

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 1902

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The Council being seated, a message was sent to the Assembly to the effect that His Excellency desired the presence of Mr. Speaker and hon. members in the Council Chamber. The Assembly attended accordingly, and, being seated in the place reserved for them below the bar,

His EXCELLENCY read the Opening Speech as follows:—

“HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“It affords me very great pleasure to meet for the first time the Parliament of the State in which I have been called upon to represent the Sovereign authority of our common Empire. My pleasure in meeting you is increased by the fact that the occasion gives me the most public opportunity I have yet enjoyed of thanking the people of Queensland, through their representatives, for the cordial manner in which I have been received among them, and for the many manifestations of personal regard which have so pleasantly inaugurated my period of administration. I trust before long to extend my acquaintance with the various communities situated within your vast territory, so as to enable me not only to identify myself more closely with their interests, but to keep alive, by the presence of the representative of the Crown, that sense of Imperial union the continued activity of which is the best guarantee of our common security.

“I congratulate this Parliament on the auspicious circumstance that its first session opens at a time when the disquietude incidental to a war in which every State in the Empire has been more or less extensively engaged is no longer added to the anxieties arising from local conditions. The restoration of peace has brought with it the complete establishment of British supremacy in South Africa, and the Empire has emerged from the struggle with increased strength and with enlarged capacity for carrying out its destiny as the foremost of civilising powers. To this happy result the colonial States have largely contributed, both in blood and treasure, and by the striking demonstration thereby given to the world of the reality and universal activity of the Imperial sentiment within the countries which constitute Great and Greater Britain. But while all have so worthily contributed to the common cause, I yet make no invidious distinction when I say that no history of the late war will be complete in which prominent mention is not made of the initiative taken by Queensland in proffering assistance to the mother country, of the valour and endurance of her troops in the field, and of their ready adaptability to the special conditions of a warfare in which such qualities as theirs proved so eminently serviceable. I lament with you the loss of so many of her brave sons who gave their lives for the cause of their kindred; but while deeply sympathising with those for whom peace came too late to save them from bereavement, I feel proud to know that the people with whom I look forward to being officially associated for a term of years have proved themselves capable of so great sacrifice for the general welfare.

“In the midst of the rejoicings for the peace which had been concluded on terms both honourable to the victor and generous to the vanquished, the serious illness with which our beloved Sovereign was stricken, almost on the eve of the day appointed for his coronation, was the cause of profound sorrow and anxiety in every portion of the Empire. The official intimation, however, that His Majesty is now out of danger, and that his speedy restoration to health may be

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY, 1902.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Council met shortly before noon.

THE OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came in state to the Houses of Parliament; was announced by the Usher of the Black Rod, and received by the President at the Bar.

confidently expected, has elicited universal expressions of relief and thankfulness, and gives ground for the hope that the postponement of the august ceremony by which he is to be invested with the symbols of kingly power will be of short duration.

"I had expected to be able by this time to congratulate you on some hopeful indications of favourable change in the character of the seasons which, except in the extreme north of the State and on the tropical seaboard generally, have so long been pitilessly adverse to all effort to maintain our industrial life at anything approaching its former level of prosperity. I greatly regret that no such reason for congratulation yet exists, and that with each successive month the effects of the drought become more intensified, and at the same time more widely apparent. While I sympathise with the country at large in the depressing conditions under which it is suffering, my official relations bring me into still closer sympathy with my responsible advisers in the position in which they find themselves of having to guide the State through a period of unprecedented calamity. The circumstances, indeed, are such that, although in view of the unlimited natural resources of the country they regard its future with undiminished confidence, it will require all the assistance of a Parliament prepared to subordinate every party or personal consideration to the necessities of the situation to enable them so to minimise the effects of the present emergency that the sure return of more favourable conditions may find the State, not only unbroken in credit, but re-equipped for a fresh advance on the path of prosperity. The generosity of Parliament toward the class upon which the losses caused by the drought have more directly fallen will again have to be called upon in dealing with the question of relief for the pastoral tenants of the Crown. It is hoped that such proposals for this purpose as my advisers are prepared to submit to you will readily commend themselves to your approbation.

