

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 1888**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, 1 November, 1888.*

Illness of the Clerk.—Petition—Brisbane River Improvements.—Sandstone Quarries Committee—Message to the Legislative Council.—Formal Motions.—Message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government—Financial Districts Bill.—Bonus for the Production of Calico.—Duty on Chinese Furniture—resumption of debate.—Messages from the Legislative Council—Maryborough-Gayndah Railway—Cairns-Herberton Railway—Croydon Branch Railway—Leave for Member to Attend Select Committee—Marsupials Destruction Act Continuation Bill.—Supply—resumption of committee.—Supplementary Estimates No. 2, 1887-8.—Adjournment.

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

## ILLNESS OF THE CLERK.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Clerk, stating that, through indisposition, he is unable to attend to his business in the House this afternoon.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS (Hon. J. M. Macrossan) said: Mr Speaker,—I beg to move that the Clerk-Assistant perform the duties of Clerk, in the absence of the Clerk.

Question put and passed.

## PETITION.

## BRISBANE RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. WATSON presented a petition from certain merchants, shipowners, and traders of Brisbane, praying that steps may be taken to improve the navigation of the Brisbane River; and moved that the petition be read.

Question put and passed, and petition read by the Clerk-Assistant.

On the motion of Mr. WATSON, the petition was received.

## SANDSTONE QUARRIES COMMITTEE.

## MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. NORTH said: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move, without notice, that the following message be sent to the Legislative Council:—

Mr. Presiding Chairman,—

The Legislative Assembly having appointed a committee to inquire into and report upon the sandstone quarries of the colony, and that committee, being desirous to examine the Hon. A. C. Gregory, Esq., in reference thereto, beg to request that the Legislative Council will give leave to its said member to attend and be examined by the said committee to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

## FORMAL MOTIONS.

The following formal motions were agreed to :—

By Mr. ANNEAR—

That there be laid upon the table of this House—

1. Copies of all correspondence between the Chief Engineer, Resident Engineer, and the railway contractors, from the commencement of the contracts to date, also all correspondence, reports, and minutes between the Chief Engineer and District Engineer, and between the Chief Engineer and Commissioner for Railways, and between the Chief Engineer and the Minister for Railways, and between the inspectors and the Department of Railways, for No. 1 section, Brisbane Valley Railway, and the same for No. 2 section, Bundaberg to Mount Perry Railway.

2. Copies of all certificates on the first section, Brisbane Valley Railway, and the second section, Bundaberg to Mount Perry Railway.

3. Copies of all agreements on the first section, Brisbane Valley Railway, and No. 2 section, Bundaberg and Mount Perry Railway.

4. Copy of voucher for No. 2 section, Bundaberg and Mount Perry Railway, dated 13th March, 1885.

5. Copies of all awards made by Chief Engineer on No. 1 section, Brisbane Valley Railway, together with all particulars and papers relating thereto.

By Mr. ISAMBERT—

That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of an address to the Administrator of the Government, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates for the present year the sum of £98 16s. 6d., the amount realised from the sale of land resulting from the exchange of roads through the Kilmp's Estate at Mount Walker, to be given to the Muldaplilly Divisional Board for forming and making the road received in exchange.

# MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT.

## FINANCIAL DISTRICTS BILL.

The SPEAKER said: I have to announce that I have received the following message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government :—

'A. H. PALMER,  
"Administrator.

"Mr. SPEAKER,—

"In accordance with the provisions of the 18th section of the Constitution Act of 1867, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government transmits herewith and recommends to the Legislative Assembly 'a Bill to make provision for dividing the colony into districts for financial purposes, and for the keeping of separate accounts of the general and local revenue and expenditure of the colony, and for the expenditure within the several districts of the revenue raised therein, and for the constitution of grand committees of revenue and expenditure within the several districts.'

"Government House, Brisbane,  
"1st November, 1888."

On the motion of the MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS the message was ordered to be taken into consideration in committee tomorrow.

## BONUS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CALICO.

Mr. STEVENS moved—

That the Speaker leave the chair, and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of an Address to the Administrator of the Government, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to direct that a reward of £5,000 be offered to the person who first manufactures 5,000 yards of calico in the colony.

Question put and passed.

## COMMITTEE.

Mr. STEVENS, in moving—

That an address be presented to the Administrator of the Government, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to direct that a reward of £5,000 be offered to

the person who first manufactures 5,000 yards of calico in the colony—

said it was not his intention in dealing with that matter to take up the time of the Committee at any great length, as the subject had already been fully discussed on a previous occasion, and that was probably the last private members' day they would have that session, and there were other members who had business to bring before the Committee. He would simply point out that the proposal was an indirect way of encouraging farmers to grow cotton, but its direct effect would be to encourage the establishment of cotton factories. It had been proved that cotton could be grown in the colony, and it was desired now to prove whether the farmers could sell their cotton at a price which would pay the manufacturer to purchase it for the purpose of working it up into manufactured goods. He was quite agreeable that the motion should be surrounded with such restrictions as would prevent bogus companies being started to manufacture 5,000 yards, claim the reward, and then cease operations without having done any good to the colony. The first amendment which he thought should be made in that direction was to provide that the cotton should be grown in the colony. He now formally moved the resolution, after which he would propose that there be added at the end thereof the words "from cotton grown in the colony."

Mr. MACFARLANE said he would suggest that, before the hon. member moved that amendment, he should insert the words "or company" after the word "person."

Mr. STEVENS moved that the words "or company" be inserted after the word "person."

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. STEVENS moved that the words "from cotton grown in the colony" be added at the end of the resolution.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said he thought 5,000 yards was a very small quantity, if the intention was to establish a cotton factory in the colony. It was just as easy, surely, for a real factory to manufacture 50,000 yards as 5,000, and if the quantity were increased to 50,000 yards that might be the means of preventing any bogus attempt to get the reward. He had heard of small machines by which calico could be made by a Chinaman or a native of India, at such a rate as would pay anybody to import a machine and a Chinaman or native of India to manufacture 5,000 yards, so as to claim the £5,000. The Committee must provide against anything like that. They were going to offer £5,000 for the establishment of a cotton factory, and they should be sure that they got what they offered that money for.

Mr. STEVENS said he had an amendment to propose to prevent a bogus company being formed for the purpose of obtaining the reward, but he had no objection to make the quantity 50,000 instead of 5,000 yards.

Mr. SALKELD said he was glad the hon. member had adopted the suggestion of the Minister for Mines and Works to make the quantity of calico to be produced 50,000 yards. It would be a guarantee against any bogus company being got up to secure the £5,000. He also thought that there should be a provision, the same as was inserted in Bills dealing with other manufactories, to the effect that the plant erected should be to the value of not less than the amount of the bonus—£5,000. No plant or mill that would carry out the intentions of the Committee could be erected for four times £5,000.

Mr. MACFARLANE said there was another way of looking at the question besides that

suggested by the hon. the Minister for Mines and Works. He believed it was the intention of the hon. member for Logan to insert a proviso which would render it unnecessary to increase the number of yards, that was, that the person or company should erect buildings to the value of £3,000, and machinery to the value of £5,000. That would be a sufficient guarantee that the industry would be gone on with. His object in pointing that out was because the sooner the company got the £5,000 the better it would be for them, and it would ensure the industry being pushed on quicker.

Question—That “5,000” be omitted, with the view of inserting “50,000”—put and passed.

Question—That “50,000” be inserted—put.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said that estimating the 50,000 yards of calico at 6d. per yard, the value would be £1,250, so that they were offering £5,000 for the manufacture of about £1,000 worth of stuff. He doubted whether that was not too much to pay for such an experiment.

MR. STEVENS said he had explained that an amendment would be moved, which would be a perfect guarantee that no bogus company would be got up, merely to secure the £5,000. The gist of the amendment was that the plant put down should be of the value of £5,000.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: It could be taken away after getting the reward.

MR. STEVENS said he did not see how it would pay anyone to spend £5,000 in plant and machinery to enable them to claim a reward of £5,000. The whole success of the scheme would depend upon whether the farmers could sell their cotton to the manufacturers at such a price as would pay them to manufacture it. No manufacturer would start a plant until he ascertained that. If he found that he could not get cotton at a price to pay him, he would not put up the factory, and, of course, could not claim the reward. It would be a much greater safeguard against a bogus factory being started to provide that the plant and machinery should cost, at any rate, as much as the reward, than to increase the quantity of calico to be produced, although he had no objection to making it 50,000 yards, or even a larger quantity. The only point was, that the larger the quantity the longer it would take before the company could claim the reward. The sooner the reward could be obtained the greater the inducement there would be for persons to start the factory. He did not object to any wise provision being made to secure *bona fides*, but he did not wish to see the scheme hampered with severe restrictions, which would prevent anyone from entering into the enterprise.

MR. SAYERS said he believed the intention of the Committee was to start and establish a permanent industry in the district, not one that would last only five or six months. He thought the fairest way to accomplish that would be to require that the company should produce calico to the value of £5,000, the Government to then pay them the £5,000 proposed. The object was to start a factory that would be of permanent benefit to the colony, not one that would last only a few months, and when the manufacturer found it would not pay he could throw it up after getting the reward. Unless a provision to the effect he had suggested were inserted he should vote against the proposal. He could not see his way to vote £5,000 of the money of the country to establish an industry to produce calico worth about £1,000, and which might be given up as soon as the reward was paid. That was not sufficient inducement to

grant a reward of £5,000, and he hoped the hon. member in charge of the motion would insert the proviso he had suggested.

MR. MELLOR said he should like to see the motion pass, but thought they should insert safeguards to secure that the money was paid for the establishment of a permanent industry. It was also possible that a firm might erect machinery to the extent of £5,000 and manufacture cotton grown somewhere else. He therefore thought it should be stipulated that the cotton should be grown in the colony.

MR. STEVENS: That is proposed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. Hume Black) said he thought there was a great deal in the contention of the hon. member for Charters Towers. No doubt it was the wish of the Committee, and he knew it was the wish of the Government, to foster and encourage the establishment of new industries in the colony; but he thought they were bound to surround any bonus of the sort proposed with such safeguards as would prevent people from coming here and apparently establishing an industry which, the moment they received the bonus, would cease to exist. He was informed that the average value of calico was something like 3d. a yard, so that in order to secure the £5,000 bonus, if the quantity was increased to 50,000 yards, at most they would have to produce calico to the value of £625 only. He did not think that was sufficient. The bonus that was given should be surrounded with such safeguards as would insist upon a manufactory being established of a certain value. There was no doubt it would pay the company which established the manufactory to give a very high price to the farmers for the purpose of growing cotton sufficient to manufacture that very small quantity of calico, a price which they could not possibly give directly the bonus ceased, and then the industry would collapse. There was another thing to be taken into consideration—that what they were doing now was the thin end of the wedge. If the principle was affirmed that a bonus should be given for the establishment of new industries in the colony, they might depend upon it that very soon other applications of the same kind would be made, and the same advantageous terms would be sought for the establishment of other industries. There was no reason, for instance, why the manufacture of steel rails should not be established in the colony; or wire—the demand for which was something enormous; or rope, for which there was an ever-increasing demand; each or any of which would be as beneficial, and much more beneficial, to the colony than the one for which a bonus was now sought. It must be remembered that a bonus had been given before for the establishment of the cotton industry, and the moment the bonus ceased the industry languished, until last year there was not more, he believed, than three bales of cotton exported from the colony. The encouragement of the growth of fibre plants would be far more beneficial to the agricultural population than the encouragement of the growth of cotton. The competition in cotton goods was something enormous, and the population of the colony was very small. The moment they had produced sufficient cotton to supply Queensland what was to become of the surplus?

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Send it to the other colonies.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the other colonies could import what they wanted from England much cheaper than it could be produced in Queensland. If they were to encourage the manufacture of calico by a bonus enormously in excess of the value of the produce,

what was to become of that industry after the bonus ceased? Or was it intended that the bonus should never cease? If they encouraged the production of calico by a very heavy bonus, the price of cotton goods would naturally be raised to the consumers, and the consumers of cotton goods were chiefly the working classes, of the colony. If they were going to increase the cost of living to them they would naturally look for an increase of wages. The increase meant, somehow or other, increased taxation on the people. The proposition, as he had said, would have to be surrounded by safeguards; and no doubt the Ministry, in framing the regulations offering the bonus, would see that it was surrounded by such safeguards as would bring about the result which the Committee desired to attain, and that was the introduction of the manufacture of cotton goods in the colony. Another thing must be borne in mind. Nothing was provided as to the value of the calico for which the bonus of £5,000 was to be given. The first 50,000 yards might be utterly unsaleable and worthless. That was a thing which would have to be taken into consideration. In his opinion the bonus of £5,000 should be paid to the company that manufactured, out of cotton grown in the colony, calico to the value of £5,000.

Mr. GROOM said he had carefully considered the matter since the question was before the House the other day, and he would like to have a legal opinion on one point which had struck him. In 1869 an Act was passed, entitled, "An Act to encourage the establishment of manufacturing industries." The 2nd clause of that Act provided for a bonus, under certain conditions, of £1,500 for the first £1,500 worth of cotton goods manufactured, and the 3rd clause provided that a grant of 1,000 acres of land should be given to the owners of the manufactory after they should have been in working for two years. If the resolution of the hon. member for Logan was carried, as he trusted it would be, and a cotton manufactory was established, they would be entitled under that Act, after two years, to claim 1,000 acres of land, unless it was otherwise provided for.

Mr. STEVENS said that would be provided for.

