

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST 1875**

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## ERRATA.

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Page 1082, column 2, eighteenth line from top—*substitute "£4" for "24s."* On line thirty-two of the same column—*insert "one hundred and sixty" in lieu of "fifteen."*

Page 1096, column 2, twentieth line—*for "cost," read "course."*

Page 1259, column 1, thirty-eighth line—*read "were" for "was."*

payments to and claims by members of Parliament.

Mr. IVORY wished to ask the honorable Colonial Treasurer if the part return just furnished had occupied all the time since he had moved for it to be prepared; because, if so, it was a very small modicum indeed of what was required. He should like some information on the subject, because he began to think that there was no intention on the part of the Government to furnish the return at all. It was a most extraordinary thing that the Auditor-General, to whom the preparation of the return had been intrusted, should have been so long over it.

The SPEAKER: I may remind the honorable member that there is no question before the House.

Mr. IVORY said he should conclude his remarks with a motion. After waiting for so many months, the few sheets before him were the result, and he thought the mountain had brought forth a most ridiculous mouse indeed. He would move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. J. SCOTT thought the return was a very small result, after the months which had elapsed since it was first asked for. He should like to ask the honorable the Colonial Treasurer whether there was any prospect of the other part being furnished, or if he could give any reason why it had not been furnished—were they likely to have the remainder during the present session?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he was given to understand that there was a prospect of the remainder of the return being laid on the table shortly. He might mention, that the matter, up to the end of last year, had been prepared, but it was so manifestly incorrect, that it had to be referred back to the Auditor-General for correction.

Mr. IVORY should like to know upon whose shoulders the fault of the non-preparation of the return really laid. It appeared to him that the honorable Colonial Treasurer, who, in that House, had the responsibility of furnishing the return, was anxious to shift it on to the shoulders of the Auditor-General; but he thought the responsibility rested with the honorable member himself, and that he could not go to that House and attempt to put it on others. No doubt, the honorable member knew where the delay had occurred, and it was due to the House that he should inform them why, after nine or ten weeks, all that was done was to present them with a paltry piece of paper.

The question was put and negatived.

#### THE ORPHANAGES.

Mr. DOUGLAS said it would be in the recollection of many honorable members, that when the vote for the orphan schools was brought on in Committee of Supply, it was understood that it would be better to take any discussion upon it when the motion

#### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, 19 August, 1875.*

Returns. — The Orphanages. — Financial Separation. — Expenditure in South-western District.

#### RETURNS.

The COLONIAL TREASURER laid on the table a part return to an order made by the House, on the motion of the honorable member for the Burnett, on 20th May, relative to

on the paper in his name was called on; that motion was now before the House, and he would move it as follows:—

That, in the opinion of this House, it is not desirable to perpetuate the present system adopted in the Brisbane Orphanages for the maintenance and education of orphan children; and that provision should be made for the purpose of constructing permanent buildings on land vested either in the Government, or dedicated by specific trust to persons acting under Executive instructions.

At an earlier period of the present session, on the 16th June last—he had moved:—

“That an Address be presented to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid on the table of this House, copies of all correspondence in reference to the establishment of Orphanages, whether in Brisbane or Rockhampton, with a view to show how they are managed, whether by committees or otherwise, who is responsible for their management, under what Act they are administered, and on what principle the grants in aid of their support are made; specifying in each case to what extent they are supported by public funds, or by the proceeds of private benefaction.”

In reply to that address, and after he had seen the honorable Colonial Secretary on the subject, it appeared that there was no important correspondence that had passed in reference to that matter, and the return was simply limited to one letter, which had been previously placed on Parliamentary record on the 13th September, 1867. There had been some correspondence, but not of an important character, merely having reference to the Roman Catholic Orphan School, and, so far as he was concerned, he thought that the facts which he sought to establish, and the discussion which he wished to take place, might very well be taken without those documents. It appeared that no important correspondence had taken place, and no material change had disclosed itself in those schools since the date to which he referred, namely, 1867. Now, he wished very briefly to ask the attention of the House to two circumstances in connection with those schools, and to trace their position from their commencement to the present time. He found, that in the year 1866, at a time when there was a great deal of sickness in Brisbane, and the hospital where the children had been previously kept was overcrowded, an offer was made by a committee of ladies to undertake the charge of the children for the hospital committee, and subsequently for the Government, on terms which were set out in a report of the hospital for the year 1866. In that report, also, the circumstances were stated how it came to pass that a certain portion of the children who had up to a certain time been under the management of the ladies' committee to which he had referred, were transferred to the care and custody of the nuns in the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage. A letter was addressed to the then Colonial

Secretary by Bishop Quinn, which he would read to the House, to show how it was that the children had been divided, as it were, and that two schools had been established. The letter was as follows:—

“SIR,—I beg to inform you that we are willing to accept the charge of the Roman Catholic orphans on the conditions which you stated at the interview with which you honored me on the 15th instant, viz.:—1st. That we provide such temporary buildings as may be required for the immediate accommodation of the orphans and of those having care of them. 2nd. That the Government pay for the keeping of the children the same amount per head to the Roman Catholic Orphanage as it pays to the general orphanage. Our orphanage shall be always open to the inspection of the officer appointed by the Government for that purpose.”

Following that letter, there was a Minute of the Executive Council, on the 29th October, 1867, under which the Roman Catholic children in the Diamantina Orphanage were transferred to the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage:—

“The Council advise that Dr. Quinn be informed that the Government accept his proposal, and will deliver over to his care the Roman Catholic children in the Orphan School, upon the terms named, which are those originally proposed to him by the Colonial Secretary.”

He had, since the commencement of the system, been made acquainted with a great many of the circumstances connected with the Diamantina Orphanage—in fact, he had been personally connected with the first committee of management, and was, therefore, conversant with all the facts respecting that institution, which was situated in a not very grand-looking building, on what were known as the Green Hills. He believed that, on the whole, that institution had been managed quite to the satisfaction of the Government, and that the children who had passed through it had, in most cases, ultimately been admirably disposed of, chiefly in families where they were likely to be well looked after. As to the other school, which was now at Nudgee, some distance from Brisbane, he believed it had been well managed—as well as most institutions were under the same management: he had never had an opportunity of seeing it, or of knowing the details of its management, but he knew that public report spoke well of its internal economy. He did not approve of the principle by which the children had been separated, nor did he think that that method of maintaining what were practically denominational schools should be perpetuated. He could not say that the Diamantina School was denominational, as it was founded on non-sectarian principles, and had remained as such—children of all creeds having been admitted to it, and access to it always having been afforded to the relatives of the children, or to any religious persons interested in their welfare: that was the system he should like to see adopted and

maintained in the colony. The denominational principle, on which children intended to be Roman Catholics were apportioned to the heads of that denomination, was not a principle conducive to the welfare of the children themselves. He thought that children who had become, as it were, the children of the State, were entitled to their support, and to the best education the State could afford; and that when once they had come into that position, either by the death or neglect of their parents, the responsibility of the State should not be transferred or delegated to any, except those directly responsible to the State. He therefore, whilst not in any way wishing to impugn the Nudgee Orphanage, would take occasion to say, that he did not think that circumstances justified its existence, or that it was a system which it was desirable to perpetuate. Those children were kept in an institution which was private property; and although, no doubt, persons wishing to resort to it would be allowed to do so, still the fact that it belonged to persons not responsible to the Government, rendered it difficult for persons to visit it for the purpose of questioning the management of it. Now, that he did not think was a desirable state of things, although he should not like to be understood as saying anything which could be construed as inferring that the management of it was not what it ought to be. He did not know that fact, nor did he think that the Government had substantial means of knowing it either, although, as he had said before, so far as he had been informed, the children at that institution were well cared for. Apart from the question of denominationalism, he thought it was desirable that they should arrive at some intelligible principle upon which those schools should be managed. There was an Act in existence for endowing the Government with the requisite means of dealing with those children, namely the Reformatories and Industrial Schools Act of 1865. That was an excellent Act, he believed, and had been very carefully drafted; and if honorable members would refer to it, they would see that it contained many capital provisions; but it was practically inoperative, and had never been acted upon except in the cases of the few children who had been sent to the Reformatory School. He believed that, except for those children, it had hardly been used at all, and he thought that that should not have been the case when it was applicable to the children in the orphanages. The votes for the orphanages had hitherto been under the responsibility of the Colonial Secretary, and had been administered on the same principle as other votes for benevolent purposes—that was, so far as the responsibility was concerned; but he was not aware of any regulations having been published, or that any specific instructions had ever been issued, for the guidance of the officers authorised to administer the manage-

ment of those institutions, except that occasional reports were furnished concerning them; which reports, he apprehended, must have been satisfactory to the Government for the time being. The perpetuation of the present system could not, he thought, be considered desirable; and he thought it would be well if the honorable Premier would devote a portion of his time during the recess to the consideration of a better plan, with the view of putting it in a more definite shape. He objected to the denominational principle which found its field in the Nudgee Orphanage, and he firmly believed it was one which should not be perpetuated. He held that, for that and other reasons, it was not desirable to give any further development to those schools, and that it would be better to have a system by which the children could be distributed in families, where they would learn more. The tendency of such institutions was to increase; there were at present 200 children in the one and 150 or so in the other; and those numbers might increase, and, as far as past experience showed, they would increase. That was not a thing to be wished for, as all the evidence and experience which could be adduced went to show, that increase in size by no means increased their efficiency. Further, he thought that inquiry proved that the children would be far better if distributed among families, in which they could live, and where they would receive instruction calculated to make them useful members of society. The tendency of large conventional institutions was to dwarf children; they had a bad effect upon them, by depriving them of the influence of family life, and causing them to degenerate into mere machines; and there was ample evidence to show that a far better plan was to place them in respectable families, of their own rank in life, where they would receive that instruction which would make them better men and women. He would quote a few authorities on the subject, which might be found useful. In a report of a Commission appointed in Victoria, a few years ago, it was stated:—

“Children placed with respectable families in their own rank of life, where they are cared for as if they were members of the household, lost that feeling of homelessness, isolation, and pauperism which is inseparable from the routine and constraint of pauper schools. Their intelligence is stimulated by fresh objects and interests of their new life; their natural affections are called into healthy play; the sense of individual responsibility is quickened, and thus the foundations are laid of sound mental education and moral character.”

He believed the practice of boarding out children was first adopted in Belgium and Holland. He wished to refer to a very remarkable instance, given by a very illustrious author, on the system in Scotland—namely, Sir John McNeal, who was the head

of the Scotch Poor Law Department. That gentleman reported, in the year 1862:—

"The practice of boarding out pauper children is liable to be misunderstood, and may be supposed to be identical with what has been called farming out. It is, therefore, right to explain it. The system of boarding out pauper orphans and deserted children, as well as the children of immoral or greatly dissipated parents, from whom it is desirable to separate them, or of parents who utterly neglect their children, and allow them to go about the street begging, has for a considerable number of years been adopted in most of the large urban parishes in Scotland, and its beneficial results have led to its being gradually extended. The children are boarded out singly, or two or three together, with persons of the working classes residing in healthy localities, and selected by an officer of the Parochial Board, who is specially charged with the duty of superintending these children and visiting them periodically, or whenever there may be a particular reason for doing so. The cost of the board and lodging and of the clothes exceeds what it would be if they were collected together in the poor-house, or other such establishment; but the results, both physical and moral, have made the additional outlay an ultimate gain, not only to the children, but to the parish.

"The health of the children is greatly improved; they become more robust and active; natural attachment generally grows up between them and the nurse or family with whom they reside; their domestic feelings are awakened and quickened; they see the struggle maintained by all around them to preserve their independence, and they learn how highly it is prized: in short, they acquire to a great extent the habits and the feelings of the persons amongst whom they are brought up, and for the most part they melt with the mass of the population, with a somewhat similar love of independence and readiness to work for it, and with little disposition or tendency to revert to pauperism. On the other hand, children brought up in a poor-house, and knowing hardly any other mode of life than pauperism, are apt to revert to it, and to regard the poor-house as their natural home."

The reference made by Sir John McNeal to the additional expense was not borne out by fact, as the latest experience showed that the cost was not more than the cost of the conventional establishments, as the expense of the buildings was saved. He believed, himself, that there was an actual saving. In 1869, Mr. Daniel Kemp, the Governor of the Edinburgh Union, wrote:—

"We have no separate building here for the children who are inmates, nor is there such to my knowledge in any workhouse in Scotland. All attempts to separate children in the larger workhouses have been given up long ago. We, and all the larger parishes in Scotland, board out children with cottagers—a plan which long experience has tested, and which we find to work well. We very seldom indeed have any of our children brought back to the workhouse, or falling into pauper habits. The orphan and the outcast are especially saved from these results. We have, at this moment, 330 boys and girls bound out in the country."

Another authority, Mr. Kemp, who went from Wrexham Union to inspect the Edinburgh Union, in 1869, and to see the system, stated, that at first he looked upon it with no favor, but, on inspecting it, and seeing the children in their homes and schools,—

"A strong conviction forced itself upon my mind that the plan of boarding out children with the cottagers around the country, was the best mode of rearing orphan children I had yet seen, and to this hour I have not changed my opinion."

Referring to Ireland, he would quote a few words from the report of Mr. D'Esterre Parker, a guardian of the Cork Union:—

"I have had an experience of ten years in the boarding-out of the orphan and deserted children of the district in the cottages of the well-conducted laborers. The children are periodically examined by the guardians, educated at the national schools adjoining their residence, with the advantage, in case of illness, of having our dispensing medical officer, who resides in the locality, to visit them. The result of rearing children in the families of the peasantry, instead of the workhouse, is shown in the healthy humanising appearance of the children, their love for their foster-parents, and, in many instances, their adoption by them; so that ultimately, the children—being now permitted by the recent Act of Parliament to remain out until ten years of age—will become members of the family, and, in all probability, not return to the workhouse. A similar plan is also adopted by the several orphan Protestant societies with singular success."

He would read a few words from the report of Mr. Charles Harford, of Manchester, who stated that they had contrived to get their children placed among the *élite* of the working classes—in all cases forming part of the family:—

"We have ten ladies who have undertaken to look after the children; and we attach great value to this part of the plan—to its providing for any child sent out, besides foster-parents, a friend in a higher station, able and willing to advise and help when they have gone into service. Hitherto, we have had no difficulty about the allowance—3s. is a pretty fair weekly allowance for food in a cottage home, and *we don't wish anything* to be made out of the children, except that they should be useful in the house, just as their own would have been. We believe that the earlier the tie is formed the stronger it will be."

There was evidence, also, of the working of the system in Massachusetts, America, where Mr. Samborn, Secretary of the Board of Charities, stated:—

"The true policy of the State to pursue is to board these (pauper) children from the earliest years in private families, paying, where necessary, a small sum for their maintenance. This is the course which nature and common sense recommend for the care of such children, instead of the unnatural aggregation of them in large establishments. The home and the family are the best nursery for children; and a poor home is almost always better than a good almshouse."

Those were, he thought, authorities of some weight. The subject had also attracted the

attention of the Poor Law Commissioners in England, and in 1870-71, in consequence of the reports furnished to them, they authorised an attempt of the system throughout England; and he found that, although a small proportion, some thousands of children were being supported in that way. In Glasgow, some 5,000 children were boarded-out from the union in the way described, and, speaking about them, the inspector said:—

“As a whole, the boarded-out children were cleanly, creditable, and healthy in appearance, and their clothing was even better than that of others in the school with them.”

In Ireland, also, there had been, although not generally adopted, a considerable amount of experience in connection with that method of dealing with children, and it was stated that in about forty years, the Dublin Protestant Orphan Society had boarded out 5,376 children. A similar Roman Catholic society had, within seven years of its commencement, 500 children taken in charge—

“Of whom only three or four had turned out ill, while 200 were already working for themselves at trades, in service, or growing up in families with the sons and daughters of their foster-parents.”

Dr. Quinn, of Bathurst, the brother of Bishop Quinn, of Brisbane, in reference to the subject, had lately given his testimony to the valuable nature of the system, considering that it was more calculated to promote the intellect of children than bringing them together:—

“He believed that these large establishments destroyed individuality of character; it would be better even if they got less education.”

The prominence given to the subject had attracted attention lately in the colony of South Australia, and in Victoria; and in the former colony, Miss Clark, the secretary of the committee of ladies, who had given their attention to boarding-out children, stated that she believed any number could be boarded-out at 5s. a-week, and very often for nothing at all, and that two-fifths of the children in the orphanage there, had been boarded-out and no objections made; but there were not sufficient foster-parents; whereas, if they were left in the country, they were not so trim, but really heathen. Those were authorities which he thought would bear him out in saying that the matter was one which was worth examination, and he believed it would be far better that they should adopt a similar system. Before sitting down, he would quote from one of the reports of the Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory schools in Victoria for the year 1874:—

“The number of children in each school was much reduced by the boarding-out system commenced in the month of April, which led to six hundred of the children being successfully placed out with foster-parents before the year had ended.”

