

**Record of the
Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament**

...
Legislative Assembly
5th July 1861

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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 6th July 1861

The SPEAKER took the chair at ten minutes past three.

POSTPONEMENT.

On the motion of Mr. LILLEY the report of the Standing Orders Committee was postponed till Tuesday next.

Mr. CRIBB also postponed the motion standing in his name.

MORETON BAY TRAMWAY COMPANY.

Mr. COXEN brought forward the motion standing in his name. "1. That the Tramway Company Bill be referred for the consideration and report of the select committee. 2. That such committee consist of the following members:—The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Royds, Mr. Ferrett, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Raff, and the mover.

The motion was seconded by Mr. R. CRIBB.

Mr. MOFFATT, in proposing that the committee should be appointed by ballot, said that perhaps it would not be out of place to make the inquiry whether it would be competent for members of the house connected with the company to be appointed to the select committee.

The SPEAKER replied that in his opinion it would depend on the nature of their connection with the company. Unless it could be shown that they had a direct pecuniary interest in the company, he did not think there would be any connection.

Mr. MOFFATT observed that many of these names appeared in the Provisional Committee.

Mr. COXEN begged to say that he had no pecuniary interest in the company.

Mr. WATTS denied that he was pecuniarily concerned in the company, or that he had taken any interest in it.

Mr. RAFF said that although his name had been placed on the provisional committee, he had taken no part in the company; he had no shares, nor did he intend to take any.

Mr. LILLEY had no pecuniary interest in the company; moreover, the principle of the company had been sanctioned by the house.

Dr. CHALLINOR would read the following portion of the prospectus:—"When the act is obtained, it will be for the share holders to elect their own directors; meanwhile the committee confidently appeal to the public of Queensland to support an undertaking sanctioned in principle by their legislature, and conducted mainly by their own representatives."

Mr. EDMONDSTONE and Mr. FERRETT also repudiated having any pecuniary interest in the company.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN thought the Tramway Bill a most unfortunate bill, as it had no father, and although all the hon. members whose names appeared on the directory, denied any connection

with it, he thought it must have a father somewhere. Although he did not think the hon mover Mr. Moffatt's motion appropriate, it would be better to have the committee fairly appointed.

Mr. LILLEY contended that members holding shares in the company would be entitled to a voice in the passing of the bill under the Constitution Act, which admitted to seats in that house members interested in government contracts, provided they were members of a company consisting of twenty persons.

After a remark from the SPEAKER, which we did not catch,

Mr. MOFFATT stated that his reason for putting the question was to avoid any future inconvenience in connection with the matter. With reference to this question, he would quote the following from May's "Parliamentary Practice," under the head of personal interest:—"On the 11th May, 1844, the vote of a member upon the second reading of a public bill relating to railways was objected to upon the ground that he had a direct pecuniary interest as a proprietor of railroad shares; but a motion for disallowing his vote was withdrawn. On the 20th May, 1825, notice was taken that a member who had voted with the yeas, on the Report on the Leith Docks Bill, had a pecuniary interest in passing the bill. He was heard in his place, and having allowed that he had a direct pecuniary interest in passing the bill; that on that account he had not voted in committee on the bill; and that, as he had voted in this instance through inadvertence, his vote was ordered to be disallowed."

Mr. TAYLOR was not aware of having any interest in the Tramway Company, but thought that if no member was allowed to vote upon questions with which he was interested, a large number of votes would not be allowed; for instance, anything relating to the squatting question; and in the cases of ministers, they would have to walk out when anything affecting their salaries was under consideration. He looked upon the motion of the hon. member (Mr. Moffatt) as casting a slur upon the house.

Mr. MOFFATT had no intention of casting any slur on any hon. member.

The SPEAKER ruled that any member being pecuniarily interested would be disqualified, and in the absence of the Clerk-Assistant, appointed the Chairman of Committees as scrutineer.

POSTPONEMENTS.

The remainder of the business was postponed, and the house went into Committee on

SUPPLY.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER the house resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the following item, which was passed without debate:—

Treasury	£1950
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The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the next item.

Customs, Brisbane:—

Collector of Customs	£600
Landing waiter and inspector of bonded stores	325
Chief clerk	350
Tide surveyor (Lytton)	275
Clerk (1st class)	300
Locker	200
Messenger, keeper of Powder Magazine	120
Office-keeper	25
Coxswain	120

Four boatmen, at £96 each	384
Contingencies	604
	£3303

He pointed out that the Collector of Customs had also to do the duties of Water Police Magistrate and Chairman of the Pilot Board.

