

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

MONDAY, 26 AUGUST 1935

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QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Assembly.

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

APPOINTED TO MEET

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR
OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1935.

MONDAY, 26 AUGUST, 1935.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 1st August, 1935, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the despatch of business, the House met at 12 o'clock noon in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Clerk of the Parliament read the proclamation.

COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk acquainted the House that His Excellency the Governor, not being able conveniently to be present in person this day, had been pleased to cause a commission to be issued under the public seal of the State, appointing the Hon. William Forgan Smith, the Hon. Percy Pease, and the Hon. Maurice Patrick Hynes Commissioners in order to the opening and holding of the present session of Parliament.

The Commissioners so appointed having taken their places upon the dais, and the Clerk having read the Commission,

The SENIOR COMMISSIONER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) said: Hon. members of the Legislative Assembly, we have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to let you know that, as soon as the members of the Legislative Assembly have been sworn, the causes of this Parliament being called together will be declared to you; and, it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you proceed to the election of one of your number to be your Speaker, and that you present such person so chosen to His Excellency the Governor at such time and place as His Excellency shall appoint.

The Premier thereupon produced a commission under the public seal of the State, empowering him, the Hon. Percy Pease, and

the Hon. Maurice Patrick Hynes, or any one or more of them, to administer to all or any members or member of the House the oath or affirmation of allegiance to His Majesty the King, which commission was then read to the House by the Clerk.

RETURN OF WRITS.

The Clerk informed the House that the writs for the various electoral districts had been returned to him severally endorsed as follow:—

Albert—Thomas Flood Plunkett.
Aubigny—Arthur Edward Moore.
Barcoo—Frank William Bulcock.
Baroona—William Power.
Bowen—Charles Collins.
Bremer—Frank Arthur Cooper.
Brisbane—Robert Funnell.
Bulimba—William John Copley.
Bundaberg—Bernard McLean.
Buranda—Edward Joseph Hanson.
Cairns—John O'Keefe.
Carnarvon—Paul Jerome Remigius
Hilton.
Carpentaria—John Mullan.
Charters Towers—William John Wellington.
Cook—Harold Henry Collins.
Cooroora—Harry Frederick Walker.
Cunningham—William Arthur Deacon.
Dalby—Godfrey Morgan.
East Toowoomba—James David Kane.
Enoggera—George Cuthbert Taylor.
Fassifern—Adolf Gustav Muller.
Fitzroy—James Clark.
Fortitude Valley—Samuel John Brasington.
Gregory—George Pollock.
Gympie—Thomas Dunstan.
Hamilton—Hugh McDiarmid Russell.
Herbert—Percy Pease.
Ipswich—David Alexander Gledson.
Isis—William Alfred Brand.
Ithaca—Edward Michael Hanlon.
Kelvin Grove—Francis John Waters.
Kennedy—Cecil George Jesson.

Keppel—Owen Daniel.
 Kurilpa—Patrick Kerry Copley.
 Logan—John Innes Brown.
 Mackay—William Forgan Smith.
 Maranoa—Charles William Conroy.
 Maree—William Thomas King.
 Maryborough—James Stopford.
 Merthyr—James Patrick Keogh.
 Mirani—Edward John Walsh.
 Mundingburra—John Dash.
 Murrumba—George Francis Reuben Nicklin.
 Nanango—James Braidwood Edwards.
 Normanby—Thomas Andrew Foley.
 Nundah—John Vincent Hayes.
 Oxley—Thomas Nimmo.
 Port Curtis—Thomas Lewis Williams.
 Rockhampton—James Larcombe.
 Sandgate—Roland William Hislop.
 South Brisbane—Vincent Clair Gair.
 Stanley—Roy Mackenzie Bell.
 The Tableland—Henry Adam Bruce.
 Toowong—James Francis Maxwell.
 Toowoomba—Evan John Llewelyn.
 Townsville—Maurice Patrick Hynes.
 Warrego—Randolph Bedford.
 Warwick—John Joseph O'Connor Healy.
 West Moreton—Edmund Bede Maher.
 Wide Bay—Ernest Henry Collet Clayton.
 Windsor—Herbert Williams.
 Wynnum—John Burton Donnelly.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The Commissioners, who, with the Hon. Frank Arthur Cooper, Hon. John Dash, and Hon. Edward Michael Hanlon, other members of the Ministry, had been sworn in before His Excellency the Governor on the 22nd August, 1935, and subscribed the roll, then administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the following other members, who thereupon also subscribed the roll:—

