

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 1911**

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY, 1911.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Council met shortly before noon.

**THE GOVERNOR'S 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 was received by the President (Sir Arthur Morgan) at the bar.

The Council being seated, a message was sent to the Assembly informing the members of that House 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 gives me great pleasure to meet you at the opening of this the third session of the eighteenth Parliament of Queensland.

“It was highly gratifying to note the admirable spirit with which the people of Queensland joined in the thanksgiving and rejoicing that attended the coronation of our beloved King and Queen, and in the demonstrations of enthusiastic loyalty and devotion to their Majesties which on that great occasion took place in every portion of the Empire.

“No event of late years has excited a sorrow more sincere or more widely felt than the loss, in a terrific hurricane, of the fine steamer “Yongala,” with all her passengers, officers, and crew. Apparently it was one of those calamities which no human effort can avert, as it is proved that the vessel was efficiently manned, well equipped, and normally laden; and there seems to have been no foundation for the opinion at first expressed that the disaster was due to defects in the lighting of our coast. Though a most exhaustive search has been made, the wreck has not yet been located.

“Since I last addressed you, death has deprived the Legislative Assembly of one of its most distinguished members, Mr. Speaker Bell, whose eloquence, culture, and charm made him a fascinating figure in our public life. Our regrets that his brilliant career had so early a close, are mingled with deep sympathy for his bereaved family and grateful appreciation of his services to Queensland.

“During the recess of Parliament I visited several portions of the State, considerable distances apart, and was confirmed in the belief that, in resources and capabilities, Queensland yields to no other country with which I am acquainted. A succession of good seasons has produced unexampled prosperity, and there is every hope that this prosperity will continue. It is this gratifying condition of things that has lately induced so many enterprising men, each with a fair amount of capital, to make their homes in Queensland.

“Though the census recently taken shows that our population greatly increased during the past decade, yet it is not increasing at a rate commensurate with the requirements of our thriving and rapidly expanding industries. My advisers are therefore making earnest and, it is thought, successful efforts to encourage immigrants of the most suitable type to settle amongst us. It is confidently hoped that the recent appointment of special immigration agents in England, Scotland, and Ireland will have results in the highest degree satisfactory.

“With the view of giving greater opportunities to our own people, and to new-comers who are willing to assist us in our work of nation-building, my advisers are proceeding

with railways which were passed in the last session of Parliament, and the completion of which will make Crown lands available for close settlement on a scale not hitherto possible in Queensland. It is the intention of my advisers at an early date to seek your authority for the construction of additional railways in certain agricultural districts capable of supporting a much larger population than they have at present.

“The commissioners appointed under an Act of the last session of Parliament to rearrange the electoral districts of Queensland more equitably, and on a one-member basis, have performed their work in a manner that gives general satisfaction. My advisers are of opinion that there are serious defects in our existing electoral laws, and a Bill, having for its object the removal of these defects, will be laid before you.

“It must be a source of unmixed pleasure to you to know that the University of Queensland has commenced its career under the most promising circumstances. The accredited representatives of some of the greatest Universities in the world were present at its formal opening, and a very large number of graduates of such Universities applied for, and at the inaugural ceremony obtained, admission *ad eundem gradum* in the University of Queensland. It is generally thought that certain improvements in our elementary and intermediate schools are necessary in the interests of the University and of our educational system generally, and a measure dealing with the subject will be submitted for your consideration.

“The Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the cause of phthisis among miners, and the Royal Commission appointed to make certain inquiries regarding central sugar-mills, have concluded their investigations, and their respective reports will forthwith be tabled in both Houses of Parliament. Whatever legislation these reports prove to be necessary will be submitted to you without avoidable delay.

“I am confident that you will readily approve of any measure which will better the conditions under which our miners are working, by making their surroundings as healthful as possible.

“The question of erecting additional sugar-mills in North Queensland has been the cause of much serious consideration to my advisers, who are of opinion that in our north-eastern coast lands no other field industry is likely to prove so attractive to the settler and so remunerative to the labourer as sugar-growing. In the measure which will be submitted to you on the subject, provision will be made for the erection of additional mills in the order recommended in the report of the Royal Commission, and care will be taken to safeguard the interests of the Treasury, of the canegrower, and of the agricultural labourer.

