

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 1919**

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST, 1919.

The PRESIDENT (HON. W. HAMILTON) took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock p.m.

## APPROPRIATION BILL, No. 1.

ASSENT.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor assenting, in the name of His Majesty, to this Bill.

## NEW MEMBERS.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had received from the Governor a letter, dated 18th August, intimating that His Excellency had been pleased to summon to the Council—

George Lawson, Esq., Brisbane;

Alexander Skirving, Esq., Brisbane; and

Thomas Llewellyn Jones, Esq., Brisbane.

The new members were introduced by Hon. W. R. Crampton, and having produced their writs of summons and taken the oath or made an affirmation of allegiance, they subscribed the roll and took their seats.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. JONES): On behalf of the Government, I desire to congratulate the hon. gentlemen who have just been admitted to this branch of the Legislature. The three gentlemen are known to me personally, and I desire to offer them my personal congratulations. I think that the choice of them as members of this Council has been a very wise one, and I am sure that these gentlemen will prove very worthy supporters of the Government and worthy legislators. The Hon. Mr. Jones has had previous parliamentary experience, having held a seat in the Legislative Assembly. However, I am not here this afternoon to speak at any great length on the merits of the appointments which have been made, or on the personal qualifications of the hon. gentlemen now summoned to the Council. I merely congratulate them, and say that I am sure they will prove very worthy members of this Chamber while it is in existence.

HON. A. J. THYNNE: It is customary to offer congratulations, as the Minister has done, to new members, and I join with the hon. gentleman in his congratulations to the gentlemen now called to this Chamber. I have not the slightest objection to those hon. gentlemen themselves. But I wish distinctly and clearly to voice an objection and protest against keeping up the number of members of this House by filling up vacancies which have taken place.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Why? Do you want the institution to die out?

HON. A. J. THYNNE: The hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that I have no desire that that should happen, but I claim that on a recent occasion the number of members in this House was unduly swollen—that the normal number of members in this House, the number recognised for a good many years, was unduly increased. I did hope, and so did many other members, that the House would revert to something

like the number previously. The words with which the Minister wound up his speech seem to suggest that the gentlemen now appointed have come to this House on the understanding or pledge that they would join in the destruction of the Council.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: No doubt about it.

HON. A. J. THYNNE: Then, I think that congratulations offered to any member coming into a Chamber with a mission to destroy that Chamber are qualified by that fact.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I think the hon. gentleman is now going beyond the bounds of ordinary congratulations.

HON. A. J. THYNNE: I only wish to enter my protest against the policy which has led to keeping up the undue number of members of this House. I trust that the hon. gentlemen who have now been admitted will realise that it is not consistent with a right attitude for men appointed to the Council to act on the lines mentioned by the Minister. All the same, I can assure them that whatever they say or do in this House will receive fair consideration, not only from the Government party, whom they have come in to support—I am sorry that expression has to be used—but also from the general body of the members of this Chamber who are not pledged to support any particular Government or party.

HON. A. G. C. HAWTHORN: I certainly agree with the Hon. Mr. Thynne when he says that we on this side of the House have no objection, from a personal point of view, to the members who have been sworn in this afternoon. We are quite willing to welcome them as men and as members of this House, but I certainly agree with the Hon. Mr. Thynne that a very great mistake was made two years ago, when thirteen new members instead of nine were summoned to this House, thus increasing the number of members from forty-five to forty-nine. That was a very great mistake, and for the same reason it seems to me that the number of appointments now made is also a mistake.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: There is no limit in the Constitution to the number of members in this Chamber.

HON. A. G. C. HAWTHORN: There is no limit in the Constitution, undoubtedly, but there is such a thing as tradition and usage.

Hon. T. NEVITT: You were a party to increasing it before.

HON. A. G. C. HAWTHORN: I was not a party—I was speaking of the thirteen who were appointed before. I was quite willing to welcome nine, which would have brought the number up to the original forty-five, but I certainly thought then that the Government had made a mistake, and I think the country thought so, too. It is a very great pity that this has been done, I think, in view of the present condition of affairs in Queensland, and with the knowledge of the way in which the present Government are carrying on.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The hon. gentleman must confine himself to remarks of congratulation. He cannot bring in a speech under cover of congratulating new members on their appointment.

HON. A. G. C. HAWTHORN: The ruling of the President puts me in rather an awkward position. I do not know that he is absolutely right.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

HON. A. G. C. HAWTHORN: However, I am not prepared to disagree with the President's ruling. I can only emphasise what I have said before—that it is a pity that at this juncture the practice in regard to the increase formerly made in the number of members has been again carried out. I was in hopes that we would have gone along as we were, and that the Government would not have attempted an increase of members to carry through legislation which they know is not agreeable to the bulk of the people of the State, and that they would have recognised the intimation which was given by the people of Queensland two years ago.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I must ask the hon. gentleman to confine his remarks to congratulations to the new members. There is no question before the House, and if he wants to discuss the actions of the Government, he will have to do so under a specific motion.

