

HOUSE OF KEYS.

Douglas, Monday, July 27, 1908.

Present: The Speaker (Mr A. W. Moore, C.V.O.), Messrs W. H. Kitto, W. Quayle, J. D. Clucas, J. R. Kerruish, J. W. Cannan, D. Maitland, W. A. Hutchinson, R. S. Corlett, W. J. Radcliffe, A. Qualtrough, A. Costain, R. Clucas, W. M. Kerruish, W. Goldsmith and Col. Moore. Mr R. D. Gedling (Secretary to the House of Keys) was in attendance.

The Speaker said Mr J. T. Cowell was unwell, and added: I should like to take this opportunity of expressing, on behalf of the House, how very pleased we are to see the hon. member for Glenfaba (Capt-Kitto) back again after his travels, looking so well and so rejuvenated. (Hear, hear.)

IMPROVEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS.

Mr Maitland: The Committee that was appointed at the last meeting of the House to go into the matter of the alteration to the premises here met on Friday last. They had the advantage of your presence and advice, and also of the experience of Mr Cowle, the architect. The report has been drawn up rather hurriedly, but time is very short, and I presume you would like it to be passed to-day without going to the formality of having it printed and circulated, as it is doubtful whether this House will meet again. Of course the vote will have to be passed upstairs, but I think if this House unanimously adopts the report there will be no difficulty there, and I doubt if there will be any discussion on the matter. I will read the report:—

To the Speaker and Members of the House of Keys—

The Committee beg to report that, along with Mr Speaker, they met and carefully considered the matter, the architect, Mr J. H. Cowle, attending before the Committee.

They regret that the widening of the room by the removal or placing back of either the wall between the chamber and the lobby or the wall between the chamber and the hall is

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impracticable. This being so, they recommend the adoption of the plans, with the following alterations:—

- (1) Press Gallery to be behind Mr Speaker's chair.
- (2) The present outer Committee-room to be the Press-room.
- (3) The Speaker's present room and the inner Committee-room to be made into one room.
- (4) The room marked Reporters' room on the plan to be the Speaker's room.
- (5) The alterations will necessitate (a) new doorway into reporters' room from their gallery; (b) closing up present members' doorway at Keys, and providing doorway in centre of lobby.

The Committee think a roof light should be provided. Also a seat to accommodate three members, and new tops to members' tables. Oak cupboards, etc., should be made. The estimated additional cost being £200.

The Committee also recommend an addition to the heating apparatus, so as to provide further heat, if required.

The Committee think the work should be done by tender.

D. MAITLAND.
J. D. OLUCAS.
J. R. KERRIGISH.
A. COSTAIN.
GEO. MOORE, Lt.-Col.

July 27th, 1906.

Mr Maitland added: The plan will explain to members what is intended. As in the original idea, the wall is thrown back 15 feet behind the Speaker's chair, and the gallery for the reporters is to be erected about on the level of the Speaker's head, so that they will be well above him, and everybody addressing him will be speaking towards them, and they will be greatly facilitated in taking notes. Beyond that will be the present Committee room, which is to be given up entirely as a room for the members of the Press. The door leading from that Committee room to the other Committee room is to be closed up, and the Press will only have the door into the hall. The wall between the present Speaker's room and the inner Committee room is to be removed, making one good room for members and for receiving depositions. A new room for the Speaker is to be erected as an addition to the present building, on the vacant plot, facing Buck's-road, and above it, leading out from the landing to the Tyrwald Court, is to be a room for the Bar. The new lavatories and conveniences are also to be

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erected on that vacant ground—of course the present ones are swept away by the throwing back of this chamber. That, I think, is very plainly the whole of the scheme. It certainly will improve the accommodation for members, and I would like to say to members, Let us try and be unanimous on this vote. It is quite on the cards that this is the last meeting of the present House, and I think it would be something to hand down that we were unanimous at any rate for once in our lives. Some members rather think this is a matter that should be left over to the new House. We all try to leave the world better than we found it. (Hear, hear.) Let us try and leave this little world better than we found it. Nobody knows the inconveniences of the present place so well as those who have frequented it so many years, and those who do not come back—I am afraid we will not all come back, and to those who do not it will be something to have assisted in improving the conveniences of the present House of Keys.