"A hopeful indication of unimpaired confidence in the prospects of our agricultural and dairying industries is to be found in the fact that, of three large estates repurchased by the Government which have been thrown open for selection, two have been completely selected, while the most valuable portions of the third have also been taken up. As regards a fourth estate which has also been repurchased with a view to closer settlement, it is known to those who have the best means of information that numerous intending applicants are only awaiting the announcement that it is open to selection. It is a further hopeful sign that farmers from other Australian States—men with large farming experience and more or less capital—are being attracted to Queensland, a considerable number of this class being included among the settlers on the repurchased estates. Altogether over 2,000,000 of acres have been selected during the past year, and that so much enterprise has been exhibited under the most depressing circumstances is a matter of encouraging significance to all who recognise that the prosperity of a country depends even more upon the character of a people than upon the generosity of Nature.

"Notwithstanding the check to agricultural production, the last grain harvest was the best which has been known for many years, showing an average of production which compares well with that of any other Australasian State. Fruit cultivation is on the increase, and our exports, especially of citrus fruits, are in growing demand. The dairying industry continues to maintain itself in the face of exceptional difficulty, and only awaits the inevitable return

of favourable conditions to realise the capabilities of improvement and expansion which the season of struggle has but tended to mature and enlarge.

"As regards the mining industry, the drought has in some places checked the steady advance in the output of gold, but the indirect mode in which it affects the extent of the yield in no way suggests any waning productiveness in our mines. At no time has the future of our greater gold-fields been regarded as more assured. At Charters Towers especially persistent exploration of the deeper ground has been richly rewarded, and both there and at Gympie the year has been a period of prosperous enterprise. With respect to other minerals, the substantial increase in last year's production has largely compensated for any deficiency in the gold yield, and has justified the encouragement given to the various projects for connecting our mineral fields with the seaboard by means of railways and tramways. The extensive coalbeds of the Central district have latterly attracted much attention, and efforts are being made to obtain the capital necessary for their development; whilst a minor but interesting feature of the year's progress has been the growing appreciation of the value and beauty of our gems, more particularly the sapphires of Anakie and the opals of the Western country.

"It is yet too early to speak with the necessary complete information on the subject of the effect of federal legislation upon the interests of this State. My advisers, however, though recognising as clearly as before the opportunities offered by federation for the promotion of the general interests of the Australian States, consider that much of the legislation passed by the first Commonwealth Parliament tends to emphasise the necessity of obtaining further definition of the rights of individual States, and of maintaining these rights against any such policy as might interfere with their freedom to work out their own destiny. My Ministers trust, therefore, to see the early establishment of a federal high court, without the existence of which, as a tribunal of appeal, the Acts of the Federal Government in their relation to State rights must be regarded as to a certain extent arbitrary in character, and possibly as only of provisional authority.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"The Estimates for the present year will be submitted to you at an early date, and it will be seen that my Ministers have made every effort to reduce the expenditure in connection with the public service to the lowest scale consistent with the efficient administration of the business of the country.

"No more ungrateful task can be forced upon a Government by the necessity of increased economy than that of dispensing with the services of a large number of public officers, especially when many of these are old and tried servants of the State. Such a task my Ministers have found themselves reluctantly compelled to undertake; and, while they contemplate with much regret the many cases of hardship which must necessarily accompany a systematic reduction of the public service, they feel assured that the inevitable character of the course they have pursued will be universally recognised.

"Unfortunately, owing to the cause already so frequently referred to, the condition of the public finances is not such as can be retrieved even by the strictest economy, and my Ministers regret that it will be necessary to have recourse to further taxation, a measure for which will shortly be laid before you.

