

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

TUESDAY, 23 JULY 1901

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- (3) Annual return of the Curator of Intestate Estates.
- (4) Despatch transmitting Army Annual Act.
- (5) Report upon the Government life insurance and annuity business for the year 1900.
- (6) Sugar Experiment Stations Act of 1900 regulations.

MEMBER SWORN.

The Hon. F. H. Holberton took the new oath of allegiance and signed the roll.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

HON. P. MACPHERSON.

HON. W. G. POWER moved—

That leave of absence be granted to the Hon. Peter Macpherson for one month.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE.

On this Order of the Day being read,

HON. G. W. GRAY said: I quite concur in what fell from the Hon. Mr. Barlow, that this Chamber is to be congratulated on the new members who have recently been appointed to it. With regard to our new leader, the Hon. John Murray, and the Hon. B. B. Moreton, those gentlemen bring to us long parliamentary experience, and also the experience of gentlemen who have held positions as Ministers of the Crown; and further, a lengthened experience in connection with pastoral pursuits, which will be especially valuable, I think, this session, when dealing with the effects of the serious drought, and the measures relating thereto shadowed forth in the Speech now before us. Of the other hon. gentlemen, Mr. Carter and Mr. Villiers Brown are men of long commercial standing in the colony, one representing Southern Queensland and the other Northern Queensland, and their services will be very valuable in debates on many questions arising here. With regard to Mr. F. I. Power, this gentleman is a very able lawyer, who has devoted the best part of his life to mining practice; and in that respect his presence in this Chamber will be invaluable, for undoubtedly it is to that industry we have materially to look in connection with the future prosperity of the colony. I look forward to its filling up the gap that has occurred in connection with the pastoral industry. Therefore I think we are to be congratulated upon having, as new members, men of all-round experience; and it is satisfactory to know that their appointment to the Council has given such universal satisfaction. As regards the Speech before us I do not propose to say much in connection with clauses 1, 2, and 3. All loyal subjects, not only in this State but all over the world, are in sympathy with what is so fully expressed in those three clauses, and all that has been said on the subject by those who have preceded me I thoroughly endorse. However, with regard to clause 4, I shall have a good deal to say. Exception has been taken by the Hon. A. H. Wilson and the Hon. A. Gibson to that portion of the clause referring to federation and to the position taken up by the Prime Minister of the federated Commonwealth. The Hon. Mr. Wilson thought this portion of the Speech a little "ambiguous"—to use his own term—I think he meant it was a little inconsistent with what has occurred. He quotes the phrase, "Only such functions as each

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 23 JULY, 1901.

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

RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.

HON. J. McMASTER.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a letter from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, intimating that the Hon. John McMaster had resigned his seat in the Council.

PAPERS.

The following papers, laid on the table, were ordered to be printed:—

- (1) Report from the Joint Committee of the two Houses for the management of the Parliamentary Library.
- (2) Report from the Joint Committee of the two Houses for the management of the refreshment rooms for the year 1900-1901.

State singly could not effectually perform have been surrendered to the federal authority, and for every operation necessary for its own development each State is independent and free to work out its own destiny." That being so, those two hon. gentlemen take exception, and very properly so, to the position taken up by the Right Hon. E. Barton and his Cabinet, and I thoroughly agree with their views. The Hon. Mr. Wilson says, "Kanaka labour in connection with our sugar industry is well governed by our laws, and it cannot do any harm either to Queensland or to Australia generally." For myself, having been engaged in this industry in a practical way for the past twenty years, I feel very strongly indeed on the position—the unwarrantable position—taken up by the Prime Minister in his first manifesto, practically taking exception to what has been encouraged here during the past thirty-three years by legislation and endeavouring to injure—I can put it in no other way—possibly the second, certainly the third biggest industry in this colony. In fact I look upon it as practically a cancelment of enactments in this colony which were first brought in in 1868, and continued to be confirmed and endorsed by the several Ministries—seventeen in number—from that period to the present time. And also, I say it is repudiation of a bond entered into between the Administrations during that period and the sugar planters. I propose going to the bed-rock to show the position that was taken up by the Mackenzie Government in 1867. In that Government our late President, Sir Arthur Palmer, was Colonial Secretary, and the Hon. Ratcliffe Pring, Attorney-General. The building up of the industry started in this way: Hon. W. H. Walsh moved—

1. That the cultivation of sugar-cane has so far proved successful that the production of both rum and sugar promises to be a great source of wealth to the colony.

