

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 1886

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 6 October, 1886.

Offenders Probation Bill—assent.—Contract between the Government and R. and J. Lindsay.—Gold Fields Act Amendment Bill—committee.—Supply—resumption of committee.—Messages from the Legislative Council—Marsupials Destruction Act Continuation Bill—Health Act of 1884 Amendment Bill—Mineral Lands (Coal Mining) Bill.—Burning of the “Rockhampton.”—Adjournment.

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

OFFENDERS PROBATION BILL.

ASSENT.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, conveying, on behalf of Her Majesty, the Royal assent to a Bill to amend the criminal law so far as regards the punishment of persons convicted of first offences.

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND R. AND J. LINDSAY.

Mr. FOOTE brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the contract between the Government and Messrs. R. and J. Lindsay, and moved that it be printed.

Question put and passed.

GOLD FIELDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. Miles), the Speaker left the chair, and the House went into committee to consider the Legislative Council's amendment in this Bill.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said the amendment was only verbal—the insertion in the preamble, after the words “excepted from,” of the words “or otherwise not available for”—and he moved that the Committee agree to the Legislative Council's amendment.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the MINISTER FOR WORKS, the CHAIRMAN left the chair and reported to the House that the Committee had agreed to the Council's amendment.

The report was adopted, and the Bill ordered to be returned to the Legislative Council with a message intimating that the Assembly had agreed to the Council's amendment.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. J. R. Dickson), the Speaker left the chair, and the House went into Committee of the Whole, further to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING, ETC.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. B. B. Moreton) moved that the sum of £31,920 be voted for Government printing—salaries, contingencies; lithographic branch, contingencies, and electric light. There was a slight decrease in the salaries in the Government Printing Office, and an increase of £1,500 for wages, temporary assistance, and overtime. The lithographic branch was the same as last year, and there was an increase in the contingencies for engraving, etc. There was the same amount as last year for the electric light.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he understood the hon. gentleman to say that there was a decrease in the salary of the Government Printer. He saw that the Government Printer was down for the same amount as last year. Either his ears deceived him or the hon. gentleman was mistaken.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the decrease was in the whole amount. It was £5,620 this year, as against £5,645 last year.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN asked if the hon. gentleman would explain how it was there was £1,500 more for wages this year, while the amount for paper and machines, type and incidentals, was only the same as last year? Surely if more was spent in wages, more type and paper would be used.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the decrease in the paper and incidentals arose from the fact that a lighter paper was being used—a cheaper paper—than before. The increase of £1,500 was caused by the employment of additional supernumerary hands for the machines, girls and boys in the binding and ruling rooms, and increases to apprentices.

Mr. ANNEAR said he would ask the Colonial Secretary who had charge of the electric light at the present time, both at the Printing Office and in connection with the Parliamentary Buildings?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said Mr. Barton had charge, and was running the light at the present moment. Hon. members were all aware that after the accident that occurred in the Chamber a few weeks ago an inquiry was instituted as to the cause, and it was found that there were two wires that had got joined together under one of the windows. They were short wires from the main lead under the floor. They had been separated, and so far as they could find out, they were separated at the time the thing was taken over. They had been attached to the wall by a staple, and had got loose that evening. They had been used for running a bracket light, two or three nights before the House met, to see what effect it would have in the room, and when that was taken down they were separated permanently. He presumed that they had become entangled with the blinds attached to the window and got loose in that way. Hon. members would remember that when the lights were first lit that evening they burnt very badly indeed, and it was then discovered that there was a short circuit somewhere. The gentleman who was then in charge of it came into the Chamber, and found that a plug, termed a "safety-plug," had fused. While hon. gentlemen were at tea he had made a direct connection between the two wires, and when the engine was set going again the

