

## NEW BILLS.

Motions made and agreed to—

That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing the following Bills:—

- A Bill to establish a Code of Criminal Law.
- A Bill to amend the Supreme Court Acts, 1867 to 1895.
- A Bill to amend the Registration of Deeds Acts.
- A Bill to amend the Local Works Loans Acts.
- A Bill to amend the Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897, and for other purposes.
- A Bill to incorporate and endow the University of Queensland.

## MATERIAL SUPPLIED TO CHILLAGOE RAILWAY COMPANY.

On the motion of Mr. BROWNE (*Croydon*), it was resolved—

That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing—

1. An account of all material, implements, rolling-stock, etc., used in the survey and construction of railways, supplied to the Chillagoe Railway Company by the Queensland Railway Department.
2. List of prices of all articles supplied to the Chillagoe Railway Company by Railway Department.

## TRANSVAAL TROUBLES.

On the motion of Mr. JACKSON (*Kennedy*), it was resolved—

That there be laid upon the table of the House, copies of all correspondence, documents, papers, and *Government Gazette* notices relating to the proposal to send a number of members of the Queensland Defence Force to the Transvaal.

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

## APPOINTMENT OF MR. GROOM.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. R. Dickson, *Bulimba*), in moving—

That the name of Mr. W. H. Groom be added to the Standing Orders Committee for the present session—

said: I wish to explain that the omission of the name of Mr. Groom from the Standing Orders Committee this year arose from the fact that he was not present at the first session of this Parliament. The House will, I am sure, gladly approve of him being added to the committee.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Question put and passed.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn. Government business to-morrow will be the introduction of the Bills on the business paper and the opening of Supply.

Mr. DAWSON (*Charters Towers*): There is one matter exercising the public mind a good deal just now upon which I would like to say a few words. I would like to know from the Premier if any arrangements have been made to enable the Police Commission to travel in the Northern portions of the colony, and to prosecute their inquiries there. While the Commission have done excellent work, so far they have simply inquired into grievances of officers in and around Brisbane; but there are constables and officers in various other portions of the colony who have a lot of grievances, and it is desired that the Commission should travel in the Northern portion of the colony—that their views of various matters may be put before the public. It would be an excellent thing for the Premier to give every facility to the Commission to travel, and I want to know if any arrangements have been made to meet the demand made by people in the North.

The PREMIER: With the permission of the House, I may say that the chairman of the Commission has represented to me that there has been no desire on the part of the people of the North to have investigations conducted there.

Mr. DAWSON: I know several who desire to give evidence. Look at the Northern papers!

The PREMIER: This is a paragraph in the chairman's letter, which I shall read—

I have the honour now to say that the general tenor is that they cannot ascertain that the public are desirous of tendering evidence.

There has been no desire on the part of the Government to circumscribe the usefulness of the Commission, and I have repeatedly invited their chairman to state exactly the particular nature of the inquiry he intends to conduct in the North—what evidence might be obtained there beyond what had already been taken. He has since informed me that there are several matters connected with the administration of Acts of Parliament which it would be desirable to investigate. But this all lies in the province of my hon. colleague, the Home Secretary. I am now awaiting his report, to justify the Commission proceeding to investigate these matters. I believe the Commission has done excellent work, but there yet remains more to be done with regard to the terrible crimes recently committed in our vicinity, the investigation of which has only just commenced. It would be well that these serious crimes should be investigated, and that the efficiency of the Police Force in the various parts of the colony should be ascertained. I can assure the hon. gentleman that there is no desire on the part of the Government to curtail the scope of the Commission in any way, so long as it is conducive to greater efficiency on the part of the Police Force of the colony.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. GLASSEY (*Bundaberg*): It is very satisfactory to hear from the Premier that there is no desire on the part of the Government to curtail the operations of this Commission. I certainly think that the Commission should not close their inquiries without making full investigation into the condition of the Central district; and the same may be said of the Northern portion of the colony. If the chairman of the Commission had taken the view that it is not necessary to visit the Central and Northern portions of the colony, I certainly think, with all due respect to that gentleman, that it would be a decided mistake. I therefore strongly urge upon the Home Secretary, who is in charge of the Police Department, to intimate to the Commission that they should continue their investigations so as to embrace those portions of the colony. If they do not, I feel sure that it will lead to a great deal of heart-burning on the part of officers of the force, and of the public, who desire to give evidence. I cannot too strongly urge the desirability of the Home Secretary intimating to the Commission that they should prosecute their labours in the Northern and Central portions of the colony.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. F. G. Foxton, *Carnarvon*): Mr. Speaker,—I understood you to lay it down as a rule a few nights ago that it is irregular for any hon. member to continue a debate on the motion for adjournment after the leaders of the House have spoken; and I regret that I should be transgressing that rule. But as the hon. member for Bundaberg has made special reference to my department, I trust that some latitude will be allowed to me.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!