“It is the intention of my advisers to introduce at an early date two measures which would have been presented last session had time permitted, a Liquor Bill and a Police Offences Bill. As they embody reforms urgently demanded by public opinion and of vital importance to the community, my advisers sincerely hope that these Bills will receive favourable consideration and be speedily passed into law.

"A Health Act Amendment Bill, the leading features of which will be provisions to ensure the purity of foods and the protection of consumers, will be laid before you.

"While we are to be congratulated on the fact that, generally speaking, children in Queensland are properly cared for, there are some children so unfortunately situated as to need State interference on their behalf, and my advisers will submit proposals which, if carried into law, will supersede all existing legislation on the subject, and greatly improve the moral and material condition of such children.

"My advisers purpose introducing a comprehensive measure dealing with medical and kindred practitioners, and with private hospitals. As this measure contains provisions which in the interests of the public ought to become law, they hope it will receive your approval.

"Measures will also be introduced, having for their object the removal of defects in the Wages Boards Act and in the Workers' Dwellings Act, and the insertion of amendments therein which will render those Acts more comprehensive and efficacious.

"It is a matter for rejoicing that at the recent referendum the Commonwealth Government's proposals, which, if adopted, would have made a serious inroad into the self-governing powers of the States, were rejected by an overwhelming majority. In consequence of this rejection, it has been suggested by the Government of New South Wales that a conference of State Premiers be held in order to discuss whether it might not be desirable to surrender to the Commonwealth certain legislative rights, which, it is contended, the States cannot exercise as effectively as the Commonwealth. My advisers have no objection to the holding of such a conference, and will welcome the fullest discussion of the subject referred to.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"The Estimates for the current financial year are now under consideration, and will be laid before you as soon as possible. They will be found to have been framed with due regard to economy and to the growing needs of the State. It is hoped that no objection will be offered to the increases of salary set down therein for many of the lower-paid officers, especially those of the railway service.

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

"My advisers have been successful in floating a loan of £2,000,000 in London on very favourable terms, to carry out some of the public works you authorised last session.

"Among measures having for their object the promotion of the public welfare the following will be submitted for your consideration:—

Agricultural Bank Acts Amendment Bill;  
 Technical Instruction Act Amendment Bill;  
 State Education Acts Amendment Bill;  
 Sugar Works Bill;  
 Factories and Shops Act Amendment Bill;  
 Wages Boards Act Amendment Bill;  
 Health Act Amendment Bill;

Medical and other Practitioners Bill;  
 Inspection of Machinery and Scaffolding Act Amendment Bill;  
 Elections Acts Amendment Bill;  
 District Courts Bill;  
 Rabbit Boards Bill;  
 State Children Bill;  
 Liquor Bill;  
 Workers' Dwellings Act Amendment Bill;  
 Prickly Pear Bill;  
 Criminal Code Amendment Bill;  
 Jury Bill;  
 Police Jurisdiction and Summary Offences Bill;  
 Leases to Aliens Bill.

"I invite your attention to these and all other matters that may be submitted for your consideration, and I devoutly pray that with the help of the Almighty your labours may conduce to the well-being and prosperity of Queensland."

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

The Council adjourned at seventeen minutes past 12 p.m. until half-past 3 o'clock, resuming at that hour.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT UNDER QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK LIMITED (AGREEMENT) ACT.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt from the Auditor-General of a letter dated 17th February last, covering the thirteenth half-yearly report under the provisions of the Queensland National Bank, Limited (Agreement), Act of 1904, which had been printed and circulated during the recess.

PAPERS PRINTED DURING THE RECESS.

By direction of the PRESIDENT,

The CLERK read the following list of papers printed and circulated during the recess:—

Despatch, dated 24th November, 1910, conveying His Majesty's assent to Acts passed during session of 1910.

Notification respecting permission to Mr. James William Blair to retain the title of "Honourable."

Report upon the Government life insurance and annuity business for 1910.

Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the establishment of additional central sugar-mills.

Report of the Police Investment Board for 1910.

Return of all schools in operation on the 1st January, 1911.

Report of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, Brisbane.

Blue Book, 1910.

Report of the Under Secretary for Mines for 1910.