Of course, he was quite aware that there were objections, one of those which had been urged being the difficulty of obtaining proper persons to take charge of the children. That difficulty had been experienced elsewhere, and had been overcome; and, of course, it could be overcome in this colony, if persons would only devote time and trouble to the matter. The Inspector of Reformatory Schools went on to say:—

“To the ladies of Victoria, the Government is much indebted for the willing assistance rendered in finding suitable homes for so many children. As the result for the request of co-operation in this work, fifty-four committees were in a short time formed in various parts of the colony; and by all these ladies' committees, as soon as a few difficulties had been got rid of, willing and painstaking assistance has been afforded.”

The inspector said further on:—

“I am glad to be able to report so successful an initiation of the boarding-out arrangements, and trust that permanent homes may thus be provided for many of the children. I am not sure that the results in the cases of all will be satisfactory. I am afraid that some of the people who have taken the children will be found to have done so from purely mercenary motives; but as the number now eligible for boarding-out is much reduced, more time will be available in future for making a judicious selection of foster-parents. The regulation allowing no more than two children to be sent to each home—except in the case of families—will, I am sure, operate most beneficially for the children, and will ensure for such as are sent out under these limitations, better prospects of suitable homes. I am of opinion that only the very young children, say under eight years of age, should be sent to foster-parents, except under special circumstances, as they will most readily come under control, and become accustomed to the habits of the families into which they may be introduced. The elder children, especially the boys, as experience has already shown, are difficult to manage; and some of those, eight or nine years of age, have been returned as uncontrollable. The boarding-out system has many difficulties to contend with; parents of good character, but rendered poor by misfortune only, object to their children being sent away from the school; others apply for their children as soon as they learn that they are boarded or licensed out.”

Now, that was an important consideration. There were many people who wished their children to go to the orphan schools, where they would be educated, and it was desirable to reduce that to a minimum. The boarding-out system had been tried in this colony, only very young children being sent out; but it had frequently happened that, when parents found that the Government were going to place some of the older children out, they had resumed the care of them, thus showing that they had been only anxious to have the children taken care of for a time and educated. That abuse should be checked, and caution was necessary to prevent the Government being imposed upon by persons who were willing to have their children brought up and

educated at the expense of the colony until they were old enough to be of use to them; it would be better if a person was authorised by the Government to look after such cases. In fact, he considered that the public charities of the colony required more closely looking after than had been the case hitherto; not only did he refer to the schools, but to the hospitals and other public institutions, which would be all the better if there was some officer appointed over them who would be responsible to the Colonial Secretary for their good management. He had had some conversation with the honorable Colonial Secretary on the subject, and he thought the honorable gentleman agreed with him that such an appointment was desirable. He thought that if some such officer was appointed, he should not have charge of the prisons, as he considered that they were quite distinct, and should be kept distinct. He would take that opportunity of expressing an opinion of dissatisfaction with the reformatory on the hulk "Proserpine," and although it was but a commencement, he thought it was a bad system. If they had a reformatory school, let it be an agricultural school in the country—let the children be taught a country life, and not be confined on board a hulk. He would quote from a Victorian journal to show honorable members that what he proposed was practicable, and that a system of reformatory schools of a purely agricultural character had been generally adopted in the United States, and that the results so far had been uniformly and eminently successful:—

"Thus the reformatory school at Plainfield, Indiana, was opened on 1st January, 1868, from which time until 1st September, 1870, a period of thirty-two months—235 boys had been admitted. It is situated on a farm of 225 acres, and the leading industries pursued are agriculture and gardening. The boys are at school one-half of each day, and employed at their special industries the other half. No boy has even attempted to escape from the institution, and none have ever been whipped. The Ohio Reform Farm School, established by the State Legislature in 1856, stands on a farm of 1,170 acres, chiefly unimproved, and is without any enclosing walls. It contains at present about 350 boys, who are, for the most part, employed in the field, nursery, garden, orchard, and vineyard. Already about 300 acres have been cleared by their labor alone. They also make their own clothing, and boots and shoes, as well as perform all the necessary labors of the kitchen, bakery, dining hall, and laundry. They attend school one-half of each day. The success of the system, after thirteen years' trial, has been satisfactorily shown in the hopeful reformation of an overwhelming proportion of the boys that have passed through it."

He had been told that the boys in the "Proserpine" were inclined to escape, but he did not think it would be the case if they were in the country; if they got a man who understood any boy's nature, that boy was not likely to run away; if he did run away,

he was liable to be caught and returned. Then, again, there was a school in South Shropshire, which was situated at Quatt, near Bridgenorth, and which—

"owes its origin to Mr. Wolrysh Whitmore, who, in 1836, induced his fellow-guardians to open an industrial, or labor, school for the children of Bridgenorth Union. It was established on his own estate, and remained until his death the object of his constant interest and care. It began on a small scale, with about forty children of both sexes. The boys cultivated the land and managed the farm stock. Those were, in 1837, represented by a quarter of an acre and two pigs, but have gradually increased to twelve acres, a horse, four cows, and many pigs, the profits from which, for the half-year ending March, 1867, amounted to £27 7s. 2d., and for the corresponding period ending March, 1866, when swine were more valuable, to £43 4s. 4d. The rougher house-work is performed by the boys, while the girls do the rest, and wash, sew, and knit for all."

There was an instance of how reformatory and industrial schools were managed on a small scale in a country district, and as he believed that the same thing might be done in this colony, he was desirous of impressing it upon the honorable the Colonial Secretary. He had had some experience as an inspector of the Diamantina Orphanage, and, therefore, he considered he had a right to speak on the subject. He believed it was not desirable to extend those schools; if they were to continue the present system, it would be far better to have half-a-dozen small schools distributed over the colony than two large schools; they would be better managed, and the children would have a greater feeling of domesticity. He wished to say a few words about the Rockhampton Orphanage, which had been well managed, and which was entirely unsectarian. It had been managed on the same plan as that on which the Diamantina Orphanage was started—that was, admitting children of all creeds. Although the number of children was small—not more, he believed, than forty or fifty—all persons spoke well of it. That, no doubt, was partly owing to the fact that a few ladies and gentlemen had always devoted a certain amount of time and attention to it. That such assistance was very valuable there could be no doubt, as it tended to secure the interest of the public, which was of the greatest importance to the children themselves. He had never seen that orphanage, but he had frequently heard that it was conducted in a most admirable manner, and that was what he should desire to see. They might look for an increase in those schools, and if so, let them be like that at Rockhampton—thoroughly undenominational. It was a subject in which he took great interest, and he thought it was one which demanded inquiry on the part of the Government; and it was with that view that he trusted his resolution would be allowed to pass. It was true it did not bind the Gov-



ernment to do more than inquire whether it would not be advisable to substitute something for the present system. One thing he wished to point out, namely, that the present buildings of the Diamantina Orphanage were in a tumble-down condition until lately, when they had been repaired, but only in a temporary way. He thought provision must be made for erecting a permanent structure, something which would be a credit to the colony. He believed that plans had been prepared, and were now in the possession of the Government, and that a vote of that House was to be asked for to build a permanent structure; for, even supposing the boarding-out system he recommended was adopted, it would be necessary to have some building as the centre of operations. There ought to be a more central building, and one that would compare more favorably with the police barracks, railway station, and other public buildings. The present structure, as compared with them, was shameful, whilst an orphan asylum was of quite as much, if not greater, importance. It was not creditable that visitors should see how much had been spent upon other buildings, and how little on the orphanage. He sincerely hoped the subject would receive the attention of the Government during the recess. He had no desire to raise any acrimonious discussion about the children in the Nudgee school. As he had already said, he disapproved of the system of separating the children; but, so far as the management of the children in that school was concerned, no objection could be taken, as he believed that it had been, on the whole, as good as could be expected; and he would take that opportunity of saying that the conventional establishments of the Roman Catholics compared most favorably with those of the Protestants. He disapproved of the denominational system in reference to those schools, as the children were the children of the State, and the State ought not to delegate its responsibility to other persons, whatever claims might be put forward; for their education was in the custody of the State—they claimed its protection, and it was responsible. He hoped the honorable member at the head of the Government would give the whole subject his consideration.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that he agreed with the honorable member in a great many of his remarks in regard to the orphanages; but he might state that the honorable gentleman had been hardly correct as regarded the separation he had referred to. It was not to be supposed, in a young colony like Queensland, that they would be perfectly correct, and perfectly in order, as regarded all their public institutions; but he must say, that so far as the information in his hands went, both orphanages under discussion had been well managed. He was in office when the separation of the children, referred to by the honorable member, was made, and it was brought about by a com-

mittee of ladies who undertook the management of the orphanage. Since that separation, he had heard no complaints respecting the way in which the children were brought up, either morally or physically; and the honorable gentleman had himself preferred no charge beyond objecting to the system as inconsistent with what had already been done in regard to educational matters. That, however, was a matter which could be better discussed when they came to consider the matter of erecting new buildings—whether they would have to consist of the two orphanages or only one. He might mention, in connection with that subject, that in the neighboring colonies, even while the children of Protestants and Roman Catholics were in the same building, they had distinct quarters, and distinct teachers, and it was only in the ordinary routine of the establishment that they associated together. Whether that could be done here remained to be considered; he understood, however, that beyond the separation, the honorable member had no complaint to make. The one great object of the motion of the honorable gentleman, as he understood it, seemed to be in favor of the boarding-out system being confined to children below eight years of age, and he believed that it was only to children under that age that any thing of the sort, especially as regarded boys, could be carried out. There was no doubt that the boarding-out system in Victoria had proved to be very expensive, as, on referring to the last report on the subject which had been made in that colony, he found that the boarding of very young children cost ten shillings a-week. Now, that would add very much to the cost of bringing up those children; at the same time, he did not say that the system was not worthy of a trial, although it could only be carried out to a limited extent, as this colony was in a different position from older colonies, which could afford to spend a much larger amount in such matters. The honorable member had drawn no distinction between the cases of girls and boys; but he (the Colonial Secretary) held that there was a great distinction, and he might refer to an article in the *Westminster Review* on that very subject, where the system was strongly recommended for young girls, and strong reasons given for it; for instance—

“A young girl attains the age of sixteen, and is fit for service. The matron of the workhouse—a really kind-hearted person, we will assume, and really desirous to do her best for the friendless girls under her care—has an application for a servant. The girl is recommended, and goes to her place. It is a wholly new life to her; she is willing enough, but hopelessly awkward; she has to dust the little parlor, which, although a very humble affair, no doubt, in a house where a girl from the Union is the only servant, is, in her eyes, a little paradise; she is not accustomed to the handling of fancy crockery, and breaks some favorite ornament; she disgraces her mistress by her *gaucheries* before company; in fact, ‘she won’t do at all,’ and loses her place. Now, what

is the poor girl to do? With such a character as her mistress would give her, what chance has she of getting another situation? She has no friends, no home, but that weary workhouse, again, from which she was just rejoicing at having got free. Now comes the fatal influence of the companionship to which she has been accustomed. She does not go back to the workhouse, because she has found a way of maintaining herself.

"And yet, if, by chance, there should be any one who cares to inquire about her, the mistress of the Union would say, conscientiously enough, that she was in service, and doing well. This must be borne in mind, in estimating the value of a Poor Law inspector's testimony on this point:—When a girl arrives at the age of sixteen, and leaves the workhouse, the Poor Law washes its hands of her; she is free to go where she pleases, and do what she likes. Having been placed out in service, and nothing being known to the contrary, she is considered to be 'doing well'—an euphemistic expression, which, in official language, means that she does not come upon the rates again. The fact may be, that she does not return to the workhouse simply because she has found a profitable mode of life in the streets of that wide world, which Mrs. Wawley—not meaning it unkindly—says is her 'natural home.' That this is true of a very large proportion of the returns which look so well upon paper, we are assured by Miss Cobbe, who tells us, that out of a single workhouse in London, inquiry was instituted concerning eighty girls who had left it and gone to service, and it was found that every one of them was on the streets."

There was, no doubt, a great deal of truth in that; and he believed, by separating the girls, and placing them in private families, as suggested by the honorable member, a great deal of good might be done. At present, it would be impossible to carry that out to any great extent, but it would be very useful. The same article stated:—

"We must admit, however, that we do not entirely agree with this view as regards the boys. We believe that the benefits derived from superior industrial training far outweigh any disadvantage of this kind; but we are writing chiefly of girls, and with them the case is different. Woman's place is in her own home; and, if we would but believe it, more of our social welfare depends upon what women make their homes than is commonly supposed. How many drunkards have been made by slatternly wives and untidy homes? It would lead us, however, too far astray to go into this. Let the common proverb, 'Man is what woman makes him,' suffice to show the extent of its application."

He quite concurred in those observations. He thought it might be a great success in the case of girls; and probably in the case of boys, especially young boys, it might also be tried to a limited extent: but he did not think they could make it general, and it certainly would add very considerably to the expense of the orphanages. At the same time, he considered it a question of so important a character, both as regarded the moral and physical training of the young, that it was well worthy of consideration by a com-

mission; and that was the course which, if left in his hands, he should propose to take. There was another subject which, he thought, might be taken into consideration in connection with this, and that was the case of inebriates. In Victoria they had an institution for drunkards; and he did not see why, when they were inquiring into matters of this kind, they should not also endeavor to ascertain whether they could not make provision to alleviate and keep down that frightful state of wretchedness to which drunkards attained. And while he did not see that there was really any necessity for the honorable gentleman pressing his motion to a division—and he trusted he would withdraw it—he could assure him that the matter would not be forgotten by the Government; and he (the Colonial Secretary) would be most happy to assist in placing the public institutions of the colony in as good and as independent a position as possible. The honorable gentleman had referred to the question of an inspector; and he (the Colonial Secretary) had for a long time been of opinion that it would be well to have an inspector—a man who had been accustomed to the working of institutions of this kind, and who took a deep vital interest in them. He believed such a man would do a great deal to promote the comfort and happiness of these young people; but of course, in this colony, they had been hitherto obliged to do the best they could in the management of those institutions. They had had to get an officer of one of the public departments to keep the accounts, and to give the best advice he could; but he thought the institutions were now becoming of so much importance that it was absolutely necessary that a man who was known to take a deep interest in such establishments should fill the office, and that he should receive a suitable salary to devote the whole of his time and attention to visiting the institutions, and regulating their management. After these observations, he hoped the honorable member would not press his motion, and he could promise that the matter would not be forgotten.

Mr. MACROSSAN said he had listened to the speech of the honorable member for Maryborough with great interest, and he had been expecting that he would advance some arguments in support of the motion he had placed on the paper; but the whole gist of his speech, from beginning to end, was quite the reverse of his motion. Every argument he had adduced went to prove the excellence of the boarding-out system; whereas the effect of his motion was to bring all the orphan children into one great building. He did not know whether the honorable member was aware of his inconsistency, but such was the fact, and it must be apparent to every member of the House. No one would attempt to dispute the excellence of the boarding-out system, because it had been proved; but it was applicable only to old settled countries.

Would the boarding-out system, which was established in the old countries of Europe, suit the circumstances of a colony like Queensland, where the people were unsettled—where they were here to-day and away to-morrow? He should think not, and the argument of the honorable the Colonial Secretary, he thought, completely debarred them from entering into the system. That honorable gentleman said the expense would be very great, and he (Mr. Macrossan) said it would be very great also. The expense at the present moment of one of the orphanages was tenpence per head per day, and he was extremely sorry to hear the honorable gentleman say he knew nothing at all about that orphanage. He thought it was rather a lamentable confession to make, because it was competent to that honorable member or any honorable member to inspect it. He was sure the people who managed it would be glad that he should do so; they were always glad to see strangers, because they were fully confident that the more it was inspected the more the institution would be approved of. He was under the impression—he might be mistaken—not only from this motion of the honorable member, but from many other things that had transpired in the House this session, that his object was not clearly shown in the motion. He believed his object had something in it with regard to the religion of these children. He seemed to be possessed of a certain amount of that proselytising spirit which distinguished one or two members of the British House of Commons—men who were continually raking up some grievance in connection with the Roman Catholic Church. He should be very sorry if such were the case; but he was almost constrained, from the honorable member's action and arguments in the House, to put that conclusion to this motion. He had made an assertion that it was not good for the children themselves—that it was not conducive to their welfare to be brought up in the orphanage, alluding especially to the Nudgee orphanage. Now, he (Mr. Macrossan) denied that, and he was sure, if the honorable gentleman were to go down to that orphanage, he would say quite the reverse. He would see children well trained—indeed strangers said they were too well trained—to habits of industry, order, and obedience; he would see the boys taught the practice of agricultural pursuits, and girls taught in the practice of domestic duties. And that was done by people who were not actuated by any mercenary motives, but who had devoted themselves to the service of God and their species. He thought if the honorable member would find some other grievance than this, he would probably deserve the thanks of the House; but he thought there could be no possible grievance with regard to the way in which the orphanage at Nudgee was managed, and he had no doubt that, with the exception of the buildings, the Diamantina Orphanage would

compare as favorably. The honorable gentleman admitted that he had no information on the subject, and he (Mr. Macrossan) should give him a little now from the report published by the Government inspector. There was a regular inspection at one time, and he could not understand how it was these inspections had been allowed to drop off. He knew there had been certain ideas afloat that the reports were too much of one kind—that they were much too favorable to suit the views of some people who were opposed to the institution. The latest reports he had been able to find were those of Mr. Manning in 1870 and 1871, and he believed those were the last reports, although the orphanage had been since visited by Mr. McDonnell. He should read portions of the reports for the information of the House. After mentioning about the children having been taken down to Nudgee, Mr. Manning said:—

“As was the case with the original institution, the numbers at St. Vincent's Orphanage quickly increased. The danger of overcrowding was partially obviated, by sending all the very young children to Nudgee, a healthy locality in view of Moreton Bay, between Brisbane and Sandgate, and where the Bishop was possessed of a considerable tract of land. Still, it became evident that the house in Fortitude Valley was unsuitable as to size and position; it was, consequently, abandoned, and the entire establishment removed to Nudgee in the latter part of the year 1867, and there it has since been maintained.

