

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 6 AUGUST 1879

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 6 August, 1879.

Petitions. — Motion for Adjournment. — Petition. —
Formal Motions. — Financial Statement. — Loan Estimates.

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

PETITIONS.

Mr. HORWITZ presented a petition from the Trustees of the Warwick School of Arts, praying for leave to sell a piece of land in that town, and to apply the proceeds to the building of a new School of Arts in a more convenient locality.

Petition received.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN presented a petition from Freeholders of the Upper Brisbane, praying for a Branch Railway to Esk.

Petition received and read.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. GROOM moved the adjournment of the House to correct a slight inaccuracy which appeared in the report of the debate of the previous night, and which he wished to set right at the earliest opportunity, as what he was reported to have said conveyed a wrong impression. It was not often he had to complain of *Hansard*, for the reporting was admirably done; but he was reported to have said that 150 acres of land at Toowoomba, purchased by the Government from Mr. Gregory, was four miles from Toowoomba; but what he had said was that it was four miles from Mahoney's Gate, which was a very different thing. Perhaps the proprietor of the land sold might think he (Mr. Groom) was making a wilful misrepresentation, and he was therefore anxious to put himself right. As a fact, the land was not more than half-a-mile from the town boundary, but the distance to Mahoney's Gate from the town was nearer six miles. It was the last place before Gowrie Junction, while the land was but a short distance from Back Gully. He made the correction that it might not appear that he had intentionally said the land was four miles from Toowoomba. He moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said that at the previous sitting he had made a statement on hear-

say which he wished to correct now, though he took the precaution at the time of say that he only spoke from hearsay. He stated that Mr. Hume had recommended the sale of the land to the Government, but he now knew that that gentleman did nothing of the kind and had nothing to do with the sale of it; on the contrary, he himself suggested to Dr. Smith that there was a piece of some seventy or seventy-five acres belonging to the Crown which would cost nothing and be a capital site. In reality, Mr. Hume pointed out several pieces that would have answered the purpose. He (Mr. O'Sullivan) took the earliest opportunity of withdrawing any hint which he might have thrown out in regard to Mr. Hume's connection with the transaction. From positive information since received he now knew that Mr. Hume had nothing to do with it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Palmer) thought that after what had been said it was the duty of the hon. member to move for all the papers connected with the subject. There were a great many hard things said about Dr. Smith last night, and he (Mr. Palmer) had since looked over the papers, and would now merely observe that in justice to Dr. Smith those papers ought to be moved for. If the hon. member for Stanley would not move for them some other hon. member should do so. This should be done in justice to Dr. Smith, and when the papers were produced they would put a very different colour upon some things.

Mr. KATES rose with great reluctance and pain to reply to some remarks which had been made by the hon. member for the Mitchell affecting the German residents of the colony, when that hon. member had accused the Germans of being Socialists, of being sold as slaves in America, and of being bad colonists. With regard to their being Socialists, he referred to the testimony of the hon. Premier, and the hon. member for Maryborough and other hon. members, to show whether there was a more law-abiding, peaceful, industrious class than the Germans had proved themselves to be. The hon. member had said that in 1817 Germans were sold as slaves in America; anyone reading the history of Germany would see that 1,800 years ago, when the Romans had conquered Gaul, invaded England, and made slaves of the Scotch, it was a German who most signally defeated them on the Rhine—Arminius. As to their making bad colonists, he need only refer to the Rosewood Scrub to see what sort of colonists they made. They produced more from an acre of land than other colonists did from two or three; and when he saw in *Hansard* that the hon. member for the Mitchell called those who came here "culls," he could not help thinking that, if those who were called the "culls" had proved themselves

so good, what must the nation itself be. The hon. member must be aware that in slandering the Germans he was also slandering the Royal Family of England, so closely connected with the Germans by marriage—and not the Queen only, but also the future king, whose father was a German and a most noble Prince. He also reminded the hon. member, as representing a wool-growing constituency, that the Germans were amongst the principal buyers of colonial wool, and he therefore ought not to despise them when they were such good customers. Perhaps they were not so well up as the hon. member in Scotch navigation, but so far as arts, sciences, and literature were concerned, they stood in front of all the nations of the world. The fact was, the hon. member did not believe in immigration at all—Germans or Irish or Scotch—but preferred, if any, the kanakas. For the future he advised him to leave the Germans alone. They did him no harm and some good. If legislation should say that no Germans were to come here, well and good; but the other colonies would be only too glad to get them. There would be hundreds and thousands of Germans in the colonies long after the hon. member was gone. He (Mr. Kates) would have spoken before but that he was absent at the time the debate took place.

Mr. MESTON owed a duty to his constituents as well as to the Germans of the colony. He had heard on a previous occasion some of the most astounding libels on the German population of this colony which could be imagined; and though the hon. member for the Mitchell was evidently perfectly sincere in his arguments and statements, he (Mr. Meston) called their correctness in question. The hon. member evidently read a good deal, but he evidently read a good deal more than he could discriminate upon. An old philosopher said it was no proof of good health to eat more than you could digest, and it was no proof of an acquisition of knowledge to read more than you could make rational use of. The hon. member had his mental stomach filled with a large collection of incongruous material, which was lying undergoing a process of fermentation and evolving unspeakable gases. The other night the hon. member quoted from the *North American Review* extracts from an anonymous article on German Socialism in America. It was the habit in reviews of this kind for the writers to attach their names to the articles written by them, but this one happened to be a conspicuous exception amongst all the other articles in that review, because it had no name attached to it. The hon. member (Mr. Morehead) had made one or two extracts from that review, and he (Mr. Meston) would do the same, referring

principally to the programme drawn up and headed the "National Platform of Socialism and the Labour Party." The first was eight hours for the present as the legal working day, and prompt punishment of all violators; the sanitary inspection of all conditions of labour, means of subsistence, and dwellings included—a principle the hon. member would endorse. Next was the prohibition of the employment of children under fourteen years in all industrial establishments—that principle he would also endorse. The compulsory education of all children under fourteen years of age, materials, &c., to be furnished free of charge—that was what was done here. The prohibition of the employment of female labour after certain hours—no exception could be taken to that. A provision as far as possible against accidents and to make the employer liable—which was the principle the Minister for Works embodied in his Mining Bill. The gratuitous administration of justice in courts of law—that was a most important question, and one which he (Mr. Meston) had considered for years. In the first place the country was heavily taxed for a costly administration of justice, and afterwards the cost of obtaining it was so great that people rather submitted tamely to wrongs than risked ruining themselves by an appeal to the law courts. Considering the cost to the country of administering justice, every man should be able to go and obtain it gratuitously. Returning to the next part of the programme, the importation of coolies under contract was prohibited and those now engaged to be released—would to heaven that could be introduced here as regarded the kanakas! "The ignorance of the working man as to his rights and wrongs is the cause of his enslavement by the intelligent ruffians of the age. Economical, political, and religious liberty constitute the 'Holy Writs of Human Freedom.'" These were the principles of the Socialistic party. The article which the hon. member for the Mitchell had read was not sufficiently explained. It was evidently written by a capitalist—one, probably, of the class who sent highly-insured rotten ships to sea, and employed large numbers of women, promising to give them employment when they had learned the business which he professed to teach them; but, when the time came for the payment of the wages promised when engaging them, some frivolous pretext would be found, and the women would be discharged to meet starvation or prostitution, and a fresh relay of victims taken on in their place. At the best, the article was but one man's opinion, and that man ashamed to attach his name to it. It was an atrocious libel on the German nation. The hon. member would also have them believe that the Germans were a serious trouble in

America, and were banding themselves together for the purpose of overthrowing the Constitution. That was against the irrefutable and inexorable logic of facts. Had the hon. member read an article in the *Telegraph* lately on "Communism in California?" Were the anarchists and demagogues led on by Butler and Dennis Kearney of the German race? They were not. He would give a brief outline of the rise and progress of the German nation, and a brief outline, also, of the rise and progress of the English. The hon. member (Mr. Morehead) would have them believe that the English people had come down pure and unadulterated from all time, and were the same race to-day as thousands of years ago. There were nations so descended, and yet not by any means the leading nations of the world. The Chinese were the same now as when they first heard the doctrines of Confucius and of Mencius; the Egyptians were the same race who built the Pyramids, who worshipped Isis and Horus, who fed the sacred crocodiles, and embalmed the sacred Ibis. Some of the Germans of to-day were the same fair-haired, blue-eyed race who defeated the Roman armies centuries ago. They were mentioned by Pliny 213 years B.C., and if they traced the German people from the time of the Roman Empire, or from earlier periods, they would find that all they had done they had reason to be proud of. The empire which had grown up out of the race had become one of the first empires in the world. It was one of the most competent to secure the balance of power in Europe. What a long line of statesmen and warriors were included in the interval between Frederick the Great and Bismarck and Moltke! Were the Germans not our allies in the Wars of Napoleon? Did they not fight side by side with us, and was it not debatable how far they were the cause of the successful result at Waterloo? Surely, a nation which had given to poetry such names as Göthe, Schiller, and Wieland; to philosophy such names as Kant, Lessing, Strauss, Herder, Hegel, and Jean Paul Richter; to astronomy such names as Kepler, Copernicus, and Humboldt; to music, such names as Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Offenbach—was not a nation to be despised! And let the whole civilised world answer, when he asked what the whole civilised world owed to the German Luther and Melancthon—two-thirds of the civil and religious liberty they enjoyed to-day. And as that grand old German spirit of the past freed the world from some of the delusions and impostures of the Council of Trent, so the Germany of to-day was giving forth philosophies which would free the world from a few of the impostures and delusions of the theology of Luther. Let the hon. member for the Mitchell con-

sider the German names that figured in English history. There was the painter Holbein, in the age of Henry VIII., of whom that king, when accused of his partiality towards him, said he could make eight fools into eight earls, but he could not make eight earls into one Holbein. Then, in astronomy there were the Herschells; in music, Handel and Haydn; in modern English statesmanship, Mr. Goschen; and in philosophy, the eminent Oriental scholar, Max Müller, of whom both nations were equally proud. Looking back to the rise of the English nation, he found that in Cæsar's Commentaries and the Cambrian manuscripts they were actually savages and cannibals; and Cicero told the Roman Senate that the Britons were not fit even to be slaves. The early history of England, through the Saxon heptarchies, pentarchies, and octarchies, was one series of revolutions, invasions, miscellaneous civil wars, and indiscriminate carnage. He was not aware that early German history was disgraced by such national crimes as the murder of the Danes in the reign of Ethelred, and the cowardly massacre of the Jews in the days of Cœur-de-Lion. He simply wished to show the hon. member what exceedingly delicate glass-houses they all lived in, and that the less they said about the history of the past the better. They had been told by the hon. member for Mitchell that Germans had been sold as slaves. The hon. member referred, no doubt, to the old crime of kidnapping. He had heard his father say that it was quite common in Aberdeen, at one time, for people of all classes to be kidnapped and taken to the United States and sold there as slaves—a regular trade in the article being carried on from Aberdeen, Liverpool, and Bristol. At one time it was the custom of people anxious to go to Brazil, Pernambuco, and the West Indies, and who were unable to pay their passages, to sell their labour to the shipowners, who again resold it on arriving at the port of destination, and they remained in servitude until the amount of their passages was paid, and they had established homes for themselves, freedom and independence, in the country of their adoption. He would tell the hon. member that the English at one time sold their children to the Irish as slaves, and that it was only put an end to in the reign of Canute the Dane; and not more than 300 years ago, in the reign of Edward VI., there was a statute providing that all books on geometry and astronomy should be burnt by the common hangman as containing magic—and this at a period when some of the most magnificent German philosophies were being founded. The English nation had been made great by the amalgamation of compatible races, and the vitality

of each, fused into one homogeneous whole, had made that Empire which had now such a mighty supremacy in the world. The difference between an amalgamated nation and a nation of pure descent might be seen in comparing England with China. The Chinese were acquainted with the manufacture of paper 1,700 years ago, yet at a comparatively recent period paper was so valuable in China that it was criminal to destroy a scrap of it. They were acquainted with the use of the mariner's compass 1,200 years before it was known in Europe, but they only used it for voyaging along the coasts where the natural landmarks were equally as serviceable. They could calculate eclipses hundreds of years before any Western nation emerged from barbarism; and although they could copy pictures with an almost preternatural fidelity, they could produce nothing original. The civilisation of China 100 years ago was far ahead of that of England, but in that 100 years the English had advanced more than the Chinese had for the last 3,000 years. The English nation was really founded when William the Conqueror brought over his army of Dutch, Frenchmen, Flemings, and Norse pirates; and it might be said that out of that incongruous crowd arose the English nation of to-day, and in the English of to-day were to be found traces of all those original nationalities. The hon. member for Mitchell had given his opinion of socialism and revolution. Every modern nation owed its origin to a revolution, as did the old empires of Assyria, Persia, and Egypt. The French owed their present vigorous national vitality to the Revolution of 1789; and Voltaire said—which was also quite true—that the era of English liberty dated from the Revolution of 1688, when James the Second was dethroned. Would the hon. member compare the founders of the programme he had quoted with the anarchists during the reign of terror under Robespierre? And yet those very anarchists got rid of the abuses of centuries of incapable tyrannical monarchy, of an insolent aristocracy, and of a domineering priesthood. In 1793 they laid the foundation of that splendid French Republic of to-day, whose vitality in recovering from the crushing defeat by the Germans had been the wonder of the world, and showed the secure foundations on which it was founded. During the Dutch Revolution, in the days of Alva, the Dutch and Flemish weavers fled to England and laid the foundation of that manufacturing supremacy which Britain had enjoyed up to the present time. If the hon. member would look into history he would find order and harmony struggling up through all time out of chaos and discord, and that the happiness of the present

was founded on the agonies of the past. Did not Wordsworth tell them that—

“God's most dreadful instrument
For working out a pure intent
Is men arrayed for mutual slaughter.”