Mr. GROOM said that was what he wished to know, and he was about to suggest that to the hon. member. He believed, with other hon. members, that the value of the cotton goods to be manufactured should amount to the bonus that was offered. That was perfectly fair and just. The Minister for Lands had stated that the bonus of £5,000 would increase the cost of cotton goods to the people of the colony. At the present time a very large proportion of the cotton goods imported were admitted duty free; they came in a raw state, and were manufactured by tailoresses and seamstresses, and artisans of that class, and he thought it right that should be so. That they should endeavour to establish a cotton manufacture of their own in the colony was undoubted. That cotton could be grown here of a very high-class character, and that it had been grown here already and had competed with the cotton grown in the Southern American States, had been amply proved by evidence given before a select committee in 1864, so that there was no doubt whatever, so far as the resources of the colony were concerned, that the cotton manufacture could be established. The difficulty was in establishing the manufacture of cotton of a marketable quality, and at saleable prices; and in a young colony like this they must, in order to do that, offer a handsome bonus, and he thought the sum of £5,000 was not too much. Of course hon. members would ask why they had not offered a

larger bonus in 1869? but the population and the revenue of the colony were not so large then, and they were better able to afford £5,000 now than they could have afforded £1,500 in 1869. The colony had undergone great changes since then, and for the better. So far as the motion was concerned, he was strongly in favour of it, but, at the same time, they ought to remember that the Act of 1869 had not been repealed, and he called the attention of the Minister for Lands more particularly to the fact, as that Act provided for a grant of land, and that came under his jurisdiction. He believed in the motion; and he hoped the hon. member would accept the suggestions offered to him, with the view of making the resolution as practicable as possible, so that some private individual or company would come here and establish the manufacture.

Mr. STEVENS said that he was agreeable to receive suggestions which would put the matter on a sound basis. No one in the Committee would be more disgusted than he if any bogus company should come and claim that reward. He might state, by way of explanation, that at the time he had given notice of motion he had had very little time to get the notice properly framed. If he had not given notice just when he had, he should have lost his chance of getting it at the head of the business paper, and then it would not have come up at all during the present session. After he had given notice of motion he had discovered that there was an Act in existence offering a bonus for the manufacture of cotton goods. The difficulty pointed out by the hon. member for Toowoomba with regard to that might be got over by making the resolution something like this: "but that amount is not to be received in addition to any other sum which may be available by any Act of Parliament." That would be the gist of the amendment which would be proposed, but at the present time the amendment before them was that the quantity be 50,000 yards instead of 5,000 yards.

Mr. SAYERS said he would ask the hon. member if he would accept an amendment in the shape he had suggested, so that the resolution would provide that a bonus should be payable on the production of calico of £1 for £1 worth of calico. That would enable them to produce 1,000 yards of calico and receive, if the work were done to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council, £1,000, and so on up to £5,000. He would like to see the matter surrounded by safeguards; and although he did not object to the system of assisting any industry, he would regret very much if any loophole were left of which advantage might be taken by any company. There would be a great outcry, and it would prove the death-blow to establishing any other industry in the colony on the same basis. He hoped the hon. gentleman would accept some amendment to that effect.

Mr. MACFARLANE said there seemed to be some misunderstanding that that affair would not turn out *bonâ fide*, and they all wanted to surround it with as many safeguards as possible. He might inform the Committee that when the experiment had failed in previous years he had written to a gentleman in business in Manchester and he had calculated that a company would require to have a capital of £50,000. Those people who were trying to form a company expected to have not less than £20,000, and those interested were quite willing to surround the effort with any restrictions. He hoped the amount would not be reduced to £3,000, as the machinery could not be got for less than £15,000 to start the work, and the whole works would require to be worth at least £20,000 to start the manufacture on a sound basis, so that there was

no fear of the bonus of £5,000 being got and then the manufacture ceasing. That company would not start unless they got £20,000 capital

Mr. HODGKINSON said it was a singular commentary upon that motion that its warmest advocates were absolutely engaged in devising some means by which it would not be evaded—that was to say, they were frightened that the cultivation of cotton would be commenced more with the view of getting that bonus than with the view of establishing the cotton manufacture—that they only wanted to pocket the proposed premium. That was not a new matter in the colony. At the time of the American war great efforts had been made to promote the cultivation of cotton in the colony, in order to supply the great demand for cotton in Great Britain—at one time cotton brought 6s. a lb.—but the attempt had proved a failure. The hon. member for Toowoomba had quoted from an Act which had been passed in 1869, and which was still in existence, which held out great inducements for the cultivation of cotton. Yet long-headed men of business, who were only too anxious to find a profitable way of employing their capital, had never taken advantage of that Act. The hon. member referred to the fact that cotton was introduced to a great extent in a raw state, free of duty, and then manufactured in the colony. He objected to the employment of the word “manufactured” in that way. The hon. gentleman could not possibly mean more than that cotton goods were imported, and that they were made up into articles of dress in the colony—in fact, that they were sewn up; and yet the hon. gentleman said they manufactured cotton goods here. The next question at issue was that all those fostered industries must ultimately bear upon the individual members of the community, and they must absolutely destroy themselves, because, in order to compete with the established regions of cotton manufacturing, they must be able to make the article at a price which would enable the manufacturer to pay the wages incidental to the pursuit. The ultimate effect of the new tariff must be to nominally raise the wages of labourers to compensate for the increased cost of the necessities of life. If the laudable and persistent efforts of the Southern representatives to foster almost everything that could be developed in the South were to be pursued, the Northern members would want to carry out a similar policy with respect to the North. If the £5,000 proposed to be spent in fostering the cultivation of an exotic product, and in attempting to compete with the industrial and mechanical resources of Great Britain and the low cost of cotton-growing in the United States and India—if that money were devoted to the improvement of the metallurgical resources of the colony it would be repaid a hundred-thousandfold. How was it that the agriculturists—for whom he had every respect—did not devote their attention to the cultivation of perishable articles, in the production of which they would have no competitors? Their cotton would have to compete with the cotton grown with cheap labour in the United States and India; but those who might compete with them in the production of cereals, forage, and fruits had been shut out by a high tariff. It was disgraceful for anyone to try to foster an exotic industry when the agricultural resources of the colony were unable to supply the normal demands of such a small population. He would support the motion, on the condition that the hon. member who proposed it would record his vote in favour of the establishment of important industries in the North.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Log-rolling!

Mr. HODGKINSON: It is log-rolling, and it is wanted.

Mr. STEVENS said he thought the amendment suggested by the hon. member for Charters Towers, Mr. Sayers, would defeat the object of the motion, because it would be too restrictive. He thought that the amendment he had already proposed, with an amendment preventing the applicant from claiming a reward under the Act of 1869, would be sufficient.

Mr. PAUL said that if the bonus was for the establishment of a new industry he would support the motion, but seeing that it was for the establishment of an industry which had already been proved a failure, he could not give it his support. Another thing, if the motion were agreed to, bonuses would be wanted for the establishment of all kinds of industries.

Mr. COWLEY said he believed the object of the resolution was to benefit alike the cotton-growers, and a manufacturing population, and the country at large; and that being so, he did not see how the hon. member for Logan could object to the suggestion of the hon. member for Charters Towers, providing that the company must make £5,000 worth of calico from cotton grown in the colony. By adopting that suggestion, and also an amendment specifying the amount to be spent in machinery and buildings, bogus companies would be prevented from getting the bonus; but if that were not done, it would be easy for a company to put up buildings of a very inferior character, and sell their machinery after making the cotton goods and getting the bonus. There was another aspect of the case. Hon. members had insisted on the Government having locomotives made in the colony, and he did not see why the resolution should not provide that the machinery for the manufacture of cotton goods should be made in the colony.

Mr. SALKELD: It could not be done.

Mr. COWLEY said that the hon. member for Nundah, who was an expert in such matters, had said that with sufficient protection any kind of machinery could be made in the colony, and considerable weight should be attached to that statement. Protectionists, at any rate, could not object to insisting on the machinery being made in the colony. He should oppose the motion on general principles, because when once those large manufactories were established they would become monopolies, and would be able to compel the imposition of heavier duties than were imposed at the present time on the goods they manufactured. It was the general tendency of all monopolists to demand protection, and in many cases they obtained it. If the principle were accepted in the present case, there were other industries, such as the fruit drying and preserving industry, for which bonuses might, with quite as much reason, be asked; and they could not tell where it would stop. Therefore, he considered that the motion ought to be rejected.

Mr. SAYERS said he did not know if he would be in order at that stage in moving the amendment he suggested, to the effect that the bonus should be paid on the production of cotton goods to the value of £5,000. He would like to move that amendment.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said that if it was intended to do that the best way would be to omit all the words after the word “manufactures,” and insert the words “from cotton grown in the colony, cotton goods of the value of £5,000.” The conditions as to the value of the machinery could follow that.

Mr. STEVENS said he would withdraw the amendment he had moved, with a view of accepting the suggestion just made.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. STEVENS moved the omission of the words "5,000 yards of calico in the colony," after the word "manufactures," with the view of inserting the words "from cotton grown in the colony, cotton goods of the value of £5,000."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS moved, as a further amendment, the addition of the following words:—"The plant used in the manufacture to be of a fair value of not less than £5,000."

Mr. SAYERS said he did not profess to know a great deal about the manufacture of cotton goods, but from what fell from the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Macfarlane, he understood that that gentleman had been in communication with a gentleman in England connected with the industry for the manufacture of cotton goods, and the estimate that gentleman gave of the cost of the machinery and buildings necessary was a long way above that now proposed by the hon. member for Logan. The lowest estimate that had been formed was £20,000, and if the thing was to be a genuine affair, he thought they ought not to fix the amount to be expended on machinery and buildings at less than £10,000. If the hon. member for Logan moved that the amount should be £10,000 instead of £5,000 he would support him.

Mr. STEVENS said he had agreed to the previous amendment suggested by the hon. member, and he considered that made the motion sufficiently restrictive. If they added any more restrictions there would be very little chance of anyone offering to erect a factory. Probably that was the intention of the hon. member, to improve the motion to such an extent that no one would take advantage of it. He could not see his way to accept the last amendment suggested. He desired the motion should be made restrictive, and as he proposed to amend it, it would be sufficiently restrictive to preclude the possibility of anyone fraudulently obtaining the reward.

Mr. SAYERS said he did not think anything he had said would justify the strictures of the hon. member. It had been estimated, by members who knew more about cotton manufacture than he (Mr. Sayers) professed to know, that the plant and buildings for a cotton-mill could not be erected under £20,000. He was as anxious as anyone to see a cotton-mill established in the colony, but he wished, at the same time, to surround the motion with sufficient safeguards, because the establishment of other industries in other parts of the colony might be encouraged in the same way; but if that proposal proved a failure it would prevent other members getting bonuses for the establishment of other industries at some future time. It had not been disputed that the necessary buildings and plant for a cotton-mill would cost at least £20,000, and he therefore hoped the hon. member would accept the amendment, and increase the amount to £10,000.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the hon. member for Logan need have no fear in accepting the suggested amendment of the hon. member for Charters Towers. They all desired that the proposed bonus should be given for the *bonâ fide* establishment of a cotton factory, and a company could not start such an industry on a permanent basis without expending at least £3,000 on buildings and £7,000 on machinery. He supposed he knew as much about the cotton industry as most hon. members, as he worked at it as a lad, and had taken a great interest in it ever since. From

his knowledge of the business, he could assure the Committee that there need be no fear that the motion would lapse by accepting the suggestion of the hon. member for Charters Towers.

Mr. SALKELD said he did not think the hon. member for Logan need have the slightest fear that the suggested amendment would frustrate the object of the motion. He believed that when, some years ago, it was proposed to start a cotton factory it was estimated £20,000 or £25,000 would be required for that purpose. He was anxious to see a cotton-mill started, and he saw the importance of hedging the motion round with proper safeguards, so as to prevent anyone obtaining the £5,000 without carrying out the intention of the Committee. Their object was not simply to see 50,000 or 150,000 yards of calico manufactured in the colony, but to see an industry started that would be of a permanent character. The buildings and machinery of the Queensland Woollen Company cost £13,000 or £15,000. It might be possible, by the expenditure of £5,000 or £6,000, to turn out a certain amount of cotton goods, but that sum would not establish a cotton factory on a permanent basis. He would like to see the motion amended as suggested by the hon. member for Charters Towers, and would further suggest that it should be definitely stated that the building should be worth £3,000 and the machinery £7,000.

Mr. GRIMES said he had no intention of opposing the motion, but would suggest to the mover the advisability of accepting the proposed amendment. The advantage which it was expected that motion would bring to the colony was that it would lead to the establishment of a permanent factory. If a factory was only started for the purpose of obtaining the reward, that would be worse than useless, because it would induce a number of people to leave the cultivation of other agricultural produce and go into cotton-growing, and the stoppage of the mill would mean a great loss to those people. There could certainly be no harm in stating in the motion that the buildings must be worth £3,000 and the machinery £7,000.

Mr. MURRAY said that, assuming that machinery of the value stated was necessary for carrying on a cotton factory, would the Queensland Woollen Company be in a position, by a trifling expenditure for some additional plant, to manufacture the quantity of calico required, and claim that reward of £5,000? The company had the necessary buildings, engines, and boilers, and he knew of nothing to prevent their claiming the reward.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the company had no intention of doing anything of the sort. They had not the machinery for the manufacture of cotton goods, neither spinning machines, nor weaving machines, nor carding machines; and besides that the gentleman who originated that matter stated distinctly that he would not have a mill built in the same place as the woollen factory, or have anything whatever to do with the company.