“The site has its advantages, though its distance from town makes it somewhat inconvenient. It is healthy—a great desideratum where large numbers of children are together day and night. The approach, to about half-a-mile from Nudgee, is decidedly bad and dreary, through low-lying swampy country, almost inaccessible in wet weather; but this last half-mile gives a considerable elevation, and the site of the Orphanage itself is bright and commanding. The buildings are placed upon the edge of a very steep bank of fully 30 feet elevation, abutting upon a flat extending to the shores of the Bay, a good mile distant. A tidal creek runs up this flat, and thoroughly drains it, in an ordinary season. The timber—chiefly tea-tree—has been cut down for a considerable distance in front of the Orphanage; this has afforded the boys great amusement and healthful employment; but I am assured it was never permitted to interfere with the routine of instruction. (A share of such employment would be beneficial in the sister Orphanage, put up under the hills in Brisbane.)

“Here, also, the buildings have been erected at different times, to meet the increasing demand for accommodation. They are substantial—all of hardwood, and erected at no additional cost to the Government, the tenpence per day for each child and servant being the only assistance received.”

There appeared to be an impression that the Government had put up the buildings at Nudgee, but he could assure the House that not a single penny of Government money had been spent upon any building at that place; and he should prove, before he sat down, the amount of money that had been expended in

buildings, irrespective of the value of the site and the cost of clearing. He should not trouble the House by reading so much, but he felt that he ought to do so, because the honorable member said he knew nothing about the subject.

MR. DOUGLAS: I said I knew nothing personally; except what I had heard.

MR. MACROSSAN: He was giving the honorable member the information now:—

"The dormitories are sufficiently large and well ventilated, cool in summer, but, I should imagine, somewhat chilly in winter, from their size, the absence of any ceiling, and their elevation upon blocks. This does not appear to have produced any ill effects, for the children are in the rudest health and hearty spirits. All the arrangements about the dormitories are excellent, an air of comfort and neatness pervading the whole.

"The school-room is large enough for present purposes, and amply supplied with all requisites for practical instruction. Two Sisters of Mercy, assisted by two lay sisters—all continuously resident on the spot—superintend the classes and the Orphanage generally, having under them a sufficient staff of servants and nurses.

"The course of instruction is similar to that adopted in the Diamantina Orphanage; but the several subjects are, perhaps, more practically illustrated. The classes certainly suffer no discredit by comparison with those of the senior institution, showing quite as fully how great has been the care bestowed upon the training, and how successful the effort to bring into good form the exceedingly rough material taken in hand. With very few exceptions, the children, when admitted into the Orphanage, are found to be in utter ignorance of the existence of a God, and of the ordinary principles of morality. Familiarised with vice in every shape, neglected in person, of a constitution enfeebled by privation and hardship, and often of a morose disposition from frequent ill-usage, they present but little upon which to work. Such, however, appear to be specially sought after by the good Sisters of All-Hallows' Convent; and, as I have before remarked, their success has been wonderful."

That report went to much greater length, but he would not trouble the House by reading anything further from it, but he should read the report of the following year, which he had been told was the latest on the subject:—

"The admissions to this Orphanage during 1871 exceeded those of the preceding year. This was, in some measure, occasioned by the replacement upon the books of children who, by reason of their over-age, had been struck off, and maintained at private cost at the St. Anne's School, but who, upon the alteration of the rule as to the age for discharge, were permitted again to appear upon the Orphanage list. Some of these children are under distinct supervision in the St. Anne's Industrial School in Brisbane, where they are taught needlework of every description, without undue interference with ordinary education; others—both boys and girls—have remained at the Orphanage, where they are trained to become useful domestics—the girls being employed in household work, and the boys in light out-door work and labor—without, in either case, being

deprived of the opportunities of instruction. The object held in view by the alteration of the rule referred to appears likely to be realised; and the small additional charge upon the revenue will result in great public benefit.

"Notwithstanding the increase in the number of the children, the St. Vincent Orphanage is not over-crowded; and when a building, now in course of erection, is completed, this institution will be able to accommodate as many as, probably more than, the sister institution in Brisbane.

"The buildings are in excellent condition, and the internal arrangements are all that could be desired. Cleanliness and order are strictly enforced. It is hardly necessary to say that the care bestowed upon the training of the children is as remarkable as formerly represented. The institution has well maintained its character for benevolence and usefulness."

Now, he could not conceive that a much better report than that could be penned; and neither could he conceive how it was the Government had allowed these reports to be discontinued. He thought that system of inspection should have been maintained, so that the House and country might be correctly informed of the state of that orphanage as well as the other—in fact, of all the orphanages and hospitals. There was another subject to which he wished to refer, to disabuse the minds of honorable members who thought the orphanage at Nudgee cost the public anything more than the simple diet of the children—ten-pence per head per day, which he believed included the cost of supervision as well. He had a list of the expenditure invested in buildings there, and the sources from which that expenditure had been derived. First, there were voluntary contributions, including collections in churches, jubilee alms, and sundry other donations, £496 3s. 3d.; amounts advanced by the Sisters of Mercy to the institution, £2,461 16s. 5d.; various receipts from Nudgee lands, £1,166 11s. 5d.—this, he had been told, was from the sale of cattle which were grazed upon the lands around Nudgee—receipts from children not on the Government list, £161 9s. 9d.; making a total of £4,286 0s. 10d., which was irrespective of whatever the value of the site might have been when it was taken up and given for the purposes of the institution, and also whatever expenditure had been incurred in clearing the ground. That had been entirely invested in the buildings; and he could say, there was scarcely a single sixpence earned by the teachers which was not invested in that institution. And he was surprised that the honorable gentleman should say, the children educated under these Sisters were not brought up in a way conducive to their welfare.

MR. DOUGLAS: I did not say that.

MR. MACROSSAN: If the honorable gentleman took so much interest in orphans, how was it he had not visited that institution as well as the Diamantina Orphanage? Was it because the Roman Catholics there were beyond the pale of his inspection? He should hope not. He should think, if he were actu-

ated by motives of charity and benevolence, his action, in matters of this kind, should extend beyond those who were immediately connected with him in religion. The boys were brought up to habits of labor, and they were taught regularly besides, receiving ordinary education—in fact, almost an extraordinary education; because he had been down there more than once, and had witnessed the education both boys and girls received; and he was certain there were very few schools in the colony—not even the best schools in the colony—could compare with the education they received. But besides that, they were trained to habits of labor; a large extent of ground was set apart in which the boys worked, and learned how to use agricultural implements; and he thought there could be no better training for boys in their position. The girls were trained to become useful domestics, and the wives and mothers of future generations. He hoped the House would not agree with the motion, more especially as the whole of the honorable gentleman's argument had been in favor of the boarding-out system. If that system were good, surely he would admit that the parents or friends of children would send them to people who were of the same denomination as themselves, so that it would be still denominational, and the children must be brought up in the religion of their parents, if at all. But if he brought them all into one large establishment, now that they had adopted a secular system of education, how was he going to pay teachers to teach them any religion whatever? According to the system of education they were adopting, religious instruction was not to be given in schools; and was an exception to be made in favor of the school the honorable gentleman wished to establish? Was that the only school in which religious instruction was to be given? He (Mr. Macrossan) said, if religious instruction was good for one it was good for all. He did not think it would be carrying out the principle established here, if they had one large establishment for children, to be brought up under one system. He was sure every honorable member believed in children being taught religion, and they could not be taught it by State teachers, according to the Bill they were passing through the House, but must receive it in some other way. He hoped the suggestion of the honorable the Colonial Secretary would be taken, and that the House would not adopt the motion. As to the appointment of a commission, he thought, in all reasonableness, they had had quite enough of commissions, and he did not believe the honorable the Colonial Secretary could imagine, for a single moment, that any good could come out of a commission. If he would put in force the system of inspection which had existed, he (Mr. Macrossan) thought it would be very desirable, because he thought nothing better could happen to any institution, private or public, than to

know it was under the eyes of the public, and subject to periodical visits of inspection.

Mr. Groom believed the management of the existing orphanages had always been of an excellent character; and the honorable member, to his mind, had not made out a case for any interference with them. From the style and character of the motion, he had expected to hear some deplorable revelations with respect to the management of these institutions, but he had heard nothing at all from the honorable member to justify the House in interfering in the matter. He quite agreed with the honorable member for Kennedy, that it was to be regretted the system of inspection, previously adopted, had been withdrawn. He had long been of the opinion that it would be a positive saving to the colony were an inspector of public charities appointed; and if honorable members looked at the amount voted every year in connection with public charities, of the disposal of which they knew nothing whatever, they would see the necessity for some supervision. During the discussion on the education vote, honorable members were very anxious to know how the money was disposed of, and he would just point out the amount they were expending in charities at that moment. For hospitals alone, they had voted this session £21,700; for the Benevolent Asylum, Dunwich, £2,875; for the two orphan schools, £6,800; for the Lunatic Asylum, £11,169; for lunatic reception houses in seven places, £2,220—making a total of £44,764. Now, what information was supplied to the House with regard to the management of all these institutions? Not the least in life. There was an annual report from the Lunatic Asylum, Woogaroo, but beyond that they had no information whatever to show how the money was disposed of. He considered it would be a great saving and a positive boon to know how these various institutions were being managed. Some complaints in connection with these orphan schools had been brought under his notice, and a case occurred last week, which was an illustration of the system of obtaining admission sometimes practised. A document came to his office on Saturday morning from a gentleman in Brisbane for signature; it was a form of application for admission partially filled up, on behalf of a person who wished to send two children to one of the orphan schools, and the reason assigned was, that although both parents were alive, the father had deserted the wife two years ago. He made some inquiries into the case before he sent an answer, and he found the father was living on a station on the Darling Downs, earning £60 or £70 a-year wages, and yet application was made to get the children into an orphanage. Now, if there were an inspector appointed, cases of that kind would not occur, and such subterfuges would not be resorted to to get children into orphanages. With reference to the motion, he felt inclined to move the pre-

vious question, because, although it might be a fair one for discussion, still, looking at the crude way in which it was worded, he had expected to hear some justification for it, but he had heard nothing. The honorable gentleman had spoken about the children being brought into one building, and about the boarding-out system; but in what way could they be boarded out? Were Roman Catholic children to be sent to Catholic families, and Protestants to Protestant families?—or in what way was it to be carried out? He thought the present system was much better than that suggested by the honorable member; and as he had some knowledge of the institutions for a considerable period, from official documents, and from personal observation, he was not disposed to disturb the existing state of affairs; he thought they worked very satisfactorily indeed. There might be isolated cases of improper admission; but as far as the actual internal management was concerned, he thought they would compare favorably with any institutions of the kind in the other colonies, and it would be very undesirable to interfere. He hoped the honorable gentleman would accede to the suggestion of the honorable the Colonial Secretary, and withdraw the motion. With respect to the appointment of another commission, he hoped the Government would do nothing of the kind. He looked upon commissions as a perfect waste of time and money, for he presumed, if a commission were appointed, it would be a paid one. It would be another job, and would result in no practical good whatever. They had had quite enough of commissions. The commission on education cost the country about £1,200, and it had been of no value whatever to the colony, or to the House. He ventured to say that not a dozen persons had read the report, or the evidence attached to it, and it was of no use whatever. He thought it would be much better if the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government set himself to work to find a gentleman suitable for the office of inspector of public charities, who would supply the House and the country with reliable information as to how the funds were disposed of, and how the institutions were managed. He had heard great complaints about some of the institutions. He had had a letter sent to him, which he had taken the trouble to show to the honorable the Speaker, and which he was actually afraid to bring into the House. He had been requested to read it to the House, but the charges were of so grave a nature, and as he himself did not know the whole circumstances of the case, he did not do so. It was highly desirable that the public should know whether there were any grounds for such statements, because at present no information was given respecting them, and statements of that kind tended very much to injure the institution to which they referred. He agreed with the honorable the Colonial Secretary that the

boarding-out system was entirely impracticable in a colony like this, although it worked well in older countries; and he thought it would be much better to have the present system than to adopt the suggestion of the honorable member. If the motion were not withdrawn, he should consider it his duty to vote against it.

Mr. PALMER said he had no intention of going at any length into the motion of the honorable member for Maryborough. He thought it almost a pity a motion of that sort should have been put on the paper, because it would lead to nothing, even if carried. He thought it was a mistake, in the first place, to separate the two orphanages; but that having been done, and as they had been carried on separately for years, it would be a great pity to make any change. He added his testimony as to the excellent manner in which the orphanage at Nudgee was conducted. He did not think children could be better attended to than they were there. He had not been there lately, but much better judges than he was—ladies of his acquaintance, who were much better judges of the management of children—had assured him that nothing could be better than the way in which they were managed; and he might mention one circumstance which was sufficient to show that there could be no doubt on that point. During the late attack of measles, they had, he thought, seventy children down at one time, and, with the exception of the two who carried the disease away with them from Brisbane, they did not lose a child. He thought no system of baby-farming or child-farming could compare with that, and that there was no necessity for any change just now. It was exceedingly desirable that better buildings should be provided for the children of the Diamantina Orphanage, and, if the honorable the Colonial Secretary would put on the Supplementary Estimates for this year a sufficient sum to build a proper orphan school in a proper locality, he should be glad to support it. The present buildings were very badly situated, both in regard to drainage and aspect, and in every way; they were temporary wooden buildings, and he had often trembled at the thought of a fire breaking out in them. There was a necessity for a permanent building, and, so far as that portion of the motion went, he would support it; and such a building should be out of town, in a more healthy locality, and he would urge upon the honorable the Colonial Secretary to promise he would attend to the matter. It was not too late this session, and he believed, if a sum were proposed to provide suitable orphanage buildings, it would be carried without a dissentient voice. The Diamantina Orphanage gave him a great deal of trouble when he was in office, and had it not been for the great care—the almost paternal care of Mr. McDonnell—he did not know what that orphanage would have done. The country owed more to that gentleman,

in connection with that institution, than many were aware of. It had been thrown almost entirely on his shoulders; he (Mr. Palmer) did not know how it was conducted now; but when he was in office, Mr. McDonnell had the sole charge almost, assisted by himself in backing him up in his undertakings, and he did not know that it could have been managed better. He did not know whether the same matron was there yet.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: Yes.

MR. PALMER: Well, she was an excellent matron; he could say that for her. He knew that some ladies in Brisbane did, some years ago, give a good deal of attention to that orphanage; but during his term of office, there was no assistance of that kind given. A few visited occasionally, but there was no regular supervision; the whole work was thrown on Mr. McDonnell, and he did it—and did it well. With respect to the remarks of the honorable member for Toowoomba about an inspector of public charities, he did not know what the arrangement was now; but during the whole time he was in office, there was an inspector of charities. Mr. Manning, the late Under Colonial Secretary—who was a pensioner of the Government—always wished to have work in his hands, and he was inspector of charitable institutions; and he visited these schools regularly, and furnished annual reports, which had been published.

MR. GROOM: The latest is for 1872.

MR. PALMER: He went out of office in 1873, and he was not accountable for that. He knew Mr. Manning devoted a great deal of time to these orphan schools, and furnished reports, and they had been published; but what arrangements had been made since he left office, and since Mr. Manning's illness and departure from the colony, he did not know. He thought it desirable that some gentleman should be inspector of charitable institutions, and that the House should have annual reports on the subject.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he might explain that, during the last year, Mr. Manning had been ill, and had not made inspections regularly, and during that time he (the Colonial Secretary) had not seen any report. When that gentleman left, the Government appointed an inspector of charities, and he thought his reports had been laid upon the table of the House. If they had not, he would get them.

MR. PALMER: Who is the inspector?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Dr. Challinor.

MR. MACROSSAN said, after the regular inspections ceased to be made at Nudgee, Mr. McDonnell made tours of inspection down there; he went down almost every month.

MR. DOUGLAS said he had hoped the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government might have said something in reply to what had fallen from the honorable member

for Port Curtis, with reference to supplying proper buildings, which really was the principal motive he had in tabling the motion. If he did so, it would influence him very much in the course he should take in reference to the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY was understood to say, that the site for a new orphanage had not been decidedly fixed. The buildings of the Diamantina Orphanage had lately been repaired, and, he believed, were now in very fair order. If it were the wish of the House to pass a sum this session for new buildings, he had not the least objection to put the amount on the Supplementary Estimates.

