referring to the matter. The Attorney-General stated positively that there would be an increasing revenue, but I do not think he could have read the only official report we have on the question—the report of the Hon. John Douglas for the year 1886.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: There are no laws there yet.

Mr. PALMER: There is no prospect just yet of a revenue at all, and the prospects of a revenue will depend on the form of government and the people appointed to govern; and if we pay the money we should have a voice in appointing the officials. The Hon. John Douglas, who is a practical man, touches on some of the vital points connected with the trade and revenue, and shows where the only probabilities of a revenue are; and it is questionable whether any decayed military or naval officers, to whom reference was made by the hon. member for North Brisbane, Mr. Brookes, are likely people to originate a scheme for obtaining a revenue. It is far more likely that we shall be able to find efficient officers here. Mr. Douglas, in his report, refers to the land policy, on page 6, as follows:—

“The land question is no doubt the cardinal one upon which almost everything connected with British policy within the protectorate will turn. It is the primary consideration, both as regards the present native inhabitants and those schemes of colonisation which have at various times been suggested.”

Then he refers to the land question and trade on page 8:—

“I find it difficult to speak with any certainty on these points. Everything depends upon the land policy adopted. If settlement, even in a modified and restricted form, is authorised, trade will grow and revenue will come in. The limitations which have resulted from the system of permits established since the proclamation of the protectorate has caused trade, small as it even then was, to diminish rather than to increase.”

There we have it that the permits have been of such a prohibitory nature as to prevent people

from doing anything to increase the prospects of revenue in New Guinea. In another part of his report Mr. Douglas says:—

“For my own part, I think that the true interests of the natives and their advancement in the scale of life are not inconsistent with some encouragement being given to European settlement.”

There he shows that the encouragement of European settlement will not militate in any way against the native races, and if we are going to pay the cost of administering the government of New Guinea it is probable that we may have to pay the whole of the £15,000; and I think it would be to the interest of Queensland to pay the whole sum rather than let British New Guinea drop and get into the hands of any other power—I think we should take it on our hands to see that some portion of the revenue was obtained from the protectorate. There is no doubt that a revenue should be obtained there, but the pearl-shell and bêche-de-mer trade is absolutely stopped for want of proper protection to the people engaged in it; and I think the government could be better carried on by Queensland than by any combination of the colonies, or by officers appointed by the British Government. I think the extension of the guarantee to ten years is too long, and the term originally proposed—namely, five years—would be a great deal better; but that is a matter of detail we can discuss in committee.

Mr. BLACK said: Mr. Speaker,—I think, with some of the previous speakers, that the Imperial Government have made hard terms in this matter. They are the outcome of a discussion on the subject at the Imperial Conference held in England somewhat lately, and I think that when we go into committee it will be necessary for us to enter upon the whole question with the idea that Queensland will have to undertake the whole thing before very long. I think, considering the attitude of New South Wales for some time past on the subject, and considering the great distance of Victoria and the want of interest that will probably exist with regard to an island so far distant, and also considering that Queensland will be expected to administer the affairs of New Guinea when the protectorate is established, we may take it for granted that before very many years have elapsed it will be advantageous for Queensland, for New Guinea, and for the whole of Australia, if the management of New Guinea is left in the hands of Queensland. I agree, sir, with the junior member for North Brisbane that in the management of New Guinea, as far as appointments are concerned, they should be left in the hands of the Government of Queensland for the time being, because I apprehend that an opportunity would be taken in these new appointments by the Imperial Government to send out gentlemen who, however well qualified in some respects to administer a government in other parts of the world, would be found quite unsuited to manage the affairs of a new country like New Guinea. They are entirely unversed in the conditions prevailing there, while we have in Queensland many gentlemen of experience who are physically better able to go and live in a country such as that than anyone who can be sent from England. I notice that the Imperial Government, as one part of their contribution, make this suggestion in clause 5 of the second schedule:—

“Her Majesty's Imperial Government to contribute a suitable steam vessel for the service of the territory, at a cost not exceeding £18,500, with the cost of its maintenance during the first three years, estimated at about £3,500 a year.”

It strikes me that if this bargain is arranged for ten years the maintenance of this steam vessel should also be for ten years; I do not see why it should be cut down to three years. What are we to do with it afterwards unless it is understood that the officering management,

and control of the vessel is to be left in the hands of the Queensland Government? I apprehend that this dual control will lead to difficulties. We know already the difficulties we have in getting any vessel of the squadron, or that portion which we have a right to expect to have a certain amount of control over, to look after our territory—we know the difficulty we have already in getting Imperial officers connected with the squadron, living as they do in Sydney, to really study the true interests of Queensland whenever called upon. We know already, in the event of any irregularities taking place on the New Guinea coast, or in Torres Straits, the difficulty in getting any portion of that Imperial fleet really to take any deep interest in the matter. They sail up there and land forces, they cruise about, they come back and report to the admiral, and he sends a report home to the Imperial Government, of which some hon. members think very highly; but I must say that I would rather see Queensland undertake the whole control of New Guinea. If New South Wales and Victoria like to contribute their quota towards the expenses well and good, but I hope the House will not allow itself to be misled into the belief that a control by the Imperial Government, New South Wales, and Queensland is likely to be a satisfactory understanding for ten years. We must bear in mind that this matter has now been waiting for settlement for the last four years. Year after year it has been referred to this House, but nothing has really been done. Now this Bill is the outcome of the matter; we are asked to give a guarantee, the subsidy is increasing, and some of the colonies are becoming lukewarm and indifferent, and are backing out of the arrangement. We are asked to bind this colony to a certain arrangement for ten years. I am sure that we shall not go back on any undertaking we may give, so long as the Imperial Government carry out their part of the contract, but I contend that if we are going to accept the responsibility we should see that we have the undoubted control of the government of New Guinea. I should not complain even if it were necessary for this colony to contribute the whole of the £15,000 so long as we had control of the administration, so that we could make New Guinea of some service to us. But if it is to be a sealed-up settlement, and trade is to be hampered—if settlement is to be subject to the same restrictions as are at present in existence, and trade is to be rendered as expensive and difficult as possible—then I think it is for this House to consider whether we had not better let the Imperial Government take the whole of the responsibility and expense. On the other hand, if we do join with them we should see that such conditions are observed as will secure something in return. A good deal has been said about the action New South Wales has taken in this matter. The Attorney-General said he was almost ashamed of the action of the colony that gave him birth; but there may be some reason for the indifference shown by the Government of New South Wales.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: There can be no reason for the discourtesy.

Mr. BLACK: Nevertheless, I must say that I cannot in any way justify the undoubted want of courtesy on the part of the Premier of New South Wales. I think there has been a certain amount of friction going on between this colony and New South Wales for the last year or two.

The PREMIER: I am not aware of it.

Mr. BLACK: I thought the hon. gentleman was aware of it, as they did not show much cordiality in the Federal Council business. I think they held aloof from that, and I believe I am perfectly justified in saying that

there is a certain amount of friction between, at all events, some members of the different Governments. I hold in my hand a short extract which may perhaps give the keynote to this friction of the existence of which the Premier says he is not aware. I think myself, as a rational man, that there may be some explanation of this friction. Some remarks were made by the hon. gentleman about twelve months ago which, I know, gave considerable offence at the time to the Government of New South Wales.

The PREMIER: Oh, no; they did not.

Mr. BLACK: The hon. gentleman says they did not.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Not to the Government.

Mr. BLACK: I think that perhaps those remarks may be the keynote of the want of courtesy shown by the Premier of New South Wales, Sir Henry Parkes, to the Premier of Queensland. The paragraph of the hon. gentleman's speech to which I have alluded has reference to New South Wales having declined to participate in the Federal Council. The Premier, in a very able speech, remarked:—

"In reference to the Federal Council, they knew that for the last few years efforts had been made to unite in more close bonds the different colonies of Australasia. There was, unfortunately, a section of the people in one or two of the older colonies who seemed determined to remain apart, but they would not live for ever. He hoped their influence was waning, and that the efforts of the 'fossils' would be overcome. (Cheers.) He had often wondered, when he had remonstrated with them, at the ignorance they displayed. Many of them had never been outside their own colony—many of them had been a very little distance outside the town in which they lived. Those were the people who, imbued with their own small parochial wishes, set themselves up against the more intelligent aspirations of the people of Australia."

It is certainly to be regretted that the bonds of union are not more cordial between this colony and what I may safely call the parent colony, but I must say that when I first heard the Premier's explanation of the result of the communications between our Government and that of New South Wales I was at a loss to understand what the meaning of it could be. Such an act of discourtesy is, I think, unexampled between any two Governments of any of the colonies of Australia, and I do really think there must be some friction between Queensland and New South Wales. That little paragraph I read may have something to do with it, but I do not think it justifies the discourtesy in any way. No doubt the remarks of the hon. gentleman were intended to be jocular; they were made in an after-dinner speech, and that may perhaps account for their somewhat injudicious tone. However, that there is some cause of friction between our Government and that of New South Wales cannot be doubted. What the reason may be we are not aware, but I do hope that before this Bill goes into committee some steps will be taken to get an answer from New South Wales. Perhaps if the Colonial Secretary, who is sleeping so calmly on the Treasury benches, were to write a letter to the Government of New South Wales, he might be able to get a reply before the Bill is considered in committee. I hope the measure will become law this session, and that the Imperial Government will have no reason to complain of the colony of Queensland, at all events, not having carried out those views which I know the Premier did all in his power to lay before the Imperial Government.

Mr. CHUBB said: Mr. Speaker,—I think that some hon. members who have spoken have been beating the air in talking about this colony having the right to appoint the administrative officers of New Guinea. It must be remembered that New Guinea will be administered as a Crown

colony, that the necessary legislation will take place in the Imperial Parliament, and that the appointment of officers will be left to the Imperial Government. No doubt it would be very desirable that the Government of Great Britain should consult with the Government of this colony, and the other colonies which choose to contribute towards the necessary expenditure, on the appointment of officers. Possibly they might delegate the formal nomination to the Government of this colony in conjunction with the other contributing colonies, but the appointment will certainly have to be made at home. The amended proposals, I notice, provide for the appointment of officers, and a certain sum in the letters patent is to be reserved for a civil list. Now, I notice also that the proposals, as amended, are certainly more favourable to the Imperial Government than the original proposals. There was provision made in the 5th clause that the Imperial Government should make a reasonable contribution towards the cost of the efficient discharge of government, and the necessary government buildings, etc. Well, that is altered by the amended proposals, and what appears to be substituted instead is the 5th condition, in which the Imperial Government contribute a suitable steam vessel, at a cost of £18,500, and maintain it for three years at the estimated cost of £3,500 a year. So that, while the cost of the government of New Guinea is to be guaranteed for ten years by the Queensland Government and the other colonies, the Imperial Government is not bound to do anything more than contribute and maintain for three years a steam vessel, which at the end of the three years the contributing colonies would have to maintain. I do not intend to oppose the second reading of this Bill. Indeed, I desire to support it heartily, because I believe it is high time that an efficient government should exist in New Guinea, that that country should be brought under law and order, and that some means should be devised by which a portion of the expenditure should be returned to the Governments which are liable for the contribution of the money.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I desire to say a few words in answer to some of the criticism which has been made. The matter had been in abeyance for two years when early last year this Government sent draft proposals for the consideration of the other colonies, and being in Sydney in April of last year I met Mr. Gillies and Sir Patrick Jennings, then Premier of New South Wales. We agreed upon the draft proposals, which are set out in the first schedule of this Bill, as a practical way of dealing with this question. We had been at cross purposes for so long that it seemed that some definite proposals should be made which could be agreed to, or dissented from or modified. These proposals were accordingly made. Nothing was done with them until I reached England, although the Imperial Government had for some time been eager to get them, and had telegraphed to know when they would receive them. The whole matter was submitted to the Imperial Conference with the answer of the Imperial Government, and in effect the answer was that the Home Government accepted the proposals and the conditions of government laid down in them, with only two modifications. One, that the term of guarantee should be ten instead of five years, and the other the fixing of the amount of initial contribution, which was fixed at £29,000. We did not consider it worth while to haggle over a few thousand pounds. If they had named £20,000 or £25,000, our answer would have been that we did not want to quarrel about the amount of money, but that we wanted the matter settled. It will be observed that the proposals made practically secure to Queensland the government

