

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 1887

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QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT,

APPOINTED TO MEET

AT RISBANE, ON THE NINETEENTH DAY OF JULY, IN THE FIFTY-FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER
MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1887

[VOLUME 2 OF 1887.]

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 19 October, 1887.

Questions.—Message from the Governor.—British New Guinea (Queensland) Bill—committee.—Message from the Legislative Council—Divisional Boards Bill.—Electoral Districts Bill—committee.—Adjournment.

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

QUESTIONS.

Mr. STEVENS asked the Chief Secretary—

1. If the Government intend to appoint a railway arbitrator?
2. If the Government propose to alter the Act dealing with resumptions for railway purposes?
3. If the Government will reconsider the decisions of the Railway Arbitrator in the case upon the Beenleigh-Beaudesert and Beenleigh-Nerang lines?

The CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. Sir. S. W. Griffith) replied—

1. Yes.
2. The Government do not intend to propose any alteration this session.
3. Any application for reconsideration will be dealt with on its merits.

Mr. BAILEY asked the Minister for Lands—

When will the papers relative to grievances of Wide Bay timber-getters and selectors be laid on the table of the House?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. H. Jordan) replied—

The returns are being prepared as quickly as possible. The greater part had to be copied in the Gympie and Maryborough Lands Offices, being more than 1,000 sheets of foolscap in manuscript, and have only recently been received here. The remaining part of the return is now being copied here as quickly as it can be done, and it is expected will be completed in a few days.

Mr. MORGAN asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Have the tenders for the conveyance of mails by coach between Warwick and Goondiwindi been dealt with?—if so, what was the decision arrived at, the amount of the lowest tender, and the terms of the proposed contract?
2. Have the tenders for the conveyance of mails by coach between Pittsworth and Goondiwindi been dealt with, and with what result?—what was the amount of the lowest tender received?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied—

1. The cost of the present coach service from Warwick to Goondiwindi (once a week) is £133 6s. 8d. per annum, under a contract which expires at the end of 1889. Tenders have been accepted for a second weekly coach service, at an additional cost of £68 per annum, making a twice-a-week service for £201 6s. 8d. per annum.

2. The only tender for a coach service from Pittsworth to Goondiwindi was for £549 per annum (once a week), but the tenderer has since offered to reduce the price to £400, if the time of the contract were extended to four years. It is not proposed to accept this offer.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor, intimating that His Excellency had, on behalf of Her Majesty, assented to the Immigration Act of 1882 Amendment Bill.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA (QUEENSLAND) BILL.

COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the Speaker left the chair, and the House went into committee to consider this Bill.

Preamble postponed.

Clause 1 passed as printed.

On clause 2, as follows:—

"There shall be issued and paid to Her Majesty, out of the consolidated revenue of Queensland, in each of the ten years next succeeding the commencement of this Act, a sum not exceeding £15,000, for and in respect of the necessary expenses of the administration of the government of the said territory in accordance with the conditions of the aforesaid amended proposals or such other conditions as may be mutually agreed to by your Majesty's Imperial Government and the Government of the colony of Queensland."

Mr. FOOTE said he was aware that most members of the Committee were in accord with the measure before them, but he could not say that he was. He could not see what the taxpayers of Queensland were going to get for that sum of £15,000 a year which was to be guaranteed for ten years. Suppose Queensland had to pay the whole of the money? So far as he could understand the Bill, the Government of Queensland would have no power over New Guinea, and no power over the expenditure of the money they were to guarantee; they had nothing to do but pay the money. He thought it would be very unwise of this colony to take upon itself any responsibility in connection with New Guinea, when they had as much as they could do here to look after their own affairs. The people of the North were satisfied that no Government conducted from the southern extremity of the colony was capable of controlling the affairs of the North in a proper manner, or so as to give them fair play. The separation of the North was sure to come sooner or later—it was only a question of time; and he thought that, as it was clear that a portion of the colony of Queensland was already dissatisfied with the present system of government, it would not be wise for them to undertake the control of an island at a considerable distance, and which could at no time be of any benefit whatever to this colony, no matter what control the Government had over it. At present they had none, and they were not likely to have any as long as the matter was in the hands of the Imperial Government.

The PREMIER said he did not know that he could throw much more light upon the matter than was shown in the Bill. The second schedule of the Bill set out in detail the nature of the control which the Government of Queensland would have over the administration of New Guinea—as complete control as the Government of a constitutional colony could expect to have over a Crown colony. The proposal had been before the House so frequently, and had met with so much approval, that he scarcely thought

it worth while to enter upon the details of it. However, he would be glad to give any information that might be desired.

Mr. PALMER asked whether it was definitely settled now that the appropriation should be guaranteed for ten years, instead of for five, as contained in the original draft?

The PREMIER said that, as he had pointed out before, the Imperial Government accepted the proposals with that modification. That was practically the only modification they made, and for the reasons he gave yesterday the guarantee for five years was not considered sufficient. The Imperial Government would by the assumption of sovereignty be committed to the maintenance of law and order in New Guinea perpetually, as it would not be consistent with the dignity of an Imperial power at any time to abandon it; at the same time they were not anxious to spend any money there at all except at the request of the Australasian colonies. That being so, it was but reasonable that the Australasian colonies should guarantee a certain amount for a term of ten years. The other obligation they undertook was the recital in the preamble as follows:—

"And whereas your Majesty's Australasian colonies cheerfully recognise and acknowledge the obligation to indemnify your Majesty's Imperial Government against the necessary cost of the administration of the government of the said territory, in accordance with the conditions of the said amended proposals or such other conditions as may be mutually agreed to by your Majesty's Imperial Government and the Governments of the said colonies, and it has been agreed that the colony of Queensland on their behalf shall formally recognise and give effect to such obligation."

That, with the guarantee for ten years, was accepted by the Imperial Government as sufficient to justify them in assuming sovereignty over New Guinea.

Mr. BLACK said that while there was no serious opposition to the passage of the Bill, hon. members would like to be in possession of more information on the subject than they had received up to the present time. He understood that the second schedule of the Bill really contained the whole of the matter.

The PREMIER: Yes.

Mr. BLACK: And that was not subject to any alteration by the Committee—they must accept it as it was or reject it altogether?

The PREMIER: That is the bargain made.

Mr. BLACK: Yes; that was the bargain made, and they must either accept it or reject it as it stood. He understood that Queensland became, under the Bill, responsible for £15,000 a year. It was possible that some of the other colonies would join, as Victoria had already consented to do, in the guarantee, and that would reduce the expenditure so far as Queensland was concerned. Assuming that New South Wales and Victoria consented to join, Queensland's contribution during the term would be £5,000 a year. But Queensland would be responsible for the whole £15,000 a year in the event of either or both the other colonies, at any time during the next ten years, thinking fit to withdraw from that proposal—which he supposed they could do. In such a case, at all events, Queensland would be saddled with £15,000 a year. In the event of the expenditure, which was at present estimated to be £15,000 a year, being exceeded, Queensland would be responsible for the balance, and he noted that in the event of the expenditure exceeding that amount Queensland was entitled to recoup herself out of the revenue to be derived from New Guinea. He would like the Premier to give them a slight sketch of the revenue it

was anticipated they would get from New Guinea. Let them know what they proposed doing. He believed they were all united in the belief that the annexation of New Guinea would be beneficial, especially to Queensland; but the Premier, having discussed the matter very fully at the Imperial Conference in England recently, had no doubt some scheme by which revenue was to be derived. He should let them know what, for instance, was going to be done with the lands of New Guinea; what trade it was proposed to be established between Queensland and New Guinea, and what revenue was likely to be derived from it. It appeared the administrator of New Guinea was to confer with the Government of Queensland in all matters, legislative or administrative. It was not, therefore, he thought, out of place to ask the Premier to give the Committee some slight sketch of what the administrator of New Guinea would do when he got there. Whether he would offer facilities for trade, *bêche-de-mer* fishing, the prosecution of tropical agriculture; and what the labour system of New Guinea was to be—whether the labour system prevailing in Queensland would be made applicable to New Guinea. He thought the Premier should give the Committee a short sketch of what was likely to take place in New Guinea.

The PREMIER said he must correct one or two misapprehensions the hon. member was under. The subjects the hon. member had mentioned were not discussed at the Conference at all, nor had he an opportunity of discussing them with anybody. In the next place there was no provision in the Bill by which Queensland would in any case become liable for any more than £15,000. The proposals contained a provision that not more than £15,000 was to be spent at all without the consent of each of the three guaranteeing colonies. They desired that any revenue derived from New Guinea should be applied to the reduction of the amount of £15,000, and that matter he had discussed with Mr. Gillies and Sir Patrick Jennings. Supposing the revenue was £10,000, there would be then available for expenditure £25,000. That would have left the three guaranteeing colonies still responsible for the full amount of their guarantee, but a stipulation was made in clause 16 that the £10,000 should be applied in reduction of the £15,000, and the guaranteeing colonies would only have to make up £5,000, unless they all agreed to further expenditure. Practically, therefore, the expenditure could not be more than £15,000, no matter what the revenue was, without the consent of the three colonies. As to what the revenue of New Guinea would be, it was very difficult for him to say. At the present time there were very few white people there, but as soon as there was settlement, he presumed, and he would certainly advise, that a system of import duty should be established, probably also a system of license for revenue purposes, and also an export duty. What revenue could be derived from land he was not in a position to say, nor was he in a position to say what labour system would be adopted there. That was a question no one could express an opinion on without more information than they had in their possession. It was a subject on which he would be glad to have an opportunity of conferring with the administrator when he was appointed, and if that gentleman were a gentleman of large experience, as he (the Premier) hoped, he would take advantage of his advice in coming to a conclusion on the matter.

Mr. DICKSON said he observed that the preamble of the Bill stated that the agreement had been entered into by Victoria and Queens-

land, but that New South Wales had not signified its approval. He would be glad to know whether they were going to consider the silence of New South Wales up to the present time as signifying disapproval or an intention to hold aloof. He would like to learn whether it was considered desirable that the preamble should stand in that shape, assuming that New South Wales would not join in the agreement.

The PREMIER said that was a matter to which he wished to direct particular attention when the preamble was under discussion. The form to be adopted deserved very full consideration.

Mr. DICKSON said perhaps the matter would be more conveniently dealt with when they were discussing the preamble. In the meantime he would like to ask if any further communication had been received from the Imperial authorities as to when the vessel would be ready, and when their contribution of £3,500 a year would commence. It would be satisfactory to the colony to know whether the Imperial Government were prepared to take prompt action on the passing of this measure.

The PREMIER said that no further communication had been made, as far as he knew, since the inquiry whether the Bill had passed. He had promised to introduce the Bill as early as possible after the meeting of Parliament, and though he had, in fact, introduced it as early as possible, it had been delayed very much longer than it ought to have been, through causes over which the Government had no control. He had every reason to suppose that the Imperial Government were ready to take all the necessary steps at once—the issuing of the Letters Patent, the commission to the Governor, and the despatch of the ship. He did not know what ship would be sent, but he knew the kind of ship was very fully discussed by himself and Sir Robert Herbert and, he thought, some other gentlemen. They agreed that the best type of ship would be one something like the "*Dart*," a wooden ship with good accommodation and fair steaming powers—a sort of large yacht, in fact. She was one of the finest ships the Admiralty possessed for that sort of work, and they proposed to select a ship something of that type. He knew that the Imperial Government were very anxious to have the Bill passed and brought into operation as soon as possible.

Mr. SCOTT asked whether it was the gross or net revenue that was to be applied in diminution of the £15,000. He saw that no purchases of land were to be made by private persons except from the Government or purchasers from it. Of course it would not take the sale of a great deal of land to make up £15,000 a year, and he would like to know whether it was the gross or the net proceeds of either sales of land or Customs duties which were to go in reduction of the £15,000 a year.

The PREMIER said that if there were no net proceeds there would be nothing to place to the credit of the guaranteeing party. The hon. member evidently did not quite understand the special memorandum. That only protected Queensland in case of New South Wales or Victoria declining to pay her share; it did not apply to any other case. Annual estimates of expenditure would be prepared, which were not to exceed £15,000 without the consent of the three guaranteeing colonies, and those estimates having been approved of, the money would be spent. If the revenue were insufficient to cover the amount authorised to be spent, Queensland would be bound to make up the deficiency to the extent of £15,000. Of course the deficiency could not be

so much as that, unless there was absolutely no revenue, or unless all the three colonies thought it was worth while to agree to spend the £15,000 in addition to the revenue.

Mr. DICKSON said, of course at present the Premier could not furnish any estimates of revenue, because the ways and means of New Guinea had not yet received consideration, but there was one question necessary to be asked in the interests of the taxpayers of Queensland. Assuming that Queensland was called upon to contribute either her proportion of £5,000, or a larger sum up to £15,000, he presumed the Government would be prepared to devise a fiscal policy for New Guinea under which a revenue would accrue sufficient to relieve the taxpayers of Queensland of any charge upon the revenue of this colony. The cost of administering the affairs of New Guinea must not be a cause for increasing the taxation of Queensland; that, he thought, should be distinctly understood. He quite joined in the desire that the affairs of New Guinea should be properly administered, though to his mind they should have been administered by the Imperial authorities. However, seeing they were so dilatory in the matter, it was incumbent that Queensland should act as the Government proposed. At the same time it was only right that the taxpayer should be protected against the possibility of the administration of New Guinea forming the basis for increased taxation in this colony.

Mr. BLACK said he quite agreed with the remarks of the hon. member for Enoggera, Mr. Dickson, but would point out that paragraph 12 of the second schedule stated:—

“No differential duties to be imposed in favour of any of the guaranteeing colonies or any other colony or country.”

Under that clause, which it seemed they must pass, in the event of New South Wales holding aloof and not contributing, that colony would have the benefit of any future trade with New Guinea without any responsibility under that Bill. If Queensland were to assume the whole responsibility in connection with New Guinea, the colony could not, so far as he could see, impose any fiscal policy on New Guinea in favour of Queensland. They could not say that the products of Queensland should be admitted into New Guinea free of duty, and that the products of New Guinea should also be received into Queensland free of duty; they could not establish free trade between the two without opening the ports of New Guinea to the non-contributing colonies on the same terms.

The PREMIER said that the 12th clause was in the first proposals, and was, if his recollection served him right, proposed by the colony of Victoria to show that they did not want New Guinea simply to exploit for trading purposes. With respect to what fell from the hon. member for Enoggera, the whole of that scheme was based on the principle that if the Government of Queensland guaranteed the money they should protect their own people and see that the money was not wasted. He was not prepared to say that they would raise a revenue of £15,000 in New Guinea. Certainly they could not raise £15,000 out of the natives at the present time. If it was found impracticable to raise any revenue, he thought the other alternative would be to reduce the expenditure, and to reduce it to the very lowest amount possible.

Mr. NORTON said he believed some revenue had already been collected in New Guinea from an export duty on timber, and he was not sure whether there had not also been some from the fisheries.

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. NORTON said he would like the hon. gentleman to inform them from what sources revenue had been collected up to the present time, and also give them an idea as to the amount that had been raised.

The PREMIER said he was not able to state from memory what was the amount of the revenue derived from New Guinea. The only source of revenue had, he thought, been an export duty on cedar, and, as a matter of fact, there was no authority to collect that duty, and the payments were quite voluntary on the part of the persons who made them. The moneys so received had been placed to the credit of the fund administered by the Commissioner, and had so far gone in a reduction of the expenses. The Special Commissioner had no power to do anything; under the present system the only authority he had was to deport obnoxious British subjects, but he could only do that after obtaining the sanction in writing of the High Commissioner at Suva. He (the Premier) was not aware that that sanction had been obtained in any case, and probably it would take about six months to get it. That was the only legal authority the Special Commissioner at present possessed. He could also make regulations if he could enforce them, but he (the Premier) did not know that he had made any up to the present time, except the regulations respecting the export duty on cedar, and people had been good enough to pay the duty.