2. That the Hon. Louis Hope may be justly accorded the merit of initiating and persevering in the first attempt to realise the above satisfactory fact; and that for his untiring energy and skill, as also to the large capital which he embarked in the experiment, this colony is much indebted.

3. That this House to-morrow do resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the justice of recommending to His Excellency that he will cause a grant consisting of 2,000 acres of land to be made to the Hon. Louis Hope.

4. That these resolutions be presented to the Council for its concurrence.

That was followed by a speech by the Secretary for Lands, who said he would support the amendment for bringing in a Bill to reward Captain Hope by a grant of 2,560 acres. That was carried on a vote of twenty to four, and the Hon. Louis Hope was granted that area in 1867. It then became necessary to provide labour for the industry, and I venture to say that had it not been for the bond entered into with the sugar planters not one sixpence would ever have been embarked in the industry. I say that without fear of contradiction. We see in the daily Press what is going on in the other colonies with regard to the action of the Federal Parliament in this matter, and it is for that reason that I desire to make out as strong a case as possible, and put the issue clearly and unmistakably before those who care to read. I desire to show that the position which is taken up is perfectly intolerable, and that in taking the action it proposes the Federal Government will be completely cancelling the various enactments passed in this colony during the past thirty-three years with regard to kanaka labour. The Act which granted the Hon. Louis Hope 2,560 acres of land in recognition of his efforts was assented to on the 26th November, 1867. Its

title is "An Act to Enable a Grant of Land to be made to the Hon. Louis Hope," and the preamble says—

Whereas it is just and expedient that the important services of the Hon. Louis Hope in his endeavour to establish the production of sugar should be recognised.

I come now to what followed in March, 1868, by which it will be seen that no time was allowed to elapse before Parliament made provision for the regular supply of labour, which was indeed to be the inducement offered to people to embark in the industry. The Act was entitled, "An Act to Regulate and Control the Introduction and Treatment of Polynesian Labourers," and the preamble says—

Whereas many persons have deemed it desirable and necessary, in order to enable them to carry on their operations in tropical and semi-tropical agriculture, to introduce to the colony Polynesian labourers: And whereas it is necessary for the prevention of abuses and for the securing to the labourers proper treatment and protection, as well as for securing to the employer the due fulfilment by the immigrant of his agreement, that an Act should be passed for the control of such immigration.

Therefore, it was not left in the hands of the sugar-planter, but the control and management of the labour was from the very start of the industry in the hands of the Government of the colony, and Mr. John McDonnell, late Under Secretary to the Post and Telegraph Office, was the gentleman first appointed to look after that labour. I come now to 1885, when Sir Samuel Griffith put a limit of time on the introduction of kanaka labour. After consideration of the subject he seems to have taken an adverse view as to the necessity for introducing this class of labour, and he put upon it a limit of seven years, which would expire in 1892. Not only was Sir Samuel Griffith Premier in 1885, but again in 1892, and in the Opening Speech of the Governor, delivered to Parliament on the 29th March, 1892, the following paragraph occurs:—

The condition of the sugar industry in the coast lands of Queensland has for some time attracted the attention of my Government, and it has become abundantly manifest that under the conditions of the existing law a sufficient supply of labour is not available to enable this industry to be extended, or even maintained, in its present position. Many efforts have been made from time to time by the legislature and the Government with a view of encouraging Europeans to undertake this work, but hitherto from various causes without success. This matter appears to my Ministers to be pressing, and to demand immediate action. It is well known that a considerable supply of suitable labour can be obtained from the Pacific Islands, whence many islanders are willing and anxious to come to Queensland. You will, therefore, be invited to remove the restrictions which now exist upon the importation of labourers from these islands, and also to make such provisions as may be necessary to prevent them from entering into undue competition with European labour in other industries.

That was the position taken up by Sir Samuel Griffith in 1892, in which year a [4 p.m.] Bill was passed by a vote of 32 to 7 cancelling the limit of seven years which had been imposed upon the introduction of kanakas. That is the position we are in to-day. For thirty-three consecutive years—

Hon. B. D. MOREHEAD: A generation.