of New Guinea. If hon. members will study the second schedule, which contains the proposals it is now sought to ratify, it will be seen that the administration will be really under the control of the Governor of Queensland in consultation with his Executive Council. Now, some hon. members seem to be afraid that the officers for New Guinea will be appointed under Imperial patronage, and will consist of some hangers-on at the Colonial Office. But there is no danger of that. New Guinea being a Crown colony, the officers must necessarily be appointed at home by Her Majesty's Government, but there is no doubt that we shall be consulted before the appointments are made. So far as the appointment of the administrator is concerned, I may say that I was consulted whilst in London. The matter was discussed very fully, and I took the liberty of suggesting the name of a gentleman who, if appointed, will be as good an officer as any to be found in the whole of the Imperial service. I suggested his name in competition with the name of another very well-known gentleman who was an eager candidate for the position. I have no further official information on the subject. I may say further that Mr. Douglas was appointed on the recommendation of this Government as Acting Special Commissioner, and I am sure that there is the fullest intention to consult the Government of Queensland before any appointment is made. With respect to the judicial officer, I was asked if I desired to nominate anyone for the appointment, but as I could not name anyone at the time, it was understood that if this Government recommended a suitable person their nomination would be accepted, and if not, that the Imperial Government would find an officer. Those are the only two important officers, and that is the temper in which the matter has been dealt with. Practically the Government of Queensland will nominate the officers, and the control of New Guinea, both as to the administrative and legislative functions, will be under the direction of this colony. As to the extension of the term of five years to ten, it was put in this way: When the Imperial Government assumes a protectorate over or annexes a country it cannot desert it afterwards; it is inconsistent with its dignity to desert that position, or to discontinue the maintenance of law and order within its boundaries. Now, this is a tentative arrangement, and the Imperial Government do not desire to expend any money, except in order to comply with the wishes of the Australian colonies. The protectorate was declared at the desire of the Australian colonies, and control of New Guinea having been assumed the Australian colonies should guarantee the Home Government against loss for ten years, at any rate. No doubt the Imperial Government will never be asked to incur any expenditure. The Australian colonies together or Queensland alone will always be willing to indemnify them against any loss, so long as the government is conducted on principles which are fair and reasonable. Some hon. members spoke of the second schedule as a matter to be discussed and amended word by word, but of course that cannot be done. That is the bargain, and we must either accept or reject it. We cannot amend it without the consent of the other parties to the bargain. I should have liked to have been able to tell the House that I had received a reply from New South Wales, but I have not, and I do not suppose, Mr. Speaker, that I shall. I suppose some day we shall discover the reason for their extraordinary conduct.

Question.—That the Bill be read a second time—put and passed.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the commitment of the Bill was made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

## QUEENSLAND FISHERIES BILL.

## CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the House went into committee to consider the Legislative Council's amendments in this Bill.

On clause 4, which the Council proposed to amend by providing that the size of the mesh for a whiting-net should be "one inch and three-quarters of an inch" instead of "two inches and a quarter of an inch," as provided in the Bill—

The PREMIER said the amendments of the Legislative Council in that Bill were three in number. The first, in the 4th clause, restored the size of the mesh in the whiting-net to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch as it stood originally, instead of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches as amended in the Assembly. The second amendment was to enable the Government to maintain a close season in respect of turtle and dugong as well as other fish, and the third amendment provided that the weight of fresh-water mullet taken for sale should be 4 oz. instead of 6 oz. He intended to propose that all the amendments of the Legislative Council be agreed to. He had first to move that the Legislative Council's amendment in clause 4 be agreed to. Further information on the subject had shown that  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches was much too large for the whiting found in the Bay. He had himself lately seen whiting-nets of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch mesh and only good-sized fish could be caught in them.

Mr. DICKSON said he was glad the Legislative Council had amended the Bill in that direction. At the time the amendment was made upon the original draft of the Bill as introduced by the Government he pointed out that the department had given the matter the fullest consideration, and were certain that it would be unwise to depart from the size of mesh then recommended for approval. There was a long debate upon the matter in the committee, as hon. members would remember, and he was very glad that upon further information being obtained the Legislative Council had restored the original intention of the Bill with respect to that matter, as it would have been a great mistake to have allowed the amendment made in the Assembly to pass without alteration.

Mr. CHUBB said the amendment made by the Committee when the Bill was previously before them was owing to the persistent advocacy of the hon. member for Logan against the better judgment of the majority of the committee. They were inclined to support the Bill as it stood, but the hon. member for Logan was so persistent and so well-informed that they surrendered their judgment to his, and that was how the amendment got through.

Mr. BUCKLAND said that, like the hon. member for Bowen, he thought that the Committee when the Bill was previously before them were very much guided in their action by the knowledge which the hon. member for Logan seemed to possess in the matter. It was evident the hon. gentleman had been in communication with most of the fishermen of the Moreton Bay district as to the size of the meshes of the various nets, and that being the case, he did not care to move an amendment on the motion proposed by the hon. member. It was clear from what they had since heard that the Legislative Council's amendment was a very good one, and that the size of the mesh they proposed was the most suitable for the whiting-net for use in these waters.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER moved that the Legislative Council's amendment in clause 18, providing for the insertion of the words "turtle, dugong," to enable the Government to proclaim a close season

for them as well as for other fish, be agreed to. There might be some doubt as to whether turtle and dugong could be included in the definition of "fish."

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the Legislative Council's amendment in the schedule, providing that 4 oz. should be the weight of fresh-water mullet, was agreed to.

The PREMIER moved that the Chairman leave the chair, and report to the House that the Committee had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendments.

Mr. NORTON said that before the question was put he wished to ask the Premier to represent to those who would have the working of the Act that persons should not be charged more than once for licenses for carrying on business under the Act. When the matter came before the House before, a fisherman in his district had informed him that licenses had to be paid at each port, and since that he had communicated to him to the effect that he had had to apply both at Rockhampton and Gladstone for a license for those ports. In case any misunderstanding should arise, it would be more satisfactory if the officials entrusted with the working of the Act were informed that one license applied all over the colony.

The PREMIER said he would see that it was made known. No doubt a license did apply all over the colony.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendments.

The report was adopted, and, on the motion of the PREMIER, the Bill was ordered to be returned to the Legislative Council, with a message intimating that the Assembly had agreed to the Council's amendments.

## DIVISIONAL BOARDS BILL.

## CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S MESSAGE OF 12TH INSTANT.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the House went into committee to consider the Legislative Council's message of 12th instant.

The PREMIER said the Legislative Council insisted upon three amendments which they had made in the Bill. The first was in clause 15. That clause, as it left the Assembly, provided that all rates must be paid "before noon on the day of nomination," which was altered in the Council to "seven clear days before the day of nomination." That amendment was discussed in committee by the Assembly and disagreed to. There was a similar amendment in clause 28. The second amendment on which the Legislative Council insisted was in clause 28, line 38. As it left the Assembly the words ran that no person should be entitled to vote unless he had paid the rates upon "the land in respect of which he claims to vote." The Council struck out those words and inserted the words, "all land within the division for the payment of which he is liable," and they gave as their reason for insisting on the amendment that non-payment by an occupier did not make the owner liable. That was a singular reason to give, because the 205th clause of the Bill provided that the amount of rates levied under the Act should be payable in the first instance by the occupier, who might recover them from the owner; and the 206th clause provided that if the occupier did not pay the rates within sixty days the board might recover them by action against the owner. The third amendment the Council insisted on was the one about cutting down standing timber.

It was for the Committee now to consider what was the best thing to do with the Bill. It had gone through that House twice, and it was laid aside last year on account of the action of the Council. It was a question now whether they would let all the labour of two sessions be wasted. So far as the seven days was concerned, he did not think it worth while to insist upon their disagreement. It did not make much difference whether the rates were paid up to noon on the day of nomination, or seven days before the day of nomination. That was not a point of sufficient importance to imperil the passing of the Bill. He would, therefore, move that the Assembly did not insist on its disagreement with the amendments in clause 15, line 30, and clause 23, lines 36 and 37.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER said the next amendment was in clause 28, line 38, to omit the words, "the land in respect of which he claims to vote," and to insert "all land within the division for the payment of which he is liable." That meant, as had often been pointed out before, that if a man had several tenants, and one of them accidentally omitted to pay his rates, the owner would be prevented from voting in respect of any other land he might have in the division—which he did not think was fair. He had been informed, however, that what the Legislative Council desired to insist upon was, that an owner who had no tenants and did not pay his rates on his unoccupied land should not be entitled to vote. There was a good deal in that, and it could be met by amending the amendment of the Legislative Council so as to make it read "for the payment of which he alone is liable." He would, therefore, move that the Assembly did not insist upon its disagreement to the Legislative Council's amendment in clause 28, line 38, and that the amendment be amended by inserting the word "alone" between "he" and "is."

Mr. SCOTT asked how that would affect disputed land?

The PREMIER replied that in a case of disputed ownership the rates could only be got from the occupier.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER said the other amendments on which the Legislative Council insisted were in clause 207 and the sixth schedule, having reference to the cutting of standing timber. The reasons they urged were—

"Because the revenue of the local authority is sufficiently protected by the other clauses of the Bill; because cutting standing timber would frequently involve waste in excess of the annual value, and the loss of any of the indigenous forest trees is greater than the gain to the local authority of the rates that would be recovered by this mode of procedure."

He did not think it worth while to imperil the passing of the Bill for a matter of that sort. He therefore moved that the Committee do not insist upon their disagreement to the amendment of the Legislative Council in clause 207.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER moved that the Committee do not insist on their disagreement to the amendment of the Legislative Council in the sixth schedule.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed; the CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee proposed to amend one of the amendments of the Legislative Council, and did not insist in its disagreement to the amendment as so amended; and did not insist in its disagreements to the other amendments in which the Legislative Council insisted; and the report was adopted.

The PREMIER moved that the Bill be returned to the Legislative Council with message informing them accordingly.

Question put and passed.

## ELECTORAL DISTRICTS BILL.

### COMMITTEE.

On the Order of the Day being read, the House went into committee to further consider this Bill in detail.

Question—That in clause 4, after "Fassifern," the words "one member," proposed to be omitted with the view of inserting "two members," stand part of the question—put.

Mr. FOOTE said that since the Bill was under consideration last week the West Moreton members had given the matter very grave consideration. They had tried to find if they were justified in the position they had taken up, and from some calculations made by the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Salkeld, who had given the subject his very careful consideration, they found they were perfectly justified. If they did not make a stand they should not be doing their duty to the West Moreton district or to themselves, and they thought the Government had had ample time to reconsider the subject, to see how far they could go with them. The last time the Bill was before the committee a compromise had been suggested, from which the members of West Moreton had not departed, as they found, after careful consideration, they were in the right. He trusted that after consideration the Government would see that they had taken up a fair and tenable position, and that they were entitled to the representation they had asked for. He hoped that the Premier would not take up the position he took up on the last occasion, and merely reiterate that certain boundaries showed certain figures. If they had not succeeded in convincing the hon. gentleman on a previous occasion, he hoped that he would be convinced that night, and let the Bill be proceeded with. As far as he (Mr. Foote) could hear, the members representing other groups were pretty well satisfied. He had no doubt the Northern members were satisfied, though, of course, if they could get another member they would have it; but if they could not, they would rather have the Bill as it was, because very liberal concessions had been made to them. The West Moreton representatives only asked to be dealt with in the same way as other electorates had been dealt with. Their request was a very modest one, and he trusted that it would be granted.

