

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 14 May, 1879.

Financial Districts Bill of 1879.—Mines Regulation Bill.—Divisional Boards Bill.—Electoral Rolls Bill.—Annexation of Islands in Torres Straits.—Publicans Act Amendment Bill.—Criminal Expulsion Bill.—Impounding Act of 1863 Amendment Bill.—Sale of Food and Drugs Bill.—Election of Members during Recess Bill.—Stamp Duties Act of 1866 Amendment Bill.—Petition.—Questions.—Motions.—Estimates.—Address in Reply to Opening Speech—adjourned debate.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

FINANCIAL DISTRICTS BILL OF 1879.

The PREMIER (Mr. McIlwraith) moved that this Bill (forwarded by Message from His Excellency the Governor this day) be read a first time.

The Hon. S. W. GRIFFITH said he was under the impression that the course pursued by the honourable gentleman was rather an unusual one, and was out of order, as the Bill was of the character which should originate in a resolution of the House. He believed that in 1876 a similar course was adopted inadvertently, and that it was found necessary to correct the mistake afterwards.

The SPEAKER said the better course would be to refer the Message of His Excellency to a committee of the House.

The PREMIER said he would withdraw his motion, and move—

That the House at its next sitting resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider His Excellency's Message No. 2.

Question put and passed.

MINES REGULATION BILL.

The PREMIER moved—

That the House at its next sitting resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Message No. 3 from His Excellency the Governor this day (forwarding this Bill).

Question put and passed.

DIVISIONAL BOARDS BILL.

The PREMIER moved—

That the House at its next sitting resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 4 (forwarding this Bill).

Question put and passed.

ELECTORAL ROLLS BILL.

The PREMIER moved—

That the House at its next sitting resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 5 (forwarding this Bill).

Question put and passed.

ANNEXATION OF ISLANDS IN TORRES STRAITS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Palmer) moved—

That this Bill (forwarded by message No. 6 from the Governor) be read a first time.

The Hon. S. W. GRIFFITH said that the course adopted by the honourable member was altogether an innovation on the usual practice.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was a course which had originated with the honourable member himself.

The SPEAKER thought that a precedent could be found for the course followed in the present instance.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was ordered to be printed, and its second reading made an Order of the Day for Tuesday, the 20th instant.

PUBLICANS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That the House, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 7 (forwarding the above Bill).

Question put and passed.

CRIMINAL EXPULSION BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

That the House, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Message No. 8 of His Excellency the Governor (forwarding this Bill).

Question put and passed.

IMPOUNDING ACT OF 1863 AMENDMENT BILL.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, this Bill (forwarded by message from the Governor this day) was read a first time, ordered to be printed, and its second reading made an Order of the Day for Tuesday, the 20th instant.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

The PREMIER moved—

That this House, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 9 (forwarding this Bill).

Question put and passed.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS DURING RECESS BILL.

The PREMIER moved—

That this Bill (forwarded by Message from the Governor this day) be now read a first time.

The Hon. S. W. GRIFFITH said that the Standing Orders provided that any Bill introduced by message from the Governor should originate by resolution of the Committee of the Whole, and he was not aware that that rule had ever been broken, except on one occasion in 1876, when it was by inadvertence, and the mistake was corrected. The practice had always been to first pass a resolution