Report of the board of inquiry upon the question of a harbour scheme for the port of Mackay.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

## CHANGES DURING THE RECESS.

HON. A. H. BARLOW said: I have to inform the Council that since we last met the Hon. W. Kidston resigned his position as Vice-President of the Executive Council and his seat in the Executive Council; the Hon. Arthur George Clarence Hawthorn resigned his seat as a member of the Executive Council; and Messrs. Kidston, Denham, O'Sullivan, Hawthorn, Barnes, Appel, and Paget resigned the various portfolios that they held. His Excellency was then pleased to appoint the Hon. D. F. Denham to be Vice-President of the Executive Council, to appoint the Hon. Kenneth McDonald Grant, Edward Henry Macartney, and James Tolmie to be members of the Executive Council of Queensland; and to appoint—

The Hon. D. F. Denham to be Chief Secretary;

The Hon. T. O'Sullivan to be Attorney-General;

The Hon. Walter Henry Barnes to be Secretary for Public Works and Treasurer;

The Hon. John George Appel to be Home Secretary and Secretary for Mines;

The Hon. Walter Trueman Paget to be Secretary for Railways;

The Hon. Kenneth McDonald Grant to be Secretary for Public Instruction;

The Hon. Edward Henry Macartney to be Secretary for Public Lands; and

The Hon. James Tolmie to be Secretary for Agriculture and Stock.

I lay on the table the *Gazette* containing these announcements.

## JOINT COMMITTEES.

## PRESENTATION OF REPORTS.

HON. A. H. BARLOW, on behalf of the President, laid on the table the reports of the Parliamentary Buildings, Refreshment-rooms, and Library Joint Committees.

Ordered to be printed.

## AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS.

HON. A. H. BARLOW laid on the table the report of the Auditor-General with respect to Treasury bills and notes, and the report of the Auditor-General with respect to the Savings Bank securities.

Ordered to be printed.

## PAPERS.

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

Report of board of inquiry into the alleged dissatisfaction of the miners at the Great Fitzroy Mine, Mount Chalmers.

Copies of the statutes made under the University of Queensland Act of 1909.

Agent-General's report on Savings Bank securities.

Despatches dated 16th December, 1910, 18th January, 30th January, 16th February, 24th February, 10th March, 1911, conveying His Majesty's assent to Acts passed during the session of 1910.

Despatch respecting permission to Mr. William Kidston to retain the title of "Honourable."

Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into certain matters relating to the mining industry.

Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire further into the advisability of erecting central sugar-mills at certain places.

Notification of the telegrams between His Excellency the Governor and the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the coronation.

Rules of the Supreme Court as of 19th November and 13th December, 1910.

The following paper was also laid on the table:—

Statements of various companies under the Life Assurance Companies Act of 1901, deposited in the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies during the year 1910.

## BILL PRO FORMA.

HON. A. H. BARLOW presented pro forma a Bill to declare the law relating to treasure trove, and moved that it be read a first time.

Question put and passed.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

HON. A. H. BARLOW: I move that the Council, at its rising, adjourn until 3 o'clock to-morrow. I ask hon. members to make a special quorum, giving us an absolute majority, as we must of necessity pass an Appropriation Bill to-morrow to enable the railway men to receive their fortnightly pay.

Question put and passed.

## THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

The PRESIDENT said: I have to inform the Council that, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy of the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver in opening Parliament to-day. In accordance with the Standing Orders, I should read the speech to hon. members again; but of recent years it has been the practice to take it as read. Am I to understand that it is the wish of hon. members that that course should be pursued on this occasion?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

HON. T. C. BEIRNE: I beg to move that the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech with which His Excellency was pleased to open the present session of Parliament:—

"To His Excellency Sir WILLIAM MACGREGOR, Doctor of Medicine, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor of the State of Queensland and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal 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.

"We were highly gratified by the edifying and enthusiastic manner in which the people of Queensland participated in the manifestations of loyalty and affection to their Majesties on the occasion of their coronation, and we fervently pray that all good may attend their Majesties, and the highest success await them in the discharge of the great duties that have devolved upon them.

"We will give our most careful consideration and attention to the several measures mentioned by Your Excellency, and to all other matters brought before us; and we sincerely trust that our deliberations will tend to the promotion of the good government and the welfare of the State."