HON. G. W. GRAY: Yes, for practically a generation the planters have to all intents and purposes been under an agreement with the Government of this colony which warranted us in entering into this pursuit of sugar-growing, relying upon the fact that we would have at our disposal this kanaka labour, and, as I said before, without that binding agreement between the Administrations of this colony and the sugar planters, not one single sixpence would ever have been invested in the industry. The effect of the legislation to which I have alluded has been the building up gradually of a large and

important industry in which not less than eight or nine million pounds sterling has been invested, and which has resulted in an output of sugar of the value of £1,250,000 annually. The existence of this industry has been the principal factor in the establishment of the large fleet of fine steamers now running upon our coast. That is undeniable. Before the sugar industry began to flourish we had to be content with sailing vessels and very small steamers; but this industry means the double handling of freight to the amount of 500,000 tons a year, and that has induced shipowners to build these fine steamers and run them regularly on the Queensland coast. As regards the value of the industry to the wage-earners of the colony, I venture say that it distributes, directly and indirectly, a larger amount of money than any other industry in the colony, if not in Australia. However, the main point is this: The sugar-planters of Queensland have been threatened with the stoppage of the labour on which they rely for successfully carrying on their industry, and such a thing was never contemplated by us when we voted for federation. I for one never contemplated it, although I need not remind you that I opposed federation. The Hon. Mr. Gibson is not here to-day, but I think he rather gave himself away in some of the remarks he made on this subject. He had an idea no doubt, as he says, that we would be able to make better terms under the Commonwealth, but that has proved a slender reed on which to rely, for to-day we find ourselves face to face with the same difficulty which confronted us in 1885 when it was proposed to limit the time during which kauakas could be introduced into Queensland. I attribute the antagonistic attitude of southern politicians on this matter to pure ignorance on their part. They know no more about our industries than the people living in Nova Scotia, and I am afraid that they are not making much effort to inform themselves. I had the pleasure of meeting here a little while ago, during the visit of the Duke of Cornwall and York, five representative English pressmen representing the *Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Standard*, the *Morning Post*, and the *Morning News*, and what struck those gentlemen very forcibly was the long distances between the capitals of the various States. It is certainly unfortunate that southern politicians do not visit this State in greater numbers. I do not suppose that more than 2 or 3 per cent. of the senators or members of the House of Representatives have ever been in Queensland. I discussed with the gentlemen to whom I have referred this question of the introduction of kanaka labour, which they understood in the south was one of the burning questions of the day, and I am happy to say that they were very much surprised at the action which it is proposed to take. The Council may rest assured that those five representatives of leading papers in Great Britain were fortified with facts to counteract the effect of information supplied to them in the southern colonies in regard to the sugar industry in Queensland. I reminded the correspondent of the *Times* that he was the second special correspondent of that paper who had visited this colony. The first was Miss Flora Shaw, and singular to say her errand was to investigate, amongst other things, this question of labour in tropical Queensland. Anyone who has read her paper, which was read before the Colonial Institute in London, will see the position she took up and the able way in which she grasped the subject, and I am glad to say it is quite in accord with the position I take up now. I strongly contend that if the measures which have been foreshadowed in connection with the sugar industry are carried, the Commonwealth will certainly be expected to compensate