Mr. PALMER said that by passing that measure they would be committed to the annual payment of a certain amount of money towards the expenses of New Guinea, and he would like to know if there were any means by which, if they discovered that the money was spent extravagantly or wasted—which had been done in the past, as the Premier had himself admitted on a previous occasion, they would be able to exercise some control over the expenditure.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Clause 17 of the second schedule deals with that.

Mr. PALMER said they would have to be prepared to hold some means of exercising a little control over the expenditure. There was another matter to which he would refer. A translation of a German proclamation had appeared in the *Government Gazette* quite recently, and that proclamation prohibited any persons carrying away aborigines from the German protectorate except to employ them on German plantations. It seemed to him that the natives might be taken from British territory also for German plantations.

The PREMIER said that proclamation only referred to German territory. As soon as that Bill became law the legislature of New Guinea would be able to pass laws prohibiting anybody from taking natives from the British territory, but at the present time they could not do anything. The hon. member also asked how they were to see that the money was not wasted. Well, estimates of expenditure would be prepared every year just the same as were submitted to that Committee, and they would have to be submitted to the Government at Brisbane for their approval before and not after the money was expended. Every care would be taken that no money was spent that had not previously been authorised. New Guinea, it should be remembered, was to be administered as a Crown colony, and the system of auditing the accounts of Crown colonies was as complete as it possibly could be. He might mention, as an illustration of the control exercised by the Treasury over the other departments in England, that the amount payable under the 5th paragraph of those proposals came altogether to £29,000, and he suggested

that they might as well make it a round sum—£30,000. The paragraph was then so drawn that the amount should not exceed £30,000, but on further consideration it was found that the Treasury had agreed to £29,000, and it could not be altered without further negotiations with the Treasury, and the fullest consideration.

Mr. ISAMBERT said the hon. member for Bundamba had raised a very important question—namely, what would Queensland get for their guarantee? They were asked to be responsible for a very large sum of money, and he hoped that hon. members would address themselves properly to that question. It had not yet been answered, even by the Premier. When New Guinea was taken possession of by the Premier of the late Administration the people of the Australian colonies were full of enthusiasm, and from one end of the continent to the other there was a cry of "Rule Britannia" in New Guinea. It seemed as if at that time the people were animated by the spirit of buccaneering. There were a lot of buccaneering expeditions ready to start for New Guinea in order to obtain large tracts of land from the natives, but very properly the succeeding Administration of Queensland, and the Imperial authorities put a stop to the nefarious traffic of those buccaneers. People could not, at the time, understand why the Imperial authorities were not more anxious to take possession of such a splendid land—as splendid as any in the British possessions—and why they hesitated so long about it. It was his opinion that Great Britain knew, from past experience in the Southern Hemisphere, that simply raising tropical products by black labour was not a paying game; that, on the contrary, since the price of sugar fell, it was a losing game. That was why the Imperial authorities were not so very anxious to take possession of New Guinea. The hon. member for Bundamba raised another question of great importance—the question of separation. Queensland, it was said, was too big to be governed by one Government. If that were so, how was it possible that the Queensland Government should also govern a large territory outside of Queensland, with a semi-civilised population, with clearly defined notions of property? If large numbers of whites went there and encroached on the rights of the natives, it was almost certain that very serious troubles would arise. The government of New Guinea would be incomparably more difficult than that of Queensland. Still, after all, they got something for their expenditure. If New Guinea had been taken possession of by a foreign power on bad terms with Great Britain they would feel very keenly the not having it, and they might consider it fortunate, therefore, that that part of the island which had not been taken possession of by Great Britain for Queensland was in the hands of a friendly power. There was now no possibility of an undesirable foreign power getting a footing close to their doors. Without the possession of New Guinea they might have to go to far greater expense in protecting themselves, and that was a very substantial return for the outlay. It was hardly likely that New Guinea would be a profitable acquisition for some time to come. The German colony had hitherto proved a white elephant; they had not made those large profits which were at one time anticipated. If it was only for raising tropical products by black labour they would have spent most of their money in vain. What was to be got out of those people? Copra; and copra had come down almost to a non-paying price since the revolution in the oil trade. The best thing the Government could do would be to devote a large share of the money voted for the government of New Guinea to

equip proper expeditions to explore the gold formations. He had very little doubt that payable gold would be discovered there. Then European miners would flock over to the island and a proper settlement of a white population would take place similar to that which had taken place in Queensland—a settlement able to pay the whole revenue—so that in time to come the new colony would be self-supporting.

Mr. STEVENS asked what would be the duties of the judicial officer?

The PREMIER replied that his duties would be to administer justice; also, he supposed, to advise the governor and to assist in the preparation of laws. He would also be a member of the legislative body proposed to be appointed.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN asked what sort of a judicial officer were they likely to get for £1,000 a year? Would they be likely to get a clever barrister to go out to New Guinea on a salary like that?

The PREMIER said the sums named were minimum sums, and if they could not get a judicial officer at that salary, the administrator, with the approval of the Government of that colony, would increase it. He had expressed his doubts on that point when in London, and was told there were plenty of thoroughly competent men in England who would go there on those terms, because it gave them a chance of entering the official colonial service. There were very good men in the colonial service who did not get £1,000 a year to begin with. Of course they expected promotion, and would get it in due course.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN asked whether it was possible for an officer in the colonial service at a place like New Guinea to add to his salary, as he might in a Crown colony like, for instance, Western Australia?

The PREMIER: How could he add to the salary?

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: Could he not do so by fees?

The PREMIER: He could not have fees.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said another question arose in connection with the 5th paragraph, which he should like to have answered. It said:—

"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."

Was that suitable steam vessel to become the property of the administration of New Guinea at the end of the three years?

The PREMIER: Yes.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: That was what he took it to mean. So that the amount of their contribution was that £3,500 a year for three years?

The PREMIER: Yes.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: Then the cost of maintaining that vessel after the end of three years would fall upon the administration of New Guinea?

The PREMIER: Yes.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said, did the hon. gentleman when in London try to get the Imperial Government to accept those conditions for a term of five years instead of ten, knowing that five years was the generally expressed opinion of that Assembly before he went home? It was all very well to say that the Imperial Government accepted the bargain with the modification of ten years, and one or two other small modifications; but were they asked to accept five years instead of ten, or did they refuse

to agree to any shorter term than ten years? Another matter he was not quite clear in his own mind about was this: The Premier had stated that once Great Britain had annexed a country and obtained sovereignty over it they were responsible ever afterwards for the maintenance of law and order. He (Mr. Macrossan) was not quite certain about that. He was trying to think of places where British sovereignty had been abandoned after it had once been taken up, and thought it had been done in Africa. He would not assert positively that it was so, but he thought it was. Of course he knew that exchanges had been made with other countries, and places that had been taken possession of had been returned to the people from whom they were taken, at the end of a war. But he was speaking, not of a conquered country, but of sovereignty deliberately taken and abandoned afterwards, and he believed that was done in Africa. So that if that was the reason urged by the Imperial Government he was afraid it was not quite a correct one; but he might be wrong.

The PREMIER said the Imperial Government distinctly refused to accept any term less than ten years, and gave him to understand that it would be no use discussing the matter.

Mr. ISAMBERT: Does the Chief Secretary favour the idea of encouraging an expedition to prospect for gold in New Guinea?

The PREMIER said he should certainly encourage the idea of exploring New Guinea on a rational system under the control of competent persons, and if they found gold so much the better.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said that even if the whole amount of the contribution, £15,000 a year, had to be paid by Queensland, it would be well worth their while to pay it to have possession of New Guinea. The hon. member for Bundamba had asked what Queensland was going to get for the expenditure of that money. What she was going to get was to keep foreigners from coming too close to her shores. That was what they were going to get. Unfortunately, the Imperial Government had allowed them to come too near already.

Question put and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4, as follow, passed as printed:—

"3. The Colonial Treasurer shall issue and pay the amount of such contribution to such person and in such manner as the Governor by any warrant or order under his hand shall direct.

"4. The Colonial Treasurer shall, in his accounts, from time to time, be allowed credit for any sum or sums of money paid by him in pursuance of any such warrant or order, and the receipt or receipts of the person to whom the same shall be so paid shall be a full and valid discharge to him in passing his accounts for any such sum or sums as shall be therein mentioned, and he shall receive credit for the same accordingly."

On clause 5, as follows:—

"The New Guinea and Pacific Jurisdiction Contribution Act of 1884 is hereby repealed, except as to any obligations already incurred under that Act."

The PREMIER said that it was not of course necessary to have the two Acts on the Statute-book together, therefore that clause had been inserted.

Mr. PALMER said he wished to refer to a matter that was not connected with the clause, that was the death of the late High Commissioner for New Guinea. That gentleman died in the exercise of his duty, and therefore the case merited a little consideration from the Government who employed him. They knew that he had left a widow, and possibly some children, and he (Mr. Palmer) would like to know if there was any charge upon the New Guinea fund in relation to them. He referred to the late Sir Peter Scratchley. Was his widow provided for out of the New Guinea fund?

The PREMIER said he did not think any of the New Guinea fund was available for that purpose. He was quite sure that the present Commissioner had not appropriated any of it for that purpose.

Question put and passed.

Clause 6—"Short title"—put and passed.

On the first schedule—

The PREMIER said it was simply the original proposal as finally agreed to in England. The Bill, as prepared there, contained this recital:—

"Whereas the Governments of your Majesty's Australasian colonies have requested your Majesty to assume sovereignty over the territory comprising those portions of New Guinea and the adjacent islands which are now under your Majesty's royal protection, and to make provision for the administration of the government of that territory in accordance with certain proposals agreed to by your Majesty's Imperial Government and the Governments of the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, which proposals are set forth in the schedule to this Act."

Unfortunately that was no longer true. He could not say that those proposals had been agreed to by New South Wales; so that in order to make the Act intelligible he proposed to adopt another course and to set out the proposals that were first made by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, and also the form in which they were accepted by the Imperial Government. That was the only way, so far as he could see, to show that the proposals were really assented to by the Government of New South Wales, although that colony had not formally agreed to them.

Mr. ISAMBERT asked: Did the Bill provide for the possibility of any other colony joining in the expense of administering the affairs of New Guinea—South Australia or New Zealand, for instance?

The PREMIER said the second schedule provided—

"Any contribution made by the Governments of any of the other Australasian colonies to be applied in reduction of the amount which the colonies may be called upon to pay under articles 1 and 2."

The colony of New Zealand had promised to contribute for a period of about two or three years. Tasmania and Western Australia had also promised to contribute. He did not know whether South Australia would or not.

Schedule put and passed.

Second schedule, as printed, put and passed.

On the preamble, as follows:—

"MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

"Whereas the Governments of your Majesty's Australasian colonies some time since requested your Majesty to assume sovereignty over the territory, comprising those portions of New Guinea and the adjacent islands which are now under your Majesty's Royal protection, and to make provision for the administration of the government of that territory: And whereas certain proposals were lately made to your Majesty's Imperial Government by the Governments of the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, with respect to such administration, which proposals are set forth in the first schedule to this Act: And whereas the said proposals were afterwards agreed to by your Majesty's Imperial Government with certain amendments and modifications thereof, and the said proposals, as so amended, are set forth in the second schedule to this Act: And whereas the said amended proposals were agreed to by the representatives of the Governments of your Majesty's said Australasian colonies assembled at a Conference held in London in the month of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, and have also been agreed to by the Governments of the colonies of Victoria and Queensland, but the Government of the colony of New South Wales has not signified its approval thereof: And whereas your Majesty's Australasian colonies cheerfully recognise and acknowledge the obligation to indemnify your Majesty's Imperial Government against the necessary cost of the administration of the government of the said territory, in accordance with the conditions of the said amended proposals or such other conditions as may be mutually

agreed to by your Majesty's Imperial Government and the Governments of the said colonies, and it has been agreed that the colony of Queensland on their behalf shall formally recognise and give effect to such obligation: And whereas your Majesty's Imperial Government have agreed with the Governments of the said colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland that, upon satisfactory provision being made to give effect to the aforesaid obligation, they will advise your Majesty to assume sovereignty over the said territory: And whereas, in order to give effect to the said amended proposals, and to make provision for defraying the necessary cost of the administration of the government of the said territory upon such assumption of sovereignty, we, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, have resolved to grant to your Majesty the sums hereinafter stated and for the purposes hereinafter expressed: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows."

The PREMIER said he wanted to call hon. members' attention to the recital, particularly with regard to New South Wales. It had been necessary, as he had pointed out, to alter the original recital, which stated that the proposals had been agreed to by the Imperial Government and the Governments of New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria. It was now set out that certain proposals were lately made by those colonies, and the recital continued—

"And whereas the said proposals were afterwards agreed to by Your Majesty's Imperial Government, with certain amendments and modifications thereof, and the said proposals, as so amended, are set forth in the second schedule to this Act."

Which, of course, was perfectly correct. Then it went on to recite—

"And whereas the said amended proposals were agreed to by the representatives of the Governments of Your Majesty's said Australasian colonies, assembled at a Conference held in London in the month of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven."

That was strictly correct. It went on then to say—

"And have also been agreed to by the Governments of the colonies of Victoria and Queensland, but the Government of New South Wales has not signified its approval thereof."

That also was strictly and literally correct, but he should be glad to dispense with the necessity of recording it as part of the Bill. Hon. members would have seen from the papers circulated the other day, that on the 10th of this month, when the Government made up their minds not to wait any longer for New South Wales, a statement of the proposed alterations in the Bill, as agreed to in London, was sent to that colony. He had received no reply from Sir Henry Parkes, and had given up all expectation of receiving a reply within any particular time. He might get a reply that day, or next week, or next year, or the year after, or from his successor, but there was no reason to expect it now any more than at any other time. He had yesterday received a telegram from Mr. Gillies, the Premier of Victoria, intimating that he did not like that part of the preamble, and informing him that Sir Henry Parkes had assured him when in Melbourne lately that New South Wales intended to ratify the agreement, and that being so, Mr. Gillies did not consider that part of the preamble correct. He (the Premier) was glad to hear that Sir Henry Parkes had signified his approval to Mr. Gillies, but he thought he might have had the courtesy to reply to the communications which he had received. However, it was not absolutely necessary to retain those words, and possibly it might be more convenient to leave them out. He would, therefore, move that after the words "eighty-seven" all the words be omitted down to "approval thereof." The preamble would then recite the

acceptance of the amended proposals by the representatives of the Australasian Governments at the Conference in London, and passing on would give the go-by to the communications that had taken place between the Queensland and New South Wales Governments. He might say that another way of dealing with the matter would be to say, "not yet signified its approval thereof"; but on the whole he thought the words might be left out.

Mr. NORTON said he was glad that the hon. gentleman proposed the omission of those words. He had intended to refer to them himself if the Premier had not done so, because it seemed to him that they might cause unnecessary offence to the New South Wales Government, and might, perhaps, prevent the bringing about of the very thing which they all so much desired—namely, the completion of the arrangement by the Government of New South Wales. For his part, he could only say that he did not believe that, although the Government of New South Wales had neglected the matter, they intended to withdraw from the agreement as made by their representatives at the Conference. He felt quite sure that, although late, they would still join in the arrangement.