Since we met here a year ago a great many changes have taken place. Then we were lamenting the death of King Edward; now we are rejoicing on the coronation of His Majesty King George the Fifth. The enthusiasm with which our new King was crowned is not only a tribute to himself personally, but a manifestation of the loyalty of his people, and I venture to say in no part of His Majesty's dominions were the rejoicings more sincere than amongst his devoted subjects in Queensland. So I can thoroughly endorse all that has been said in the first paragraph of His Excellency's Speech. The second paragraph refers to the loss of the "Yongala." I knew personally and intimately a number of the passengers of that ill-fated ship, and certainly no event in my time in Queensland had a more profound effect on me than the loss of that ship, and my sincerest sympathy went out to the relatives of those who lost their lives in her. Another change that has taken place is the removal by death of the late Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. J. T. Bell, and this sad event is referred to in graceful terms in the third paragraph of the Speech. Mr. Bell was a cultured and eloquent speaker, a gentleman who would grace any deliberative assembly in the world; an impartial, upright, and honourable man. Queensland is all the poorer because of Mr. Bell's death. I am sure I am only voicing the feelings of every member of the Legislative Council when I say that we deeply deplore his untimely death, and that we tender our sincerest sympathies to his sorrowing family. Another great man passed away recently in the person of Mr. Thallon, the late Commissioner for Railways. Mr. Thallon was a great administrator, a fearless and just man. In him Queensland lost one of her ablest public servants, and the railway men a kind and indulgent friend; but it is gratifying to note that the Government were able to fill the vacancy so satisfactorily and so well without going outside Queensland, and without going outside the Railway service. (Hear, hear!) Another change since we met last year is the resignation, owing to indifferent health, of the late Premier, Mr. Kidston. Mr. Kidston deserves well of Queensland. He did a good deal for it. A great fighter, an energetic worker, it was no wonder he had to stop; but in the quieter sphere in which he now finds himself as one of the judges of the Land Court I hope he will be spared for many years to continue to do good work for Queensland, because he

can do good and useful work even there. The black spot in Mr. Kidston's political career was the introduction and the forcing through Parliament of the Bible in State Schools Bill. But in charity we must remember that very few great men go through life without making some mistake, and the introduction of sectarianism into the State schools was Mr. Kidston's great mistake, his one black spot. The resignation of the Premier brought with it, as a natural consequence, the resignation of the Kidston Government. The man of the hour is Mr. Denham. Mr. Denham shone out conspicuously as the man for the position. We expect the country expects—great things of Mr. Denham. It will be in the recollection of hon. members of this Council that last session the Hon. Digby Denham, who was then Minister for Lands, came to this House and made a speech in explanation of the provisions of the Land Bill. That speech will live long in the memory of those who were privileged to listen to it, and the ease and facility with which Mr. Denham answered the various questions asked of him showed how conversant he was with all the provisions of that intricate Bill, and how thoroughly he had mastered his subject—(hear, hear!)—but thoroughness is a characteristic of Mr. Denham. So, I repeat, we expect great things of the Denham Government, and the Speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened this session of Parliament is an indication of the measures we may expect. I certainly looked in vain for any reference to a repeal of the Bible in State Schools Bill. But if this is not to come, and if religious instruction is to be paid for by the State, then the Catholic claims for a subsidy to their schools cannot long be ignored. I feel sure that Mr. Denham recognises the justice of the claims, and that, although no mention of it has been made in the Governor's Speech, he will do the right thing at the right moment. Now what are the main features of the Speech with which His Excellency favoured us to-day? Land settlement, railway construction, immigration. These are the three features of the Speech, and the three subjects are really bound up in one. We cannot have successful land settlement without railways, nor can we have railways without workers. Immigration, then, is the first consideration, the most essential element at the moment, and I am pleased to see that this has been recognised in the Governor's Speech. There was never a time in the history of Queensland when work was so plentiful as it is to-day, or when wages were so high, taken all round, as they are to-day, or when conditions for the worker generally were so good as they are to-day; and a pleasing feature of the moment is that although hundreds are pouring in here now almost weekly, they are quickly absorbed, and the demand in almost every industry, primary as well as secondary, is for more—still more. Some time ago the problem we had to solve was, How are we to deal with the unemployed? To-day the question is, Where can we get people to do the work that is waiting to be done? So the Government can reckon on the support of this Chamber, and, I believe, upon the support of the country, in their efforts to divert a still larger stream of immigrants to these shores. But there is one little matter in connection with immigration that needs looking into—we