the sugar-planters, who have no less than £8,000,000 or £9,000,000 at stake. I have spoken at some length on this question, because I consider it is the bounden duty of all those who understand anything about the subject to say what they know at this critical period in the history of the industry, because it is to be hoped that there are many southern members who are, to a large extent, impartial, and who will welcome information coming from those who are actually interested in the industry, and who are in a position to speak authoritatively on the subject. With regard to Lord and Lady Lamington, I quite concur with what is stated in the Speech as to the regret we all feel at their departure. Our late Governor made himself thoroughly conversant with every part of this colony, and I shall look forward with great interest to seeing, at a later period, the paper which he will doubtless read before the Colonial Institute, and to learn what his impressions are with regard to the wonderful resources of the State of Queensland. Let us hope that some day—I certainly do—we shall have the pleasure of seeing Lord Lamington coming to us as Governor-General of the Commonwealth. With reference to the paragraph announcing the deaths of Sir J. R. Dickson and the Hon. J. V. Chataway, I feel that, had Sir James Dickson lived, his wise counsel would certainly have tended to prevent the false step that has been taken by his colleagues in connection with the attack on the sugar industry. He had at heart the well-being of this colony, and I am sure that, had he lived to retain office, his wise counsel would have prevailed to prevent what has happened, and to which I have referred. As regards the late Mr. Chataway, the representative of the London *Times* brought a letter of introduction to my colleague, who was alive when he left London, and he, of course, felt very much not being able to deliver his introduction. The death of Mr. Chataway will be a great loss to the department over which he presided. He has left his mark behind, not only in that, but in the interest he took in everything connected with the welfare of the colony. With reference to the drought, I scarcely concur with what has fallen from the Hon. Mr. Morehead, that this has not been an unprecedented drought. In my opinion, it has been the worst drought the colony has ever experienced; and the evidence for that is that the loss of stock has been greater than was ever experienced in the colony before. Provision has been made for the relief of those who have suffered, as sketched out in the next clause after the one I refer to. The pastoral industry, and all connected with it, is so well represented in this Chamber that I feel sure that when that measure comes up it will receive the attention and the sympathy which the Speech asks for, so as to, as far as possible, meet the serious losses in as liberal a manner as possible. As regards the agricultural industry, I can confirm all that is said here. We are having excellent crops over the Southern portion of the colony, and in the more tropical parts there will be a record crop in sugar-cane growing. The rainfall has not been wanting in Northern Queensland, and never is. The rainfall there is so reliable that we have nothing to fear in that respect in connection with the industry. All we fear is unnecessary attacks, and whether anything comes of them or not they have a most depressing effect upon the industry. As regards the mining industry, it is satisfactory to learn, from such an authority as the Hon. F. I. Power—of course we have it in the records of the office—that the output this year is larger than that of any previous year; and evidences are not wanting of still further prosperity, because the Premier, who has also the Mines Department under his charge, loses no opportunity, by liberal administration,

to assist and cherish the industry in every possible way, and it is upon it that just now we have to depend in the very difficult business of filling up the gap caused by the losses sustained in the pastoral industry. As regards the Estimates, those will presently be laid before Parliament, so that it is unnecessary for me to say anything about the deficiency except to confirm what was said by the Hon. Mr. Barlow—that the department chiefly responsible for that is the Railway Department. I am glad to think that the Minister now in charge of that department—I refer to the Hon. John Leahy—is a capable strong man, and we may rely, as far as is possible, upon his taking such measures as will tend to lessen the deficit in that department—apart, of course, from that occasioned by such an exceptional circumstance as the drought. As regards the other culprit—the Custom-house—I am afraid the apathy displayed by the Federal Government will cause it to continue to be a loss not only to ourselves but to the whole of Australia. Practically the commerce of Australia is at a standstill owing to uncertainty as to the tariff. Merchants have almost ceased to import; at all events, they have reduced their business to such an extent, pending this tariff, that we may expect a continued great shortage in the Customs. To all appearances there is no hurry on the part of those hon. gentlemen. They have not even given us an idea when it will come off. We hear from one representative of ourselves, coming from the South, that this legislation will not take place this session. If that is the case we may look forward to great depression in commercial circles. Let us hope it will not be the case, but that it will be sooner or later brought on—the sooner the better. I have nothing further to add than to congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply on the able way in which they have dealt with the subject, and to say that I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

HON. B. D. MOREHEAD: I rise—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The hon. gentleman has spoken.

HON. B. D. MOREHEAD: I rise, with the permission of the Council, to correct a statement made by the hon. gentleman who has just sat down. He quoted me as having said that the drought was not an unprecedented drought. Those words were not used by me but by another hon. gentleman. I am not going to say who the other gentleman was.

HON. G. W. GRAY: I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon, and I apologise for the mistake.