Mr. STEVENS said that since he had heard the remarks of the hon. member for Ipswich he saw that the usefulness of the motion would not be endangered by accepting the suggested amendment. He was afraid at first that it would be too restrictive, and drive away those persons who would otherwise start a factory of that kind, but he saw, from the remarks which had been made, that there was no such danger, and as the hon. member necessarily knew more about the business than he did, he would accept the suggestion, and alter the amount in his amendment from £5,000 to £10,000.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put and passed.

Mr. STEVENS moved that the following words be added:—"Such reward to be in substitution of any reward any person or company would be entitled to under the provisions of the Encouragement of Manufacturing Industries Act of 1869."

Question put and passed.

Mr. COWLEY said he desired to draw attention to one point in connection with that proposal. The hon. member in charge of the motion had stated that he was very desirous of assisting the cotton-growers; that was his principal object in introducing the motion. Now, if the motion were passed, after the £5,000 worth of calico was made the company would be able to procure cotton from elsewhere, and he was positive, from his own knowledge of cotton-growing, that that article could be landed here at a much lower price than anyone here could grow it for. Therefore the farmers would be lured on up to that time by being paid a higher price than the manufacturer could afford to pay afterwards, and the result would be that the whole of the farmers who grew cotton would have to cease growing it. He was sure that if the motion was passed in its present form, directly the bonus was paid the price of cotton would be lowered, and the farmers would suffer accordingly.

Mr. MACFARLANE said, after the remarks of the hon. member, the matter required a little explanation. The hon. member misunderstood the object of the company. It was a farmers' co-operative cotton-growing and manufacturing company, and all the shareholders were farmers.

Mr. COWLEY: That was not stated before.

Mr. BATTERSBY said, another view of the matter was this: That even if the manufacturers were to try and import cotton after getting the £5,000, that House was always able to protect the farmers against any imported cotton being allowed to come into the colony.

Resolution, as amended, put and passed.

The House resumed, and the resolution was ordered to be received to-morrow.

## DUTY ON CHINESE FURNITURE.

### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE.

On the Order of the Day being called—

"Resumption of debate on Mr. Drake's motion.—That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that an excise duty, equal in amount to the import duty payable upon foreign-made furniture, be levied upon all furniture made within the colony by Chinese or other Asiatic labour,—which stood adjourned (under Sessional Order of 15th August last), at 7 p.m. of Thursday, the 25th instant"—

Mr. COWLEY said: Mr. Speaker,—I sincerely trust that this resolution will not pass. It will inflict a very great injustice on the Chinese who are already in the country—many of whom have paid the poll-tax of £30—and who have been allowed to carry on the trade of cabinet-making for several years. Those men, I hold, have a perfect right to continue their work unmolested. A great deal has been said about the Chinese living in dens and slums and amidst unsanitary surroundings. That can be easily obviated by corporations taking measures to prevent such a state of things. Corporations should give their inspectors instructions to see that those houses are kept in proper order, and that they should be so looked after as not to be conducive to the production or spread of disease. A great deal has also been said about the injury which these Chinese inflict upon white tradesmen. There may, probably, be a certain amount of truth in that; at the same time, it must be taken into consideration who those are who support the Chinese cabinet-

makers. Are they supported by their own countrymen? If so, the argument falls to the ground that the Chinese can "live on the smell of an oiled rag." If they are not supported by their countrymen, they must be supported by our countrymen, and, that being the case, the remedy is to leave off purchasing their furniture. I find, in the bulk of instances, that the people who are the loudest in their agitation against the Chinese are the very men who patronise them, and who purchase from them. For instance, on the Charters Towers Goldfield, almost without exception, every cook at the hotels is a Chinaman. I am also aware of the fact that the bulk of the firewood cut on the Charters Towers Goldfield for the use of the machinery is cut by Chinamen. I am also aware of the fact that some of the largest stores at Charters Towers are kept by Chinese merchants, and that those stores are patronised very considerably by the miners and the miners' wives. I would ask the House, is it fair to cry out against the Chinese when they are supported by us? At public meetings, in order to gain popularity, people are apt to speak against the Chinese, and to howl at them, and do everything they can, as far as talking goes, to oppose them, and directly the meeting is over they employ them or purchase goods from their stores. As long as that state of things exists it is hardly fair for us to pass a resolution of this kind, putting an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent on Chinese furniture. It would be very unfair and unjust; and as it is the people of the colony who support the Chinese, we should leave it to them to withdraw that support if they think it necessary. It would be just as reasonable to pass a law to punish persons who purchased from Chinamen. Those Chinese cabinet-makers were allowed to come to the colony; they have paid the poll-tax; they have paid their rent regularly, otherwise their landlords would have got rid of them; they have conformed to all the usages of society, or, if not, they could be made to; and they have given no trouble to the State whatever; and yet we are asked to turn round on these men and impose an excise duty of 15 per cent on all the furniture they make. Why restrict it to the furniture makers? If the principle is a good one, why not impose it on all alike? If this is passed, the market gardeners will demand protection. Why not embody that in the resolution? Anywhere outside Brisbane if you see a really good patch of cabbages, beans, or carrots, you admire them, and say, "How fine this looks; this gardener must be an industrious man;" and you find that he is a Chinaman. Throughout the length and breadth of the colony nearly all the vegetables are grown by Chinese. And who consumes those vegetables? It is not the Chinese. It is the white people who consume them; and if the white people thought they could make a better bargain, or purchase better vegetables by dealing with a Chinaman, are we to compel them to go elsewhere and to buy in a dearer market? If you put an excise duty on this furniture, the other must follow. You will benefit a few cabinet-makers to the detriment of all those people who purchase their furniture from the Chinese. If the furniture is worthless, or next door to it, and if it is cheap rubbish, why do people buy it? I cannot conceive that our fellow-countrymen are so absurdly stupid as to buy inferior furniture, because they can get it a little cheaper, when by paying a little more they could buy a much superior article. I have always found the bulk of the people narrowly examine the goods which they purchase, and they buy according to their means. You will not find a poor cottar buying expensive sofas and chairs. He furnishes his house according to his means, and the size



and quality of the house he inhabits; and, therefore, it is absolutely necessary that he should be able to buy furniture at a lower rate than his wealthier neighbour, and I find those people know what they are about, and get value for their money. I think, for these reasons, that by imposing an excise duty of 15 per cent. we shall be putting a heavier burden upon the people than we have already done. At the present time they are taxed in every shape and form, and if we impose this duty it will mostly affect the working classes. I know that our countrymen can make just as inferior furniture as anyone else, if they are not paid well for their labour. It is just a matter of whether you can pay or whether you cannot pay, and if you cannot pay £5 or £10 for an article, then you will pay £2 10s. or 30s. for an inferior article, and it is just the same in regard to furniture as in regard to anything else. I most sincerely trust the House will not consent to this motion.

Mr. SAYERS said: Mr. Speaker,—

The SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman has already spoken.

Mr. SAYERS: Not upon this subject.

The SPEAKER: The hon. member spoke upon this question last week.

Mr. TOZER said: Mr. Speaker,—I intend to vote against this resolution for this reason—that it has not been satisfactorily proved to my mind that it is at all desirable to impose this excise duty. Had the labour conditions of this colony been imperilled by the number of Chinese in the colony at the present time I might have supported it. I yield to nobody in my desire to see no more Chinese allowed into the colony; but there is a higher consideration than that which moves me in this matter. Those Chinese who are here have come here by our laws, and are here at the present moment by permission of our laws: and I shall never be a party to doing an act of injustice to anyone who has come here by our laws. If it could be shown to me by any person who represents, or professes to represent, the labouring classes of the colony that we are imperilling any trade by the number of Chinese we have allowed to enter the colony, I should then be compelled to do something to protect the white race against the Chinese. It would then be my duty to support some measure to protect the white people of the colony. I have no doubt of the sincerity of the hon. gentleman who proposed this resolution, but I disagree with him as to the existence in the colony of such a state of things as calls for this resolution at the present moment. The hon. member for Charters Towers says the trade is given up. I have been through the length and breadth of the colony, and I have not seen it. On the other hand, I have seen that the working men are the first to assist the Chinese. I do not think it is wise to legislate for one particular class in the colony. If there is a necessity to pass this resolution, then there ought to be a necessity to pass such a resolution for many other classes in the community besides the cabinet-makers. I shall give an instance of what happened the other day when I was up North. I was speaking to the chairman of the divisional board at Ravenswood, and he told me that it had been the custom of the board to employ Chinese in getting and laying road metal as it was more economical. Certain representations were made to the members of the board that no more Chinese labour should be employed, and they agreed to do away with it, as they considered it would be the proper thing to employ white men if they could get the work done at a reasonable price. What was the result? Why, the very persons who protested against the employment of those Chinese

got the contract, and they went at once and employed the Chinese themselves. I also know for a fact that it used to be the custom there for the Chinese to get firewood. It was thought advisable by a large company to give their contracts to white people, and when they did so those white men went at once and got the Chinese to do the work for them, after having protested against the company employing those Chinamen. To assist people who set an example of that sort I shall not be one in this House to support what they desire. There is an intense feeling throughout Queensland that Queensland should be kept for the white man, but there is also an intense feeling of justice in the people of Queensland not to turn out men we have brought here simply because they are struggling to get a living as well as the white people of the colony; but if ever a time should come when the white people of the colony feel that they are starving on account of the Chinese, then we should be bound to move in the matter. In four or five years, however, most of the Chinese who are now in the colony—who are all killing themselves slowly by eating opium—will have killed themselves, and the number will be probably reduced to about fifty, and that number need not be feared. After those people have come here, and paid a large amount of passage money in coming, surely we can wait that time, and be sufficiently unselfish to see the race die out. We have now passed salutary laws protecting ourselves, and I do not apprehend that the competition in the labour market will be felt in this colony as it is felt in Victoria and New South Wales; and I state distinctly that in all my travels in the colony I have not noticed the labour market unduly interfered with by the Chinese. If I had, I should vote for this resolution; but, as I have never found that to be the case, on this occasion I shall not assist the hon. member for Enoggera in passing his resolution.

Mr. GLASSEY said: Mr. Speaker,—I do not intend to occupy the time of the House, as I want this matter to go to a division as quickly as possible; but I am rather surprised at the remarks of the hon. member for Wide Bay. That hon. gentleman said that we have, to some extent, by our laws encouraged the Chinese to come to this colony. That is perfectly true; but we have also by our laws and by our money encouraged white people to come here. They are here now, and, as I said on a previous occasion, it is utterly impossible for the cabinet-makers to compete with the Chinese in this city and in other parts of the colony; and I think, when we have, as was proved on a previous occasion, upwards of 10,000 Chinese in the colony, competing in various industries with those white people whom we have brought here, in many instances at the expense of the country, that the least we can do is to protect them after they have arrived in the colony. The hon. member for Wide Bay says he has seen no proof that the position of the white man is endangered by the competition of the Chinese so far as the manufacturing industries of the country are concerned. Let me direct the attention of the hon. member to the fact that in the cabinet-making trade white men receive from 8s. to 10s. per day, and Chinamen in the same branch of the trade receive from 3s. 4d. to 4s. 2d. a day—and there are 160 Chinamen in the trade in the city of Brisbane alone. The European polishers receive from 8s. per day, but the Chinese receive only from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 4d. per day. The hours of labour of the Europeans are eight hours a day; but the Chinese work from 14 hours to 16 hours a day, Sundays included. House rents for white workmen are from 8s. to 10s. a week, but the Chinese

hut can be procured for 2s. or 3s. a week. The cost of living for a single European cabinet-maker in Brisbane—and it is higher in the country towns—is from 20s. to 25s. a week, while the Chinese live on an average of from 5s. to 7s. per week. In the face of this testimony, which cannot be questioned, because the papers can be produced, who can say that it is not time to protect the men engaged in this business? I think the resolution submitted by the hon. member for Enoggera commends itself to the sympathy and support of the members of this House who wish to protect the white people brought here at the expense of the country, and who find it impossible to compete against the Chinese race.

Mr. PAUL said: Mr. Speaker,—I do not wish to give a silent vote. I rise for the purpose of protesting against the hon. member for Bundamba continually posing as the workman's representative; and I think I can prove that the hon. member, in connection with someone else, instead of being the workman's friend, will turn out to be his enemy. I believe that the hon. member, in connection with Mr. O'Shea, got up petitions in favour of the Clermont Goldfield being proclaimed a new goldfield, by which means 150 Chinamen who had been working there for years were turned adrift, and sent into competition with the white men on the Peak Downs.

Mr. GLASSEY: I wish to correct the hon. member. There is not an atom of truth in the statement so far as I am concerned.

Mr. PAUL: I was under that impression. However, I say that we should do what we can to prevent the influx of Chinese, but we should not treat those who are here with injustice. It was a cruel thing to turn those 150 Chinamen off that field; and there were two decrepit men among them who could not leave, and who were brought up and committed to the Rockhampton Gaol for two months. We should do all we can to prevent Chinamen coming here in large numbers to interfere with the European workmen, but I maintain that as honest, upright, British subjects we should treat those who are already in the country with all justice and fairness.

Mr. MACFARLANE said: Mr. Speaker,—I cannot support the motion, and I wish briefly to give my reasons. Whenever Chinese legislation has been before us I have done my best to keep the Chinese out; at the same time, I maintain that those men who have come to the colony under our laws have a right to the protection of those laws. We have prevented Chinamen from going on our goldfields to a large extent, and we have imposed heavy penalties on them in other respects; and I maintain that those Chinamen who are in the colony have a right to equal justice with the rest of the people of the colony. I shall vote against the motion on those grounds.