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"The following, among other measures, will be submitted to you for consideration :—

A Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to local authorities ;

A Bill to impose a tax on income ;

A Bill to provide for the reduction of the salaries of the officers of the public service, and of Ministers of the Crown and certain officers in Parliament, and for the reduction of the payments to members of the Legislative Assembly, during the period commencing 1st July, 1902, and ending 30th September, 1904 ;

A Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the regulation, management, and improvement of harbours, and for other purposes relating thereto ;

A Bill to constitute a harbour board for the harbour of Brisbane, and for other purposes relating thereto ;

A Bill to constitute a harbour board for the harbour of Maryborough, and for other purposes relating thereto ;

A Bill to constitute a harbour board for the harbour of Cairns, and for other purposes relating thereto ;

A Bill to increase the totalisator tax ;

A Bill to amend the law relating to pilotage and light dues ;

A Bill to amend the Land Act, 1897, and for other purposes ;

A Bill to extend the time within which pastoral lessees may elect to take advantage of the provisions of the Pastoral Holdings New Leases Act of 1901 ;

A Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to juries ;

A Bill to amend the Insolvency Act of 1874 ;

A Bill to amend the law relating to stamps ;

A Bill to provide for the registration of firms ;

A Bill to amend the laws relating to parliamentary elections ;

A Bill to amend the Bills of Sales Acts ;

A Bill to enable certain persons to test, open up, and develop at deep levels certain auriferous lands situated on the gold-field of Gympie ;

A Bill to regulate mining on private lands, and for other purposes ;

A Bill to amend the law relating to mining companies ;

A Bill to amend the law with respect to compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment.

"I invite your attention to these and all other matters that may be brought before you, and I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may attend your labours."

His Excellency and suite then left the Chamber, and the members of the Assembly withdrew.

The Council adjourned until half-past 3 o'clock.

The Council resumed at the hour named.

The CLERK read the Commission empowering the President to administer the oath of allegiance.

NEW MEMBER.

The Hon. Lewis Thomas took the oath and subscribed the roll.

SAVINGS BANK SECURITIES IN LONDON.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a report from the Agent-General intimating that the Savings Bank Securities held in London were duly examined, counted, and audited on the 13th January, 1902, and found correct.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

REPLY TO COUNCIL'S MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE.
APPRECIATION OF GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a letter from the Chief Secretary, forwarding, for the information of the Council, a despatch from the Foreign Office, expressing the appreciation of the Government of the United States of the sympathy shown by the Government and people of Queensland in connection with the death of the late President McKinley.

Ordered to be entered in the minutes of the Council.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT.

QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK BALANCE-SHEET.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a letter from the Auditor-General forwarding his report on the balance-sheet of the Queensland National Bank for the half-year ended the 31st December last. He might state that the letter and report were printed and circulated amongst hon. members of the Council in accordance with a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament last session.

SAVINGS BANK SECURITIES—TREASURY BILLS AND NOTES—PUBLIC DEBT REDUCTION FUND.

The PRESIDENT also announced the receipt of letters from the Auditor-General on the Savings Bank securities held within the State, on Treasury notes, and on the public debt reduction fund.

Ordered to be printed.

BILL PRO FORMA.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. J. Murray) presented a Bill to amend the law relating to Toll-bars, and moved that it be read a first time.

Question put and passed.

MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPERS.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION laid the following papers on the table, and moved that they be printed :—

- (1) Annual report of the Secretary for Public Instruction.
- (2) Blue Book for 1901.
- (3) Return of all schools in operation on 1st January, 1902, with attendance, etc.
- (4) North Queensland Ethnography—Bulletin No. 4—by Walter E. Roth.
- (5) Annual report of the Under Secretary for Mines.
- (6) Despatch, dated 21st November, 1901, transmitting Order in Council applying the Colonial Solicitors Act, 1900, to Queensland.

