

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 1887**

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 19 October, 1887.

Message from the Governor—Assent to Bill.—Messages from the Legislative Assembly—Queensland Fisheries Bill—Divisional Boards Bill.—Lady Bowen Hospital Land Sale Bill.—Refreshment Rooms Committee Report.—Motion for Adjournment—Land Sale at New Farm.—Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at 4 o'clock.

### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

#### ASSENT TO BILL.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Governor conveying His Excellency's assent, on behalf of Her Majesty, to a Bill to amend the Immigration Act of 1885.

### MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

#### QUEENSLAND FISHERIES BILL.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly, intimating that the Assembly agreed to the amendments made in this Bill by the Council.

#### DIVISIONAL BOARDS BILL.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly, intimating that the Assembly proposed to amend the amendment of the Council in clause 28, line 38, by inserting the word "alone" between the words

"he" and "is," in which amendment they invited the concurrence of the Council; did not insist on their disagreement to the amendment as so amended; and did not insist on their disagreement to the other amendments on which the Council insisted.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Hon. W. Horatio Wilson) moved that the President leave the chair and the House go into committee to consider the message.

Question put and passed.

#### COMMITTEE.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said the Legislative Assembly had agreed to the amendments of the Legislative Council with one slight exception, which was, that they proposed to amend the Council's amendment in clause 28, line 38, by inserting the word "alone" between the words "he" and "is." The insertion of the word "alone" would restrict the application of the Council's amendment to persons without tenants. That was reasonable, because persons with tenants might be disfranchised through a tenant neglecting to pay his rates. The Assembly had entirely accepted the principle laid down by the Council, and he thought it would be agreed that the proposed amendment made the meaning of both Houses clearer. He moved that the Committee agree to the amendment on their amendment in clause 28, line 38.

The HON. A. C. GREGORY said that if it had been in order on a previous occasion he should have moved the insertion of the word "solely"; but he thought the word "alone" made the meaning more distinct. The amendment brought the clause into harmony with the rest of the Bill, and he thought the Committee should agree to the insertion of the word.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had agreed to the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly on their amendment in clause 28, line 38.

The report was adopted.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved that the following message be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly:—

MR. SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council having had under consideration the message of the Legislative Assembly dated 18th October, relative to the amendments made by the Legislative Council in the Divisional Boards Bill, beg now to intimate that they agree to the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly on their amendment in clause 28, line 38.

A. H. PALMER,  
President.

Legislative Council Chamber,  
19th October, 1887.

### LADY BOWEN HOSPITAL LAND SALE BILL.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly, forwarding, for the concurrence of the Legislative Council, a Bill to enable the trustees of two allotments of land in the city of Brisbane, parish of North Brisbane, granted for the purposes of a lying-in hospital, to sell the whole or part of the said land, with the buildings erected thereon, and to devote the proceeds to the purchasing of a new site and buildings for the like purposes in a more convenient locality.

On motion of the HON. P. MACPHERSON, the Bill was read a first time, and the second reading made an Order of the Day for tomorrow,

REFRESHMENT ROOMS COMMITTEE  
REPORT.

The HON. W. GRAHAM said: Hon. gentlemen,—I should like to ask a question, and, if necessary, I will move the adjournment of the House. The question is in regard to the report of the Refreshment Rooms Committee. The report I presented here was the actual report arrived at by the Refreshment Rooms Committee. I want to know if that was sent to the other House, and where it was altered so far as the price of a dinner is concerned, and if it has ever been sent to us for approval.

The PRESIDENT: I can give the information the hon. gentleman wants. The report of the Legislative Assembly was an independent report. Hon. gentlemen will remember that the committee was a joint committee of both Houses. The report presented to this House was the report adopted by that committee—there is no doubt about that. When it was presented to the other House it was different. It had been altered—I am not prepared to say by whom—certainly not by the consent of the joint committee.

The HON. W. GRAHAM: I should like to know whether the Lower House are to pay 2s. for a dinner, and we are to pay 2s. 6d.?

The PRESIDENT: That is precisely the position you are in, unless you make other arrangements with the caterer.