Mr. MURRAY said: Mr. Speaker,—I see no reason why the cabinet-maker should be protected against the competition of Chinamen any more than the market gardener. If this motion is carried it will be necessary to follow it up with another to prevent European cabinet-makers from employing Chinese, because there is no doubt that if they can once get the Chinese out of the market they will turn round and employ Chinese as their workmen. This motion, I take it, is brought forward to benefit the workman, but I am sure that any little labour-saving appliance used in the manufacture of furniture affects the position of the workman a great deal more than the competition of any number of Chinese. If those who support the motion are earnest in their love of the working man, they should try to prevent the use of machinery in the cabinet-making

trade. That would be just as reasonable as trying to prevent the employment of Chinese. I intend to vote against the motion.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said: Mr. Speaker,—I only intend to make a few remarks, because I am anxious that the resolution should go to a division, and not be talked out, as was suggested last week. This matter is surrounded with a great many difficulties. The hon. gentleman who introduced the motion may probably be satisfied with getting an expression of opinion for reasons of his own; but it is very doubtful whether that expression of opinion will be followed up by anything of a practical nature. In expressing my views on the resolution, I am not in any way expressing the views of the Ministry, but my own personal views; and they are very much in accord with those expressed by some of the hon. gentlemen who object to the motion. It is not that I wish to see Chinese introduced to compete with the Europeans who are here; but I contend that those Chinese who have been allowed by our laws to come here and remain here, who have paid their footing, and proved themselves honest, diligent, law-abiding people, are decidedly entitled to the same protection which we give to our own subjects. They have never objected to the imposition of taxes on them; and we have recently passed a most stringent law by which the further introduction of Chinese is almost impossible. Those already in the colony, numbering about 10,000 odd, are certainly not likely to increase, but rather to diminish; and I think it would be a most un-English policy for us to turn round and, for the sake of sixty European cabinet-makers in Brisbane, authorise a policy which I think, in the opinion of all honest law-abiding people, would be considered most un-English, and positively unjust to the Chinese already here. They have done nothing, in my opinion, to deserve this extreme legislation which the hon. member for Enoggera proposes. Now, who is it that benefits by the Chinese labour already in the country? It cannot be said that it is the wealthy man. It is really a matter of very little importance to a man of means whether Chinese furniture is manufactured here or not. It is really the working man who benefits by this labour—the man with a family, and who has but a comparatively small income; the man who gets his £2, £3, or £4 a week, and hands over a certain portion of it to his wife on the Saturday night telling her to do the best she can for their family with it during the week. That is the class of people who are benefited, and who are thus enabled to enjoy many comforts which they could not otherwise enjoy, because they are able to buy furniture cheaper than they could do if a proposal of this kind was carried. It is the working man who is benefited, and who, I may say, is anxious to benefit by allowing Chinese to manufacture a description of furniture which is admirably adapted for his requirements. Working men do not desire to have velvet furniture, or furniture of a very handsome description. What they require is economical and useful furniture, and they are enabled to get it by buying this cheap description of furniture. The Chinese market gardeners have again been referred to. Why, all of us know that there are many parts of this colony where sickness would prevail to an enormous extent were it not for the labours of these Chinese market gardeners. The mover of this resolution, to be consistent, should say that everything that is either grown or manufactured by Chinese should pay an excise duty, and insist on all the cabbages being stamped and an excise duty imposed upon them. That is what he should do, and he should go a step further, and prohibit any newspaper

in the colony accepting Chinese advertisements I am not referring now to the paper he so ably conducts himself; but I have seen, over and over again, country newspapers, the editors and proprietors of which are as anxious to obtain Chinese advertisements as any others, while at the same time we see in the columns of those papers frequent articles of denunciation of the Chinese. I like people to be consistent, and, at all events, I do not approve of what I call class legislation. A great deal has been said about the Chinese furniture being of an inferior description, but I doubt that very much. My opinion is that it is not the vices of the Chinese that we have to be afraid of, but their virtues. They work hard, and they do not in any way transgress the laws of the country any more than our own people do.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: Why take so much trouble to keep them out?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Why do we? In deference to public opinion, for political reasons, I may inform the hon. gentleman.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: I only wanted to know your views.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Well, the hon. gentleman knows them now. The hon. gentleman has no particular antipathy to the Chinaman as a Chinaman, but he knows perfectly well that it pays him best to denounce the Chinese, and he does it.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: What have you been doing during the last fortnight, but voting for their exclusion, and why did you do that if you do not think they should be kept out?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The hon. gentleman asks me what I have been doing with reference to this question, and in answer I may say I have done very little on that subject; but I believe, the opinion of the country being adverse to the further introduction of Chinese, it is the duty of the Government to pass such measures as will effectually prevent their introduction in the future, and we have done it. But I say, in all honesty, we are bound to treat these people in an English way, as they have come here in accordance with the laws which have existed here up to the present time. I shall say no more on the subject, as the hon. gentleman who has proposed this motion may wish to reply to the speeches that have been made before the question goes to a vote.

Mr. DALRYMPLE said: Mr. Speaker,—I would like to say a word or two upon this motion. I am as strongly in favour of keeping the Chinese out of this colony as anyone can be; but I am also in favour of treating every man justly and fairly. Having allowed the Chinese to come here, and having taken from them a certain amount of money, which they have deposited as a sort of safeguard against their violation of our laws, we have, I contend, entered into at least an implied contract with them, and so long as they observe our laws we have no business to punish them by handicapping them in any description of industry in which they may wish to engage, without their consent or without giving them any option. Then, again, we are asked to pass this law against 160 Chinese, or thereabouts, who are engaged in Brisbane, more or less usefully, in making furniture that is generally used by working men, who buy it, I presume, because they consider it advantageous to do so. We have passed laws which will, I think, effectually prevent Chinese coming into this colony. We have gone so far as to make a law by which we can imprison a Chinaman for life if he comes in here by land. We have passed

sufficient safeguards against the inundation of this colony by serious numbers of Chinese; there is not a serious number of them here, and there are at the present time more going away than coming; and every year there was a certain mortality amongst those who are here, and in the course of a few years, while our population will have increased rapidly, the Chinese population will have diminished, until we have no Chinese here. In the meantime, however, if we say they shall not go upon our goldfields—and we may be justified in that—those people must be given some means of obtaining a livelihood. If the hon. gentleman who moved this motion was consistent, as the Minister for Lands has said, he should move that an excise duty should be imposed upon rice, bananas, vegetables, and everything else produced by Chinese; but while they are here they must be allowed to make a living in some way, or otherwise they will have to take refuge in the Insolvency Court or in Dunwich, or be run in by the police and taken care of. Considering the few Chinese there are in the colony, and the legislation we have passed against them, this motion seems to me to savour of the strong oppressing the weak. It seems to me to be cowardly, and I am certain, in spite of what has been said, that public opinion is sufficiently sound to be satisfied with accomplishing its ends, and has no desire to persecute anyone.

Mr. DRAKE said: Mr. Speaker,—I regret that, owing to the limited time at my disposal last week, I was not able to present my arguments in support of this motion as fully as I would like to have done. I have to thank many hon. members who have since—

The SPEAKER: I think the hon. member must get the consent of the House to reply.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said: Mr. Speaker,—This is an adjourned motion.

The SPEAKER: It is an Order of the Day. It having been postponed in accordance with a Sessional Order, it becomes an Order of the Day. I have no desire at all to prevent the hon. gentleman replying to the debate, but it is laid down by "May" that the right of reply is not permitted to an hon. member who has moved any Order of the Day. I think that in this case the House will have no objection to the hon. member proceeding, but I think it was my duty to call attention to the fact that he can only do so by consent of the House.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said: Mr. Speaker,—I will just point out that this is an adjourned debate upon a motion, the consideration of which has been adjourned in compliance with a Sessional Order. It might have been adjourned by a motion, "That the debate be now adjourned." That frequently happens, and then the resumption of the debate is made an Order of the Day, and in such cases the mover has always been conceded the right to reply.

The SPEAKER: What the hon. gentleman says is quite true; but it has been the practice to put a motion postponed in accordance with our Sessional Orders in the Orders of the Day. So that there is a technical objection to the hon. member's right to reply. I could not let the matter pass without noticing it, and I presume the hon. member will have the consent of the House to reply.

Mr. GROOM said: Mr. Speaker,—I do not think the hon. member ought to have to ask the leave of the House. I think he has a right to reply. Last session, when a similar question occurred on an unfinished debate on a motion adjourned under the Sessional Order, I was consulted on the matter, and I expressed the opinion that the motion should be placed at the end of the ordinary motions on the business paper, and not among the Orders of the Day. The House

has not made any resolution that the resumption of the debate should be an Order of the Day for this afternoon, and I respectfully submit that the hon. member for Enoggera is entitled to reply and should not have to do so by the grace of the House.

Mr. DRAKE said: Mr. Speaker,—As it is nearly 6 o'clock, I will ask the permission of the House to reply in order that I may not be prevented from doing so by a discussion on the point, of order.

The SPEAKER said: Before the hon. member addresses the House I may state that I am not absolutely satisfied on the point. Technically I think the resolution becomes an Order of the Day under the Sessional Order. With regard to the matter mentioned by the hon. member for Toowoomba, if the point had been raised by an hon. member I think I should have been disposed to leave it to the House to determine. The question is one of those doubtful ones which it is not uncommon for the Speaker to leave to the decision of the House.

Mr. DRAKE said: Mr. Speaker,—I wish to thank hon. members, especially the leader of the Opposition, for the assistance they have given me in this motion. A great many arguments have been advanced against it, which have been replied to in the course of the debate, and if I omit to reply to any of them now I hope hon. members will not attribute it to any disrespect to them. The principal argument that has been used was that if this proposition is a correct one the principle should be made applicable to everything manufactured by Chinese. I would point out to those hon. members who used that argument that in introducing the motion I stated that I was introducing it for the special reason that a duty of 15 per cent. had just been imposed by Parliament on all imported furniture, and I feared that if this proposed excise duty was not imposed, that import duty would have the effect of encouraging and strengthening the manufacture of furniture by Chinese in the colony. I was afraid that the manufacture of furniture by Chinese in Queensland would become as strong as it is in Melbourne, and the position of the European cabinet-maker be as bad as it is there. That was my reason for bringing forward the motion at this particular time. I mentioned the matter at the earliest opportunity in the House, in the hope that something would be done to put a tax of this sort in operation simultaneously with the import duty.

Mr. UNMACK: There is also an import duty on vegetables.

Mr. DRAKE: What quantity of vegetables is imported? Only a few crates of cauliflowers and cabbages. But we know that this particular trade, which at one time flourished in Victoria, has been practically killed by Chinese-made furniture. That is the reason why I restricted the motion to Chinese-made furniture. I thank hon. members very much for the indulgence they have afforded me.

Question put, and the House divided:—

AYES, 23.

Sir S. W. Griffith, Messrs. Nelson, Macrossan, Drake, Morehead, Hodgkinson, Barlow, Isambert, Donaldson, Sayers, Stephens, Morgan, Foxton, Luya, Smyth, Groom, Goldring, Salkeld, Grimes, Plunkett, Glassey, Watson, and Agnew.

NOES, 24.

Messrs. Jordan, Black, Adams, North, Tozer, Paul, Macfarlane, Rees R. Jones, Cowley, Campbell, Palmer, G. H. Jones, Powers, Murray, Little, Battersby, Archer, Dalrymple, Lyons, O'Sullivan, Crombie, Unmack, Jessop, and Hamilton.

PAIR.

For: Mr. Rutledge.

Against: Mr. Lissner.

Question resolved in the negative.

## MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

### MARYBOROUGH-GAYNDAH RAILWAY.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a message from the Legislative Council, intimating that that House had approved of the plan, section, and book of reference of the proposed extension (section 2) of the Maryborough-Gayndah railway, from 25 miles 27 chains 50 links to 45 miles 60 chains 00 links, in length 20 miles 32 chains 50 links.

### CAIRNS-HERBERTON RAILWAY.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a message from the Legislative Council, intimating that that House had approved of the plan, section, and book of reference of the proposed extension of the Cairns-Herberton railway, from 24 miles to 42 miles, in length 18 miles.

### CROYDON BRANCH RAILWAY.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a message from the Legislative Council, intimating that that House had approved of the plan, section, and book of reference of the first section of the proposed Croydon branch railway, 13 miles to 42 miles from Normanton, in length 29 miles.

### LEAVE FOR MEMBER TO ATTEND SELECT COMMITTEE.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a message from the Legislative Council, intimating that, in accordance with a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, leave had been granted to the Hon. A. C. Gregory to attend and give evidence before the select committee appointed to inquire into the sandstone quarries of the Southern districts of the colony.

### MARSUPIALS DESTRUCTION ACT CONTINUATION BILL.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a message from Legislative Council intimating that that House had agreed to this Bill without amendment.

## SUPPLY.

### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. Sir T. McIlwraith), the Speaker left the chair, and the House went into committee to further consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

### AGENT-GENERAL FOR THE COLONY.

The COLONIAL TREASURER, in moving £3,682 for the department of the Agent-General for the colony, said the Estimate was practically the same as last year.