In short, revolutions, in the present state of human nature and of Governments, were essential to the progress of mankind. He would now refer to what German colonists had done for Queensland, and would begin by naming a few prominent Germans in colonial history. The most eminent of our botanists, Baron von Müeller, was a German, as was likewise another botanist almost equally eminent, Dr. Schomburgh. Leichhardt, the most eminent explorer, was a German, and so was that eminent naturalist, late of the Sydney Museum, Mr. Krefft, and Dr. Seemann, the explorer of Fiji. The hon. member complained that the Germans voted together, and that during general elections the question was always asked, how are the Germans going to vote? But was it not always customary to ask how the Catholics were going to vote, and how the Orangemen were going to vote? Why, then, should the Germans be singled out? As a highly intelligent, educated people the Germans invariably voted for the best man—the fact that they had voted for him proved that. The Germans could not all at once throw off their old national peculiarities, their old affections for Fatherland, no more than the Scotchman could in America. They spoke their national language, and had their national newspapers: the *Scottish American Journal*, of New York, was one of the best newspapers published in the States, and in Brisbane there was an excellent German newspaper. The Irish, also, had their newspaper in Brisbane, and very properly so. As to the German colonists of Queensland, he did not hesitate to say that they were a most industrious, intelligent, and valuable class of people. In his own electorate there was fully a thousand of them, and two-thirds of them arrived here without any capital, and had to obtain their first provisions and agricultural implements on trust. They went into the dense scrub, the primeval forest, carved out homes for themselves, and in three or four years had paid off their debts, erected comfortable cottages, and put money in the bank. Some of the best vine-growers, and the owners of the principal orchards in the colony, were Germans, and at the Exhibition the other day the principal prizes for fruit were taken by Hartmann, of Toowoomba, a most valuable colonist and most intelligent man. The magnificent piece of furniture at the Exhibition, the book-case, which everybody so much admired, was the work of a German artisan. The Germans were assisting to build up the future great empire of Aus-

tralia. At present, no doubt, the fathers who had come from Germany retained their national peculiarities, but their children would display less of them, and so on—until, in a couple of generations, they would all be Australians alike and the old natural peculiarities would have entirely disappeared, and they would all be working together in harmony for the prosperity of the country in which they had made their homes. Some Germans, on first coming here, might seem stupid because they could not speak our language; but if an Englishman went to Germany without understanding a word of the language, he also would appear somewhat stupid. The fact remained that the Germans, as a class, had contributed largely to the prosperity of the colony. They were frugal, industrious, and eminently sober. The Minister for Works told them, the other night, that during his ride round the Rosewood Scrub he only saw three public-houses to nine churches. Since that visit one of those public-houses had collapsed. In a population of 8,000 they could not sustain three public-houses, and with difficulty sustained two—a fact which spoke volumes for the temperate character of the people. They gave so much time to their own affairs, and minded their own business so well, that they had no time to go about the country drinking. If ever this country were attacked by a foreign foe, the German settlers would be found fighting side by side with the English—none the less bravely and loyally because they were Germans—in defence of the country in which they had established their homes.

MR. MOREHEAD said he had had to play a lone hand in this business, and was afraid he should have to do so now. Before the speech of the hon. member for Rosewood, he felt like Agag after being taken prisoner by the Israelites—"Surely the bitterness of death is passed;" but now the hon. member, like the prophet Samuel, was going to "hew him in pieces before the Lord." There was an anecdote in *Punch* a short time ago of a private in the army whose accoutrements were being examined by an officer with an eye-glass. Said the officer, "Private Smith, your accoutrements are very dirty;" to which Private Smith replied, "Sir, it is very hard to have to keep them clean with the naked eye, and have them examined through a magnifying-glass." That was the way in which the hon. member had been examining him, coming down upon him with a Gatling gun charged with quotations ancient and modern, and fired off with such rapidity that he was wholly unable to test their soundness. On the other hand, he felt somewhat like Oliver Cromwell at the battle of Dunbar. Leslie occupied a commanding position and had the English

army at his mercy, but having, on the advice of the clergy, taken a false step, Oliver Cromwell exclaimed, "Surely the Lord hath delivered my enemy into my hands." So, the Lord had delivered his (Mr. Morehead's) enemy into his hands to-night. The sum of the hon. member's contention was, that the German was a better man than the Briton, and that the Briton was a savage before the German amalgamated with him. If anything was wanting to prove his (Mr. Morehead's) argument that the German vote was a dangerous factor in the State, it was the speech just delivered by the hon. member, representing as he did an electorate containing a large number of German voters. Had not the hon. member represented Rosewood he would have blown his trumpet about the Scotch instead of the Germans, but representing that particular electorate he had, as he admitted, made the speech to please his constituents. His argument had, therefore, been established, that it was a question for the Legislature to consider whether steps should not be taken—not to prevent Germans coming to the colony, for that was a position he had never taken up—but to prevent the State being taxed to introduce a class of settlers who might be used as a political factor. He wanted to narrow the question down to the one point—the text upon which he had preached several sermons to the House—the British colonies for the British people. Again and again he would repeat, that until the British Islands were exhausted none but our fellow-countrymen should be brought out at the expense of the country. Others might come at their own expense, but not at the expense of the country. The colony was won by the British, and was the property of the British; and if money was to be expended, let it be expended to bring our own countrymen, but not Germans, Italians, or any other foreigners. Personally, he had no antipathy to the Germans. Why should he have? He had pointed out pretty clearly that the hon. member had made simply an electioneering speech, full of quotations, but with no argument in it. Very likely the House would have been more interested in a chapter from the "Encyclopædia" on China or Japan, and he believed he had been the means of interesting and instructing the hon. member on that subject and diverting his mind from the sacred Ibis and the crocodile he was so fond of talking about. The hon. member for Darling Downs (Mr. Kates) made an attack upon Scotland in his speech, and it was rather astonishing that the hon. member for Rosewood did not defend the country which he so often wildly dilated upon in leading articles. He (Mr. Morehead) would point out that Scotland was the only unconquered country in the

world, and that, so far from England having annexed it, it annexed England. The hon. member (Mr. Kates) had accused him of slandering the Royal Family; but he had not received any intimation from the Royal Family to that effect, and, until he did, should take it for granted that he had not done so. That hon. member also said that Germans bought large quantities of Australian wool, and therefore his (Mr. Morehead's) action was likely to prevent them from doing so in future. Could anything be more laughable than such a childish statement from a senior member of an important constituency having a grey-haired veteran for his junior. He had only to say, in conclusion, that the hon. member, (Mr. Meston) had only read one part of the article in the *North American Review*. If he had read the second part he would have found that the anonymous writer was a correspondent of the late Lord Macaulay, and had he read the second article he would have found in it a letter from the late Lord Macaulay, evidently addressed to the writer of that article, and which had never before been printed. The hon. member, therefore, should not jump to the conclusion that because the writer was anonymous therefore the article was not reliable. In his opinion none but a man of great views and reputation would be allowed to put such an article as that in a leading review like the *North American*. Therefore, that argument fell to the ground. He would conclude by repeating his text—the British colonies for the British people; and when the British Islands were exhausted it would be time to look elsewhere.

Mr. SIMPSON said the House had heard two good lectures, and, had they been delivered at the School of Arts when the House was not sitting, he would have been very glad to pay two or three shillings to listen to them. Here they were entirely out of place. The discussion was of no general interest, and he trusted the good sense of the House would not allow it to be carried on any further.

Mr. McLEAN said that the letter mentioned by him in a previous debate as addressed to the paper had reference to their religion only. The Germans believed in religion being taught in the schools, and that was the purport of the remarks he made in the House. The hon. member for the Mitchell objected to a portion of the immigration vote being spent on the introduction of Germans, but he must be aware that Germans contributed as well as others, and on that ground had a right to expect that some of their countrymen should be brought out.

The Hon. S. W. GRIFFITH said he had missed the advantage of hearing the speech of the hon. member for Rosewood, though he understood he was going to make one.

He only rose to say that possibly too much importance had been attached to the vagaries of the hon. member for the Mitchell—for his remarks did not amount to more. He represented the opinion of very few besides himself when he made those uncalled-for and improper attacks upon a most valuable class of colonists. A large number of hon. members on both sides would agree with him in recognising the colonists whom the hon. member attacked as being some of the most valuable to the colony, and a class of people that should be encouraged to come, in order especially to promote agricultural settlement.

The PREMIER (Mr. McIlwraith) said he thought when the hon. gentleman rose he was going to apologise for having brought that subject before the House. When the hon. member for the Mitchell brought the subject forward on a former occasion it was not thought necessary by hon. members on that side to answer his speech. Hon. members should be allowed to have independent feelings without toadying to the Germans as soon as such a question arose; but members of the Opposition, for electioneering purposes, had thought fit to make speeches on the subject. The leader of the Opposition should apologise, because it was evident that his not being in his place was the reason why the House had been treated to a speech on a subject that embraced all time and all space and could be talked upon for ever. The object was simply to keep on a discussion to prevent him from bringing on the Loan Estimates before the hon. gentleman took his place. As soon as the hon. gentleman took his seat the hon. member for Rosewood sat down. The continual talking on subjects quite wide of the mark when important business was waiting was a growing evil, and he hoped it would not be encouraged.

Mr. REA protested against dictation. Why did not the Premier get up when members on his own side wasted the time of the House? The hon. member on his side (Mr. Morehead) said what he wanted to say, but when hon. members on the other side got up they were to be muzzled and not allowed to say anything. He could certify that there was no connection between the sitting down of the hon. member and the arrival of the leader of the Opposition, because the hon. member for Rosewood told him (Mr. Rea) yesterday that he was going to bring the subject on. He had never, in any assembly, heard such an uncalled-for attack upon a nationality as had been made upon the Germans. It was simply monstrous; the talk was of nationalities all round, and it was expected that hon. members would sit still and say nothing.

Mr. GROOM did not wish to prolong the discussion. He could safely say that the

Premier had done the leader of the Opposition an injustice. The hon. member for Rosewood had to leave early in the evening on the night when the hon. member for the Mitchell spoke with regard to the Germans, and on the following Friday morning he told him (Mr. Groom) that he should move the adjournment of the House on the Monday for the purpose of replying. On his (Mr. Groom's) suggesting that on that night the hon. member for Darling Downs (Mr. Kates) would not be in his place he consented to defer his intention until Tuesday. Yesterday, he believed, the orders of the day were called before the hon. member was prepared, and therefore they had heard that speech to-night. There was no contract between the hon. member for Rosewood and the leader of the Opposition for any such purpose, and that hon. member had not spoken to waste the time of the House. It was understood that the Premier would make a statement with regard to the Loan vote, and there was no intention to obstruct business until they had heard that statement. He should not repeat what he had said with regard to the Germans. There were a considerable number of them in his electorate, but he was not going to say they were better than any other class he represented. It would be very absurd to say so; but that they were a very desirable class he affirmed. He had never seen any tendency among them to Socialism or anything of the kind; they were industrious, frugal colonists, and, much to their credit, paid their way, did not slander their neighbours nor backbite, and when they sent letters to the papers signed them so that they might be identified. In confirmation of what the hon. member for Stanley had said, he could state that a report was current in Toowoomba to the effect that the site chosen for the asylum was the recommendation of the Land Commissioner. He had been informed by independent testimony that Mr. Hume had nothing to do with the matter—that he was personally opposed to the choice, and advised other and better sites. He begged to withdraw the motion.

MR. MACFARLANE (Ipswich), as one who had considerable business transactions with Germans for the last seventeen years, could corroborate the statement of the hon. member (Mr. Groom), that they paid their way. The losses sustained by his firm through Germans were a mere nothing, and he wished there were more of them in the country.

MR. BAILEY said the Germans and the Danes had no desire that their qualities, good or bad, should be discussed in the House—they wished to go their own way in quietness, working hard, earning their living and paying their way. They wished to be neither slandered nor praised. The

real occasion of this debate was, that during the last session of the last Parliament that portion of the population were grossly slandered from a certain bench in the House. Those slanders were repeated throughout the country from mouth to mouth, from newspaper to newspaper, and it was known that those who should have silenced them did not do so. At the time when the Premier himself met the Germans he was advised to explain away his silence and other men's speech; and at Ipswich he was reported to have said, what the hon. member (Mr. Meston) was now accused of having said, that the German was a better man than the Irishman, Englishman, or Scotchman. The Premier afterwards repudiated the newspaper account of his speech on that occasion. This was not the first time that slanders had been launched forth against one of the best class of men in the community, and it was no wonder that an hon. member, having a large number of German constituents not able to speak for themselves through the Press through inability to write English, should stand up and defend them as manfully as the hon. member for Rosewood had done.