Mr. DICKSON said the amendment moved by the Premier was a very wise one. They must bear in mind that New South Wales had most honourably fulfilled her obligations to the Treasury in the past in connection with New Guinea, and he did not think they ought to permit a permanent record of that sort to exist on their Statute-book, which would attach a feeling of disloyalty to the people of New South Wales, who, he believed, were thoroughly in accord with Queensland, whatever the feeling of the Executive of the day in New South Wales might be. He did not think they should permanently record against them a reflection of that kind on account of the negligence of their Executive in not communicating with the Government of Queensland.

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

Preamble, as amended, put and passed.

The House resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill with an amendment.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the report was adopted, and the third reading of the Bill made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DIVISIONAL BOARDS BILL.

The SPEAKER reported that he had received a message from the Legislative Council intimating that they had agreed to the amendment upon their amendment made by the Legislative Assembly on clause 28, line 28, in the Divisional Boards Bill.

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 he was not aware that anything could be added to the debate after what had been said last night. They had tried to meet the views of the Premier in the matter so far as they possibly could, and had made a suggestion to him. In fact they called it a compromise; but the Premier said it was no compromise at all.

They did not care by what name it was called; but still adhered to their proposition, that Fassifern should have two members, and include a portion of Rosewood. They regretted exceedingly that they were compelled to use tactics which they in general disapproved of, to serve their ends and get justice done to them. When the Chairman had retired from the chair last evening, the hon. member for Rosewood was about to make a speech on the subject, which he had gone into in a very elaborate manner, and there was no doubt he would enlighten the Committee to a very considerable extent. The Premier was always a reasonable man and advocated what he believed to be best in the interests of the colony, and it was very possible that he might now see his way to grant West Moreton that very small modicum of justice that was asked.

Mr. WHITE said he was very sorry that he felt constrained to cut adrift from his West Moreton colleagues. It appeared now that the only question that was left to be discussed was whether they should have double or single electorates in the country districts. He was entirely opposed to any double electorates in the country districts. It would be a grave injustice to the people there to box them together and make double electorates. He hoped his hon. friends would refrain from persevering any further.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he thought the hon. member for Stanley was rather under a misapprehension. He was not aware that the West Moreton representatives had made up their minds to accept nothing else but a double electorate. He was willing to take single electorates if those electorates came within the old boundaries, but he objected to the Government proposing to give them another member when really that extra member was for the Logan, or East Moreton district. The population of West Moreton had increased since the census was taken, faster than in any other district. But eleven members were proposed to be added by the Bill to the representation of the colony, and the West Moreton district, which was growing as fast as any other district, was to get none of that eleven. The Government seemed to think that the population had decreased there, when they proposed to introduce eleven new members into the House, and West Moreton was to remain as it was. He was very sorry that they had had to take up the position they had in reference to the Bill. It was not congenial to his mind, nor, he thought, to that of any other member. They had no desire to thwart the business of the colony or aggravate the members of other districts; but they were bound to take up the position they had, to maintain the ideas of their constituents. They had taken up a just cause, and intended to maintain it to the bitter end. It might be replied that they were there to exercise their own discretion, and were not in the position of mere delegates; but no member was entirely independent of his constituency. He must represent that constituency, or he could not expect to be the member for it. There was no member in the Committee who would not represent the ideas of the electors. People might talk about their independence, and say they would not be delegates and so forth, but he and his friends were only doing what other members would do under the circumstances. The hon. member for Stanley, Mr. White, rather misapprehended the meaning of the agitation; they were quite willing to take an additional member and have single electorates.

Mr. ISAMBERT said the West Moreton group was certainly entitled to another member, as compared with the Darling Downs group. The people in West Moreton were very dis-

satisfied with the Bill as introduced. They had been always loyal to the Government of the Liberal party, and rather than inconvenience them they were prepared to accept the Bill as at first introduced, knowing how difficult it was to devise a Redistribution Bill that would satisfy all people. But when they found the Government give way to places, the members for which were always more or less opposed to the Liberal party, and the group which more than any other had consistently supported that party were so shabbily treated, it was no wonder they felt aggrieved. They were sometimes asked why they did not go over to the Opposition cross-benches, because the members on that side always got more out of the Liberal Governments than their really staunch supporters. It seemed to be the natural failing of Liberal Governments when in power to give privileges to their opponents and to slight their best friends. The Darling Downs, with a population of 34,364, got nine members, while West Moreton, with a population of 30,695, got only seven members. He did not agree with the idea of double electorates, as they were always difficult to work, and would not assist in demanding two members for Fassifern, but he contended that the West Moreton group of electorates were entitled to another member, and it was immaterial to him how the new electorate was to be carved out. The present contention was not only for another member for West Moreton, but was also an earnest protest against the time-honoured narrow policy adopted by Liberal Governments in dealing with their friends. At the time the £10,000,000 loan was introduced, West Moreton, and particularly his own electorate, was left out in the cold, whilst other districts that consistently opposed the present Government were well treated. The Premier should remember that his supporters had to go before their constituents, and unless they could show that they represented their requirements properly they could not support the Premier. The hon. gentleman should take the average of what his supporters required and formulate his policy accordingly. They all recognised the hard work done by the Premier, who, in fact, worked too hard. If the hon. gentleman would consult his supporters a little more he would save himself a lot of trouble, and things would go far more smoothly.

Mr. SMYTH said it seemed that the tactics adopted last night were to be continued that evening. All yesterday evening was spent in considering the Fassifern electorate and they had not got any further. Last night he saw the most disgraceful piece of log-rolling he had seen since he became a member of the House. He had voted for the *via recta* last year, but if the same tactics were pursued as were pursued last night in connection with that matter, he for one should not have any more to do with it. What had they seen last night? They saw gentlemen sitting in the corner arranging the matter. There was the member for Fassifern who was sure of his seat, and they saw in the gallery the coming member for Bundanba, the miners' delegate; but there was another member to be provided for—the present member for Bundanba, who wanted to go for Mundoorie, that was the proper name for it—the aboriginal name. The state of things was becoming disgraceful, and it was nearly time they came to a decision. The hon. members for West Moreton knew they had not got a majority and could not carry what they wanted, and they were only worrying the Premier, who had hard enough work already. The country were not merely paying members two guineas a day to sit and thrash out the Fassifern business, which had already been sufficiently discussed.

Mr. FOOTE said he was much pleased with the lecture they had received from the hon. member for Gympie, and with the very indignant speech the hon. member had made. The hon. member had had very little parliamentary experience or he would not have talked in that way. One thing was certain, he (Mr. Foote) would not go for Fassifern whether it was a single or double barrelled electorate. He knew his own business as well as the hon. member for Gympie, and when he did not happen to know it, he would consult that hon. member, but that would only be when he thought the hon. member had sufficient sense to direct him. In the meantime, the hon. member might just as well control his temper. The hon. member said he saw last night the greatest piece of log-rolling he had ever seen in that House. Well, the hon. member had not seen very much. He had himself seen a great deal worse last session in connection with a matter which did not refer to members, but to a money vote for a very expensive railway—a quarter of a million of money to make about two miles of railway. He saw that last session, and that was log-rolling with a vengeance; and the hon. member for Gympie was one of the members who supported that measure. If the hon. member wanted it he could give him another instance of log-rolling, to show how things were sometimes done in that House. Principle sometimes subsided, and interest took its place, as it did in the case of the matter he referred to—the mail contract made while the late Government were in power. That Government inaugurated a mail contract and entered into an arrangement which the Opposition refused to ratify. And although that contract was entered into and carried out, it was never passed by that House, simply because it was not to the interests of the party then in opposition to ratify that contract. But the sequel proved that the Opposition of that day were in the wrong in the opposition they maintained night after night, not on a point of principle, but on a point of interest—the interest of the southern end of the colony against the northern. That was what they were contending for now. He and other hon. members said they were not properly treated under that Bill. They were entitled to additional representation; but they knew they could not possibly get it by division, because their interest in the Committee was not sufficiently large, so they intended to contend against the Bill and keep it going. If the hon. member for Gympie did not like those disgraceful proceedings, perhaps he would take his departure to somewhere else.

Mr. BLACK said the hon. member for Bundamba had referred to the stonewalling on the occasion of the Torres Straits mail contract, before he (Mr. Black) had the honour of a seat in the House. He thought it was a mistaken policy that the South adopted on that occasion, which, had they succeeded, would have been undoubtedly prejudicial to the interests of the North; and the hon. member and the division he was championing were adopting very much the same principle now. They were setting up the interests of the more southern portion of the colony, as represented by the West Moreton group, in opposition to that of the whole of the electors of the colony. Ready as the Opposition side generally were to espouse any cause in opposition, and criticise freely any Government measure, still he for one, and he thought he represented the views of many of the Northern members, could not give the West Moreton bunch that assistance which they could give on ordinary occasions. The case those hon. members made out was an excessively weak one; they had no justification in the figures they had adduced, and the Northern members, at all events, must refuse assistance to the attempt to get an addi-

tional member for the West Moreton group. No doubt a mistake had been made in the Bill by grouping electorates, but the groups having been made what did they find? He looked upon the West Moreton group, the East Moreton group, and the Metropolitan group, as practically one, so far as identity of interest was concerned. All those constituencies were within two or three hours' reach of the metropolis, and it was no trouble for their representatives to come down and attend Parliament, compared with the difficulties experienced by representatives from more distant parts of the colony. He found that out of seventy-two members proposed under the new Bill, those three divisions had no less than twenty-three, and the Committee were asked to give another member and make it twenty-four. They actually claimed one-third of the representation of the whole colony. The East and West Moreton groups under the Bill, returning sixteen members, had the same weight of representation as the whole of the North put together, and yet they wanted another representative. That was a very unfair demand, and he did not think the hon. members were really considering the welfare of the whole colony in the way they should. He was pleased to hear the remarks made by the Premier last night; the hon. gentleman spoke the truth when he said that those hon. members were perhaps doing an injury that they would be sorry for later. The hon. the Premier, in deference to the loudly expressed wish of the North for additional representation, had by this Bill given them six additional members, so that one of the great causes of discontent in the North would, by the passage of the Bill, be removed to some extent. If the Bill were withdrawn, it would be said that, however anxious the Premier personally might have been to do justice to the demands of the North, the Southern party were so determined that the North should not have justice that they compelled the Government to withdraw the Bill. If the hon. members, without any good cause, if because one hon. member—as he was informed—thought his seat was imperilled by the Bill, if those Southern members compelled the Government to withdraw the Bill by determined stonewalling, then the North would be more determined than ever to go in for that policy which a considerable section had been advocating for some time past, on the ground that, no matter how anxious even the Premier might be to afford an increased measure of justice to the North, it was impossible for him to do it, because the Southern party would not allow it. As to the efficacy of stonewalling, of course three or four members, if they had the physical strength, could block all business, and for his part he was willing to make a House for three or four days if necessary—night and day. He would recommend the Premier to quietly go home, and they would see—he had no doubt that some hon. members on both sides would assist—whether four or five hon. members were physically able to stand out against thirty. Stonewalling was no doubt justifiable as long as public opinion endorsed the action of the stonewallers, but only on those grounds; and he contended that in the present case public opinion was not with those who were adopting the obstructive policy of the West Moreton bunch. It was a very poor way of settling a difficulty. Any hon. member had a right, up to a certain point, to enunciate the opinions he held, and endeavour by all legitimate means to enforce those opinions upon the Committee, but there should be a limit, and there must be a just cause. He thought the hon. members representing that division of the colony had done everything that their constituencies demanded or could possibly expect them to do. They were, he maintained,

defeated in argument, though of course they did not think so; they were defeated on division; they had done their very best in advocating the opinions of that particular division, as far as a readjustment of the boundaries was concerned, and he thought no opposition should be given to them as long as the adjustment was equitable. But having done everything that their constituencies had a right to expect them to do, they should not prejudice the Bill by what, after that evening, would be nothing short of a factious opposition.

The HON. G. THORN said the argument of the hon. member who had just sat down would be very good if they were asking for an additional member, but they were not; they merely asked for an alteration of the boundaries of one electorate. As far as the North was concerned he voted in favour of giving it additional members, and was prepared to give it one more than it had received. The arguments of the hon. member with regard to increasing the representation down south were as wind, and altogether worthless. With respect to the statement of the hon. member for Gympie, Mr. Smyth, about the log-rolling that took place the previous evening, he (Mr. Thorn) might say that he held peculiar notions with regard to the railway policy of the Government. He maintained that the Government should have brought down their railway policy at the beginning of the session, and if they could not carry it they should go out at once. He did not see why the railway policy should be delayed until after the Redistribution Bill. He did not wish to stonewall; he wished to see the measure made fair to all parts of the colony. What the North had got was a certain modicum of justice, and, as he had said before, he would be prepared to give it one member more. If there was any proposal for an increase of representation in the South he would not approve of it; they merely asked for an alteration of boundaries, and if the boundaries he suggested the previous evening had been accepted there would have been an end of the matter.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he did hope that wiser counsels would prevail among the members representing the West Moreton group. He thought, with the hon. member for Mackay, that they had done the utmost they could fairly be called upon to do in the interest of their constituencies, and if they went beyond that they would alienate from them any sympathy they might otherwise obtain for the supposed injustice to their district. Personally, as he said on the previous evening, if any case whatever had been made out for the contention set up by the members representing the West Moreton constituencies, he would have helped them. As the Chairman knew from his parliamentary experience, it was to his (Mr. Morehead's) interest to defeat the Government, but he would be no party, as leader of the Opposition, to defeating the Government by a sidewind, or by voting for what would practically be an injustice to all the rest of the colony, for the sake of getting a certain section of members to vote with him against the Government. He was sure that every hon. member was anxious to make the measure as good as it could be made, and certainly, with the exception of the members of the West Moreton group, no one was desirous of taking any such action as would lead to the defeat of the Bill. He hoped that those hon. members, having gone as far as their parliamentary duty should impel them to go, would now see their way to bow to the decision of all the rest of the Committee. It was really not a party question, but a matter that affected the whole colony. He, for one, would not for one moment assist, for any purpose whatever, in giving peculiar benefits to one portion of the colony to the detriment of the rest.

Mr. KELLETT said they did not expect any support from the leader of the Opposition or any other members on that side of the Committee. The speech made by the hon. member for Mackay was one they had often heard. As to the hon. member's remarks about public opinion being against them, the public opinion they considered was that of West Moreton, not the public opinion of Mackay, or any other place. It also came very ill from the hon. member for Gympie to tell them that they were log-rolling. One would imagine that their proceeding was something extraordinary, and that nothing of the kind had ever been seen in that Committee before. He (Mr. Kellett) had on previous occasions sat very late at night and sometimes until morning over a very much smaller matter than that for which they now contended. The hon. member for Gympie, like others who had gone to England lately, was upset. A trip home seemed to upset them all; when they came back they did not seem to know whether they were standing on their heads or their heels, and they wished to dictate to everybody in the country and every member of that Committee. He really thought they should not allow hon. members to go to England any more, as they seemed unable to get down to their proper level when they came back. But to return to the matter before the Committee, when the Premier made his proposition last evening, they thought at first that it was a fair thing, and one to which they could agree, until at the last turn he managed to upset the whole matter.

The PREMIER: I have not the least idea what you want.

Mr. KELLETT: The hon. gentleman says he does not know what we want.

The PREMIER: I know what the hon. member for Bundamba wants.

Mr. FOOTE: What do I want?

The PREMIER: To throw the Bill out.

Mr. FOOTE: What I want is to throw out the Bill if we do not get fair play.