short circuit immediately became overheated, and there being no safety-plug—which had been taken away—it got so heated that it set fire to the insulation around it. The engine was immediately stopped, and the whole thing was over. An inquiry was instituted by a person who came up from Melbourne—Mr. Pentland—and it showed very strongly to his mind that the person who was then in charge, Mr. Tomlinson, had not had sufficient experience to carry on the management of the electric light. There was also another charge, which was still pending, he might say—or rather a matter between him and the Government—that he had overweighted the brushes to keep them firmer on the commutator, he did not know for what reason. They were fixed with a sort of spring to a wheel moving with the running portion of the commutator, and this officer thinking they did not keep close enough, put extra weights upon them, and in doing so he fused the brushes, and scored the commutator to a certain extent. That was also deemed by the expert who came up to report to be a certain sign that the officer referred to had not had sufficient experience in the working of these insulators. It was then arranged with Mr. Barton that he should make things right—that was, to turn the commutator again, and get it true on the brush surface, and make what other alterations were necessary with regard to putting in another safety-plug. Mr. Tomlinson was, of course, still formally electrician, as he (the Colonial Secretary) had not yet come to a conclusion upon the papers before him. He was still waiting a report from Mr. Pentland, who had gone down to Melbourne, as to whether the work of installation as a whole had been properly performed by the contractors in the first instance. He understood that the work was properly performed in every respect. Mr. Pentland had told him verbally that it was one of the largest installations in the colonies, and, as far as he could see, very well put together. As he said before, he was still waiting until he had gone through Mr. Tomlinson's papers in reply to Mr. Pentland's report, and after doing that he would determine what steps to take with respect to the electrician.

Mr. ANNEAR said there was no doubt the Colonial Secretary had given the question a great deal of attention, and from the long explanation he had given he, no doubt, fully understood the situation. He (Mr. Annear) believed he was correct in stating that Mr. Barton had charge of the light at the commencement of the session, and they all knew how well it acted then, and they also knew how well it was acting at the present time. He had heard a report, and the Colonial Secretary would know whether it was true or not, that Mr. Tomlinson—the gentleman who was in charge when the House was in such a dangerous state that night, and not only the House, but in the electric room at the Government Printing Office, everything went wrong, because that gentleman knew nothing at all about the practical duties he had undertaken to perform. He had heard that that gentleman had been requested to resign about a fortnight ago, but it would appear that he had not done so up to the present time. There must be some reason for it. The Government had an officer who had proved himself unfit for his duties and they called upon him to resign, and yet the Colonial Secretary had just stated that he was still in the service of the Government. He did not know Mr. Barton, but hon. members must have seen that he was thoroughly conversant with his duties. The work was properly carried out under his charge at the commencement of the session, and there had been no trouble at the Printing Office or anywhere else. He was informed that letters were received,

some from officers in the Civil Service, recommending Mr. Tomlinson, who he believed, as a theoretical lecturer on electricity, knew something about it, but who practically knew nothing about it, and yet Mr. Barton was sent about his business so that Mr. Tomlinson might be appointed in his place. Things had since gone wrong, and the Government had been obliged to get back Mr. Barton. If it was true, as he had heard, that Mr. Tomlinson had been requested to resign, and had not done so, it was not a satisfactory state of affairs.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he must correct the remark the hon. member had made in stating that Mr. Barton was in charge of the installation when the House met. Mr. Tomlinson was in charge when the House met, and Mr. Barton never had been in the employ of the Government. Mr. Mathieson had been in charge for some time, having been brought up by Messrs. Shaw and Co. to carry out their contract, and he was appointed for a time as electrician for the Government. It was then found that he could not run the dynamo for some reason or other, and he was requested to resign, and he did so. Then Mr. Tomlinson, from among other applicants, was appointed Government electrician, and took charge from the commencement of the session. As regarded Mr. Tomlinson, he had been requested to resign not a fortnight ago, but only since the report was received from Mr. Pentland. Of course, he had written some letters, and, in justice to the man, it was only right that both sides of the question should be heard. If he found that Mr. Tomlinson's letters were not satisfactory, of course his resignation would be insisted upon.

Mr. ANNEAR said he did not wish to mislead the hon. gentleman. What he meant to say was that Mr. Barton was in the employ of the contractors when the House was first lit, not in the employ of the Government.