The PREMIER: What is it you propose?

Mr. FOOTE said his hon. friend the member for Ipswich, Mr. Salkeld, would go more fully into it. That hon. gentleman had worked out the figures, and would, he hoped, be able to prove his case to the satisfaction of the Committee.

The PREMIER said of course the Government were willing to consider any arguments that might be adduced. He did not know as yet what was the point the hon. members wanted the Government to yield. Of course, it was impossible to give Fassifern two members, because the population did not entitle them to it. If any hon. member could suggest an improvement in the boundaries, no doubt the Committee would be quite ready to listen to it.

Mr. SALKELD said that, so far as he could make out, nearly 3,000 of population had been taken away from West Moreton by the alteration in boundaries. In the Darling Downs group there was an average total population of 4,178 per member, and if the West Moreton boundaries

had been left as they were, they would have had 4,142 for eight members, just thirty-six short of the Darling Downs group. Darling Downs, again, had 1,016 adult males per member, and with the present boundaries West Moreton would have 1,077 adult males per member—sixty more than Darling Downs. With their present boundaries they would be fairly entitled to eight members, and they objected to having their boundaries altered so as to increase the population of other electorates and reduce them to seven members. The Committee had granted four additional members since the Bill was laid on the table, and they did not know how many more would be given. The Government had departed from their original Bill, and the West Moreton representatives considered that they were being quietly shelved. For his part he would rather exclude himself from the House and from public life altogether, than acquiesce in anything he believed to be unjust to those who had entrusted him with the honour of representing them. He would suggest that their boundaries should be left as they were, or if the Premier thought they ought to have the exact average of population, they could easily get the additional thirty-six by taking a little bit of the Logan electorate. They had more than the right proportion of adult males, and they were within a trifle of the general population. He did not see why the West Moreton boundaries should be altered when they were right. If they had had a little too large a population for seven, and a few hundreds had been taken away, he could have understood that. He was afraid the Government were giving way to an old prejudice, and had no hesitation in saying so. In former times it was only necessary to cry, "Oh! this is Ipswich," and others would take it up and follow like a lot of sheep. He hoped they would not give way to any feeling of that kind; but he did not think the Government were treating the West Moreton electorates properly. He suggested that the boundaries should be left as at present; he was not referring to the internal boundaries—they could come to some arrangement about them very soon. It would not then make much difference if they gave two members to Fassifern, even if it had not so many inhabitants as Bundanba, or any other electorate, because the group would get its proper quota. The part taken from Bundanba and added to Rosewood could be put in with Fassifern.

The PREMIER: It goes too far north.

Mr. SALKELD said the electorate could be taken westwards, and Rosewood could be taken more Fernvale way and take in more of the Tarampa district, which was similar to Rosewood and contained identically the same kind of settlement. Instead of making up the deficiency in Rosewood by adding part of Bundanba to the south and west, it could be extended the other way. West Moreton was rightly entitled to eight members in regard to population, when the marked and unmistakable increase was taken into account. He maintained seriously, and would stake his word upon it, that the Bundanba electorate in the mining centres had increased abnormally since the census was taken. He knew that of his own personal knowledge, and no one who knew anything about the matter would dispute the fact that a large increase in population had taken place. Even before the Bill got through the Committee there would be a much larger increase, but even under the census they were entitled to eight members. It was a mistake, when they had made one thing fit, to alter it to make others fit. There was no reason in it. Part of Stanley might be taken in on the north-west and west and added on to Bundanba and Fassifern, which

could have two members. He was sure that if members on the Opposition benches had a case like his in hand they would make a most determined fight and get what they wanted. The West Moreton group were fairly entitled to another member, and he hoped the Government would consent to adjust the boundaries as he had suggested.

The PREMIER said that, as he had stated, the Government had fully considered the matter since last week. He had pointed out before that the West Moreton district was not entitled to eight members. Fassifern and Logan together were entitled to three members, and what was proposed to be done was to give a new member between them. That was proposed to be done in one way; but there might be other ways of doing it. Some population would have to be given to West Moreton in order to entitle that group to eight members. He did not care to what group an electorate belonged; they might call Nerang West Moreton if they liked. He was dealing with that part of the colony as a whole. Nerang was a mixed electorate, being partly in East Moreton and partly in West Moreton. It was quite clear that no additional member could be given without taking something away from East Moreton. That was clear, and the Committee would not be justified in giving an additional member to that corner of the colony. As to the boundaries of the electorates, that was not a matter of much consequence; but they wanted to get the most convenient boundaries they could. The hon. member talked about extending Rosewood to the north-west into Stanley, but if he looked at the figures he would see that Stanley was already very small, even with any possible additions that might be made to it in the north; taking in Nanango and the part proposed to be thrown into East Moreton, the parish of Kilcoy, it would still be a very small electorate if anything were taken from it. The hon. member proposed to extend Rosewood northward so as to take in about 1,000 people from Stanley, which would be reduced to 2,700 inhabitants, and would be too small. The additional population added would not nearly make up that number. One suggestion had been made to him which he offered for consideration, and that was, instead of extending Rosewood eastwards so as to take in a considerable part of the present electorate of Bundanba, to extend it southwards so as to include the whole of the divisional board of Muddapilly. At present the greater part of that divisional board was in Fassifern. That would make Rosewood consist practically of Muddapilly and Walloon. Then instead of diminishing Bundanba on the westward by taking part into Rosewood, diminish it on the southward by throwing the parish of Purga and part of Bundanba into Fassifern with the parish of Undullah. So far as those two constituencies were concerned there would be sufficient population for both Rosewood and Fassifern, but to give effect to that, it would be necessary to divide the electorates of Logan and Fassifern, north and south, instead of east and west as proposed by the Bill, and it would be still necessary to throw into the eastern part of Fassifern at the northern end a considerable part of Logan, the parish of Boyd and the neighbourhood of Beenleigh, and he was afraid it would be necessary to throw in Beenleigh itself. Fassifern must be enlarged from Logan, or Logan from Fassifern. As far as the Government were concerned they disregarded all questions as to the politics of members; their only desire was to make a fair division. The boundaries would have to be extended eastward in order to give West Moreton the eight members they clamoured for. The



Government had not determined to give West Moreton seven members, and then arranged the boundaries so as to fit; what they had done was to adjust the boundaries according to the natural features of the country and the trade relations of the people, for which purpose a small portion had been taken off both sides of the north end of the Stanley electorate. That was the only change in the boundaries, except where Fassifern joined Logan. He did not know whether the extension of Rosewood to the south would be better than the extension to the east. If Rosewood were joined to the division of Mutdapilly that would be a homogeneous constituency, and the result would be that Bundamba would surround Ipswich on all sides. Rosewood in that case would have to be extended on the north-west corner, so as to take in a few from Stanley; and Stanley would have to be extended by taking in the parish of Kilcoy, and possibly Nanango. Those were possible combinations worthy of consideration. There seemed to be a great difference of opinion as to whether it was desirable to divide Logan north and south, or east and west; but, so far as he had heard, the arguments seemed to be in favour of a division east and west, although there was no doubt that some inconvenience would result from joining together the people at the extreme south at Nerang with the people at the heads of the Logan River. However, he should like to hear the views of hon. members on the change he had suggested.

The HON. G. THORN said he thought the question might be settled in a very few minutes, if the compromise which he mentioned the other night were accepted. If the boundaries of Fassifern were left so as to include Harrisville and Mount Flinders and go down to Mount Goolman, that would give an increase. Then taking on the other side the Village of Logan and the heads of the Oxley, parish of Mitchell, and two or three other places, there would be sufficient population to make a double electorate, and he believed satisfaction would be given to the people on both sides. Tamrookum had a large population, and the interests of the people there and at Undullah were more in common with Dugandan than with Beaudesert. If they added those places it would be a nice electorate with 2,100 or 2,200 male adults and a general population of nearly 8,000, returning two members instead of one. Of course the Logan electorate would be wiped out, and there would be only the electorate of Nerang left, the boundary of which would be north and south, commencing at Macpherson's Range and ending at Yatala. Beenleigh might be left in the Southport electorate, although the Premier had suggested, as he (Mr. Thorn) told the members for West Moreton he would, that Beenleigh should be taken into Fassifern. He was sure there was sufficient population for two members in the electorate he had suggested, and the difficulty might be settled at once. They might afterwards proceed with the details of the boundaries.

Mr. STEVENS said it was rather amusing to hear the way in which the hon. member for Fassifern talked of wiping out the electorate of Logan, but he would find, before his proposal was carried—if it ever were carried—that it would take more time than he anticipated—certainly more than a few minutes. He did not know where the hon. gentleman got his information from, but he (Mr. Stevens) knew positively that the hon. member's constituents on the eastern side of Fassifern would object in the strongest possible manner to the alteration he proposed. They were not quite in accord with the provisions of the Bill respecting the east-and-west line, but they would agree to that sooner than what the hon. member for Fassifern

proposed. He knew the feeling of the inhabitants of the two districts as well as the hon. member, and he was perfectly certain that a more unpopular alteration, so far as the Logan and the eastern portion of Fassifern were concerned, than the alteration he proposed, could not possibly be made.

The HON. G. THORN said he had been in communication with his constituents on the subject, and there had been meetings held at Beaudesert and Veresdale, and the electors there, rather than be tacked on to Southport, as proposed in the Bill, would prefer to be dealt with as he had suggested. The Dugandan railway station was not more than sixteen miles from the Veresdale railway station, and the people of Undullah, Veresdale, Tamrookum, and Dugandan ought to be all in the same electorate. Undullah had a population of 273 and Tamrookum had nearly 600 people. He was sure that the people of Tamrookum had more interests in common with Dugandan than with Southport, because to get to Southport they would have to go through the proposed electorate of Logan. They would have to go down about eighty or ninety miles, whereas Tamrookum, as the hon. gentleman would see from the map, was only about sixteen miles from Dugandan, the present terminal station on the Fassifern Railway. By adopting his suggestion it would be found that it would effect a combination in which the interests of the people would be more in common than if Veresdale and Tamrookum were hooked on to Southport.

Mr. STEVENS said the statement made by the hon. member who had just sat down as to the meetings that had been held in that electorate had just sufficient truth in them to be misleading. At neither of those meetings were the boundaries mentioned which the hon. member now proposed. He (Mr. Stevens) knew that, because he had a copy of the resolutions, and there was not one word in them about such boundaries, or as to extending the boundaries of the electorate of Fassifern, so as to give it two members instead of giving two to the Logan.

Mr. FOOTE said the boundaries of Fassifern for several years past had been the same as they were now, and they had heard no complaint from the Logan side about being attached to Fassifern. The Logan party on one occasion returned the member for Fassifern, Mr. De Burgh Perse. He (Mr. Foote) remembered that he suggested the boundary now proposed by the Government on a previous occasion, but it was not then adopted by the Government. At that time he used the same argument as that which had been advanced by the hon. member for Logan, but it was not considered of any weight. The Premier had stated that the electorates were not arranged with any regard as to what members they would return in the future. Well, he (Mr. Foote) was sure that the West Moreton group had not the slightest regard as to what members should be returned. What they desired was that when a redistribution of the electorates was being made they should have representation up to the same standard as the other districts. But the present measure was framed by lopping off a portion on one side and giving it to East Moreton, taking another piece elsewhere and giving it to the Downs, and carving out a portion in another direction and giving it to Fassifern. They desired to retain the old boundaries, and were also desirous that the Bill should pass. They did not want to place themselves in the position of saying that the Bill should not pass if they did not get their fair share of representation. They therefore wished to effect a compromise, and, so far as he could see, the suggestion of the Premier appeared

to be somewhat reasonable. He did not know how far the hon. gentleman wished to extend the Fassifern electorate. If they went far beyond the Logan it would simply be a sell, and they had not the slightest intention of accepting it.