HON. W. F. TAYLOR: The Speech we have had placed before us by the Lieutenant-Governor is one of the most important we have ever had before us. It comes at a time when a new era has been inaugurated in the history of the colony, when we exist no longer as a supreme House of Parliament, but simply as a subsidiary House of legislature. That has come as a matter of course with the altered conditions in which we are placed. I think hon. gentlemen will agree with me that the usefulness of this legislature is by this altered condition of affairs very much interfered with. Had we been allowed to carry on our own domestic affairs in our own way, probably we should have been better satisfied than we are, but unfortunately for us we rushed into this matter to a certain extent blindfolded. Many of us were not blindfolded. We saw the dangers of it, and endeavoured to the best of our ability to point them out and to call upon our fellow-citizens to hesitate before accepting the Commonwealth Bill. However, sentiment predominated, and it was swallowed *in globo*, and now we are beginning to reap some of the results. Before touching on this matter I should like to

say that I concur in all that has been said with respect to the memory of our late beloved Queen, and I do not think I need say more on the subject. There is not the slightest doubt that His Majesty, her successor, will to the utmost of his power follow on the noble lines she laid down. I have full confidence in his wisdom and ability, and I hope he will be long spared to reign over us. We have had from the Hon. Mr. Gray a very interesting account of the rise of the sugar industry. We have seen, from what he has said, that that industry was largely fostered, if not to a great extent initiated, by the Government of Queensland, that it has proved most remunerative, and that it has become one of the main, if not the main, industries of the colony. It is now as flourishing as it can possibly be under the present crisis. We have had a very good season, and may look forward to this being a record yield of sugar. All this would be very pleasing and gratifying were it not for the attitude of the Federal Government, for the uncertainty which renders the further development of that industry a matter of doubt. In fact so great is this doubt that not only may the further development of the industry be very seriously interfered with, but to a large extent hampered. There is not the slightest doubt of this fact, that if this industry is to be carried on successfully, reliable labour of a suitable class must be provided. And the question is, what does that labour consist of? We are told by those who cry out for a "white Australia" that white men can do the work. Well, I cannot speak from personal experience, having never worked in a cane field, but I have some little experience of hot countries, and I say that any person who will condemn a white man to work in the cane fields in a tropical country will not be doing a humane act. Any person who will condemn a white man to work under the conditions which obtain in the cane fields will certainly be guilty of an inhumane act. The white man is not fitted, in my opinion, to do this work, and those who, in their desire to bring about what they call a "white Australia," will condemn their fellow white men to work under those conditions in the cane fields, are not the friends of the white man. There is no doubt about that. If this industry is to be carried on at all, it must be carried on by labour suitable to it, and if that is not forthcoming the industry must go to the wall. It must be carried on by the labour we have now or by labour of a similar sort. That the present labour is about the best you can have there is no doubt. If we do away with our kanakas we must get some other form of labour which probably will be less beneficial to our interests. This matter was fully pointed out before. Had we only had the good sense to have held back, instead of rushing into this Commonwealth business as we did, it would have been better for us. The Government of Western Australia had the sense to hold back when they wanted to get something. They held back and got what they wanted; they got the promise of a transcontinental railway. Had Queensland held back there would have been no Commonwealth until we had a definite promise that none of our domestic concerns would be interfered with, that none of our industries would be interfered with, least of all our great sugar industry. But, carried away by sentiment, relying upon the generosity and good wishes of our southern fellow-colonists, we allowed ourselves to rush into the business, and we now have to face the consequences. I am afraid that all we can say or do will not alter the condition of affairs, and that this labour is doomed. I firmly believe the Federal Parliament have made up their minds on that point, and, unfortunately, most of the

representatives from Queensland are of the opinion that this class of labour must cease. And the most curious fact is that at the very centre of this industry—the town of Bundaberg—the people are the most callous as to its abolition. A more shortsighted policy cannot possibly be imagined. If this industry is to be handed over to those people—and, unfortunately, I am afraid it will be so—then I say the sugar industry will be a thing of the past, and one of the greatest and most progressive industries will be ruined simply from sentiment, nonsense, and claptrap—nothing more or less. While all this is going on the colony is suffering, necessary works are not being carried out, money is not being circulated, and there are numbers of people going about our streets who can find nothing to do. Not a day passes—not even excepting Sundays—but somebody comes to my door to beg a ticket for a night's lodging. This state of affairs should not exist in a country like this, a country teeming with natural wealth and with its small population. Surely there must be something radically wrong for that condition of affairs to exist. We know that in every community there will be individuals who are impoverished by their own acts, but that is not the case here. Those people say they have been all over the country—to Maryborough, Bundaberg, and elsewhere—and they cannot get work; they are starving. They are sleeping out these cold nights with