Mr. BLACK said it seemed to him that very few hon. members knew anything about the subject they were talking about. He did not himself know whether the light was properly worked or not, but he was very glad to have the assurance of the Colonial Secretary that the fire that occurred behind him that night was not intentional. He did think that, in deference to an absent man whose conduct was still under investigation—he referred to Mr. Tomlinson, of whom he knew nothing personally—he did think the remarks of the hon. member for Maryborough were somewhat harsh and uncalled for. That man's qualifications appeared to be under investigation, and until it was decided whether he was incompetent or not, he did not think the hon. member was justified in accusing him of incompetency. It was admitted that the light was working satisfactorily at the beginning of the session, and he understood that Mr. Tomlinson was in charge at that time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. ANNEAR: No.

Mr. BLACK: The Colonial Secretary said he was, and the hon. member for Maryborough admitted that the light was then working well. From some cause it subsequently did not work so satisfactorily, and had to be done without for a time, and now it was again in operation. In justice to Mr. Tomlinson, who might or might not be competent, it was not fair to prejudice his case until the Colonial Secretary had decided whether he was to continue in his position or not. They being unprofessional men could not know much of the merits of the case, and he was sure the hon. member for Maryborough—well versed as he might be in ordinary mechanical operations—

knew just as little about the electric light as he did himself, and therefore the less they said about the matter the better. There was one matter which he wished to ask the Colonial Secretary about, and that was as to the cost of the electric light. He found in the vote before them that there was an allowance for the engineer of £50. That was not a very large amount, and the amount for coals, repairs, etc., came to £255. There was no reference to the cost of the electric light in the schedule, and he found on turning to page 37, which they would come to by-and-by, that there was £250 down again for "electric engineer in charge of electric light." He would like to ask the Colonial Secretary whether it would not be better to lump those two amounts together and make the sum £300 at once? What was gained by putting down £50 as an allowance to the engineer at page 29, and another sum of £250 at page 37 of the Estimates? It had frequently been a matter of complaint that there had been a difficulty in ascertaining what certain Civil servants were getting. In that case one sum was set down at one page of the Estimates for the engineer, and another sum in another page.

The PREMIER: It is a different person.

Mr. BLACK said there was a sum of £50 set down under the heading "Electric light," as an allowance to the engineer.

The PREMIER: That is the engineer of the Government Printing Office.

Mr. BLACK said the schedule should state who the officers really were, and what they received. Surely the engineer received more than £50 a year?

The PREMIER: There are two engineers.

Mr. BLACK said that at one page the sum of £50 was set down for an allowance to engineer, electric, and at the other page the sum of £250 for "electric engineer in charge of electric light."

The PREMIER: One is the mechanical engineer, and the other the electrical engineer.

Mr. BLACK said he did not think the Premier knew very much about it, and he was very glad to find that the Colonial Secretary had gone to elicit the information from the Under Secretary; no doubt the hon. gentleman would then explain the matter to the Committee. It was desirable that they should know whether the two sums mentioned belonged to the same individual and formed one salary.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said they did not form one salary. The £50 was an allowance to the head engineer of the Government Printing Office, who ran the two engines working the dynamo, one working the light for the Government Printing Office and the other the light for Parliament Houses. The sum of £250 was for the electrician. He would take that opportunity of saying, in reply to the statement made by the hon. member for Maryborough, that he had been informed that Mr. Tomlinson did try to start the engines and then Mr. Barton came in and ran them for two days.

Mr. BAILEY said he would direct the attention of the Colonial Secretary to another matter in connection with the electric light. Was the hon. gentleman aware that during the recess there was a similar accident and fire to that which had occurred a short time ago, but which might have been much worse, in consequence of the management of the electric light? And were any steps taken on that occasion to investigate the matter?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not know that any similar accident or fire had occurred during the recess, but he believed that

such a thing did happen while the installation was in the hands of the contractors. He was informed that when Mr. Barton was finishing the job, after Mr. Mathieson had given it up, in going over the work he had found upstairs, somewhere in the roof, a long length of wire on which the insulation had been fused in the same way as the insulation of the wire in that Chamber. He (the Colonial Secretary) saw the wire himself, but, as he had said, the installation was still in the hands of the contractors when the fusing of the insulator took place.

