

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**WEDNESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 1888**

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.***Wednesday, 5 September, 1888.*

New Member.—Ministerial Explanation.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at 4 o'clock.

**NEW MEMBER.**

The Hon. James Lalor was introduced, and having produced his writ of summons, took the oath and subscribed the roll.

**MINISTERIAL EXPLANATION.**

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Hon. A. J. Thynne) said: Hon. gentlemen,—In further explanation of the matter to which I alluded yesterday regarding the resignation of the Government, I have now to bring before the House the present position of the Government, and I think I can best do that by reading the correspondence which has taken place between His Excellency the Governor and the Premier in the course of to-day. The following minute was received by the Chief Secretary from His Excellency:—

“MINUTE FOR THE HON. THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

“Government House,

“Brisbane, 5th September, 1888.

“The Governor has had the honour to receive the Chief Secretary’s letter of yesterday’s date, in which he tenders to the Governor the resignation of himself and his colleagues.

“The Governor had already acquainted the Chief Secretary that he had no desire for their resignation, and sees no necessity for it; and he therefore declines to accept it. The Governor telegraphed yesterday to the Secretary of State for his instructions with regard to the questions under discussion between his advisers and himself, and only regrets that they should have been unnecessarily made public by what passed in the Houses of Legislature yesterday.

“Even in the cases where Ministers have ceased to command the confidence of the Assembly, and their resignation has been accepted, it is usual for them to retain office until their successors are appointed.

“A. MUSGRAVE.”

The following is the reply sent by the Chief Secretary:—

“Chief Secretary’s Office,

“Brisbane, 5th September, 1888.

“SIR,

“I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency’s minute of this date, in which you decline to accept the resignation of myself and colleagues in the Ministry, which I yesterday tendered to Your Excellency.

“I regret that the action of Ministers in informing Parliament yesterday of the question under discussion between Your Excellency and your advisers has not met with your approval. I submit, however, that it was the only constitutional course which they could pursue. It

was clearly our duty to inform Parliament that the Ministry had resigned, and it was equally incumbent on the leader of the Opposition to inform the Assembly that Your Excellency had sent for him and requested him to form an Administration. It was impossible in this case to confine my statement in the Assembly to a mere intimation of the fact that we had tendered our resignation, but the reasons which it was thought necessary to give were confined to such information as, in my opinion, Parliament was entitled to have.

“Ministers quite understand that they retain office until their successors are appointed, but until the question at issue is satisfactorily determined it will be impossible to proceed with any parliamentary business.

“I have, etc.,

“THOMAS McILWRAITH.

“His Excellency  
Sir Anthony Musgrave, G.C.M.G.,  
Governor.”

I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed; and the House adjourned at six minutes past 4 o'clock.

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