Mr. KELLETT said he would try once more to make himself clear, if the leader of the Government, with his large ideas, could understand his small ideas. What they wanted, and what he thought the hon. gentleman granted in the first part of his speech on the previous evening—though he always had something behind that upset the whole basket—was that they should keep the original boundaries of Fassifern as they were before that Bill was introduced. If that suggestion were adopted they would have enough population in that electorate to entitle it to an additional member. That was all they asked. In his later speech the hon. gentleman wanted to get enough population to make another electorate, which might be called Fassifern No. 2, by going into the Logan district and taking in Beenleigh. They objected to that because taking in a populous place like Beenleigh would quite swamp the other end of the electorate about Tamrookum. What they thought the Premier had agreed to was to retain the boundaries of Fassifern as they were, and as it was not considered advisable to have double electorates where they could possibly be avoided, to take in a part of Bundamba into Fassifern, and so make it into two single electorates. They objected to the population of Beenleigh swamping the upper end of Fassifern, which did its business with Ipswich and entirely belonged to the West Moreton district. Put into a few words, what he wanted was this: Leave Fassifern, which belonged to West Moreton, take in enough population from Bundamba to bring it up to the requisite number, and make it into two single electorates.

Mr. STEVENS said the effect of any such arrangement would be to retain the eastern end of Fassifern, which had been for years trying to get detached from it, in that electorate. Ever since the last Redistribution Act was passed the people there had been continually struggling to get away from Fassifern and be joined to a district with which their interests were identical; and if the idea of the hon. member for Stanley was carried out their intentions and wishes would be entirely frustrated. Although they would prefer a north-and-south boundary line, they would take the east-and-west line as provided in the Bill rather than be handicapped in the way suggested by the hon. member. Now that there was a chance of those people being released from the thralldom in which they had been hitherto held, he hoped it would not be permitted to be thrown away.

Mr. KELLETT said there was only one small corner about Tambourine that objected to be joined on with Fassifern, and it might easily be detached and added to Logan. Every other portion of the electorate was perfectly satisfied to remain in Fassifern.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he could assure hon. members, who were so ready with their good advice, that the West Moreton members were only anxious to do what was right. The hon. member for Mackay said that "stonewalling" was justifiable when backed by public opinion. They did not expect to be backed by public opinion in the North, or even in Brisbane, but they were strongly backed by the public opinion of West Moreton; and, that being the case, they were more concerned about their own district than about what other people thought of them. They were perfectly consistent in "stonewalling." When the Bill was being read a second time he said that it was a very fair Bill indeed, and that although it might be altered in committee it could not be amended. He was perfectly satisfied with the Bill then. The Bill was either a fair one, or it was not. If it was fair it should not have been altered; if it was unfair the blame fell upon the Premier. He gave the Premier all credit for his desire to do justice to every part of the colony; and that seemed to be effected by the Bill when it first came before the House. But since then it had been tampered with; the principle of it had been departed from. It was not the same Bill that came into the House, seeing that four additional members had been already added to it. Seeing that the principle of the Bill had been departed from, he and other hon. members maintained that as the district of West Moreton had been increasing as rapidly in population since the time the census was taken as any other district in the colony, consequently it was entitled to another member. Of course their rights in that respect might be reduced by clipping their boundaries, but they contended that their boundaries should not be clipped; and standing up for the boundaries under the old Bill, their contention was that they were entitled to another member.

Mr. BROWN said it appeared to him that the discussion was very like discussions that took place in Europe occasionally when the great powers met to decide what should be done with some smaller power. Everybody seemed to be considered but the district most interested—that was the valley of the Logan. The hon. member for Ipswich wanted the valley of the Logan to remain part of the Fassifern electorate. He (Mr. Brown) understood that the Government were willing to divide that electorate into two, so that it should have two representatives, and what more did the West Moreton members want? If they insisted upon having a double elec-

torate, it must surely be with the idea of returning two Ipswich members for the electorate. If that was the idea, those hon. members must see that it was not reasonable to insist upon such a thing. If the people of the Logan Valley were willing to return a member who might be a resident of Ipswich they would do so. Speaking as a resident and an elector of the Logan Valley district, he said the people there wanted a single electorate—to be detached from Fassifern. If the present member for Fassifern liked to come forward for that part of the electorate, he (Mr. Brown) had no doubt he would be returned. He did not see why he should not, or the hon. member for Bundamba. Speaking as an elector of the district he should be very glad to have such an industrious member to represent the district. If the western watershed of the Logan was taken as the boundary between Fassifern and the Logan, and Darlington Range as the eastern boundary of the electorate, he for one should be very well pleased. He did not see the object of hon. members insisting upon having two members returned for Fassifern as one electorate, when by dividing it they would get the same amount of representation.

Mr. FOOTE said the bunch did not insist upon two members for Fassifern, provided the electorates were carried out as suggested by the hon. member for Stanley, Mr. Kellett. What they had been asking for was an additional member for the group, and they had been told continually that they were not entitled to it. Then electorates all round had been lopped off in all directions to make up deficiencies in other electorates, and the West Moreton group was left with the same representation still. That was what they complained of—of the injustice to the district. Some hon. members, and especially the hon. member for Mackay, Mr. Black, had dealt with the case as a hopeless one, inasmuch as all round the Committee, with the exception of those who were dissatisfied—that was, the representatives of the West Moreton group and portion of the Darling Downs which had been partially robbed of its representation—with those exceptions the remainder of the Committee had been "squared"—simply squared. That was the proper term to use in that case. For instance, the Darling Downs group had been squared, so had the East Moreton group, and the North had been amply squared. If the North had not got two additional members its representatives would have assisted the Ipswich and West Moreton members with all the ability they possessed to throw the Bill out rather than it should go on. But now they were satisfied, and being satisfied they said: "We can afford to sacrifice West Moreton; what do we care about the people there? they have no interest in common with us. It does not matter to us whether injustice is done to them or not. We have got all we want. That's all we care about." Those hon. members talked about getting another additional member. He did not suppose they expected to get another, but if they did they would be in a position to do what they wished, and that was, as soon as the new House was elected, to relegate the present Government to the other side of the House. He contended that a matter of that sort had no right to be introduced when considering a Bill of that description. The Premier professed that no interest of that kind weighed with him, and he quite believed the hon. gentleman, and that his desire was to pass the Bill in its integrity. If he had done so there would have been no complaint—no obstruction; they should have considered that they were all treated alike or at any rate somewhat similarly. But such had not been the case, and as he had stated, "squaring" all round had taken place. Or they

might call it log-rolling, as the hon. member for Gympie had done, or another term, sometimes called "bribery," but they would scarcely apply a term of that sort to it. The colonial term "squaring" was the best after all. All the groups he had mentioned had been squared, and the other electorates near the town had been carved out in such a way that metropolitan candidates would be returned for those constituencies. However, he had reiterated those remarks so many times that it was not much use going over them again. Perhaps it would be better to enter upon a course of reading for the edification of the Chairman than to go over the same ground again. The hon. member for Mackay had dwelt upon the position which the Ipswich and the Moreton members had taken up on that matter, and had spoken of the Bill as a good and fair one. And how nicely he insinuated the idea that it would have possibly something to do with satisfying the feeling of the North as to future expectations! He (Mr. Foote) wondered what was meant by that. Perhaps before the end of next week that hon. gentleman would come out with something quite the reverse. His (Mr. Foote's) experience of the last two years had been that the North had been exceedingly well dealt with. In fact, the Premier had been simply courting the North. They had got all they wanted and a great deal more. Not only had they had an Additional Members Bill passed, but they had had the sugar problem solved—the growing of cane by white labour. They had had their kanakas returned to the islands, and the sugar-planters had made much more ample profit out of returning their islanders than if they had retained them to labour and produce their crops. In fact, he did not know what had not been done for them. The decentralisation scheme might satisfy the North for a few years, but even that would be found to be expensive and unsatisfactory, and would very much increase the burdens of the taxpayers. Well, as it appeared to be a case of merely sitting it out—a matter of physical strength—they must simply try what they could do, and he hoped and trusted they would be equal to the task.

The PREMIER said he confessed he did not know what hon. members were fighting for. He believed he knew what the hon. member for Bundamba was contending for; he did not want the Bill to pass. Yesterday evening the hon. member said West Moreton should have eight members, and he (the Premier) pointed out that it was not entitled by population to eight members, and that where the additional population was, was in the Fassifern electorate. They wanted another member for a district the population of which was too small to entitle it to another member, and he had pointed out that it would be necessary to join part of Fassifern to Logan or part of Logan to Fassifern, and that was proposed to be done by the Bill. First, hon. members said they would be contented to leave the old boundary between East and West Moreton as it was, so long as there were eight members on the West Moreton side of it, and he pointed out that it would be necessary to take in a small population to justify that. He was willing to do that. Now, what were they fighting about? A distance of about five or ten miles in boundary—a purely arbitrary line existing now, and proposed to be shifted five or ten miles. It would take in the country west of the Albert River, and possibly Beenleigh. Now, what was the contention after all? When he made his proposition yesterday, those hon. members at once said they would go no further. They declined to discuss the question any further unless Fassifern returned two members, and at that point the discussion stopped. Now, the hon. members said

they were not contending for that, and he would like to know what they were contending for. At what particular point on the Logan River did Ipswich influence end and Brisbane influence begin? He did not know. There was another point. Since it was suggested that Fassifern should be divided into two, the hon. members said, "We are not willing to agree to that, because the eastern one will be an East Moreton electorate." Well, if it was an East Moreton electorate, how could West Moreton claim an additional member in respect of it? Hon. members should take up some clear and definite standpoint, but if they did not know their own minds, and contradicted each statement they made, it was difficult to advance matters. Did the eastern part of Fassifern belong to East or West Moreton? He believed it would return a member whose politics were an unknown quantity, but hon. members said it belonged to East Moreton, and if so how could they claim an additional member for West Moreton in respect of it? He really wished he understood what hon. members meant. He was sure he had shown every desire to meet them justly. It was impossible to give an additional member to the south-eastern portion of the colony. If an additional member was given it must be taken from the East Moreton group, and if it was to be taken, let it be taken fairly and honestly; but hon. members would not discuss the question from any point of view that he could get hold of. The hon. member for Stanley, Mr. Kellett, said the whole point was that they must not extend the north-eastern corner of the Fassifern electorate to get additional population. Now let him compare the figures. The old Fassifern electorate contained 5,811 people—1,601 adults. Was that enough for two members? There must be some additional population taken from somewhere. The new Fassifern electorate, which took in part of Bundamba, contained 4,786 people, and 1,328 adults, and there was a railway under construction when the census was taken. It was quite evident it could not have two members without taking population from somewhere. They could not give two members to 1,600 adults. They could not go up to Nanango to make up the population of Fassifern. The fact was that the West Moreton group was well treated. Ipswich was the smallest double electorate in the colony, and a great deal might be said in favour of a proposition to extend the boundaries of Ipswich. If that had been done, as was done in the case of Rockhampton, it would have been hard work to find room for the other five members.

Mr. SALKELD said, besides the eleven members that the Brisbane and East Moreton electorates returned he had found there were fifteen members representing other constituencies who resided in Brisbane or its suburbs. They were really Brisbane members. He could give all the names, though if he did he might be charged with obstruction. None of the representatives of other districts resided in the West Moreton district, and two of the West Moreton representatives resided in Brisbane. Members for other districts resided in Brisbane. There was the hon. leader of the Opposition.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Do you want me to live in Ipswich?

Mr. SALKELD said he did not think the hon. member would go up that way, but he would if he thought there was an opening for him there like he considered there was in Fortitude Valley. If there were an opening in West Moreton for any member sitting on the other side of the Committee, it would not be for the hon. leader of the Opposition.

Mr. MOREHEAD: The hon. member for Fassifern offered me his seat if I would go there.

Mr. SALKELD said perhaps the hon. member for Fassifern wished to sell his seat; he did not think the hon. member for Balonne would have to pay very much for it. As he had been saying, there were the leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Normanby, the hon. member for Bowen, the hon. member for Leichhardt, the hon. member for Carnarvon, two hon. members for Cook, the hon. member for Rosewood, the hon. member for Stanley, and one, if not both, the hon. members for Townsville, and some others. There were from twenty-six to thirty hon. members who resided in Brisbane and its suburbs, and that accounted for the Government having Brisbane and the metropolitan constituencies so under-represented. But that did not apply to West Moreton, and yet the Government wished to class that district with Brisbane, which was not fair. Instead of being classed with the metropolis, from what he had heard during the debate, he had come to the conclusion that they might beware of some of the members for the metropolitan constituencies. He did not think those gentlemen would consider West Moreton for a moment. There should be no "bulcocking" up his way next time, so far as he could help it; there was an end to that kind of influence. He wished the Committee to see that the argument he had just referred to had fallen to the ground entirely. They had heard some very hot speeches; but he did not think the debate would have taken the turn it had in that respect had it not been for the junior member for North Brisbane, who put his stick on the bench, adjusted his spectacles, and made a long speech. When that hon. member was on the black labour question he fired his shot at the hon. member for Mackay opposite to him; but when he fired in his (Mr. Salkeld's) direction, it was at too much of an angle and the shot glanced off and did not take effect.

Mr. W. BROOKES: Rubbish!

Mr. SALKELD said if the hon. member's shots did take effect they did so in the wrong way. He did not know whether the Premier had any control over the hon. member; but if he had he should keep him in his place. He did not suppose that the Government had any intention of granting an additional member to West Moreton. Another matter he would like to refer to was the covert threat of the Premier last night. If it was a covert threat, he would treat it exactly as it deserved. But there seemed to be a threat that the West Moreton members would suffer for taking the action they had on the present occasion. So far as his constituents were concerned, he did not believe that they cared for threats of that kind at all. Such threats were very much out of place. If all the Government expenditure were taken away, Ipswich could live, and exist, and do very well without it.

The PREMIER: I did not refer to anything of the sort.

Mr. SALKELD said the Premier might have meant something else; he hoped he did not mean what he was understood to mean. Arguments of that kind would have no effect. As to the remarks about hon. members looking after their seats, he did not know what were the views of the hon. member for Bundamba or of any other member. He only spoke for himself, and so far as he was concerned the Bill would not affect his seat in any shape or form whatever. If he were looking at it from simply an Ipswich point of view, he would say let the Bill go. But he was speaking for the whole of the West Moreton electorates,

If they had been further west or north, their claims would have a great deal more weight; as it was, they were too near the metropolis.

Mr. SCOTT said he did not know much about the boundaries of the Fassifern or the West Moreton district; but he was very glad to hear the remark made by the Premier, that he had followed the natural boundaries of the districts, as great benefits would arise from that in future. There were police districts, brands districts, pastoral districts, and several other districts; and the sooner the boundaries of those districts were brought into unison the better. He would let the Government know the state of affairs in that respect that prevailed in his own district, and how matters stood in regard to one particular head station. As he had said, it was in the pastoral district of Leichhardt; and if any pastoral business had to be done, it had to be done in Brisbane. In the event of any brands business being done, they had to go to Springsure; if there were any police business, they had to go to Emerald; if there were any divisional board business, they had to go to Capella, and if it were any electoral business they had to go to St. Lawrence. At one head station they had to go to all those places, simply because the boundaries of the different districts were not kept in unison, and there had been no attempt to make them so. There were many other stations in the same position, and he should be very glad if there were well-defined boundaries.

The PREMIER said great attention had been paid of late to the question, and a commission had sat, consisting of the heads of the different departments which were concerned in the administration of those districts. A great number of changes had been made, and so far as practicable the boundaries had been assimilated. In framing the present Bill they had, as far as possible, followed the police district boundaries and divisional board boundaries. The greatest care had been given to the subject, and whenever a boundary was now changed it was always made to correspond with some other, so that he thought the difficulty would soon be got over. Great attention had been paid to the subject since the commission sat two years ago.