Mr J. D. Lucas: I beg to second the motion, and I support all that has fallen from the hon. member for Middle. I would point that in the new Committee room, as enlarged, one great advantage will be that it will be suitable for Committee meetings. At the present time great inconvenience is found in the fact that the present rooms are too small, and Committees have to come into this chamber, where they are perished with the cold. Further, I think that with this addition as proposed by the present Committee we are getting better value for the money than under the original proposer.

Mr R. Lucas: I am sure we are all much obliged for the clear way in which the hon. member for Middle has put this matter before the House. I don't remember him saying anything about the cost of these alterations.

The Speaker: It is £200 additional to the previous estimate.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: That is additional. We have not had the whole figure.

Mr J. D. Lucas: £1,807.

The Speaker read a statement of details of expenditure.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: Does that include furniture for the reporters' room and the Speaker's room?

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The Speaker: Yes.

Mr R. Lucas: I have no doubt it will be a vast improvement, but it seems to be a great deal of money, when we could get better accommodation—if the Council would fall in with the idea—by using the Tynwald Court as a place of meeting for the House of Keys. You would save all the expense that is now proposed and you would have a far better place for meeting than you will have by altering this room. If it could be arranged between the Legislative Council and ourselves. I do think that would be the best course to adopt. I am not going to bring an amendment before the House; I only give my idea. I think £1,800 is a great deal of money to spend on what we are going to get. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Goldsmith: Hon. members should bear in mind that the larger part of this expenditure is outside the Keys' Chamber, altogether. The expenditure is not for the improvement of this House mainly, but for the addition of rooms which have been asked for for a very long time, and it is no credit to the Legislature that they have not been provided long ago. So in looking at this £1,800 we should not come to the conclusion that it is a sum the Keys are proposing to spend for their own comfort and advantage. A very small part of it is expenditure, strictly speaking, on behalf of the Keys. Then, with regard to using the Tynwald Court, I submit it is in every way more desirable the Keys should have their own chamber. Supposing you ask at the Tynwald Court that the Keys should sit by themselves to decide a question, which is the constitutional right of the Keys, where are they to go to?

The Speaker: That question is not before the House; it was not seconded. It is hardly worth discussing that.

Mr Goldsmith: I only want to point out the advantages of having our own chamber, and having it as available and convenient as it is possible to have it. I support the recommendation. If we had another Committee they might suggest some other improvement, but we never can get to perfection in these matters, and, taking it on the whole, it is a very decided advance on anything that has been submitted to us before. I have great pleasure in supporting the Committee's report.

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The Speaker: I should like to make it quite clear that this table is taken out from the centre and put at the end. Those desks are advanced so as to give more room to members, and it is proposed to seat only three at the long tables, instead of four, and a new table is proposed to be put at the end of the House facing the Speaker. That will give ample room to hon. members who are very much cramped at present.

Mr Hutchinson: May I ask if the general public will have more room?

The Speaker: They will have the same as at present.

Mr Goldsmith: It is quite possible to improve the public accommodation so as to give them more room.

Mr Hutchinson: The Press will be out of that.

Mr Goldsmith: Yes, you will have that space, at any rate.

Col. Moore: I have not considered the question of the Tynwald Court at all. I do not think that the cost would be very great, but I think all these things should be put out to tender.

The Speaker: That will be done. This is merely an estimate—a rough estimate.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: We understand that the work is to be done by tender.

The Speaker: Certainly.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: I do not know that it will be in our control. It will be placed in the hands of the supervisor of Government property.

The Speaker: There is now a Buildings Committee.

Mr Goldsmith: They will have charge of this work.

The Speaker: At any rate it will be by tender. As to the precise form in which it is to be overlooked I am not in a position to say, but the hon. member can easily move that the matter should be put in the hands of the Building Committee. There is a permanent Committee appointed to supervise the vote for the public buildings.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: Yes, but you know how unsatisfactory that has been. They have

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no right to insist on matters being put out to tender.

Mr Maitland: In the case of the gaol, we insisted upon it—the connecting of the gaol building with the main sewers. I believe they saved 3s 4d on the estimate. (Laughter.)