The Hon. Sir S. W. GRIFFITH asked if the hon. gentleman was in possession of any late information with respect to the plates for the steel sleepers, which were sent out in a very unsatisfactory condition. The Agent-General had been called upon to inquire into the case, but the report had not been received when he (Sir S. W. Griffith) left office.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said a reply had been received. The executive engineer in London entirely exonerated the contractors, and proved, to the satisfaction of the officers here, that the plates were shipped in the condition in which they were ordered. It was also stated that if the contractors had received orders to that effect they would have sent out the plates shaped into the proper form; that they would have preferred sending them out in that way instead of plain. There were a good many other matters in the report which were very interesting, and if he had known that the

question would have been raised he would have brought it with him. However, as all the papers had been called for, hon. members would be able to read the report for themselves.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said that was not the point. The hon. gentleman said the executive engineer, who was the person primarily responsible for the error, reported that everything was right. It was only natural to expect that he would do so, but he (Hon. Sir S. W. Griffith) would like to hear a little more on the subject. He was sure that if the plates had been cut straight they would not have got crooked on the voyage from England to Queensland. The complaint was that the plates were not cut straight, that they were not in accordance with the specification, and the hon. gentleman said the executive engineer, who was, in fact, charged with neglect of duty for allowing the plates to be made contrary to specification, and in such a condition as to be useless for the purpose intended, had reported that they were all right. That was not sufficient. And it was not sufficient to tell the Committee what the iron company might have done if they had not been ordered to do something else. That was a very simple way of what was vulgarly called "bluffing"—that was, that when attention was called to a particular thing an ingenious reply was given to an entirely different question. The question he asked was: How was it that those plates, which were specified to be of particular size and shape, were not sent out according to specification?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said it appeared from the report that the plates were sent out as specified. As for saying that that was only "bluffing" on the part of the executive engineer at home, it must be borne in mind that that officer had, sent out the evidence with his report, giving not only his own opinion, but the opinions of others with respect to those plates. What more could they get? They had the report from the Agent-General and the officers of his department, a report from the inspector in charge of the plates during the time they were being rolled, and another from the company supplying them, all of which went to show that the plates were sent out in accordance with the conditions in which they were ordered to be supplied.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he did not use the term "bluffing" as applicable to the executive engineer, but to the hon. gentleman.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: What is the meaning of the word?

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he did not say the engineer had endeavoured to divert the charge, but that the contractors were endeavouring to divert the attention of the Government from the real question by raising an entirely different one, and the remark also applied to the hon. gentleman for the same reason.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said the hon. member had misunderstood the Minister for Railways, who completely answered the hon. member's question. What the Minister for Railways said was that the report from the executive engineer in London was to the effect that the specifications had been complied with. That report, which was a very full one, had been submitted to the engineers in the colony, and they agreed with him that the specifications had been completely fulfilled. The other statement about what the contractors could have done was additional information.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said that if the Minister for Railways had given him the same reply that the Colonial Treasurer had just given, he should have been perfectly satisfied with it.

Question put and passed.

#### WATERWORKS AND WATER SUPPLY.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that £17,132 be granted from loan fund for Waterworks and Water Supply. It was practically the same Estimate as that of last year, with the exception that the services of several officers had been dispensed with, such as the mechanical engineer, the overseer in charge of American well-boring machinery, and a clerk and store-keeper at Hughenden. There was a new item in the shape of twenty-two caretakers of dams. There must be caretakers of Government property, whether they got any revenue from it or not. Up to the present the caretakers had not been able to make their own salaries from the revenue derived from the water supply, but he had no doubt that, as time went on, a scheme would be devised by which it would be made self-supporting. At all events it ought to be. The item for labour had been reduced from £9,000 to £5,000.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH asked what was the meaning of the item "allowance to engineer for municipalities, and three district engineers, £600?"

The COLONIAL TREASURER replied that it was an allowance for travelling expenses, each of the four engineers being allowed £150 for that purpose.

Mr. PALMER said that at Normanton lately, Mr. Henderson, the hydraulic engineer, formulated a scheme of water supply to cost £50,000, which scheme the ratepayers had negatived on a general vote taken on the question. The water-borer scheme would be very successful there, as there was every indication of a supply of water being obtained at a reasonable distance. Was there any way by which the ratepayers of Normanton could borrow one of those water-borers if one was available?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said there was no water-borer available from the Government. The cost of artesian water boring at present had been taken from the remnant of a vote passed in 1884—a part of the £10,000,000 loan—and they were making it go as far as possible in boring for water in various parts of the colony. It was not intended to relieve municipalities or divisional boards from their responsibility in finding water. It was a general vote, and the expenditure of it was left very much to the discretion of the Minister. The Government were quite prepared to lend money to those local bodies for any water supply the Government might approve of.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said it would be satisfactory to hear from the Government some idea of how those works were being executed, how far they were to be allowed to be used free for the general benefit of the public, whether they were to be placed under charge of divisional boards or to be retained in the hands of the Government, and what money was to be charged for the advantages of water. It would be interesting also to know what further explorations the Government intended to make; he had always regarded that kind of work as in the nature of a work of exploration.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said there was a general item in the £10,000,000 loan for water storage, which had been pretty well used up before the present Government came into power. When they came into power, they found that the success of artesian wells had been established in certain districts. The Government, therefore, felt themselves perfectly justified in extending the system of what the hon. member very properly designated exploration. He thought it was a right thing that they should try all parts of the colony for the purpose of

finding out artesian water. The Government determined on sinking wells in certain districts of the colony—in fact, all over the colony. They were, of course, bound a good deal by geological conditions, but their object was to find an artesian supply for almost every district in the colony. He had a map before him which showed the wells that had been determined upon up to the present time, and he would lay it upon the table. The wells which had been completed were at Barcardine, Saltern Creek, Blackall, and Tambo. Those wells had been completed successfully, and a supply of artesian water had been found at all of them. The bores in progress were one at Wellshot, further down the Thomson; another at Stewart, Tambo, and Alpha. Then contracts had been called for bores at St. George, Cloncurry, another at Cunnamulla, another at Winton, one at Clermont, Kensington, one at a place called Stacks; a well on the road between Hughenden and Winton; one at Hughenden, Laidley, Clifton, and Dalby. Then they had wells fixed for other places, for which they had not called for contracts, but for which tenders would be called in a short time—Roma, Charleville, Isisford, on the Hughenden and Cloncurry road, about 160 miles west of Hughenden; one on the Winton and Cloncurry road, a little north-west of Mackinlay; one on the Boulia and Cloncurry road, about 60 miles north of Boulia. Those works were being paid for out of the loan vote, and when they were completed there would be about £25,000 left. Those wells would be dug contingent upon the water being obtained at a fair average depth, and it was quite possible that a sum of money would be left after they had been completed.

Mr. PAUL asked the Colonial Treasurer if Emerald was in that list?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said it was in that list. Hon. members would see that in the Loan Estimates he proposed to increase the vote by £50,000. That should be accompanied by a schedule showing the places—or, at any rate, giving an indication of them—to show that they would be fairly distributed over the colony. He considered it was a matter of great importance, and it was becoming of greater importance every day. He believed artesian water could be found within a couple of hundred miles of Brisbane, and about the Main Range, at a less depth than on the Thomson and Barcoo.

Mr. UNMACK said it would be satisfactory if the Colonial Treasurer would inform the Committee whether there had been already pressure brought to bear upon him, as had been currently reported, to get the Government to hand over those successful wells to the divisional boards? Considering that every municipality, or divisional board, or shire, which was anxious to procure a water supply, could raise money by obtaining a loan, and that the country had gone to some considerable expense to search successfully for water, there should be no such thing done as handing those bores over to the divisional boards.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that was a very difficult question. It was too soon to decide what principle they would adopt in handing over those wells to the local authorities. He was in favour of the local authorities getting them, but upon what terms he had not decided. For instance, take the Barcardine bore. That had cost an immense sum of money, and they did not know the exact amount at which to assess the local authority, because subsequent wells might be made at a less expense, and then they might be able to fix a general principle upon which to hand them over to the divisional boards. That money had been mostly spent by the late Government and carried on by himself, and he quite agreed with

the action the late Government had taken for the purpose of establishing the fact that artesian water could be got. That he believed to be a part of the duty of the Government to perform. They ought to test the whole of the colony for the purpose of finding artesian water, and when they had established that fact, it would be a matter of very little difficulty for the divisional boards to follow it up and make their own wells.

Mr. UNMACK said he thought the answer of the Colonial Treasurer was very satisfactory, because it established the fact that the Government had no intention of handing over those wells free of charge. There had been no intention on his part to unfairly force the hands of the Government, or to ask them to commit themselves in any way.

Mr. STEVENS said he noticed in the *Courier* of that morning that it was stated by a correspondent that a bore had been put down at Cunnamulla, on the Warrego River, within gunshot of one of the finest waterholes in the district—it was three miles long. It had excited a great deal of unfavourable comment, and he thought they should get an official explanation of the matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. B. D. Morehead) said that bore was being put down in a township which was one of the two capitals of his electorate. The original intention had been to put down that bore at a point somewhere about twenty miles to the east of Cunnamulla. In putting down a bore they must be careful to put it upon a main road, as they did not want to benefit only a pastoral tenant, as that would be very improper. About six weeks ago, or more, he had received information from Cunnamulla—the letter coming from one of the leading residents there—about that waterhole, and his correspondent had described it as an extraordinary mixture—a sort of soup which they had to drink, and made up of dead dogs, dead sheep, and dead cattle. It must be understood that Cunnamulla was situated on the bank of the River Warrego, which was one of the main stock roads from the North of Queensland to New South Wales. It was absolutely necessary for the people there that a bore should be put down, and water obtained if possible, as disease would probably break out if they had to rely only on the water of the river. It was true that the waterhole was a large one, but the water was destroyed by the putrefying stock.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said the hon. member for Logan had raised a point on which some explanation ought to be given. In fixing a site for a well the Government had to consider many things. He made up his mind that there must be a bore to test the country in the neighbourhood of Cunnamulla; but it was not the object of the Government, nor was it their business, to find water for the municipality of Cunnamulla, or for any divisional board in the country. The object of the Government was to test the country, and they had to put down the bore in the best place. He had searched the country within thirty miles of Cunnamulla, and if water could have been obtained for the engines at some distance from the town the bore would not have been put down where it was. The bore had to be put down on the site selected, because that was the only place where water could be obtained; and it was put down there merely to test the district, and not to supply the inhabitants of Cunnamulla with water. When the district was tested the Government would look out for favourable seasons to put down artesian wells twenty or thirty miles away from the town.

Mr. CORFIELD said that the matter was one in which the residents of the district he represented were deeply interested. He might

point out that the large sum of £3,412 13s. had been spent in the town of Winton, and all there was to show for it of any use was the town tank. It was originally an excavation of 15,000 cubic yards, but its capacity had been considerably reduced through the washing away of the by-wash, and the silting up of the dam to the extent of several feet; and the inhabitants would very soon have to obtain their supply of water from a waterhole distant three miles from the township, and also be at the expense of keeping a man and two horses on the spot to drag dead-beats out of the waterhole to keep the water as pure as possible. It was shameful the way in which a portion of the money had been squandered. There was one bore 100 feet deep and another 326 feet deep, both of which had been abandoned. The latter yielded a small supply of brackish water at first, but through having been only partially cased, the lower portion had fallen in and the bore was useless. Another well 200 feet was sunk, the other dimensions being 5 feet by 3 feet. The well was slabbled the whole of the depth, but there had been no result so far as water was concerned. The contractor, in excavating the tank, dug a portion of it 3 feet deeper than the depth specified in the contract, and the overseer in charge of the work made him dig earth from the other side and wheel it across to fill up where he had gone below the depth specified, in order to make the tank a uniform depth of 24 feet as specified in the contract. He did that in spite of the fact that the contractor was willing to dig the whole of it 27 feet deep, and the townspeople were willing to reimburse him for the extra work if the Government would not pay him. He had the greatest respect for the Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. Henderson, and did not blame him in connection with the matter, because his time was fully occupied with other matters, and the overseer in charge was alone responsible for that idiotic action. That officer had now left the service, and he had every reason to believe that the department were not previously aware of the information he had just given. The Treasurer had promised an artesian bore at Winton, and he hoped that the hon. gentleman would see fit to give his favourable consideration to an early commencement of the work. He would draw the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that all through the Estimates not one penny had been voted for improvements, with the exception of the water scheme, in any portion of the Gregory electorate, which was the largest electorate in point of size in the colony. He had refrained from bringing other matters before the Government, his object being to concentrate all his energies in obtaining the most vital and long-felt want. He was not captious in pointing out the great want felt in the district, as he understood the difficulties against which the Government had to contend in satisfying all those who were clamouring for artesian bores. He would not detain the Committee by retailing the hardships which the residents of that portion of the district had already suffered through the dearth of water, and were likely to suffer for some time if the drought continued; but he would leave the matter in the hands of the Treasurer, who was not a stranger to that part of the colony, and would therefore see the reasonableness of the request he had made.

Mr. ISAMBERT said it was satisfactory to know that the Government, in continuing their boring operations, did not intend to confine their attention entirely to the West, but would also put down bores in the districts near the coast. He would like to know if Rosewood was to be considered in the matter, because, of all the districts in the colony that district

was particularly unfavourably situated so far as water supply was concerned. The people there would be very glad, even if they had a supply of the indescribable mixture spoken of by the Colonial Secretary. They had to go six or seven miles for water, and drive their cattle that distance; and it was well known that cattle could not stand that very long when they were weak through the absence of good feed. The other day a deputation waited on the Colonial Secretary—in the absence of the Colonial Treasurer—with regard to the water, and he agreed that a water supply was very much needed in the district. He therefore hoped the Government would do what they could to provide a supply of water for that district.

Mr. CROMBIE said he would like to know whether Aramac was amongst the places at which the Colonial Treasurer intended to put down bores. He might mention that at Aramac at the present time people were carting water a distance of eight miles, and they had had to do that four times within the past seven years.