The PREMIER: What do you mean?

Mr. FOOTE: That Fassifern should not be extended so as to include Nerang and Southport.

The PREMIER: I said, to the Darlington Range, which is the present boundary, and to extend it on the north.

Mr. FOOTE said that some hon. members knew that district better than he did, as he had no personal knowledge of it, and he could hardly rely upon the maps, as he had found some of them very incorrect. He did not wish to be misled on the point, but, so far as he could understand the Premier, his suggestion would meet their wishes in reference to Bundanba and Rosewood, that was to say if two members were given to Fassifern.

The PREMIER said he did not propose to give Fassifern two members; he proposed to have two electorates, one to be called Fassifern, and the other to be called by some other name. The eastern boundary would be, as he had stated before, the Darlington Range, as at present, up to Cedar Creek, then up the Albert River; extending eastward from the present line in order to get the population. That would go as far as Logan Village, and he thought it would have to go as far as Beenleigh. Of course it was not desired to make the East Moreton electorates unwieldy. He asked hon. members to say what they thought of the proposal or suggestion to extend Rosewood to the south instead of to the east, so as to include the divisional board of Muttapilly, the parishes of Franklin, Rosevale, Forbes, and Thorn, including Mount Walker. It was proposed to take them out of Fassifern. Fassifern, on the other hand, might include part of the parishes of Purga and Bundanba, which at present were in Bundanba, and it might also include the parish of Undullah. In that case the electorate of Rosewood would really be the valley of the Bremer River, on the south of the railway, and on the north the Rosewood Scrub. The population could be arranged on that scheme tolerably fairly, but it would necessitate changes in the boundaries of Bulimba and Oxley. Bundanba would extend round Ipswich, and would include the parish of Chuwar on the north, Goodna on the east, part of the parish of Bundanba and part of the parish of Purga on the south, and the parish of Brassall on the west. Hon. members would see by the map he held in his hand what his suggestion was, although he did not know whether those would be as good boundaries for the electorate of Rosewood as the boundaries proposed in the Bill. He was sorry the hon. member for Rosewood was not in his place, as he should like to hear his opinion on the subject.

Mr. FOOTE said the boundaries, as he understood the Premier, would be so far satisfactory to the West Moreton group; but by taking Fassifern over to the other side they would be in just the same position as they were now. No additional members would be given to the West Moreton group. If Rosewood were made to embrace a portion of Fassifern, Fassifern would be carried over to the other side; then where was the other electorate?

The PREMIER said he had pointed out that where the increase in population had occurred was in the electorate of Fassifern, and that Fassifern and Logan together were entitled to three members. But they must either extend Logan to the west and take in part of Fassifern, or extend

Fassifern to the east and north and take a part of Logan. Those were the two alternatives. The hon. member seemed to fancy all Fassifern belonged to the West Moreton group, but he (the Premier) did not think it did. The boundaries of East Moreton must be extended to the westward, or West Moreton must be extended on the east and north. Those were the two alternatives, and he did not care which was adopted, but he asked hon. members particularly what would be the effect of extending Rosewood to the south instead of to the east so as to take in the valley of the Bremer?

Mr. SALKELD said, according to the Premier's admission on a previous occasion, West Moreton with its present boundaries was entitled to eight members, but the hon. gentleman now ignored that fact and harped on the fact that Fassifern and Logan were entitled to three members. The hon. gentleman's proposal now was to divide Fassifern and Logan into two and take in Beenleigh. What boundary would be taken between the present Fassifern electorate and the proposed new electorate?

The PREMIER: The Darlington Range on the south.

Mr. SALKELD: But between those two electorates?

The PREMIER: The present proposed boundary between Fassifern and Nerang. Either that or the Logan River.

Mr. SALKELD said that would be very inconvenient. He did not think they could divide those electorates. The Darlington Range was a proper and natural boundary, but what would be the dividing line? He thought it would be fairer to leave the present boundaries, and he did not see the necessity for taking in Beenleigh.

The PREMIER: What is to become of it?

Mr. SALKELD: Leave it in the Logan electorate.

The PREMIER: The population is not sufficient.

Mr. SALKELD said, well, give it another member, and extend the boundary in another direction. Their contention was at present that they were entitled, by reason of population, to another member. The Brisbane electorates, according to the population basis it was said, were entitled to more members; but that was no reason why West Moreton should waive its claim. If members of other districts were willing to take lower representation than they were entitled to that was their look-out. He had no doubt himself that the metropolis ought to have a lower representation.

Mr. MOREHEAD: So ought Ipswich.

Mr. SALKELD said he had no doubt it would suit the hon. member to wipe out Ipswich, which was a thorn in his side, but that would not deter the hon. members for West Moreton from insisting upon and standing up for their rights, and in doing their best to get them.

The Hon. G. THORN said he was not at all anxious to increase the number of members in the House. On the second reading of the Bill he had gone so far as to say that sixty-eight members were too many, and now they were to have seventy-two. He did not propose to increase the number, and he thought his compromise was a fair one. He proposed to make Fassifern a double-barrelled electorate, taking in population on the Logan towards Beenleigh, from the Village of Logan, from near the Logan Bridge, and the population that the Premier proposed to take in from Bundanba on the other side, the population round Harrisville and Mount Flinders. There was a large popu-

lation round the two last-mentioned places which would bring the population of the double-barrelled electorate of Fassifern to over 2,000 adults.

The PREMIER: The Logan will be as big as the double-barrelled electorate.

The HON. G. THORN said he could assure the Premier if he would look at the boundary that he would find Tamrookum, where the greater part of the population of the Logan resided, was quite close to Dugandan.

The PREMIER: Tamrookum is a squatting place. It consists of three large selections.

The HON. G. THORN said the population of the parish of Tamrookum was 577, with 169 adults.

The PREMIER: Nonsense!

The HON. G. THORN said he had it in print. The population of Undullah was 273, with 62 adults.

The PREMIER: Several other parishes surround it.

The HON. G. THORN said the figures had been sent to him by his constituents on the Logan. Veresdale had a population of 358, with 68 adults, and Tabragalba 422, with 132 adults. Adding the population together, and taking in Flinders and Harrisville, the population was sufficient to make a double-barrelled constituency, and return two members without increasing the number of members in the House. They might also take in some other little places; some of the subdivisions of Oxley. The hon. member for Logan did not object to the Oxley subdivisions going in, and they would increase the population. He might state that there were only sixteen miles between Beaudesert and Dugandan, for he had measured it with a ruler.

The PREMIER: There are more than that.

Mr. THORN said that was all, as measured on the map. The interests of those places were certainly more in common than those of Tamrookum and Southport.

Mr. KELLETT said that from the remarks they had just now heard from the Premier he gathered that the hon. gentleman saw that they had a just right to what they were fighting for. They would be satisfied if the hon. gentleman would agree to the suggestion of the hon. member for Fassifern. But if they had the division made in the way the Premier proposed it would not give an additional member to West Moreton. The Premier went to a certain length all right, but he stopped short of the vital point. Their claim had several times been fairly pointed out, and the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Salkeld, had that evening brought forward figures to show that a population of about 3,000 was being taken away from the West Moreton group. There was no doubt, also, that since the railway was made to Dugandan it brought that district more into West Moreton than it had been before; because the residents of Tamrookum and the other places mentioned by the hon. member for Fassifern would come to the Dugandan station, and would be identified with the West Moreton group. The railway being taken to Dugandan made a great difference, and he was quite satisfied it was better to leave the boundary as it was before. He hoped it would not be necessary for them to say much more, for their claim seemed to him so clear that no argument could refute it. To give Fassifern two members and leave the boundaries as they were was, he thought, the simplest way of overcoming the difficulty.

The PREMIER said they had heard complaints for several years against joining the western end of Fassifern on to the eastern end of it. The people down at Darlington Range and on Mount Tambourine were joined to the people at the heads of the Bremer, and that was the cause of great complaints. Why should a country district like that be a double electorate, extending an immense distance east and west? Hon. members seemed to want not only the eight members, but they wanted the electorates so formed that they might control the lot. He was prepared to agree to what was fair, but he could not agree to that.

Mr. FOOTE said the Premier said they wanted the electorate so as they could control it, but they could not possibly control it. Look at the result of the last election. Was it not a resident of the city of Brisbane who represented Fassifern after that election? Was it not also a resident of Brisbane who now represented Rosewood? How, then, could it be said that West Moreton controlled them? Many of the residents of Ipswich, West Moreton, and of Brisbane had votes in those country districts, and they had the right of the franchise, and, beyond its exercise by those who took an interest in politics, there could be no control of any kind. The hon. gentleman objected to the division proposed because, as he put it, a certain portion of the electorate would be controlled by another portion of it at some distance from it. They could only refer to the old arguments over and over again to show how that had been in the past. He would refer to the fact that the Logan returned a member for Fassifern when the McIlwraith Ministry were in power. The hon. gentleman had himself done the very thing which he now said should be avoided. That was clear in the present arrangement of the electorate of Moreton where it extended up to the Main Range beyond Kilcoy on one side, and down to Humpybong on the other. Would it not be a metropolitan candidate who would be likely to carry that electorate? There was no doubt it would as the electorates at this end would have a preponderance in the voting power. It might therefore be considered a metropolitan electorate because the city of Brisbane would, in all probability, return the candidate, and the other end of the district would be disfranchised. If that was right in one instance, was it not right in another? They only asked what belonged to them. They said that according to the boundaries as they now stood they were entitled to an additional member, and the Premier himself had admitted that, though perhaps he regretted having done so. Even if he had not done so, it would not alter the fact that they were entitled to an additional member. They did not want to be outwitted by a sidewind, and did not intend to be so outwitted. They had thoroughly considered their position, and meant to carry it out. He did not wish to delay the business of the Committee, and desired that the Bill should pass if the Government would accede to their request, and give them that to which they were fairly and honestly entitled.

The PREMIER said he had already stated that he was willing, if it commended itself to the Committee generally—for he could only make a suggestion like anyone else—to let the old boundary stand between Logan and Fassifern at the Darlington Range; but the boundaries must be extended to take in further population.

Mr. FOOTE: And give Fassifern two members?

The PREMIER said that would not be fair. Why should the people who went from Brisbane by rail down to Waterford, Logan Village,

and Beaudesert be joined with the people who went away from Ipswich by the Hardsville and Dugandan line? They had no community of interests, and should certainly not be joined together. The principle of the Bill was to have single electorates wherever possible, and while he was quite prepared to meet hon. members as far as he could do so in justice and fairness, he was not prepared to do that which had been considered a crying scandal for years, and which was manifestly unfair. In that case more than anywhere else they had had continual complaints that two different sets of people were joined together, and that was undoubtedly unfair; and yet that was what the hon. members for West Moreton wished to perpetuate.

Mr. KELLETT said he could quite understand the people about Tambourine objecting to be included in Fassifern, but by the change suggested a far larger number would be put into a district with which they had no community of interests, than by leaving the boundaries as they were at present. As to their wanting to make the Fassifern end control the whole electorate, they wanted nothing of the kind, and they could do nothing of the kind, because it would depend entirely upon the man who came forward to contest the constituency, who might be a total stranger there, like the Attorney-General, a resident of Brisbane, who represented one of the most northern constituencies in the colony, or the late member for Fassifern, who also lived in Brisbane. The electorates of the colony were divided into groups, and what they wanted was another member for the West Moreton group, to which they were fully entitled, leaving it to the Premier to fix and alter the boundaries so as to bring up the population to the requisite number. But the suggestion of the Premier gave an additional member to East Moreton, not to West Moreton.

The PREMIER: How can it be in the East Moreton group if it is within your present boundaries?

Mr. KELLETT said that if divided in the way suggested it would be in East Moreton, and to that they most strongly objected. The Premier himself had admitted that the electorates of Fassifern and Bundamba, with their present boundaries, were entitled to three members between them.

The PREMIER: I think I said, "they were almost entitled."