Mr. DICKSON said he thought the time had arrived when a few words of moderate counsel might be offered without offence to the hon. members interested in that question. He was sure that the hon. gentlemen who were advocating the claims of the West Moreton electorates could not or ought not to complain of the desire of every individual member of that Committee to listen to their arguments, and to do full justice to the constituencies they represented. He could assure them that, so far as he was concerned, he had listened with very marked attention and interest, and he would also add with a certain amount of sympathy, to the claims they had put forward, and had their claims been so formed that they would not do injury to the other portions of the colony he should have acceded to their views. But on looking at the manner in which the different electorates were dovetailed into each other, he could not see how their claim could be granted without seriously interfering with and embarrassing the adjoining electorates. The claims of the hon. gentlemen, to his mind, and which commended themselves to his warmest sympathy, rested on the ground that had the original boundaries of the West Moreton group of electorates been maintained—and he believed their demand would have been consistent in that case—they would have been entitled to eight members, but it was impossible, so far as he could see, under the present redistribution to do so, because that would not afford sufficient population on

which to base representation for Stanley and Laidley. It would have been impossible to retain the original boundaries of the West Moreton group of electorates without seriously interfering with the quota of representation necessary to confer representation on the adjoining electorates. Now, there came in the difficulty—and he did not think any practical suggestion had been made by those hon. members to show that, without disturbance of the quota of population necessary for the representation of the adjoining electorates, they could maintain the integrity of the original divisions of the West Moreton electorates. He confessed it was an extremely perplexing question. Viewed simply in the light of a local matter he felt for the claim made by the hon. members a certain amount of sympathy, and that he had extended to them, in desiring to see how their claim could be accomplished. He could not see, for the reasons he had mentioned, how their original position could be restored, and if they confined their attention to the Fassifern electorate, which had now taken from it the eastern portion to be incorporated with Nerang, he could not see how the eastern portion of Fassifern would by itself be sufficient to provide population for separate representation. The question was narrowed down to that. If Fassifern were given two members, the West Moreton members said they would be satisfied—that was, that the additional member conferred through the eastern portion of Fassifern would raise the number of West Moreton members to eight. He considered that the eastern portion of Fassifern belonged neither to Ipswich nor to Brisbane. It seemed to him to be a neutral territory. If there was a population sufficient to justify a member for the eastern portion now intended to be incorporated with Nerang, he should be disposed to grant an additional member for the district, because of its growing importance, and not for the purpose merely of giving an additional member to West Moreton. The matter had been thoroughly thrashed out, and the West Moreton members must see that both sides of the Committee would be willing to support them if a sufficiently good case had been made out. Those hon. members had ably argued and debated the matter, but the facts were against them, and he could not see how, without disturbing the symmetry of the whole Bill, an additional member could now be conceded to West Moreton. The hon. members for West Moreton had discharged their duty to their constituents ably and intelligently, but if they pressed the matter further they would exhibit to the Committee and the country their belief that a very large majority of the members of the Committee were prejudiced against West Moreton and unwilling to do an act of substantial justice. The inexorable logic of facts and figures was against them, and on that account he could not give them his support on the present occasion. He would put the present position of affairs before those hon. members. They had really not made a very great amount of progress during the session in useful legislation, and they could not continue in session for many months longer. The warm weather was coming on, and there was a great deal of essential public business to be performed; the Estimates had yet to be carefully considered, and they had to provide appropriation for carrying on the financial business of the country. After the attention that had been given to the hon. members for West Moreton in submitting their claims to the Committee, and finding they had not obtained a single convert through their representations, and that all their arguments had

been met by counter arguments from the Premier which commended themselves to both sides of the Committee irrespective of party, those hon. members might fairly accept the position and consider they had done all as public representatives they were called upon to do, and not prevent the transaction of the business of the country, which admitted of no further delay. He could see no mode of compromising the present dispute or he would be glad to suggest it, and it seemed to him that if those hon. members persisted in their present opposition they would imperil the passage of the Bill, which he believed would be found of very great benefit to all parts of the colony, including even the North, though his hon. friend the member for Townsville was not quite satisfied with the representation the North had received.

Mr. FOOTE said he was glad to receive the address delivered by the hon. member who had just sat down. The advice was good, the statements were truthful, and what he had said was in the interests of the colony, which were paramount to all other interests. The West Moreton members thought last night they were on the verge of arranging the difficulty. The Premier stated that he was willing to make some alterations in reference to Rosewood, Bundamba, and Fassifern; but when he was asked to give Fassifern two members he declined to do so. If the boundaries had been so arranged as to give Fassifern two members there would have been an end of the difficulty, and he thought the concession was a very small one and might have been granted. They were quite prepared to meet the Premier in the matter, and have the difficulty settled at once.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said there seemed to be a general attempt to try and bring the members representing the West Moreton group to that state of mind, which would allow the Government to go on with the rest of the Bill. When the addition to the group was first proposed about eight days ago he sympathised with the West Moreton members on the ground that they had as good a claim for additional representation as the Darling Downs—an opinion which he held still. He was not going to advocate any increase to Southern members, though expressing sympathy with them, because his sympathy arose from the fact that the Darling Downs group had received an additional member, bringing the average number of adult males down to 1,016 per member, whereas the average in the West Moreton group was about 150 beyond that. But neither side seemed to have anything beyond sympathy—and not that in every case—for those members who were insisting on having an additional member; and he thought that, having done their duty to themselves and to their constituents, they might now allow the matter to go. If they did not, however, he would not be one to assist in crushing them. If they were fully convinced that they were entitled to an additional member, and if they used the forms of the House to attain their object—as he had seen done repeatedly during the last twelve years—he for one would not assist the Government to crush them out. Other members might do as they pleased. As to public opinion, if they had the goodwill and support of their constituents, that was public opinion so far as they were concerned. If it were a Northern question and he had the support of Northern constituencies, he would not care one straw for the opinion of Southern members or of the southern part of the colony, but would act according to what he believed to be the opinion of the people he represented. In that respect he sympathised with the West Moreton members. They had done their duty

manfully, but they must admit that the majority must rule, or business must come to a standstill. Of course there was another alternative, which he should be sorry to hear of being adopted, and which he would not mention—hon. members probably knew what he meant. Though they were convinced in their own minds that they were right, if they could not convince the majority, they could not expect the majority to give in. The majority must rule, and the minority must give in if they could not convince the majority and make them come round to their way of thinking. In the present case those forming the minority had done their duty well, but they had not been able to effect the conversion of hon. members who formed the majority, and it was now time they should give way. He should like to see the Bill pass, as most hon. members would, but he would not weep many tears if it were withdrawn, because he felt quite certain that even then the North could not remain long without its proper share of representation. They would be bound to get an additional members Bill which would give the North quite as full representation in that Chamber as was proposed in the Bill before the Committee. But as it was the general desire to have the Bill passed, he advised the West Moreton members to accept the position the Premier had placed before them and accept it with as much grace as they possibly could.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he felt very grateful for the sympathy expressed by hon. members. The contention of the West Moreton members was that if the original boundaries were maintained they would be entitled to an additional member, though they admitted that under the present Bill they were not entitled to more than seven. A good deal of the difficulty might have been avoided if the Premier had stuck to the Bill as originally introduced, or even if he had consulted his party in reference to any proposed alterations instead of leaving them in the dark. When an additional member was given to Darling Downs he (Mr. Macfarlane) was not present, and he was thunderstruck the next morning to find that the principle of the Bill had been departed from. He thought hon. members would agree that that was a grievance to the West Moreton district. He maintained that they had a good case, and that if they did not get an additional member, it would be said that they had not been properly dealt with. A little attention on the part of the Premier in consulting his party more than he generally did would have gone a long way to prevent some of the disagreeable discussion that had taken place.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he did not think the matter had been fairly stated, either by the hon. member who had just sat down or by the hon. member for Townsville, Mr. Macrossan, with regard to the Darling Downs group. He thought it was an unfortunate thing that the system of groups had been adopted in the Bill; it would have been much better had each district stood on its own merits. Hon. members must be aware that the reason an additional member was granted, not to the Darling Downs group, but to the Darling Downs and Southern pastoral groups combined, was that the Southern pastoral group was not adequately represented under the original Bill, and an adjustment had been made, which very fairly equalised the representation of the Southern pastoral group and the Darling Downs group, whose boundaries were contiguous. The electorates cut out by the adjustment of boundaries were quite up to the quota of any other district represented in the Bill. It was unfair to try and base on that any arguments for giving West Moreton another member. The Premier had expressed his willingness to modify

the boundaries—the really non-existing and fictitious boundaries—between the East and West Moreton groups, and to carve out single electorates there as he had done in the Darling Downs and Southern pastoral groups. That being so, he (Mr. Morehead) did not see what reason West Moreton had to complain. The hon. member for Townsville had pointed out that a great increase of population in the North would be fairly met by an additional members Bill, and the same argument would apply to West Moreton or any other part of the colony. If the hon. member for Fassifern and the hon. member for Bundamba could at any future time prove their contention that there was a much larger population in those districts than was shown by the last census returns, he was certain that the House would be quite prepared to give an additional member.

Mr. SALKELD: Fortitude Valley, to wit.

Mr. MOREHEAD said, never mind "Fortitude Valley, to wit." "Fortitude Valley, to wit," was quite prepared to answer for itself, and he (Mr. Morehead) was not there to speak for Fortitude Valley; he spoke for the electorate he represented—Balonne. While on that question he might mention that the boundaries of Balonne had been very materially altered by the Bill; but he did not object to the alterations, because he thought they were properly made; and they were consequent upon the amalgamation he had spoken of between the Southern pastoral and the Darling Downs groups. Whether that electorate returned him was not a question that affected him very much, so long as he was doing what he conceived to be just. It did not matter to him how his electorate might be altered. Seeing that the House had invariably granted additional members when the necessity for them was proved, he thought the West Moreton representatives need be under no fear, assured as they appeared to be that the population in those districts was increasing at a rapid rate. When that increase was proved to the House to be such as to entitle them to another member, there would be no difficulty in their getting one. Now the West Moreton members had fought the good fight, and fought it very well. The hon. member for Bundamba had not only been imposing in his arguments as far as they went, but he had presented them in a most amusing way to the Committee. But he hoped that, having gone as far as their duty demanded, those hon. members would see their way to withdraw their opposition to a measure which, even admitting for the sake of argument that it did slight injustice in a particular direction, would be at any rate of great benefit to the country at large.

Mr. KELLETT said the hon. member for Townsville had hit the right nail on the head when he said that it was the giving of an additional member to Darling Downs which had brought about the present dissatisfaction in the West Moreton group. They might just as fairly ask that East and West Moreton should be joined together and given two or three more members. They considered that they were better entitled to a member than Darling Downs. As for public opinion being against them, it had been very properly said that their public opinion was the public opinion in the district they represented, and he was sure that all the people in the West Moreton districts were satisfied that they had not got fair play. They had done all they could; they had argued with the Premier, but the hon. gentleman had made up his mind not to understand anything. The hon. gentleman would not understand. He (Mr. Kellett) thought he had spoken as plainly as any man trying to speak the Queen's English could

speak, and yet the hon. gentleman could not understand. The hon. gentleman's brains must be getting a good deal worse than they were, because he had very good brains at one time; but perhaps the anxiety of the session had weakened his brain-power, otherwise he must have understood the arguments. Even supposing his (Mr. Kellett's) were not good enough, the arguments brought by seven members conjoined must have had something in them.

The PREMIER: You do not use the same argument twice.

Mr. KELLETT said he had never said anything different. The Premier had something different to say every time he got up. If the hon. gentleman would look over his own speeches before they were corrected, he would find that he had made very different statements at different times. At one time the hon. gentleman stated that he would adhere to the old boundaries of Fassifern, but afterwards said he would add a corner of East Moreton on to it. Was that adhering to the original boundaries? Was that common sense? He left it to the hon. gentleman's colleague, the junior member for North Brisbane, to say if he could back up that statement, and say there was any argument in it.

Mr. W. BROOKES: Yes, there is.

Mr. KELLETT said he knew the hon. member would back up the Premier, no matter what he said. If the Premier said he was standing on his head, the junior member for North Brisbane would say, "That is all right, it is the proper place for him." The fight had been one which none of them liked. Stonewalling, or anything like it, was against his (Mr. Kellett's) grain. He always wished to say all he had to say in a few words, and did not like repeating the same thing over and over again. On the previous evening they thought they were going to get what they wanted, but suddenly the Premier changed his mind and stated that he would give them something else. The hon. gentleman mentioned then that he proposed to make some alterations in the electorate of Stanley, to bring in the parish of Kilcoy, and not take the line beyond Crow's Nest at that end of the electorate. He hoped the Premier would not draw back from that promise in the same way as he had from his promise respecting the boundaries of Fassifern. They had shown repeatedly in figures that the two adjoining electorates of Bundamba and Fassifern were entitled to three members. The adult male population of those electorates was 3,200, and the general population 11,487. Dividing those numbers by 3, they would have for each member an adult male population of 1,066, while the proportion of the general population would be 3,829. They therefore considered that those districts were fairly entitled to three members, and that they were unfairly treated by the arrangement in the Bill. But the Premier took no notice of anything they said, though he readily took notice of anything said on the other side of the Committee. Whether the hon. gentleman was going to amalgamate with the Opposition after the present session closed he did not know, but there must be some arrangement for that purpose. However, he thought they had fought their fight as far as it was advisable to fight it, considering that they did not wish to keep back the business of the country, and that it was desirable to close the session as soon as possible. It had been a very unsatisfactory session, and ought not to have been lengthened to the period it had reached, considering what was the state of parties at the commencement. Probably if the Premier did not understand him he would be understood by persons outside. The hon. gentleman only

liked those persons who could not say "booh" to him; he did not like those with whom he disagreed. He (Mr. Kellett) could not, however, follow the hon. gentleman in everything, even if his ability was transcendent over that of every other man, as the hon. gentleman appeared to think it was. It was evident that unless a member agreed with him in everything, the Premier would not help him in anything personal to himself or relating to his district.

The PREMIER said he did not quite know what the hon. member meant by his speech. He was afraid he was getting stupid, and very likely he had not sufficient intellect or brain-power to enable him to discern what the hon. member meant. He had given all the explanation he had to make on the subject and could not give any further information. He had not the slightest idea now what hon. members were contending for. Last night they said they wanted two members for Fassifern. Now they did not want two members for Fassifern, but they wanted to divide the electorate, and did not want to alter the original boundaries. Possibly they had best confine themselves to the amendment before the Committee, which was that Fassifern return two members. He had nothing further to add on that subject, and he did not propose to further occupy the time of the Committee by repeating what he had already said.

Mr. FOOTE said the hon. gentleman professed not to understand what they wanted now. The farther they went the worse the matter became. The hon. gentleman seemed determined not to see what they wanted, and only reiterated again and again that he did not understand them. He (Mr. Foote) had asked just now, before the hon. member for Stanley, Mr. Kellett, spoke, whether the Premier intended to carry out the idea he enunciated the previous evening in reference to altering the boundaries of Rosewood so that it should embrace the valley of the Bremer, and leave the Bundamba electorate intact, and also take an additional area into Fassifern. The hon. gentleman stated on the previous evening that he was prepared to do that, but now he said he did not understand what they wanted. If they could not make any better compromise than that they were prepared to accept it. What he wished to know was whether the hon. gentleman was willing to make the same compromise as he professed to be willing to make on the previous evening. Of course if the hon. gentleman did not, he could say "No."

