

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 1905**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY, 1905.

The SPEAKER (Hon. Sir A. S. Cowley, *Herbert*) took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

## QUESTIONS.

## LENGTHSMEN'S HOLIDAYS.

Mr. WOODS asked the Secretary for Railways—

Is he aware that instructions have been issued in the Maintenance Department to compel lengthsmen to take public holidays as they fall due, thereby depriving them of the annual pass in outside districts?

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. A. Morgan, *Warwick*) replied—

No. As a rule lengthsmen have to work on public holidays, and get holidays in lieu thereof, but employees who are not required to work on public holidays must, of course, take them as they fall due.

## THE CAPTAIN OF THE DREDGE "PLATYPUS."

Mr. WOODS asked the Treasurer—

1. When was Captain Evans appointed to take charge of the dredge "Platypus"?

2. What are his qualifications for occupying the position of dredgemaster?

3. Upon whose recommendation was he appointed?

4. Did he ever have any previous experience of a dredging plant?

5. Is it true that Captain King was sent specially from Brisbane to Karumba, Norman Bar, to take charge of the dredge "Platypus" and plant as navigating master, and to navigate same from Norman Bar to Thursday Island and from there to Port Douglas?

6. If Captain Evans is competent, why was it necessary to send another captain to the Norman Bar to navigate the "Platypus;" and if incompetent, why is he retained?

7. Is the Minister aware that on the voyage of this dredge to the Norman Bar when Captain Evans was navigating the plant he ran it on a chartered reef near the Clermont Lightship in broad daylight?

8. Does this occurrence appear in the ship's log?

9. Does the Minister consider it necessary to retain the services of a navigating master on any of the dredging plants in the present financial position of the State?

10. Is the Minister aware that in New South Wales the chief engineer is master of the plant?

11. Is the Minister aware that there has been considerable friction between Captain Evans and the dredge employees, and that liquor was sold on the launch to the employees with the full knowledge of the dredgemaster?

12. What explanation did Captain Evans make in connection with the drowning of one of the dredge hands in the Norman River during the Easter holidays last year?

The TREASURER (Hon. W. Kidston, *Rockhampton*) replied—

1. December, 1897.

2. He is a master mariner, and works his dredge satisfactorily.

3. The late Captain Almond recommended his appointment.

4. Not known.

5. Yes; to act as pilot through the Inner Route.

6. Practically all vessels take a pilot through the Inner Route, and, as the plant was not insured, the department considered the course adopted advisable.

7. Yes.

8. Yes.

9. All dredges must have an officer in charge, and it is considered that under the conditions obtaining here a nautical man is preferable. Sea-going dredges must have a navigating master.

10. Details of the New South Wales dredge service are not available.

11. The only disputes known were in connection with overtime; these were settled. Nothing is known as to the purchase of liquor by the employees.

12. The occurrence was duly entered in the log-book. As a magisterial inquiry was held at Normanton the department did not take further action. Captain Evans was on board the dredge at the time.

## REPAIRS TO CLOHERTY'S COTTAGE, SOUTH PASSAGE.

Mr DIBLEY asked the Treasurer—

1. What was the total cost of repairs of Cloherty's cottage, South Passage, including all wages paid, cost of material, and carriage of same?

2. What was the Works Office estimate for same?

The TREASURER replied—

1.—	£	s.	d.
Cost of material supplied by Works Department ... ..	12	5	9
Wages, etc., to carry out work specified by Works Department ... ..	11	14	0
	23	19	9
Extras not specified by Works Department—			
Material ... ..	2	15	0
Labour ... ..	2	5	0
	5	0	0

2.—

Works Department's estimate for work as specified ... .. 20 12 6

Department's carpenter was employed on this work. Material, etc., carried by department's steamer free of cost.

## PAPER.

The following paper was laid on the table:—Return to an Order, relative to professions and trades of male inmates of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, made by the House, on motion of Mr. Lesina, on the 5th instant.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. A. Morgan, *Warwick*): I beg to move that the House do now adjourn. I have some reason to hope that some of the work for which we are waiting may be ready for the Assembly to-morrow. I hope so. I am sorry to have to subject hon. members to the inconvenience of waiting on the Council, but the House will recognise that the matter is one quite beyond my control. (Hear, hear!) I trust the delay will not be protracted much longer, and that the House will soon have an opportunity of dealing finally with the business for which it was summoned.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at twenty-two minutes to 4 o'clock.