very little to eat—a lamentable state
[4:30 p.m.] of affairs which should be thoroughly inquired into. Instead of appointing Royal Commissions to inquire in this, that, and the other thing, it is time we had a Royal Commission to inquire into the causes which induce this condition of poverty. It is truly unfortunate that, with a small population of half a million of people, we should proportionately have more poverty in a country teeming with wealth than exists in Great Britain. I should be very glad, indeed, to see this matter grappled with, so that these unfortunate creatures might have an opportunity of earning sufficient to live upon. It is high time that something was done. The Home Secretary, no doubt, understands this matter better than any other member of the Ministry. He is being constantly appealed to for assistance for these people, and it is a notorious fact that in this small community we spend more money upon charitable institutions in proportion to our population than any other country in the world. It is time that we ascertained the cause of the existing poverty, and, if possible, found a remedy. There are many other matters dealt with in the Speech which are of the utmost importance. We are told that the unfortunate war in South Africa still drags its weary length along, although it is hoped that its termination is not far distant. I sincerely hope and believe that is the case. It has been a most disastrous war, but it has had the undeniably good effect of bringing closer together the different sections of the British race and of showing to the world that in a time of difficulty and danger we are all brothers. Reference has been made to the drought, and it has been said by one hon. gentleman that it is unprecedented. Whether that is so or not, the fact remains that it has been a most disastrous drought. I have lived in Queensland for the last thirty-one years, and do not remember anything like the drought we have just passed through. Before I came here there was in 1867 or 1868 a very bad drought indeed, but it was nothing like as continuous as the late drought, and nothing like as general. At all events the effects were nothing like as widespread, because at that time the country was not as thickly peopled, and was not taken up in such large areas as at present. Indeed, the settlement at that time was largely confined to

within a few miles of the coast, and the large areas further inland were almost unknown to settlement. That something must be done to alleviate the effects of the drought upon the squatters goes without saying, and there is not the slightest doubt that any measure introduced with that object will have the sympathetic consideration of Parliament. It is gratifying to find that in spite of the drought the agricultural industry is expanding, and that more land suitable for close settlement is to be thrown open. The cry for good agricultural land is very strong; and if the means of settling people on the soil were made easier, there is no doubt that we would attract a much larger agricultural population than we have at present in the colony. No doubt we have good agricultural land in the Southern portion of the colony, and the climatic conditions are favourable to agricultural development. All we want is the right class of people who understand what scientific agriculture means. The Government have done a great deal towards educating the people, but they have not had that class of material to work upon that they might have had, because from my own knowledge we have not hitherto had amongst us a very large proportion of capable and energetic farmers. But, in spite of the class of men we have had to deal with, we have attained very excellent results from our agriculturists, and with the greater spread of knowledge diffused by our experimental farms and colleges we shall attain in the near future to a more scientific method of cultivating the land, and the good results which will follow will soon be made manifest. The mining industry, I am glad to see, holds its own, and the Government are to be commended for establishing a school of mines at Charters Towers. No doubt that is a most desirable thing to do. Most of our mining managers are men of very rough experience, and these of us who have had anything to do with mining know that the knowledge of many of our mining managers extends very little beyond the capacity to sink a shaft or make a drive. When the advantages of the school of mines become better known and more largely availed of, there is no doubt that we shall have a better class of mining manager, and our mining will be carried out on more scientific principles, and with much greater certainty, so far as the results to investors are concerned. Up to the present time we have had very little to guide us. We have simply had hope as our mainspring, but so far as scientific investigation is concerned, that is a matter we have had very little of. The school of mines will do a great deal to remedy this defect, and induce young men of fair ability to study mining from a scientific point of view, and build up a class of people who are competent to assist us in opening up and developing this very important industry. We have been promised many important measures this session, one of the most important of which is a Bill to reform the method of parliamentary elections. I presume that means that we are to have what is known as one man one vote, and possibly one adult one vote. The basis upon which the suffrage will be granted to adults will, I presume, be a residential qualification, and there will be no property qualification. If that is to be the qualification, then I hope it will be carried to its logical conclusion. If a resident of six or twelve months' standing is entitled to be placed upon the electoral roll, and exercise the franchise, then I contend that a resident of fifteen or twenty years should be entitled to a further vote, if not two further votes. I see no fairness or justice in giving the same amount of voting power to a man or woman who has simply resided in the

country for six or twelve months as to a man or woman who has resided in the country for twenty or thirty years. If we do away with the property qualification altogether—and with that I quite agree—let us carry the residential qualification to its legitimate conclusion. Let us have a sliding scale whereby every person who has been a resident for six or twelve months shall have a vote, but the person who has been a resident for ten years shall have two votes, the person who has been a resident for twenty years three votes, and so on.