MR. MACDONALD said he had paid some attention to these orphanages, and he did not think there was any immediate necessity for the erection of permanent buildings. The present accommodation seemed to be ample; the buildings were not overcrowded; and if the Government would make some slight alteration, by introducing an Act to give power to apprentice children at the age of ten years, the institution would be relieved to a considerable extent. There were a good many applicants who were willing to take children at ten years of age, but he understood the present law prevented them from being apprenticed at that age. In this country, children, at any rate in the bush, began to make themselves useful at ten; and, in his opinion, they might be allowed to be apprenticed at that age, subject to certain conditions: say that their employers should be compelled to allow them to attend school for about sixty days in each half-year. He thought that would be much better than leaving them in school, where they were calculated to lose individuality. He considered the present building sufficient for the next year or two, and he should be sorry to see any unnecessary expense incurred.

MR. DOUGLAS said he should be very well satisfied with the result of the debate, if it should turn out that the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government was willing, as he seemed to be, to place a sum on the Supplementary Estimates for new orphanage buildings, for the House to express an opinion upon; and he was thankful to the honorable gentleman at the head of the Opposition benches for advising that course. On that understanding, he should be glad to withdraw the motion. In doing so, he might say, he thought he might have been spared the infliction of the imputations which he had been subjected to by the remarks of the honorable member for Kennedy. He had not said one word in detraction of the management of the Nudgee Orphanage; and he had distinctly stated that he did not wish to import any feeling of acrimony into the discussion. He said, personally he knew nothing—as personally he did not—of the Nudgee Orphanage. He had never visited it—he had never received an invitation to do so; and without that, he did not feel inclined to go, and that was one of

the very objections he had to institutions supported by the public funds—not being accessible except by invitation, general or specific. That was his feeling with regard to it, and he had not the slightest feeling against the very kind ladies who, he had no doubt, managed the institution in a highly creditable manner. But that did not prevent him from holding the opinion he did as to the principles upon which these institutions should be managed. He said it was not desirable that they should have separate denominational establishments supported by the State, and apparently at present without any sufficient inspection or control. That was his opinion, and he should endeavor to give effect to that opinion, if occasion arose, as he hoped it would. He was satisfied with the discussion of the matter now; he had directed the attention of the House to the fact that these schools had been started upon a certain principle, and that that principle had not been maintained. He had referred to the school at Rockhampton, and he did so now as the kind of school he should like to see adopted here. It had been admirably conducted, and he should prefer small schools to a large conventional establishment, because he believed they would be more effective. In regard to the criticism on the resolution, and the observations of the honorable member for Kennedy, to the effect that his previous remarks did not support it, he was sorry if the honorable member thought they did not; and he thought he had framed the resolution in a very mild form. He did not propose to do anything violent, or to do away with the present system; but he thought they should arrive at some termination of it, and he hoped they would. Of course, that could not be done suddenly; but he hoped a termination would be put to it—just as they had arrived at a determination with regard to the non-vested system, so he hoped they would arrive at a termination of this form of denominationalism. It was another form of State aid to religion, which they had made up their minds should not exist. He asked leave to say that this resolution, in the mild form in which it was framed, was justified by the facts of the case. He should now refer to the evidence taken before the Education Commission, and he took leave to hold a different opinion as to the estimate the honorable member for Toowoomba had formed of the result of the labors of that Commission. He believed that it had been appreciated by many; that many had read the documents connected with the report of the Commission with great interest and a good deal of information. He should here refer to the fact, that the matron of the Diamantina Orphanage was examined by the Commission; and he was sorry they did not push the inquiry a good deal further. He thought they would have been justified in doing so, but several members of the Commission thought otherwise. The evidence of the

matron, Mrs. Pears, would be found at page 121, and in question 2556, she was asked:—

“Was any difficulty experienced which led to the change? I do not think so; I never heard of any.”

“2557. Did you ever experience any difficulty from the fact that Protestant and Roman Catholic children were brought up and educated together? No; I cannot say that I did. The Sisters had permission to visit twice or three times a-week before the children were removed, and their visits used to be between four and five o'clock; that was a short time before the children were removed; the Sisters had a room set apart for them. We had also a Roman Catholic school-master at that time, but he left when the Roman Catholic children were taken away.”

That was the period of the change to which he had referred. He had said nothing against the Nudgee Orphanage. It might be admirably conducted, but he took leave to express his opinion that there had been an unfortunate change made, and the sooner they reverted to the old system on which the school was started, the better. After what had been said, and after the intimation on the part of the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government, he begged leave to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution withdrawn accordingly.

#### FINANCIAL SEPARATION.

Mr. MACROSSAN said, in moving the motion standing in his name, he did not intend to detain the House long on the subject, which he thought every member of the House would admit was a very important one. But still, it was a dry subject, and the resolution being simply an abstract one, he did not think it necessary to have a long discussion upon it. The question was one which had taken up a good deal of the time of the House on former occasions, and it had caused considerable dissatisfaction in the northern portion of the colony. Even as far back as 1867 or 1868 the question was commenced to be agitated in the North; and in 1867, if he were not mistaken, the then Colonial Treasurer made some kind of a promise to keep the accounts of the northern part of the colony separate from the other portions of it; but it had never been done. In 1868, the late member for Bowen, who was then the member for Kennedy, tried hard to introduce some system of keeping the accounts separate, and also to get the opinion of the House upon the question of financial separation, but he failed to a certain extent. The honorable member for Port Curtis also brought in a Financial Separation Bill during the time he was in office, and, he thought, failed to carry it through the House. These attempts, he believed, went to show that the question was of some importance, and that it was one which required the consideration of the House at the present time. He was willing to admit that, although they had great reason to complain in the North of the ex-



penditure of public money, during the last eighteen months a great difference had been made in regard to expenditure in that part of the colony as compared with previous years; but still, they were of opinion that they did not receive their full share of the expenditure in proportion to the revenue derived from them. Owing to the large majority of the population of the North being adult males, the revenue derived from that portion of the colony was larger than in the southern portion, and the expenditure was certainly not in proportion to the revenue. He was safe in assuming, that nearly all the money that had been expended on roads and bridges and works of a purely local character, from revenue, in the North, since 1861, scarcely exceeded £80,000; whereas, in the portion of the colony south of Cape Palmerston, there had been considerably over a million of money spent. He had not been able to arrive at the exact amount, because, in examining public documents, he could not find any two of them to agree, and he had almost given the matter up in despair. He thought it was utterly impossible for any private member who had not access to the different departments to arrive at a proper conclusion as to the expenditure of public money, or the revenue derived from the different districts. However, in roads and bridges, and railway surveys, he believed there had been considerably over a million spent in the South. Now, he knew the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had got a peculiar idea upon financial separation, and he thought he was right in saying that the honorable member for Port Curtis agreed with that honorable gentleman to a certain extent, and that was, that whatever policy of financial separation might be arrived at, Customs revenue must go to the general expenditure. But he took exception to that conclusion, and he believed the whole people of the North took exception to it; and their reason was this:—As he said before, their male population was very much in excess of any other district, and the revenue derived from Customs in the North was much larger than that derived from the same source in any other part of the colony. At the same time, it was generally supposed that the land revenue south of Cape Palmerston was considerably in excess of the land revenue of the North; but such was not the case, at least for 1874. He had not gone into figures for any other year but 1874, and he found the land revenue from the districts north of Cape Palmerston amounted to close upon £2 per head of the population, whilst for the same year, the revenue from land south of that point was £2 4s. 4d. per head—a difference of about 4s. 6d. per head. Then, taking the population of the North at one-tenth of the whole, it would leave 147,000 as the population of the southern portion, and 16,000 the population of the northern portion of the colony; that was allowing that that proportion of population ex-

isted during the whole of 1874 in the different districts. The land revenue from the North was nearly £32,000, which was within a penny of £2 per head, and the revenue from the same source in the South was £326,000; that was, deducting the northern portion from the total, or £2 4s. 4d. per head; whilst the Customs revenue obtained from the North, according to the return that had been laid upon the table, was £88,294. That was £5 10s. 4d. per head of the population in the North, whilst the amount derived from Customs in the southern portion—that was, deducting the £88,000 from the whole—was £397,000, which gave £2 14s. per head of the population—147,000; so that the North was about 4s. 6d. per head short of the sum produced by land revenue in the South; and they were, at the same time, nearly £3 in advance of the South in Customs revenue, and in every other item of revenue they were in advance. In the statement which had been laid upon the table at his request, Light, Pilotage, and Harbor dues were put down at £2,891—about one-fifth of the total revenue of the colony under that head; nearly three-fourths of the gold fields revenue was derived from the North; nearly one-fourth of the electric telegraph revenue, and also nearly one-fourth of the publican's license fees were derived from the North. But besides the £88,000 derived from Customs, there was another sum which could only be arrived at approximately and by calculation, and he had reckoned that about one-fifth of the total consumption of dutiable goods in the North was supplied through the city of Brisbane and Rockhampton; and, allowing that proportion, it would raise the Customs revenue of the North to about £110,000—which would make the total average per head for customs, £6 17s. 10d. Now, under such circumstances as these, he thought it could not be asked that they in the North should submit willingly to allow the Customs revenue to be appropriated entirely for general expenditure, and that the land and other local revenue should be appropriated for local expenditure; because they would then be paying nearly three times as much for general expenditure as the people in the South would be paying. He did not think such a system could be asked consistently by the people of the South. And there had been a large expenditure, and it was still going on, in connection with public works in the South, with which the North had no connection, and in which they had no interest whatever. More than £3,000,000 had been spent in railways, and he believed upwards of £2,000,000 had been spent in interest on the public debt—three-fifths of which debt had been contracted for the purposes of railways; and, he maintained, not one penny of the interest that had been paid upon the debt for the building of railways should fall justly upon the people of the North. He knew the honorable the Colonial

Treasurer, in the return to which he had referred, had put down all the items of expenditure for the year 1874, exclusive of interest on the public debt, ocean mails' subsidy, expenses of the departments, administration of justice, and survey and sale of land; and under the head of revenue, the whole revenue was put down, exclusive of postage and duty stamps, fines, fees, &c. Well, there was a considerable portion of revenue unaccounted for there, and also a considerable portion of expenditure unaccounted for. He had gone into figures, and had made up what he conceived to be the revenue derived during 1874 upon the basis of population; and he had taken the sums derived from postage and duty stamps, fees, fines, and forfeitures, upon the basis of one-tenth, which gave £9,650. He thought it would scarcely be denied that was a fair basis, seeing that every item of revenue from the North, except that of land, was far in excess of the South, so that he was taking barely the proportion according to population. He had put down excise which was not accounted for, at £25,000—two-fifths of which, or £10,000, was contributed by the North; the Customs paid at Brisbane and Rockhampton on goods consumed in the North he had put down on the basis of one-fifth of the total quantity, which gave, £22,000; and the revenue, by the return, was £144,000—making a total revenue of £185,844 from the North. Now, the expenditure, exclusive of the interest on the public debt, ocean mails subsidy, survey and sale of land, was £107,576; and according to the same basis upon which he had estimated the revenue, the expenditure under the schedules, and the departments, and for the administration of justice, and the sale and survey of land, was £10,340; and estimating the ocean mail subsidy on the principle of one-tenth being chargeable against the North, the amount under that head was £1,803, the sum paid last year for the Torres Straits route being £18,000. That made the total expenditure, less interest on the public debt, £119,719. With regard to the interest on the public debt, he maintained the portion payable by the North should be that which had been incurred for general expenditure only, and not for that which had been incurred for local requirements, such as railways. £278,443 had been paid as interest on the public debt, and according to the calculation he had made, the interest on the debt incurred for general expenditure would amount to nearly £112,000; and one-tenth of that gave about £11,000, making the total expenditure for the North, somewhere about £130,000. And at the same time, the revenue was about £185,000, leaving a balance of nearly £55,000 due to the North. Now, if he had made some mistakes in the figures, as he might have done, not having proper access to documents, the large balance he had shown would certainly leave a wide margin for any mistakes. He knew it was a very difficult subject for any person to deal with, and

it was still more difficult for a young member, who had had no experience to guide him in what track, to pursue, in order to find out the different items of expenditure. But he thought he had made out quite sufficient for the House to understand that there was really a sum due to the North, which was expended somewhere or other in the South. In addition to the items he had mentioned, £370,000 had been spent in education, and a very small portion of that had been expended in the North. Up to 1870, there had been only one school in the North, and from that period up to some time last year, there were only three; and last year, four other schools were established. He found in the return, under the head of education, £5,706 was put down to the North; but the money they had subscribed towards the buildings had been actually put down against them as expenditure. There was some £500 or £600 subscribed last year in the North for schools at Ravenswood, Millchester, and Georgetown; and that money was actually portion of the sum charged against them. Under the head of roads and bridges, he found £14,601 put down against them; but the *Government Gazette* for 1874 showed the expenditure to have been £11,226, and departmental expenditure, £1,279—making a total of £12,505, and leaving a balance of over £2,000, which he supposed was put down as a share of the departmental expenditure in Brisbane—

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: No.

MR. MACROSSAN: He could not understand, then, what it was; because the return certainly did not agree with the *Government Gazette*, where the amounts were put down as he had stated, making a total of £12,505. However, he had put down the difference as being the share of the North in the departmental expenditure in Brisbane, and he had treated another amount in the same way. He found, according to the published report of the Board of Education, that the money paid on account of education in the North was £4,497, and in the return it was stated to be £5,706, leaving a balance of £1,309, which he had put down as the share of the North in the departmental expenditure in Brisbane connected with education. He might be mistaken, but that was the manner in which he had tried to account for the discrepancies between the figures. Now, these balances, he maintained, were in their favor, through the large consumption of dutiable goods, arising from the population being composed chiefly of male adults, and it was increasing very much. If they took the Customs revenue for the first half of this year, they would find there was a large increase in the North, and a very large proportionate decrease in the South, and, in fact, in every other district in the colony, except the Wide Bay and Burnett. The increase in that district was £423, while the increase of Customs revenue, during the first half of this year, as compared with the first

half of 1874, in the North, was £11,832; the decrease in the Central division was £4,925; and in the Southern division actually £16,105, presenting the remarkable feature, that while in one-half of the colony, the Customs revenue was increasing, in the other, it was decreasing in a proportionate degree. The total decrease of revenue south of Cape Palmerston during the first half of 1875, as compared with the first half of 1874, was nearly £21,000; whereas the increase in the North was nearly £12,000, showing that whatever grievance they might have in the matter of the distribution of revenue, that grievance was being considerably augmented at the present moment. A return had been circulated amongst members, that day, showing the revenue and expenditure in the district which had been lately opened—Cooktown and the Palmer Gold Field, and honorable members might think from that, that the expenditure was greatly against the North; but they should recollect that last year was the beginning of the opening up of that district—the district was first opened about the end of the previous year, and nearly all the heavy expenses of the Executive had to be incurred during the first part of 1874, and, at the same time, the revenue returns, during that portion of the year, were very small, whereas the return for the half-year just expired showed revenue receipts to, he thought, £23,000. He had been showing that the grievance under which the people in the Cooktown district had been suffering had been increasing very rapidly; and to prove that he was correct, he might mention that, whilst the amount derived from Customs revenue during the first six months of 1874 was only £6,000 odd, the last half-year had shown a return of £23,268—or nearly four times as much. He was quite willing to admit that there had also been a large increased proportion of expenditure; but that was an expenditure which would be lessened in future. He knew that they had had a larger proportion of money spent on local works during the present year and in 1874 than in any other previous years; but that was not what he wished to arrive at. He wanted a principle established—the people in the North wished to be entirely independent of what Ministry was in power; they did not want justice to be meted out to them in accordance with their politics. If the principle which he wanted was established, every part of the colony would have its fair share of expenditure meted out to it independently of its politics, and that, he affirmed, was the only just principle. Supposing the northern part of the colony should unfortunately be separated from the southern portion, they wanted to be placed in as nearly the same position now, as they would be then—which was, that after deducting their share of the general expenditure of the colony, the balance to which they were entitled should go towards the improvement of their district; that, he submitted,

was a principle which was a perfectly fair one. It was impossible for a private member to be in a position to attempt to establish a principle of that kind; of that he was quite aware. It must necessarily come from the Government, although that House might agree as to the basis upon which the Government should act. He believed that all revenue, whether from Customs or land, should be credited to each district, and that, after deducting the amount due by each district towards the general expenditure, the balance should be expended on the localities in which it was raised. It would, however, be unfair to select any one item of revenue as a basis for expenditure; it would be injustice to the North to take Customs, and to the South to take land, so that he maintained they must take every source of revenue, and deduct from that the expense of government. Their contribution per head in the North amounted to £6 17s. 10d., whilst in the South it was only £2 13s. Now, although general expenditure was certainly, at the present time, higher in the North than it was in the South, it was certainly not anything like the amount contributed per head. They also could not, in justice, be expected to pay such a large share of the public debt as they were now paying, inasmuch as a very small proportion of that debt had been expended upon them—the greater portion of it having been spent on railways and the improvement of harbors, which were merely local works. He thought it must be admitted that Queensland stood in a very different position from other colonies. If honorable members looked at Victoria or New South Wales, they would find that they were homogeneous districts, having everything commercial and political transacted through one town; but in Queensland they had several districts, each one of which was independent of the other, and they must make up their minds to look upon those districts not as one whole, as in New South Wales, but as separate—not territorially so, as that, he thought, would be a most unfortunate thing, and his motion had in fact, been tabled with the view of preventing such an occurrence being brought about—it was, in short, a conservative motion. If it was not agreed to, there was no doubt that the other would come; for there was a strong feeling of dissatisfaction in the North, which could only be allayed by having a fair adjustment of accounts between the different parts of the colony; if that was done, there was no doubt that things would go on better. He would have introduced his motion long before that evening, had it not been for the action of the Government. Before the House had met, the honorable Colonial Secretary had, at a meeting of his constituents, at Ipswich, made a long speech, which was usually referred to as the honorable gentleman's manifesto. In that speech the honorable member had himself admitted the first part of the motion before the House—that strong complaints or dissatis-