The Hon. G. THORN said he did not wish to take up the time of the Committee any further in discussing the matter. Some hon. members had expressed their sympathy with the stand that had been taken, but they wanted more than their sympathy—they wanted their votes. As, however, hon. members did not seem inclined to give them their votes, and he wished to see the business proceeded with, he was prepared to withdraw his amendment that Fassifern should return two members. When he proposed that, he did not intend to increase the representation of the southern part of the colony, but suggested that they should put Nerang into Fassifern, and make it a double electorate without increasing the southern representation in the least, and that they should retain almost the present boundaries of Fassifern. With the permission of the Committee, he would withdraw his amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The PREMIER said it would be as well, before going further, if hon. members would explain what their views were as to the propositions he made last night, so that the Govern

ment might have the benefit of their advice. The first of those propositions was to extend Rosewood southward instead of eastward, so as to take in the whole of the division of Muddapilly—that was the valley of the Bremer River, extending eastward to Warrill Creek, instead of extending it eastward into Bundanba. To carry that out it would be necessary also to extend it a little on the west to make up the population, taking in the parish of Grandchester, and all that part of the division of Walloon. That would bring up the population to about what it was at present. Consequent on that, Bundanba would have to have taken off it the southern portion, that was, part of the parish of Purga, and portion of the parish of Bundanba, which would be thrown into Fassifern, with which would also be thrown the parishes of Undullah and Maclean. The eastern boundary of Fassifern would then be the western watershed of the Logan River, of course, excluding Dugandan and Teviot, and that part which must be in Fassifern. The result of that would be to diminish to some extent the population of the electorate of Laidley, as it was called in the Bill, which would therefore have to be extended a little to the northward, following the northern boundary of the division of Tarampa, which, he believed, would be quite as convenient a boundary as the present one, if not more so. That would diminish Stanley to a small extent, which might be made up by taking in the parish of Kilcoy, which by the Bill was part of Moreton; he was also disposed to include the district of Nanango in Stanley if it was practicable to do so. The only other question then remaining would be whether the remainder of Fassifern and Logan should remain as they were, with a north-and-south or an east-and-west boundary. If hon. members would express their opinions on those points he should be very much obliged to them.

Mr. FOOTE said he quite approved of the proposed changes, and he believed they would be accepted by the Committee.

Mr. STEVENS said he did not quite understand what had fallen from the Premier, but if the arrangement he proposed entailed transferring a portion of Logan into Fassifern, or retaining in Fassifern that part which was really a part of Logan, he could not agree to it. As he had said before, the residents of the eastern portion of Fassifern had been trying for years to be joined to Logan, and in their interests he would not agree to any other plan than that. He was quite content to accept the boundaries of the Nerang and Logan electorates as they stood in the Bill.

The PREMIER said, with regard to the alterations he had suggested, he hoped to have the necessary amendments and the maps showing the proposed alterations ready by Tuesday. He should like to know if hon. members had any objections to offer or any suggestions to make with respect to the proposed alterations. Hon. members had told him privately that the north-west boundary of Rosewood as proposed in the Bill was much better than the line he had suggested, being in reality the top of the Little Liverpool Range. Then there was the question about Nanango. It would be necessary to decide whether it should be included in Stanley or not, and also whether it was desirable to extend Laidley to the northward or leave it as it was.

Mr. SALKELD said, seeing that only seven members would remain to West Moreton, he did not see the necessity for including Nanango in Stanley unless the people of Nanango wished it. Of course the line suggested was the natural

boundary, and all the Nanango trade went to Ipswich; and although, as he had said, there was no necessity for doing so, he would have no objection to taking Nanango into Stanley.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. B. B. Moreton) said, as far as he understood the wishes of that portion of his constituency, they did not wish to be included in Stanley; they preferred the electorate as it was now carved out.

Mr. FOOTE said that if Nanango continued to progress as it had been doing during the last few months it would soon have enough population to entitle it to return a representative of its own. It did not matter very much in what electorate it was placed, because it was quite clear from what had come under his notice that the mining interests were of such a character that there would soon be a great number of people on the ground. The country round about there was capable of supporting a very large population, and judging from prospects that had been shown the digging interest would employ a very large number of people. Until recently the population had been very scattered, but it was likely to increase very much within the next few years.

Mr. KELLETT said he could only say that they could not get much out of the Premier. They had kept up their opposition as long as they could, and were now obliged to accept the proposed compromise, although it was all on one side. They found they could do no better than they had done, and would now have to accept the position as gracefully as they could. It was now proposed to accept the boundaries proposed by the Premier, which, at all events, would be more equitable than those contained in the Bill.

Mr. BULCOCK said he would like to know what difference it would make to the number of electors of Moreton if the parish of Kilcoy was included in Stanley. It was proposed in the Bill to make it part of Moreton, he had always understood that the connection of the settlers at Kilcoy was with Brisbane and not with Ipswich, and that that parish should be in the electorate of Moreton rather than in Stanley. It would be better to have the number in Stanley rather less, than to include the parish of Kilcoy in it.

Mr. BROWN said he would like to make the suggestion to the Chief Secretary that "Nerang" should not be the name of that electorate. He did not think the name appropriate, and would suggest "Albert" instead. There was some reason in that, because the two principal rivers of the district were the Logan and Albert. One of the electorates was called the Logan, and the other might very well be called the Albert.

The PREMIER said if the hon. member would renew the suggestion when they came to "Nerang," he should be obliged to him. He did not like the name of "Nerang." He had now to propose to insert the words "Flinders, one member," but before that was done he understood the question was to be raised as to whether "Fitzroy" was a good name. The people of the district, he was informed, would much prefer the electorate to be called "North Rockhampton." He knew it would give great satisfaction to them, and he saw no reason why the alteration should not be made. He therefore moved that the words "Fitzroy, one member," be omitted, with a view of inserting later on "North Rockhampton, one member."

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

The PREMIER moved that after "Fassifern, one member," the words "Flinders, one member," be inserted.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER said the next question that would be raised was with reference to the name "Laidley." It had been suggested that the name was rather localised. In putting in that name he had thought of Laidley Plains and Laidley district, but it had been objected to as being too much localised. There was a great creek that ran through the whole district, the Lockyer Creek, and he believed "Lockyer" would be a better name. The two districts would then be "Lockyer" and "Stanley." He would therefore move, if there was no previous motion, that the words "Laidley, one member," be omitted with a view of inserting "Lockyer, one member."

Mr. WHITE said there were the names of "Grantham" and "Clarendon," which were very nice names, and he did not know that one of them would not be even better than "Lockyer." "Laidley" was a very nice name, but the people of Gatton, which was the centre of the district, objected to it. Then there was the native name of Gatton, "Moona," which would be preferable to "Gatton." He thought, perhaps, that some of those names might be preferred to "Lockyer."

The PREMIER said "Grantham" was open to the same objection as "Laidley." It was a purely local name. "Lockyer" was an historical name, and the suggestion to adopt it had commended itself to him as soon as it was made.

The HON. G. THORN said the suggestion of the Premier was a very good one—namely, that one part of the district be called "Stanley," and the other "Lockyer." "Grantham" was the name of a small pastoral property, and "Clarendon" was also the name of a station.

Mr. KELLETT said he thought "Lockyer" was a very proper name. Lockyer Creek ran from one end of the district to the other. It was a great source of difficulty to get over it with stock in the old time, and he thought the name very appropriate and certainly much better than "Laidley," "Gatton," "Clarendon," or "Grantham."

The PREMIER moved that "Laidley, one member," be omitted, with a view of inserting "Lockyer, one member."

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said, concerning Fortitude Valley, it had been thought that it would be an improvement if the electorate were carried to Breakfast Creek, to make a natural boundary in that direction. It would take a few hundred electors from Toombul, and add them to the Valley; but there was a great deal to commend the suggestion that the boundary should be a natural boundary.

The PREMIER said he had intimated the other day that that matter had been under the consideration of the Government and they intended to propose the change. It would make the population of Fortitude Valley a good deal larger, and would necessitate the extension of Toombul westward. He intimated then that there might be some difficulty as to the best boundary; but since then he had had an opportunity of considering the matter and ascertaining the extent to which population was extending there. He believed by extending the boundary of Toombul from the Bowen Bridge road to the western boundary of the shire of Windsor they could get a convenient natural boundary, and the population would not be altered

more than by a hundred or so. The population of Enoggera would be decreased somewhat from what it appeared in the Bill—namely, considerably over 6,000. But the population, however, was rapidly increasing, and he did not suppose the alteration would make it really less at the present time than it appeared on the paper. The Government, therefore, proposed to adopt the boundaries he had suggested, and the maps would be altered accordingly. He now proposed that the words "Laidley, one member," be omitted, with a view of inserting after the words "Leichhardt, one member," the words "Lockyer, one member."

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER said the next line was "Logan, one member," and unless some very good reason was shown he proposed to adhere to the division proposed in the Bill. From the best information he could get, the division east and west would give more satisfaction than that north and south, and therefore he would not propose any alteration.

The HON. G. THORN said he would point out to the Premier that the people who had been taken away from Fassifern were anxious that the line should be a north-and-south one. There had been two meetings—one at Beaudesert and one at Veresdale—and it was their opinion that a line following the valley of the Logan would be preferable. There was more identity of interest between the people on the Upper and Lower Logan than between Upper Logan and Southport. He regretted that the Premier had not seen his way to run the line north and south as he had suggested, as there was a far better boundary—namely, the Darlington Range, which commenced at the Macpherson Range, the southern boundary of the colony, and ran down near to Yatala. It was a high range all the way and a good watershed, and would be a better boundary than an east-and-west line.

Mr. GRIMES said he thought the boundary between Logan and Nerang as defined in the Bill would meet with general approval throughout the two electorates. There was one corner of the electorate named by the hon. member for Fassifern where they objected, but if they were to alter the boundaries to north and south instead of east and west there would be stronger objection taken to it. They could not do better than leave it as it was.

The HON. G. THORN said he would point out to the hon. members for Oxley and Logan that the part of the Logan he had referred to would very shortly contain a larger proportion of population when the railway line was constructed. People living on the upper part of the Logan would have to follow down the valley of the Logan by rail to Beenleigh, thence to Southport. They would have to go through another electorate in going from one part of their own electorate to another. It would be better to give the selectors in the valley of the Logan a member to themselves; and that could be done by drawing the line north and south. The Nerang people wanted to make Nerang their headquarters, and that was the reason of their opposition. They were the people who desired the east-and-west line proposed by the Premier. Notwithstanding the meeting that took place at Nerang, he contended the bulk of the inhabitants there were in favour of the north-and-south line.

Mr. STEVENS said the hon. gentleman was continually referring to those meetings which took place at Beaudesert and Veresdale, and would now lead them to believe that the expression of opinion was different from what he said it was last night. There was no doubt that

the opinions of the people in the two districts were exercised on the subject. Whichever line was drawn there would be some amount of dissatisfaction. If the hon. member had revealed exactly what was within his knowledge, he would have pointed out that the north-and-south line proposed by those meetings was quite different from the north-and-south line proposed by the meetings in other parts of the Logan district. He had considered the matter fully, and in the interests generally of the two electorates he thought it would be best to stick to the east-and-west boundaries. It would settle the dispute once and for all, and in course of time those who were now dissatisfied with the proposal would become satisfied with it. The hon. member had repeated the fiction about people from Beenleigh who wished to go to Southport having to go out of their electorate to do so. They need not go out of the electorate at all. It was a rather rough piece of country they would go over; but a gentleman had lately driven over it with a four-in-hand buggy. The hon. member repeated another fiction about the Beaudesert people having more in common with Dugandan than with Southport or Beenleigh. It was not so, because the range had to be got over; and though the distance was only nineteen miles as the crow flew, to go by a road fit to travel a person would have to travel about ninety miles. The hon. gentleman mentioned so many names of stations that, unless the Committee knew the country well, they might easily be deceived.

The HON. G. THORN said he did not believe the hon. member for Logan knew anything about that country. He had himself been all through it many years ago, and knew it thoroughly. He was sorry he had not got the paper he had last evening, showing the figures of population taking the valley of the Logan instead of the east-and-west line. He could assure the hon. member that the people in that part of the district were not at all anxious to be stuck on to Southport, and if the present proposal were carried the people of that part would very shortly clamour to be restored to the old Fassifern electorate.

Mr. GRIMES said the hon. member had been through the district before it was populated, and since it had become populated he had hardly been in the district at all. The hon. member did not express the opinion of the people concerning the division of the electorates, because the boundaries as proposed were satisfactory to the residents of those electorates.

The HON. G. THORN said there was a considerable township at Beaudesert, and there was a bank there and a number of buildings going up round the place. He believed that before six months were over it would be a much larger place than Beenleigh.

The PREMIER moved that after the words "Mulgrave, one member," the words "Murilla, one member," be inserted.

Amendment agreed to.

The PREMIER said that the hon. member for Townsville, Mr. Brown, had suggested that "Albert" was a better name than "Nerang," and he agreed with that suggestion.

The HON. G. THORN said that he would move that the words "Nerang, one member," be omitted, with a view of inserting the words "Albert, one member."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said that "Nerang" seemed a more appropriate name, because it was the name of the chief river in the electorate.

The HON. G. THORN said the Albert was the chief river in the electorate. Perhaps the hon. gentleman was not aware of the meaning of the word "Nerang." The word meant "small," and an hon. member for that district might not like to be called a "little member."

Amendment agreed to.

The PREMIER moved that after the word "Normanby, one member," the words "North Rockhampton, one member," be inserted.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MELLOR said that in connection with the Wide Bay electorate he wished to suggest that the boundary of the electorate should be the Mary River instead of the Tiaro road. The river was a much better boundary than the road, and the proposed alteration of the boundary would not make very much difference in the population in the district.

The PREMIER said the Government had had that matter under consideration, and they proposed to adopt the suggestion, and make the Mary River the boundary. Another suggestion had been made with respect to the boundary of the Burnett district, and it was suggested that the Isis Scrub should remain in the Burrum electorate; and he was disposed to think that would be better. Of course the population of Burnett was small, but it had since been largely increased by the mining population at Mount Shamrock and Eidswoold, which was likely to be permanent.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 5—"Boundaries"—

The PREMIER said that of course the boundaries would have to be altered, but the clause was necessary in any case.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN asked whether the Committee had finished with clause 4?

The PREMIER: Yes.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said he had an amendment in regard to Woothakata, of which he gave notice the other day.

The PREMIER said he wondered at the hon. member not moving his amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: I waited for the hon. member to do so.

The PREMIER said he was sure no objection would be taken to the amendment being moved even now if it could be done. The Government had no desire to stand in the way of the hon. member. Of course the Bill could be recommitted for the purpose of making the amendment, but he would rather deal with anything of a contentious nature now, and recommit the Bill for purely formal amendments.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said he had been waiting till they came to Woothakata, and he did not know they were near it. Could he move his amendment as a new clause?

The PREMIER said that sometimes indulgence had been granted when a clause had been passed without hon. members noticing it. As far as he was concerned he should be disposed to do all he could in favour of waiving the point in favour of the introduction of the amendment. If the Chairman thought it competent for the hon. member to move his amendment, he (the Premier) had no objection.

Mr. MOREHEAD said there was so much talking going on in all parts of the Chamber that the passing of clause 4 might have escaped notice, though he knew perfectly well what was going on. If it could be done it would be better to

discuss the proposal of the hon. member for Townsville now, and, as the Premier said, recommit the Bill for non-contentious matters only, if necessary.

The CHAIRMAN : It can be done with the consent of the Committee if the Chief Secretary will withdraw clause 5 for the present.

The PREMIER : I am willing to do so.

Mr. NORTON said that clause 4 had been passed, and the Chairman had put another clause. He believed that if the Chairman put clause 4 again it would form a dangerous precedent.

The PREMIER : No ; it has been done before.

Mr. NORTON said it had been done when the question had been simply put and given as decided, and hon. members wished it to be put again ; but when the question was given as carried and a new clause was put, that created quite a different state of affairs.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said there would be no danger from establishing such a precedent if it was done by consent of the Committee ; the only danger would be in trying to do it without the consent of the Committee.