MR. MESTON said that, with regard to the remarks of the Premier, nothing was further from his intention than to take up the time of the House until the leader of the Opposition came in—indeed he had no knowledge that the hon. gentleman was out of the House. He had studiously endeavoured to avoid wasting time, and should be the last member to occupy the attention of the House unless he felt that he was fulfilling a public duty in doing so.

The PREMIER said he cordially admitted that the hon. member did not usually waste the time of the House, and he should be sorry to have it thought that he alluded to the conduct of the hon. member during the session. No hon. member had been listened to with greater pleasure or had taken up the time of the House less.

MR. GRIFFITH said the fact of the hon. member ceasing when he arrived was purely accidental—as he had not had any communication with the hon. member on the subject. As to apologising, when he condescended to ask any hon. member to waste time for his convenience, he would go further than apologising—he would leave the House.

Motion, by permission, withdrawn.

PETITION.

MR. ARCHER presented a petition from certain Shipowners of Sydney with regard to the Bêche-de-mer Fisheries, and moved that it be received.

Question put and passed.

FORMAL MOTIONS.

The following motions were agreed to :—

By Mr. GRIFFITH—

That there be laid upon the table of the House, a Return showing all Correspondence, Minutes, and other Documents relating to the resuming possession of the site of the new Telegraph Office at Townsville, and the claim of Mr. Thomas Davey for compensation in respect of improvements effected by him on such site ; and showing, also, the dates of the days of nomination and polling for the Electoral District of Townsville at the last General Election.

By Mr. DAVENPORT—

That there be laid on the table of the House, copies of the following Documents and Correspondence—

1. Mr. Nutting's application to retire, and his application for a pension.

2. The Medical Certificates on which his retirement was based.

3. All Minutes and Correspondence between the Government and the Police Department relating thereto.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—LOAN ESTIMATES.

On the Order of the Day for the resumption of the Committee of Supply being called,

The PREMIER said : I intimated yesterday that I would make a statement to-day in introducing the Loan Estimates. I was not aware of the object of the question put to me the other day by the leader of the Opposition, as to whether I purposed making a financial statement when introducing those Estimates, but I understand now that it was with the object of securing an adjournment for the purpose of considering the Statement. My intention was to go on with the debate on the Estimates to-day ; still I have not the slightest objection to the course proposed by the hon. member (Mr. Griffith), as he considers that it will tend to facilitate business. If, therefore, after the deliberate statement which I will make on the motion that you, Mr. Speaker, leave the chair, and the House go into Supply, it is deemed advisable by the House to adjourn the debate, I am quite prepared to do so. I have to direct the attention of the House to this fact—that it is very necessary the Loan Bill should be passed as soon as possible, and in order to secure that object I have consented—in fact, I have been forced to consent—to a disarrangement of the business in a way that will not at all assist the Government side of the House. It would have been better for us if the Loan Estimates had been considered at a later part of the session. Taking into consideration the deficit at the end of last year, and the depreciation of debentures on the last Loan, which must be provided for in the next, there was on July 31 a cash balance at the

credit of the Loan Account of £1,085,478. When we consider the large number of works to which the colony has been committed at the present time—the large number of contracts let—it will be plain that we must provide for these works being carried on. At the present time the rate of expenditure from the Loan Fund varies between, perhaps, £75,000 and £100,000 per month. With the more extensive operations forced upon us by the additional lines of railway commenced lately, this fund may be exhausted at the end of the financial year. On the most moderate calculation, I do not think the Loan Fund will be sufficient for longer than the end of the financial year. I need not, therefore, enforce upon the House that it is absolutely necessary that the Government should be in a position to carry on the works when the funds in hand are exhausted. It would be disastrous to the colony should any of these works have to be stopped and the men thrown out of employment, and it is with the object of preventing such a contingency that I have consented to put the Government in a weaker position so far as the business is concerned, with a view to getting the Loan Bill through. Last year the Loan Bill was passed on September 10, yet it was not before the 2nd January that the first of the debentures could be sent home, and the loan was actually floated about March 26. We had the assurance of the then Colonial Secretary that all due despatch was used in sending the debentures home. With the better facilities that we now have for printing debentures, from the fact that we have the paper on hand, I believe we can do the work quicker than it was done before ; but still, after the Loan Bill has passed, it will take two months before we shall be able to ship the debentures. For the reason, however, that we will actually require money at the end of the financial year, and from the fact that we must know as soon as possible whether the debentures will float, I urge upon the House to put through the Loan Estimates with despatch. There is not the slightest doubt that we are forced to go into the market for a loan. It is rather an unusual course, so far as I can understand, for a Treasurer to make a financial statement on the Loan Estimates. I do not remember a time when more information was afforded to the House by a Treasurer than has been given by me, because I foreshadowed my policy clearly with regard to loans in my Financial Statement, which went, perhaps, more into detail than was necessary—at all events, more than the financial speech of any previous Treasurer. Last year, for instance, although the House passed a loan vote of £1,184,800, the Loan Estimates were introduced by simply moving that the first item be passed without any preliminary speech. However, I think it is necessary for me to

adopt a new practice, and for the additional reason that the amount of loan asked for this time is more than previously. The first item on the Estimates is £100,000 for immigration. At the present time we have in hand an amount between £70,000 and £90,000. With the present prospects of immigration being commenced these two amounts will be sufficient to carry us on until a further general loan will be required. At all events, with this sum in hand the Government will always be able to recommence immigration, and should it be desired to carry on immigration on a larger scale they can, with the sanction of the House, anticipate a further loan by having recourse to the general funds. I do not think, however, that more than £190,000 will be required for immigration. We next come to railways, the first item of which is for the extension of what I may call the three main lines. I expected before to be able to put down £1,500,000 for this purpose—or, rather, this amount less one railway which I have included amongst branch lines, but which I then ranked as a main line—namely, the line towards Clermont. Taking that out, I have reduced the amount for the extension of main lines by £330,000. I do not intend to go into my reasons for proposing this large amount for the extension of our railways into the interior, because I have often advocated these extensions, and have often stated my grounds for doing so. I only regret that I was not able to stand by my previous estimate, and insist upon the whole amount being included in the loan. Had I done so, however, it would have raised the proportions of our loan beyond what we can go prudently at the present time. The next item is £418,000 for the completion of the different lines at present in progress, and that item, hon. members will see, has been decreased by £128,000 on my Financial Statement. That decrease is caused in the first place by the removal of one item—that of the extension of the Northern line from the present authorised terminal point to Charters Towers—to the provision for the extension of the three main lines on which it is the third item. The decrease has been caused, in the next place, by my having reduced very considerably the provision made by the Commissioner for rolling-stock. I had not examined too minutely the details of the Chief Engineer's estimates for these lines at the time of making my Financial Speech, but, having examined them thoroughly since, I am satisfied that too great provision was made for rolling-stock; and therefore off that amount I take something like £97,000, which accounts for the decrease in this portion of the Loan Estimates. I wish hon. members to understand that, with the exception of my interference with the opinion of the engineer regarding rolling-

stock—or, rather, with the opinion of the Commissioner for Railways, for I believe he made out the estimate for rolling-stock—all the other amounts are the estimates of the Engineer-in-Chief. The various amounts put opposite to these lines—Western Railway to Roma, and Warwick to Stanthorpe, Maryborough to Gympie, Bundaberg to Mount Perry, Central Railway to Retreat—all these are the estimates of the Engineer-in-Chief. To most of these the Government have been committed by the letting of contracts at the present time. An unnecessarily expensive mode of construction has been adopted on several, I think; but I question very much whether, taking into consideration the chance of difficulties with the contractors in altering the contracts, it would have been a less expensive method for the present Government to interfere; and therefore I have allowed the estimates to go on, although we are making all the efforts we can to reduce the cost of the lines. The amount of £100,900 will complete the Western Railway to Roma, including a terminal station. £79,400 will complete the railway from Warwick to Stanthorpe, and will include the terminal station also, and a very ample provision for rolling-stock. Maryborough to Gympie, £105,500, includes also the extension of that line into the town of Gympie. I believe it is disputed where the terminus should be, but the amount named will provide for the most expensive terminus—I think there is only a difference of £1,000 between the rival sites. The amount includes, also, ample provision for rolling-stock. Bundaberg to Mount Perry, £108,000, is the Estimate of the Engineer-in-Chief for the extension of that line actually to Mount Perry. At present, contracts have been let to a place near New Moonta. Nobody lives at this place, or near it, that I am aware of; and a line to be left there would be perfectly useless, so far as I can understand: I believe the intention of the House was to carry the railway to Mount Perry. At all events, if the House does not consent to the extension to Mount Perry, the line will be useless, indeed, so far as I know. The amount put down for the extension to Mount Perry, to carry out the ideas of the hon. member (Mr. Thorn) as originally proposed, will be £108,000. The next two items—£10,600, reconstruction, Central Railway, and £9,500, buildings and sidings, Southern and Western Railway—are departmental items which were not known to me at the time my Financial Statement was made. Then we come to what may be called the Branch Railways. The first put down is Brisbane to Sandgate, 13 miles at £4,000 per mile. This is the estimate that I have put down for what I consider the best line of the Engineer-in-Chief—the route by the Albion. He esti-

mates the cost at £6,322 per mile, for what he calls a first-class line. I do not consider that a line of this character is required, neither do I believe the Government would be justified in recommending such an expensive railway—and here I may add that the engineer's estimate did not include rolling-stock, or the purchase of the land. I believe, however, that a line quite suitable for the purpose can be made for £4,000 per mile; and if it can, the colony will be justified in undertaking it. The next provision is for a line from Ipswich to Fassifern, thirty miles, at £2,500 per mile. The estimate of the Engineer-in-Chief was £3,400 per mile, but I have reduced it to £2,500 for something like the same reasons that I gave for reducing the Sandgate line, and with a thorough belief that the work can be carried out for the amount. Southern and Western Railway to Mount Esk, forty-two miles at £2,500 per mile, is the next item. The estimate of the Engineer-in-Chief was £3,652 per mile. The next provision is for a line from Maryborough to Burrum, eighteen miles, at £3,000 per mile. The estimate of the Engineer-in-Chief was £3,069 per mile. I have put down nearly the same amount, because I thought it better to provide for an additional amount of expenditure on the terminus, both inland and on the river. I have to remark that the Government have no intention of interfering with or doing anything to discourage the operations of some gentlemen who are trying to float a company for the purpose of constructing a line between Maryborough and Burrum; but we did not think ourselves justified in omitting a line of this character from these estimates simply because of a correspondence between Mr. Hurley, the promoter of the company, and the Government. The relations between that gentleman and the Government have not been so intimate as the Press and hon. members opposite seem to think. It is only lately that Mr. Hurley has made definite propositions to us—by which I mean propositions which were at all likely to be entertained by the House. The propositions that he has made now are pretty reasonable in my opinion, and such as the House will, I think, approve. I am entirely in favour of the principles of the measure that Mr. Hurley has promised to bring before the House; but up to the present the Government have no intimation as to what action he intends to take; he has taken none to bring the Bill before the House, so far as we know officially. Perhaps the hon. member for Maryborough may be able to give some information on that point, as I was assured by Mr. Hurley that the Bill would in all probability be introduced by him. Mr. Hurley asked the Government to bring forward the measure, but I did not see

how it was possible for the Government to take in hand a private measure for the starting of a private company; but, so far as I was individually concerned, and after consultation with my colleagues, I was satisfied, and we were all agreed that the principle was good, and that we would assist the passage of the Bill through the House. The result of the deliberations of the Cabinet was that the following letter was written to Mr. Hurley:—

“The Treasury, Queensland,
“Brisbane, 28th July, 1879.

“SIR,—In reply to your letter of 22nd July, inquiring whether the Government are favourable to the Burrum Railway Bill—which, with the amendments and new clauses, has been placed before the Minister for Works—and whether the Government will accord its support to the Bill if introduced by a private member,

“I have the honour to state that I have referred the matter to the consideration of my colleagues, who have all (with the exception of the Attorney-General, who was absent) expressed themselves as favourable to the principles of the Bill, and willing to assist its passage through the House.

“The main principle of the Bill is that, in consideration of constructing a railway with all the proper appliances suitable for a coal-traffic between Burrum and Maryborough, the company is to receive a bonus of 25,000 acres of land, to be taken in alternate blocks adjoining the line. It is also understood that the company is to give a satisfactory guarantee that the work will be finished in two years.

“The Government will, of course, reserve the right of proposing any amendments they may consider necessary for protecting the interests of the colony, so long as the same do not infringe upon the principles of the Bill, as explained above.

“I have, &c., &c.,

“THOMAS McILLWRAITH,
“Colonial Treasurer.

“J. Hurley, Esq., Brisbane.”