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have no guarantee that the people who are brought here at the expense of the State stay in Queensland for any length of time. For example, we are bringing out girls free as domestic servants, and it must be admitted such are badly needed. On their arrival here do they look for situations as such? In one factory alone in Sydney—a factory that I could name, and not a big factory either—there are six girls, new arrivals, brought out by the Queensland Government at the expense of the Queensland people. None of these six girls remained quite a fortnight here, and they certainly did not look for employment in Queensland. I said just now that the three great subjects—land settlement, railway construction, and immigration—were really bound up in one, and so they are. But, while the Government are to be commended for what they are doing in connection with these important matters, there is another way of getting immigrants besides paying for them—another way of settling people on the land besides the methods we know and are adopting, and a way of settling the wages question without the aid of arbitration courts or wages boards. Let me tell you that way, though in doing so I must not lay claim to any originality. A few weeks ago I was travelling in the mail train from Melbourne to Sydney, and in the same compartment was a rather remarkable-looking gentleman with an unmistakable American accent, with whom I got into conversation. This gentleman proved to be a most interesting conversationalist, and when at the end of the journey we exchanged cards I found that my distinguished fellow-traveller was a well-known social reformer, an eminent American lecturer and author. Knowing that I was from Queensland, this American stranger told me that he intended to visit Brisbane shortly to put a proposal before the Queensland Government, which proposal, to use his own words, is something like this: "You have a large quantity of unalienated land, something like 400,000,000 acres. Reserve for me, for my people, for the people I will send you, from 400,000 to 500,000 acres at to-day's market price—your own reserve price. As soon as I approve of the land reserved for my purpose I will go to England, to Ireland, to Scotland, I will go to the Western States of America, where people know me, trust me, and believe in me; and I will tell the people in these places of the land I have secured for them. I will tell them to economise in their expenditure, to save all they can, and to deposit their savings in a bank to be selected and approved of by the Queensland Government—such deposits to be remitted weekly to the Treasury at Brisbane. With this money, which soon after the inception of the scheme will commence to pour in, and which will increase in volume as time goes on, you (the Government) can have roads made, fences erected, houses built, and the first crop put in. I will tell the people all this, and advise them to retain their present employment until everything is ready for them to be transplanted with their families to their new homes in Queensland. The people I will get under this scheme are the very best of people, not the unemployed, but men experienced in agricultural pursuits, men who are in constant employment and earning good wages, but who desire to improve their prospects, to have lands and houses of their own, and to be in a position

[Hon. T. C. Beirne.]

to work for themselves instead of for a boss." Those were his words as near as I can remember them. Hon. gentlemen, you may condemn this scheme, and say it is that of a dreamer or a socialist. It may be, but good ideas emanate from dreamers sometimes. And suppose he is a socialist; what is a socialist but a man yearning with a desire to improve the lot of his fellow-men? Do you know what deters many a desirable man from coming to Queensland? It is the fear of giving up what he has got, the money he has saved, or the billet he is sure of, for the uncertainty of what may await him here. Under this scheme all the elements of uncertainty are eliminated. The intending immigrant knows that, with the money he is depositing weekly out of his earnings, his future home is being prepared for him; he knows that there will be no interval of idleness, no waste of valuable time looking for land or looking for employment—he simply closes up one house in the old country and enters another in the new. Here in Australia we have a better climate than they can boast of in Canada. We have richer land, and more of it. Yet how is it that those desiring to emigrate prefer Canada? It is because the Canadian Pacific Railway Company do almost precisely what this American gentleman says the Queensland Government ought to do. Even if we reject this gentleman's offer, can we not be our own Canadian Pacific Railway Company? Can we not do something in the way of preparing homes for settlers? Can we not, as a Government, do something in the way of bridging over the gap between the time a man leaves a billet and gets the first return from his own selection? If we could only see a way of doing this we would solve the wages question, because no man would work for another unless he got more in wages than he could get by working for himself; it would solve the unemployed question should it ever recur here; and it would solve the immigration question, because the best of men would come of their own free will and at their own expense. Mind, I do not offer or suggest this as a substitute for what the Government are doing in the matter of immigration, but only as a complement or addition to it. I have been looking for, but failed to find in the Speech, any reference to an amendment of the Stamp Act. The commercial community have been a long time looking for such an amendment. If I send a cheque for £501 to the head office of a Sydney merchant for goods sold and delivered here, I get a receipt back, but no stamps are attached to such receipt. Suppose I send the same cheque to a Melbourne merchant, the receipt comes back with a penny stamp attached. But suppose I send a cheque for a like amount to a Brisbane merchant—when the receipt comes back it must have stamps value 3s. attached. To such an extent is trade and commerce handicapped here. But this is not all—the various values of stamps, from 1d. upwards, that we are obliged to keep on hand, are not only expensive, but dangerous and worrying. I should be glad to see an amendment of the Stamp Act included in the programme for this session. The promise of a new Licensing Bill occupies a prominent place in the Governor's Speech. This is an evidence that a fearless and honest attempt will be made early in the session to deal with the great liquor problem. I am not an extremist on this question, being neither a teetotaler nor an advo-