Mr. KELLETT said it appeared in *Hansard*, and there was no hon. member who corrected his speeches more carefully than the Premier. No doubt the hon. gentleman was sorry now that he had said it, but it was perfectly correct, as every hon. member must admit. They had put forward their claim for an additional member fairly and quietly, and had advanced very good reasons in support of it. He had no fresh reasons to bring forward, and it would save a great deal of trouble if the hon. gentleman would consent to give two members to Fassifern.

The PREMIER said there was no satisfying the hon. members. Whatever the Government proposed they refused to accept, although it was what they had just before been asking for. Half-an-hour ago their cry was not to alter the boundary of the West Moreton group. And now, when he proposed to meet them so far, with the exception of a portion of the northern corner between Fassifern and Logan, they said it did not suit them at all, as a great part of the country belonged to East Moreton. When he was willing to accede to that, only adding a homogeneous population to make up the number required, they at once said they wanted a big country constituency with two members, because other-

wise one-half of Fassifern would no longer be a West Moreton constituency, but an East Moreton constituency. The hon. members were contending for two contradictory propositions, one that the boundary should be left as it was, and the other, that if the boundary was left as it was, one electorate would belong to East Moreton. They wanted to make Fassifern into one constituency with two members, instead of two constituencies returning one member each. If they were strong enough to get the Committee to carry out their wishes they might do so, but certainly he could not comply with them.

Mr. FOOTE said they knew they were not strong enough; if they had been they would have gone to a division long ago. In voting power they were weak, but he trusted they were strong enough in another direction. The Premier had promised a compromise, but how did he propose to effect it? By a cunning device, by a sidewind. He would give Fassifern two members, but one of them must belong to East Moreton. When he (Mr. Foote) asked for two members for Fassifern, the hon. gentleman said, "No; not two members." There must be a division of the electorate, one to be called Fassifern and the other to be called by another name. They were not to be caught by that. Their contention was still the same as it had been all through—that the West Moreton group was entitled to an additional member. Their boundaries had been cut up in all directions, pieces lopped off all round in order to create sufficient for other constituencies to entitle them to increased representation, and that they would not submit to. They contended that the interests of those places belonged to the West Moreton group, and they had an undoubted right to another member. It looked very much like this: that the Government did not wish to carry the Bill. They found that they had made a mistake, that they had given way too much. They had given an additional member to the Downs group, which they said had got rather more than it was entitled to. They had also given additional members to the North, and finding that they had made a mistake they wished to throw upon the Ipswich and West Moreton members the onus of talking the Bill out. Perhaps that was the position, and if it was those members must accept it, for they preferred to accept that rather than accept the position of being unjustly dealt with. If seven hon. members of that Committee were not sufficient to make themselves heard in a matter of that sort, when their own rights and their own interests were called in question, then they did not deserve to be members of that House. He trusted that those hon. members would stick to their point until they got it, or until they succeeded in talking the Bill out.

Mr. BROWN said the point of contention seemed to be whether the district known as the Logan, bounded by the Logan River—Beaudesert, Veresdale, and Jimboomba, at present part of Fassifern—should continue part of that electorate or be tacked on to the Southport district. He was interested in that part of the country, and knew that a lot of people residing in the same locality contended that they had no interest in common with Fassifern, and they did not want to be attached to either Nerang or Southport. A large proportion of them would just as soon be attached to Southport as to Fassifern. The preponderance of voting power would, he believed, be in the Fassifern district, and if the proposition of the hon. member for Fassifern were accepted by the Committee, and two members were returned for that district, practically it would mean that the Fassifern, or rather the Ipswich, people would

return two members for that electorate. If the sympathies of the people of Beaudesert district were entirely with Ipswich and Fassifern, nothing was easier than for the Ipswich people to return a member for the district, even though it was not in the same electorate. Speaking as a resident of Beaudesert, he did not want to be attached to Fassifern. They wanted a separate electorate, and he thought the Premier's suggestion as to the boundaries was a very good one. They were good natural boundaries. The electorate of Nerang was now divided east and west; he thought it should be divided north and south, conditionally that there was a division between the Beaudesert district and Fassifern. He thought—and he believed the Premier was of the same opinion—that there should be three single electorates, and no double electorate.

Mr. SALKELD said it had been stated by the Premier that the object they were contending for was to get the control of the West Moreton electorates in Ipswich, but the Premier did not know everything; and anyone who was conversant with the locality, and knew the state of feeling in the West Moreton electorates, was aware that there was not a shadow of foundation for anything of that kind. As one of the members for Ipswich, if he simply looked to political influence, as far as Ipswich was concerned, he would be perfectly satisfied; because the Bill as it now stood took off the districts furthest away from Ipswich—the Upper Logan district, the Upper Stanley, towards the Main Range, and it brought the Rosewood almost down to the boundary of the town; so that, so far as Ipswich was concerned, it gave that town a considerable amount of political influence and control over the electorates. The Premier was mistaken in that, and it showed how dangerous it was to impute motives.

The PREMIER: I was only dealing with your arguments.

Mr. SALKELD said the argument was quite as unfair. He was certain that if eight members were given to the district it would not increase the political influence of Ipswich in the electorates. The only effect of what they contended for would be to give them the eight members they were entitled to, and which the Premier had admitted they had a right to, and which appeared in *Hansard*. If they looked at the figures they would see it was so. If they took the adjusted boundaries of the Darling Downs electorate, with eight members, they had a population of 33,427. In the West Moreton electorate there was a population of 33,140. Again, taking the male adults. The Darling Downs, with eight members, had 8,132; and within the West Moreton boundaries there were 8,617. The Premier did not take any notice of that, but he hoped other hon. members would do so. The only effect of dividing the Upper Logan into separate electorates, in the way the Premier proposed, would be to throw a lot of that electorate into Nerang and Beenleigh, and then the Beenleigh vote would, of course, swamp the other part of it. No matter how the electorates were divided, some portion would have a preponderating influence, and he supposed the great point was not to give the Ipswich side of the district any preponderating influence. That appeared to be the only contention on the part of the Government. The Ipswich members had served them so faithfully and loyally that the Government did not appear to want any more of their support; he could not account for it in any other way. According to the way in which they desired the electorate divided, that would have given natural boundaries, but according to the proposal of the Premier there would be no well-marked boundary

whatever. The boundaries would be very much better left as they were. And, with regard to the statement about putting 200 additional into the electorate, he did not see the necessity for it; and when 200 came to be divided between eight members it was certainly not very much.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said it seemed to him that the only real difference between the members for West Moreton and the Premier was that they proposed to have a double electorate, and the Premier proposed two single electorates. He would point out to the hon. members that there were no other double country electorates; the only double electorates were town electorates.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: There is Mackay.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said Mackay was a town electorate. Five-sixths of the electors were in the town, or, at any rate, within the suburban area.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Then there is Burke—Croydon and Etheridge.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said there was a reason for that, because almost the whole population was concentrated in a very small area at Croydon. He could not understand what objection the hon. members had to single electorates, unless they thought they could exercise more influence over a double electorate than over a single one. No doubt if the Premier, in drawing the Bill, had retained the present boundaries, and, taking Ipswich as the centre, had radiated all the electorates from that, then hon. members would have been perfectly satisfied. He would remind the hon. members that he might just as fairly have complained as they, because his electorate had been carved about; part given to Leichhardt, part to Port Curtis, and another part to Maranoa; and one member was taken away from it altogether. However, he did not contend for the retention of two members for his district, simply because it was not entitled to it by population. The number of population must be observed at least fairly well. What the hon. members proposed was that they should have eight members, and that would reduce their average of population below that of any group in the country—

Mr. SALKELD: No.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Unless they started on the assumption that the old boundaries must not be touched—that no other district must be encroached upon, and that nothing must be cut off from their district. He certainly thought that to include the population of the eastern part of the proposed district of Fassifern in a double electorate would be to swamp it and leave the supreme control to the northern or western portion.

Mr. FOOTE said it was really refreshing to have the Minister for Works on his legs; he was so ready in imputing motives. It was said that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," but he did not entertain any idea that the hon. gentleman was in any way corrupt. The hon. gentleman could not see any cause of complaint in cutting up his electorate. No doubt the hon. gentleman would rejoice that his own electorate was cut up, and the smaller it was the better he would like it. He would be able no doubt to manage 100 or 200 electors better than 500 or 1,000, and he would much sooner go back to a small electorate than a large one. He had heard that very likely the hon. gentleman would stand for Toowoong, and very likely he would make a good member for that place, and be returned, because all the constituencies about

Brisbane were likely to return candidates favourable to the present Government—the “Brisbane Ministry,” as he might call them. The same remark applied to the East Moreton constituencies; most of them would return metropolitan candidates. As a rule the East Moreton group had returned Liberal members, even as the West Moreton group had; but somehow or other they got much better treatment than the West Moreton members. He was confining his remarks to the Bill before the Committee. He remembered speaking once before on an occasion of that sort, but then he did not stick to his purpose so tenaciously as he intended to do now. He did not intend to give way. The point of contention was that they wanted one electorate returning two members, and the Government wanted to make two electorates of it. If the Government would give way on that point the West Moreton members would be satisfied. The hon. Minister for Works had said that all the electorates returned one member, except the town electorates. That was not the case, as had been pointed out; but even if it were the case he thought the compromise in the present instance would be very satisfactory to them, and not disadvantageous to the Government. It was a very small matter whether the electorate should be called Fassifern, and return two members, or whether there should be two electorates returning one member each. If it were divided into two electorates it would be treating them in a way they did not intend to submit to. They were quite prepared to accept an enlargement of the electorate with the title of “Fassifern, two members.”

The PREMIER said the hon. member must attach some curious meaning to the word “compromise.” His contention was that the West Moreton district should remain as it was, with eight members. The Government met him by suggesting an alteration of boundaries. Then the hon. member brought up what he called a compromise; that was, he made an entirely new demand, that the Government should do something inconsistent with the principle of the Bill. He put forward a new scheme and called it a compromise. As soon as the Government acceded to one demand, they were asked to accede to another one. That was the hon. member's opinion of a compromise. The hon. member told them over and over again that the Government could divide the electorates as they pleased, and as soon as they tried to do that, and said how they proposed to divide them, the hon. member came down and said the Bill should not pass unless the electorates were divided in a way quite inconsistent with what had been done in every other part of the colony, with what had been proposed from the beginning, and with what he had demanded only last week.

Mr. FOOTE said he hoped the hon. gentleman would keep his temper. He was quite mistaken in what he said. If he offered to return to the old boundaries they would be satisfied; but they would never be satisfied with the boundaries that existed under the Bill. The hon. gentleman had made a suggestion about extending the Fassifern electorate, and that was the point he (Mr. Foote) had been addressing himself to. He did not say, as the hon. gentleman stated, that because they were entitled to eight members under the old boundaries they wanted something else. He challenged the hon. gentleman to prove that either he or his friends had said anything of the kind at any time.

The PREMIER: You have been doing it this evening.

Mr. FOOTE said he defied the hon. gentleman to prove it. They had their rights, and the hon. gentleman had his rights as Premier. The

question was narrowed down to this: that if they had Fassifern with two members, they would be satisfied, or with anything else that would increase the representation of the West Moreton group.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the Premier had complained because the West Moreton members demanded to stick to the old boundaries. Then he attempted to meet them by saying that Logan and Fassifern were entitled to three members, and suggested adding in part of the Logan to Fassifern, but that was not what they wanted. If the old boundaries had been strictly adhered to, and nothing taken off West Moreton and given to the Downs, and nothing taken off Stanley, and nothing taken off the Fassifern district, they would have been entitled to eight members. It was no use the Premier saying that he had met them, by simply giving them a stone instead of bread. That hon. gentleman proposed to give them an additional member; but that additional member would be in East Moreton, and what had that to do with West Moreton? If the district was entitled to eight members it should never have been interfered with. Another complaint had been made that the boundaries could not be arranged without taking off pieces here and there; but the pieces had all been taken off and nothing had been given to them.