So that the Government will assist Mr. Hurley in the passing of the measure, so long as he stands by these principles. Of course, hon. members will see at once that, if the Government adopted this line as part of their policy, it would be no justification for their leaving it out because a private member of the community was seeking to pass a Bill dealing with it through the House. He has gone very small length in taking any action with regard to that Bill, and, had we omitted the item simply on account of the action he has taken, any other item in the estimate might be put off by any private member on the same grounds. The Government put it on the estimate, believing it to be quite as good as any of the other branch lines proposed in this estimate. Of course, if the House assents to a Bill for the Burrum Railway being made by a private company, the amount here stated will lapse. The next items

are "Toowoomba to Highfields, twelve miles, at £2,500 per mile; Warwick to Killarney, twenty miles, at £2,500 per mile; and Central Railway, branch towards Clermont, £50,000." With regard to these no estimates have been made by the engineers, and very little information is in the possession of the Government—except preliminary surveys, in a few cases—with regard to the difficulties in the way of construction, and the amount of £2,500 per mile is put down by myself as sufficient for the branch railways in those districts. The next item is, "Harbours and Rivers, £249,900." Hon. members will see an increase of £49,000 in this on the amount mentioned in my Financial Statement, and I will explain how I have arrived at that. Hon. members are aware, having seen the plans laid upon the table of the House, that the Government have been working—at all events, ever since I have had anything to do with it—with the object of getting the channel of the Brisbane River 15 feet deep at low-water, and 250 feet wide from the town right over the outside river bar; and on the Fitzroy to make the channel 200 feet wide and 10 feet deep at low-water from the town down to Central Island. These are the two main items on this list involving large expenditure. In order to carry out these operations, and also operations in other rivers, new dredge plant will be required to the extent of £52,000. That will be an additional dredge, similar to the one for which a contract has been let lately, and of the same power; a tug-boat which will cost £10,000, three barges £6,000, two punts £2,000, an anchor boat £1,000, refitting the tug "Brisbane" £2,000, and other items, including contingencies, £6,510—making altogether £88,710. Of this, however, there has been provided already on loan £37,750, therefore leaving a balance of £52,000, the amount I have down on this estimate. Hon. members will now understand that the provision made for plant will be sufficient to carry on the whole of the river improvements there to the extent that I have mentioned, and embracing a time for their completion, which, I believe, cannot be estimated at less than five years. The next item is improvement of the River Brisbane, £53,000. This is not the estimated cost of the whole of these operations to the extent of five years; but, with the amount already voted, it will carry the Government on for more than three years—I believe, myself, about three years and six months—at all events, three years safe. The next item of considerable importance is improvements in the Fitzroy River, for which £37,000 is put down. What I have said with regard to the Brisbane River applies also to this. The plant provided in the first item of the estimates under this head is for

the colony generally, and one of the dredges will be permanently employed on this river; but it is contemplated at first to employ the three large dredges in the Brisbane River for a time in order to carry that work through. The Government will have dredges sufficient in hand during that time to deepen the Fitzroy; and after that, when the deepening of that river will depend entirely on dredging, it will be carried on by the transfer of one of the largest dredges to that place to work in addition to the dredges which were unused at present. Hon. members know what has been expended on improvements and what improvements are contemplated there; at all events, they have access to the reports on the table of the House. The amount I have put down—£37,000—will carry out about one-half of the improvements between the town and Central Island, providing for a channel 200 feet wide and 10 feet deep at low-water. When this is done the whole of the fascine work, which is the most expensive, will have been completed, and the further deepening of the Fitzroy after that will be purely a matter of dredging. The next item is £10,000 for the improvement of the Burnett River. The report of the engineer on this river provides the following improvement. It is intended to cut from a bank between the island at the mouth of the river and the north shore, so as to scour the river at its mouth. It is considered that that will give a depth of something like ten feet at low water, which will be a great improvement there, and will fully justify the House in that expenditure. Then there is the Mary River, £10,000, and the Pioneer River, £30,000. At the present time there is great difficulty connected with this river, and the amount that would be required to make the work complete is far beyond the amount put down, but I am very sanguine that he will be able to provide plans for a cheaper mode of improving the navigation of that town than he has hitherto given in his report to the Treasury. Hon. members will observe that there is nothing put down for the extension of the pier at Townsville, but instead of that there is an amount of £5,000 for the improvement of Ross' Creek. This will be augmented by a portion of the vote still in hand; and the Government have come to the conclusion that they will not be justified in extending the pier at the present time. To make a harbour at Townsville—which, I believe, must have been the original intention of the Government when they commenced that pier—on the west shore of Ross' Creek, giving any reasonable facilities for foreign shipping, would cost something like £105,000 in addition to the amount that has already been spent there. Considering that at the present time the principal part of the shipping is carried on, and

not very inefficiently, by Ross' Creek, which goes through the town, I do not think the Government would be justified in asking the House for that expenditure. Although the pier will be comparatively useless except as a breakwater and a means of preventing the silting-up of the mouth of the creek, after all the money that has been expended upon it, still, seeing that it would cost so very much more to create a harbour there outside of the creek, it is better to leave it as it is; and I am satisfied that Ross' Creek will be found sufficient to give quite enough facilities for the shipping of the place for a reasonable time to come. The other items under this head do not require any particular comment from me. The next item is £62,650 for roads and bridges, and as hon. members will, no doubt, have something to say in reference to that in detail in Committee, I will refrain from making any general remarks upon it. The £100,000 for road boards and shire councils is a new item, which about two months ago I gave the House to understand it was contemplated by the Government to introduce into the Loan Estimate. I thought at first it would be possible to start the Divisional Boards in the colony, for the purpose of local improvements, by lending to municipalities considerable amounts, and with that object £200,000 was put on my then contemplated Loan Estimates. On further consideration, however, I believe it would not be an unfair thing for the House to agree that the first advance to the road boards and shire councils, in the proportion contemplated by the Bill, should not be a loan but an actual subsidy by the Government. With that object this £100,000 has been put down, so that the starting of the Bill will be made a matter of as little inconvenience as possible to the settlers in the colony during the first year. The next item is loans to local bodies, £200,000. This is one of those items which depends so much on matters over which the Government have no control—that it is simply an estimate, and perhaps a very crude estimate. Under the Local Government Bill, although it is left to the discretion of the Treasurer to lend money, on all the conditions having been complied with by the municipal body asking for the loan, still, as a matter of fact, I believe that loans have always been made on condition being complied with; and, I believe, to carry out the spirit of the Act, we require to do so still. I think I have not under-estimated, in this sum of £200,000, what is likely to be required during the next three years for loans to municipalities. In using the word municipalities, I mean municipalities as defined under the Local Government Act of 1878. The items under the head of Water Supply are in a very unsatisfactory position at the

present time, and I therefore wish to direct the attention of the House to them. The Government, without making any definite and specific arrangement for the payment of interest, have as a rule always built those waterworks; and when they are taken over by the municipalities, no provision being made for the payment of interest except the liability of the municipalities generally, the only chance of getting the interest seems to be by stopping the endowment. At the present time, Ipswich is desirous of postponing the consideration of payment of interest until some future time. Warwick has made, not the same application, but one which is quite as unreasonable in my view of the matter—it is this: they consider that the Government are bound to put up waterworks there of a certain character on the estimate made by the Government engineer some two years ago, which is not much more than half the amount actually required to complete the works; but they consider they are entitled to claim that interest should be paid only on the amount of the estimate which the engineer stated the works could be done for. The view I am bound to take of the question, as Treasurer, is that they are entitled to pay 5 per cent. on all the money borrowed. I consider that it is a matter of convenience to municipalities generally for the Government to build these works at their request, and I certainly hold that they are entitled to pay interest on the whole of the loan. The item of £70,000 for electric telegraph construction explains itself pretty well. A good many of these items were put on the Supplementary Loan Estimates last year, but, being brought in too late by the late Treasurer, were not passed by the House. The next item—defences of the colony, £10,000—I omitted in my Financial Statement, but I have been induced to put it in to complete our scheme of defence on a somewhat modified scale to that proposed by Sir William Jervois. I have now given in detail the more important items, and have pointed out in most cases where these Estimates vary from anticipated estimates made in my Financial Statement. I do not require to dwell very much upon that point, as I do not consider that decreasing one amount and increasing another, where principle is not involved, has much to do with the accuracy of a Treasurer's Financial Statement. I made as close an approximation as I could in my Financial Statement to what I thought the colony would require, and I do not think it differs in any material degree from this. I have only to express my sorrow that in my determination to keep the Loan Estimate within £3,000,000, and the necessity for making higher provision for some works, such as branch railways and harbours and rivers, I have been forced to put down

other items at a less sum than I had previously anticipated I would be able to do. There is one subject I have omitted to mention, although I have mentioned it in the House before—that is, the price I have put down for the extension of main lines of railway into the interior—namely, £3,000 per mile. Hon. members well know that I have always advocated cheap lines of railway in the colony, and have all along expressed my opinion that railways can be constructed for that amount. I cannot answer for the extension of the Southern and Western line from Roma. That I put down at £3,000 per mile, and in doing so I am stating my opinion and not that of the Chief Engineer; but I have a definite proposal from the Engineer of the Central Railway to carry out the 130 miles there at £3,000 per mile, including everything, his rate of remuneration entirely depending upon his carrying out the contract at that price. That he can do it I have not the slightest doubt in the world.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where would it go to?

THE PREMIER: It will carry the line 130 miles beyond the present terminus; and the extension of the Southern and Western Railway from Roma will take that line 130 miles in whatever direction the House may determine upon. As in some few items there is to some extent a re-arrangement of the Estimates—although there is practically no material change—I shall direct attention to it lest hon. members should run on the wrong scent, and think the Estimates have been changed altogether. For instance, "Buildings and Water Supply" were in one item in the Financial Statement, but now they are in two, and show an increase, which I was obliged to provide for, of about £4,000. I have now gone over a number of subjects I wish to draw the attention of the House to. I am not, as I said before, anxious to go into the Loan Estimates to-night. I take the opinion of the hon. the leader of the Opposition to be that it would be, perhaps, better that we should adjourn the discussion on this subject until some day next week. If that is the intention, I will still move the House into Committee of Supply, and next Tuesday I will go on with the Loan Estimates, when I hope to be able, with the assistance of hon. members, to push them through in a short time. I beg to move, sir, that you do now leave the chair and the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

MR. GRIFFITH: I think it will be more convenient to adjourn the general discussion on the Loan Estimates till a future day, as we shall, in the meantime, have an opportunity of criticising the Statement made by the hon. gentleman this afternoon.

THE PREMIER: It is understood that the Loan Estimates will be taken on Tuesday next.

MR. DICKSON: I hope the hon. gentleman will also endeavour to have the report of the Engineer of Harbours and Rivers laid upon the table as early as possible, inasmuch as the Loan Estimates comprise a great many works in the Harbours and Rivers Department. There are also works in the Mackay River on which hon. members would like to receive more information than the hon. gentleman has given us to-night. I have no doubt the Engineer of Harbours and Rivers will, if he is made aware of the wishes of the House, endeavour to supply a report by that time.

THE PREMIER: I am not sure that I shall be able to have the report printed by Tuesday, as it is a very voluminous document; but, if it is not all printed, I will lay the manuscript on the table.

MR. THORN: I should also like to know if the Treasurer will, by next Tuesday, have all the plans of the contemplated railways laid upon the table?

THE PREMIER: Perhaps the hon. member will remember that he never put any plans on the table until he intended to move their approval, and that was always long after the Estimates were discussed.

Question put and passed, and the House went into Committee of Supply accordingly.

Question—That the sum of £1,135 be granted for a lunatic asylum at Ipswich.

MR. MILES said he desired to say a few words about the appointment of the Surgeon-Superintendent at Woogaroo. The hon. member for Stanley stated on a previous evening that the appointment of Dr. Smith was a job; but, if it was, all he (Mr. Miles) could say was that it was a good job. The remark was perfectly uncalled for, and perhaps the hon. member, after he had heard his (Mr. Miles') explanation, would find that he had made a mistake, as there was no jobbery at all about it. Hon. members were aware that, two or three sessions ago, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into and report upon the management of the Woogaroo Asylum. That Commission devoted considerable time to the subject, and eventually brought up a report recommending, amongst other things, the appointment of a surgeon-superintendent and matron for Woogaroo, and that they should be brought out from England. He could hardly say positively that it was he who communicated with the Agent-General in reference to the selection of a competent medical officer. At all events, he received the reply from the Agent-General, which was to the effect that that gentleman had consulted the Commissioners of Lunacy at home, and had asked them to recommend a gentleman as Surgeon-Superintendent for Woogaroo, which they did. The salary was to be £1,000 a year, free quarters, and free passage for the gentleman himself and all his belongings, and above all he was to have a

