

Filename: 43152307

Synopsis: Argument put for creation of Colony-wide coloured rainfall map to inform the Legislative Council when creating relevant legislation

Summary: Argument put for creation of Colony-wide coloured rainfall map to inform the Legislative Council when creating relevant legislation the alteration of the land laws, the construction of railways; the declaration of new hundreds; the sinking of wells in different parts of the colony, providing for new jetties and various improvements

THE PARLIAMENT.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. Wednesday. September 22.

The President took the Chair at 2 o'clock. RAINFALL MAP. The Hon. R. C. BAKER moved— "That a map be prepared by Mr. Todd, and mounted in this Council Chamber, showing in different colours the average rainfall in the different districts of this colony, as follows:— 1. Over 20 in. per annum. 2. Under 20 in. and over 15 in. per annum. 3. Under 15 in. and over 10 in. per annum. 4. Under 10 in. and over 8 in. per annum. 5. Under 8 in. and over 7 in. per annum. 6. Under 7 in. and over 6 in. per annum. 7. Under 6 in. and over 5 in. per annum. 8. Under 5 in. per annum." He said he did not anticipate that the Government would oppose the motion, as he was simply asking for information, and he therefore would not take up the time of the Council to any great extent. They had an immense tract of country in South Australia to legislate upon, and country with various climates and various degrees of rainfall, and therefore he thought no map could be of such importance to the Council in guiding them in their discussions as the map he suggested. There were one or two matters which he would mention in which such a map would be of great benefit to the members of the Council. Such a map would help members in discussing any alteration of the land laws, dealing as they must with land removed from the seaboard, and having a scanty rainfall; the construction of railways in various parts of the colony; the declaration of new hundreds. because they could not be declared before a map of them was laid before the House: the sinking of wells in different parts of the colony, far from the seaboard; and the Loan Bills providing for new jetties and various improvements. He was perfectly aware that no accurate map could be prepared, because there were not rainfall stations throughout the colony. Hon. members would see that Mr. Todd had prepared a similar scale map, giving in part the information he required. The rainfall, however, was indicated by the size of a black spot, and did not give so much information as if it was coloured in different districts. The Surveyor-General would give important help in such a matter as this, and he thought he was correct in saying that the cost would not exceed £20 or £30. He might be wrong in fixing eight districts, but Mr. Todd could use his own discretion in the matter, and he (Mr. Baker) would not bind him down to eight, as Mr. Todd must have more knowledge of the subject than he had. All he wished was that information might be given of those parts of the colony in which the rainfall was very great, and those in which it was very small, and that as much information might be given as possible. He hoped the motion would be carried.

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(general discussion and suggested inclusion of railways)

<clip>The motion was carried as amended.<clip>