The PREMIER: As soon as we propose to do anything you object.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the hon. gentleman did not add anything to the West Moreton district but to the East Moreton district. As a group West Moreton was entitled to an additional member, but if the additional member were given to East Moreton it would be of no benefit to them. They knew in the past that the leader of the Opposition and his predecessor would do anything against Ipswich. Mentioning the name of Ipswich was like showing the red rag to a bull. The members for the West Moreton district were not there as delegates, but they must, to a certain extent, represent their constituents and the feeling of the district generally. The feeling in their district was that they were unfairly dealt with in that respect. That was not the opinion of the representatives, but the opinion of the district itself. They wanted to get a position in the colony under the Redistribution Bill that they had not at present, and if they got that they would be very glad indeed to end the discussion. The Northern members were pretty well satisfied with what they had got, and then said that West Moreton could not make out a good case. He (Mr. Macfarlane) thought that they had made out a better case than any other district in the colony. It was well known, though not always admitted, that West Moreton was the most progressive district in the colony, and was the wealthiest of the whole lot. They had only to go back to the records of the House to prove that it was the richest mining district in the colony. In his opinion coal-measures were, in the long run, even more valuable to the colony than gold-mines. He knew the Premier could grant them what they asked if he liked. Let the hon. gentleman take the original boundaries and give them eight members. He hoped they would not have to continue the debate much longer, as they were all desirous that the Bill should pass. If the Bill had been passed in its original form they would have been satisfied; but since the principle of it had been departed from, they considered they had as good a right for extra representation as any other part of the colony.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he did not intend to detain the Committee at any length, and he should not have risen but for a remark made by the hon. member who had just sat down as to

himself and other members on the Opposition side being actuated by hostility towards Ipswich. There was not one scintilla of truth in that statement. He had no animosity towards Ipswich or any other part of the colony. He had listened carefully to the debate night after night, and had the members who advocated an extra member for West Moreton shown any good and sufficient reason, to his mind, he would have given them all the assistance he could; but he had heard no sound reason advanced for an extra member, and he was not going to be a party to destroying a measure in order to suit any small section of the Committee.

Mr. KELLETT said he was glad to hear that the leader of the Opposition had no down on Ipswich; but the fact remained that whenever any motion for the benefit of Ipswich had been brought forward it had always been opposed by the majority of members on the other side. It had been well said by the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Macfarlane, that a large majority of the people of West Moreton were entirely dissatisfied with the way they had been treated, and considered that their members had not been doing their duty. They had told their representatives that very distinctly, and would tell them even more plainly at the next election if they did not do their duty better than they had done in the past. They were very quiet, law-abiding people in that district, and would not attempt to use language like that in reference to their members if they were not thoroughly dissatisfied. They said in effect:—"Gentlemen, have you no say in this matter? Are you not listened to by the members of the Government? Will not the Government give you another member though members are given in all directions in other parts of the colony?" There was no use in quoting figures, because the Premier would not take any notice of them; but it had been shown over and over again that Bundanba and Fassifern were entitled to three members. They were told by the Premier that if they stuck to the old boundaries of Fassifern they would not be entitled to that number, and he might here remark that of all the things that could be devised to obfuscate hon. members, the map of the district was about the worst, with its numerous lines of all colours. After getting the key of the map from the Premier, he found that the proposed boundary of Fassifern was an absurdity, because if part of the Logan were taken in, the people on the Fassifern side would be disfranchised. The Premier had said a short time ago that the people about Tambourine did not want to be joined to West Moreton. Possibly they did not; but what about the parishes of Undullah, Teviot, Bromelton, and Tamrookum? Those would all be disfranchised by being thrown into the other electorate, as the population in the other corner of the electorate would leave them out in the cold. The people there wanted to be joined to West Moreton, to which they were bound by locality, by business interests, by the line of railway, and in every possible way. West Moreton, by taking a piece off Bundanba and joining it to Fassifern, was fairly entitled to two members for Fassifern. That was the only remedy he could see. They had quite enough to entitle them to the additional member; but if they did what the Premier proposed, and divided the electorate, they would give the preponderance in voting to the southern portion, and disfranchise the Upper Logan and the parishes he had mentioned. They had been allied for a long time to West Moreton; they were quite satisfied to belong to that district, but he was sure the majority of the people there would not be satisfied with the alteration proposed. The West Moreton group was as much entitled to another

member as any group, excepting the metropolitan. If no part had been lopped off they would have been entitled to one and a-half members more, and if anything had been added to them they would have been entitled to nine members; but even after parts had been lopped off here and there the Government could not give them less than seven. They would prefer to have the old boundaries and the old Act than to have the electorates fashioned in the way proposed. The Premier seemed to be stubborn about it—he was stubborn sometimes when he took things in that way—excessively stubborn, although he had been very lenient to other districts previously—in fact, he had given a member whenever he was asked. He had not done so in one case—that of Cambooya; but that was not an additional member—only a proposal to alter the boundaries. In the Southern pastoral group and in the Darling Downs group they had merely to ask for an additional member to get it. But that was not the way with the West Moreton group. They had been perfectly satisfied when the Premier had given those members, as when those groups got additional representation the West Moreton members thought they would have no difficulty. The Premier had asked the other night why they had not objected. But they thought they had no business to object to other districts getting additional members if the Premier and his colleagues thought fit to grant them; and they had come to the conclusion that when the next group—their own—came on, they would be entitled to the same concession. If they did vote against giving another to Darling Downs, hon. members might fairly say to them, "You opposed giving our district an additional member; how then can you claim that you are entitled to another member?" The Premier seemed to be rather stubborn and would not listen to their fair arguments, but he hoped the hon. gentleman would show them that consideration to which they were justly entitled. The leader of the Opposition had said that if he had heard any arguments in favour of their proposal he would have supported it, but they did not think so; the members for West Moreton certainly did not suppose that any arguments of theirs would secure the support of the leader of the Opposition. They had, however, a very different opinion of the Premier. They thought that he would have given them fair play, but the hon. gentleman seemed to want to benefit the Logan as against West Moreton. The West Moreton group had treated the hon. gentleman far better than he had treated them, and they hoped that he would give them what they expected—namely, reasonable consideration—and that he would consent to granting two members to Fassifern.

Mr. MURPHY said the hon. member who had just sat down told them that no demand that came from the Ipswich members was ever received with favour by the Opposition side of the Committee. He had listened very carefully to the present debate, and could only say that if the propositions that had hitherto emanated from the Ipswich members were not more reasonable than the proposition now before the Committee, he was not at all astonished that the Opposition members had not seen their way to agree with them. He thought the Premier had offered every possible compromise that could be expected in that matter. Hon. members could not expect the hon. gentleman to do what would be unjust to any other constituency or the rest of the colony in order merely to please the Ipswich bunch. That bunch certainly was accustomed at one time to rule the country, and they thought they were still going to rule that Committee, but he could tell them

that he knew from the feeling of hon. members that their reign had come to an end, and that the Committee were not going to submit any longer to their dictation. He hoped the Premier would not give way to their demands, and was satisfied that if the hon. gentleman held out he would get the support of the Opposition side of the Committee.

Mr. FOOTE said he expected very shortly to see all the members on the Opposition side sitting on the Government side of the Committee. It was very refreshing to see the good feeling which hon. members on that side had towards the Government on the present occasion. It was something they had not seen for a long time. He thought it did not require a prophet to predict that if a certain gentleman did not go in as leader of a new party at the next general election they would find the *Courier* taking up the Premier, guiding him and controlling him and writing about him in the most gallant style possible. He expected that sort of thing; it would be one of those curious things brought about in a curious way that nobody could understand. The member who last spoke said the Ipswich bunch had ruled the country, and that their rule had now come to an end. He (Mr. Foote) would like to know when that occurred. It had certainly not happened during the last fourteen years. Neither had there been any bunch in the sense of a bunch. Sometimes they had banded together, as on the present occasion, to protect their interests when there was an attempt to rob them of what belonged to them, but they had always voted in the most disinterested manner, each being guided by his own conscience. They certainly succeeded in keeping the Opposition in power for a considerable time on one occasion. The party whose members now upbraided the bunch, and spoke of them disparagingly, was kept in power then by that bunch, to the detriment of the people of the colony, and of Brisbane in particular. No one had a greater down upon the Ipswich bunch than the people of Brisbane, and somehow or other that feeling had not died out, but had been alluded to on the present and other occasions, when it served a purpose. They, however, did not care for that. He was glad to see the hon. member for Barcoo supporting the Premier so generously; he had no doubt that he had been promised another member.

Mr. MURPHY: No.

Mr. FOOTE said he expected it was to come. At any rate, if the hon. member had any suggestion to offer, he was getting round the Premier in a way that he would be listened to, and he had no doubt the Premier would very soon be convinced that the arguments of the hon. member were of such a character that they could not possibly be resisted. The leader of the Opposition had said that he could not see that the West Moreton group had any fair claim. Well, there were none so blind as those who would not see. There was nothing which blinded one so much as interested motives. The hon. member for Balonne was interested in the division which gave Darling Downs an additional member, and therefore he could look on very pleasantly and see injustice done to West Moreton. Now, he was not one of those who thought that any support could ever come from the Opposition. It was not to be expected that members should look to the other side for support. He was sorry to say it, but he really thought that the politics of the other side were of such a character that they required to serve themselves, and when they had done that they did not see any other interests. Now, there had been a liberal extension of members to the North,

and hon. members did not disagree with that. The Premier asked why they did not object to that, but he saw no reason for finding fault with Northern members. It was not desired to detract from the interests of that group, but when it came to the West Moreton group, hon. members representing West Moreton wanted the same measure of justice dealt out; they wanted to be met in the same way. But how were they met? They were cut down and lopped off on all sides, and they were not to have any additional members. Their district had flourished; it had increased notwithstanding the bad times and drought and all the difficulties the agriculturists had gone through for the last ten years. They had survived it all, and the district flourished, and not only the agricultural interest, but the mining interest, flourished, and he ventured to say that when the next Redistribution Bill was introduced West Moreton would be entitled to two additional members on the basis laid down now, and upon which other electorates received increased representation. He was quite certain the Premier did not intend to grant their demand. When the hon. gentleman finished his arguments he shut up the talking shop and decided that he would not go any further, and it was left for them to do the best they could. He felt certain it was of no use to advance further argument. No matter how trite or how much to the point, it was not possible to convince the Government. Therefore he intended to decline to advance arguments. He knew how to interest the Committee in a way more acceptable to their feelings than if he used the best possible arguments. There were always two sides to a question, and when neither party would give way the question was, who should? They did not wish for an additional member for West Moreton as a favour. They asked for their rights; they were entitled to another member, and it was an injustice to deny it. If they went to a vote they should lose, and therefore it would not be to their interest to go to a vote. He should have liked to accept the Bill readily as far as West Moreton was concerned, but he regretted he could not do so. They would, of course, have to put up with the injustice, but he was satisfied that the Bill would not pass that night, and they would see what would become of it afterwards. He was sorry that, in consequence of the determination of the Government, they would have to make a firm stand.

The PREMIER said when the Bill was first brought in, the hon. member for Bundamba, and those who were assisting him, expressed themselves as quite satisfied with it. They were contented to accept it. Now, what had happened since then to show that the West Moreton group was unfairly treated under the Bill? Hon. members representing West Moreton did not then object to the proposed boundaries. It was conceded on all hands that the proposals of the Government were extremely fair and proper, and what had happened since to justify those hon. members who could not command assistance from any quarter of the colony; who could not convince a single member of the Committee of the fairness of their demands; what had happened since to justify those hon. members in the action they were taking? It was pointed out with respect to the Western pastoral group that they were inadequately represented; that a member was being taken away from that part of the colony where the population justified its retention. Arguments were used on the other side and were not combated by anyone but himself, and he was compelled to give way to superior reasoning. After that it had been pointed out that a large addition



to the mining population at Mount Morgan, in the neighbourhood of Rockhampton, justified the retention by the Central district of the number of members it previously had. That argument was also forcibly urged and the Government yielded to it, and the majority of the Committee accepted it. In the North, after very full consideration and argument, two additional members were granted on what the Committee considered reasonable grounds. How did that after all affect the fairness or unfairness of the representation given to West Moreton?