Mr. ANNEAR said the hon. member for Mackay seemed to threaten him somewhat, that he must be very careful what he was talking about. As a rule he tried to be careful to make no accusations against a person without knowing that he was standing pretty well on safe ground. He repeated that Mr. Tomlinson lighted up that building at the beginning and it was an utter failure, because the man did not understand the work. The person who preceded him was then called in to put the affair in proper order and re-start it. He did so and it worked well; but what was the result? The lighting was again a failure and he was called in again. He (Mr. Annear) did not think any man should undertake responsibilities which he was incapable of discharging properly. They could not put a square peg in a round hole. He did not know Mr. Tomlinson, but he did not gather what he had said from hearsay. When a thing was pointed out to him and he made several visits to the machinery, he had, he thought, sufficient intelligence to carry away a little of what he saw. He was of opinion that for the safety of that very good building, and for the safety of the buildings of the Government Printing Office, where the electric light was in use, it was desirable that they should have a man who fully understood his business in charge of the light; such a man should be kept on in preference to a man who, he considered, was perfectly incompetent to work the lights.

Mr. WHITE said he did not know anything at all about the electric light, but as an observer he had his own opinion of it. He had seen a large hall fitted up with the electric light for one night's exhibition with lights similar to those used in that Chamber. The force was stored in a small can on the table, and a small mill was also placed on the table. The light was a brilliant one, and the circular saw having been set to work a board was sawn with it. From time to time he had seen a building well lighted with the electric light. During the past two years, or nearly so, he had seen men working about the Parliament buildings—whether they were working or playing he could not tell, but they seemed to be busy and were there continuously. He would ask whether any member of that Committee would say that they had ever had a light that was really equal to the gas-light?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. WHITE said he had not observed that there had been a light equal to the gas. In the Library the electric light was a miserable affair, and quite beneath the gas.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No.

Mr. WHITE said the electric light had been very unsatisfactory, and, although he knew nothing about the subject, he felt that it was a bad job and that the Government had been imposed upon. There must be a great amount of incompetence either in the contractor or in the management, or somewhere or other, and the work was a very expensive one for the Government.

Mr. GROOM said the electric light had been a somewhat unfortunate affair ever since it was started. The first electrician sent out by the Edison Company from New York was Mr. Snow. Had that gentleman been able to carry out the work he thought there would not have been so many mishaps, and that the affair would have turned out much more satisfactorily than it had done. The President of the Legislative Council and he had a conversation with Mr. Snow, and the mode that gentleman suggested for lighting that Chamber was very different from the one which had been adopted. Had his idea been carried out, even the appearance of the lights themselves would have been widely different, and the whole thing would have been much better from a lighting point of view. Unfortunately, Mr. Snow was taken suddenly ill and died in Brisbane. Another electrician, a gentleman holding exceedingly high credentials, even higher than those of Mr. Snow, was then sent out from New York. He was requested to go to Sydney to put in some electric lights in the Arcade there, and when returning to Brisbane he fell overboard from the steamer at Luggage Point and had never been seen from that day to this. Since that time they had not had men of experience sent out by the Edison Company themselves, but had had to take young men who were already in the colony. He did not pretend to know anything about the electric light; but he could speak of what had come under his own observation. Every electrician seemed to have a peculiar method of his own in fixing what were called the safety-fuses, and the consequence was that each new electrician completely upset the work of his predecessor, and threw the whole thing into a state of disorganisation. He had nothing whatever to say as to the merits of the two gentlemen who had been named, Mr. Barton and Mr. Tomlinson. He understood that Mr. Barton was recommended to take charge of the lighting, and in one experiment made under the supervision of that gentleman prior to the opening of the House, the electric light had worked exceedingly well, and appeared to give satisfaction. He was also invited to attend an experiment made under Mr. Tomlinson two or three nights before the House met; the Colonial Secretary was in the Chamber, he thought, at the same time. On that occasion, although the engines at the Government Printing Office were put on at full speed, they could get no light at all; and from that time until Mr. Barton took charge the whole affair appeared to be in a state of disorganisation. What were the causes he could not pretend to say; he knew nothing about it, as far as the electric light itself was concerned; he could only state the facts as they came under his own observation. The scheme of lighting proposed to Sir Arthur Palmer and himself by Mr. Snow, who first came out as the accredited representative of the Edison Light Company, was very different from that which was now in operation. As he had said before, every electrician seemed to have a method of his own, and to that he attributed the unsatisfactory working of the electric light since it had been adopted in the House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had omitted to answer one part of the question of the hon. member for Mackay relating to the cost of the electric light. He could give the Committee a few figures on the subject. The expenditure up to the 15th of September had been:—Installation, including engines, dynamos, etc., 1884-5 and 1885-6, £6,629 10s. 3d.; allowance to the engineer working the engines, 1884-5, 1885-6, and 1886-7, £108 6s. 8d.; coals, repairs, etc., 1885-6 and 1886-7, £244 18s. 11d.; making a total of £6,982 15s. 10d.