- (7) Despatch, dated 30th November, 1901, transmitting copy of the Royal Titles Act, 1901, and proclamation thereunder.
- (8) Despatch, dated 27th December, 1901, transmitting proclamation determining new designs for gold and bronze coins.
- (9) Despatch, dated 10th February, 1902, transmitting proclamation determining new designs for silver coins.
- (10) Despatches, dated 11th December, 1901, and 6th March, 1902, conveying the Royal assent to Acts passed during session of 1901.
- (11) Despatch, dated 28th February, 1902, transmitting agreement between Great Britain and Japan.
- (12) Despatch, dated 15th March, 1902, transmitting Order in Council declaring His Majesty's assent to the reserved Bill entitled "A Bill to amend the Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897, and for other purposes."
- (13) Despatch, dated 21st March, 1902, transmitting instruments providing for the transfer of the control of British New Guinea to Commonwealth Government.
- (14) Despatch, dated 27th March, 1902, *re* treaty between His Britannic Majesty and His Majesty the King of the Belgians for the mutual extradition of criminals.
- (15) Despatch, dated 28th November, 1901, *re* determination of the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific in the islands recently annexed to New Zealand.
- (16) Despatch, dated 9th January, 1902, from the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific revoking a portion of the proclamation, dated 6th October, 1900, regarding the inclusion of certain islands in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.
- (17) Despatch, dated 31st May, 1902, from the High Commissioner, transmitting regulation specifying the regulations which apply to Ocean Island, otherwise Paanopa.
- (18) Report of the Public Service Board for 1901.
- (19) Regulations under the Public Service Act of 1896 and the Public Service Act Amendment Act of 1901.
- (20) Report of the International Congress for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, held in London in 1901.
- (21) Report of the Police Investment Board for the year ended 31st December, 1901.
- (22) Report upon the Government life insurance and annuity business for 1901.
- (23) The Navigation Act of 1876 (Regulations under).
- (24) Regulations under the provisions of the Special Agricultural Homesteads Act of 1901.
- (25) Rule of the Supreme Court as of Tuesday the 18th day of March, 1902.
- (26) Annual Return of Curator of Intestate Estates, Brisbane.
- (27) Annual Return of Intestate Estates by the Local Deputy Curator, Townsville.

- (28) Report on the Burrum Coal Field by W. H. Rands, Government Geologist.
- (29) Report on the coal beds on Waterpark Creek, near Port Clinton, by W. E. Cameron, Assistant Government Geologist.

The PRESIDENT: In putting the motion, I beg to draw your attention to the fact that last session we passed a resolution, which was agreed to in the other House, that during the recess papers might be submitted to the President or the Speaker for their approval as to whether they should be printed and circulated or not. With respect to five at least of these papers now submitted, they have been already printed and circulated under the authority of that resolution. Is the country to be put to the expense of again printing and circulating them? Because that resolution was passed, as I understood, in the interests of the State. Now the Council is asked to make an order that they be again printed, and if that order is made, they will have to be reprinted and re-circulated. It seems to me that the Government Printer does not altogether understand his position. He is a public servant in one respect—he takes his orders from the Government; but he is a parliamentary officer as well; and as far as parliamentary papers are concerned, he must take his orders from Parliament. Such being the case, I should advise the Minister to withdraw the five papers that have already been printed and circulated. Those papers are Dr. Roth's bulletin on games, sports, and amusements, the report of the Mines Department, the list of teachers and schools, the Blue Book, and the report of the Department of Public Instruction.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: In compliance with the suggestion of the President, I beg to withdraw the five documents mentioned by him.

Question—That the papers laid on the table, with the exception of the five that have already been printed and circulated, be printed—put and passed.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

HON. J. T. ANNEAR, in moving that the following Address in Reply be presented to His Excellency the Governor,—

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

“1. We, His Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Council of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection to the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