Randolph Bedford, Esquire.
 Roy Mackenzie Bell, Esquire.
 William Alfred Brand, Esquire.
 Samuel John Brassington, Esquire.
 John Innes Brown, Esquire.
 Henry Adam Bruce, Esquire.
 Frank William Bulcock, Esquire.
 James Clark, Esquire.
 Charles Collins, Esquire.
 Harold Henry Collins, Esquire.
 Charles William Conroy, Esquire.
 Patrick Kerry Copley, Esquire.
 William John Copley, Esquire.
 William Arthur Deacon, Esquire.
 John Burton Donnelly, Esquire.
 Thomas Dunstan, Esquire.
 James Braidwood Edwards, Esquire.
 Thomas Andrew Foley, Esquire.
 Robert Funnell, Esquire.
 Vincent Clair Gair, Esquire.
 David Alexander Gledson, Esquire.
 Edward Joseph Hanson, Esquire.
 John Vincent Hayes, Esquire.
 John Joseph O'Connor Healy, Esquire.
 Paul Jerome Remigijs Hilton, Esquire.
 Roland William Hislop, Esquire.
 Cecil George Jesson, Esquire.
 James David Kane, Esquire.
 James Patrick Keogh, Esquire.
 William Thomas King, Esquire.
 James Larcombe, Esquire.

Evan John Llewelyn, Esquire.
 James Francis Maxwell, Esquire.
 Bernard McLean, Esquire.
 Arthur Edward Moore, Esquire.
 Godfrey Morgan, Esquire.
 John Mullan, Esquire.
 Adolf Gustav Muller, Esquire.
 George Francis Reuben Nicklin, Esquire.
 Thomas Nimmo, Esquire.
 John O'Keefe, Esquire.
 George Pollock, Esquire.
 William Power, Esquire.
 Hugh McDiarmid Russell, Esquire.
 James Stopford, Esquire.
 George Cuthbert Taylor, Esquire.
 Edward John Walsh, Esquire.
 Francis John Waters, Esquire.
 William John Wellington, Esquire.
 Herbert Williams, Esquire.
 Thomas Lewis Williams, Esquire.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Mr. DUNSTAN (*Gympie*) [12.24 p.m.]:
 Mr. Dickson, I have very much pleasure in moving—

“That the hon. member for Gregory, Mr. George Pollock, do take the chair of the House as Speaker.”

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. DUNSTAN: We, the members of this House, receive our appointment at the hands of the electors, and we in turn are charged with the duty of appointing one of our number to administer the Standing Orders and to maintain that decorum in debate that we, as members of the Legislature, should observe but from which we are sometimes apt to depart. In this House the Speaker has supreme authority. He has power to translate the observations of “May” into oracles of “must.” It is his duty to conduct the proceedings in this House in a manner that will add to its prestige. That is necessary, as it is the highest institution of the State. The Speaker is a gentleman who is clothed with supreme powers. It is therefore necessary to elect to that high office one who is firm without being harsh and impartial without being feeble, and who at all times is able to conduct proceedings in this Chamber in a manner that will add to its prestige among the people. Hon. members receive preferment at the hands of the electors because of some distinguished personal ability, but the hon. member chosen for the high office of Speaker must have some special outstanding ability. He must possess a full knowledge of the Standing Orders; he must be jealous of the constitutional rights of hon. members—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. DUNSTAN: And he must be able to exercise that tact and discretion in the conduct of social functions which at all times have distinguished this building and its precincts. I believe that in Mr. Pollock we have a gentleman who has these special qualifications. As an hon. member and a Speaker he has had long experience. For over twenty years he has been a member of this Assembly. For practically five years he was Chairman of Committees. Since 1932 he