written agreement for three years' engagement. After he (Mr. Miles) had received that communication, he thought it would be better, in the interests of the colony, to see whether some gentleman suitable to fill the office could not be found in one of the neighbouring colonies; and he communicated with Dr. Hobbs, who had just returned from a tour in Victoria, on the subject, presuming that, from that gentleman's connection with Reception Houses here, it was most probable that he would visit similar institutions in Victoria. Dr. Hobbs mentioned the name of Dr. Smith, and he (Mr. Miles) asked him to wire to that gentleman to ascertain whether he would accept the position; the reply was a favourable one, and in the meantime every means were taken to ascertain Dr. Smith's fitness for the office. He noticed that last evening the hon. member for Stanley blamed the hon. member for Maryborough for what he (Mr. Miles) had really done; it was true that the hon. member for Maryborough was a consenting party, but he (Mr. Miles) had really conducted the whole of the negotiations connected with the engagement of Dr. Smith. It would be seen from the correspondence which was read last evening that Dr. Smith entered the Queensland Service on the same terms as any other officer in it: there was no written agreement whatever. He (Mr. Miles) did not remain long in the Colonial Secretary's Office after Dr. Smith took charge of the Asylum; but this he knew, that that gentleman sent in a report which in every way corresponded with the recommendations of the Royal Commission as to the institution being overcrowded, and he also sent in large requisitions to put the Asylum into proper order. The appointment of Dr. Smith was made in no way in opposition to the report of the Royal Commission, but was made merely on grounds of economy. Not only that, but experience had proved that gentlemen engaged in England were not always suitable for the offices they were engaged to fill, and if they were engaged for a term of, say, three years, the colony was placed in a difficult position. A large sum had been spent in making additions to the Asylum, and he believed that institution was now in a thoroughly effective state and well adapted to the purposes for which it was intended. One of his instructions to Dr. Smith was that that gentleman should occasionally visit the Reception House at Brisbane. Hon. members would remember that some time ago Dr. Hobbs was severely censured for his management of that institution, and it was partly for that reason, and partly in order that he should sign certificates conjointly with Dr. Hobbs for the removal of patients to Woogaroo from the Reception House, that those instructions were given to Dr. Smith. With reference

to Dr. Smith's report—although it was stated by the hon. member for Stanley that it was not true—it was very evident from that report that considerable improvements had been made at Woogaroo, and it was only right that such should have been the case, as everything that Dr. Smith asked for had been given. He (Mr. Miles) believed that gentleman to be a thoroughly efficient officer, who discharged his duties honestly and faithfully. With regard to Dr. Smith's having private practice, he might mention that not a single word had been said on that subject when Dr. Smith was appointed, as the whole of the correspondence at the time referred to that gentleman's appointment as Surgeon-Superintendent at Woogaroo. He (Mr. Miles) never thought for one moment that a gentleman who was appointed at a salary of £800 a-year with quarters would dream of devoting his time to private practice, and all he could say was that, if the statement of the hon. member for Stanley was correct—that Dr. Smith had fifty or sixty patients outside the Asylum whom he attended—the sooner he was got rid of the better. It was no use Dr. Smith saying he made any agreement with the Government that he was to be allowed private practice.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: He has not said so.

MR. MILES said that as regarded the question of agriculture, which was referred to by the hon. member for Stanley, whether Dr. Smith had made a large profit out of it or not he could not say, but he considered that, if employing patients in such work was conducive to their recovery, it was a very right thing to do. He (Mr. Miles) knew nothing about the purchase of land at Too-woomba beyond this, that there was a recommendation in the report of the Royal Commission that a site should be purchased on the high table land, where the climate was more suited to the treatment of lunatics, and that Dr. Smith was instructed to visit different localities and to select a suitable place. He had read the speech of the hon. member for Stanley very carefully, and if one half of the statements contained in it were true, Dr. Smith ought not to be twenty-four hours longer Superintendent of Woogaroo Asylum. He hoped the hon. member for Stanley would move for a select committee to inquire into these matters, and thus have them thoroughly investigated. He should be very sorry if it was found that the statements were true, as he had always believed the appointment of Dr. Smith to be a good one, and had always looked upon that gentleman as having a thorough knowledge of his profession.

MR. O'SULLIVAN said that he had never insinuated that the appointment of Dr. Smith was a job on the part of the hon. member. On referring to *Hansard* he

found he used the words "nice little job," but that was in reference to the purchase of land at Toowoomba. He had ascertained that Dr. Smith was instructed to select a site, and also that parties in Toowoomba competent to judge, pointed out to that gentleman pieces of land varying from 60 to 70 acres which were beautifully situated, and which could have been got without a shilling expense. The real quantity of land sold was 150 acres; but it was put down in the report at 176; and that was what he meant when he said that the transaction was a "job." He did not say that Dr. Smith had fifty or sixty private patients; the number he mentioned was forty-one; but he did say he could add to the number, and he was now prepared to do it—the doctor had, in fact, private practice even in the town of Ipswich. He was not going to deny that he did make three or four charges last night against Dr. Smith as a public servant, and the member for Darling Downs had not contradicted them. If necessary, he (Mr. O'Sullivan) would repeat them. First he said there was some jobbery in connection with this land at Toowoomba, but he did not connect Dr. Smith with it because that officer merely carried out instructions. There could be no doubt, however, that authorities in Toowoomba pointed out to Dr. Smith, Government land well situated; and the job that took place afterwards with regard to it must be blamed to Dr. Smith's masters. The papers, however, would be called for, and then hon. members could see for themselves. He further charged that Dr. Smith had presented false reports to the House, and he would say again that the printed report was false; he might even go further, and say it was impossible that it could be true. The hon. member for Darling Downs had not contradicted this any more than he had contradicted the charge as to private practice. Further, he (Mr. O'Sullivan) charged Dr. Smith with favouritism in the institution. As an instance, he would refer hon. members to the report, in which he mentioned that he believed good had been done by a certain carpenter. There were two carpenters in the institution, and the man that did all the work was not mentioned at all, because one was a favourite and the other was not. The House last year voted £10 apiece for the two senior warders of the institution. These men had written characters from every doctor who had been in the institution; and yet Dr. Smith took the money from them and gave it to two favourites of his own; and when the Colonial Secretary asked him for an explanation, he merely dictated to him, telling him that in his opinion the senior warder was not the man of long service but the man of greatest efficiency. That was, in addition, a stigma on

the men. Then, for some caprice of his own, he docked one woman of her wages for no reason at all, and gave it to some favourite of his own. He (Mr. O'Sullivan) also made a further charge that the doctor allowed a lunatic to carry firearms; and that had not been denied. The Colonial Secretary had said that the charges made were so gross that, if proved, Dr. Smith was unfit for his position. He (Mr. O'Sullivan) was prepared to prove them all. He had also made another charge—that Dr. Smith bought six useless old cows from a client of his own, and evidence would be forthcoming that, though the cows cost £10 each, they were not worth 30s. As regarded the agriculture, he agreed there might be a little of that, but it could be overdone; and as for the reported quantity of produce from that seven or eight acres, it was an impossibility. In reality, the report was a gross falsehood. In conclusion, he was prepared, if anyone chose to call for a committee of inquiry, to prove all the charges he had made.

Mr. MILES was not in a position to say whether the report was true or not. If a "cooked" report had been sent in to the Colonial Secretary, the person sending it in was not fit for the position he held. He was not in a position to contradict what had been said by the hon. member with reference to the purchase of cows and the agricultural returns, because he knew nothing about them. The hon. member (Mr. O'Sullivan) stated last night that Dr. Smith was brought here by a job, and produced no qualifications. That was a great error, for he produced what the Government of the day considered very high testimonials, amongst which was a highly complimentary one from the Premier of Victoria. If Dr. Smith was guilty of the charges made against him, the Colonial Secretary would no doubt take action in the matter. When Dr. Smith was appointed, he (Mr. Miles) gave him distinctly to understand that he was to have sole control over the Asylum, he being held responsible for the proper management; the only restriction being that he should neither engage nor dismiss warders without submitting the matter first to the Colonial Secretary. Dr. Smith was to keep no men there whom he did not find suitable to the position he occupied. He had always understood that the Asylum had been well conducted by Dr. Smith—although there was, perhaps, not much in that, for the doctor had everything he asked for. If Dr. Smith was carrying on a private practice he was doing what he had no authority to do, and a stop should be put to it by the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. KATES said he had been calculating the amount of produce set down in the return on page 17 of the report, and could say with certainty that to obtain so much

produce off seven or eight acres of ground was utterly impossible. There must be a mistake somewhere.

Mr. HENDREN said he concurred with the remarks of the hon. member (Mr. O'Sullivan) as to the wrongful payment of the £10 to the two senior warders contrary to the vote of the House. The hon. member for Darling Downs evidently did not understand the case, and had he been present last night he would have found that Dr. Smith was appointed to Woogaroo probably with a view of getting rid of him from Victoria, or because the gentleman who recommended him wished to see him promoted to Queensland. The hon. member (Mr. O'Sullivan) had undertaken to prove all the charges he had made, and, if he did not do so, he himself would move for a committee of inquiry into the working of the Asylum. Woogaroo was in his electorate, and all the people there were complaining of the injustice of the Surgeon-Superintendent to everybody in the institution excepting a few favourites. The report of Dr. Smith, taken as a whole, bore an appearance of untruthfulness, for it was absolutely impossible that ten times the quantity of land could have produced what was set down in the return. Dr. Smith in his report said that the branch asylum at Sandy Gallop was unsuitable for its purpose, and recommended that it should be closed and the men sent back to Woogaroo. Such was not his (Mr. Hendren's) opinion, judging from what he had seen there, and it should also be inquired into. With reference to the complaints against the Surgeon-Superintendent, sufficient had been said to justify some hon. member in moving for a committee of inquiry.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £1,820 be granted for lunatic reception houses. Those at Ipswich and Toowoomba had been struck off as useless.

Mr. GROOM asked what the Colonial Secretary intended to do with regard to a reception house at Toowoomba, for which he noticed a sum of £1,000 on the Loan Estimates. Was it intended to be gone on with at once? The two cells that had been built were condemned by the medical officers as being totally unsuitable, and consequently no one had been immured in them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the intention of the Government was that the reception house should be combined with the new hospital, as the present place had been found utterly unsuitable.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £10,345 be granted for Volunteers. That estimate, he said, had been made some months ago. Since then he had had many opportunities of consulting

with the leading officers of the volunteers, and he had somewhat modified his own opinion on the subject. With regard to the first item, Inspecting Officer, £235, if he understood the negotiations between this and the neighbouring colonies, the colony was pledged by agreement with the other colonies to that amount. As to the second amount, £750 for Colonel-Commandant, he confessed to a good deal of doubt as to the propriety of getting an officer utterly unknown, and who, however efficient in the tented field, might be unfit to look after our volunteers. He was therefore prepared to strike off £350 of the amount, with the understanding that the remaining £400 would be devoted to the same purpose as the similar amount previously on the Estimates—namely, Major of Brigade and Staff Officer. The best plan, probably, would be, as suggested by the Premier, to leave the amount out and put £400 on the Supplementary Estimates. A trained officer to occupy the position of Adjutant and Musketry Instructor could not be dispensed with, and they had an efficient one at present, who was engaged by Colonel Scratchley, and whose agreement did not expire for two or three months. A gunnery instructor, he might inform the Committee, had just arrived from England in the "Aberlemno," under a three years' agreement entered into by the Agent-General, under instructions from the previous Government. A letter from the Agent-General stated that the officer appointed was a married man with three children. By the agreement he was to receive free passages for himself and family, and pay at the rate of 10s. per day, house-rent free, or not more than £50 in lieu of quarters, and to receive half pay from the date of embarkation and full pay from date of arrival. The agreement was to last for three years certain, subject to good conduct, and the officer was informed that the appointment might be continued from year to year, on terms to be agreed upon. The receipt of that letter did a good deal towards inducing him (the Colonial Secretary) to strike off the item for Colonel-Commandant. He did not believe in bringing people out for three years and paying the passages of their wives and families. He had been told that the sergeant was a very efficient one; but they were bound to him for three years—longer than the country were bound to a Ministry by a long way; and he did not like long agreements. A clerk and storekeeper was necessary to look after the expensive stock of war munitions and keep it in order. Drill instructors, artillery instructors, and armouries, were absolutely necessary. Since he had been in office, he had found in the store a number of arms—utterly useless, and fit only for the Island trade—which, with decent care, would have answered the

purpose for which they were intended for years. Coming to contingencies, the first item was allowance for men. After mature consideration, looking back to what the Volunteer Force used to be when utterly neglected, and what it had been since they began to cherish it, and having consulted officers of the artillery and rifles, he had come to the conclusion that if the volunteers were worth anything they would go on just as well without that pay. He was therefore prepared to have that amount struck off. The opinions that he most valued—those of the commanding officers—were that the men had the *esprit de corps* to go on with what they considered the most valuable part of their training with pay or without. The capitation allowance could not be made lower if the force was to be continued at all. That allowance was to provide uniforms and other necessities, and was not paid to the men direct, but was under the control of regimental officers. The amount last year for this purpose was £3 per man, but they had now got a good start and could go on very well with £1. For the 300 cadets he proposed 10s. per head. A more useful training for a lad than that of a volunteer under strict officers could not be had. £1,500 was put down for camps of instruction. The camp of instruction this year did not cost anything like what was expected. He had informed the House that the cost would be somewhere about £3,500; but a large proportion of that amount was expended in the purchase of articles now in the store, which would not be required for some years. £1,500 would, therefore, he believed, be ample. The vote for rifle ranges had been reduced from £1,000 to £500. Ammunition and stores were put down for £1,000—the same amount as last year, as ammunition was an expensive thing, and, without cartridges for the men, they might as well have no volunteers at all. Incidentals, repairs, &c., stood at £1,250—the same as last year. The total amount of the estimates was £10,345; but he thought the due efficiency of the force could be preserved on a reduced estimate, and he had made the amount £7,245, to which would be added £400 for major of brigade, so that the whole expenses of the volunteers would be £7,645. He was quite willing, therefore, if the Committee agreed, to take the reduced sum, but he did not believe the volunteers could be maintained in a state of efficiency for anything less.