Mr W. M. Kerruish: We could not tell what it would cost if it had not been put to a builder's estimate. It might have cost £100 more. I thought it was understood there was to be no discussion in Tynwald.

The Speaker: The management of the vote will be, I think, a distinct matter.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: I understand the execution of this work is to be entrusted to the Buildings Committee.

Mr Maitland: I think the Clerk of the Rolls said at the last Tynwald Court that it was to be put out to tender.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: There is this confusion. The agenda for the last Tynwald Court shows that a Committee was to be appointed to carry out this particular work. The agenda read, "That the said report be adopted"—that is the report as to the alteration of the Record Office and this building—"and that a sum of £3,890 be applied from the Isle of Man Accumulated Fund of this Isle to defray the cost, and that a Committee of this Court be appointed to carry out such works." So this won't be left to the Standing Committee: they will have nothing to do with carrying out this work. That will be a special Committee to be appointed in Tynwald to-day.

The Speaker: The hon. member can easily move an amendment in Tynwald to refer it to the Standing Committee, if he prefers that.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: I do not prefer it, but it will strengthen our position if we add the words "that the work be done by tender."

Mr Hutchinson: If you refer to the last line—"and that a Committee of this Court be appointed to carry out this work"—that shows that the Committee who report was not also to carry out the work.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: I thought I had made that quite clear. It is what I have been talking about the last five minutes. (Laughter.)

Mr Maitland: Will it suit the hon. member if we say at the foot of our report that the work be done by tender?

Mr W. M. Kerruish: That would be satisfactory.

The Speaker: The Committee adopt that suggestion.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: I am not taking any responsibility for this. We cannot all go into a question of this kind, and we leave it to a committee. But I shall vote against it. I think the work unnecessary so far as the alterations to this House are concerned. I shall say nothing more than that.

The Speaker: As a matter of fact, the whole vote, including the Rolls Office, will be submitted for tender.

Mr Maitland: I am very sorry the hon. member for South Douglas will not see his way to fall in with what would otherwise be the unanimous vote of the House. That the work will be done by tender I have not the slightest doubt. The Clerk of the Rolls, who is chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings, said so at the last Tynwald Court, and other members of the Committee, including myself, agreed. One thing has not been mentioned—that is, that the accommodation for the Speaker will be very much improved. We all know that his room is very dark and stuffy, not at all a pleasant place for him to sit in, and the new room will be one worthy of the Speaker, with a front light from Buck's-road, and will be a very much better place to sit in than he has at present. I hope the hon. member for South Douglas will see his way to come in and let us be unanimous.

The motion for the adoption of the report with the addition of the words "by tender" was put, and Mr W. M. Kerruish called for a division. For the motion: Messrs W. H. Kitto, J. D. Clucas, J. R. Kerruish, D. Maitland, Hutchinson, Costain, Goldsmith, R. Clucas, Col. Moore, and the Speaker—10. Against: Messrs Quayle, Connan, Corlett, Radcliffe, Qualtrough, and W. M. Kerruish—6.

The motion being carried, the House adjourned to the Tynwald Court.

HOUSE OF KEYS.

Douglas, Monday, July 27, 1908.

The House continued its sitting after the Tynwald Court.

The Speaker: What is the wish of the House as to adjournment? Will the hon. member for Ayre state what his wish is with regard to the Lord's Rent Bill?

THE NEW STANDING ORDERS.

Mr J. D. Clucas: I am agreeable to adjourn to whatever date we meet to have a conference with the Council on the Standing Orders.

The Speaker: There is a little difficulty about the conference which was promised to-day. The Clerk of the Rolls had some engagement this morning, and he is away. His Excellency intends to communicate with him and try to secure his attendance. It is important he should be there, as he is Chairman of that Committee, and knows more about it than any other member of the Council. If the hon. member does not intend to press his Bill, there is practically no other business before the House.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: I understand the Factories Bill is coming back from the Council. I move the House adjourn to half-past two.

QUESTION OF ADJOURNMENT.

Mr J. R. Kerruish: I move the House be adjourned to such time as we may have a conference.