Mr. MOREHEAD said that the question of any hon. member objecting was not altogether the question. They could not override their rules simply because no one objected to those rules being overridden. Could the Committee carry out the suggestion made by the Chairman, and at the same time act in accordance with the rules ?

The PREMIER said he did not think there would be any danger in allowing clause 4 to be put again. A similar course had been followed several times before when clauses had been put and carried, accidentally, as it were.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said that perhaps it would be as well to have the Speaker's ruling on the point. He believed that if clause 5 were withdrawn, clause 4 could be put again with the consent of the Committee, and no one appeared to object to the withdrawal.

Mr. BLACK said that clause 4 had been so suddenly passed after a protracted discussion that he was rather taken by surprise. A number of amendments—chiefly alterations in names—had been passed somewhat quickly, and the hon. member for Townsville, who some time ago intimated his intention of moving an amendment in regard to Woothakata, was only waiting till the Committee came to the last line of the clause. He thought it would be admitted by all hon. members that no advantage should be taken of what was undoubtedly a mistake, but that the hon. member for Townsville should be allowed to say what he had to say in connection with the electorate. He (Mr. Black) had no idea at the time that the whole clause was being put.

Mr. DICKSON said there was no doubt that clause 4 had been passed, and it would be better for the hon. member for Townsville to introduce his amendment in the form of a new clause. If the new clause were carried that would express the views of the hon. member, and the Bill would have to be recommitted for the purpose of making the necessary amendment in clause 4.

The PREMIER said the hon. member for Townsville might propose a new clause providing that Woothakata should return two members. If that were carried the clause could be negatived when the Bill was recommitted, and the proper amendment inserted in clause 4. He would withdraw clause 5 for the present.

Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN, in proposing the following new clause, to follow clause 4 of the Bill :—

Provided that the electorate of Woothakata shall return two members—

said hon. members would recollect that, when the electorate of Burke was formed by the Croydon Gold Field and the Etheridge Gold Field, the Etheridge was taken out of Woothakata ; the Daintree and Norman Rivers, Saltwater Creek, Mowbray River, and Port Douglas being added on the eastern side on the sea-coast. The eastern boundary of the electorate was now the sea-coast running from the southern boundary of Cook to the northern boundary of the new electorate of Cairns. The population of Etheridge, he believed, was somewhere about 800 or 1,000—800, he thought—according to the census return. That 800 was taken out of Woothakata, which originally had 1,735 adult males, or, according to the new returns, 1,394. The hon. gentleman must have made some mistake in the numbers added to Woothakata by Port Douglas and the surrounding districts. No. 1 Cook subdivision of the census district, that was Port Douglas, contained a population of 640, and an adult male population of 282.

The PREMIER : Including Chinese.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he did not know the number of aliens.

The PREMIER : The white population of subdivision 1 is 498 total, 142 adult males ; and of No. 2, 316 total, 137 adult males.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said there were 665 males altogether in No. 2, and there must be a tremendous number of Chinese and kanakas to leave only 137 whites. There were very few kanakas or Chinese on the Mossman or Daintree. He thought the hon. gentleman had made a mistake.

The PREMIER : Those are the figures of the Registrar-General.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said the total adult male population in Nos. 1 and 2 was 947. Surely out of that there must be more than 299 whites, because it was not a district in which kanakas or Chinese abounded. The Daintree contained a good many settlers, the Mossman contained a great many more, and the Mowbray and Saltwater Creek also. There was only one sugar plantation, he believed, in the whole district ; but there were a great many small settlers. The small settlers did not employ kanakas and Chinese ; only the large plantations employed them. There must be a mistake in the figures somewhere, and he had reckoned on there being a mistake. There must be more whites than 299 out of 947.

The PREMIER : There are 736 males altogether, of whom 665 are adults. There must be a very large proportion of Chinese and kanakas.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said the total population was 854. No. 1 had a total population of 640 ; male adults, 282. The total population of those two census subdivisions was 1,494, and the male adult population 947. He did not think it was possible that two-thirds of the whole population in the district could be Chinese and Polynesians. Two-thirds would be a very large proportion in any district in the colony, and especially in that one. His contention was that the population that had been added to Woothakata on the east more than counterbalanced the population of the Etheridge which had been taken off on the west. The total population of the Etheridge was about 1,000 including the increase since the census—at the time of the census it was only 800 odd. The population added to Woothakata was 1,494—600

more than Etheridge according to the census, and 400 odd more, taking the present population. The population put down in the tables was 3,190, but he was certain that there was some mistake in the figures—between 400 and 500 ought to be added. The total number of adult males was put down at 1,394, but he was certain that must be wrong. That was quite independent of any increase in population. He would propose also, if the Premier would accept his suggestion, to alter the boundary of Cook so as to give a large population to Woothakata who would be miners. That would be done by taking the boundary of Cook on the northern side of the Bloomfield district, which contained, according to one account, 600, and, according to another account 1,000 males. Taking the lowest number—600—it would give a total male population of considerably over 2,000, making the electorate of Woothakata quite entitled to two members, and leaving a sufficient number in Cook for one member. As there had been a great deal of discussion already on different electorates, he did not mean to take up the time of the Committee by discussing that question any more. He was sure the hon. gentleman understood the proposition he had made, and the basis of the proposition, and he hoped he would see fit to accept it. If not, they would have to submit to the power of the majority.

The PREMIER said the electorate of Woothakata as proposed by the Bill had, according to the census, a total population of 3,397, and an adult male population of 1,735. Of that a total population of 807, and an adult male population of 517, was made up by the population of the Etheridge which was now proposed to be taken from it and included in Burke. That would leave a total population of 2,590, and an adult male population of 1,218. To that there were now proposed to be added subdivisions 1 and 2 of the census district of Cook, the total white population of which was 814, and the adult male population 279. Those added to the numbers he had already mentioned would give for the proposed amended boundaries a total population of 3,404, and an adult male population of 1,497. The hon. member doubted the accuracy of those figures; but a comparison with table 129 of the census returns would show that there could be no serious error. The total male population of subdivision 1 of the Cook district, including aliens and children, was 415, of whom 282 were adults. He was quite sure that those facts showed that there must be a good many aliens among them. In subdivision 2 the total male population was 736, of whom no less than 665 were adults, showing that practically there were no children there—that there was no settlement in that subdivision. That, with what they knew of the district, indicated that it must be a population made up to a very great extent of Chinese and kanakas. Of course the tables laid before the Committee contained the numbers of white men only; they disregarded aliens altogether for the purposes of a redistribution of the electorates. In connection with the proposition to give Woothakata two members, it was suggested to extend the boundaries on the north so as to include the Bloomfield River district. At the present time he believed there were 500 or 600 miners there, but as they were working on an alluvial tinfield, they could not be reckoned a permanent population. He had information that a good many of them were leaving there, though they were, it was true, going to another part of Woothakata. But they might not remain at Herberton but go away somewhere else. Under the circumstances, he did not think they would be justified in giving that district two members, and he could not, therefore, accept the proposal of the hon. member. If

Woothakata had two members, it would, of course, be necessary to alter the boundaries of the electorate as suggested. It could not be said that they had not treated other Northern electorates liberally. Mackay and Bowen were very liberally dealt with, and Kennedy was not badly treated, nor was Townsville. Townsville was, no doubt, increasing in population.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN: It is larger than some of the other electorates. It is larger than Rockhampton.

The PREMIER said it was not larger than Rockhampton. It was much smaller than Rockhampton with the proposed extended boundaries. It was larger than Toowoomba and Ipswich. Under the circumstances it could not be said that the electorate of Woothakata was unfairly dealt with, and he did not think the Committee would be justified in accepting the amendment of the hon. member for Townsville.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said he did not think there were nearly so many Chinese in the districts as the figures the hon. gentleman quoted showed. He was quite certain that more than one-third of the adult males in the districts were whites. He had not been there within the last two or three years, but from what he knew the aliens were very few in comparison with the whites. As to the tin-miners on the Bloomfield migrating, the whole of that country was tin country, and it did not matter if the miners did migrate, as they would be here to-day and there to-morrow, and would be still in the same district, because the whole of the mountain range was one mass of tin right away to Herberton. The argument, therefore, about miners leaving the district was nothing. He did not know the population of the Bloomfield exactly, but he thought it was fully 500 or 600, as the hon. gentleman had stated. He saw that a correspondent in a newspaper stated that it was 600 or 1,000. Of course, if the hon. gentleman could not accept his amendment, he must submit to the inevitable.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said a good deal had been stated about the concessions made to the North in that Bill. He did not himself see it. Six members had certainly been conceded to it, but seven had been conceded to the Southern division of the colony, and nothing had been done to readjust the balance of voting power between the electorates in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis and the more remote ones in the Western and Northern districts. He had pointed out twice on previous occasions that mere numerical exactness of numbers should not be taken as the sole basis for redistribution, and that there were other considerations to be taken into account, such as distance from the capital, producing power, and contributing power in the shape of revenue. The members for the East and West Moreton groups could be in attendance at the House without any inconvenience all the year round, but they knew that the representatives of the Northern and Central constituencies could not do that, as they had to go away from time to time to look after their business. He was perfectly certain that if the Premier conceded another member to the North it would only then be a scant measure of justice. There were other interests, such as gold, silver, and tin producing industries there, in addition to rich land and vast forests of timber which needed representation. The hon. member for Enoggera made some allusion to the demands of the North. That hon. member's electorate, which formerly returned two members, was now cut up into four single electorates. The Cook electorate, which formerly had two members, was now to have three; but no one could conscientiously say that the interests of Enoggera and the requirements of its

representation were in excess of the interests of Cook and the requirements of its representation. And Enoggera possessed the additional advantage of being in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, and able to return four members who knew all about its requirements. He had no wish to disparage Enoggera, which was a prosperous district, but its producing power at present and the revenue derived from it were by no means equal to those of Cook. As it seemed likely they were going to have seventy-two members—which he considered far too many—they might just as well make it seventy-three, on the ground that there was luck in odd numbers. It would be only a fair thing to give an additional member to Woothakata. Rich mineral discoveries had lately been made there, which were attracting miners every day, and the population now was much larger than appeared on the census returns. If an instantaneous census could be taken now he had not the slightest doubt that it would be found that the population of the North was largely in excess of what it was when the census was taken, while that of the South would be rather less. He regretted that population had been taken as almost the sole basis of representation, and that other most important considerations had been entirely overlooked. However, he did not suppose there was much likelihood of their getting the additional member for Woothakata.

Mr. HAMILTON said he did not suppose they would succeed in getting another member; but he felt certain that when the election took place the nominee of the Premier would be the first to explain to the electors of Woothakata that they were insufficiently represented, and that the first thing he would do would be to get them another member. Hon. members had great reason to complain of the insufficient information which the census papers before them contained. It was impossible to ascertain the number of Chinese and white adults in the various subdivisions, and they had simply to rely upon the information given to them by the Premier. The information obtained from him as to the Chinese male adults in that electorate was incorrect. He had told them that in census subdivisions 1 and 2 of Cook there were 299 Chinese. In subdivision 1, which included Port Douglas, there were 282 adults, and in subdivision 2, which was just outside Port Douglas, there were 665 adults, or a total of 947. And yet the Premier told them that out of that number there were 299 Chinese and Polynesians. Anyone who had been there must know that that was incorrect. In walking through the streets of Port Douglas a man would not come across one Chinese to every fifty white men. In the whole of the present Cook electorate there were 3,285 Chinese—in Cook, 1,469; in Cairns, 1,694; and in Woothakata, 122. The bulk of those Chinese were in the immediate vicinity of Cairns and Cooktown. Cairns was cut out of Woothakata and Cook.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: Cairns was never in it.

Mr. HAMILTON said that Cairns was in the same electorate once, and he could only attribute his colleague's remark to his ignorance. In the electorate as it was proposed to be carved by the Premier, there was in Woothakata proper a population of 636, with 353 adult males; in census subdivision 2 of Cook, there was a total population of 854, with an adult male population of 665; in subdivision 1 there was a total population of 640, with 282 adult males; in the Herberton census district there was a total population of 2,346, with 1,253 adult males—making a total population of 5,090, and an adult male

population of 3,012, not counting the influx of miners that had been going on since the census was taken, which was estimated by competent authorities at 800 or 900. Deducting from that total 1,095 they found a total population of 4,095, and an adult male population of 2,612. When Darling Downs, which was only a few hours away from Brisbane, was given a member for every 1,100 white male adults, surely Woothakata, which was almost the furthest electorate in the colony from the capital, was entitled to a member for every 1,300 or 1,400 white male adults. At the same time he did not suppose that Woothakata would get it.

Mr. BLACK said the Premier had just now stated that the North had already received very considerable concessions. He, as a Northern member, did not admit that the North had received anything to which it was not entitled. It was generally admitted that the representation of the colony required readjustment. The question, therefore, was not how many members the North had more than it had before, but whether it had that equitable representation to which it was entitled in framing a new Bill of that kind. Although they for the future should have additional representation in that House, he contended that if that one concession were made to the North—giving them seventeen members instead of sixteen—the Bill would be about as perfect as it was possible to have a Bill of that kind at the present time. The hon. gentleman also said that the Mackay electorate had been very fairly treated. Well, that electorate received a second member, but he was not prepared to admit that it had received any special consideration. He found that in the Mackay electorate a total population of 7,491 and an adult male population of 2,376 was enough to return two members. If they took Ipswich, which was quite close to Brisbane, the gross population was only 8,974, and the adult males only 2,191, so that he might safely say that Ipswich had received very great consideration in that Bill. Then, again, taking Drayton and Toowoomba: there the total adult male population was 1,990, and yet it received two members. He would now make a comparison between the Northern group of electorates as a whole, and the Southern group as a whole, leaving out the Metropolitan group. The Southern group, without the Metropolitan group, returned thirty-eight members by the Bill, or one for every 1,200 adult males. If the North received the additional member proposed, it would return one member for every 1,152 adult males; and it must be borne in mind that in the whole of those calculations the admittedly large increase of population at Croydon, the Bloomfield, and Annan had not been taken into consideration. So that if the Bill was to be made perfectly satisfactory to the North they were certainly entitled to an additional representative. The Central division, again, had one representative for every 1,165, and surely the Northern division was entitled to the same representation as the Central division. If the Premier would concede that one additional member to the North it would then be placed in just the same position, as far as representation on the adult male basis was concerned, as the Central division—namely, one member for each 1,152, the Central having one for 1,165, and the Southern one for 1,200. On that basis he thought that representation would be satisfactory throughout the whole colony. He would not again deal with the point that had been already urged in favour of the more distant portions of the colony receiving more consideration in the way of representation on account of the difficulty that had always been, and probably always would be, experienced in getting the same proportion of representatives to

be able to spend their time in Brisbane as could be got in the more southern portion of the colony. Therefore if any favour at all was shown, it should be some slight concession to the North; and so far as the Bill had passed up to that time, he contended that the Northern division had not received more weight in representative power than it was fully entitled to.

Mr. PALMER said he was sorry to think that the little want which the hon. member for Mackay had pointed out as necessary to be supplied to make the Bill satisfactory was not likely to be granted. It would be a great pity to spoil the Bill for the sake of a little ornamentation of that kind. The Premier had a very graceful way of adding to and ornamenting Bills, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would put the finishing touch upon the one before them in the way proposed. It was not an afterthought. The Northern members had contended from the first that seventeen members was not more than the Premier should grant to make the representation even all round. That was taking into consideration the representation of all the different groups of the colony. It was, therefore, no factious proposition that had been introduced by the hon. member for Townsville on behalf of the Northern members. They had been consistent throughout in their contention that seventeen members was the allotted proportion of representation to which the North was entitled. He did not think the Bill would be really complete until that number was granted, and in justice to the North it ought to be granted.