faction existed in the North. The honorable member said, in fact, that frequent and strong complaints were made in the North, and without stopping to say whether those complaints were well founded or not, he said the Government were of opinion that a measure for financial separation should be introduced which would give to the North a guarantee that it would have its fair share of expenditure. That was all he (Mr. Macrossan) was at present asking for—simply a guarantee of a fair share of expenditure, and the North had never asked for anything else. That declaration, coming from the Premier of the colony, had prevented any honorable member from taking action, as he and others felt confident that, after it, some action was sure to be taken by the Government during the present session. First of all, the absence of the late honorable member for Bowen had prevented any action on the part of private members; and afterwards, they heard that the Government had a measure prepared for local government. He, and others, had examined that measure, and had found that not in any one respect would it meet the wishes of the people of the North, or that in any way would it give a guarantee of what was required. He was sorry that he had been obliged to bring forward his motion towards the end of the session, but if it was carried, he trusted the Government would see fit to introduce some measure at the beginning of the next session. He had said nothing about the large sums which the late honorable member for Bowen had had printed last year, and which that gentleman had stated to be correct; but he would leave them in abeyance until the public accounts were made up. He thought, however, it would not be out of place to bear in mind that, although the public credit of the colony was pledged, if separation took place on the next day, the North could not be debited with anything beyond its fair share of the interest on the general debt which had been incurred for works in the South. If the finances of the colony were unsound, then every district should be called upon to pay up; but otherwise, the North should be released from paying a debt which they never contracted, and which was not for their benefit. He was sure that no honorable member of that House would consider that it was right to compel the North to pay anything of the kind, because works of a purely local nature tended to improve only the district in which they were carried out; it was never considered in any country that the people of one district should pay for the improvement of property in another district. He must correct an error he had made in speaking of the balance remaining to the North last year, which he had since found to be £54,000 odd instead of £60,000; still, it was a very large sum to be abstracted from one portion of the colony to be expended on the other. If he had made any mistake in his

figures, which he had most probably done, it must be remembered how very difficult it was for any one out of the Treasury to get at all the figures; there was, however, a very large margin left in that £54,000. He hoped the Government would see fit to accept the motion, seeing that it was made in a spirit of conciliation and for the benefit of the whole colony. He had no desire to hear the cry for territorial separation go on; he knew that there was a strong party in favor of it, and he was sure that the best means of allaying that feeling, and to prevent that party from getting ahead, would be to adopt the motion as he had moved it that night. He would reserve whatever other remarks he might have to make, for he had no doubt he would have to reply to the honorable Colonial Treasurer; and he would now move:—

That a large amount of dissatisfaction prevails as to the inequitable distribution of the revenue in the northern parts of the colony, and in order to prevent a demand for territorial separation arising therefrom, it is, in the opinion of this House, the duty of the Government to introduce a measure dealing with financial separation without delay.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that in the few remarks he should have to address to the House, he should endeavor to follow the moderate tone which had been adopted by the honorable member for the Kennedy in bringing forward his motion, because he considered that a purely abstract question of that sort should be discussed in as friendly a manner as possible. He must, in the first place, object to the manner in which the motion had been worded, as it assumed the whole question at issue, that there had been an inadequate distribution of expenditure in the North.—

MR. MACROSSAN: That is the opinion, at any rate.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: It might be the opinion, but the honorable member had not brought forward any facts which could justify such a conclusion. It had frequently been said that anything could be proved by figures, but it depended entirely upon the basis on which those figures were started. It had been frequently stated that other parts of the colony had been neglected, and only a short time ago, they had had a long address from the honorable member for Stanley, who had complained of the small amount of expenditure proposed for his district. He thought that any other honorable member could do the same thing, and say, "Our revenue is so much, whilst the expenditure in our district has been only so much, and, after paying our share of the general expenditure, we are entitled to more." The honorable member for Maryborough had attempted to show the same thing, and, in fact, the same argument could be used all over the colony, that was, provided that the figures were not founded on a right basis. The honorable member for the

Kennedy had given the House a great many figures, and he confessed that, at first sight, they had a formidable appearance; but it was not possible for any one who had not access to the Treasury, and who was not assisted by any officer of that department, to arrive at a correct position; and so he should not too closely criticise the honorable member's figures: but in some parts of his argument the honorable member had been a little defective. To take a few of the more glaring inaccuracies in the statement of the honorable member, he had informed the House that the districts north of Cape Palmerston were entitled to receive two-fifths of the revenue from excise, as, according to the report of the Inspector of Distilleries, two-fifths of the spirits made in the colony were distilled north of Cape Palmerston. To that he would reply that the duty upon those spirits was principally paid in the South, and the North would only be entitled to receive the excise duty where the spirits were consumed. It was not where spirits were manufactured that the duty was paid, so that the honorable member would only be entitled to claim one-tenth instead of four-tenths. Then the honorable member had gone into a comparison of the expenditure in the North and the South since 1861, but he would remind the honorable member that the territory north of Cape Palmerston had practically no existence in 1861; there might have been one settlement, but it was not until 1866 or 1867 that that territory had become populated to at all an appreciable extent. The same remark would apply to the honorable member's assertion that, until some four or five years ago, there was no expenditure on education north of Cape Palmerston. For that the reason was obvious, that there was hardly any population to educate. Then the honorable member had referred to a paper which had been laid on the table of the House with respect to the revenue and expenditure at the port of Cooktown and the Palmer River diggings, and had contended that those places were entitled to more expenditure; but his (the Colonial Treasurer's) object in having that return prepared was to afford honorable members information; and it showed, that since the opening of those places, down to the 30th of June in the present year, their cost had been, without charging them with any share of the general expenditure, £58,027. That was exclusive of the schedules of salaries of officers, the expenses of departments, the administration of justice, conveyance of ocean mails, and interest on the public debt. So that honorable members would see that almost every penny received from the district had been expended on it. The honorable member said, in answer to that, that last year the heavy expense was incurred in consequence of opening up the country, and that it would not be repeated; but that argument cut both ways, for persons had sent up large stocks, the duty on which represented a con-

siderable portion of the contributions to the Customs, namely—£44,551; in fact, it was always the case that the Customs contributions were very heavy for the first year. Then, again, the honorable member made the same assumption that was made by his predecessor, the late honorable member for Bowen, and had argued that the North was entitled to take credit for twenty per cent. additional, on the presumption that that would be represented by duties paid in Brisbane, Maryborough, or Rockhampton; but he would explain to the honorable member that it was almost universally the practice for storekeepers shipping goods from Queensland ports for the North to ship those on which heavy duty was payable, such as spirits, in bond. So that that portion of the honorable member's argument fell to the ground.—

MR. PALMER was sorry to interrupt the honorable member, but it was impossible for the reporters to hear what he was saying, as he was turning his back upon them: in fact, he (Mr. Palmer) could hardly hear the honorable gentleman.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER said he did not attach the same importance to being reported that some honorable members did; he was far more concerned in making his arguments appreciated by the honorable member for the Kennedy than he was in being heard by the reporters.

MR. PALMER thought that the remark of the honorable member was not quite fair, as he ought to address himself to the chair, and not to the honorable member for the Kennedy.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: The honorable member had stated that a private member could not well undertake such a matter as that of proposing a system of financial separation, and to a certain extent no doubt he was correct; but still, a private member was quite as capable of laying down certain principles as any Minister could be, although, of course, the details would have to be afterwards worked out by the Government. He himself believed that they would be far more likely to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion if they laid down their principles first, and proceeded with the details afterwards. There was no doubt that the Bill which had been introduced by the honorable member for Port Curtis, for financial separation, was a very good one; but he believed that the tables which the honorable member had had prepared in connection with it, had a great deal to do with the defeat of that measure. He could hardly use the word defeat, because the honorable member withdrew it at the request of his own supporters. It was rather strange that, although the matter had been before the House for such a considerable time, there could hardly be found two members to agree upon it. He believed that the Bill of the honorable member for Port Curtis was much better than the honorable member was credited for at the time, and he believed that if it had not been

for those unfortunate tables, it would have passed. Those tables were intended to show how financial separation was to be worked out, but they worked out very badly at that time for the North; and he believed that if that measure had been passed, the honorable member would never have faced his constituents again, as it would have placed his district in a most deplorable condition, namely, that it would have been shown to be largely indebted to the rest of the colony, and that, instead of having money for roads and bridges, it would have had to devise some scheme of local taxation to carry on those necessary works. The honorable member for the Kennedy had argued that each district should pay for those works which were for the improvement of it alone, and he had also admitted that during the tenure of office by the present Government, his district had received a very fair share of expenditure.

MR. MACROSSAN: No.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: Well, he would show the honorable member that it had received a very fair share indeed by-and-bye. Another argument used by the honorable gentleman was, that owing to the large number of adult males in the North, there was a larger consumption of spirits than in the South. There was a large consumption of spirits, no doubt, but that large consumption led to a large amount of crime, which necessitated a large expenditure for police protection; and he should surprise the honorable member, no doubt, when he told him, that last year, that item of expenditure in the country north of Cape Palmerston was larger than for the whole colony of South Australia. When the honorable member talked of how much revenue was raised by Customs duties, he evidently forgot the other side of the account; he had spoken about roads and bridges, but he had forgotten how great the expenses of Government were in that part of the country. As an example of the cost, he might mention that the Government were obliged to pay the ordinary police in the North five shillings a day sustenance money, or, in other ways, they had to pay them just double the amount they would receive in the South; and other employees were also very expensive. The honorable member had not thrown very much light on the subject, so far as the practical working of it was concerned; but he had told them that he wanted the whole of the revenue to go into a common fund, from which the general expenditure was to be deducted, and that the balance was to be divided among the various districts according to their revenue. That was different to the Bill of the honorable member for Port Curtis, and of the two propositions, he preferred the latter. He might mention that the principles of that Bill were as follow:—The whole of the revenue was to be divided into local and general revenue—the general expenditure was to be divided, and if there was any balance, it was to be expended on the various districts, rateably per head.

One of the principal objections he took to that Bill was, that whilst the cost of a railway was to be charged to the districts through which it passed, no consideration was to be shown for the amount received from the sale of Crown lands. Now, in the adjustment of the accounts, that principle must be recognised, as they had parted with a very large portion of the public lands for the repayment of money expended on public works, such as railways; and if the honorable member for the Kennedy would see his way clear to recognise that principle, he did not think there would be any difficulty in framing a measure to meet with the general support of that House. At the same time, he could not help thinking, and the honorable member would forgive him for saying so, that by the time a Financial Separation Act had been in force for twelve months, there would be a universal clamor for its repeal by those very persons who were now so desirous of having such a measure passed; for he thought he could show by figures, that instead of the North having been neglected, the boot was on the other leg. It appeared to him, also, that there was another blot in the Bill of the honorable member for Port Curtis—that those districts through which railways passed were to be charged with the whole of the interest on the cost of the construction of such railways, and that the cost of conveying the inland mails was to be paid by the Government. Now, it was apparent to every one that the construction of a railway wonderfully diminished the cost of conveying mails; and so the Railway Department would either have to make an arrangement for the conveyance of police, of prisoners, and of mails, or they would have to be put down as local charges. There was no doubt that the construction of railways wonderfully reduced the cost of police protection also, as the cost of conveying them from one part of the country to another was very great indeed where there were no railways. If the honorable member would refer to the figures of the late honorable member for Bowen, he would see that that was a very appreciable item. Again, another large item was the conveyance of inland mails; and if there was not a railway, the cost of that conveyance in this part of the country would be double what it now was; so that if they were to deal equitably with the question—if each locality through which a railway passed was to be debited with its share of the cost, it must also be credited with the saving effected to the country generally in the conveyance of mails. Therefore, either those two items of police protection and conveyance of mails must be made a local charge, or the Police and the Post Office Departments must be debited with them. He thought he had followed most of the statements of the honorable member for the Kennedy up to that honorable member's point of view, and, with the permission of the House, he would now give them

a few figures from his own point of view. But before leaving that portion of the subject, he might mention that he had a return in his hand showing the expenditure for police north of Cape Palmerston:—

"In 1871, it was £14,895; in 1872, £20,914; in 1873, £27,000, and in 1874, £43,327."

He would follow the honorable member in his estimate of the population, and in any figures he quoted, he should assume the population of the district north of Cape Palmerston to be one-tenth of the whole population of the colony. He found that the proportion of the loan vote expended in that part of the colony on roads and bridges was, in 1871, ten per cent., or exactly what it was entitled to; in 1872, eleven per cent.; in 1873, thirteen per cent.; in 1874, sixteen per cent.; and during the first half of 1875, sixteen per cent. That being the case, he would ask, where was the inequitable distribution which was complained of, when they found that during those five years the expenditure on roads and bridges—which they all felt to be the great matter at issue—was considerably above that to which the district was entitled in proportion to its population? It had not been complained that the conveyance of mails, or police protection, or the administration of justice were inadequate; but it was the expenditure of the loan votes that was said to be inadequate. During 1874, the proportion of the total expenditure on public works of all kinds in the district north of Cape Palmerston was 8 per cent. of the whole amount expended; although, in the South they had been spending large sums on railways. He would leave out dry figures and just give percentages, and he found that the cost of police north of Cape Palmerston was, in 1871, 29 per cent. of the whole police expenditure; in 1872, 26 per cent.; in 1873, 29 per cent.; and in 1874, 41 per cent. Of course, according to the honorable member for the Kennedy, it should only have been 10 per cent., instead of which, the actual expenditure was four-tenths. It was also plain that any expenditure in proportion to the Customs revenue would not hold water. The proportion of the cost of the conveyance of inland mails, which had been expended on account of the district north of Cape Palmerston was, in 1871, 25 per cent.; in 1872, 31 per cent.; in 1873, 25 per cent.; and in 1874, 25 per cent. That calculation was leaving out of consideration the Torres Straits Mail Service, which, every honorable member must admit, was of much greater benefit to the inhabitants of the North than it was to those of the South.

HONORABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: He had had an estimate prepared of the actual revenue received in the year 1871, 1872, and 1873, from the districts north of Cape Palmerston, and he would explain the manner in which that return had been compiled, namely, that during last session, a great deal of informa-

tion of a valuable kind was prepared, and laid on the table of that House, with the view of arriving, if possible, at some satisfactory settlement of the question; for what the honorable member for the Kennedy had stated was perfectly correct, that the Government had intended to bring in a measure for financial separation; and if they could have done so, they would have introduced such a measure, as there was no part of a Minister's life so disagreeable as rectifying complaints made to him about districts not receiving their fair share of expenditure. Let a Treasurer be as impartial as he could be in framing his Estimates, he was constantly button-holed by members who considered that their constituents were unfairly treated.

Mr. PALMER: They never button-holed me.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The honorable member preserved too severe a dignity, perhaps; he knew, however, that many strong representations had been made in that House when the honorable member was in office. Now, the way the revenue had been arrived at was as follows:—In the first place, the actual Customs collections had been taken—for he hoped he had satisfactorily disproved the assertion of the honorable member for the Kennedy that he was entitled to claim the 20 per cent. he had referred to; because that was not warranted by the ordinary business transactions of the colony. He had taken the actual Customs transactions, and the local revenue, as laid down by the Government of the honorable member for Port Curtis, in accordance with the principles of that honorable member's own Bill; in other words, he had taken one-fifth of the whole revenue in accordance with the paper circulated by the late member for Bowen, Mr. Fitzgerald. Those were actual facts—that was, Customs and local revenue; and he thought that one-tenth of the remaining items was a very fair thing, for, although the honorable member's district might be entitled to more than one-tenth in consequence of his constituents being harder drinkers than those in the South, yet, as regarded the revenue from stamps, the town of Brisbane contributed one-fourth of the whole stamp duty of the colony.

