

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 1888**

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

*Wednesday, 24 October, 1888.*

Suspension of Standing Order.—Leave of Absence to the Hon. J. D. Macansh.—Death of the Hon. F. T. Gregory.

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN (Hon. T. L. Murray-Prior) took the chair at 4 o'clock.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER.**

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Hon. A. J. Thynne) moved—

That so much of the 111th Standing Order as provides that “Resolutions calling for the sanction of Parliament to the construction of railways and approval

of plans, sections, and books of reference shall lie on the table for a period of one week" before being referred to a select committee, be suspended during the remainder of the session.

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN said: Hon. gentlemen,—There being present an absolute majority of the whole number of the members of which the Council is composed, as required by Standing Order 141, the motion can be put to the House.

The HON. W. HORATIO WILSON said: Hon. gentlemen,—I should like the hon. gentleman who represents the Government in this House to give his reason for proposing this suspension of the Standing Order.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE said: Hon. gentlemen,—I am very glad to give the explanation asked for by the hon. member. We hope to conclude the session next week, and if we have to wait until the commencement of next week before these railways are referred to select committees it will be a source of great inconvenience to both Houses of Parliament. It will be a great inconvenience to ourselves as well as the members of the other Chamber. If the motion is passed there will be an opportunity of referring these railways to committees to-morrow, and the committees can at once commence their inquiries. I think it is better that the committees should have time to investigate the railways submitted for their consideration, and that they should not feel hurried or placed under any undue pressure in coming to a conclusion. I trust the reason I have given will be accepted as satisfactory by the House. I must, however, add that, personally, I am unwilling at any time, except for urgent reasons, to suspend the Standing Orders of the House.

The HON. T. MACDONALD-PATERSON said: Hon. gentlemen,—I quite concur in what has fallen from the lips of the Minister of Justice with regard to the convenience that it will be to members of Parliament to be relieved from the duty of attendance in their respective Houses as early as possible now that the warm weather is setting in. But that is the only reason the hon. gentleman has given for proposing to suspend the Standing Order.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: And the intention to close the session next week.

The HON. T. MACDONALD-PATERSON: And the intention to close the session next week. But it was the intention to close the session earlier than next week at the beginning of the session. Why, then, were these railways not brought forward before? I am unaware that this Standing Order has been suspended before during my experience in this House.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: It has been, and on more than one occasion.

The HON. T. MACDONALD-PATERSON: Well, I will accept the hon. gentleman's assurance that it has been suspended on more than one occasion previously. There has nevertheless been no reason given why these railway proposals were not brought forward earlier in the session. Every line, so far as I am aware, that has been brought before the House has been part of the railway policy of the country for a very long time; there is now a Minister for Railways who has no duties external to those of the Railway Department to attend to, and the officers of the department have not been pressed with as much work as they have had to do in recent years. I therefore think some other reason than the mere convenience of Parliament should have been adduced to justify the proposed suspension of the Standing Orders. I would probably not have said anything on the subject had the Minister of Justice given the House

some departmental reason for the delay in submitting these plans to Parliament. As I stated before, I quite concur in the view that it is desirable that members should be relieved of their duties as quickly as possible, but at the same time I think some explanation should have been given of the causes which render this motion necessary, and of the non-appearance of these railway proposals earlier in the session.

The HON. B. B. MORETON said: Hon. gentlemen,—I should like to ask the Minister of Justice what are the railways that are likely to be brought before the House? I see there are the plans of three on the table. Is it likely that there will be any others besides those three?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE said: Hon. gentlemen,—There are not likely to be any others besides those on the table. There are the plans of four lines, not three as the hon. member stated, now on the table. Having answered that question, I should like, with the permission of the House, to make a few further observations. I think the Hon. T. Macdonald-Paterson has himself, to a great extent, supplied any deficiency in the reasons which have been offered by me for suspending the Standing Order, and that is the fact that these railways are simply continuations of lines that have been to a great extent initiated or carried out by the late Government of which the hon. gentleman was a member.

The HON. T. MACDONALD-PATERSON: I wanted you to say so.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: They are a necessary corollary to work that has been done. The Government find themselves committed to an expenditure which it is now too late to further investigate. In order to make these railways, on which a large amount of money has been expended, pay at all, it is absolutely necessary that they should be extended to some place where traffic might be obtained. I am speaking now generally, and not in regard to any particular line among those proposed, each of which will be open to discussion on its merits. I am not aware whether the hon. gentleman desires to oppose the motion for the suspension of the Standing Order, but I trust he will not offer any opposition to it.

Question put and passed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE HON. J. D. MACANSH.

The HON. J. S. TURNER moved—

That leave of absence for the remainder of the session be granted to the Honourable J. D. Macansh.

Question put and passed.

#### DEATH OF THE HON. F. T. GREGORY.

The PRESIDING CHAIRMAN said: Hon. gentlemen,—The melancholy duty devolves upon me of announcing to the House the decease of one of its members, the Honourable Francis Thomas Gregory, and I now direct that an entry to that effect be recorded on the register of members of this Council.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE said: Hon. gentlemen,—The announcement which the Presiding Chairman has made is truly a melancholy one. Knowing how very recently Mr. Gregory was here, and took an active part in the work of this Chamber, the announcement of his death has come upon all of us as a great shock, and a great surprise. I can say nothing further on the melancholy event to-day, but I now beg to move—

That out of respect to the memory of the Honourable Francis Thomas Gregory, whose death has just been announced by the Presiding Chairman, this House do now adjourn.

THE HON. W. HORATIO WILSON said:  
Hon. gentlemen,—Before the motion is put, I would like to express the feeling of members on this side of the House on the subject that has been brought before us. I am sure that everyone must feel very deeply the loss we have sustained in the death of a prominent member of this House who was very much respected, and who has laboured amongst us for so many years. This House has lost a valued friend, and the country a painstaking and earnest legislator.

Question put and passed, and the House adjourned at twenty-seven minutes past 4 o'clock.

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