Mr. FOOTE: It has been lopped off all round.

The PREMIER said that was all done before, and the total number of people who were "lopped off," as the hon. member called it, was 2,500, including 700 adult males; but, as the hon. member had himself been showing that afternoon, they belonged to East Moreton. That had really been the hon. member's contention over and over again that evening.

Mr. FOOTE: No.

The PREMIER said the hon. member forgot what he had said. What had happened, he asked again, to justify the conduct of those hon. members? They said the Government were not willing to treat the West Moreton members fairly, but that was not so. They did desire to treat them fairly, but they could not, in their desire to please them, do injustice to all the rest of the colony. The hon. member knew very well that if he were to consent now to their claim, no one but the Government and the members for West Moreton would vote for it. The whole of the rest of the Committee would oppose it. The hon. member knew very well also that if the Government were wicked enough—he felt he was justified in using so strong a word—as to consent to so unreasonable a demand in connection with a matter of so much consequence as that, they could not carry it, and he should be sorry if any Government were able to carry such a demand in such a way for the purpose of obliging a particular section of the Committee. He was deeply sensible of the assistance given him by West Moreton for many years, but they surely could not ask the Government on that account to do what was wrong or unreasonable. The Government endeavoured to do what was fair and reasonable, and would much rather lose the Bill, and lose their position, than consent to do what was manifestly unfair. The West Moreton members must know that even if they could prevail on the Government to agree to their claim it would be impossible to carry it. What then did those hon. members propose to gain by their action? They knew their contention would not be granted in the form in which it had been put forward up to the present time. What they wanted first was to have the original boundaries retained, and when it was pointed out that some modifications would have to be made to take in population, the hon. member for Bundamba put forward a new ultimatum that they had never heard of before. He wished now to prevent that Bill, for which the whole colony was calling, becoming law, because the Government, having gone a very long way to meet him, would not agree to the new ultimatum he put forward that evening, and in which he was not supported by a single member representing any other part of the colony than West Moreton. Under those circumstances the course to be taken by the Government was perfectly plain. The hon. member must see, and would see in his calmer moments, that the Government had done everything they possibly could to meet him, and had, if anything, gone too far to meet him. The hon. member must

certainly see the Government could not take up any other position than that which they had taken up; and had they taken up any other position they would only have covered themselves with ridicule, and proved their total incapacity to occupy the positions they held.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the Premier had told them that he listened to superior reasons from the other side of the Committee, when granting the demand made by the members for the Central district, and the hon. gentleman gave as the principal reason for the additional member being granted to the Central district that a considerable number of people had collected round the Mount Morgan district. Supposing the additional inhabitants working in the Bundamba district alone collected in one part of the West Moreton district, they would form as large a number as those collected round Mount Morgan. They were scattered over the whole district in the various mines, as almost every mine had almost double its working population, and simply because they were not as plainly to be seen as those at Mount Morgan they could not convince the Premier that they had an additional population in that district as well as at Mount Morgan. He was amused at some of the remarks made by the hon. member for Barcoo, who said that if all the arguments used by the West Moreton members in favour of any matter they might have brought before the House were not better than the arguments they used on the present question, he was not surprised that the Opposition did not go with them. The West Moreton members had not consulted members from other parts of the colony at all; they did not believe in log-rolling. They came with a just cause before the Committee, and although the Premier said they had not convinced a single member, he could tell the hon. gentleman they had convinced four or five members both on his own and the opposite side of the Committee, and he could give the names of those members, only that it would not be fair to do so. They did not ask other hon. members to take up their quarrel, because the quarrel was their own, and the demand for justice was their own. He was very unwilling, as an individual member of the West Moreton group, to ask the Government to do anything unreasonable or unfair, or detrimental to the other parts of the colony. They went in for single-handed justice and fair play, and though they might not get the support of other members of the Committee they intended to support that just cause as long as nature held out.

The HON. G. THORN said he was sorry the Premier could not see his way to grant an additional member to the West Moreton group, though he did not himself care to which group it was granted, whether to East or West Moreton. The original shape of the Bill had been destroyed. It was originally proposed that there should be sixty-eight members, and that had already been increased to seventy-two members. First of all there was an alteration of the Darling Downs and there was an additional member given to the Central group in consequence of the large population settled round Mount Morgan since the census was taken, and then two members were given to the Northern group in consequence of the population settled around Croydon. What the members for West Moreton contended for was that there had also been an increase in population in that group, more especially in the mining population. He had no hesitation in saying that the mining population in the West Moreton group had increased by 75 per cent., and the numbers on the rolls would prove that statement. He regretted that the Premier did not see his way to grant an additional

member to the old group of electorates, preserving the old boundaries as nearly as possible; but under the circumstances he (Mr. Thorn) had suggested a way out of the difficulty at an earlier hour. He had suggested that Fassifern should be allowed two members, and that the present boundary should be extended towards Logan Village, allowing for no more than the seventy-two members, which had up to that time been proposed; and when he made that suggestion he fully believed it would be accepted by both sides of the Committee. Having gone into the matter again he found that a very good electorate could be carved out, to be called Fassifern or Logan, returning two members with interests identical or nearly identical—certainly much more nearly identical than the interests of the inhabitants of the electorates proposed by the Premier. He asked again what interests the Southport people had in common with the people of Tamrookum and Beaudesert?

The PREMIER: Have I not proposed to alter that?

The HON. G. THORN asked, how was the Premier going to alter it? Was he going to take a north-and-south line? But the other evening he said he did not see his way to agree to that, and was determined to adhere to the east-and-west line. Now he said he was going to have the north-and-south line again, commencing at the Macpherson Range and ending at Yatala. The West Moreton members, he maintained, had made out a splendid case for an increased number of members. The symmetry of the Bill had already been destroyed by the insertion of additional electorates, and the least the Premier could do for West Moreton would be to let Fassifern be made a double-barrelled electorate. He hoped that even now it was not too late for some arrangement of that kind to be made. He was averse to "stonewalling," believing that the majority should rule; and even now some compromise might be effected whereby the difficulty might be overcome.

Mr. STEVENS said the hon. member for Fassifern had another proposition to make now—what he called another fair compromise. He was continually proposing fresh boundaries; in fact, he would be content with anything which would enlarge the electorate of Fassifern at the expense of the electorate of Logan. To strengthen his argument the hon. member had misquoted the Premier. The Premier, when he spoke of a north-and-south line, said it was a reasonable proposition, worthy of consideration; he did not promise that it should be carried out. After what had been said, he believed that even if the Premier were to agree to the suggestion of the hon. member the Committee would not be prepared to accept it.

Mr. KELLETT said the Premier could carry any proposition if he really wished to do so. Although the hon. gentleman had said it would be wicked on his part to accept the amendment, yet he (Mr. Kellett) held that the Premier's conduct towards West Moreton was worse than wicked; it was unkind. Wickedness might be inherent in a man's nature, but unkindness was a thing evidently forced upon him. If the hon. gentleman wished to carry any motion he could do it, but if he was not particularly anxious he had only to look at one or two hon. members on that side, and they either left the Chamber or voted on the other side. His (Mr. Kellett's) own opinion about the Bill was that it would be better both for the West Moreton group and for the colony generally if it was thrown out. He had never heard of any outcry for it, and had read very little in the public papers about it.

Mr. FOOTE called attention to the state of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN stated that there was a quorum present.

Mr. KELLETT said they would be better pleased not to see the number of members increased. Two guineas a day added largely to the expenses of the country, and with thirteen or fourteen additional members it would add a burden on the Treasury which, in the present state of the finances, they did not deem advisable. Under the new Bill, Queensland would have a far larger proportionate representation than any of the other colonies. New South Wales, with a population of 1,000,000, had 120 members, while Queensland, with a population of a third of a million, would have seventy-two or seventy-four, or double the number in proportion to population. That was inadvisable, for many reasons. In the past, great difficulty had been found in getting gentlemen to come forward to represent constituencies. Unfortunately, the men of means in the colony were too fond of looking after their own interests and piling up the "almighty dollar" to waste their time, as they called it, in the House; and it was left to others, who had far less means, to do the work of legislation which those whom the colony had made should themselves take part in. There were a good many old residents of the colony who had time and ability, and would make very valuable members. If they could get men of that description, possibly it would not matter if they had a few more members; but they could not get them. It had been said that possibly at the next general election a large number would come forward to whom the two guineas a day would be a large consideration; but he hoped the time would never come when that would be the case, and he did not believe it would come. He believed it was better that members should be paid than to have things as they were in the past. It enabled all classes of the people to be represented much better than they were before. Formerly the Conservative side, the men who carried the money bags, were the parties who returned most men to that House, but things had changed greatly since those days and he hoped they would never go back to them. He thought, now that the people of the colony generally were represented, they would not see those days again. At the same time he believed that if the Bill were passed there would be great difficulty in getting an increased number of members who would be worthy representatives in that Chamber. Probably there would be the same difficulty in West Moreton as elsewhere, but possibly there were a few more men to be found in that electorate since the last general election who might pay a little more attention to politics and doing good for the country that made them, so that no doubt they would be able to find the additional member they asked for. But the Premier had put his foot down and said he would not give them that member. He had given his supporters the wink—"Don't listen to the West Moreton members"—and they had gone out. The representatives of that group had pretty well made up their minds that they were not to get that additional member, and he (Mr. Kellett), after thinking what was the next best thing to do, consulted the hon. member for Bundamba, as he always did, because he was a very old soldier in parliamentary warfare—an old veteran—and that hon. gentleman was of opinion that they would be better without any additional members at all—that the people would be better satisfied if the Bill were thrown out altogether. It would affect the finances materially if there were no additional members.

They had heard nothing yet as to how the Premier was going to make up the deficiency; they were to be told later on what the proposition was. It might be like the land tax, which the Premier thought very good, but other people thought was very bad. If it was anything like the land tax he did not think many members would agree to it. A good many members in the House and people outside now saw that tax in a very different light from what they previously did. The unimproved value, which they did not understand before, they were beginning to see through and were not likely to agree to it. He contended that on general proportion and adult male population the West Moreton group were fully entitled to another member. If they were to take the basis upon which an additional member was given to the Central district—because a few miners had gone to Mount Morgan—they could show that in Bundamba the increase of population had been three to one compared with Mount Morgan. He should like to see the Chief Secretary go up to Bundamba and travel round the district. They had got him up there by special train once, when there was some trouble about a racecourse, and if they could only postpone the Bill until the hon. gentleman had time to look round that district he was sure that he would see he had never made a greater mistake in his life than he had made in that Bill. He could go up on Saturday. It would be refreshing to him after his duties of office during the week to see the miners there, and the development going on in that corner of the colony—a great deal more refreshing than the sea air. If the Premier thought he could not conscientiously grant what they asked for, far be it from him (Mr. Kellett) to press the hon. gentleman to do what he considered a wicked action. The only thing to be done in that case was to withdraw the Bill; otherwise he was afraid that the caterer would have to prepare a Christmas pudding after all. He thought they must either stop till Christmas or see the Bill thrown out.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he saw the hon. member for Barcoo in his place now. That hon. member had twitted the Ipswich bunch with having lost their power. There was a time when the West Moreton district was a very important district—as indeed it was now—but at that time it returned one-fourth of the representatives of the colony. Of course they could not always expect to hold the same position as they did then. In those days the North had scarcely started; then Gympie broke out, and had gained a large population; so had Rockhampton. There was no town in the colony that could hold the same position as Ipswich held at one time, because the total number of representatives had so largely increased. If all the districts were as modest as Ipswich and West Moreton there would be less log-rolling in the House. They pleaded their own cause, and left it to the good sense of hon. members to support them or not as they chose. Sometimes, perhaps, they were wrong, but on the present occasion they believed they were right. They believed they had not received justice under that Bill, and they would make a stand, even though they might alienate hon. members from them as a district and a group. The time might come when all the districts of the colony would require the assistance of the Ipswich group. They were seven, and they could do a good deal for any district that wanted their support. They were not straitlaced; they would support any district; they would always support railways, because they believed railways were the salvation of the colony.