Mr. BLACK said that was the most important matter that he wished to ascertain. The total cost up to the present time had been some £7,000, which was a considerable sum of money in these bad times. He had no doubt the Colonial Secretary would endeavour in future to get some proper return for such a very large expenditure, and see that the services were carried out as well as was practicable. From what the hon. the Speaker had told them, there was no doubt that the subject was surrounded by very considerable difficulties. All the good electricians, by some extraordinary fatality, seemed to die young, while the incompetent ones were protected by Providence in some unintelligible way, and survived. Unfortunately, that was a very serious loss to the Treasury. He would like to know from the Colonial Secretary what the cost of gas would have been for the time that the electric light had been in use? He did not want the exact cost to a few pounds, but perhaps the hon. gentleman could give some idea of the cost of gas as compared with that of the electric light.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said of course the Committee would understand that the sum he had quoted included not only the lighting of the two Houses, but also the lighting of the Printing Office, where a large number of lights were used. He was not prepared to answer the hon. gentleman's question at the present time. He thought the officers of the House would know more about the cost of the gas.

Mr. BLACK said he would like to impress upon the Colonial Secretary the fact that it cost as much to light the House as to pay the members.

The PREMIER: Oh no!

Mr. BAILEY asked if the consumption of gas was materially diminished since the electric light had been in use. It struck him that the gas had to be kept burning every night to assist the electric light. They ought to know what the gas cost as well as the electric light.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it cost about £200 for the five months' session, and about the same amount for the Printing Office. Of course there were a large number of new rooms being put up, and the present engines and dynamos were sufficient to light the whole of them.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL asked what was the estimated cost of running the electric light for the session, as compared with the £200 for gas?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not know at present. He would lay the information on the table to-morrow.

Mr. ALAND said he did not understand what the Colonial Secretary meant by saying he did not know the estimated cost of the electric light. They had the estimate before them—allowance to engineer, coals, repairs, etc., £305—and then further on they had the salary of the engineer in charge of the electric light. Surely that was the estimated expense!

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said that particular estimate seemed to be very much mixed. One table showed that the engineer of the Government Printing Office had a salary of £285; another table showed that the same individual was receiving £50 for running the electric light; and some ten pages further on they came across another individual, called the electric engineer, in charge of electric light, with a salary of £250. If the electric engineer's salary had been placed in the estimate under consideration, and the £50 had been added to the Printing Office engineer's emoluments, hon. members would have been better able to ascertain what the actual cost was of running the electric light.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that if the £50 was transferred to the estimate for the Government Printing Office, hon. members would not have been able to ascertain the cost of running the electric light.

Mr. BLACK asked whether it was through inadvertence that the estimate did not show that the engineer of the Government Printing Office was receiving emoluments from two sources, and that his name ought accordingly to appear in the schedule?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that the schedule only contained the names of officers who were holding more offices than one. The officer in question held only one office: he was engineer of the Government Printing Office, and got something extra for running the electric engine.

Mr. FOOTE said the estimate for the printing establishment was becoming a very large one. It was growing larger and larger every year, and was fast becoming an incubus on the State. If it continued to grow during the next ten years in the same proportion as it had grown during the last ten years, the cost would become enormous. He would suggest to the Government that it was possible to get a great deal of their printing done very much cheaper. There were plenty of private printing offices in Brisbane, and if the Government were to get a large portion of their printing done by contract they would save a very considerable sum of money. He would advise the Government to adopt that system. As to the electric light, everyone knew that it had been a very costly affair and not very reliable.