Mr. RAFF said that the gentleman filling the office of chief clerk was a most efficient officer, and should be placed on the same footing as the chief clerks in the other departments as regards salary.

The COLONIAL TREASURER most willingly bore testimony to the efficiency of this particular officer, and it was owing to the circumstances under which he came up from Sydney to fill the situation, that his salary was not equal to that of the other chief clerks. The government had no objection to increase this salary if the house would agree to the increase.

Mr. T. S. WARRY bore testimony to the efficient manner in which this gentleman discharged his duties, and would certainly vote for the increase.

Mr. LILLEY supported the vote upon the ground that Mr. Somerset was a most efficient public servant, and should at least be placed on a level with other first class clerks.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS also bore testimony to the value of Mr. Somerset's services.

The COLONIAL TREASURER stated the government were willing to accede to the increase, and would provide for this increase in the supplementary estimates.

Dr. CHALLINOR would not oppose the feelings of the house on this occasion. But as he had been called to order upon a previous occasion for mentioning the inefficiency of a particular public officer, he thought it must be equally out of order to mention the efficiency of a public officer.

Mr. WATTS opposed the increase, and expressed his opinion that as there were no funds in the Treasury, the house should not countenance this increase.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that this officer was at any rate equally entitled to an increase with the clerk of Petty Sessions for Drayton and Toowoomba.

Mr. FERRETT thought that half enough had not been said upon this subject yet. The house had repeatedly affirmed that when a salary was before it, the merits or demerits of the officer holding the office was not a subject of discussion.

Mr. WARRY thought it very hard that hon. gentlemen who were getting three and four thousand a year, like the hon. member for Drayton and Toowoomba, should begrudge a paltry salary like this to a really efficient public officer.

Mr. WATTS objected to any allusion being made to any hon. member's private income, and pointed out that in his own case he had to invest and risk a large amount of capital before he could realize that income.

Mr. LILLEY pointed out that as the only capital possessed by some gentlemen was their sheep and cattle, so the only capital possessed by others was their brains. (Laughter.) The latter sort of capital was equally entitled with the former to a fair return for its investment.

Mr. TAYLOR was quite opposed to the proposed increase. He believed that these increases of salary were brought about in a very lax manner. The Colonial Treasurer went to the head of a department, and said, "Is there any chap in your office wants an increase?" (Laughter.)

Mr. WARRY objected to the word "chap" as unparliamentary.

The CHAIRMAN ruled the word to be in order, and

Mr. TAYLOR proceeded. The hon. member for Fortitude Valley had said that this gentleman's brains were his capital, and had made remarks upon the hon. member for Drayton

and Toowoomba. As the matter had been referred to, he felt bound to state that the gentleman whose salary they were discussing had had as good a chance of making money as anybody else. He had been at one time in business in this town, and was now holding this situation. This did not prove his great amount of brains, as compared with the hon. member for Drayton and Toowoomba.

Mr. T. S. WARRY would remark for the edification of the last speaker, that the vicissitudes of colonial life were very great. A clever man often failed and was at the foot of the ladder, whilst a man with scarcely any brains at all often became very prosperous. He could not agree with the hon. member (Mr. Taylor) that the possession of wealth was a test of the possession of brains. Milton and Goldsmith, and numerous other classical authors, whose history the hon. member had, perhaps, forgotten, possessed all through life plenty of brains but very little money.

Mr. WATTS then proceeded to remark that he began colonial life upon £40 per annum, and Mr. LILLEY having given it as his opinion that this fact was very creditable to the hon. member.

Mr. MOFFATT complained that the time of this house had been wasted quite sufficiently in digressive discussions.

The item as proposed was then put and passed.

The item of £1114 for Customs Department at Wide Bay was then put and passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the next item for the Customs Department at Port Curtis.