Col. Moore seconded.

The Speaker: That will be sine die.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: I hope we will not adjourn the House sine die. That leaves us entirely in the hands of his Excellency whether we are called back or not. We can always keep our House alive by adjourning from day to day.

Mr Cormode: We cannot keep this House alive much longer.

Mr J. D. Clucas: If ever we wanted to avoid

The New Standing Orders.—Question of Adjournment.

adjourning sine die it is now, when we are so near dissolution.

Mr Radcliffe: We ought to meet this afternoon and discuss the Lord's Rent Bill, which is on the agenda.

The House divided on the motion to adjourn, sine die. For: Messrs J. R. Kerruish, R. Kerruish, Hutchinson, A. Qualtrough, Cormode, and Col. Moore; 6. Against: Messrs Kitto, Cannan, Corlett, Radcliffe, J. D. Lucas, Maitland, Kinnish, Costain, Kermode, Goldsmith, W. M. Kerruish, and the Speaker, 12.

THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS BILL.

The Speaker: I want to ask the House if it wishes the Factories Bill re-considered. I think the hon. member for South Douglas will explain the position.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: The position is this: Our Bill has gone to the Council, and the Council has seen—so I am informed—that we are practically agreed on the part dealing with factories. I understand they are prepared to deal with that and send it back to us with some amendments. I think that course will be acceptable to the majority of the House. Under that arrangement the whole of the contentious matter would be eliminated and what we all agreed upon will become law.

The Speaker: The Council will not consider it unless they receive a deputation from this House stating that the House wishes them to do so.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: Then I beg to move that. I do so because we have already all agreed upon it. There is no discussion on that part of the Bill and there is no outside opposition. I think that that is the discreet course to adopt in view of the attitude of the Council.

Mr Radcliffe seconded the motion.

Mr Cormode: I support it—but not for the reasons the hon. member has given. We have to remember that the majority of this House has adopted the whole Bill. It is only a question whether we accept the factories part or reject the whole. I think it is worth accepting and I support the motion.

The motion was carried, and the following Committee was appointed to wait on the

The Factories and Shops Bill.

Council: Messrs Qualtrough, Maitland, W. M. Kerruish, Goldsmith, and Col. Moore.

The House adjourned to 2-45 p.m.

The House re-assembled at three o'clock. Present: Messrs Maitland, Hutchinson, Cannan, Corlett, R. Kerruish, W. Quayle, J. R. Kerruish, Co-tain, Qualtrough, Radcliffe, Kin-nish, Goldsmith, W. M. Kerruish, J. D. Clucas, and Col. Moore. On the motion of Mr Goldsmith, Mr Maitland took the chair.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Mr Hutchinson moved for a return of the attendance of members of the House during its term. He said: Several attempts have been made to bring this motion forward, and I hope that now it will be decided. I think it is necessary that the country should know how their members attend to their business. I wish to take exception to some of the remarks made by the hon. member for South Douglas, Mr Kerruish, at the last sitting of this House. I notice in the paper—"Which paper?"—the "Isle of Man Examiner," he said, referring to my motion, it was a nasty knock to a member who was not there. I think he refers to the hon. member for Ramsey. I wish to say to the House that I have no personal feeling whatever in bringing this forward, especially to the hon. member for Ramsey, who is not to blame for his non-attendance at this House. If anybody is to blame, it is his constituents. He was perfectly straightforward in telling his constituents, when they elected him, that he could not attend the duties of this House, and it is well known he has not done so because he has been unable. I wish to emphasise that there is nothing personal to any of the members of this House. I believe I may say they are all personal friends of my own, and, although it is very probable I may not come back to this House, I shall leave it with feelings of regret. I wish you to take this matter up and pass it unanimously—that the returns be for the whole life of the House from 1903. If anybody wishes that the divisions be given as well I have no objection, but do have some mercy on our Secretary, who, I take this opportunity of saying, is underpaid—(laughter)—especially this last year with his onerous duties in preparing that celebrated petition. I should like to ask here if there has been any answer to it. (Laughter and cries of "Order.")

Attendance of Members.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: Can this be in order on a question for a return of attendances?