Question put and passed.

INSANITY—HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £21,116 be granted for Insanity (establishment) and hospitals for the insane. There was a decrease of £100 in the vote for fees to official visitors and travelling expenses. There was a small increase for the Goodna Asylum owing to the engagement of three additional attendants, and others having been transferred from the second class to the first. A decrease of £1,500 would be observed in the item for contingencies at the Goodna Asylum, but the amount asked for, £8,000, was considered to be sufficient for the present year.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN asked whether, as the allowance for provisions and incidentals at Goodna had been reduced from £9,500 to £8,000, it was expected that there would be a reduction in the number of the inmates?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was not aware that there was likely to be any reduction in the number of the inmates, but the sum was considered sufficient for the year.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said that perhaps the hon. gentleman would tell the Committee in what manner that economy had been effected. They were asked to vote the salaries of more attendants and nurses, which must necessarily mean an increase in the number of the inmates, and at the same time they were asked to reduce the allowance for provisions and incidentals by £1,500. How was the reduction to be accounted for unless the number of the inmates was decreased? Or there was another supposition, which he did not wish to express at present.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that, although three additional attendants had been asked for, he found they would not be wanted until the new wards were completed.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: When will that be?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not know.

Mr. BLACK said he would like to ask what the actual expenditure was last year for provisions and incidentals? £9,500 was voted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that £8,000 was about the sum spent last year, and there was £1,500 to the good. It was therefore presumed that £8,000 would be sufficient for this year.

Mr. BLACK said he noticed an item—"Fees to official visitors, travelling expenses and contingencies, £400." He would like some information as to the official visitors, who they were, what the fees were, and what the fees paid to them amounted to last year?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the official visitors were Mr. Pinnock and Dr. Rendle. It was stated that £400 would be sufficient this year; he did not know what was the amount paid to them last year.

Mr. BLACK said that was very unsatisfactory indeed. What he asked was what was the amount of the fees. If Mr. Pinnock went up to visit Goodna, what was the fee he received? If Dr. Rendle went up to visit Goodna, what was the fee he received; and how often did he go?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he thought Dr. Rendle got a stated sum and travelling expenses. He did not know at the present moment what the exact fee was that he got, but he would find out.

The PREMIER said he remembered that Dr. Rendle received a fixed salary—he thought, £100 or £120 a year. That covered the visiting of the reception-house at Brisbane. The £400 included the fees paid to the visitors to the reception-house, as well as to the asylum at Goodna.

Mr. BLACK thought that if the Premier had got the information he should give it to the Committee. He wanted to know what fees those gentlemen really received. The Colonial Secretary, in reply to his question just now, had said that the official visitors who received fees were Mr. Pinnock—

The PREMIER: He does not get fees.

Mr. BLACK: Then if the Colonial Secretary said he received fees he was in error. He found on page 21 that the Metropolitan Police Magistrate—he presumed, Mr. Pinnock—received for visiting Goodna, North Pine, and Sandgate, £700; so that the Colonial Secretary was in error when he said that Mr. Pinnock received fees. The Premier said that Dr. Rendle received £120 a year.

The PREMIER: £100 or £120 a year; I am not quite sure.

Mr. BLACK asked if there was no way for the House to ascertain what gentlemen really did receive for their services to the Government. Was it in the schedule, or was it not? £500 had been voted for this item last year, and it was now reduced to £400. The Committee had a right to know whether the services would be performed as efficiently as before; whether the sum voted before was more than required, or whether this £400 might not be more than sufficient. While the Premier was engaged in picking up the information, he wished to make this remark: They had a schedule of Estimates-in-Chief for 1886-7, which was supposed to give members an opportunity of ascertaining what every Civil servant received in the way of salary. If the schedule were indexed, so that they could refer to any particular officer in the

Civil Service, it would save an immense amount of trouble. It was quite possible that Dr. Rendle's name was down in the schedule, but there was no index to it from beginning to end. He would suggest to the head of the Government that next year when he laid the schedule on the table of the House there should be an index to it, so that they could ascertain what officers were really getting.