Sub-collector	£300
Coxswain	120
Boatmen, at £96 each	288
Contingencies	100

£808

Mr. FITZSIMMONS said that the sub-collector's duties were very arduous, and that he acted as water police magistrate as well. The government had placed the gentleman on the Commission of the Peace, and thus showed his respectability. He (Mr. F.) would propose that the amount of his salary should be raised.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY agreed that the gentleman in question was a good servant, as was also the officer whose salary had just now been discussed so warmly by the house. He (the Colonial Secretary) must, however, protest against this singling out of individuals by the house. He knew many public officers equally deserving with these two gentlemen who were paid even lower salaries. If these two gentlemen were deserving of increase, he could point to fifty others deserving of increase. Repeated applications had been made to him by particular officers for increased salaries, and to each of these applications he had returned the same answer, viz., that it would be unfair for him to single out particular individuals. He was in favour of paying the whole of the servants in the civil service better than they were paid at present.

After some further conversation of an unimportant nature, the item, as proposed, was put and passed.

The next item proposed was for the customs at Rockhampton.

Sub-collector	£325
Second officer	160
Coxswain	120
3 boatmen	288
Contingencies	100

£993

Mr. FITZSIMMONS must again express his opinion that the salary of the sub-collector was

too small. It had been calculated that this gentleman collected £7000 per annum for the customs, and most probably in the course of next year this amount would be doubled.

After some conversation, having no reference to this item, Mr. FITZSIMMONS stated that both this officer and the one at Port Curtis had applied to the government for an increase in salary.

The item was then put and passed.

The following items were carried without debate:—

Expenses of bonded store at Ipswich	£500
Pilot Board fees	150
Steam Navigation Board ditto	60

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the next item for the Post Office.

Salaries:—

Postmaster-General	£600
Clerk, 1st class	300
2 Clerks, 2nd class	400
Clerk, 3rd class	100
Sorting and delivery clerk	200
Postmaster, Brisbane	350
Ditto, Ipswich	350
20 Country postmasters	650
5 Letter carriers, at £120 each (3 at Brisbane, 2 at Ipswich)	600
Messenger and sorter	108
Contingencies	505
Conveyance of mails	12,045
	£16,208

The COLONIAL TREASURER explained that the work of the department had increased so much that it would be necessary soon to appoint a Postmaster-General; and for the information of future applicants he would state that whoever filled the office would find it a very thankless one. He had endeavored to make the Police Magistrates in the different districts act as postal inspectors, but his scheme had resulted in total failure.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that at present the Post-office department was not sufficiently attended to, and could not be under existing arrangements. He was of opinion that some person should be appointed to the general management of the department, who should travel and act as inspector. The duties of Postmaster at Brisbane would be quite sufficient to monopolize his time, and a Postmaster-General was now quite requisite. They could not get a competent man to travel about and adequately fulfil the duties of such a situation under £600.

Dr. CHALLINOR objected to a vote for a Postmaster-General and for a Postmaster at Brisbane as well, and Mr. MOFFATT said that he would support the vote on condition that the Postmaster-General acted as inspector in the country districts.

Mr. TAYLOR proposed that the item be reduced by £600, the salary of a Postmaster-General.

Mr. FERRETT supported the motion upon the ground that the Colonial Treasurer had managed the office very well hitherto.

Mr. WATTS proposed that the sum be reduced by £300, the salary of a Postmaster for Brisbane.

In answer to Mr. LILLEY, the COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that the Postmaster-General would not be a political officer.

In answer to Mr. ROYDS, the COLONIAL TREASURER stated that the reason why the item for conveyance of mails to England had not been included in this estimate, was because the government had not yet been furnished with the account. The amendments of Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. WATTS having each been put and negatived, the item as originally proposed was put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the sum of £2466 for the harbor master's department, Moreton Bay. An addition of £25 had been made to the salaries of the pilots, who acted as Custom-house officers.

Salaries:—	
Harbor master	£300
Master of buoy boat	150
Three pilots, at £200	600
Eleven boatmen, at £96	1056
Contingencies	360

The next item passed was for the harbor of Wide Bay:—

New buoys and beacons, repairing buoys, beacons, and incidental expenses.	200
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The COLONIAL TREASURER said that the duties of harbor master were performed by the collector of customs, who has proved himself a most efficient officer. The salary apportioned to him was not considered adequate, besides which he was put to considerable expense in the performance of his duties as harbor master. Under these circumstances, £100 a-year extra to his salary would be placed upon the supplementary estimates.

A short discussion ensued, in course of which testimony was borne to the great efficiency of this officer, and the only objections raised to the proposed increase were those of economical considerations.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then proposed the following items for the harbours of Port Curtis and Fitzroy River:—

Harbour-master, Fitzroy River	£200
Pilot, ditto	120
Three boatmen, at £96 each, ditto	288
Contingencies	150

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that in consequence of the great increase in the business at Rockhampton, £200 was considered too small a salary for the Harbour-Master. An additional £100 would, therefore, be placed on the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. MOFFATT thought that the better course would have been to have placed the full sums proposed on the Estimates.