Mr. LYONS said he hoped the Colonial Treasurer would kindly consider the district of Fitzroy. Every member appeared to be clamouring for his own district, and he would like to bring under the notice of the Colonial Treasurer that in the district of Mount Morgan alone there were about 5,000 inhabitants, and a very short time ago the people of that district had to drink the water that came from the Mount Morgan Company's dam. There was no other place at which they could get water, and the water they did get was impregnated with very offensive matter coming from the company's works. The Colonial Treasurer had kindly promised him some time ago that he would have a site surveyed for a dam in that district, but if there was to be some scheme for boring for water in the different districts of the colony, he would be glad if the hon. gentleman would consider the advisability of boring for water in the Fitzroy as well as in other districts.

Mr. GOLDRING said he did not rise to ask for anything further from the Government, but to thank them for having chosen a site in his electorate for a bore. It was well known that the Flinders was a main stock route, and the want of water on it was severely felt, not only during the present, but also during past seasons. He felt confident that the Government would not experience any very considerable difficulty in obtaining water along the Flinders River. They had been promised the bore some time ago, but he regretted to say it was not there yet, and he could only ask the department to use every expedition in having a bore started on the Flinders.

Mr. SALKELD said that while he was in favour of the principle carried out by the last Government and continued by the present Government in trying to find water wherever possible, still he hoped the Government would carefully consider the whole question with a view of acting in that matter on a basis equitable and fair to all the districts of the colony. When they looked at the map produced, they found that in certain districts bores for artesian water were to be put down in different places, while other districts were left out of it altogether.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Which are they?

Mr. SALKELD said he noticed there was no bore to be put down in the Fassifern district.

Mr. CROMBIE: There are plenty of running creeks there.

Mr. SALKELD said the hon. member for Mitchell had probably never been in the district,

and knew nothing at all about it. At the present time, and for many months, many of the settlers had to fetch water long distances.

Mr. CROMBIE : Warrill Creek is running strong now.

Mr. SALKELD said it might be running in parts of it where there were springs, but it was on the border of the district, and did not supply it. Large numbers of settlers were carting water and driving stock to water a number of miles. What he wanted was that the question should be dealt with equitably and fairly. There were many places where it would be of no use to put down artesian bores ; but in those districts some provision should be made for the storage of water. He understood the Colonial Treasurer intended to consider the whole question and put it on a proper basis, and with that assurance he was satisfied.

Mr. CROMBIE said it was evident the hon. member for Fassifern did not know as much of his constituents as he ought. He happened to be one of the hon. member's constituents, and he might mention that he had a farm of about 1,100 acres in the hon. member's electorate, and through that farm there was a running creek, which had never stopped running since he knew anything of it.

Mr. SALKELD said he knew the district as well as the hon. member for Mitchell. He had lived there for years, and had been all over it. He knew Warrill Creek, to which the hon. member alluded, and he knew that it ran on the border of the electorate, and did not supply the whole of it.

Mr. HODGKINSON said there had been a boring machine sent up to Croydon at great expense, and at great expense also it had sunk a bore about 80 feet in far more time than it would have taken to do it by hand labour. He was not in possession of all the details, and he did not intend to trouble the Colonial Treasurer about the matter now, but he would like to ask him, seeing that that machine was there, whether a company or party of miners would be allowed to rent it from the State if they desired to do so ?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that matter was outside the present debate. Unfortunately the diamond drill drifted into his department, and he was very glad to get rid of it. Hon. members were reasoning on the subject they were discussing on a wrong basis altogether. Many of them spoke in pretty much the same terms as the letters he had been constantly receiving during the last two months. He had received the most heartrending letters from all parts of the colony asking what he was going to do to find water for almost every township and division in the colony. It was not the duty of the Treasurer to find water for every township in the colony. His duty was to spend the money put at his disposal by Parliament, and Parliament had not put any money at his disposal to supply water to any township. There was £250,000 granted in 1884 in the £10,000,000 loan for water storage, and when he got into office, there was about £100,000 of that left unexpended. At that time the success of the artesian well-boring had been fairly well established, and he immediately, therefore, adopted the system of testing the whole of the colony. He would ask any hon. member to look at the map he had laid on the table, and, considering the waterfall, the watershed, and the population, say whether it did not show a very fair allotment of bores for the purpose of testing for artesian water ? The principle had never been to supply townships and divisional boards with water, but to show them how it could be got. His object was to

test the best way in the different districts of the colony. The hon. member for Fassifern complained that his district was not included in those in which bores were to be put down. As an illustration of what had been done he would refer to the district of West Moreton. If the hon. member would look at the watershed of that district he would find that a well had been put down there for the purpose of testing the district. That well was at Gatton.

Mr. SALKELD : In an electorate represented by a supporter of the Government.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said if the hon. member thought those tests were made simply in districts supporting the Government he was very much mistaken. If he looked into the matter he would find that it was different. The principle upon which they had acted had been to test the different districts of the colony according to their geographical formation and according to their population. For instance, on the western line from Rockhampton the centres of population had been, or would be, fairly tested by the establishment of two wells—one at Barcaldine and another at Longreach. The hon. member for Mitchell asked why a well had not been put down at Aramac. It was for this reason : that a well having been established at Barcaldine and another at Kensington, those would fairly test the district, and show whether it was worth while testing Aramac. The wells put down would be a fair test of the colony, and the selection of places had been made irrespective of political parties in that Committee.

Mr. ISAMBERT said he would like to know whether Rosewood had any prospect of being considered.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he had considered Rosewood. A well had been put down at Gatton, and that would show whether they were to get artesian water further down, as Gatton was only twenty miles from Rosewood. Rosewood was one place he had put down for the next batch, but it was quite enough to put Gatton down on the first batch, as if they got water there he had not the slightest doubt that they would get it at Rosewood.

Mr. ISAMBERT said he would like to know whether the Government had taken care that samples of every change of strata the different bores passed through were kept for the purpose of being submitted to a geological surveyor, so that should any of the bores prove failures, they would have some return for the outlay, in the shape of information as to how the strata was formed, which would assist them considerably in future calculations as to where water might be found ? The Colonial Treasurer had informed the Committee that the present object was to test where water could be found. So far so good. But they might expect that a large number of the bores put down would be failures, and the country, as a whole, should be prepared to pay for those failures, and not saddle the cost on particular localities. Where, however, water was found, a fair price should be charged for water. The Government was better able—with its machinery and skilled officials—to search for water than private individuals, and they knew that in the case of surface works for the supply of water to townships, which the local authorities had constructed with loan money, the local authorities had to go to the Government to get them to carry out the works, because they had better machinery for that purpose. That being the case, he thought the Government should take into serious consideration the question of devising a scheme by which the different districts of the colony might obtain water by applying to the Government.



Mr. MURPHY said he did not wish to detain the Committee long, but he would like to make a few remarks on the Hydraulic Engineer's Department. The first thing he wished to point out was that the cost of the supervision and maintenance of the works executed by the department in the western portion of Queensland was altogether out of proportion to the amount of revenue derived from them. He moved for a return on the subject the other night, which had not yet been distributed to hon. members, but he had just had a copy put into his hand. It showed that the cost of the supervision and maintenance of those works was £5,633 13s. 10d., and that the receipts only amounted to £1,161 6s. 11d. He desired to point out to the Committee and the Government the advisability of handing over those works when completed to the local authorities. A scheme should be devised by which the local authorities would be bound to keep the tanks, dams, and bores in the same condition as they were in when handed over to them by the Government. Such an arrangement would relieve the general revenue from the burden of maintaining those schemes of water supply and throw it on the local authorities. The return from which he had quoted contained the latest information in the possession of the department, and showed that the works were a heavy tax after they were finished on the general taxpayers. If those wells were handed over to the local authorities they would not only be made more useful to the public, but those authorities would make such a charge that the general public would get the benefit of those works. Under the present charge made by the Hydraulic Engineer's Department, the public were practically precluded from using those different schemes of water supply that had been completed. He would instance the case of the Blackall bore. The charge there was 2s. a load.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Hon. J. Donaldson): I think you are mistaken as to the quantity.

Mr. MURPHY said he did not think he was. So far as his memory served him, the charge was 2s. per cask. The inhabitants had then to pay 3s. per cask to get the water carted to their houses. But the water was running to waste all the time—that was the absurdity of it—overflowing from the bore and running down the channel into the river. The people had simply to go a few hundred yards below the bore, fill their casks, and take away as much water as they pleased. Of course they did not get it as pure in that way as if they got it directly from the bore, because it ran across and down a street where there was a great deal of traffic, and horses and cattle puddled it up, and it was practically spoiled. The result was that the advantage of that beautiful supply of fresh water was practically lost to the people. He was only taking that as a typical case. If that bore were handed over to the local authorities, and they were bound to keep it up to the standard at which it was when placed in their hands, they would charge such a rate as would not be prohibitive, and the public would get the benefit. In the city of Brisbane the people paid from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons for water; in Melbourne they paid 1s. per 1,000 gallons; and yet the residents of Blackall had to pay 2s. a load. The consequence was that the Government got no revenue out of the bore, and the whole burden of maintaining it fell upon the general public. If it were handed over to the local authorities, and a low rate of interest was charged by the Government on the money borrowed to sink those bores, and at the same time those authorities were bound to keep them in a state of efficiency, the whole cost of

maintaining them would be taken off the backs of the general taxpayers. The matter was well worthy the consideration of the Government, and he was glad to be able to say that they looked at the matter in the same light that he did.

Mr. ISAMBERT said it would be satisfactory to know whether the Government had given orders for samples of the strata through which those bores passed to be sent to the Government Geologist.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said they could not have a scientific man stationed at every bore, but they got the best information they could from the practical men who were putting down the bores. That was sent down to the Hydraulic Engineer, who carefully recorded the matter as a guide for the future.

Mr. ISAMBERT asked if samples of the soil were sent down?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Everything.

Mr. ISAMBERT said for the information of the hon. member for Barcoo, he could state that, although the Government got very little revenue from the bores, still he found that it was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. In South Australia they had spent about £300,000 some years ago in obtaining a water supply, and they got a return of only 1 per cent. Perhaps the Government charge, even now, was a little too great, but they must look to the future—to the arrival of the time described in such flowery language by the hon. member for Barcoo in addressing his electors, when he said that to strike a good stream of water would be better than to strike a seam of solid coal. He (Mr. Isambert) would not be disposed to hand the bores over to the mercy of any local body unless surrounded with proper precautions, so that the Government would be able to hold a tight hand over them. In New South Wales the water supply was leased, and the lessee was limited to having twelve head of cattle of his own, because, if he happened to be a squatter, he would water the whole of his own stock, and exhaust the supply, and the public, for whose use and benefit the dam was constructed, would be deprived of it. Of course the public could water as many stock as they liked by paying for it. In South Australia, the Government had the water supply in their own hands, the same as was the case in Queensland.

Mr. MURPHY said the hon. member did not appear to understand the object the Government had in making those bores. In the first place, it was to open up the lands of the colony, and permanently water them for travelling stock, and incidentally to supply any towns in the neighbourhood where the bores were sunk. The bores were put down close to townships, for the purpose of supplying those places. But there was a still greater principle in the matter, and that was to show that an ever-flowing supply of water could be obtained in the western portions of the colony, and that tended to induce settlement. The Minister for Lands would bear him out when he stated that the discovery of artesian water at Barcoo had had the effect of inducing people to take up every acre of land in that neighbourhood as fast as it was thrown open. They could not survey the grazing farms fast enough for the applicants who were waiting to take them up. That was the chief reason of the present leader of the Opposition for sinking those wells. He (Mr. Murphy) pointed out to him, in his correspondence with him on the subject, that if the Government were successful in finding artesian water it would make a success of that portion of the Act of 1884 relating to grazing farms.

Mr. HODGKINSON said the hon. member for Barcoo had made three admissions, one from his own personal feeling, another from prudence, and a third which should be promulgated throughout the country. According to the hon. member, the first idea the Government had in sinking those wells was to provide for sheep; the second to provide for human beings; and third, that the abundance of water found in that Western portion of the territory had caused every available acre to be taken up under the Land Act of 1884 for grazing farms. And it must be remembered that the hon. member was a hostile and an unwilling witness.

Mr. MURPHY: Not an unwilling witness.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said it was a mistake to charge the current expenditure on that water supply to loan. The cost of boring might be charged to loan, because it represented the improvement of a very valuable asset, but the current expenditure ought certainly to be charged to general revenue.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said the hon. gentleman was quite right. If the department was to have an existence its cost must appear on the Estimates-in-Chief in future.

Question put and passed.

#### HARBOURS AND RIVERS.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS moved that £3,000 be granted from loan for Harbours and Rivers. The amount was the same as that asked for last year, although there were two changes in the items. There was an inspector of dredge plant, with a salary of £300, omitted; and an assistant engineer had been appointed to Mackay, at the same salary.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he wished to know what the Government intended to do with regard to the harbour works at Townsville, especially with regard to the eastern breakwater?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS replied that tenders had been called for the extension, and there would be no break in the continuity of policy so far as the breakwater was concerned. He anticipated that the western breakwater would be finished in about two years. The eastern breakwater would be finished at the end of the present year. Tenders were now called for a distance of 3,100 feet further, in accordance with Sir John Coode's scheme. It would be 14 feet wide on the top, having a height of 4 feet above high water. Sir John Coode recommended only 3 feet, but it was considered better to make it a foot higher. They were also continuing to dredge the end of Ross Creek, and when the dredge worked up to the rocks at the mouth of the creek they would be able to blast the rocks out. They were continuing the scheme in the way in which it had been carried on for the last three or four years.