“2. We will give our most careful attention and consideration to the several measures specially mentioned by Your Excellency, and to all other matters brought before us; and we earnestly trust that our deliberations will be instrumental in promoting the good government and welfare of the State”—

said: I feel extremely honoured in having been asked to move the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech. I must first allude to the loss sustained, not only by this honourable House, but the citizens of Queensland generally, by the death of the late Hon. W. H. Wilson and the late Hon. J. Thorneloe Smith. I next offer my congratulations to the people of Queensland in having, as successor to Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman and Lord Lamington, such an earnest

and capable Governor as Sir Herbert Chermiside. I trust his term of office will be fruitful of good, and that when the time comes for him to leave us he will carry the same love and good wishes from the people of this State as his predecessors. That peace has at length been established is a matter of congratulation to us all, especially when we consider the prominent part Queensland, as well as the other States, has taken in the war. We have suffered by death the loss of promising men, but that is a tribute always paid in times of war. Their deeds will never be forgotten, and we can ascribe to their efforts the chief cause of this peace which we trust will be everlasting. I think those three memorable words used by the Marquis of Salisbury and the late Earl of Beaconsfield, on their return from Berlin, can be truthfully used on this occasion as regards the work performed by Lord Kitchener and Lord Milner. That work has been performed in the interests of the entire Empire, and its results are "Peace with honour." The happy recovery of our beloved King is a joyous event which must not be passed over. I trust he will be able soon to celebrate his coronation, amidst the love and applause of his subjects. I fully coincide with the remark of His Excellency that in view of the necessities occasioned by the unprecedented drought from which this State is suffering Parliament should subordinate party and personal considerations, and bend their energies in the direction of economy and consideration for all classes suffering from its dire effects. I sincerely hope that before long this terrible drought may be at an end, and the State making fresh advances in the paths of prosperity. Since I arrived in Queensland in 1863 the State has experienced several periods of drought, but, in my opinion, none so disastrous to the best interests of the State as the one through which we are now passing. I believe I am correct in stating—it is from the public Press—that the flocks and herds of Queensland have suffered by death to the extent of fully 60 per cent., and I am sure it is the wish of everybody that this disastrous state of affairs will soon come to an end. It is a matter of satisfaction that our farming industry continues to attract settlers from other States. No doubt the careful selection of repurchased estates is exercising a beneficial result both to the selectors and to the Government. It is my opinion that during the time I have lived in the State no legislation was ever introduced by any Government which has had such a good effect in settling people on the land as this repurchasing of estates legislation to which I have referred. By a return laid on the table of the House, moved for by the Hon. Mr. Brentnall, we find that at the end of last year that legislation had been the means of settling on those estates about 700 families, numbering over 4,000 souls. So far, not only have they been able to live and pay their way, but they have spent between £300,000 and £400,000 in improvements, and added all the time to our railway revenue. I am glad also to notice that our mining industry is prospering. From personal observation I know that Charters Towers is experiencing a healthy and general boom; the yields of gold and the dividends on that field are larger than ever. The Gympie Gold Field also shows signs of renewed prosperity; and when the long-looked-for rain falls at Mount Morgan I feel convinced that Queensland again will be in the van among the gold-producing States. With regard to federation, I was never an ardent federationist until I saw that five of the States of Australia had decided to federate. I then asked myself the question, "Can Queensland afford to remain outside the federation?" And the