Mr. PALMER: Who pays for them?—you make your constituents pay.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The honorable member knew nothing about it. As he had said, that was the basis on which the returns were made—actual Customs revenue, actual local revenue, and one-tenth of all other revenue;—and what did they find? In 1871, the territory north of Cape Palmerston contributed 11 per cent. of the revenue; in 1872, 12 per cent.; and in 1873, 12 per cent. Now, it was very evident, as far as the revenue was concerned, that the North did not contribute at all a fair share of revenue. But what had been the actual expenditure in the districts north of Cape Palmerston, according to the returns laid before Parliament in 1873-74? He would

explain the principles upon which that return had been prepared. It was a return of the actual Government expenditure for 1871-2-3, of all kinds, both local and general (but not including interest or proportion for departments at capital), within that part of the colony lying north of Cape Palmerston, embracing also amounts paid for education, and value of goods from colonial stores; showing expenditure under different departmental heads, at various settlements or towns; and stating separately items provided for by loan votes. He thought, with the exception of public buildings, that was what he could call local debt; and, with that exception, it was identical with the returns prepared by the honorable member for Port Curtis. He thought that they should recognise the principle that, if a court house was required in a place, it was just as much a matter to be charged to general debt as the salary of the judge who presided in it; loan appropriation for other purposes was a general debt. The actual expenditure in the districts north of Cape Palmerston, on the basis he had mentioned, was, in 1871, 10 per cent. of the whole; in 1872, 11 per cent., and in 1873, 13 per cent.; in other words—in 1871, revenue 11 per cent., expenditure 10 per cent.; in 1872, revenue 12 per cent., expenditure 11 per cent.; in 1873, revenue 12 per cent., expenditure 13 per cent. The honorable member for Kennedy had admitted that, during the year 1874, and for the first six months of 1875, the North had received a larger expenditure, and had been more fairly treated than in former years; and, by those figures he had quoted, it was evident that the expenditure had been in favor of the northern portion of the colony. The returns, which he had laid on the table, of money spent on roads and bridges in 1874 and 1875, showed that it was larger than in the previous three years, so that, if the figures came out as they now did—if the accounts had been kept for those eighteen months—the results would have been still more unfavorable to the northern division. Now, he had prepared an amendment to the motion, which he did not, however, intend to propose, as he thought it would be unfair to do so when there was such a thin attendance of honorable members; but he would like to circulate his amendment, and if it met with approval, the Government would be happy to introduce a Bill on the principles contained in it next session. The amendment was:—

That any Bill introduced to this House to provide for financial separation should be based upon the following principles:—

1. The receipts from the following sources shall be styled "local revenue" and shall be applied to meet "local expenditure," viz.: Railway receipts, land revenue, gold fields receipts, licenses, tolls, and other miscellaneous local receipts.

2. The interest on the local debt, together with the expenditure under the following heads, shall be styled "local expenditure," and be charged to

the respective districts, viz.: Railways, roads and bridges, wharves and improvements, harbors and rivers, water supply, and grants and endowments to municipalities, botanical gardens and reserves; hospitals, schools of arts, and other local grants; police protection, conveyance of inland mails.

3. The receipts from Customs duties, excise, and all other sources not appropriated for local purposes, shall be styled "general revenue," and shall be applied to meet general expenditure.

4. The interest on the general debt, together with all expenditure other than "local expenditure," shall be styled "general expenditure."

5. The amounts expended from loan for the following purposes, after deducting the receipts from the alienation of Crown lands (whether in cash or in land orders), since July 27, 1861, shall be charged to the respective districts in which the expenditure has taken place, and shall be styled the "local debt," viz.:—Railways; roads, bridges, wharves, and jetties; improvement of harbors and rivers; waterworks; loans to municipalities.

The fifth clause agreed with the principle of the Bill of the honorable member for Port Curtis, with the exception of public buildings, amounting to not a very important sum; but as a matter of principle, public buildings erected from revenue or loan should be chargeable to general government, the same as a custom house, the erection of which was as much a general charge as the salaries of the officers in it.

6. The amounts which have been expended from loan for all other purposes, added to the difference between the amount expended from loan for local purposes and the total sum received since July 27, 1861, from the alienation of Crown lands, shall be styled "general debt."

7. In the event of the general revenue being more than sufficient to meet the general expenditure, the balance shall be allotted to the several districts according to the population found to be contained in them respectively at the taking of the next census.

Which would be about the time this Bill would probably come into operation:—

8. In the event of the general revenue being insufficient to meet the general expenditure, the balance shall in like manner be debited to the various districts according to population.

9. The interest on the local debt shall be a first charge on the local revenue.

He thought that, in the Bill of the honorable member for Port Curtis, to which he had referred, the machinery for local administration was imperfect. He thought that a committee of the members of the various districts would have given rise to a good deal of dissatisfaction, because districts such as those in the neighborhood of Brisbane, for instance, where large numbers of people were congregated together, would possibly receive undue attention from the committee. He hoped the honorable member for Kennedy, after the discussion had continued, and an opinion had been elicited from honorable members, would not ask the House, simply on the statement of figures he had laid before them, which he admitted might be imperfect, and he (the Colonial Treasurer) thought he had



shown them to be imperfect in many respects—he hoped he would not, upon these grounds, ask the House to affirm that there had been an inequitable distribution of revenue in the northern portion of the colony. The statement was not supported by facts; and he thought it would be a very inconvenient resolution to have affirmed by the House, on the information given by the honorable member. He thought, if the principles he had enunciated should meet with approval, the proper course would be to appoint the Auditor-General, and to give him such assistance as he might require, to have the accounts of the colony adjusted on the basis laid down and approved of by the House; so that they might then have the question satisfactorily set at rest. As he had, previously said, figures could be made to prove anything, according to the basis upon which the person making the calculation started; but if the principles were agreed upon, and laid down, and independent officers of the House, or gentlemen representing the different districts of the colony, were appointed to adjust the accounts in accordance with those principles, a great deal more satisfaction would be likely to arise than from the Minister in charge of the Bill bringing in a tabulated statement—as was the case in the Bill of the honorable member for Port Curtis—or returns of any kind, and proposing the Bill in accordance with those results. Of course, it was very evident that the first thing a member looked at in connection with a question of this kind was how it affected his district; and if he found it did not suit his district, he threw his principles overboard; and he thought they should settle their abstract principles first, and then appoint independent persons to work out those principles. He did not wish to move any amendment on the motion before the House, and he hoped the honorable member would withdraw it. He was not in possession of sufficient information to warrant them in determining that there had been an inequitable distribution of revenue in the northern portion of the colony.

Mr. AMHURST said the honorable the Colonial Treasurer evidently did not fully understand the feeling of the people of the northern districts. They felt that this was a question of vital importance, and that the longer the time elapsed before a final settlement of it was arrived at, so far their interests were being delayed. He was sure the southern members could not understand the feeling in the North, and he was satisfied, that at the next election the northern members would be pledged to see some equitable system carried out. As the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had said, figures could be made to prove anything, and he had access to all the figures connected with the colony, which honorable members had not, and, therefore, he could turn them any way he liked. Considering the immense coastline of the colony—about 2,000 miles—with twelve good ports, and others

being opened every day, and considering the great variety of pursuits of the population, he submitted that it was impossible that their many requirements could be properly and adequately attended to while the central Government was down in the extreme South. However willing any Minister to do full justice to the North—and he supposed there was no Minister more willing to do it than the honorable Colonial Secretary—he could not do so because it was perfectly impossible for him to understand all the wants of the country. There were different industries and interests in all parts, and different wants which none but those who resided in the district could know. No private member could bring in a measure dealing with the question, with any hope of success, because he would not have the support of the Government; and the proper course was for the Government to introduce it themselves. He said, and he was certain that his words would be proved in a year or two, that whenever the new Parliament came in, the agitation in the North would have become so great that the question would have to be dealt with in all seriousness; and if the northern members were united, any Government that opposed the settlement of it upon a fair and equitable basis would fall. He did not want to say that Brisbane was not to be the capital; from its present position, it was the real financial capital of the whole colony, and, he had no doubt, always would be. In the North, they had been subjected, even since Separation, to accept Sydney as the commercial capital of the colony to a great extent, and they were only now struggling to get free from Sydney influence; and he was sure every northern member would do his utmost to make Brisbane the commercial capital of the colony. But if this agitation went on increasing, as it was every day, in the North, the result would be an agitation for total separation, which he should much regret to see carried out, because it would be a great loss to both the North and the South. Instead of that, he hoped to see the day when they should have federation of all the colonies. He did not think the honorable the Colonial Treasurer had taken into account the amount of money that had been spent in connection with the police escort; and he thought, if they took into consideration the amount of revenue derived from the Cook district, no honorable member would deny that the Government should use every exertion to protect the men who were engaged in developing the resources of that unknown country. £43,000 was the amount set down for police; and, he believed, in one month, £15,000 was derived from Customs duties in Cooktown.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: No; three months.

Mr. AMHURST: He believed he was right in saying that the escort in the North cost only £3,000 per annum out of the £43,000,

which was a very large sum; and as to the amount of police protection they had up North, he could state that in one town where there was considerable population in and around it, there was one sergeant and, he thought, one constable, or there might be two now. In fact, the people were all peaceable and disposed to do their duty, and they gave no trouble. With regard to the statement respecting the consumption of spirits in the North, and the insinuation that the people were drunkards, as a northern member, he could not allow that to pass unchallenged. He had seen more rowdyism in Brisbane than ever he had seen in the North. It was only the other day he saw two fellows having a stand-up fight outside the A.S.N. Co.'s wharf, and not a policeman was to be found. It was a fair fight; they had seconds; it lasted for about a quarter of an hour, and he thought it was a disgrace to the metropolis. They had no cases like that up North. He contended that, in dealing with the question, they must take into consideration the feelings of the northern people, which must be satisfied. They did not think figures would prove anything; they would not affect their feelings; they only believed in the figures they knew themselves, and there was no doubt the grossest injustice had been done them. And if this question were not taken up in the spirit that it ought to be, he was sure it would lead to a great deal of ill-feeling in the North against the South, and that would be a great injury to the colony, which he believed would be the greatest in the Australian group.

MR. BUZACOTT said, as this was a subject in which he had always taken considerable interest, he should make a few remarks upon it; and before doing so, he must state that he was under an obligation to the honorable member who had introduced it, and also to the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, for the deliberate and reasonable way in which they had handled it. He thought, so long as they discussed questions of that sort without displaying irritation or ill-feeling, they could hardly help coming to a favorable conclusion—a conclusion which would satisfy the people of all parts of the colony. Because he was satisfied, that if they established by argument that the Southern, or the Northern, or the Central district had not been receiving a fair share of attention in the expenditure of public money, the House would be prepared to make some alterations which would redress the grievances of which they complained. The honorable the Colonial Treasurer had stated that he could not accept the figures of the honorable member for Kennedy, and that figures could be made to prove anything, and the figures he had adduced certainly had proved some most extraordinary things, and no stronger illustration of the truth of his opening remarks could be found anywhere. He could not, on the spur of the moment, go into the question in the way in which

that honorable gentleman had done; but he could prove that, in one particular instance, he had made a mistake that he (Mr. Buzacott) should not have suspected he would have fallen into; and if he proved that in one instance his figures were incorrect and unreliable, he thought the whole must go. He did not want to refute statements that £5,000, or £10,000, had been appropriated in a specific way, and it would be absurd for any private member of the House, who had not access to the Treasury accounts, to say that certain figures the honorable the Treasurer had brought forward in his return were incorrect; but he could show that on the face of his own return his argument was wrong. The honorable gentleman admitted that one-tenth portion of the inhabitants of the colony resided north of Cape Palmerston, and that they were entitled to receive one-tenth portion of the expenditure and to contribute a corresponding portion of the revenue. Well, he thought if they were entitled to receive a tenth of ordinary expenditure, and to contribute one-tenth of ordinary revenue, they were entitled also to receive a tenth portion of loan expenditure. The honorable the Treasurer, in his statement, showed that the whole of the loan expenditure in the colony, last year, was £600,000, or a little over; and, according to that, the people north of Cape Palmerston should have received £60,000 of loan expenditure; but how much had they had?—£13,000 only; and, at the same time, what had they done in the way of contributing? Instead of contributing only the interest on £13,000, or anything that could be supposed to represent it, they had been called upon to contribute upwards of £28,000. Their share of contribution to the interest on the loan was £28,000, and he had no doubt they had contributed every sixpence of it. If they called that a fair distribution, he did not know what the meaning of the word "fairness" was; and he thought that was quite sufficient to prove to the House that the honorable the Colonial Treasurer's figures were totally unreliable. £13,000 was all the northern districts had had in the way of loan expenditure during the past twelve months, or less than half as much as they had had to pay.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: That is only for Cooktown and the Palmer.

MR. BUZACOTT: Well, he was only wrong in a matter of degree, because there could be no doubt the North had not received anything like its fair share of loan expenditure, while, at the same time, they had to contribute their full share of the interest. The honorable the Colonial Treasurer had told them, that if the Bill of the honorable member for Port Curtis had become law years ago, the people in the central districts would have been the first to call for its repeal. He denied it; so far as the people of that part of the Central district he represented was con-

cerned, he could answer for them and say, that they did not want anything more than their fair share; and if the honorable the Colonial Treasurer could prove that they had had more than that, they would be quite willing to refund, so far as they were able. They must, of course, have such expenditure as was absolutely necessary, but if the Treasurer could show they had received more than they were fairly entitled to, they were quite prepared to refund it. They had been contending for years—for the last eight or ten years he had been an agitator for the allocation of the expenditure of the several districts of the colony, in proportion as they were entitled to it; and he was quite certain that if the measure introduced by the honorable member for Port Curtis had become law, there would have been no such dissatisfaction as there was at present, and they would not have a discussion such as that which was now occupying their time. The question would have been settled long ago; every portion of the colony would have been satisfied, and the people of the North would be content to go on without any talk of separation for years to come; and he thought the longer that question was postponed the less they ought to hear of it. The honorable member for Kennedy had just placed the Loan Estimate for the present year in his hands, and it showed that the total amount was £1,507,000, while the districts north of Cape Palmerston were only to have about £55,000.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: What about immigration?

Mr. BUZACOTT: They might charge the North with its share of immigration, but it would be very small indeed. The number of immigrants taken north of Cape Palmerston was very small—nothing like ten per cent. of the whole of the immigration of Queensland. Indirectly, he knew a good many immigrants found their way to the North; a considerable number of people came first to the southern portion of the colony intending to go North, and in that way they added to the wealth of the colony without any expense to the revenue. The honorable the Colonial Treasurer had accused the people of the North of being large consumers of spirituous liquors, as if those who lived in the Central and Northern districts were all drunkards; but such was not the case at all. There was a large number of ports in the North, and perhaps the people did not know much about teetotalism, or that kind of thing; but to say they were larger consumers of spirits than people in the South, he did not believe at all. He knew that in Brisbane they would find that on the average the adults consumed as much spirits as they did in any part of the colony; because, although gold-diggers and others, when they came into towns might indulge very freely, they were for a long time engaged in their avocations, when they could not procure spirits at all. He therefore thought that was a very unfair accusation for the honorable the

Treasurer to hurl at the people of the North. He did not believe it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: It is a fact.

Mr. BUZACOTT: He thought the honorable gentleman would admit that it was unfair to take the expenditure in the opening of a district like the Palmer, and to expect that the district should contribute as much to the revenue as it received in the way of expenditure; because it must be known that the first expenditure was the heaviest, and that during the period of that expenditure, there could be nothing like an adequate return. He thought, if the honorable the Treasurer carried on the government of the colony by expending in each of these newly-formed districts only the amount of money he received from them, he would find that settlement would not extend at all. He must be prepared to deal liberally with such districts, and to consider that for a short time there must be a larger expenditure than he could hope to receive in the form of revenue returns. He was surprised the honorable gentleman had not made some reference to the Northern Railway, with a view of showing that the Central district had received a great deal more than its share; and he (Mr. Buzacott) would say a few words about that, because, from the very first, the Rockhampton people protested against having a railway started at all. They passed a resolution to the effect that, until they had financial separation, they would not have a railway; but the people of the South compelled them to have it. Thirty miles of railway were constructed, and there it remained for years and years, until at last, finding the accusation hurled at them repeatedly that they had a railway that did not pay, they found it necessary to take a different stand—to go in for an extension of the railway, and try and secure financial separation afterwards. He said now, as he had said for years past, that if an equitable measure of financial separation were brought forward, no more hearty supporters of it would be found than the residents of the Central district. They had got the railway, and they were prepared to take the liability connected with it, and they would not wish it to be thought, for one moment, that they desired to have their railway, or other public works, carried on at the expense of the other portions of the colony. They might depend upon it, that if ever they hoped to stop the cry for separation, and if Queensland was ever to become the country they looked forward to its becoming, they must endeavor to satisfy the people of the North that they were fairly treated in regard to public expenditure. He thought it was perfectly clear that the northern districts had not had anything approaching a fair share of loan expenditure, while they had been called upon to pay the full average rate per head of the interest; and although they might of late have received a larger share of ordinary expenditure, as compared with what they

had contributed, still he thought, if they only went back over some five or ten years, they should find that, even in regard to ordinary expenditure, they had not got all they were justly entitled to. He hoped, although the discussion might not lead to anything practical this session, that it would induce the honorable the Colonial Treasurer to study the subject during the recess, and that next year he would be able to bring in a measure which the representatives of the different parts of the colony would see their way to approve of, and there would be an end to these constant cries against the South.

MR. PALMER said, in regard to this resolution, he felt exactly the same as the honorable member for Rockhampton did—that it would lead to no practical result this session; and speaking to it in that way, he could not be expected to go into it in the manner he should if he supposed it could or would result in anything definite or practical. However, he did not think the discussion could do any harm. He felt certain that the necessity was forcing itself upon the Government of going back to something like the Financial Separation Bill he had framed some years ago; and he had never had any doubt that they would have to go back to it. He should like to know why the system which he had initiated, when in office, of keeping the accounts of the different portions of the colony separate in the Treasury, had been stopped by the honorable the Treasurer? Those accounts had been kept by officers of the Government, who had no political bias whatever, and he believed they could be thoroughly depended upon, and that if they had been continued in the same manner in which they were while he was in office, they would have been of great importance in arriving at a settlement of this question. He should like very much to know the reason; he had never heard it yet.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: The reason the system was discontinued was, because we could not recognise the principle upon which it was based.