MR. GRIFFITH said he did not quite follow what the hon. gentleman proposed to do for a head for the Volunteer Force. He presumed somebody would be made Colonel-Commandant.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he meant to make the Colonel-Commandant a thoroughly honorary officer.

Mr. KING said he should like to ask for information about the agreement under which the inspecting officer's services were retained. Had the Government the agreement by which Colonel Scratchley was retained?—for he understood that under it they could not dispense with that officer's services for a certain time. How long had it yet to run? The services of Colonel Scratchley were not much required for the present. If they had carried out the recommendations of Sir William Jervois, no doubt a regular inspection by a military officer would have been both necessary and valuable; but, as matters were at present, it was scarcely worth while to pay £235 a-year for an officer to come two or three times a-year to review the few volunteers that the colony had. The Committee ought to know precisely what the agreement was.

Mr. BRATTIE hoped the Committee would get the desired information, because the item, inspecting officer £235, was the most objectionable on the whole vote, especially if the country was liable to be run into useless expenditure by the recommendations of this officer. Some time ago he recommended the construction of a fort down the river, and after it was finished he advised its demolition. He presumed they could do now without the two artillery instructors, seeing that a gunnery instructor had lately arrived who was to receive £180 a-year and quarters.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY really could not tell the hon. member (Mr. King) how long Colonel Scratchley's agreement had to run. Perhaps the hon. member who was at the head of the Government when the arrangement was made could give the information. He (Mr. Palmer) was sure there was an agreement, that Colonel Scratchley's salary was £1,500, and that the share Queensland had to pay was £235.

Mr. DOUGLAS believed the time was five years, and in his opinion it was not at all a bad arrangement. It was necessary, if they were to have military defences, to have some competent man to inspect them occasionally. He believed that Colonel Scratchley was a competent officer, and that his occasional visits here would probably do more good than if they had a Colonel-Commandant. He would much rather see an officer like Colonel Scratchley inspecting their volunteers regularly, reporting upon their progress, and making suggestions with a view to securing their greater efficiency, than to have a Colonel-Commandant at £750 a year. With reference to the temporary fort, it must be remembered that they were then on the verge of a great war, and that they might have found themselves in a serious difficulty any day. Colonel Scratchley advised the erection of a temporary fort at Doughboy Creek, as it could be more speedily built than the permanent works recommended

at Lytton. It was a great relief to him (Mr. Douglas) when Colonel Scratchley saw his way to recommending the discontinuance of the temporary works, but he should not have been justified if he had not taken the best steps to provide against a contingency which might have arisen any day, at that time.

Mr. THORN said the Estimates provided for a defence force—not a volunteer force, and he should therefore oppose it. He should be agreeable to vote merely the salaries of the drill instructors, and to make provision for arms and ammunition. Peace existed all over the world, and there was not the least prospect of an invasion of Australia. In the early days of the colony there were no paid officers for the volunteers, and they did their work well, and he could not see that there had been any improvement. He objected to the capitation allowance of 10s. per head for 300 cadets, because in the primary and grammar schools the boys were receiving drill instruction. He was opposed to camps of instruction, and thought the honorary officers might themselves pay for them. In fact, the item meant a subsidy to racing, for he was informed that a large amount was paid to the Queensland Jockey Club for the right to use their racecourse for the encampment, although many pieces of ground, healthier and more suitable for a camp and sham-fight, could have been obtained. He also objected to the item of £1,250 for incidentals, repairs, horsing guns, &c., and repeated that only three of the items were necessary.

Mr. GRIFFITH said that there was £10,000 on the Loan Estimates for the defences of the colony. He should like to have some information regarding it, as it might have some effect upon the Committee in dealing with the vote now before it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the amount on the Loan Estimates would be for the actual defence of the country either by batteries or gunboat. No decision had been formed as to how it would be expended, but it had no connection with the vote before the Committee; it was for quite a different purpose.

Mr. KING said that Colonel Scratchley's services would no doubt be valuable if they had any works which an officer of his branch of the service was qualified to supervise; but it was perfectly ridiculous to pay an officer in the Royal Engineers £235 to inspect their volunteers at drill two or three times in the year. They ought to have officers in the colony competent to see that this work was done properly; and to see such an item at the head of the Volunteer estimates had the appearance of foolery, and of throwing away money on the whole volunteer movement. As the hon. member (Mr. Douglas) and the Colonial Secretary had said that the colony was

committed to such an arrangement, he would not say more about it, except to express the hope that the Government would ascertain precisely what the agreement was, and, if there was a way of getting out of it creditably, it might be done fairly and properly. Referring to the reduced amount down for capitation allowance, he would ask whether the Government would be prepared now to accept the services of country corps? In a country like this cavalry would be of great assistance in repelling an invasion. The services of three companies of cavalry were offered some twelve or eighteen months ago, but were refused because the Government could not pay more towards the movement. It was even more important to have cavalry than infantry; and in addition • that, if the volunteer movement was to be carried on, it was a very healthy, manly amusement for young men in the small country towns to form volunteer corps. He considered that that was a step that ought to be encouraged by the Government, and therefore he would ask the Colonial Secretary whether the Government were now prepared to accept the services of country corps?

Mr. WELD-BLUNDELL could not help thinking that the speech of the hon. gentleman who had just sat down showed the necessity for an inspecting officer, because he did not believe that the appointment of Colonel Scratchley was for the purpose of merely inspecting a certain number of volunteers, but the whole object of having the services of a man in his position was in order that the public might learn the probable or possible way in which the country might be attacked, and the best way in which they could defend themselves. He thought the speech of that hon. member with reference to cavalry showed the necessity for a man in the position of Colonel Scratchley, because he would probably be of opinion that cavalry for the purpose of repelling such attacks as the colony was likely to be subjected to would be perfectly useless. Surely no member supposed that they were likely to have a German invasion, or, that a large body of Russians was likely to be landed here; but if they were attacked—which he did not think was at all unlikely if England were at war with some other nation—it would be by the sea. No vessel or fleet would ever think of landing a large body of men here and sending them overland; but they would, no doubt, be attacked by water, and what they wanted to meet such an attack was artillery assisted by a certain proportion of riflemen. For actual purposes of defence he did not think cavalry was likely to be called upon. With regard to the statement of the hon. member for Darling Downs, that he was in favour of voting for

rifles and ammunition but nothing towards artillery, he (Mr. Weld-Blundell) considered that if any branch of the service ought to be assisted by the Government it was the artillery branch, because they would have to depend almost entirely on that branch in case of attack, which would certainly be made by the enemy coming up the rivers. Artillery service required a great deal of skill; they could not pick men up at any moment for that service, but they required considerable training and discipline. He maintained that they should not go back upon past legislation, and show themselves inclined to vote money for this purpose on panic, and the moment the panic was over stultify their former action. An artillery force, which he held was the most necessary, could not be kept up by voting money for rifles and ammunition; it must be kept up by means of thoroughly good instructors and officers, whose pay should be sufficient to bring thoroughly efficient men to the colony. If England should become involved in war, and the colonies were attacked, it would, probably, be by an American cruiser with letters of marque from the enemy. He happened to be in America at the time that England was on the verge of war with Russia, just as the Russian troops were crossing the Danube, and it was anticipated that every day would bring news of the declaration of war with Russia; and the opinion of the Americans was that a few cruisers would be fitted out there, the letters of marque issued to them, and that they would go cruising about amongst the various English defenceless colonies, make raids upon them, and demand the payment of large sums of money. This might happen at any time if war were to break out, and without artillery the colony would be absolutely defenceless. He thought the amount put down for gunnery inspector and artillery instructors was not excessive. With regard to the allowance for training—£2,350—he thought it might very well be omitted. He believed the volunteers would take quite as much interest in their duties and work if they did not get paid as they would when paid this paltry amount, which had the effect of making them neither one thing nor the other—neither militia nor volunteers. As to camps of instruction, he thought they were of the utmost importance, because by that means the men were brought together and trained to obey their officers, and a spirit of discipline and *esprit de corps* was established that was most valuable. He was not speaking at random on these matters, because he had been engaged in the neighbouring colony in volunteering himself, and he was satisfied that nothing would assist volunteering so materially as camps of instruction. He hoped they would maintain the system on something like a satisfactory footing.

Mr. RUTLEDGE said he should be prepared to move a reduction of the amount asked by the Colonial Secretary on this vote. He was glad to hear the hon. gentleman say that he would not be disposed to press for the total amount set down in the estimate, and consequently it was unnecessary to discuss some of the items he had pointed out. He (Mr. Rutledge) thought they could hardly dispense with any of the officers in the first list; and he would not object to the item for instructors, because they must have instructors, in order that the men might become efficient in the use of artillery and rifles. With regard to the inspecting officer, he agreed with the hon. member for Maryborough that he was more ornamental than useful; and that, were it not for the agreement made with him, his services could be very well dispensed with. The capitation allowance for cadets, he thought, was unnecessary. It was a great mistake to have a cadet corps, because he was satisfied that a great deal more harm was done to those lads than benefit by associating them together for those purposes. Were it not for the fact that they were required by the Volunteer Act to give the volunteers six days' training once a-year, he would be prepared to move the omission of that item; but with the present law they had no alternative but to allow it to remain. He agreed with the hon. member for Clermont that if there was any danger at all to the colony it would be from attacks by privateers coming into our harbours; but he did not anticipate any such occasion was likely to arise, because the British Government would always take care to have cruisers on the coast that would be more than a match for any privateers. But, even if a privateer did enter the Bay, artillery would be of very little use, and the only efficient way of defending our harbours was by a system of torpedoes. If they had a little more science brought to bear in that matter it would be money much more advantageously spent than having a number of gentlemen dressed up in red coats, marching about the streets to the tune of "The girl I left behind me." He did not wish to disparage the volunteers—he had been a volunteer himself, and a great many of them were animated by that spirit which would prompt a man to sacrifice his life, if necessary, for the defence of his country; but, if they carried on in that way, they would crush the very spirit they professed to be most anxious to foster. If volunteering was to mean simply having parades, fine clothing, and bands of music, when an emergency arose and the services of volunteers were required it would be found that they were not what it was desirable they should be. There was an item of £1,250 for incidentals, repairs,

horsing guns, forage, &c., and he wished to know in regard to the horses whether they were for officers on parade days, or for what? Surely, if a gentleman had an ambition to be a captain in a volunteer corps he should have sufficient public spirit to find his own horse. He considered they ought to allow the spirit of patriotism to have a little more to do with the organisation of the Volunteer Force, and that there should be a little less of the mimicry of the military system that prevailed in older countries. They should be contented with teaching their young men to handle a rifle and to become good marksmen, and should have their rivers defended by torpedoes. If that was done, and they had volunteers well skilled in the use of the rifle to pick off the enemy when they attempted to effect a landing, they would, without the aid of much artillery, find their volunteers very effective. He did not see the use of camp life, or where the necessity for it came in. If they expected an invasion by land, when it would be necessary for the men to travel for weeks, then a knowledge of camp life would be useful, and camps of instruction might be necessary; but he believed it was not contemplated that the volunteers would have to go through camp life as regular soldiers had to do, and therefore it was unnecessary to teach young men camp life. If the volunteers were able to handle their rifles smartly, were good marksmen, and possessed ordinary intelligence, that was all that could be aspired to in a young country like this. In order to give expression to the views entertained by several hon. members, he would move that the amount be reduced by —

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had already stated that he was prepared to withdraw the item of £750 for a Colonel-Commandant, but he would not move its omission.

The PREMIER moved that the item of £750 be omitted.

Mr. THORN, in reply to the remarks of the hon. member for Clermont, said that he was not opposed to drill instructors. He noticed that no provision whatever was made for volunteers in the Northern districts, and he should like to know the reason of that omission, and why so much favouritism was shown to the South? Townsville was more accessible to visits from privateers than any other part, and yet no provision was made for its defence. The colony had an immense sea-board, and there was as much wealth in the Northern districts as in the south. He was astonished that none of the Northern members had advocated the claims of their districts.

Mr. WELD-BLUNDELL said the argument of the hon. member would be very well if he supposed that a foreign power would

come for the purpose of annexing the northern part of the colony. But if any enemy did come it would be only for the purpose of levying black-mail, and they would go where the banks were. With regard to the speech of the hon. member for Enoggera (Mr. Rutledge)—

The CHAIRMAN said the 278th Standing Order provided that, when the question was for omitting or reducing an item, members must speak to that question only.

After further discussion on point of order,

Question—That the item of £750 be omitted—put and passed.

The PREMIER moved that the item of £2,350 for allowances to men be omitted.

Mr. BEATTIE wished to know where it was intended to have the two artillery instructors?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said one would be at Brisbane and one at Ipswich. Two guns had been imported, one for Brisbane and one for Rockhampton, and when a second artillery instructor was put down it was intended he should go to Rockhampton, but there was no artillery corps in that town.

Mr. BAILEY asked whether it was intended to have artillery instructors where there were no guns and no artillery corps?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had heard of people seeing double, but he never heard of people hearing double, as the hon. member must evidently have done. What he (Mr. Palmer) said was that when a second artillery instructor was put on the Estimates it was supposed that an artillery corps would be formed at Rockhampton, as a gun had been specially imported for that place, but there was no artillery corps there. However, the instructor could be very well employed elsewhere.