The COLONIAL TREASURER explained that the application for an increase was not received till the estimates had been prepared.

A discussion on the proposed increase followed, during which the vote was opposed by strict economists, and supported by hon. members who advocated equitable salaries to government officers. The proposed item was then passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following sums for the Lighthouse at Cape Moreton, and the lightship Rose:—

Lighthouse, Cape Moreton:—

Superintendent	£216
Lightkeeper	108
Two lightkeepers, at £84—£96	192
Lightship Rose—	
2 Shipkeepers, at £96 each	192

The next departments proceeded to were those connected with the survey and occupation of Crown lands; the COLONIAL SECRETARY observing that since last sessions these departments had been reorganised, the two departments now being placed under distinct headings. The first item he had to propose was those connected with the Survey Department, which were as follows:—

Survey of Lands:—	
Surveyor-General	£600
Deputy Surveyor-General: Salary, } £500; allowances, £280 }	780
District Surveyor; Salary, £500; } allowances, £280 }	
3 Surveyors, 1st class; Salary, £400; } allowances, £280 (one marine } surveyor)	2040
6 Surveyors, 2nd class	3480
Chief Draftsman	400
Draftsman	600
3 Draftsmen, at £200	
Chief Clerk	400
Clerk, 1st class	300
Clerk, 2nd class	
Clerk, 3rd class	100
Clerk, 3rd class	
Clerk, supernumerary	100
Clerk and office-keeper at Rockhampton	120
Office-keeper at Brisbane	48
Chainmen, at £91 10s. per annum; or } 5s. per diem }	
10 chainmen at £101 per annum, or 5s. } 6d. per diem }	1010
Surveyors; laborers, at £73 per annum; } or 4s. per diem }	
40 Surveyors; laborers, at £82 per } annum or 4s. 6d. per diem }	3280
Contingencies—	
Fees to licensed surveyors	5000
Forage for Surveyor-General	100
Instruments and stationery.	300
Freights and passages	100
Postage	100
Extra clerical assistance	
Incidental expenses	300

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it would be seen that items were set down for six surveyors of the first class, but of these only three had as yet been appointed and drew pay, in consequence of the Surveyor-General having been able to obtain good licensed surveyors. Circumstances, however, might arise, rendering the appointment of the remainder necessary,

and it would therefore be advisable to vote salaries for them. Two extra draughtsmen had also been set down, as it was found necessary to increase the staff in this respect, and an addition of sixpence a day had been made in the wages of chainmen in consequence of getting competent men. The other items were much the same as before.

Mr. TAYLOR advocated an increase in the salary of the Surveyor-General, who was not only a most efficient officer, but, as stated in the case of Captain Wickham, had to take home work on which he was engaged till eleven and twelve at night.

Mr. RAFF was glad to see that Mr. Taylor stood up for increase in the Surveyor-General's salary. He thought the sum set down insufficient.

After some further discussion the item was passed, and the COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following for the

Occupation of Lands:—	
Chief Commissioner (provided for as Surveyor-General.)	
Commissioner for Moreton, being also Deputy Surveyor-General; salary, £500; allowance, £280	£780
Commissioner, at £450, with quarters, (Maranoa)	450
Two Commissioners at £525, without quarters. (Leichhardt and Kennedy)	1050
Commissioner, at £375, without quarters. (Leichhardt)	375
2 Commissioners, being also Surveyors of 1st class; salary, £400; allowance, £280	1360
3 Commissioners (provided for as District Surveyor and Surveyors of 1st class)	
Clerk, 2nd class	200
10 Troopers, at £150, including horses, forage, and equipment	1500
4 Officekeepers, at £40 (Commissioners finding rations)	160
3 Chainmen, at £101; or 5s. 6d. per diem (Surveyor finding horses)	303
12 Surveyors' labourers, at £82; or 4s. 6d. per diem (Surveyor finding horses and equipment)	984
Contingencies—	300

After an explanation from the COLONIAL SECRETARY, with reference to the three Commissioners, who were also Surveyors,

