

not clear, when they found in one clause that the Government should have power to appoint an agent, and were then told that the Government would send home the Colonial Treasurer. It had been remarked that, when Mr. Verdon went home from Victoria, he was Colonial Treasurer, and that the Colonial Treasurer of New Zealand had gone home in that capacity. That was not the case. The latter gentleman had gone home as financial agent, and the former as agent for the colony. The House should hesitate before passing the Bill, and he hoped that all honorable members present would offer their opinions upon it before the second reading.

Question put and passed.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 14 August, 1872.

Annexation of Coast Islands.

ANNEXATION OF COAST ISLANDS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—

1. That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the islands lying within sixty miles of the coasts of the colony of Queensland, should be annexed to, and become part of, the said colony.

2. That an Address be presented to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to exercise the powers in that behalf conferred on him by the Letters Patent of date 30th May, 1872, laid upon the table of this House, by command, on the 12th instant.

In bringing forward this motion, he said that honorable members who had directed their attention to the despatch which he laid on the table a few days since, would see that the Home Government had given the Governor of this colony power over the islands lying off the coast within a distance of sixty miles. Hitherto, this extraordinary anomaly had existed, that the islands lying off the coast of the colony had been under the Government of New South Wales. Very great inconvenience had arisen in the past from that being the case, and much more inconvenience would arise if it was allowed to continue to be the case. However, His Excellency, moved by his responsible advisers, had represented the matter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the result of the representations so made had been, that the Home Government had sent out Letters Patent, giving the Governor power over the islands lying within a certain distance of the coast. Honorable members would see that the Letters Patent gave power to the Governor to annex those islands, if it should be deemed advisable to do so. Now, it was, in his opinion, desirable for several reasons, that those islands should be annexed to this colony. He thought honorable members would admit that it was a most anomalous thing that the Government of New South Wales should have been able

to lease, as they had done for some years past, Reine Island, which lay off the extreme north-east of this colony; and they had, of course, received a certain rent for it all that time. It would, therefore, be seen that it would be to the interest of the colony that the power which had been conferred upon the Governor by the Home Government to annex those islands should be exercised, and that the jurisdiction of the colony should extend beyond three miles of the coast line, which was the present limit. There were no large islands, such as would be likely to involve much expense in their management. They were principally small islands which this colony had been in the habit of claiming a right over, although they really, up to the present time, belonged to New South Wales.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 15 August, 1872.

Despatch of Business.—Homestead Areas Bill.—Treasury Bills Bill.—Loans Consolidation Bill.

DESPATCH OF BUSINESS.

Upon the motion of the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, who informed the House that the necessity was likely to arise for another sitting day, and that he trusted next week would end their labors, the following resolution was passed unopposed:—

That this Council do meet for despatch of business on Monday next, in addition to the days already named in the resolution of the 24th July.

HOMESTEAD AREAS BILL.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL said that yesterday, when the resolutions for the resumption of lands from runs in the settled districts came up from the Assembly, with which resolutions the Homestead Areas Bill was materially linked, their consideration was put off until to-morrow, though he had desired that the House should take them into consideration, to-day, with the Bill. However, honorable gentlemen had thought it best to consider the resolutions after the Bill which he now brought forward for the second reading, namely, "a Bill for the establishment of Homestead Areas and Immigrants' Selections, and to amend the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868." They were all aware that by the tenth clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868, it was enacted that

"No land within the part so leased to any pastoral tenants shall be resumable during the term of the lease except by a resolution of both Houses of Parliament when it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to resume any tracts of land not less than eight square miles in area in one block and in respect of such land so resumed to make a proportionate reduction of the yearly rents paid by such pastoral tenants."