Mr. THORN was understood to ask why the number of men was limited to 1,000?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that last year the number was limited by the Estimates to 1,040, and that the services of many corps which offered could not be accepted.

Mr. THORN said that was one reason of his objection to the Estimates. Why should not Townsville and other places be allowed to start volunteer corps and get their share of the spoil? His idea was that there should be at least 2,000 men. Townsville might be bombarded by a very small schooner, and the same with Maryborough; and why should there not be some means of defence provided at those places. The northern portions of the colony were as much entitled to the protection of a volunteer force as the southern part. He differed altogether from Colonel Scratchley in regard to the number of men. Why should they not have a volunteer force with the number of men

unlimited—not merely a defence force for the southern part of the colony, as at present? Had not the Colonial Secretary, or a previous Colonial Secretary, received a memorial from the North, offering to establish volunteer corps there, and that offer had been refused? If the Colonial Secretary was offered the services of volunteers in such places as Townsville, Maryborough, and Rockhampton, would he accept them, and allow the companies to be commanded by honorary officers, who, so far as he had heard, got on just as well as the paid officers?

Mr. DOUGLAS said that the hon. member, while he was away, had no doubt seen a good deal, but a great deal had also happened since he left Queensland, and if he would favour him (Mr. Douglas) with his company the next time he was going North he would show him a very efficient corps at Maryborough, properly officered, manned, and clothed in excellent uniforms. They had, too, the promise of a whole 64-pounder, and, if the Colonial Secretary would promise them a torpedo or two if they wanted them, they would be able to get along capably. There was also a very efficient body of men at Rockhampton. He failed to understand how it was the hon. member favoured the claims of the Northern ports, and at the same time seemed to wish to abolish the Volunteer Force altogether.

Mr. AMSTURST said that the safety of the coast would depend more on the strength of the navy. From Sandy Cape to Thursday Island there were only two loopholes through the Barrier Reef—at Cook's Passage and Cape Capricorn Channel—and a sufficient vessel could, at any time when necessary, protect them. It was necessary to have a nucleus of volunteers, as, if attacks were made suddenly, we should be unable to defend our ports without them. He intended to support the Volunteer vote, with certain reductions. They could not afford a colonel-commandant, but he wished to see some staff officer appointed. The volunteers were ready to give up everything as far as pay went, but they wanted a capitation grant. He would not like to see the instruction given up, believing a few days' encampment would perfect the drill previously acquired; and there was no doubt that the good effect of a thousand well-drilled men would be to increase the force to twice the number and enable 500 recruits to be easily obtained.

Mr. REA said he was glad to see that the hon. member for Northern Downs was able to form an independent opinion, and take his stand against the introduction of these great guns from England. The employment of English officers by New Zealand had cost her a pretty sum for being led by the nose by men supposed to come straight from the Horse Guards. The same ex-

perience of the system, which had worked so badly for New Zealand was to be found in New South Wales. He remembered what New Zealand had suffered by her imported authorities, for he happened to be in the colony at the time of an outbreak among the Maories. He could also corroborate the advice as to the advantage and necessity of a mounted corps, because the first thing required was to get information. He was one of those who was pressed into the service, so to speak, in New Zealand, when work was imposed on all who had horses to go about and find where the dangers really lay. Men on foot dare not be separated; but it was different with horsemen, who were the first to be sent out for information. Even if they were never called upon to face an enemy, it was desirable that the colonists should be taught to defend themselves. He hoped the Northern ports would be allowed a fair share of the Government favours in this direction.

Mr. Low said if the question came to a vote he should give his against the reduction. As a native of the only portion of Great Britain that had never been conquered—Scotland—"his voice was still for war." In other words, he should like to see the colony prepared for war; and, with that view, sufficient inducements should be offered to men to join the Volunteer Force.

Mr. PERSSE said he should like to see the capitation allowance increased from £1 to £2, the former not being in his opinion a sufficient allowance. As to a Torpedo Corps, it would be of no use whatever unless it was supported by a battery of artillery, as it was liable to be taken in the rear. With a major of brigade in command, instead of a colonel, £4,500 a-year would suffice for the support of the Volunteer Force. The Cadet Corps, on its present footing, was a mistake. It did nothing but teach them larrikinism, and gave them an excuse to stay out till half-past ten or eleven o'clock at night. If there was a drill-instructor at the schools those lads attended, to teach them the use of the rifle, that would answer every purpose, and Major Snelling would be only too glad to dispense with the nightly drills.

Mr. KING said he had asked some time ago, but had not yet received an answer, whether the Government would be disposed to accept the services of all volunteers in any part of the colony who offered their services? What would be thought if, in England, volunteers from a few favoured towns were to be accepted and all others were to be told their services were not wanted—that there were volunteers in London, Liverpool, and Manchester, and they were not wanted anywhere else? An exception was certainly made, until lately, in the case of Ireland, but there was an alleged reason for that. There could be no reason whatever for

refusing to allow volunteer forces to be formed in farming districts and small bush towns—of course, under certain proper conditions.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that, in not answering the question before, no discourtesy was intended towards the hon. gentleman, but the talking had been so constant that he had not been able to get a word in edgewise. The Government had had this matter under consideration, and it was with them a mere question of expense. If volunteers in different parts of the colony chose to enrol themselves under proper regulations, and with the understanding that they were not to cost the Government anything beyond their arms and a small capitation allowance, and the House was willing to vote the money, the Government would not have the slightest objection to their being so enrolled. Colonel Scratchley, whose opinions on military matters he valued a little more than those of the hon. member for Northern Downs, said that cavalry would not be of much use in such warfare as they were likely to have here, which would chiefly occur on the coast or the banks of rivers, with the exception of a few practised horsemen for obtaining intelligence. He did not quite agree with Colonel Scratchley in that opinion, because a body of well armed bushmen, even if they did not act as cavalry, might do good service without any drill whatever. On certain conditions, the Government would be very happy to entertain applications of the kind alluded to by the hon. member (Mr. King.)

Mr. KING said the answer of the Colonial Secretary would be perfectly satisfactory to the country. The formation of cavalry corps would be a most valuable means of bringing men together, especially in places like Gympie, where men had good horses and were fonder of riding than of serving on foot. To meet for such a purpose would give the men an object and keep them out of mischief.

Mr. DOUGLAS said the difficulty he felt was this—the Government must be prepared to receive a good many applications, and if they granted one they must grant all. There were several districts quite prepared to form cavalry corps. The hon. member for the Logan was prepared to raise a corps, and the hon. member for Darling Downs (Mr. Miles) had expressed his willingness to lead a picked body of the Downs men “on to glory.” The hon. member for Rosewood would no doubt follow suit, and the Premier would be asked to head a company of willing soldiers at Bundaberg. The Government must be prepared for applications for 1,500 or 2,000 men in addition to those they were now providing for.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not anticipate such a rush of volunteers. He had made a very guarded statement that Government were prepared to receive applications under certain conditions, one of which would be that they must come under the Volunteer Act, and that would check the rush of ardent spirits spoken of by the hon. member (Mr. Douglas).

Question—That the item objected to be omitted—put and passed.

Mr. RUTLEDGE said he had been requested by the hon. member for Bulimba, who had been called away from town, to call attention to a certain unpleasantness that had been occasioned by a recent order of the Colonial Secretary, that all the money due to companies under capitation allowances should be paid to Major Snelling, in Brisbane.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he might save the hon. member some trouble by saying that he had never given any such order.

Mr. RUTLEDGE said he did not make the statement on his own authority; he was discharging a duty he had promised to an absent member. The impression in the minds of the officers was that such a rule had been put in force, and he hoped the Colonial Secretary would make inquiries.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the case was very simple. Four companies in Brisbane had been formed into one regiment, and all balances due were paid into the hands of the commanding officer. That was done by his (the Colonial Secretary's) instruction, and was quite proper and in accordance with military rule.

Mr. RUTLEDGE said the hon. member for Bulimba, in a letter to him, said that the capitation grant had been earned by the members of each corps, and to deprive them of the management of those funds was most unfair and a serious blow to the *esprit de corps*, which the men did not deserve. It was also an infraction of the Volunteer Act, which said that the officers should receive the capitation grant on behalf of the corps. A great injustice was done, because those companies that had attended regularly and practised economy were deprived of the benefits resulting therefrom, and the money had been spent upon companies that had been lax in attendance and wasted their funds. He (Mr. Rutledge) moved that the item £150, for capitation allowance to cadets, be omitted.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—

AYES, 26.

Messrs. Griffith, McLean, King, Meston, Dickson, Thorn, Rea, Macfarlane (Ipswich), Rutledge, Paterson, Grimes, Bailey, Hendren, Beattie, Lalor, Low, Baynes, Persse, Garrick, Davenport, Kates, Hamilton, Weld-Blundell, Miles, Douglas, and Mackay.

NOES, 17.

Messrs. Palmer, Macrossan, Perkins, Cooper, McIlwraith, Norton, Kingsford, Stevenson, Amhurst, O'Sullivan, H. W. Palmer, Morehead, Simpson, Tyrel, Groom, Horwitz, and Archer.

Question, therefore, resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. GRIFFITH said the payment of capitation grant to the commanding officer of the regiment might be, as the Colonial Secretary said, in accordance with military usage, but it was directly in the teeth of the Volunteer Act. Section 22 of that Act provided that there should be annually paid to each Volunteer Corps, out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purpose, a capitation allowance to provide for the expenses of the corps; and the word corps was defined as any troop, company, or battery. That did not include a regiment. The money was to be paid to each corps for its own expenses, and no commanding officer had any right to appropriate it for any other purpose than that for which it was voted by Parliament.

Mr. SIMPSON asked whether the effect of the last vote would be that the cadets would be disbanded, or simply that they would not be paid the 10s. per annum? The opinion in Brisbane was that the cadets were drilled at the wrong time, and the effects were therefore bad; but in other towns where they were drilled in the day time the effect was good, so that the objection against night drilling was not a sufficient reason for knocking them off.

Mr. THORN said that the effect of abolishing that grant would be that they would have two or three thousand cadets instead of three hundred, because lads would join in all parts of the colony. In Bundaberg, Ipswich, and other places, proposals had been made to start companies, but their services were not accepted by the Government then in power.

Mr. ARCHER was sorry the last vote was knocked off, because the Cadet Corps were so admirably adapted for beginning the training of young lads. He intended to support all the other votes, which the Colonial Secretary did not see his way to reduce, not for the sake of having soldiers here, but because he believed the volunteer movement would remove the necessity for ever of having any but volunteers for the defence of the country. Those hon. members who tried to cut down these estimates would probably regret their action if they found we ever had to get hired men to do the work of our volunteers. Neither did he think that anything could have a better effect upon the young lads than the training they would get in these cadet corps. He disagreed with the hon. member (Mr. Rutledge) that discipline was unnecessary, for it was perfectly well known that if men were not disciplined and

were not in the habit of acting together, they were little better than mobs; and wherever mobs had come before disciplined men in the open field they had vanished like smoke. He also disagreed with the hon. member's views with regard to privateers, as he was of opinion that so long as they had Her Majesty's ships of war in Australian waters privateers would not lie in the Bay and prey upon our steamers, but would keep off. The colony did want artillery to prevent the landing of men who would make a sudden raid upon the country and carry off as much plunder as they could get. His real reason for wishing to see the volunteer movement flourish was because it would prevent their having anything but volunteers as defenders. The hon. member for Northern Downs, whom they knew to be a heaven-born statesman, had appeared that evening in the character of a heaven-born general; yet he (Mr. Archer) doubted whether the hon. member would be able to take the command of a body of troops and handle them as well as a trained man. He did hope that the Committee would not cut down these estimates more than the Colonial Secretary proposed, and that instead of discouraging the volunteer movement they would encourage it in every way.

Mr. KINGSFORD was sorry that the vote had been struck off. As a matter of economy, they ought to have a volunteer force; and it was far cheaper for the Government that the youth of the land should be trained to become the volunteer force of the future. One aspect of the question had not been touched upon. Several years ago he heard a lecture delivered at home upon volunteers by a Quaker, and this gentleman, although he belonged to a peace-at-almost-any-price party, supported the volunteer movement on the ground that it would arrest the physical deterioration which had taken place in the youth of the land through close application to business and other causes. These remarks applied here; and in this enervating climate everything should be done to secure strength and stamina; everything that was necessary to make a soldier should be aimed at in the volunteer movement. The practice of drilling early in the morning, and not at night, which prevailed in many regiments at home, should be adopted here. He had never heard that volunteering had a bad effect upon volunteers in any respect. If they intended to continue their Volunteer Force, it should be kept in an efficient state; it was better not to do things at all than to do them by half.

Mr. BAYNES said the colony had something like 200,000 inhabitants; they were wanting artillery; they wished military men to come to the country from home; and they were desirous of forming cadet corps; but what were they to protect? The

fact was, they were giving themselves very great airs. The subject, however, under discussion had reference to cadets. Why should they bring up their boys to late hours and to become beer drinkers? It was a disgrace to put their sons in the street, parading and marching before the Colonial Secretary at Easter time, and drinking the first thing in the morning; they should be put to learning their lessons at night instead of being taken away from them to learn their drill.