Mr. MOREHEAD said he quite agreed with what had fallen from hon. members on that side of the Committee, that the North was entitled to seventeen members, and he should certainly vote for the additional member now proposed. And he felt, as he had said at an earlier part of the debate, that the time was not far distant when the North would have so increased in population—which he was sure was patent to every member of the Committee—that it would then get the additional representation to which it was entitled now.

The PREMIER said he was sure that hon. members on his side of the Committee would be quite willing to grant additional representation as soon as the population in that part of the colony justified it, but so long as they had to deal with the present population he could not see his way to agree to the proposal of the hon. member for Townsville.

Mr. PHILP said he thought it was very unjust that the northern portion of the colony should be treated more unfairly than the Central or Southern districts, or even West Moreton, were treated. According to the tables they had before them showing the population at the time of the last census, seventeen members to the North would give only one for a little over 1,100 adult males. They all knew that since the census had been taken there had been fully 7,000 adult males added to the North, on the Bloomfield, the Annan, and at Croydon. According to the tables to which he referred, the electorate of Cook had 2,002 adult males, and he would ask any hon. member to cast his eye over the other districts and point out any one of them, except the Metropolitan group, which had 2,000 adult males for one member. Hon. members should bear in mind that that was a very much larger question than simply granting an additional member to the North. For some time past there had been great agitation in the North for more representation, and they were now asking for simply the same representation that was given to the other groups of the colony, and they were

refused it. He would point out to members of the Southern districts that a great number of the population in the South were really working for the people of the North. Take the Ipswich people, the Darling Downs people, and the Wide Bay people; he was certain that one-fourth of the adult male population in those places were simply working for the people in the North. That was a matter that should be borne in mind. If the Northern members had to go to their constituents with a Bill like that, and tell them that, after speaking fairly and pointing out calmly and deliberately how they had been dealt with in the past, they would certainly tell them that they must go down and demand separation, pure and simple. There was no use going to the southern part of the colony and claiming justice. But they wished to see the Brisbane people and the Wide Bay people fully occupied and prosperous, and he was certain that if they got separation fully one-third of the population in the southern part of the colony would migrate to the North. Hon. members might laugh, but what was keeping the West Moreton collieries going now? Steamers going north with southern cargo; and the Northern railways were compelled to use West Moreton coal simply because it belonged to Queensland. If the North had got separation, and became a colony pure and simple, they would get their coal from Newcastle. There was no doubt about that. One ton of Newcastle coal went as far as a ton and a-half of West Moreton coal. He would point out to the Maryborough members that half the mills in Maryborough were now cutting timber for the northern portion of the colony. The foundries were making machinery for the North, but if they had separation the duties on goods coming from Maryborough would be the same as upon goods coming from Victoria and New South Wales, and Victoria could make machinery cheaper than Maryborough. They also knew there was plenty of timber in New South Wales cheaper than the Wide Bay timber, and if the duty was the same half of that trade would be done away with. Hon. members ought to bear that in mind, and remember it was not for all single members they were contending. They were asking for justice to the northern portion of the colony. It had been pointed out that seventeen members would only represent one member for 1,152 adult males, and there was no portion of the colony where the population had increased so rapidly. Hon. members talked about the increased number of houses in South Brisbane, but where were the 3,000 extra people in South Brisbane? Where did they come from? what were they doing for a livelihood? They could not live on air. They knew very well that at the time of the last census large sums of money were being spent in Brisbane by the Government in dredge-making. Over £200,000 was spent in Brisbane and Maryborough, and that attracted population. According to the population now in the North they had had 7,000 adult males added since the census. That would give them, supposing they had seventeen members, 1,564 adult males. But they did not ask for members according to the number now in the North. They simply asked for sufficient members to represent the population which was there at the time the census was taken. Hon. members had conceded eleven members to the Central district, with an average of 1,165 adult males; thirteen to the Southern pastoral and Darling Downs group for 1,122 adults; and seven to West Moreton with 1,128 adults. The North was fairly entitled to another member on the population basis, but some hon. members seemed to think that the adult male basis was fairer. He believed the general population basis was fair in the South, but in the

North the adult male population should be the basis, and according to present returns they were entitled to another member.

Mr. MACFARLANE said while the West Moreton members were contending for another member they received several little addresses from the other side, and now he could return the compliment. He considered the North had a very good thing indeed, and ought to be content. The Northern members were simply stonewalling their own Bill, and the privileges they had already got. They were not likely to get another member, and he would advise them not to delay business. The figures quoted proved nothing. They, he knew very well, agreed that when the Bill was brought in it was supposed to be a very fair Redistribution Bill for the whole colony. Hon. members on the Opposition side said that was so.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: We never said any such thing.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the North ought to be contented with the additional members given to them. He hoped hon. members representing the North would take the advice of a West Moreton member and stop stonewalling, and let the business of the country proceed.

Mr. SHERIDAN said the hon. member for Musgrave had stated that Wide Bay was working simply for the North, and also that Maryborough was working for the North. He admitted it. The North was an excellent market for the produce of Wide Bay and Maryborough; but why did it not establish foundries, as had been done at Maryborough, and do its own work? The people of the North came to Maryborough because they could get the best material there, and could be better supplied there. Wide Bay produced timber which they required in the North, and which the North could not supply for themselves. The people of Wide Bay were well satisfied that the North afforded them such an excellent market for their various products, and he hoped it would long continue to do so, and also that Moreton would still continue to supply them with coal.

Mr. MOREHEAD said the hon. member who had just sat down seemed to put on one side the contention set up by the hon. member for Musgrave, which was that, if separation took place, all the advantages which were now reaped by Maryborough would cease to exist—that was to say, the founders of Maryborough would find there were foundries in the other Australian colonies which would supply the North better than the Maryborough foundries did. It would also be found that there was better timber to be got elsewhere than in the Wide Bay district, better coal than could be got from the Moreton district, and probably better individuals than the members for Maryborough.

Mr. SHERIDAN said it must be thoroughly understood that that was simply and only the opinion of the hon. member for Balonne.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said it was hardly worth while detaining hon. members, but he wished to say that he did not think the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Macfarlane, had so much humour in him as to tell the Northern members that they were stonewalling. The hon. gentleman being a Scotchman, he did not expect it from him.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Perhaps the surgical operation has been performed upon him.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said the hon. member for Maryborough seemed to be put out by the assertion made by the hon. member for Musgrave, and told them that the people of the North were not invited to go to Maryborough for material, or machinery, or timber;

but he forgot that the Government had compelled them to go to Maryborough. He forgot that the ex-Colonial Treasurer had managed the finances of the country so well that he was compelled to put a tax of 5 per cent. upon machinery, and he would have made it 7½ per cent. if he had been allowed. The contention of the hon. member for Musgrave was correct—that if separation took place, Maryborough, as a portion of Queensland, would be placed in the same position as the other colonies, and would have no advantage in the way of protective duties. Maryborough would have to compete with New South Wales and Victoria.

Mr. SHERIDAN: As she does now.

Question put, and the Committee divided:—

AYES, 19.

Messrs. Morehead, Chubb, Pattison, Norton, Lissner, Macrossan, Philp, Palmer, Hamilton, Foote, Black, Stevenson, Jessop, Lumley Hill, Ferguson, Nelson, Adams, Murphy, and Allan.

NOES, 24.

Sir S. W. Griffith, Messrs. Rutledge, Jordan, Dutton, Moreton, Dickson, Sheridan, McMaster, Macfarlane, S. W. Brooks, Morgan, Smyth, Bulcock, Wakefield, Mellor, Bailey, White, Buckland, Kellett, W. Brookes, Grimes, Kates, and Foxton.

Question resolved in the negative.

On clause 5—

"The boundaries of the said several electoral districts shall be as described in the schedule to this Act."

Mr. MOREHEAD said the clause would not work now. The Bill would have to be recommitted.

The PREMIER said of course the boundaries would have to be corrected. That the Government proposed to do when they reached the schedules—which he did not suppose would be that evening—was to propose entirely new ones with corrected boundaries and accompanied by maps, which would be laid on the table on the authority of the Surveyor-General as being correct and giving effect to the various suggestions made. That he should be in a position to do on Tuesday. By that time the only matter which would require reconsideration practically would be putting the names of the electorates in proper order. There were only two or three which would require to be changed, and he trusted that that would be the only recommitment necessary. In that case the Bill could be read a third time, and read a first time in the other Chamber next week. It was necessary that the Bill should come into operation before the yearly revision courts sat next month. It would be inconvenient if the courts were going on and were stopped by the Bill becoming law. If the Bill were so far on that they would be able to say when it would become law, the Government would ask the magistrates to postpone the revision courts until that time. The revision courts especially appointed under the Bill would have to be held later. As to the remaining provisions of the Bill, the Committee were not, he thought, in a humour to consider them in detail. They had been most carefully considered by the Government, and he hoped they would be carefully considered by the Committee also. He also had to propose a clause making special provision with respect to that part of the electoral district of Cook which was at present without representation. As the Bill stood, there was no provision for the people getting on the roll except by personal attendance at the court, which would, of course, inconvenience them. He would have a clause circulated in the morning dealing with that. What he proposed to do was this: He had given instructions already to have forms sent up, and had instructed the clerk of petty sessions to receive claims sent in, although it did not

form part at present of any electoral district. By the clause he proposed to bring up, those claims would be validated and dealt with at the revision court. He did not propose to go any further with the Bill than clause 5 that evening.

Mr. DICKSON said he gathered from what the Premier had said that on next Tuesday there would be a map laid on the table showing the amendments in the electoral districts as passed; but he would suggest to the hon. gentleman that the printed descriptions of the districts might be circulated before that, so that hon. members would have an opportunity of checking the boundaries proposed before the matter came on for consideration again on Tuesday.

The PREMIER said the descriptions of the boundaries were all ready and printed, with the exception of those of the districts they were talking of that evening, and he expected to be able to have them circulated on Monday morning—he could not promise them earlier than that. Supposing the Bill passed its third reading by to-morrow week—that would be the 27th October—it would then take at least a fortnight to get through the Council, and that would bring them on to the middle of November.

Mr. MOREHEAD: Are you going to pro-
rogate then?

The PREMIER said he was looking forward to getting ready for the revision courts. Maps would have to be sent round to the different parts of the colony, to enable the revision to be correctly carried out. All those matters would require a little time, and he was extremely anxious that the general election should come on as soon as possible.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he would like to inform the Premier, as they were speaking about the boundaries, that there was a mistake in the boundary of the electoral district of Carpentaria, which, he supposed, was still continued in the description of the new electorate. One of the boundaries was stated to be by the 143rd meridian northerly across the Lynd River, but it did not cross the Lynd River, and did not go within sixteen or twenty miles of that river. That mistake would have to be attended to. It crossed the Palmer River some fifteen or twenty miles below the junction of the Lynd and Palmer Rivers. He thought the mistake must have arisen through the river being called the "Lynd River" in older maps right down to the sea. The boundary did not cross the Lynd River, according to the map he had, nor according to the census map. There was another matter he would like to bring under the notice of the Premier. The hon. gentleman, speaking about the people of Thursday Island, dealt with the difficulty they had of getting their names on the roll, and he (Mr. Macrossan) would like to bring under his notice the difficulties which the miners at Croydon laboured under in getting their names on the roll. At present there were very few on the roll, and unless some special provision were made by which they could record their votes at the general election very few of them would be able to vote at all. He did not know whether the hon. gentleman could adopt the suggestion which had been made by the miners there, and which had been acted upon in several of the goldfields of the Australian colonies, and might be acted upon in the present case, temporarily, at all events. That was to allow the miners to vote upon their miners' rights. The miners' rights might be stamped, or a piece cut out of them when used for voting, so that they might not be used a second time. That had been done in the older colonies, where miners at one time voted on their miners' rights, both in New South Wales and Victoria. The rights, of course, would have

1887—4 A

to be taken out so as to show that the miners were holders of them for six months. The hon. gentleman said he was anxious that the general election should take place as soon as possible. But if the Bill was not likely to pass until about the middle of November the elections would be postponed until about the wet season. It would certainly take about five or six weeks to have the rolls compiled, and that would take them up to Christmas, when the wet season would be prevailing over the whole of the North, and it would be useless to think of carrying on an election in the North during the wet season.

The PREMIER said he was anxious to have the election as soon as possible, but he was aware that they could not have it before the wet season. He hoped that they would be able to have it as soon as possible after the wet season, so that Parliament might meet at the latter end of April, and certainly not later than May. As far as the boundaries were concerned, they would have to be amended in many particulars. The boundary now proposed in the case mentioned by the hon. member would be a different one altogether. It was proposed to be the watershed down to the junction of the Lynd and the Palmer; that, he considered, would be a convenient one. As to the difficulty of the miners at Croydon getting their names on the roll, he might say that a great number had made claims, and an immense number of papers had been sent up for use. It might be possible to provide that any elector who held a miner's right for six months before the holding of the registration court might have his name put upon the roll. As to the miners using their rights for voting at an election, that was open to objection. It was true, as the hon. member for Townsville had stated, that there were formerly mining constituencies in New South Wales where anybody producing a miner's right could vote for the constituency in which he produced it.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: They were gold-mining constituencies.

The PREMIER: Yes; there were three gold-mining constituencies. The colony was divided into three districts for the purpose, and any miner producing a miner's right could vote for any one of those districts; they had, of course, no provision of that kind here.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: I proposed it as a temporary measure only.

The PREMIER said he had considered the matter before, and was disposed at one time to accept the suggestion, but it certainly could not be adopted without a great many safeguards. He would give the matter further consideration before the Bill came on again. He was anxious to see as many votes recorded as possible.

Mr. PALMER said he would draw the hon. gentleman's attention to another mistake. A river called the Boyne was mentioned, but there was no river called Boyne in the Gulf. He might say also that the Lynd River, as shown on the maps, did not agree with the description in the schedule. Another matter he might refer to was that on looking at the returns for the Western pastoral groups he found that the number of names on the rolls in those districts was less by 26 per cent. than in the other districts of the colony. It showed that some alteration was necessary to deal with that matter, as men were evidently disfranchised from having to travel about to pursue their calling. They were supposed to give every man a vote; but the next thing done was to take away the right to vote when a man's calling took him away from the place where his vote was registered.

The PREMIER said the scheme of the system in force in the colony was to allow only permanent settlers to vote, and that was why residence for six months was required.

Mr. PALMER : Thousands will not settle for that time.

The PREMIER said they ought not to vote in that case. The hon. member's suggestion would allow a man to walk into any polling-booth and vote. That would certainly be one way of doing the thing.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said that could easily be met by a system of voters' rights, which had obtained more or less in the colonies, especially in Victoria. Why should a man, with a wife and family residing in one district, be deprived of his vote simply because he had to travel in search of work to another district? The man might be a permanent settler with a stake in the colony, and there was no reason why he should not vote wherever he happened to be.

Mr. MOREHEAD said there was too much absurdity about the argument in favour of people carrying their voting power about with them, as proposed by the hon. member for Cook.

Mr. DONALDSON said it would be absurd to allow a man to vote for a member in any district he happened to be in at the time; but a person having a right to vote in one district should not have to reside six months in another before he could vote. Suppose a man was registered in "A" district, and he went to reside in "B" district, he ought not to have to comply with the condition of residence for such a long time there, but upon the production of his elector's right should be placed on the next list that was prepared.

Clause put and passed.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER said : Mr. Speaker,—I move that this House do now adjourn. Supply will stand first on the paper after private business.

Question put and passed.

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