Mr. WATTS inquired whether any provision was made for an office for the officer of Crown Lands at Toowoomba.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that it was proposed to give him a room next to the Police Office.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved the sum of £2200 for expenses in connection with the sale of lands, which was passed without discussion, as was also the following:—

Botanical Gardens:—	
Director	£300
Overseer and head gardener	90
Propagator	70
5 Out-door labourers, at £78 per annum	390
Contingencies—	150

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved for

Reserves:—	
Queen's Park, Brisbane	£100
Queen's Park, Ipswich.	100
Government Domain	200

In reply to Mr. MOFFATT, the COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that the sum voted for the Queen's Park, Ipswich, had been handed over to the trustees appointed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the sum of £2570 for the Road Branch of Public Works, and after explaining one or two additional appointments, said that the staff of this office was found insufficient for the work in connection with the department. It was, therefore, proposed to increase the staff, and to appoint an engineer of roads for the Northern districts. In reply to Mr. TAYLOR, he further stated that the government would require the Engineer of Roads as well as the Surveyor-General to follow the course of the tramway and report to the government.

The following items were then passed:—

Engineer of roads	£600
Draughtsman and clerk	300
Assistant draughtsman	250
Three foremen of works, at £250 each	750
Clerk, 2nd class	200
Contingencies	470

The following items were passed without opposition:—

Colonial Architect:—	
Salaries—	
Colonial architect	£600
Chief clerk	400
Clerk, 1st class	300
Clerk of works	320
Foremen of works.	400
Clerk of works	300
Contingencies	350

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following estimates:—

Roads:—	
Construction—	
Draining, metalling, and forming at	
Rosewood Scrub	£2000
Minor roads	1500
Wide Bay and Burnett	5500
Ipswich to Warwick	4000

Northern Roads—Port Curtis and Leichhardt	5500
Forming main street at Toowoomba	1000
“ “ Maryborough	1000
“ “ Rockhampton.	1000
Road to Sandgate (additional)	500
Maintenance—	
Main Range	300
Brisbane to Drayton	4500

After a few remarks from Mr. R. CRIBB, relative to the mode in which the money was to be expended,

Mr. GORE rose to support a large and equitable distribution of the money upon those roads leading into the remote interior. He was opposed to large sums of money being expended on particular portions of a main road to the exclusion of others. It appeared to him that their principal object should be to apportion the expenditure of the public money in such a way as to give all localities a fair share in its expenditure. He should therefore propose that the sum of £4500 intended to be disbursed on the road between Brisbane and Drayton be so applied as to include the intervening road to Dalby, and he did so without any intention to increase the vote, as he thought that a portion of the money might be taken from one district to supply the wants of another. His amendment was simply to substitute the word Dalby for Drayton.

Mr. TAYLOR opposed the amendment because, owing to the greater length of the road to be maintained, the sum per mile would be reduced to £20, instead of £50, which would be utterly inadequate for the purpose intended. What they wanted was the repair and maintenance of those particular portions of the road which were known to offer the greatest obstacles to traffic. Whilst upon this subject, he would like to know from the government what had become of the £2000 voted last year for a mile of road at Rose Creek?

Mr. MOFFATT also spoke in favor of increased liberality in dealing with the roads and bridges of the colony. At the same time, he thought that the money hitherto devoted to these purposes might have been more profitably and satisfactorily expended. What they wanted was a system of erecting cheap bridges, instead of those expensive structures which usually absorbed such a large amount of money as to render nothing available for the repair and maintenance of the roads connected thereby. In proof of his argument, he alluded to several cheap bridges already erected, which he contended had answered all the purposes contemplated, and yet had allowed of a large sum of money being devoted to the repair of the roads generally. He also argued that some improvement might be made in the supervision under which the money was expended, and as one means of accomplishing this, he suggested that the expenditure of the public money should be entrusted to the local benches of magistrates in the several districts. As an amendment, he moved, instead of the proposal of Mr. Gore, that the money be expended on the line of road between Ipswich and Dalby.

Mr. FERRETT could not understand why Brisbane should be inserted in the matter at all; and he was also at a loss to understand why they could not shorten, if they could lengthen, the line on which the money was to be spent. (Laughter.) He should therefore propose that the money be expended on the line of road between Ipswich and Drayton. Whilst adverting to the subject, he could not help remarking that this was a very large sum to be disbursed under the supervision of one individual.