MR. PALMER: The explanation was not very clear, and he could not follow it up; but he maintained that, without recognising the principle upon which the accounts were based, they would have been most useful for reference in dealing with the question; and he could not understand any reason for discontinuing the keeping of them in that way, except it was an intention on the part of the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, when he was new to office—and which he (Mr. Palmer) did not think he now had—of burking the whole question. He believed that was the idea with which that system had been done away with; and he believed the accounts could be continued even now. He had no doubt the officers of the Treasury, who had no political bias, and did not care whether the North or the South had the better of it, could bring the accounts up to the present time. The Ministry had not

been so long in office, that a few arrears of that kind could not be brought up. He had listened attentively to the figures brought up by the honorable member for Kennedy, and also to the array of figures with which the honorable the Colonial Treasurer succeeded him; and the only conclusion he could come to on the subject was, that they had both succeeded in bothering the House. Honorable members could not possibly follow those figures, and no conclusion could be arrived at at present upon them; and, if the honorable member for Kennedy meant to carry the question any further, he should strongly recommend him to get some member to move the adjournment of the debate, because they could not swallow all these figures, and he thought the honorable the Treasurer was very anxious they should not be swallowed. Notwithstanding his (Mr. Palmer's) remark, he noticed that the honorable gentleman turned his head quite away from the reporters, and it was utterly impossible for them to report those figures. Speaking even a great deal more rapidly than he (Mr. Palmer) did to the House, the honorable the Treasurer gave them an amount of figures enough to cover the national debt for all ages, and yet he expected honorable members to understand them. He expected a great deal too much; they could not even correct the figures, and it was impossible to arrive at any conclusion from them. He said they could come to the same conclusion on the subject if they had never had a figure brought forward by either the honorable member for Kennedy or the honorable the Treasurer. The fact was this: The Northern district, the Central district, and the Western district did not believe in the figures of the honorable the Treasurer; and all the figures that could be produced would never convince them that they had been fairly treated. They must give them financial separation, and they required very few figures to prove that. With regard to the Bill he had introduced some years ago, as was the case with the Education Bill he brought in, he had lived some years since then, and he was not going to say that Bill was perfect. Had that Bill been passed, he had no doubt he should now propose to amend it; but some measure of that kind must be introduced and carried out before they could give confidence to the people of the colony that they were fairly treated. He thought it was mere loss of time to go into these figures, although the honorable member for Kennedy deserved great credit for his research in the matter; he knew the time it must have taken him. But he did not give the honorable the Treasurer the same amount of credit, because, no doubt, all the figures had been put into his hands. As to these still-born resolutions of the honorable the Treasurer, he thought they ought to have been in print, and in the hands of every member of the House; but the honorable gentleman evidently meant nothing by them,

and they were, therefore, not deserving of further notice. There was one remark made by that honorable gentleman which he personally objected to. He said members of that House, unless the measure brought forward suited their constituents, threw their principles overboard. Well, he could stand there and face the honorable the Colonial Treasurer—and as many Treasurers as they could put on the Treasury benches—and say he had never thrown his principles overboard to suit any district. He had only represented one ever since he had been in the House; and he could point to many members on both sides of the House who had never thrown their principles overboard for any purpose. He could point to the honorable member for Toowoomba: they had differed ever since they had been in the House, and were likely to differ to the end; but he could say for that honorable member, as he did for himself, that he had never thrown his principles overboard; and he could say the same for others, and the honorable the Treasurer was not justified in making such a charge against members of the House collectively. The resolutions could lead to no practical result, even if they went to a division upon it. The subject wanted to be ventilated a great deal more, but if the honorable member for Kennedy pressed it, he should vote for it as a matter of duty; but if he wished it to have any effect, he should recommend him to have the debate adjourned until they had time to digest the figures that had been brought forward. He believed figures could be made to prove anything. The honorable the Treasurer had proved that he had a cash balance, which nobody but himself believed he had. He did not believe there was.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: You would like to have it.

MR. PALMER: He should, if there were a cash balance at all; but he should be very sorry to give £5 for it. He was sure he should be a loser; for he was certain that, except in the imagination of the honorable the Treasurer, there was no such thing as a cash balance. He did not think it was fair on the part of that honorable gentleman, in speaking of the expenditure in the North, to bring in the police expenditure so strongly as he did. Every honorable member knew that in a new district, just opened up, the police expenditure must be far in excess of what was required in the settled districts; and it was not fair to bring that in as a charge against the Northern district; and still less had they anything to do with the expenditure in South Australia. What that House had to do with that, he could not imagine; and, without any proof, they had been told, by the honorable the Treasurer, the police expenditure in the North exceeded that in South Australia. If it proved anything, it proved that the Government of South Australia did not know how to govern the country properly. As to the other

inuendo, about the quantity of spirits consumed in the North, really that had very little to do with the question. He was sure, if they took the average, the people of Brisbane drank more per head than any residents in the Northern district. They knew, of course, that when diggers and shearers came into town, they drank their grog; but they went months without any, and the imputation of the honorable the Treasurer, that judging from the duty paid for spirits, the people of the North were a lot of drunkards, was most unfair and uncalled for. They were nothing of the sort. A drunkard was a man who was always drinking; but they had their spree when they came into town, and they went months, and lived hard and badly, and never saw a drop of grog. He did not think the honorable member for Kennedy would gain anything by pressing the motion, and he should advise him to adjourn it.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS thought it was a pity that when the honorable member for Kennedy introduced this resolution, he included in it a statement that a large amount of dissatisfaction prevailed as to the inequitable distribution of revenue in the northern parts of the colony, because, apart from the fact that it would be hardly right for the House to condemn itself by accepting such a statement, the natural result of a statement of that kind was, to turn the debate upon details. He thought the debate ought to be taken upon general principles, and not upon details. It was impossible that people could agree upon details, and the figures of the honorable member for Kennedy and the honorable Colonial Treasurer, only carried conviction to the honorable gentlemen who had quoted them. They were not accepted by the House generally; they all knew that starting upon a certain basis, they could make figures prove anything. He thought the honorable member for Kennedy could have made a very good case, and have shown the necessity for financial separation without going into a single detail; because, if dissatisfaction prevailed as to the distribution of revenue in the North, or even if it did not prevail, and an attempt were made to excite it—if statements were published that those parts of the colony were unfairly treated, it was a fair question for the House to consider whether to regulate the distribution of the revenue applied to public works differently, or whether they should have the accounts kept in such a manner that all parties might be satisfied that the distribution proceeded upon an equitable system. He thought the mere fact of a statement being made, that the revenue was inequitably distributed amongst the different districts, would be sufficient justification for the honorable member to ask that steps should be taken to satisfy his constituents, and the constituents of other northern electorates, that the distribution was equitable, or else to secure to them in the future an equitable distribution. But the statements and the

figures that had been brought forward all went for nothing, because, as the honorable member for Port Curtis had stated, no one could come to any conclusion from them. One statement, made by the honorable the Colonial Treasurer, he, as a northern member, must take exception to. In estimating the population of the Northern district at one-tenth of the whole, no doubt, taking the last census, it was very near the mark; but he should be very much surprised, when the census was taken next year, if the population north of Cape Palmerston would be found less than one-seventh. Of course, it was impossible to find an argument upon an assumption of that kind, because it was only an assumption, and was not capable of proof at the present time. With respect to the question of financial separation, a doubt arose in his mind whether it was advisable to go in for it at the present time. The Northern district and the Wide Bay and Burnett district were the two districts which had not received a large share of loan expenditure, and they were the districts which were supposed to benefit by financial separation; but he was not sure that it would prove advantageous to them, or place them in a better position than they now occupied. While he doubted that such would be the case, he admitted, that by the present estimate, the Northern districts had not received a fair proportion of the proposed expenditure, considering their increased population, and that they were also increasing in importance every day. They would have an importance in that House they never possessed before; next session they would be reinforced by another member; the population was increasing at a greater rate than in the South, and their importance must necessarily increase. Under these circumstances, there was no possibility of their being neglected in regard to either loan or revenue; and he did not think they would gain much by a measure of financial separation. On the contrary, his idea was, that financial separation, if passed, might be brought forward as an argument why they should not receive money raised by loan. If the Government proposed borrowing money for the Northern districts, they might be met by the members for other districts, saying, "Now that the North has financial separation, they must carry out their own works themselves." He thought, since these districts contributed to the interest on the public debt, they had a right to a fair share of loan expenditure, and he thought the time when they would receive that was coming; and he should be inclined, instead of advocating financial separation, to go in for a fair distribution of all future loans. The question of financial separation, as the honorable member for Kennedy had brought it up, would be a very troublesome one to carry out. He was not aware that in any country in the world such a system prevailed. That was

to say, that there should be a number of separate provinces, all contributing to the general revenue, and having no revenue of their own; and that the money received from the general revenue should be appropriated to local expenditure. He thought such a system must inevitably lead to local squabbles and ill-feeling amongst the people of the different provinces. The United States of America was the best example of a federal Government, or federal action, and in that case, whilst the general Government received general revenue, the States raised their own funds by local taxation. He thought, if they were to have financial separation, instead of the central Government collecting taxation and then distributing it amongst the different provinces, it would be far better that a certain amount of revenue should be allowed to the general Government for the purpose of meeting necessary general expenditure, and the several provinces should then be left to resort to their own devices and their own methods of raising revenue for their own internal purposes. They were now merely discussing an abstract principle. The honorable member for Kennedy had not laid down any principles of legislation; and although, as he had said, he was inclined to think that the policy for the Northern and the Wide Bay and Burnett districts, would be rather to take care and secure a just share of public expenditure, now that their importance justified it, than to resort to a measure of financial separation at the very time when the other districts were obtaining the full benefit of the system hitherto prevailing, and as they were about to demand their share of loan expenditure; still, he should be happy to assist the honorable member for Kennedy in passing or affirming any principle which he could prove to him was absolutely in the interest of his constituents, or the people of the North generally, and of the Wide Bay and Burnett district. Because, although the honorable member had brought forward a measure as affecting the Northern districts principally, he (the Secretary for Works) would point out, that if there was one district more than another which had a right to complain about public expenditure, it was the district of Wide Bay and Burnett. That district was established shortly after Brisbane was founded. He believed Maryborough was established in 1843 or 1844, and ever since that time, it had been constantly occupied by a large population, in comparison with the colony generally; and there had been a large land revenue derived from it. He believed the land revenue was larger than in any other district, except the two Moretons and the Darling Downs. Although the district had been in existence more than thirty years, and although it had returned a large land and general revenue, yet, up to the present, it had not received even the small amount of attention which had been paid to the Kennedy. He believed there had been more

of the public debt incurred for works within the district of Kennedy, which was only about thirteen or fourteen years old, than in the Wide Bay and Burnett, which was over thirty. He spoke as a member having a great interest in both of these districts, which had been hitherto very much neglected in the matter of loan expenditure; and he did hope, that if any measure of financial separation were passed in that House, care would be taken to provide that the passing of it should not operate as a bar to prevent the inhabitants of the districts he had named from getting a share of loans in the future.

Mr. DOUGLAS said, notwithstanding the remarks that had been made about the value of the figures quoted, he thought a good deal had been said that deserved careful thought. It was admitted on all hands that they could not follow these figures until they had time to look them over, and saw how they bore upon the general question. He quite agreed with the suggestion that the debate should be adjourned, so as to give time for honorable members to form their own conclusions as to what had been said to-night; and possibly, before the next occasion when the debate came on, they might have arrived at some decision amongst themselves as to what steps it would be desirable to take in order to arrive at some sound and definite conclusion. He confessed that he thought it would have been desirable that the mode of keeping the accounts referred to by the honorable member for Port Curtis as having been carried out under his Government for some time should have been continued. He was not aware, until to-night, that they were not being continued; and he had been under the impression that the figures of the honorable the Colonial Treasurer were those supplied in consequence of that form of keeping the accounts having been set in motion. But he had learned from the honorable member for Port Curtis that such was not the case, and he thought the sooner that form of accounts, upon some basis recognised by Parliament, was resumed, the better. It would, at any rate, enable them, as time went on, to check the expenditure as to the relative proportion due to the different districts, and to see that justice was done. To a great extent he sympathised with the honorable member for Bowen, who, ignoring the question of figures altogether, made the representation to the House that the Northern districts had been unjustly treated. He (Mr. Douglas) was not quite prepared to admit that, so far, at any rate, as revenue, apart from loan, was concerned, they had not been fairly treated. Considering that they were new districts, having to fight their way into importance, he thought, on the whole, they had been better treated than they could have expected to be. It must, however, be at once admitted that they had not had a fair share of loan expenditure; but he did not think they were entitled to have such an outlay under that head as they

probably would like to have. It was quite within reason to suppose that a line of railway might be carried from Cooktown to Kimberley; it was not an impossible project at all. A line of railway across the neck of the Cape York Peninsula would commend itself in many ways as a great national undertaking. But if such a proposition were made, he was afraid it would not receive the consideration which he believed the merits of the case deserved. For those reasons, and for those stated by the honorable member for Bowen, that there was a complete difference of interest and of climate, he was inclined to think that in the districts north of Cape Palmerston the colonists of that portion of the country should push for separation. He had not the slightest dread of that separation being injurious to Queensland. He thought the honorable member for the Kennedy had better go the whole hog, although he did not mean to say that injustice should be done to the Northern districts in the meantime. He thought they had better go in for territorial separation—that they would profit more by it—that their prospects would be improved; and if theirs were improved, those of the southern portion of the colony would be. As to financial separation, it was nothing as compared to the prosperity that would be developed by total separation; it was the security of industry, advancing in all its branches that they must look to, which, after all, was the real security to repay the advances which had been made to the colony. He believed, and was firmly convinced, that the interests of the southern portion of the colony were thoroughly distinct from those of the inhabitants of the north of Cape Palmerston, and that they had better go in for total separation; if they did so, he should support them. Although, in the first place, it might not be advisable to have absolute separation, there might be a division, and the northern part might be under a Lieutenant-Governor; and he thought, that under such a division as that, the northern territory would thrive more than it did at the present time. That part of the country was tropical in its climate—the southern part of Queensland was not; that country must thrive, not with a European population, but with an Asiatic population; and the fact of that part looking to Asia for its labor, rendered it impossible that the South could work with it. He believed that the South was suited to European labor, and he should be sorry to see it prejudiced as it would be by the introduction of an Asiatic population. Those were the reasons which had led him to the conclusion that the inhabitants of the North would be far better if there was separation. For instance, in the one question of immigration, he did not think that it had been attempted to be proved that it was at all wise or justifiable to send European immigrants to the North—to take raw inhabitants from the United Kingdom and expect them to work under a tropical sun; if that was done,

he thought they were expending valuable labor in a way in which it should not, and was not intended to be expended. Let them obtain what they liked of the more intelligent of the men who would win their way by handicraft—the energetic and the intelligent who would like to employ Asiatic labor in the North; but it was cruelty to Europeans to take them to the tropical climate of the North, if they would have to work in the field. Let it not be understood that he was an advocate of an Asiatic population in the South; he was not, as he believed it was suited to Europeans, but the North was not. Taking that into consideration, and also that the people in the North were a long distance away, and were not likely to be satisfied with the administration of the Real Property Office, which was a terrible grievance to those who were a long way from the capital, and also bearing in mind many other little matters, he thought that separation was quite compatible with the federation of the colonies, as the question could be used to raise that larger and wider one of colonial federation. The other questions affecting the district, especially, which he had a share in representing, had been most appropriately referred to by the honorable Minister for Works. He did not know whether the Wide Bay and Burnett district could expect to receive all it was entitled to under any process of financial separation, unless the House was good enough to be generous, and good enough to be just, as regarded it. That district had waited long enough—too long already; and although they had heard a great deal of the injuries under which the Northern districts were suffering, there were the districts he referred to—near, comparatively, to the Southern districts—which were, he thought, nearly as much entitled to consideration, and which had been overlooked for years. That district which he had, as he said, a share in representing, contained one-sixth of the whole population, and what had it received? It had received only one-eightieth part of the whole expenditure. That was injustice, and ought to receive immediate and potent remedy, and he hoped that remedy would be forthcoming, if not during the present session, at least next session; for it was impossible that the House could refuse to do justice where such great injustice had been done. He thought that they should have full time to consider the subject before them, and they might be thankful to the honorable member for the Kennedy for having brought it under their notice; and more thankful, probably, if the honorable member would allow them time to consider the figures which had been provided for them in such abundance that evening. It had been suggested that there might be means of elaborating the subject more than could be done during the present session, and the honorable the Treasurer might find some potent charm

by which he could hit upon some better way of elucidating the question; if so, he would find a supporter in him. He did not lay claim to be a great financier, and he did not suppose there was any honorable member who did make that claim; but, after all, it was not such a profound study as some imagined; and a few practical men devoting themselves to the subject, with access to the Treasury accounts, might be able to throw more light on the question than had been the case hitherto. He should be glad if the honorable member for the Kennedy would allow them more time, as possibly that might lead to an effective and deliberative settlement of the whole question.