HON. W. G. POWER: What about the native born?

HON. W. F. TAYLOR: Let him have his vote at twenty-one years of age, and if he lives in the country another ten years let him have two votes.

HON. A. H. BARLOW: Some of the old boozers would have four votes.

HON. W. F. TAYLOR: Let them have them. Under the principle of one man one vote both the old and young boozers would have as much legislative power as we have, but if old residents are given their just demands we will not be on a par at all events with the young boozers. We will have two votes, and will to some extent be able to counteract the voting power of the young boozers. I do not know that we should be called upon to follow slavishly the Commonwealth idea of one man one vote. On the contrary, I think we should set an example in this respect. It must be patent to everyone that there is no justice or fairness in giving a man who has been only six or twelve months in the country the same voting power as the man who has been a resident for thirty years. Under such a system one perfectly irresponsible person can entirely neutralise the effect of my vote; having resided here for six or twelve months, and done as much harm as he pleases, he can put his hat on and walk out of the country. That is the sort of thing we would be always liable to. Suppose, for instance, a great discovery of alluvial gold is made, we might have 10,000 or 20,000 able-bodied men flock to that field within six months, and if the field continues to be a success all those people may acquire votes. See what an immense power they would have in the country. Suppose it was found necessary to introduce a number of navvies from abroad to construct our railways, after six months' residence they would all have votes, and each of those men would have the same voting power as people who have lived here for twenty years, and brought up families. I hope this matter will be considered as it should be, and that a sliding scale will be adopted whereby the old residents will have a little more consideration extended to them than the new comers. Amongst other Bills which we are promised is one providing for dairy inspection. I am very glad indeed that the Government intend to introduce such a Bill, and I shall be pleased to give what assistance I can in passing it. I am also pleased that it is intended to introduce a Bill to amend the Medical Act. Last year a similar Bill was passed through this House; but, unfortunately, it was slaughtered amongst the innocents in the other Chamber. At the present time any person who succeeds in becoming registered as a medical practitioner can remain on the register, and there is no authority to erase his name, no matter of what offence he may be guilty. He can be guilty of an offence of the most heinous description, and yet he must still remain on the register. His name may be erased from the register of Great Britain, but we have no power to take similar action in Queensland. It is strongly felt that there ought to be such power. Not very

long ago a man who was practising here had his name erased from the register in Great Britain, and the local Medical Board, having omitted to publish his name on the 1st January, he very promptly brought an action and obtained a writ of *mandamus* compelling the board to restore his name to the register. I think hon. gentlemen will see that it is hardly fair to the public that no power should be possessed by the Medical Board to strike off the register the name of a man who has been proved guilty of a grave offence; but, as a matter of fact, once a man gets upon the medical register in Queensland, his name cannot be erased under the existing law. He may have been proved guilty of felony, or any crime you can mention, but there his name is, and there it must remain. I think if power is given in certain cases to remove names from the register it will be a step in the right direction. I should like before concluding to offer my congratulations to those hon. gentlemen who have recently been called to sit in this Chamber. I think the Government have made a very good selection indeed, and deserve the thanks of the community for the choice they have so wisely exercised. The gentlemen who have been appointed are decided acquisitions to this Chamber, and I have not the slightest doubt that the debating power of the Council will be greatly benefited by their presence here. I have very much pleasure in supporting the adoption of the Address in Reply.

HON. F. T. BRENTNALL: I move that the debate be now adjourned.

Question put and passed.

The resumption of the debate was made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

JOINT COMMITTEE.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly notifying that, in answer to the Council's message of the 17th instant, the Speaker, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Macartney had been appointed members of the Joint Library Committee; the Speaker, Mr. J. Hamilton, and Mr. Reid, members of the Refreshment Room Committee; and the Speaker, Mr. Annear, and Mr. Bell, members of the Parliamentary Buildings Committee.

The Council adjourned at eight minutes to 5 o'clock.