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

## LAND SALE AT NEW FARM.

The HON. W. H. WALSH said: Hon. gentlemen,—It will probably be necessary for me to move the adjournment of the House, as the Hon. Mr. Graham has not done so. I wish to call the attention of the Government to a certain land sale about to take place this week in connection with what I consider to be one of the vital lungs of Brisbane—the New Farm Estate. I see it is advertised in this morning's paper that it is to be cut up into infinitesimal lots and sold. The New Farm Estate, I may tell hon. gentlemen who have not had the same lifelong experience in the colony, is one of the oldest and most cherished spots round Brisbane. Nearly forty years ago I used to shoot snipe and quail there, and I have always looked upon it as a lung of Brisbane; but next Saturday the citizens of Brisbane are to be deprived of this most necessary breathing place. I do not mean to charge the Government with indifference as to their duties, but there is no doubt that the city is signally insufficiently provided with places of enjoyment and recreation in the suburbs. It is most extraordinary that persons are willing to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds in extending suburban railways that can be of no use to the citizens, and at the same time totally overlook the fact that one of the most valuable adjuncts to the city is to be sold at auction next Saturday. If there is a beautiful spot about Brisbane, it is New Farm, and I do not hesitate to say that it will be a crime to allow the citizens of Brisbane to lose what ought to be one of their chief places of recreation. I look upon the sale of that property as showing great indifference and neglect, not so much on the part of the Government as upon the part of the citizens themselves. If you go to England or Ireland you cannot go 100 yards without seeing, especially in the city of London, that the people's interests have been studied in the laying-out of large parks or squares—lungs, as they are called. Here we have nothing of the kind, and I do not hesitate to say that the New Farm Estate, which is to

be sold this week, will be frittered away into sixteen or twenty perch allotments, and it will be lost for ever as a place of recreation for the citizens of Brisbane.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: That land does not belong to the Government.

The HON. W. H. WALSH: It does not, but it ought to belong to them. I speak on behalf of the inhabitants of Brisbane, and I contend that they are entitled to the protection of the Government in a matter affecting the general health. I beg to move the adjournment of the House.

The HON. W. GRAHAM said: Hon. gentlemen,—I am thoroughly in accord with the Hon. Mr. Walsh in regard to the neglect shown, not only by this Government, but by all Governments, in the matter of obtaining land as lungs to what will be a very great city in course of time. If the land in the present instance belonged to the Government it would be a very simple matter to stop the sale; but it belongs to private individuals, and the Hon. Mr. Walsh ought to have brought forward some practical scheme, considering that the sale will take place in two or three days, for securing the land for the benefit of the public. I take it that his proposal is that the Government should buy these sixteen-perch allotments and put them together.

The HON. W. H. WALSH: Buy the land at any price.

The HON. W. GRAHAM: That would be rather a hard thing to do, unless the Government can make terms to buy the whole lot before the sale comes off, and, as the time is very short, I think some practical scheme should have been brought forward.

The HON. W. H. WALSH said: Hon. gentlemen,—May I explain that my object is to get the Government to interfere at once, and buy the land *in globo* for the benefit of the people of Brisbane.

The HON. P. MACPHERSON said: Hon. gentlemen,—I have reason to believe that the proprietors of this valuable property got it cheap, and from what I know of them, they are public-spirited enough to part with it at a moderate rate. I believe if negotiations were entered into by the Government they would accept a reasonable offer.

The HON. A. J. THYNNE said: Hon. gentlemen,—This is not the first time this matter has been brought under the notice of the Government. Fifteen months ago the necessity of providing for a recreation ground at New Farm was brought before the then Colonial Treasurer, and it was under discussion for a considerable time, but there was a difficulty with regard to finding the money to purchase the land. I trust, however, that notwithstanding the unpromising look of the finances, the Government will endeavour to do something towards saving the State from such a tremendous loss as will result from the land in question being cut up and sold. It will be a tremendous drawback to the city if that comparatively low-lying land is occupied by a large number of small tenements, because, instead of tending to improve the health of the city, it will probably become a disease-breeding place.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said: Hon. gentlemen,—After what has fallen from hon. members, I shall be happy to bring the matter under the notice of my colleagues. Of course I cannot promise anything; at the same time it will receive consideration.

The Hon. W. H. WALSH, in reply, said : Hon. gentlemen,—I have accomplished all I wished, having drawn the attention of the Postmaster-General to the matter, and he has promised that he will bring it before his colleagues, and that it shall receive consideration. I beg to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said : Hon. gentlemen,—In moving the adjournment, I wish to say that I shall be glad if hon. gentlemen will make a House to-morrow, as I am anxious to move the first reading of the New Guinea Bill, in order that it may be read a second time on Wednesday next. I think the Hon. Mr. Macpherson wishes to move the second reading of the Lady Bowen Hospital Bill to-morrow, so that I shall be obliged if hon. gentlemen will try and make a House. I move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at half-past 4 o'clock.

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