

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 1889

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 23 August, 1889.

Petition—the Cardwell Jetty.—Personal Explanation.—
Endowment of Agricultural and Horticultural
Societies.—Case of Henry Walker.—Adjournment.

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

PETITION.

THE CARDWELL JETTY.

Mr. COWLEY presented a petition from the
residents of the Cardwell district, praying that
the jetty at that place might be rebuilt; and
moved that the petition be read.

Question put and passed; and petition read
by the Clerk.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

The PREMIER (Hon. B. D. Morehead) said:
Mr. Speaker,—It may appear discourteous to the
House that I was not in the Chamber when the
House met. I was in the Ministers' room, and
I came out when the clock in that room indicated
that it was half-past 3 o'clock. I did not hear
any bell ring.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: The bell
rang loud enough.

The PREMIER: But the clock in this
Chamber is quite wrong.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: Yes; it is
five minutes fast. It is exactly half-past 3
o'clock now.

The PREMIER: I would like the House to
know that it was no fault of mine that I was not
here when the House met.

The SPEAKER said: I may point out to the
House that I was aware the clock was fast about
ten minutes or a quarter of an hour before the
House met. I then sent for the person who
ordinarily sets the clock. He attends every day,
as a rule, but I suppose he did not come to-day
on account of this being a public holiday. He
was not to be found at his place of business;
and I could not give instructions to anyone else
to put the clock right, because the man who

attends to the clock here is appointed by the
Government for that purpose. I may say that
the Chamber clock is five minutes faster than
my watch and the clock in my room.

ENDOWMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Mr. GROOM, in moving—

That this House will, on Friday, the 13th of Septem-
ber next, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to
consider an address to the Governor, praying that His
Excellency will be pleased to cause provision to be made
on the Supplementary Estimates for 1888-9 for increas-
ing the endowment of Agricultural and Horticultural
Societies to £1 for every £1 subscribed, provided that
no society receives more than £200 in any one year
from the public revenue—

said: Mr. Speaker,—My reason for placing this
motion on the paper is, that I think the present
condition of the revenue will admit of the endow-
ment being continued to these societies as here-
tofore. When it was reduced by the Treasurer
—in 1887, I think—he said then that this reduc-
tion would be only temporary, and that he
hoped the circumstances of the colony would
be of such an improved character in a short
time that the endowment could be again placed
on its old footing. Last year, when we were
revising the tariff, I was asked by several of
these societies to table such a motion as I have
now moved, but I did not feel justified in doing so
at that time. Now, however, in deference to re-
quests that I have received from several societies,
I have considered it advisable to ask the opinion
of the House with regard to the matter. I do
not think we are asking too much in requesting
an endowment of £1 for £1. At present, accord-
ing to the Estimates, the amount proposed
to be voted, at the rate of 10s. for every £1 sub-
scribed, is £2,000, and therefore I assume that
if £1 for £1 is granted the amount required will
be £4,000. That is a comparatively small sum to
be given to these societies, which may really be
regarded as schools of training, and which are
doing a very considerable amount of good in the
direction of encouraging agriculture. In other
Australian colonies, Mr. Speaker, more particu-
larly in Victoria, they give very great assist-
ance to these societies. I have here the
apportionment for the year 1887-8 in Vic-
toria, and I find that the total sum granted
to agricultural societies was £20,000. The
highest sum given was to Ballarat, which
received £984, and the amounts go down to as low
as £50—all the societies right through receiving
a very considerable amount of assistance from the
Government. Even the small flower show in
Melbourne is assisted out of the general revenue
to the extent of £750. I do not think I need
detain the House any longer in this matter, as the
motion simply asks for the vote to be restored
to what it was in former years. The amount
involved is not so large that it can be said the
revenue cannot afford it. I may mention, Mr.
Speaker, that the money is required this year
more than in other years, for the reason that a
great many of the farmers who have previously
given assistance are suffering now from loss of
profits for the last eighteen months or two years,
owing to bad seasons, and therefore they are
not in a position to subscribe so liberally as they
otherwise would be. I leave the matter in the
hands of the House. It is not a large amount
that I am asking for; it is an exceedingly useful
object that these societies are established to
achieve, and they have done much good work in
the past.

Mr. SALKELD called attention to the state
of the House.

Quorum formed.

Mr. GROOM said : Mr. Speaker,—I have said all I need say on this matter, and I will leave the question in the hands of the House.

The PREMIER said : Mr. Speaker,—There are very few members present to-day to discuss this matter. I do not think myself that the hon. member has made out a case which would warrant the House in incurring the extra expenditure that is suggested. I am afraid the hon. member has been led to put this motion on the paper through the Government yielding to the expression of opinion from a large portion of the colony in favour of giving increased grants to schools of art.

Mr. GROOM : No !

The PREMIER : Perhaps if the Government had not given way upon that point the hon. member would not have moved this motion. No petitions have been presented in favour of it.

Mr. GROOM : No; but they would have been.

The PREMIER : I do not understand what the hon. gentleman means by saying that there would have been petitions. We have not got them, and I believe, if the necessity existed for this increased grant, petitions would have been sent in. I do not consider the hon. gentleman has made out any sufficient reason for increasing the vote at the present time. He says that the state of the revenue shows that the old vote might be restored to the Estimates, but I do not think that the state of the revenue would warrant any such increased expenditure. Some societies, no doubt, are in poor districts, but others are in very wealthy districts. I think the people should put their hands into their own pockets. All they have got to do is to double their own subscriptions, and they would get a revenue equal to what they previously have had from the State. People who are benefited by these societies can well afford to pay for them. Of course, in such a thin House, I do not think it advisable to resist this motion and stop it going into committee ; but when it is in committee it will be very seriously considered by the Government as to what position they will take up in the matter.

Question put and passed.

CASE OF HENRY WALKER.

On this Order of the Day being read,

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said : Mr. Speaker,—With the permission of the House, I wish to have this motion adjourned until Friday, 20th September.

The SPEAKER : The hon. member, I think, will have to give fresh notice.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN : Then I will withdraw it altogether for the present.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH : I think we had better adjourn. There is no use going on.

The PREMIER : I think not.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at five minutes to 4 o'clock,