Mr. SMITH asked whether it was the intention of the Minister for Mines and Works to dredge at Bowen, so as to allow coasting steamers to come alongside the jetty? It would be a great convenience, and the work could be done at a very small expense. He also wished to ask the hon. gentleman whether it was the intention to strengthen the head of the jetty as recommended by the Engineer for Harbours and Rivers? That gentleman had recommended both of those works.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said it was not the intention of the Government to do any more dredging at the Bowen jetty. There was a continual demand for dredges all over the colony. Even after a place was dredged there was a new demand that

it should be dredged deeper, owing to the increase in the size of the coasting steamers. The Government could not place those dredges everywhere; they could only make a certain number of dredges do a certain amount of work, and there was not a dredge to spare at present.

Mr. MORGAN said he would like to know what contribution to the revenue of the country was made by the wharf-owners in the city of Brisbane?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said they did not derive any benefit from the wharf proprietors at all.

Mr. MORGAN said he did not know whether it was the custom elsewhere, but it seemed to him that those men might fairly be charged something.

The PREMIER: They will not be let off.

Mr. MORGAN said they had got the most valuable sites in the whole colony, and they seemed to be given the liberty to levy a toll upon every ton of goods which came into the colony. They made their own charges, and he certainly hoped the Colonial Treasurer had got his eye upon them, and that before very many years they would be called upon to pay something for that privilege.

Mr. COWLEY said he would like to ask the Minister for Mines and Works if it were his intention to do anything in the way of repairing the Cardwell jetty. It was in a very bad state, and he believed the plans and specifications were ready, and the inhabitants were really in want of that jetty.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said some hon. member behind him asked where Cardwell was.

Mr. COWLEY: I am not accountable for the hon. member's ignorance.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said the Cardwell jetty had got into such a condition that it was impossible to repair it. The only thing that could be done would be to build a new one, and as the water was so shallow it would take a large amount to build it. At present they could not spare the money, but at some future time he hoped they would be able to make a jetty with cast rails, which probably would not cost as much as an ordinary timber jetty. The jetty would cost some thousands of pounds even with cast rails.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: I think there is an estimate of the cost in the department.

Mr. COWLEY: About £1,750.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said that was only a portion of it, surely. However, the Government were not going to build the jetty at present. He had the matter in view, but they had work enough to do at present.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he had seen complaints in the papers lately about the silting up of the Brisbane River in the town reach. That was a very important matter, and should not be allowed to exist. The port of Brisbane was very important, and very large vessels came up; and certainly some steps should be taken to keep the river at its normal depth. It was not a question of deepening, but just a question of keeping it at its normal depth. They should prevent the river silting up from the mud and dust running into it. Deepening the cuttings down the river was a less important matter than keeping it deep at Brisbane, where the ships lay. Very serious injury might be done by a vessel taking the ground; she might break her back or strain herself very severely, and navigation would be impeded.

He hoped the hon. gentleman would give the matter his serious consideration. His own attention had been called to the danger through seeing a vessel moored in the town reach, and from the way she was lying she had evidently got aground.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said his attention had not been called to the matter, and he had not seen the report in the papers of which the hon. gentleman had spoken, but he should certainly inquire into it.

Mr. WATSON said it was only two or three weeks since a barque in the Bulimba reach, where there was only 23 feet at high water, had got aground. During the last twenty-four years the river had silted up 4 feet, and it was still silting up down by the gasworks at Bulimba. Near the Port Office there was a place where a vessel had stuck seven years ago. The leader of the Opposition had stated that a vessel had taken the ground in the town reach a short time since, and he had also seen that vessel aground. There were two or three parts of the Brisbane River which were silting up.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he would like to ask the Minister for Mines and Works whether there was any inspector appointed whose duty it was to look after the rate of speed at which steamers came up the river? He noticed that at several points on the banks there were notices stuck up stating the number of knots at which a steamer was to travel, but he knew that was very often broken, and it was very important that vessels should be compelled to go at an easier rate of speed, seeing the extent to which the banks of the river were in many places falling in and silting up the channel of navigation. He thought it was important that some means should be adopted to prevent vessels travelling at a high rate of speed. As he had said, there were notices up, but there was very little attention paid to them.

Question put and passed.

#### HARBOURS AND RIVERS.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS moved that the sum of £31,807 be granted for Harbours and Rivers.

Question put and passed.

#### RAILWAYS—GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that the sum of £2,276 be granted for the general establishment of the Railways Department.

Question put and passed.

#### SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL DIVISION.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that the sum of £2,475 be granted for the Chief Engineer's Department—Southern and Central Division.

Mr. NORTON said he would like, now that they had got to that vote, to obtain from the Minister for Railways some information with regard to the line from Bundaberg to Gladstone. There had been several survey parties engaged in the work for five years and a-half, and the survey was not yet completed. At first there was one survey party, then there were two parties, and now he believed there were three; and the survey was not completed yet. What did the Government propose to do in connection with the line? He believed a large bridge would have to be made over the Burnett; and he thought the proper way to carry out the line would be to call for tenders for two sections, one beginning at Bundaberg and the other at Gladstone, in order that the line might be completed as early as possible. At the Gladstone end there was the Boyne River to cross, and if the Minister for Railways

would call for tenders for a short section from Gladstone to the Boyne, by the time that was finished, the permanent survey of the rest of the line would be completed, and the Government would be in a position to complete the line.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said there were two survey parties now engaged on the line, one working from North Bundaberg towards Gladstone, and the other from Gladstone towards North Bundaberg. The section from North Bundaberg was about thirty-one miles long, and the section from Gladstone was about the same mileage, and there remained about eight or nine miles of each section to be completed, so far as the survey was concerned. The working plans were commenced, but were far from being complete. He thought the hon. member's idea was a very good one, and that was the one which the Government would probably carry out. If the funds were available they might do that, but it was evident that it could not be done for a good many months, because the working plans could not be got ready sooner. Probably the Government would not be in a position to call for tenders before next session.

Mr. O'CONNELL said that if the Government were going to call for tenders for a short section beginning at the Gladstone end, he hoped the hon. member would grant the same concession with respect to the Bundaberg end, because there was a large agricultural population at that end, and that short section would immediately be remunerative.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said the matter would receive the attention of the Government as soon as the working plans were ready.

Mr. STEVENS said he noticed that the salary of the Chief Engineer was put down at £900, and he received an allowance of £500. What was the allowance for?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said that the form in which the vote for the Chief Engineer appeared was only a continuation of the system which had been followed for a number of years. He understood that the allowance was originally put down for expenses. The only alteration was the payment of the £900 out of loan instead of revenue as heretofore.

Mr. STEVENS said that though the Chief Engineer received £1,400 a year, only £900 of that amount appeared on the Estimates as salary; and that placed him at a great disadvantage compared with other members of the Civil Service, so far as the Civil Service Act was concerned. He thought it would be much more satisfactory to that officer to put down the whole sum as his salary.

Mr. ADAMS said that, in reference to the Gladstone-Bundaberg line, he was informed the other day by the Minister for Railways, in answer to a question, that the survey of the first section from Bundaberg would be completed by the end of the year, and that tenders would be called three months afterwards. So far as he was concerned that answer was perfectly satisfactory; and he believed that if the hon. gentleman called for tenders for a short section at one end he would grant the same concession with regard to the other end.

Question put and passed.

#### OFFICE STAFF (LINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION).

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that a sum not exceeding £7,457 be granted for office staff.

The Hon. Sir S. W. GRIFFITH said he would ask what had become of the engineer in charge of the Central Railway? Somebody must be in charge.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said that was provided for in the next vote.

Question put and passed.

#### CONSTRUCTION STAFF.\*

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that a sum not exceeding £11,342 be granted for construction staff.

Mr. UNMACK said there appeared to be an increase of £150 to the resident engineer.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said there had been no increase so far as he was aware.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said they were at a very great disadvantage, in considering those Estimates, in having no information whatever as to the intentions of the Government with respect to railway construction. They were asked to vote money for the purposes of railway construction and supervision, and they had had no information whatever as to the intentions of the Government as to what works they were going to carry out during the year. The gentlemen whose salaries they were providing might be idle for all they knew. If the Government intended to make a statement as to their intentions, it was reasonable to expect it before that time.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said if the officers were not employed, of course they would not be paid. He had repeatedly told the hon. gentleman that he would get all the information he wanted when the proper time arrived.

The PREMIER said surely the hon. gentleman did not suppose they were going to cease railway construction. He must know that they were going on with the railways of the colony.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said many changes had been made in that Estimate upon which they had been vouchsafed no information whatever. Formerly there were five engineers at £400, and two had now been dispensed with—one for six months, and one altogether. Then there were three at £350, and one had disappeared. One at £300 had also disappeared. There were a lot of changes of that sort, and so far as they knew the lines under construction were getting finished. They did not know what new lines the Government were going in for. The hon. gentleman seemed to think that passing the Estimates was simply a matter of form. The Government ought to place the Committee in possession of the information as to how that money was to be spent. Because they were borrowing money was no reason why they should be more extravagant in its expenditure. He believed himself, as he had said over and over again, that they charged a great deal too much to loan.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said he had the whole of the details, if that was what the hon. gentleman wished to get at. He had every man's name, his salary, allowances, and where he was working. The Government were simply carrying on with a reduced staff to that of last year.

Mr. BARLOW said the West Moreton district and the people in the southern portion of the Downs so ably represented by the hon. member, Mr. Allan, who was not present that night, were looking earnestly towards what was called the *via recta*. The hon. member for Cunningham had entered so thoroughly into the subject when he was present that it was unnecessary for him (Mr. Barlow) to say anything on the same subject, but having in view the very strong and able arguments which the hon. member brought forward, and the question of the early duplication of the railway from Ipswich to Toowoomba,

which would be rendered necessary very soon, unless the *via recta* be decided on, he trusted that the matter would not be lost sight of by the Government. He was certain that the whole of the West Moreton and Eastern Downs looked earnestly forward to those projects.

Question put and passed.

#### EXTENSION SURVEYS.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that a sum not exceeding £7,175 be granted for extension surveys.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he wished to know whether it was contemplated at an early date to survey the line from Croydon towards Georgetown?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said nothing had been done in that direction, except that an exploration survey had been made and reported upon.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he had asked whether it was contemplated.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said the matter would be kept in view.

Mr. SMITH said he wished to draw attention to the advisability of having a trial survey made of a railway between Mackay and Bowen. In the late Parliament, during last session, the hon. member for Mackay brought the matter before the House, and the then Government were favourable to the proposal. They gave a kind of assurance that the work would be carried out, and he trusted that the present Government would coincide in that idea. The land along the proposed route was very valuable, and it was desirable that it should be reserved for railway purposes.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said it was quite likely that there would be a survey in the direction mentioned by the hon. member, but nothing was being done at present, and he did not know when he would be able to undertake the work.

Mr. MORGAN said the hon. member for Port Curtis had referred to a line 100 miles in length that took five years to survey, and he would like to know the rule with regard to the way in which those railway surveys were carried out. He recollected a year or two ago a difficulty arose between the Minister in charge of the department and Mr. Phillips, the inspecting railway surveyor. The Minister thought the surveyors had been a good deal of time away from their camp, but the inspecting surveyor did not appear to agree with that, and would not make rules more in accord with the Minister's opinions, and the difference led to his severing his connection with the department. He knew from his own experience that some of those gentlemen, for weeks at a stretch, spent more time in the towns than at their camps. That was not the rule with all surveyors, as some of them did their duty faithfully and well; but it was true of some of them. He did not know whether it was possible to arrange for more strict supervision than there was at present, or whether it would be possible to alter the prevailing system for paying them. He would like to know whether there was any rule as to the number of days those men were allowed to be absent from their camps.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said that all surveyors were, of course, previously under the Chief Engineer, and they were under inspectors. He might say there was a good deal of truth in what had been said by the hon. member for Warwick, and the offence complained of arose through their being a long way away, and out of the reach of their superior officers. One or two such cases had already come under his observation, but he had not yet been long enough

in office to establish any reform in that matter. He would certainly direct his attention to it. With regard to the remark made by the hon. member for Port Curtis, about a survey being five years in hand, it must be understood that the surveyors were not continually at the work. They were removed to some other place, and then sent back again, and so on.

Question put and passed.

#### ENGINEER FOR EXISTING LINES.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that the sum of £1,575 be granted for the Engineer for Existing Lines.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he would ask how could that be charged to loan? There was nothing in connection with new construction mentioned in the vote. Surely they should pay their way as they went along.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said that he was only adopting a system that had been in operation for years. Those salaries were paid for engineers and others who were spending loan money. Although it was called the "Engineer for Existing Lines," the engineer for existing lines took charge of the construction of small stations, sidings, new stations; and the men employed in those works for the improvement of their lines, and making them better assets for the colony were paid out of loan.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he would take that opportunity of saying that he found during the time he was in the Treasury that there was a great deal of supervision wanting over the expenditure of loan money. In consequence of the absence of a regular annual appropriation of money for the particular purposes, it was not audited by the Auditor-General in the same way as revenue expenditure. The gentleman now in charge of the Railway Department had, during the time he was in opposition, devoted a good deal of attention to that matter. He thought the hon. gentleman's criticisms were very valuable, and they directed his attention to the subject, and when he was in the Treasury he had gone into the matter as far as he could. He found that a very great deal of supervision was necessary, and he thought he saw room for a great deal of change. He did not know whether the Government had got the matter in hand, but it was one that required very serious attention. With the views the Minister for Railways used to hold, if he still held them, and the views he believed the Treasurer held, there ought to be no difficulty in carrying out a reform in that matter which was urgently necessary, but which he had not had time to carry out himself.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: I quite agree with the hon. gentleman.