answer to that question was "No." But I am sure I express, not only my opinion, but that of the majority of the people of Queensland to-day, when I say that we are all very much disappointed at the want of consideration shown to Queensland by the Federal Government, and with recent experience of what they are capable of I should hail legal secession with great satisfaction. (Hear, hear!) I greatly regret—and I am sure all hon. gentlemen agree with me—that the necessities of the Government have caused them to dispense with the services of so many of our old and tried public servants, but the public must recognise that it is with the greatest reluctance that the Government has been forced to exercise such severe economy to make both ends meet. I earnestly hope that when prosperous times are with us again, and more officers are required, those gentlemen now retrenched will get the preference. Knowing as we do that the Federal Government are appointing officers from time to time—although very few appointments are made from Queensland—I trust this matter will be represented to them, and justice be done to this State. It is to be regretted that the Government will have to bring in a Bill for further taxation, but seeing that the power of taxation through the Customs has been transferred to the Federal Government that is perhaps inevitable. In spite of the present bad times I trust the Government will be able to see their way to continue railway construction, at any rate on such lines as can be termed national lines, connecting our several systems not only within our own State but likewise with those in other States. I hope the time is not far distant when we shall be able to travel by train from Normanston to Adelaide. Some hon. gentlemen may ask, How is that to be done? Well, I have seen in the Press within the last few days—and I think it emanates from the worthy president and other members of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce—that for an expenditure of £850,000 or £900,000 we could in a very little while travel from Normanston to Adelaide by railway. From Croydon to Georgetown the distance to be covered is 80 miles, from Georgetown to Richmond 180 miles, and from Winton to Longreach 180 miles—in all about 380 miles. There is also a section to complete from Rockhampton towards Gladstone, and when that is done there will be a continuous line of railway open from Normanston to Adelaide, and we have it on very good authority that those 380 miles of railway could be constructed for from £850,000 to £900,000. Several measures are foreshadowed in His Excellency's Speech; many of them we have seen before; twenty-one Bills in all are promised. Those Bills will in due course receive that earnest consideration which this Chamber has always been noted for. I have briefly touched on the different matters set forth in His Excellency's Speech, and before I sit down I wish to thank hon. gentlemen for the kind reception they have given me on this my first appearance in this honourable House. [Honourable gentlemen: Hear, hear!]

HON. A. J. CALLAN: Looking over the records of this Chamber I noticed that a member standing up as I am standing up now, some nine or ten years ago, stated that he did not feel at all nervous; he said he felt as if he were talking to old friends. Well, hon. gentlemen, I feel I am talking to old friends. At the same time I confess I am remarkably nervous. The gentleman to whom I allude is one you may all remember—the Hon. Mr. Brookes. He was a much older man than I am, and had possibly got over his nervousness. But I need not take up your time with reminiscences which are of very little interest to you. I am here to second

the motion before the House, and I do so with great pleasure. I do so because many of the statements enunciated in the Governor's Speech I can uphold altogether, although some of them perhaps go further than anything there is at present before us. To that I will refer by and by. My hon. friend and late colleague in the Lower House has said almost everything there is to be said in moving the motion before the Council. Touching matters of detail I have first of all to congratulate this country on having a gentleman such as Sir Herbert Chermiside as its present Governor, one who is apparently taking every opportunity of making himself known to the general public, and endeavouring to obtain as thorough a knowledge of the State as any Governor I have known. I believe that in the end Sir Herbert Chermiside will be placed possibly along-side Sir Henry Norman; I trust that may be the case. The first subject to which I wish to allude is the profound interest we all feel in His Majesty's health. We all rejoice at the most extraordinary revival that has taken place in the health of His Majesty. We all know how difficult recovery is to a man over sixty who has undergone such an operation—one of the most painful to which anybody can be subjected—but His Majesty has borne it bravely, and it is satisfactory to know that he will be in a position in a short time to go through the ceremony of his coronation, which is to be carried out in a most magnificent manner at home. The next subject dealt with is the drought and the position of the pastoral tenants; and it appears to me that the Speech does not go far enough in the way of doing what should be done for the pastoral tenants. I have lived forty-two years in Queensland, and I know perfectly well what drought is. My experience goes to prove that there have been bigger and longer droughts in Queensland than the present drought so far. That was impressed on me forty-one years ago when I took up the then farthest-out station in the West, and it has been impressed on me since then. I don't wish to be pessimistic and say that the same things are going to occur again, but I know that Queensland has seen droughts to which the present one cannot be compared. I don't wish to say that this is only a premonitory symptom of what is going to occur; at the same time I wish to impress the Council with the idea that we should be most careful, because there has been a time when Queensland suffered much greater loss than it is suffering now from drought, and I think the Government should be much more liberal towards the pastoral tenants. We have lost quite half our cattle, and more than half our sheep, and every day the loss goes on. It is not a question of losing a few thousands, but hundreds of thousands. A lot of stock has been brought down to the grass on the coast; but that will not last much more than a month or six weeks, and what is to become of the stock then? The Government should be the first to assist the industries of the country whenever they get into such a tremendous hole as the pastoral industry is in at present. The Speech says that a good deal of agricultural land has been taken up. That is so, and whenever the drought breaks up I believe the thing that will come out on top and turn the scale will be agriculture. We have millions of acres of first-class land. We have an enormous acreage of first-class agricultural land on the Darling Downs with a really good climate in ordinary seasons—not to say that it is bad even now. People do not realise the value of that land. If it were in Victoria it would realise from £20 to £30 an acre, whereas here it is only worth £4 to £5 an acre. When once the rain comes I believe the value will go up enormously. I believe the Government are making a great

