

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 1892

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 19 October, 1892.

Leave of Absence.—Harbour Boards Bill: Third reading.—Fitzroy Bridge Loan Bill: Committee.—Indecent Advertisements Bill: Legislative Assembly's Message.—Rockhampton School of Arts Bill: Second reading.—Brisbane Leichhardt Street School and Warwick Rectory and Glebe Property Bill: Committee.—Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at 4 o'clock.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Hon. T. J. Byrnes) moved that leave of absence for the remainder of the session be granted to the Hon. F. H. Holberton.

Question put and passed.

HARBOUR BOARDS BILL.

THIRD READING.

On the motion of the SOLICITOR-GENERAL, this Bill was read a third time, passed, and returned to the Legislative Assembly, by message in the usual form.

FITZROY BRIDGE LOAN BILL.

COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the SOLICITOR-GENERAL, the President left the chair, and the House went into committee to consider this Bill.

The clauses and the preamble were passed as printed.

The House resumed; the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment.

The report was adopted; and the third reading of the Bill made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

INDECENT ADVERTISEMENTS BILL.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGE.

On the motion of the Hon. W. F. TAYLOR, the President left the chair, and the House went into committee to consider the message of the Legislative Assembly, of date 13th instant.

The consequential amendment made by the Legislative Assembly in the new clause to follow clause 3 was agreed to.

The House resumed; and the CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had agreed to the amendment.

The report was adopted; and a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly, intimating that the Council agreed to the consequential amendment made by the Assembly.

ROCKHAMPTON SCHOOL OF ARTS
BILL.

SECOND READING.

The Hon. T. MACDONALD-PATERSON said: Hon. gentlemen,—This is a Bill to enable the trustees of the Rockhampton School of Arts to mortgage the lands comprised in certain deeds of grant for the purpose of erecting thereon a school of arts, and, as is stated in the preamble, for no other purpose whatsoever. In order to carry out the purposes for which these lands were dedicated, this Bill has become a necessity. A building was erected many years ago; but at the time it was put up, people had no experience

of the effect of the soil and climate of Rockhampton upon brick foundations. The result is that the building is in a dangerous and dilapidated condition, and is a positive discredit to the purpose to which it is devoted. This Bill is therefore brought in to enable the trustees to borrow a sum of money not exceeding £5,000 to enable them to remove that building and erect one suitable for the purposes of their trust. The evidence taken by the Select Committee which inquired into the matter is not very extensive; but it shows clearly that this building should be removed and a fresh one take its place; and that the intent of the trustees in seeking to have this Bill passed is justifiable under the circumstances. At page 9 of the report of the Select Committee will be found a report from Mr. Byerley, a gentleman well known to almost every hon. gentleman present; and I will quote portions of that report, which is dated 2nd August, 1892. Referring to the north-east wall, museum, upper story, he says—

"This portion is in a very bad state. The wall of the staircase bulges inwards fully two inches. Cracks show longitudinally along several courses. A diagonal crack, in some places three-quarters of an inch wide, extends diagonally nearly from top, to bottom along the stair. There is no bond with one of the pilasters, and daylight can be seen through the wall. Four courses of brickwork can be pulled out with the fingers."

Then he goes on to report as follows:—

"*South-east Wall, Museum, Upper Floor.*—A subsidence has distorted the window-frame here, in which the sash hangs loosely at an angle; the glass has been broken, evidently by the distortion.

"*South-west Wall, Basement.*—Cracks apparent in many places, notably in the window openings.

"*North-east Wall, Committee Room, Basement.*—This wall is unsafe—a good push from the inside would bring down the whole; a diagonal fissure appears from top to bottom on each side the door more than half an inch wide, distorting the door frame, in which the door is loose; the wall bulges outwards, and parts of brickwork can be removed by the fingers.

"*North-west Wall of Hall, Basement.*—Shows cracks over all window openings; window loose in frames, in some cases attacked by white ants. A bad crack north end.

"*North-east Wall, Library.*—Very bad crack diagonally over doorway; a continuation of crack in staircase.

"*Back Wall of Platform in Hall.*—Bulges outwards in continuation of that in the Museum.

"*The Woodwork of Basement.*—Has been attacked by white ant in places and is rotten in others.

"From these details it is evident that the brickwork has been very inferior, and the foundations insufficient, the whole building being strained and distorted by unequal settlement.

"No repairs will adequately remedy the defect of the foundation; it will be more economical to reconstruct the whole."

I will not trouble the House with any further details. This is simply an application to enable the trustees of the Rockhampton School of Arts to negotiate a mortgage for a sum not exceeding £5,000 on a portion of their land. The land on which it is proposed to erect the building will not be included in the mortgage; and this is a very important point, because the trustees will be complying strictly with the objects of the trust with which they were charged originally. I notice that elsewhere an hon. member stated that the land upon which the proposed building would be erected would also be subject to the mortgage debt; but that is an error. The security which is the subject of the mortgage will be land external to the land upon which this building will be erected, and no liability will accrue to the school of arts proper if this Bill be carried into effect. I know personally that an old resident of the

colony has offered the whole of the money required to the trustees at a moderate rate of interest for a long period. I also know that the present building is dangerous and discreditable to the town, and that it is the desire of the people of Rockhampton that a creditable building shall be erected upon what is one of the best sites in the town. I have the advantage of knowing the circumstances of the trust and the position of the building.

The Hon. A. J. THYNNE: How long has the building been up?

The Hon. T. MACDONALD-PATERSON: The first building was, I believe, put up in 1864, and there was a wing put up at the back some years later. As I have already indicated, the soil and climate of Rockhampton are such as to render brick foundations unsuitable and unsafe, because in dry weather the soil cracks and foundations constructed of that material are rent asunder. But in these days the foundations are made of concrete, which enables a building to be put up with safety and solidity. I have much pleasure in moving that the Bill be now read a second time.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said: Hon. gentlemen,—I think the support of the majority of the House, if not of the whole House, will be given to this Bill. I have always been a great opponent of any measure which would have the effect of defeating the objects of a trust for which lands have been granted by the Crown; but if this Bill is passed, so far from the objects of the trust being defeated, they will really be carried into effect. The evidence of Mr. Byerley shows conclusively that the building is in a state of dilapidation, and unless repairs are effected that dilapidation will increase to absolute decay. I think it is essential that the trustees should be in a position to raise money to remedy that condition of things, and that a building suited to the town of Rockhampton may be erected on this site. To enable that to be done, a Bill of this sort is necessary, and I am pleased to give it my support. I am happy to see that the trustees have secured the liberal support of a gentleman, who is willing in these times to lend money on property of this sort.

Question put and passed; and the committal of the Bill made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

BRISBANE LEICHHARDT STREET SCHOOL AND WARWICK RECTORY AND GLEBE PROPERTY BILL.

COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the Hon. P. MACPHERSON, the President left the chair, and the House went into committee to consider this Bill.

The various clauses and the preamble were passed without discussion.

The House resumed; and the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment.

The report was adopted; and the third reading made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said: Hon. gentlemen,—I move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at twenty-one minutes to 5 o'clock.