Mr. MACROSSAN, in reply, said that he was much satisfied with the amicable way in which the discussion of his motion had been carried on, and that, although honorable members had been flooded with an array of figures, it had received the attention it deserved from them. However, he could not allow the proposition of the honorable member for Maryborough to pass unnoticed—namely, that it would be better for the North to go in for final separation from the southern part of the colony. He did not believe in that, and there were many reasons why he should not; but one was sufficient, and that was, the present unsettled state of the white population north of Cape Palmerston. He could not allow the honorable Treasurer's statement to pass unchallenged, that the people in his district were very large consumers of ardent spirits. There were hundreds of men north of Cape Palmerston who did not see any grog for months, not until they went down to the towns, when they went in for a "buster," as they called it; as to their generally being large consumers of spirits, that was not the case. The honorable member also alluded to the great amount of police protection that was required, on account of the consumption of spirits; but that was a mistake also, as that protection was not required by the misconduct of the white population, but was owing to the settlement of new country, and carrying on a certain state of war with the aboriginals. It was almost impossible to draw a comparison between it and the South, but he would take a southern gold field, and compare that with the North. He found that on Gympie there was more money expended on police than in Ravenswood, Charters Towers, and the Cape River combined; and that, he thought, would show that they were an orderly population; and when they took into account the number of women and children at Gympie, it strengthened his argument still more. He should like to have the motion carried by the House without any division, and with that object he would, with the permission of the House, amend it in such a way as to make it acceptable to the Government. He proposed to eliminate the



word "inequitable" at the commencement of the motion, and the words "without delay" at the end of it.

Question, as by leave amended,—

That a large amount of dissatisfaction prevails as to the distribution of the revenue in the northern parts of the colony; and in order to prevent a demand for territorial separation arising therefrom, it is, in the opinion of this House, the duty of the Government to introduce a measure dealing with financial separation,—

Put and passed.

#### EXPENDITURE IN SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.

Mr. Low, pursuant to notice, moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of an Address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the next Supplementary Loan Estimates, a sum not exceeding £6,000, for—

1. Telegraph communication between St. George and Curriwillingham, in the Balonne District.
2. The sum of £1,500 for roads and bridges, between the Condamine township and St. George, *via* Surat.
3. The sum of £1,500 for roads and bridges, between Dalby and St. George, by the Moonie River.
4. The sum of £1,500 for roads and bridges, between St. George and Curriwillingham, by Euraba, or Boolegar, on the Narran River.

He might state, that in February of the present year, he had received a petition from a large number of residents in the district of Balonne, addressed to the honorable Postmaster-General, praying for telegraphic communication between St. George and Curriwillingham. That petition he forwarded to the Postmaster-General, with a letter explanatory of the reasons why it was presented, and he had received a very polite answer from that gentleman, stating that the matter would receive his best attention. When he went to that House, he found that no provision had been made for the work on the Estimates-in-Chief, and, on having a conversation with the Postmaster-General on the subject, he understood that provision would be made on the Supplementary Estimates; that, however, had not been done. The necessity of the telegraphic extension he had referred to, namely from St. George to Curriwillingham—a distance of about 80 miles—was very great, and the work would be of immense importance, as parties were in the habit of coming from different parts of the colony, and from Sydney, Adelaide, and Melbourne, for the purpose of purchasing stock; but without that communication he asked for, they were unable to arrive at the market value of stock, and he need not say that every pound that went out of the colony through not charging sufficient for stock, was a loss to the colony. He

believed there were about twenty stations between Hammond's, at Curriwillingham, and St. George, and there were thousands of sheep and cattle swept away by the floods; whereas, if there was the means of informing those people that the floods were coming down, they would have an opportunity of removing their stock; in fact, he might say that in the whole of Queensland, vast as it was, there was no part of it where telegraphic communication was more required. He would now refer to the second item, namely, to the roads and bridges required between the Condamine township and St. George, *via* Surat. In regard to that, he might say that the roads were now almost impassable, and carriage was 18s. and £1 for a short hundred-weight; flour was selling at 24s. a bag, and a ton of flour at St. George was worth £40. He had bought some the other day, in Brisbane, at £12 a ton, which left £28 a ton for carriage; taking into account the traffic on the railway and everything, £28 a ton had to be paid for carriage alone. He thought that was a proof that the roads in that part of the district required a great deal of repairing. There were two large creeks to the west of Surat, and when the Balonne was in a state of flood, people had to go for miles to get round them, causing a delay of a fortnight sometimes. He thought that £1,500 would be a very small sum for nearly fifteen miles of road. With regard to the road between St. George and Curriwillingham, there had never been a penny spent upon it, and there was a large bridge required over the Narran River, which, when flooded, kept back any communication for a long time. He would not detain the House longer, but he hoped the motion would be passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he had no doubt that the objects of the motion were extremely good, and very probably the works asked for were all desirable to be undertaken; but he would submit to the honorable member the fact that they must do these things by degrees—they could not make roads and telegraph lines all over the colony at once. He had been given to understand that telegraphic communication to Curriwillingham would only be of benefit to persons on that road, and that it would not come into communication with the New South Wales line. Last session, they had voted a sum of £6,000 to connect Cunnamulla with Rutherford's; so that he was afraid that, if the honorable member carried his motion, the sum of £6,000 would not be sufficient for the first item in it. He did not know how the revenue was going to stand all the drains being made on it.

Mr. STEWART: It is out of loan.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: That was quite true; but he was satisfied that, if they went on as they were doing, they would have to come down next session with some scheme for extra taxation, and he did not know whether the honorable member for the Balonne would

be willing to support an export duty on wool. There were many other motions for money on the paper, and he did not know how the Government were to find funds for all. They had already lost a revenue of £100,000 by taking off duties, whilst from all parts of the colony heavy demands for expenditure were pouring in; he thought they had already asked Parliament for as large an expenditure as the state of the country would justify. He thought the honorable member would agree with him that it was a wrong time to ask the Government to disturb their financial arrangements, and he could promise the honorable member that he might rest assured that all the works he mentioned would be done in time.

Mr. GROOM said it was perfectly true that the expenditure was increasing, but it should not be forgotten that the colony itself was increasing every year, and, consequently, expenditure must increase in proportion. It stood to reason that it must and would increase on the resumptions proposed to be made by the Government during the next few months, as there must be roads, &c., made to enable those resumptions to be of any use. If the revenue could not stand it, there must be increased taxation, and it would be for the honorable Colonial Treasurer to say how that was to be imposed. He would repeat what he had often said, that all such works as those referred to in the motion should be carried out by having a system of shire councils, and the honorable Treasurer would remember, that when the House was about to rise last session, it was promised that the Government would bring in a Bill to establish shire councils. That Bill had been introduced, certainly, but he supposed that that was all that would be done, for he presumed that at that period of the session they would not be asked to pass a Bill of four hundred clauses. Again, he did not see why an amending Municipalities Bill should be mixed up with the question he referred to. The honorable member for Maryborough had told them about the claims of his district, but he thought that district was doing very well at the present time; and that if all other districts were treated in the same way as that had been by the present and the late Governments, there would be no cause for complaint. The district represented by the honorable member for the Balonne had, he thought, reason to complain, and the demand now made in its behalf was a moderate one. On that ground he should support it. He thought it was satisfactory that the present session had not passed over without the honorable member's voice having been heard on behalf of it, as the South-western districts had been far more neglected than those districts which were more thickly settled. He considered the present a just request, and one worthy of support.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS had always thought the honorable member for Toowoomba was the strongest advocate of

expenditure being in proportion to population, and he would point out that the western districts had derived great benefit from any improvements which had been made between there and the seaport. They had also the advantage of 150 miles of railway from Brisbane to Dalby, whilst a Bill had been passed by that House to extend that line from Dalby to Roma, which would be very close to the Balonne district; so that the honorable member made a mistake when he said that the Western districts had not derived any benefit from the expenditure which had taken place. He found, also, that when the census was taken for the purpose of forming a basis for the Additional Representation Bill, the population of the Balonne was only 1,200, and that the expenditure had been at the rate of £3 per head; also, that if the motion was carried, and the Railway Bill became law, they would have £8 10s. per head. He would ask, how the colony could support such an expenditure as that? In addition to that, he would observe, that part of the expenditure asked for was on a road leading from the Condamine township to St. George, *via* Surat, whilst they had passed a Railway Bill which would take the traffic off that line, and Surat would draw its supplies not from Roma but from some station thirty or forty miles from it. He would point out, also, that £1,500 would be insufficient to expend on such a road, and that, after all that money had been expended, if a flood came similar to that of last year, the money expended would be simply swept into the creeks; less than £10,000 would be insufficient to make that road. He hoped that in a few years the honorable member's constituents would have the benefit of railway extension to Roma, and that then they would find themselves better off, and that flour would never be so high in price as it had been during the present year. It might also be hoped that there would not be another flood for another five or six years, by which time the railway might be completed. He would remind the honorable member that the price he had mentioned as being paid for flour was not to be compared with the high price which was paid in other districts, so that he did not see any inconvenience in the honorable member's district which was not shared in by other places in different parts of the colony. If the money was voted, the fine weather could have made the roads passable before it would be expended, and then when it was spent, the first flood would sweep all the improvements into the creeks. He hoped the honorable member would not press his motion, as the inhabitants in his district were really not unexceptionally inconvenienced.

Mr. MILES thought the honorable member for the Balonne had been hardly sincere when he placed the motion on the paper; for he could hardly expect the House to vote such a large sum, especially as it had been stated by the honorable Minister for Works, that when the railway was made, the bridges

and roads the honorable member wished to construct would have no traffic upon them. He had, himself, asked for a sum of £1,500 for a district which was thickly populated, and the Government would not consent to it; and yet, the honorable member had asked for £6,000 where there was hardly any population, and where there were principally cattle stations, on which the consumption was very trifling. He would move that the items be taken *seriatim*, as he should like to vote for the telegraph between St. George and Curriwillingham.

Mr. J. SCOTT said he had listened to a great deal that had been said by the honorable the Treasurer and the honorable Minister for Lands, and he had been struck a good deal by the difference of their remarks that evening, and those which they had made a few evenings previously, when an item of £10,000 for bridges, in sites they could not name, had been proposed, and supported by them. There had been then no complaint made of money not being forthcoming; but now, when a sum of £6,000 was asked for necessary works, in a district from which ten times the amount of revenue was derived, the House was told that there was no money in the Treasury for such a purpose. He would like to know what influence had been brought to bear by which two bridges, not required, were to be built in the Ipswich district, whilst roads which were very much wanted in the Balonne district were not to be made, as it was said, there was no money.

Mr. PALMER said he should support the motion, because he believed the works referred to in it were really wanted, and only on that account. Roads were wanted in all the outside districts, but the honorable member for the Balonne would find that there was not the least chance of his getting the vote, as the Government would oppose it, notwithstanding the persistent support given to them by the honorable member, and his advocacy of them. As showing that roads in the interior were wanted, and that traffic could not go on without them, he might mention that, in the Central districts, he had had wool on the road for five months. The outside districts had been persistently neglected by the present Government; they would vote a sum of £100,000 for a dock in Brisbane, but the moment they were asked for money for an outside district, where it was really required, they would oppose the request, and their supporters would back them up in so doing.

Mr. McILWRAITH thought that the argument that money had been already spent on railway communication with Dalby, and that more would be spent in extending the line to Roma, had nothing to do with the first item of the resolutions, which had reference to a telegraph line between St. George and Curriwillingham, which he considered was much required, inasmuch as a mistake had been made in taking the other line of telegraph by the way it was taken. In regard

to the second item, it was possible that the argument of the railway would apply, but, according to the estimate of the honorable Colonial Treasurer, it would be some years before that line was completed; and it should be remembered, also, that that railway was to be made from lands sold in the district, which could only be treated as local revenue. He thought that the honorable member for the Balonne would find that a great deal of land in his district would have to be sold before the line got as far as Roma. In regard to the third item, he thought that that road was as much wanted as any in the district. It was quite useless to attempt to answer the argument of the honorable Minister for Works, because, according to it, no roads should be made at all, as the money would be swept away by the first flood. If that was the case, however, why had that honorable member put down such paltry amounts for roads, as he had done, in his own estimates? Such an argument might silence the honorable member who was asking for money for his district; but he might say that no district had been more neglected than that of the Balonne, especially in the matter of telegraphic communication, as it had been always understood that the line between St. George and Curriwillingham would be adopted in preference to the present one. He had been astonished to hear the objections of the honorable member for Carnarvon; but he presumed the honorable member's mind was so taken up with getting a bridge over Quart-pot Creek, that he could not spare time to consider other matters.

Mr. BELL thought the resolutions were very good, as if they were not, they would not be opposed by the present Government. He thought the way in which they had been opposed should be a warning to the honorable member for the Balonne, for putting his trust in the Government, and ought to have the effect of sending him to his (Mr. Bell's) side of the House. He did not think there had been such good resolutions on the paper for a long time, and they showed the value of the honorable member who introduced them, to his constituents. But what was the use of that with such a Government? He hoped the honorable member would take warning, and would not allow his friendship for the honorable member at the head of the Government to make him support that Government any longer. He had heard the honorable Minister for Works say that the resolution was not a valuable one, because the proposed line of railway from Dalby to Condamine would assist the people in the neighborhood of St. George to get all they wanted without having a road. Now, it was nothing of the kind; the road from the Condamine to St. George was very bad indeed; it was very often flooded, and went through a district where low-level bridges and culverts were very much wanted; so that money expended in that way would be of great value. He

thought that each of the places mentioned in the resolutions required the proposed expenditure on them; and the only hope he had was, that if the resolutions were thrown out by the weight of the Government, the honorable member would no longer give them his support. He thought they had behaved shamefully to the honorable member who had supported them; as, on the very first occasion on which he had asked for anything for his constituents, he had been told, "Mr. Member for the Balonne, we will not grant you this." That was showing the kind of gratitude to be expected from the Government; and if the honorable member did not resent it, he was not the valuable member he took him to be at that very moment. Perhaps, as the honorable member at the head of the Government had returned to his place, and had heard that his colleagues had unwisely objected to the resolutions, they might hear that they had returned to a right course; for the honorable member for the Balonne was not going to be sat upon. He believed that Governments, as a rule, in the colony, had not sufficiently done their duty, as regarded making roads in the interior. The honorable Colonial Treasurer had stated his objections to the resolutions, but that was, of course, a financial objection, or what might have been expected from a Treasurer—an objection in which there was nothing, because, if the Government desired to expend double the revenue, they could expend it at once; for, what was the colony for, but to be taxed? He was surprised to hear the remarks of the honorable member the Treasurer. He had always supposed the Treasurer was an officer in a position to find whatever money was necessary for the requirements of the country, and not to keep down those requirements to what he was capable of producing. Why, any Treasurer could do that! He wanted to see a man in that position always prepared to produce money enough for the requirements of the country, and he looked upon the argument of the honorable member the Treasurer as very imperfect, and he knew it was not honest—he hoped the honorable gentleman would excuse his using the word—because he was perfectly aware if the money were voted, it would not affect the revenue in the future; whatever money was required would be just as easily found. He hoped the honorable member for Balonne was not going to be hoodwinked in that way, and if the Government opposed the motion, and he ever voted with them again, he was not the man he (Mr. Bell) took him to be.

Mr. STEWART thought, as far as the question of roads was concerned, the honorable member for Balonne was quite entitled to the sum he asked, unless something were shown to the contrary. The argument of the honorable member the Minister for Works, that the sum would be insufficient to do anything at all to put the roads in order, would scarcely hold water. It had been explained

by the honorable member for Dalby, that it could be well expended in taking advantage of the natural formation of the roads, and constructing culverts and low-level bridges. He should support the motion for going into committee. With regard to the sum asked for the telegraph wire, he had been told it would not put up the wire, and if that were so, it would be of no use giving it.

Mr. FRASER should support the resolution for going into committee; and he hoped the remarks of the honorable member for Dalby would not press much upon the honorable member for Balonne, or induce him to withdraw from the party he had hitherto so consistently supported. He thought, if the honorable member adhered to that party, he would find a considerable amount of support.

Mr. MACROSSAN said he would like to know something more about these roads, for, at present, he was rather in a fog respecting them. Perhaps it might be possible that one of these three lines of road was not very much in want of repairs, and he would suggest to the honorable member for Balonne to alter the motion, and take the sum proposed for one of the roads to supplement that asked for telegraphic communication, because he believed the extension of the telegraph line was even more important than cheap culverts or a few yards of road.

Mr. W. GRAHAM said he could give a practical illustration of the usefulness of these comparatively small sums in connection with the improvement of roads. On the road between Dalby and St. George, a little money well spent would not only prevent portions of it from being washed away, but it would also obviate the necessity for teams crossing the Moonie twice. They would be able to keep on one side, and by cutting through some scrub, a considerable distance might be saved. It would prevent them being stuck up in very bad and dangerous country, where he had seen teams standing with the wool piled up for weeks. That was a very good proof that a small sum of money might be made very useful. He had no doubt the honorable member for Balonne would rather have a large sum; but as he could not get it, he was content with a small sum. He believed the honorable member would be very glad to see schedule B extended, which, no doubt, would be the means of adding considerably to the revenue.

Question put and passed.