cate of strong drink; but I recognise that the country demands a revision of our licensing laws. Nothing, however, can be gained by a discussion of the subject until the details of the promised Bill are before us. Meantime, acting on the discretionary powers vested in them, it is gratifying to note that the Government are determined to prohibit the sale of liquor within a certain prescribed distance of new railway camps; and if it could be done legally, and without injustice, I should be glad to see the same strict prohibition extended to the areas surrounding sugar-mills. There are many other matters mentioned in the Governor's Speech, such as the Elections Acts Amendment Bill, Police Offences Bill, Health Act Amendment Bill, Wages Boards Act Amendment Bill, Factories and Shops Act Amendment Bill, etc., etc. These will have our careful attention at the proper time when the provisions of the measures are before us. Here in this Chamber we can approach, and I think we do approach, the consideration of every question from a non-party political standpoint. Our aim in this place is not to quarrel, not to damage or sully each other's reputations, not to see that this party succeeds or that party fails, but to insist that whatever is done shall be for the good of Queensland, and for the happiness, prosperity, and contentment of its people. I now move the adoption of the Address in Reply.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. H. L. GROOM: I have very much pleasure in seconding the Address in Reply as moved by the Hon. Mr. Beirne. With the two first paragraphs we are all in hearty accord. I also desire to endorse the paragraph relating to the death of the late Mr. Speaker Bell. Queensland is the poorer

[4 p.m.] for his death. Reference is made in the Speech to the succession of good seasons have produced unexampled prosperity, and the hope is expressed that this prosperity will continue. I trust that that hope may be realised, but the prospects are certainly not too bright as regards the wheat and barley crops on the Darling Downs. I am very pleased to see that the Government are proceeding with the railways which were passed during the last session of Parliament, and when those lines are completed we should have a great influx of settlers in the districts in which they are situated. In this connection I would like to express my deep regret at the loss the State of Queensland has sustained in the death of the late Commissioner for Railways, Mr. Thallon. When the railways are completed his varied experience and ability would have been of great service to the State. I also note that it is intended to introduce a Liquor Bill. I hope that that measure will contain provision for compensation in respect of licenses which may be taken away under the new law. Further down in the Speech we are promised an amending Bill to remove defects in the Wages Boards Act. Judging by the number of deputations that have waited on the Minister charged with the administration of the Act, this seems to be a necessary piece of legislation. I would like to see a provision in the Bill taking the granting of permits to slow workers out of the hands of the wages boards and placing it in the hands of the inspectors under the Act. Under present conditions, if a man applies for a permit it must be submitted to the whole board, which may consist of something like ten members and a

chairman, and there may be only one application for them to deal with. I think the inspectors under the Factories and Shops Act or under the Wages Boards Act could do this work quite as well as a wages board. I notice that we are going to have a State Education Acts Amendment Bill. In connection with that measure I think that the time has now arrived when serious consideration should be given that the claims of those who are paying for the education of their own children and who have also to pay their share towards the education of the children of other people.

Hon. T. C. BEIRNE: Hear, hear!

HON. H. L. GROOM: I congratulate the Government on the comprehensive list of measures that they propose to introduce during the session, and I trust that most of them will be placed on the statute-book. I have much pleasure in seconding the Address in Reply.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. W. V. BROWN: I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of HON. A. H. BARLOW, the resumption of the debate was made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

HON. A. H. BARLOW: I beg to move that the Council do now adjourn. I have requested the Clerk to send out reminders to hon. members for to-morrow. I hope that during the first few days of the session we shall have a large Bill for the consideration of the Council, so that the rush of business at the close of the session will not be so pronounced as it has been in past sessions.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at eight minutes past 4 o'clock.