Mr Hutchinson: You don't know what I am going to say.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: Yes, you can only say one thing.

Mr Hutchinson: Very well. I will defer it. No doubt I shall have an opportunity again.

Mr Quayle seconded the motion.

Mr Goldsmith: I would like to move as an amendment that it include the divisions. What is the use of a return of attendances unless we get a return of divisions? It is far more interesting to the constituents to know how members vote on a subject than how often they have attended this House. But it would be a very great toil for the secretary to go through all the divisions that have taken place on the various questions. The mere matter of attendance is not worth consideration at all; it is a matter for the constituent; I do not consider that the members have a right to be brought to book by this House at all.

The Acting-Speaker: Will the hon. member allow that to be added? How many divisions they take part in?

Mr Hutchinson: I have no objection to that; but you should raise the secretary's salary. (Laughter.)

Col. Moore: Any of the public who are interested can learn how members voted by reading the official report in the newspaper.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: I move that in another column be given the number of attendances a member could make—the possible gross number; otherwise it would be grossly unfair if the hon. member for Michael, who came to the House quite recently, were made to compare with the hon. member for Middle, who is not in that position.

The Acting-Speaker: Then there is Capt. Kitto, who was absent something like five months by leave.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: We will vote it out altogether.

Mr Hutchinson: Oh, you are afraid, are you?

The motion was agreed to.

Mr Hutchinson: I suppose the returns will be published?

The Acting-Speaker: They will be handed to the House by the Secretary.

Mr Hutchinson: After the next general election?

The Secretary: They will be circulated in the ordinary way.

THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS BILL.

The deputation to the Council reported to the House shortly before four o'clock.

Mr A. W. Moore resumed the chair.

Mr Goldsmith: We have gone through the Bill with the Council, and they have made all the necessary alterations so as to make this Bill apply only to factories.

The Bill was gone over clause by clause, and the various amendments were approved.

STANDING ORDERS.

The Speaker intimated that the Council were not prepared to receive a deputation from the Keys on the Standing Orders that afternoon.

USEFUL PRESENTATION.

The Speaker: I have received a letter from Mr Ketley—"You may remember that I spoke to you about offering the House of Keys the Journals of the House of Commons. Will you accept them on behalf of the House? They are too large and cumbersome for me, but they may be interesting to some of your members who take an interest in Parliament during and since James I." This is a very handsome offer; it consists of the proceedings of Parliament for something like 300 years. I ask that some member move it be accepted with thanks.

Mr Maitland: I move it with very great pleasure.

Mr Goldsmith seconded.

Mr Hutchinson: Have we any place we can put it?

The Speaker: That is an important point, no doubt; we will have to arrange that.

Motion carried.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

The Speaker: I hear there is a prospect of

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an early Court to sign Bills that have been passed, and, in any case, there is almost certain to be a meeting of the House of Keys in October, to deal with an amended Education Act. Hon. members will have heard the remarks of the Clerk of the Rolls in Tynwald the other day, and it is probable a short Bill will be ready by that time, so I hope the House will adjourn to a fixed date.

Mr W. M. Kerruish moved that the House adjourn to 6th October, and Mr Kinnish seconded.

Mr Radcliffe moved that the House proceed with the next business on the agenda. He did not see why they should not proceed with the Lord's Rent Bill.

The Speaker: If the hon. member for Ayre does not wish the House to proceed it would be a very unusual and undesirable step to take.

Mr W. M. Kerruish: It is futile to endeavour to force the hon. member to go on with the Bill. We all know how long he can talk. It will be no difficulty for him to talk for hours, and if he fails to take up the time, one or two might be able to do it for him.

Mr J. D. Clucas: I do not entirely agree as to my talking capabilities; still I might be able to do something in that line. But, as you pointed out, it is hardly a businesslike proceeding to ask for the third reading of a Bill like this in which such a body as the Commissioners of Woods and Forests are concerned, and submit that Bill to a House of 16 members, when we know that it requires 13 to carry it. It is hardly treating the matter with courtesy or giving it that consideration which it deserves.

The amendment to proceed was negatived, and the motion for adjournment to 6th October was carried.

The House adjourned to October 6.