HON. A. G. C. HAWTHORN: Under those circumstances, of course, I shall have to discontinue. But I think it is unfortunate that on this particular matter we are not able to have a discussion, which would have shown what we consider to be the attitude of the people and the country on the question of the Legislative Council.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Your attitude is not fair to His Excellency.

HON. T. L. JONES: My fellow new members have asked me to reply for them also, and I desire to thank those who have spoken for their expressions of congratulation, and to assure the House that we shall do our best to assist in the passing of legislation and the carrying on of the work of the Chamber. I thank the leader of the Government for his remarks, and—as far as one can do so—I thank hon. members opposite, but their congratulations were of a rather party nature, I am afraid. (Hear! hear!)

HON. A. G. C. HAWTHORN: There was nothing personal.

HON. T. L. JONES: I may be wrong in my estimate of what is the proper course of procedure, but I certainly think that to rise and give expression to congratulations, and then to introduce the subject-matter of the constitution of the Chamber, is rather unusual. (Hear, hear!) At any rate, I shall not dwell on that point now. As time goes on I shall have an opportunity to discuss that matter. We are here to do our duty, and I think that we shall not be found wanting in that respect. The Hon. Mr. Hawthorn says that he is afraid of tradition being destroyed, but we are here to destroy tradition. I thank hon. gentlemen for their congratulations.

## AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT.

### QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK BALANCE-SHEET.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt from the Auditor-General of a letter, dated 14th August, covering his thirtieth half-yearly report under the provisions of the

*Hon. W. Hamilton.]*

Queensland National Bank, Limited (Agreement) Act of 1904.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I move—

“That the report be printed.”

Question put and passed.

#### QUESTION.

##### BRISBANE SEWERAGE SCHEME.

HON. T. M. HALL, on behalf of the Hon. E. W. H. Fowles, asked the representative of the Government—

“1. Was the expenditure during the year 1918 in connection with the Brisbane sewerage scheme, including interest capitalised, £166,462 0s. 1d.?”

“2. What was the total expenditure in that connection prior to 1918, including plans, reports, and abandoned projects, if any?”

“3. What has been the expenditure in that connection from 1st January to 30th June, 1919?”

“4. What estimates, if any, have been formed as to—(a) when the work will be completed; (b) what the total cost will be?”

The SECRETARY FOR MINES replied—

“1. Yes.

“2. £602,289 6s. 11d.

“3. £129,146 14s. 7d.

“4. (a) 31st December, 1920; (b) £1,349,566.”

#### PAPERS.

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

Order in Council under the Workers' Compensation Act of 1916.

Report of the Director, State Children Department, for 1918.

#### DAIRY PRODUCE BILL.

##### FIRST READING.

On the motion of The SECRETARY FOR MINES, this Bill, received by message from the Assembly, was read a first time.

##### ORDER FOR SECOND READING.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I beg to move—

“That the second reading of the Bill stand an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.”

I propose to move the adjournment of the House when I resume my seat. I think it would not be convenient or wise for hon. gentlemen to sit to-morrow or next day, but that we had better wait for some accumulation of business. We certainly could go on to-morrow with the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. W. STEPHENS: Don't do that.

[Hon. W. Hamilton.]

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: But I think it would probably be more convenient to take some other business. I propose to adjourn the House till Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I beg to move—That the Council, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I beg to move—That the Council do now adjourn.

HON. A. J. TRYNNNE: I should like, with the permission of the House, to say a word in relation to the University, which was the subject of discussion last week or the week before. I think that what was then said was liable to convey some erroneous impressions in connection with the University. The Hon. Mr. Fowles spoke critically of the University not having taken what he considered was its part during the war. I am sorry the Hon. Mr. Fowles is not here, because I am sure he would agree with what I am going to say now, if he knew the facts. The Hon. Mr. Fowles was a member of the senate up to 16th June, and we were in this position—that instead of spreading out for extra work outside the teaching of the University, a meeting of the senate had to consider, towards the end of 1916, really whether the University could continue its work. Nine of the principal members of our staff were taken away for war work, leaving the work of the University almost in confusion, and I cannot speak too highly of the members who remained behind, or of the devoted way in which they stuck to their work—they absolutely sweated themselves for the sake of the University. (Hear, hear!) I think nothing too high can be said of the way in which they did that work. It was in March or April last that we were getting back our staff, and the senate immediately gave consideration to the question as to how to make the University become more intimately connected with the people of the State. The Hon. Mr. Fowles has very highly commended the steps that were taken in that direction, but I should like to tell him—and I am sure he would realise it as much as anyone—that it was impossible, with the staff which the University found available, to do more than they did at the time. I do not think it is the place of the staff of the University to step into public discussions and take part on one side or the other in such discussions. Their position is that of teachers, and their function is to induce the people themselves to be taught. I trust that the University staff will always bear in mind that they are not there to inculcate any particular doctrines or theories, but to help everybody who comes within their influence to come to their own right conclusions on every subject. I thank you, hon. gentlemen, for the opportunity of making that explanation. I think it is just, in the interests of the University, that that explanation should be made.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 4 o'clock p.m.