Mr. MOREHEAD: The Ipswich to Brisbane railway!

Mr. MACFARLANE said that was the only double line in the colony, which was a proof of the importance of the West Moreton district. The Premier had said that it would be unjust to other districts to give West Moreton an additional member, but they did not think so. The hon. gentleman had consented to an additional member for Mount Morgan, because of the increased population; and the only reason that they could not convince him of the large increase of population that had taken place in their district was that it was not concentrated, but spread over all the mines. They had said sufficient to convince hon. members that the best thing he could do was to move that the Chairman leave the chair and report no progress, and that he would now do.

Mr. SALKELD said it did not seem as if they were going to get on with any business. Perhaps the weather was getting a little too warm, and hon. members were anxious to get back to their constituents and obtain fresh leases of representation. He was sorry that the Premier would not grant their request, and he thought that the Bill as it had been hacked about was not very acceptable to members generally. The Government had better get on with the Estimates, or take a vote on account, and then go to the country. It had been said over and over again that the West Moreton group were entitled to another member, and on the 4th October the Premier, in replying to the hon. member for Bundamba, said so too. But last week when that statement was repeated the Premier said "No." He would refer hon. members to *Hansard* of October 5. So far as he was concerned he did not care for any hon. member, or for all hon. members combined. He was prepared to adopt the course he thought right, and he never disparaged or objected to any measure which he thought beneficial to any part of the colony. The hon. member for Barcoo, who, he believed, was a Victorian, and did not know much about Queensland, referred to something that took place twenty-three years ago; but he might inform that hon. member that at that time West Moreton returned six members out of a House of thirty-two, but at that time they supported the squatting party, and there was nothing much said about them. It was only since they had returned Liberal members that the tables had turned. He might mention that he had been in Ipswich considerably over twenty years, and had always been in favour of the construction of the railway from there to Brisbane. He believed that was only a natural and proper thing. Another great question then was the construction of Victoria Bridge, and he was in favour of that also. He repeated that if the West Moreton members had remained staunch to the other party nothing would have been heard about the "bunch" at all. When it came to talking about bunches, he might remind them that there was the Wide Bay bunch, the West Moreton bunch, and the Darling Downs bunch, and the policy of members opposite was to divide them and set one against another. Whenever four or five members representing a particular district stood up for their rights they were immediately spoken of as a bunch; but he might point out that persons engaged in the great pastoral interest, from one end of the colony to the other, were bound together by the strongest ties, and when a squatter at one end was touched it reverberated right to the other end. The average total population per member in the Central district was 3,295, and the average number of adult males was 1,165. In the West Moreton group the average, if eight members were given, would be over 4,000 general population, and about 1,100 adult males. In the Southern pastoral

group the average was 3,004 general population, and 1,292 adult males. Therefore, he thought they were not asking anything unreasonable in demanding eight members for West Moreton. It had been said that West Moreton was well enough represented because it was near to Brisbane, but he held that it would be better for the district if it were 100 miles away from Brisbane. If it had been farther north or farther west a great deal more consideration would have been shown to the district. He strongly urged the Government to consent to the Chairman leaving the chair, and let the Bill remain over, leaving a fresh Bill to be introduced when there was a new Parliament.

Question—That the Chairman leave the chair and report no progress—put, and the Committee divided :—

AYES, 12.

Messrs. Isambert, Kellett, Foote, Thorn, Macfarlane, Kates, Salkeld, Hamilton, Allan, Foxton, Morgan, and White.

NOES, 30.

Sir S. W. Griffith, Messrs. Dickson, Norton, Morehead, Dutton, Sheridan, Macrossan, Nelson, Moreton, Black, Rutledge, W. Brookes, Jessop, Buckland, Palmer, Adams, McMaster, Donaldson, Pattison, Wakefield, S. W. Brooks, Lalor, Higson, Lissner, Ferguson, Smyth, Murphy, Philip, Bulcock, and Stevens.

Question resolved in the negative.

Mr. FOOTE said he was trying to relieve the Chairman from his position for that evening, but the tyrannical majority would not allow him to retire and report no progress, consequently they must proceed as best they could. The Premier had said that they were very inconsistent in their arguments, but he (Mr. Foote) maintained that their arguments were not inconsistent with justice or with the interests of the district they represented. The hon. gentleman also alluded to their opposition to the act of injustice which it was proposed to commit as being wicked.

The PREMIER: I did not say that. I said that if we gave what you asked we should be acting wickedly.

Mr. FOOTE said he did not understand the hon. gentleman to say that. The hon. gentleman looked at him, and he supposed he was the wicked subject. He remembered one occasion when the hon. gentleman proposed an amendment in a Land Bill, and when the Speaker ruled him out of order he moved that the ruling be disagreed to, carried the motion, and persisted in his amendment. If the leader of the Government at that time had characterised the hon. gentleman's action as wicked, he would have been as justified in doing so as was the Premier in saying that their action in endeavouring to get another member for West Moreton was wicked. There were many other things they could discuss later on in the evening, such as protection and matters connected with the North, but as the hon. member for Rosewood had not yet had an opportunity of speaking that evening, those could be deferred until the hon. member had addressed the Committee. He (Mr. Foote) was satisfied that his remarks, which were oftentimes pithy, would be of a most convincing character. The hon. member had carefully collected his figures, and his speech would probably take about an hour. He (Mr. Foote) would therefore sit down now, and allow the hon. member to address the Committee.

Mr. MACFARLANE said that before the hon. member began his long speech he would like to draw the attention of the Premier to the remarks that had been frequently mentioned that evening. If the hon. gentleman would

turn to *Hansard* for Wednesday, the 5th of October, page 4, he would find that, in replying to the hon. member for Bundamba, he said :—

"The hon. member said the West Moreton group was entitled to another member. The population of what had hitherto been West Moreton was no doubt entitled to another member."

The PREMIER said the hon. member had quoted a fragment of a speech he made. He had occasion to speak a great many times that evening, and he had pointed out every time he spoke that the West Moreton group was fully represented. He did not remember all that he said, and if he had said once that the West Moreton group was entitled to another member he certainly was in error, because the figures showed that they were not. If he made a slip then it was rather strange, as he pointed out over and over again that they were not entitled to another, but that taking in a portion of the Logan electorate they would be entitled to another. That was what he said, and all the arguments in the world would not make it any different. He hoped that hon. members would reconsider their position. They were taking up a position in which they could not be successful. It was absolutely impossible that they could get an additional member for that district, however long they asked for it, unless by accepting the very fair compromise he proposed that evening. They knew that what they were asking for could not be conceded. They could, if strong enough, prevent any redistribution; that was the most they could do; they could not succeed in getting that additional member. He was quite sure the Committee would not allow itself to be tired, like the unjust judge, by mere impatience. No arguments had been used in favour of the position they had taken up; no arguments could be used, because the figures were the other way; so that hon. members were in the position which was sometimes called the position of the dog in the manger. There was something they could not have themselves, and therefore they would not let anybody else have anything. It was well known that the representation of the colony at the present time was very unfair and unequal. Many parts of the colony demanded additional representation, and were entitled to it. But that particular district was not, and because they could not have what they were not entitled to, hon. members took up the position that no other part of the colony should have that to which it was entitled. The northern part was entitled to six additional members, but hon. members took up the position that they would not allow the North to have those six additional members unless they got one additional member to which they were not entitled. It was the same with Wide Bay and the metropolitan district for that matter. That was the position they took up. Hon. members could take up that position, but as reasonable men he would ask them to consider whether they were justified in taking up such a position. They could not be successful in getting another member. They might be successful in injuring all the rest of the colony, but he thought that would be a very poor relationship to establish between the Ipswich district and the rest of the community—that the rest of the colony should have nothing it was entitled to, unless West Moreton received as a sop or a bribe what they were not entitled to. That was what would be thought by the rest of the colony, and that was the way they would regard that group of electorates. If they wanted to make themselves the enemies of the community they might do so, but he would remind them that in sowing the wind they would reap the whirlwind. An unfair action shown by one party towards another rankled for a long time; there was no doubt of

that. He felt very sorry indeed that such an attitude should be taken up by hon. members who had hitherto acted so reasonably. It would, of course, be a matter for consideration what position the Government should take up if they insisted, but he sincerely hoped that no group of members in that Committee would be so unreasonable, or do so much to injure themselves with the rest of the colony for many years to come. He entreated hon. members to consider the matters as they ordinarily considered other matters, and treat it as reasonable men; and not allow themselves, as he had already intimated, to be led away by a false leader. He would give hon. members time to consider the matter, and would move that the Chairman leave the chair, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported progress.

The PREMIER moved that the Committee have leave to sit again to-morrow.

Mr. KELLETT said: Mr. Speaker,—The Premier has referred to some false leader of the West Moreton members, and I think he had better explain himself. If the hon. member for Bundamba is the false leader, I think that is a dreadful accusation to bring against the hon. member. Or perhaps the hon. member for Fassifern or the senior member for Ipswich is referred to. It would be convenient to know who the false leader is before the debate comes on again.

Mr. SALKELD said: Mr. Speaker,—We are not in a hurry now, as we have missed our train. We are much obliged to the Premier for his advice, but he might have moved the Chairman out of the chair earlier so that we could have gone home. With regard to the matter referred to by the hon. member for Stanley, I am not quite certain to whom the Premier referred; but certainly in this matter I follow my own judgment, and let every other hon. member speak for himself. As far as the members for West Moreton are concerned, I, at all events, have hitherto looked upon the Premier as my political leader, and I am not prepared to accept any member for West Moreton as my guide in any way. I can inform the Premier that the West Moreton members judge and think for themselves individually. They do not need any leader. They are all on a level, and do not recognise any priority at all. I am quite satisfied that the best thing the Govern-

ment can do is to go on with their other business and dissolve the House. I do not think the Premier is going to get any satisfaction out of this Bill now before the House. If he had stuck to it as originally introduced, that would have been a different thing; but it has been altered considerably. I certainly raised no objection to the additional member for Croydon, because I thought that was a justifiable addition, but, leaving that out of consideration, I should have been willing to accept the Bill as a whole if the Premier had consented not to make any alteration. The hon. gentleman has told us over and over again that we are not entitled to another member. I knew I was correct when I said that he told us the other night that we were, and I am glad his attention has been drawn to *Hansard*. Apart from that the figures speak for themselves. What is the basis that the Government adopt? Is it general population, is it adult male population, is it the number of horses or cattle, or is it acreage? If it is anything else but population it is time the House knew it. I have understood the Bill was framed on the general population basis tempered with adult male population; and I leave it to any member of this House to say whether we are not entitled to another member.

Mr. FOOTE said: Mr. Speaker,—I wish to disabuse the Premier's mind with reference to the false leader he has spoken of. In this case we have no leader. We are one solid compact. We put our heads together, and we have sought information to prove that we are entitled to what we ask for. The hon. member who has just sat down has said we are quite capable of thinking for ourselves, and I think we generally do so. In this matter we have a common interest, and are of one accord; but we have consulted the interests of our district, and that we intend to stick up for.

Question put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that this House do now adjourn. It is proposed to take to-morrow the New Guinea Bill in committee, and after that to proceed with the Electoral Districts Bill.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes to 11 o'clock.