Question put and passed.

#### NORTHERN AND CARPENTARIA DIVISION.—CHIEF ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that the sum of £1,700 be granted for the general establishment, Chief Engineer's Department.

Question put and passed.

#### OFFICE STAFF (LINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION).

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that the sum of £4,256 be granted for office staff (lines under construction).

Question put and passed.

#### CONSTRUCTION STAFF.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that the sum of £7,315 be granted for the construction staff.

Mr. PHILP said he would like to ask the Minister for Railways whether it was the intention of the Government to construct the line westward from Hughenden? The sum of £350,000 was voted by the last Ministry for that work some four years ago, and not a mile of the line had been built yet.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: I cannot tell the hon. gentleman the intentions of the Government in that respect at present.

Question put and passed.

#### EXTENSION SURVEYS.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that the sum of £4,337 be granted for extension surveys.

Mr. DALRYMPLE said he would like, in connection with that vote, to endorse some observations that had fallen from the hon. member for Bowen with regard to the advantage the colony would derive from the making of a survey as early as possible of a line between Bowen and Mackay. Besides being able to reserve the land for the purpose of the line, which would be required some day as a portion of the main coast line connecting North and South, by making the survey they would assist selectors there, and give them heart to remain on their selections. He would also point out to the Minister for Railways that the Mackay railway terminus was in a very bad place at present, as between it and the bulk of the country from which the line would derive traffic a large river intervened, and it was impassable during many months of the year. If the railway was extended about half-a-mile, and that river bridged, a considerable accession of traffic would result, and the returns from the railway would be very much increased. Besides that, there was probably 100,000 acres of land alienated there. Some of it was under cultivation, and, if what he suggested was done, a great deal more would undoubtedly be put under cultivation, and would supply traffic for the railway. He hoped the Minister for Railways would take these matters into his favourable consideration as soon as possible.

Mr. PHILP said he would like to know under whose supervision that survey business was carried out.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said it was carried out under the direction of the Engineer-in-Chief.

Question put and passed.

#### INSPECTING OFFICER AT NORMANTON.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that there be granted, for the service of the year 1888-9, the sum of £500 for the officer representing the department at Normanton.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: Tell us something about the vote.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said that officer was Mr. Hendren, and he looked after the interests of the department at Normanton.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: Does the hon. gentleman know nothing about it?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said the Minister for Railways knew all about it. The leader of the Opposition when in office let a contract to Mr. Phillips for the construction of a line about forty-nine miles in length from Normanton; and, of course, Mr. Phillips could not be the representative of the Government and the representative of himself, and Mr. Hendren was the representative of the Government.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he would like clearly to understand what arrangement the Government had made up there? The late Government made a contract with Mr. Phillips to supervise the construction of a line of railway from Normanton to Rocky Crossing, as it was called, and thence in a straight line to the Flinders River. They could not get to know definitely from the Government the other day, when the railway plans were before the Committee, whether they had stopped that line or not. The late Government, for good reasons as they thought, arranged for the construction of a line to the Flinders. Had that line been stopped? There was no earthly reason why it should be, as there was plenty of money voted for it, and it would be a most useful and payable line.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS said he had explained the circumstances before. All they had done was simply to come to an agreement with Mr. Phillips. Mr. Phillips had agreed to perform the work of supervising the construction of a certain line about forty-two miles in length, and he was asked whether instead of going to the Flinders he would transfer his contract to the line going towards Croydon. He expressed himself as willing to do so, and that had been done. Mr. Hendren was the officer who had charge of the railway stores at Normanton, and it was his duty also to report what was going on to the Government.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he had no objection to the appointment. He made the appointment himself, but that was not the point. What he wanted to know was whether the Government had stopped the line to the Flinders, and if so, why? Mr. Phillips, he was sure, could attend to both lines.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that matter had been explained two or three times. They had stopped the Flinders line because they could not afford to carry on two lines from Normanton at the same time—one to Cloncurry, and the other to Croydon. The one to Croydon was gone on with, because it was the more urgent. He explained that at the commencement of the session.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he was surprised to hear that that bit of line towards Cloncurry was stopped. It would only cost at the outside about £30,000. Considering the Loan Estimates they were going to deal with shortly, and the proposals of the Government they had already had under consideration, he confessed he could not see any reason why that £30,000 should not be spent on a line which would be a very great advantage to everybody travelling in that part of the country.

Mr. HODGKINSON said that on the Loan Estimates, which would shortly be submitted, there was a sum of £150,000 for the first section of the Croydon railway, so that the vote already passed by Parliament for the Flinders line would be available. He presumed that the money now being expended on the Croydon line was money diverted from the vote for the Cloncurry railway.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: No.

Mr. HODGKINSON said that was the explanation given the other night by the Minister for Railways.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: No; I did not say that.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: Where did the money come from?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Where all money for purposes of that kind comes from. Question put and passed.

#### MARYBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that there be granted a sum of £3,500 as a special loan appropriation for additions to school and outbuildings at the boys' grammar school, Maryborough, to be repaid under the Local Works Loan Act of 1880.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he was not going to object to that vote, but he thought the Committee should receive some information on the subject, as it was not a usual vote.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. J. Donaldson) said the vote, as appeared from the Estimate, was for a loan to the Maryborough Grammar School for additions to the school and outbuildings. He had not got the papers connected with the matter, as he did not know the vote would come on that evening.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he thought the hon. gentleman should not play a practical joke on the Committee like that. The hon. gentleman might just as well have stated in a loud tone of voice that he knew nothing at all about the matter, because the observations that were audible were to that effect.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION said he had no wish to perpetrate a joke on the Committee. He had merely explained that he had not the papers referring to that vote with him, and that if he had them he would have given all information on the subject.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the course of proceeding now adopted was exactly the same as was adopted with regard to the Brisbane Grammar School some time ago, when the trustees of that institution obtained a loan.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said what confused hon. members was that it would appear, from the way Estimates had been printed, as if £3,500 was voted last year, and a similar sum was required for this year, but that was not so. The £3,500 asked for was the total amount of a loan granted to the Maryborough Grammar School in exactly the same way that a loan had been granted to the Brisbane Grammar School.

Question put and passed.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, No. 2, 1887-8.

##### EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that £810 14s. be granted for the Executive Council, Legislative Council, and Legislative Assembly.

Question put and passed.

##### COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £1,373 19s. 6d. be granted for advertising, and caretaker, quarantine station, Friday Island.

Question put and passed.

##### POLICE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £6,678 8s. 4d. be granted for contingencies in connection with the Police Department.

Question put and passed.

##### PETTY SESSIONS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £253 14s. 11d. be granted for police magistrates and clerks of petty sessions.

Question put and passed.

##### REGISTRAR OF TITLES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £300 4s. 3d. be granted for the cost of parliamentary return.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH asked whether the return referred to was the one moved for by the hon. member for Fassifern, Mr Salkeld, with regard to landed proprietors?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was a legacy left by the late Government—the doomsday book.

Mr. SALKELD said he was very glad to see that the cost of the return did not amount to the thousands of pounds they were told it would when he moved for it. It had cost about the amount the then Minister for Lands expected that it would.

Question put and passed.

#### GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £1,446 10s. 3d. be granted for wages and overtime, Government Printing Office.

Question put and passed.

#### DEFENCE FORCE, ETC.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £34,133 12s. 4d. be granted for Defence Force, Marine Force, "Lucinda" and "Otter," Thursday Island, Charitable Allowances, and Miscellaneous.

Mr. MURPHY said he should like some information as to the item "Passage money, Sir J. F. Garrick, to Brisbane, £400." Under what authority had that gentleman drawn that sum? Was there any agreement between him and the late Government that his return passage to the colony should be paid? If it was part of his agreement, of course that was an end to it.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said the late Agent-General was appointed from the colony with the intention of returning to the colony after the expiration of his term of office. Some time ago Sir James Garrick wrote to him, as head of the Government, asking whether he thought it would be proper that he should receive his return passage money to the colony, as he had received it from the colony to London. He replied that he would be justified in doing so, and authorised him, as far as he could, to draw the money. Of course, if Sir James Garrick did not return to the colony he would refund the money.

Mr. MURPHY said he was perfectly satisfied with the explanation. It looked as if Sir James Garrick had drawn the money without authority; but if it was part of the original agreement he had no objection whatever to the item.

Mr. MELLOR asked for an explanation of the item, "Gympie Bench, *re writ of certiorari*, £31 10s."

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said an application was made to the licensing bench at Gympie for a provisional license for a hotel. The provisional license was granted, but before the time came for giving a permanent license a local option poll had been taken, the result of the poll being that no new licenses should be granted. The bench, therefore, had no power to grant the license. Nevertheless, the majority of the bench thought they could grant the license, and they did. Therefore, proceedings were taken to upset their decision. They had no interest in the matter, except as justices. The Supreme Court required them to send in a return of their proceedings. They were put to some expense in obeying the order of the Supreme Court, and they made an application to be recouped that amount. He examined the charges that were made, and under the circumstances, the justices having been put to expense in the performance of their duties—even though it might be in consequence of an error of judgment—he thought they ought to have their costs.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he should like to have some information as to the item of £11,000 for "Miscellaneous services" in connection with the Defence Force.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said that about the beginning of the year, on making inquiries into expenditure on loan account, he found that on account of the want of proper supervision, to which he had before referred, work had been done for the defence of the colony and charged to loan account, which ought to have been charged to current expenditure. Some of the items charged to loan were most absurd, such as agistment for horses, and things of that kind. He at once took steps to prevent the recurrence of anything of the sort. With regard to the item of £150 to S. Rowe for loss of eye, the accident occurred while Rowe was engaged in military service, and in fixing the amount they had followed, as far as possible, the rules of the army.

Mr. COWLEY asked, with regard to the item "Revising the Statutes, £658 9s.," whether it was an addition to the £1,000 already voted?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The money has been already paid.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: For printing?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he would give the amount of money spent up to the present time in revising the statutes. For wages in the Government Printing Office there had been paid £1,061 7s. 7d.; for paper, £324 2s. 3d.; clerical assistance, £30 3s. 8d.; books, £4 19s.; J. L. Woolcock, £200; and A. Pain, £200—making a total of £1,820 12s. 6d., so that only £400 were given to the barristers.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he should like to ask about the item—police barracks at Tabletop, £232. After the original warden's quarters had been erected, and it had been decided to erect new ones, the old quarters were handed over to the police for re-erection at Tabletop. He did not know whether the Mines Department were credited with that amount or not, but the buildings had been handed over by the Mines Department to the Police Department. The distance was only about twelve miles, and surely £232 could not have been spent in the removal of those buildings.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had not expected to have been cross-examined by the hon. gentleman who had spent that money. The money had been paid, and it had been paid by the instructions of the late Government. Had he expected that the vote would have been criticised by the hon. gentleman who had framed that Estimate, he should have had all the information ready. He had not the least doubt that the money had been properly spent, and the hon. member for Bruke ought to know more about it than he (the Colonial Secretary), as he had been more recently on the field.

Mr. HODGKINSON: That is the reason I asked.

Question put and passed.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £305 8s. 6d. be granted for the administration of justice.

Question put and passed.

#### SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION moved that the sum of £5,027 13s. 2d. be granted for the Secretary for Public Instruction—contingencies, schools, inspection, and orphanages.

Question put and passed.

## COLONIAL TREASURER.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that the sum of £9,726 2s. 7d. be granted for the Treasury, Colonial Stores, Customs, Border Patrol, Marine Board, and Harbours and Rivers. Question put and passed.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that the sum of £12,770 3s. 8d. be granted for the Department of Public Lands.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH asked if the South Australian border survey was completed?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes; this is the final vote.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he noticed the vote for fees to licensed surveyors was set down this year in the Estimates at £15,000, the same amount as for last year; would nothing additional be required for this year, as last year they had required an additional £12,000?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said they had 9,000,000 acres surveyed at the present time, and the vote was quite sufficient for the requirements. The Surveyor-General had assured him that it would be enough.

Question put and passed.

## SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC MINES AND WORKS.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS moved that the sum of £4,051 13s. 10d. be granted for contingencies, buildings, roads, and mines.

Mr. MELLOR said he had a few words to say to the Minister for Mines and Works with reference to the excepted roads. He thought there had been a sum passed on the Estimates recently giving an increase in that vote. Was that amount of £1,363 10s. 4d. an addition to that?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that amount of £1,363 10s. 4d. was for the year 1887-8, and was money that had been expended. The amount voted last year was only £2,000, and there had been £1,363 10s. 4d. spent in addition to that.

Question put and passed.

## RAILWAYS.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS moved that the sum of £2,548 8s. be granted for railways. The vote explained itself.

Question put and passed.

## POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved that the sum of £4,877 14s. 10d. be granted for contingencies and conveyance of mails.

Question put and passed.

## AUDITOR-GENERAL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that the sum of £280 18s. 3d. be granted for the Auditor-General's Department.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER said that at an earlier hour of the evening he had arranged with the leader of the Opposition to go on with the Supplementary Estimates, and he was very much satisfied with the progress they had made. If hon. members wished it, he was quite willing to go on with the Loan Estimates.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Adjourn.

The PREMIER said he would agree to that, and, therefore, he would move that the Chairman leave the chair, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed, and the Committee obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to 10 o'clock.