mistake in not giving the pastoralists a much longer and better tenure. How can any financial institution give them advances with no better tenure than they have at present? The greatest mistake the Government can make will be to do anything against the pastoralists. (Hear hear!) Even with the drought, I am glad to say the mining industry has been doing remarkably well. We have, within the last six months, had better returns from mining than for a long time before, notwithstanding that a great many mines have been working under great difficulties. For instance, there is Mount Morgan. I do not refer to Mount Morgan because I happen to be a shareholder, but because I happen to know about it. At the present time the company is spending at the rate of £15,000 a year in bringing water from Stanwell Creek to Mount Morgan to carry on the works, and I am happy to say that the Railway Department are carrying out the work remarkably well. I received a letter yesterday stating that the water supply is satisfactory, but they have reduced the number of trains for the present. They are only reduced because it is feared that the water supply may give out. In any case, as far as Mount Morgan is concerned, we must try and restrict the expenditure as much as possible so as to carry on the works and so as to carry on the people. There are 10,000 people depending on that mine, and they must be carried on at all costs; and I am glad to say that, notwithstanding the expense the output of gold during the last six months has been remarkably good, and I have no doubt that it will be better in the future. The next matter dealt with in the Speech is federation. I may say that three years ago I was an ardent federationist, and I incited people to go about preaching federation. [An Honourable member: You made a mistake.] I don't know about making a mistake. I suppose plenty of people have made mistakes in other things. I believe the people who have the ruling of the Commonwealth have gone away from their faith and pandered to a certain party. Federation is right, and federation will come right in time, but we want other men at the head of affairs. [Hon. B. D. MOREHEAD: It wants a new lock, stock, and barrel.] Possibly that is the case with a great many other things. Amongst the various measures to be submitted this session is a Bill to impose a tax on income. I think an income tax in a country like England may be very good—in a country where incomes from year to year are pretty much the same—but I think an income tax in a country like this is a gross mistake; and I am perfectly satisfied that the Government could get a far more stable revenue in other ways than by an income tax. At the present time we have a dividend tax. That is a tax which is easily collected, costs nothing, and returns an honest revenue, because the dividend tax is put on under the eyes of the officers, and there can be no mistake about it. There may be a few small companies that evade the dividend tax, but as a rule there is no better or honester tax than a dividend tax; and I trust that even if the Government proceed with the income tax they will keep the dividend tax on, and allow a rebate in the case of those incomes affected by the dividend tax. There is also to be a Bill to provide for the reduction of the salaries of officers in the public service, Ministers of the Crown, and certain officers of Parliament, and to reduce the amount paid to members of the Legislative Assembly. I believe that if Ministers do their work properly—and I believe they all do that—they are underpaid at £1,000 a year. If they were devoting the same amount of ability and time to work in a merchant's office they would get very much better pay. With regard to the

other portion, that is a matter of detail. I don't know that I need trouble hon. gentlemen with any further remarks at present, but whenever I have anything to say on any future occasion I shall not hesitate to say what I have to say. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion proposed by the Hon. Mr. Annear, and I thank you, hon. gentlemen, for the manner in which you have received the few remarks I have made. [Honourable Gentlemen : Hear, hear !]

HON. A. C. GREGORY moved that the debate be now adjourned.

Question put and passed ; and resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

The Council adjourned at eleven minutes to 5 o'clock, until Tuesday next at 3 p.m.