MR. KINGSFORD did not know whether the hon. member was joking; but, if he was not, he (Mr. Kingsford) should look at it as an insult if he were told he allowed his son to act as the hon. member had insinuated.

MR. GROOM regretted exceedingly that the vote for the Cadet Corps had been struck off, and he might inform the hon. member (Mr. Baynes) that not only did he send his boys to the Grammar School, but he took considerable pride in allowing them to join the Cadet Corps. Had any cases arisen of cadets taking to drink, it had probably been owing to the bad example set the boys by their parents. A few evenings ago it was proposed to save £12,000 by a general reduction of the salaries of Civil Servants, and the proposition was strongly opposed by the hon. member (Mr. Rutledge); the moment, however, that a paltry £150 was asked for the encouragement of the Cadet Corps, the hon. member came forward with an amendment to strike it off. He congratulated him upon his economy. He was ready to strike off £150 in order to bring about the abolition of the cadets, and to extinguish the martial spirit in their boys, but when it would be proposed to throw another £50,000 in the river he would no doubt vote for it. The hon. member spoke about some of the cadets behaving as larrikins, but whose fault was that? If there had been any mismanagement in Brisbane it was not so in the other towns, and it must be the fault of the officers. Why was not the same practice followed as at the Toowoomba Grammar School, where the boys drilled between eight and nine o'clock in the morning? He did not know anything about the Brisbane school cadets, but had no doubt they were drilled in the day time and not at night. He exceedingly regretted that the vote had been taken off, and trusted that the Colonial Secretary would try to get it placed on the Supplementary Estimates. If there were one or two boys who did misbehave themselves, what could be said of some of the men? Was it not said that the Easter encampment at Sandgate was nothing but a drunken squabble; yet it was never contended that the volunteer vote should be discontinued.

MR. DAVENPORT said he voted for this reduction not from any chary spirit towards the volunteers, but because he had been informed that the originator of this corps—Major Snelling—had found that it was running a number of youths to destruction. If the capitation fees could be confined to Grammar School boys, who after drill would be in charge of their masters, by some regulation, he would willingly support it.

MR. RUTLEDGE said the hon. member for Toowoomba had accused him of inconsistency in resisting the attempt to cut down the salaries of Civil Servants and haggling about £150 for these cadets, and of exercising cheese-paring economy; but his reason for moving the reduction was because he was convinced that these cadet corps were a source of very great evil to the morals of these youths, and necessarily so, because—

MR. WELD-BLUNDELL rose to a point of order. He wished to know what question was before the Committee?

THE CHAIRMAN said the question was, that £7,095 be voted for Volunteers. As his attention had been called to the matter, he would point out that the item hon. members were discussing had been passed, and should not be further discussed.

MR. RUTLEDGE wished to know what the item £1,250 for "incidentals, repairs, horsing guns, forage," represented?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was for incidentals, repairs, horsing guns, forage, &c. What other explanation could he give?

MR. RUTLEDGE: What are the "incidentals?"

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said it covered thousands of things required by the volunteers all over the colony—from a needle to an anchor, almost. It was impossible to give any definite explanation of "incidentals." Was the hon. member going to put him back to his catechism again?

MR. BEATTIE asked if this £1,250 was expended on the artillery corps alone? He would oppose it unless the infantry got a fair share of it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was for the whole of the volunteers in the colony.

MR. KING said he did not intend to oppose the £1,500 for camps of instruction; but, the revenue being deficient and retrenchment necessary, he thought they might suspend the camps of instruction for one year without any great damage. He threw that out as a suggestion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY could not agree to break up the camp of instruction for one year. It would throw the men out of their drill, and do a vast amount of harm. He would almost as soon abandon the whole thing.

Mr. ARCHER did not believe they could do a worse thing than cut down this £1,500 for camp instruction. Unless volunteers were taken into the open country to see how they would be handled, if ever they were required to be handled, in the presence of an enemy they could not apply their previous instructions and training, which would therefore be to a great extent lost.

Mr. KING said if these camps were to be continued, he would take this opportunity of saying he hoped the next would be held somewhere on Crown land, where the volunteers could get a little more instruction and work and a little less picnicking. If they were taken to a place where crowds resorted the whole thing was turned into amusement rather than instruction; and if it were private property they could not fell a tree or do any work whatever. There were Crown lands within a short distance of Brisbane where they could get all the instruction required, and learn how to use an axe and spade, and they would be away from the demoralising influence of the crowd and not get too much grog.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY quite agreed with the hon. member (Mr. King) that the camp should be away from the town. He strongly objected to the place chosen for the last encampment, but wiser heads than his agreed that it was the best place that could be found; but unfortunately they did not calculate on the weather. But the experience gained at that camp was something, and the same mistake would never be made again. The volunteers would have to go away from the town into the bush, where they could use a pick and shovel and learn to throw up intrenchments and works of that sort, and find out what roughing it really was. Without these camps these mistakes would never have been found out, which showed that they were of practical service.

Mr. DAVENPORT agreed with the last speakers, that it would be much better if the volunteers were taken into open country where they could be intelligently worked amongst themselves. If at the next annual gathering no more convenient place could be found between Brisbane and the top of the Range, he could assure the Committee they would be very glad to see them in the neighborhood of Clifton, and, if necessary, they would kill the fatted calf in their honour.

Mr. MACFARLANE (Ipswich) was glad to hear the Colonial Secretary say that the volunteers would have to go into the country to form their camps, and he hoped that gentleman would not allow the public-houses to follow them. On former occasions it had been the custom to grant special licenses at those places, but he

hoped this would not be allowed in future, as it had a demoralising effect on the men. He was glad to see so much interest taken in the morals of the people as was displayed that evening.

Mr. GRIFFITH wished to know whether the volunteer officers were paid an annual allowance for forage or only actual expenses when on camp duty?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that two officers had been in the habit of having forage allowance—namely, the Major of Artillery and the Colonel-Commandant. No others were allowed forage, except when officers were on duty and when horses were hired.

Mr. RUTLEDGE said a protest should be entered against officers being allowed forage if they expected the ordinary volunteers to go without their allowances. Officers who had all the honour and glory of positions of command should be willing to forego forage allowance. He moved that the item of £1,250 be reduced by £250.

Mr. GRIFFITH wished to know what amount was drawn by those two officers for forage?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: £40 a year each.

Mr. GRIFFITH said he was not aware until that evening that forage was allowed to volunteer officers. He knew it was allowed to some Civil Servants, but not that the system was extended to volunteer officers.

Mr. RUTLEDGE said that after the statement of the Colonial Secretary he would move that the item be reduced by £100 only.

Mr. SIMPSON presumed it was part of the duty of the officers in question to have horses, as they required them almost daily, and if they were not allowed forage it would be a tax on their pockets to keep horses.

Mr. ARCHER said he was sorry the amendment had been moved. It was all very well for the hon. member for Enoggera to say that officers should be satisfied with having all the honour and glory and not complain of having to keep horses. That argument might apply where the officers were wealthy men, but he (Mr. Archer) hoped to see men promoted from the ranks on account of their showing extraordinary intelligence, and those men might not be able to afford to keep horses.

Mr. WELD-BLUNDELL said the result would be, if the amendment was carried, that before a man was appointed an officer, he would have to show that he was in a position to keep a horse. There were numerous expenses already in connection with holding commissions in the Volunteer Force, such as buying uniforms, and he thought it was hardly fair that they should be expected to provide their own forage.

Mr. BEATTIE pointed out that last year the Colonel-Commandant received £100 besides forage allowance. As it was necessary in the present low state of the finances to knock off the allowances to the men, he considered that officers might fairly be asked to forego some of their allowances. He might mention that the two officers referred to were not elected by the men themselves, but were appointed by the Government. If they were elected by the men, then he could understand the argument of the hon. member.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY wished the Committee to understand that the two officers he had mentioned were in such a position that they must keep horses. He knew as a fact that neither of them would keep horses for their own private use and convenience—one, particularly, seldom used his horse except when on volunteer duty. He (Mr. Palmer) erred when he said that £40 was the amount of the allowance, as he had since found it was £50, but he thought it would be carrying the principle of cheese-paring too far to refuse to vote that sum.

Mr. RUTLEDGE said that, with the permission of the Committee, he would withdraw his amendment.

Mr. GRIFFITH said he could not see the difference between providing uniform and providing forage. If an officer went to the expense of buying uniform he could also provide his own forage.

Mr. REA asked whether forage was only allowed to officers in Brisbane or to officers at Rockhampton and elsewhere?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was no use answering such a question. He had already told the Committee that only two officers were allowed forage—namely, the Major of Artillery and the Colonel-Commandant, and what was the use of asking if the vote for forage applied to Rockhampton—how could forage for two horses in Brisbane be made to extend all over the colony? Field forage was allowed to officers at Rockhampton when on duty, that was all.

Mr. REA asserted that the question he had put was made necessary by the bungling way in which the items were placed on the paper.

Amendment withdrawn.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that before moving the next item on the Estimates, he might again state that, having struck off the item of £750 for a colonel-commandant, he should put on the Supplementary Estimates £400 for a Major of Brigade. As he believed that some hon. members were taken by surprise when the capitation allowance of 10s. for cadets was knocked

off, he should also place that item on the Supplementary Estimates. It had been said that Colonel Scratchley strongly disapproved of the cadet system; but he had ascertained that that was not the case, but that Colonel Scratchley recommended that the lads should be drilled in the morning instead of at night. He (Mr. Palmer) thought it was capital training for lads, and, as he had said, he should place the item on the Supplementary Estimates.

On the question—That the sum of £3,515 be granted for Salaries and Contingencies in connection with Thursday Island Harbour of Refuge—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it would be observed that these estimates were arranged differently to what they were last year. The police magistrate, instead of drawing rations from the store, was to be allowed £150, and the men were allowed 12s. a week, and would have to find themselves, so that the Government would know the exact expense incurred. The new schooner "Pearl," which had been referred to on several occasions during the present session, was purchased, as hon. members were aware, partly from the Imperial Government, and had been since fitted up and started on her mission to Torres Straits. The item was, he was sorry to say, a large one. The purchase of the schooner was £600, but there would be a refund of £300 on this account, as the Colonial Government owned half. Thursday Island was likely to become a very important settlement, and the more so since the annexation of a neighbouring island. The "Pearl" would probably do better service now than she had done before.

After some further discussion, in which the COLONIAL SECRETARY repeated previous explanations as to the allowances in lieu of rations, he said he would lay the instructions to the police magistrate at Thursday Island and the master of the "Pearl" on the table of the House to-morrow.

Mr. BEATTIE and Mr. McLEAN remarked upon the smallness of the allowances to the captain of the "Pearl."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY felt quite refreshed to find that, after the miserable cheese-paring the Committee had gone in for in the Volunteer vote, they were disposed to be liberal now. The master of the "Pearl" got his tea, sugar, and wines free of duty, and though the pay itself was no doubt small, the officer accepted the appointment with full knowledge. They were a very economical Government, but, if the captain got on as well as he (Mr. Palmer) expected, they could give him an increase next year, if necessary.

Mr. DICKSON objected to the form of the estimate. The whole of the expenditure

for the "Pearl" was placed there, but if they referred to the Auditor-General's report they would find the £600 had been already settled, and came under the head of "unforeseen expenditure," the money having been paid on the authority of an Executive minute dated April 30. The £300—there being £300 to be refunded—had no right here, but should appear on Supplementary Estimates No. 2, 1878-79. The £400 paid on June 11 for repairs was in the same category. He therefore moved the omission of the item £600, purchase of schooner, with a view to its appearing in proper form on the Supplementary Estimates No. 2, 1878-79.

Question put and passed.

Question—That £2,915 be voted for the service—put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved £7,000, Miscellaneous Services, and said that since the passing of the Electoral Rolls Act the amount of £3,000 for collecting electoral rolls would not be required in full.

The PREMIER moved the reduction of the item by £1,500.

Question put and passed.

Mr. SIMPSON said he noticed an item of £150 for the Queensland Rifle Association, which he fancied must have been put down by mistake. While agricultural and horticultural societies were left unassisted, he failed to see why this Association, which did not do nearly so much good, should be specially favoured.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the vote would do a vast deal of good. If the hon. member had noticed the scores made during the shooting last week, he would have seen that the averages were as high as those made in almost any part of the world. The sum had been increased from £100 to £150 in fulfilment of a promise he had made to a deputation from the Association soon after he entered office. He believed the money would be well spent. It was no use having volunteers unless they were made good marksmen, and that could only be done by offering prizes. He hoped there would be no objection to the vote passing.

Mr. GROOM said he noticed that the vote for German and Chinese interpreters had been reduced by £150. Speaking of the Toowoomba court, he could only say that the German interpreter's services were frequently called into requisition, and he trusted there was no intention to reduce the very small salary that official received.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said there was no reduction in point of fact. It was the same amount as was paid last year, although the larger sum was voted.

Mr. McLEAN said there was nothing down for loans to cemeteries. If the Gov-

ernment did not intend to give any money to cemetery trustees, how was the necessary work to be carried on?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the money would have to be provided by local taxation.

Question, as amended, put and passed.

The CHAIRMAN reported progress, and

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past 10 o'clock.