The COLONIAL TREASURER explained that the money originally intended to have been devoted to the construction of a line of telegraph to the northward would now be appropriated to the construction and repair of roads, &c., in as equal proportions as possible among the several districts of the colony.

Mr. RAFF was in favour of specially keeping in repair those portions of the roads wherein

the small farmers and other producers were particularly interested.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS contended that as the northern districts had been deprived of the advantage of an electric telegraph line, for which the sum of £22,000 had been placed on the estimates, the least thing the government and the house could grant was the whole, or nearly the whole, of the sum mentioned, towards maintaining and opening up thoroughfares to the northward.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY explained that the northern districts had already received a very fair share of the public expenditure, and that they would also receive an equitable proportion of the money alluded to by the hon. member.

Mr. TAYLOR stated that four of the largest electorates of the colony, including the Western Downs, Maranoa, and the Leichhardt Districts, had never yet received one sixpence of the public money or local improvements in the shape of roads and bridges. He asked the Colonial Secretary to say whether such was the case or not?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY did not believe the statement of the hon. member to be true, but without further notice he was not prepared to give a definite answer.

Mr. TAYLOR: I rise to order. The Colonial Secretary has charged me with telling an untruth. (Laughter.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: What I mean to say is, that the hon. gentleman has made a statement in which I believe him to be entirely wrong.

The amendments having been withdrawn, the estimate as proposed was put and passed.

The subjoined was agreed to without opposition:—

Bridges:—		
Over Baramba Creek (additional)	.....	£500
Over Condamine, at Ellangowan (additional)	.....	500
Completion of Bridge at Seven Mile Creek	.....	600
Over River Logan	.....	700

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the following, explained that the government had made a reduction in the item for a lock-up at Mount Abundance of £500, which would reduce the whole estimate to £8810 instead of £9310.

Public Works and Buildings:—		
Lock-up at Laidley	.....	£600
Lock-up at Mount Abundance	.....	500
Goal at Maryborough	.....	700
Additions to Court-House at Maryborough	.....	500
Lock-up at Leyburne (additional)	.....	250
Lock-up at Warwick (additional)	.....	150
Repairs and incidentals to public buildings generally	.....	1500
Furniture, including Government House and Telegraph Stations	.....	2000
Rent of public buildings and offices generally	.....	610
Northern—		
Lock-up at Yaamba	.....	100
Lock-up at Princhester	.....	500
Lock-up at Banana	.....	500
Fence and police stables, Rockhampton	.....	100

Lock-up at Westwood	100
Lock-up and goal at Rockhampton	700
Total	£8810

Carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY next moved:—

Electric Telegraph—

Salaries—

General superintendent	£500
Station master, Brisbane	250
Operating clerk, Brisbane	200
Line inspector and instrument fitter	250
Messengers	104
Station master, Ipswich	250
Line inspector and repairer	150
Messengers	104
Station master, Toowoomba	200
Messenger, Toowoomba	52
Line inspector in charge, Drayton	175
Messenger, Drayton	52
Station master, Warwick	200
Line inspector and repairer	150
Messenger	52
Line inspector in charge, Gatton	175
Office of customs, in charge, at Lytton	100
Contingencies—	
Fuel and light for offices, and water for battery purposes	100
Travelling expenses for line inspectors and officers of the department generally	300
Incidental expenses, including stores, &c	300
Horse equipment and forage allowance for five line inspectors, at £20 each	100

In explaining the matter, the hon. gentleman stated that it was at present doubtful whether the sum for a line inspector at Drayton would be required, inasmuch as there was a difference of opinion as to the necessity of such an officer. He would like to hear the views of some hon. member more particularly acquainted with the requirements of the matter. There were also some other items in the estimate as it now stood which might not be found necessary.

Mr. WATTS said that, as the Colonial Secretary might be considered as having appealed to him, he begged to say that he was not then in a position to give a definite answer, but he would take an early opportunity of enquiring into the matter, and make a point of communicating with the government.

The estimate was then put and passed.

The annexed estimate, which may be considered the last of the estimates in chief, was passed unanimously.

Auditor-General:—

Salaries—

Auditor-General	£600
Clerk, 1st class	300
Contingencies	100

The house then resumed, and the Chairman obtained leave to sit again on Thursday next, on which day the report was ordered to be received.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES moved that three weeks leave of absence be granted to Mr. Haly, who was debarred from attending through domestic affliction—Granted.

The house adjourned at one o'clock, until three o'clock on Tuesday next.