has been Speaker. He has served the electors of his constituency in this House for a continuous period of over twenty years. On no fewer than five occasions he has been returned by them unopposed; in fact, he has met with no opposition in his constituency since 1923. During his service in this House as Speaker and as a private member he has given and taken directions from the Chair. He possesses that judgment, experience, and ability that enable me confidently to submit his nomination to the wisdom and votes of hon. members.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*) [12.23 p.m.]: I desire to second the nomination of the hon. member for Gregory for the high and distinguished office of Speaker. Many people, not only in Australia, but also in other parts of the world, at times do not look upon Parliament with any great amount of respect. That opinion is largely the result of the behaviour of members of Parliament. Yet I can say from a fairly long experience of proceedings in this House that hon. members have always endeavoured to carry out their duties in a way that would commend them to the general public, and have invariably shown that respect due from one hon. member to another; that, in fact, they have conducted themselves decorously. In addition, they have always respected the rulings of the official who for the time being has occupied the chair. The Queensland Parliament has been in existence for something like seventy-five years. During that time there have been seventeen Speakers, and it has been necessary for only one Speaker to resign from that high position because he considered he was not accorded the respect due to the high office he held. Such a proceeding will not be necessary under the Speakership of Mr. Pollock, who, I am satisfied, will conduct the business of the House in such a way that he will earn the respect, not only of hon. members, but also of the people of Queensland. It gives me much pleasure, therefore, to second his nomination.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. POLLOCK (*Gregory*) [12.31 p.m.]: Hon. members, it is with a deep sense of appreciation of the honour that it is proposed to confer upon me that I now submit myself to the will of the House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. SPEAKER was escorted to the chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, and, speaking from the dais, said: Hon. members, I have to thank you for having again elected me to the high and honourable position of Speaker of this House. I hope your confidence will not be misplaced.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [12.32 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I desire to take this opportunity to congratulate you on again being elected as Speaker of this Parliament. Those who have followed the debates and other proceedings of this Assembly during the period you have filled the office of its Speaker must realise quite

definitely that you have a thorough knowledge of the Standing Orders, and that you afford every hon. member an opportunity to state his case.

Mr. MOORE: I hope that will be so.

The PREMIER: The Leader of the Opposition interjects that he hopes that will be so; the hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that it has always been so. I tender you my hearty congratulations, Mr. Speaker, and feel sure you will discharge your duties with credit to yourself and with honour to Parliament.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [12.33 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition I desire to congratulate you on your election to the high and dignified office of Speaker of this Assembly. I recognise you have a difficult position to fill; the responsibility of seeing that the business of this House is carried out with dignity, fairness, and decorum is in your hands. In the life of the present Parliament it will probably be a little more difficult for you than it has been in the past, because, although the Opposition are small in numbers, the protection of their rights and privileges still reposes in your hands; you have still the task of seeing, as the Premier just remarked, that every hon. member has the opportunity to express his opinion.

The PREMIER: The more you speak the better I like it! (Laughter.)

Mr. MOORE: I know that you, Mr. Speaker, of your own accord, would have no wish to curtail the free expression of opinions, but it is just possible that there may be a tendency on the part of the Premier or his Ministers to curtail the statement of the views of hon. members on this side of the Chamber. I again congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, and assure you that the Opposition will assist you in every way possible to carry out your duties in Parliament.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN (*Dulby*) [12.34 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I desire to announce my intention to sit in this House in future as a member of the Queensland Country Party. I offer my congratulations to you on your re-election as Speaker of this Parliament, for I feel sure that you will in the future discharge the duties pertaining to that high office in the same impartial manner as you have done in the past.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to thank those hon. members who have been so kind as to congratulate me upon my re-election to the chair. I wish, too, to thank hon. members on both sides of the House for this evidence of their renewed confidence in me as their Speaker. It shall be my endeavour to ensure that that confidence is not betrayed. During the last Parliament hon. members on both sides of the House co-operated with me in every possible way to ensure that the proceedings of this Chamber were conducted with proper order and decorum. I am satisfied that no Speaker, however earnest he may be, can secure dignity, decorum, and

Hon. G. Pollock.]

observance of the Standing Orders in debate unless he has that co-operation from all members. I am quite sure that the hon. members who comprise the present Parliament will be just as anxious to give me that assistance as were members of the last Parliament. I believe all of us can so act, especially in our conduct within the walls of this House, that people will be able to retain confidence in our form of representative government. That is of the utmost importance to-day, having regard to the rise of the dictatorships of the modern world. If we can make it evident to the public—and I believe we can if we try—that we assemble here from day to day for the purpose of making laws for the benefit of the whole of the community and that we submerge our personal interests and instincts in working for the common weal, then we shall terminate our period with satisfaction to our individual consciences and to the State.

I thank hon. members for their kindness in again electing me to the chair, and I hope I shall not prove unworthy of their trust.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) [12.37 p.m.]: I desire to inform hon. members that His Excellency the Governor will receive Mr. Speaker and such other hon. members as care to accompany him at Government House at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. I hope hon. members will take the opportunity of accompanying Mr. Speaker.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER: I beg to move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. to-morrow.”

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 12.38 p.m.