The PREMIER said he knew, as a matter of fact, that Dr. Rendle was not paid by fees; he got a fixed allowance. His memory did not serve him as to the amount, but he remembered making the arrangement. The Acting Under Secretary said he did not remember the amount either.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: Suppose you telephone?

The PREMIER: I will find out. I think we ought to know.

Mr. BLACK said he would like to know if the Blue Book was so utterly unreliable upon any other points.

The PREMIER: Refer to any particular point and I will tell you.

Mr. BLACK: The first point he had referred to was incorrect.

The PREMIER: Try another.

Mr. BLACK: He should when the opportunity arose. He was beginning to suspect the accuracy of the Blue Book altogether, now that the Premier had admitted that it was inaccurate.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said this vote dealt with a matter that deserved the closest attention—that was, the matter of the insane. Those members who, like himself, had gone over the report in connection with the asylums for the insane at Goodna and Ipswich might have noticed such a matter as this for instance, that a large number of the patients admitted during the year were recent arrivals by the immigrant ships. The history of these cases, some thirty in number, had been traced, and in many instances, no doubt, these men or women were tainted with insanity when they left the old country, and had been sent here, and the colony had been burdened with their support. That matter, he had no doubt, had already received attention in years previous, but the only way to get real, sound, and effective attention directed to any subject was to keep hammering away at it from year to year. He thought the Government should still continue to pay attention to the matter. The report gave them a little that they might congratulate themselves upon in this particular—that their position seemed very favourable as compared with other Australian colonies and with England. The rate in Queensland was 1 in 374, or 2·67 per 1,000; while in England it was 1 in 345, or 2·89 per 1,000. South Australia was a little better. There, there was 1 in 439, or 2·28 per 1,000. He would like to know whether any really good steps had been taken to remedy the defects in the water supply. He believed there had been a report sent round lately dealing with the matter, which seemed to him to be a very important one. Another thing they might congratulate themselves upon was the working of the new Insanity Act, which was bringing in a good deal of money. The sum of £1,396 14s. 4d. had been collected during the year 1885, being at the rate of £1 17s. 5d. per head. There was one matter to which he would direct the attention of the Minister in charge of those institutions, and that was whether something could not be done to find more employment for the insane. Hon. gentlemen knew that very much attention had been paid to this subject all over the world, and it was found that, of all remedial

measures, employment was perhaps the best—the simplest and the most effective. Some hon. members might know Dr. Tucker, of Sydney, who had had a very large experience in dealing with the insane. He wrote a letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* of August 2 last, which he had with him, and which was headed—"How Hospitals for the Insane may be made largely self-supporting." That letter contained some hints which the Government might well take into their consideration, to see if they could not relieve themselves of the burden to some extent—not only relieve themselves of the burden of supporting these institutions, but relieve some of those unfortunate people of the heavier burden of insanity. He hoped more attention would be paid to the matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was glad the hon. gentleman had drawn attention to the matter. He had not visited the asylums since he had been in the Colonial Secretary's Office—he had not had time to do so—but he hoped soon to be able to go up there, and that something would be done in the way suggested by the hon. gentleman. He did not know that anything was done at present in the direction mentioned. The hon. gentleman was quite correct in bringing the matter forward. When the new asylum at Toowoomba was able to receive some patients from the overcrowded places down here, there would be more room for trying experiments of that sort, and he hoped that that system, or a system approaching it, would be able to be adopted.

Question put and passed.

RECEPTION HOUSES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £2,500 be granted for Reception Houses—Brisbane, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, and for incidentals.

Mr. MACFARLANE asked the Colonial Secretary if so many persons as seven were required at the Brisbane Reception-house to superintend the expenditure of £550? There was a superintendent at £150, two attendants, a matron, a cook and laundress, and two nurses. He did not know the number of patients there were there at one time; he did not suppose there would be more than half-a-dozen at the very outside, and he should like to know if the Colonial Secretary could not give the Committee that information—how many patients there might be in the reception-house at any given time? Considering there were reception-houses at Maryborough and Rockhampton and Townsville, he could not understand what those seven persons had to do in Brisbane.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he thought the reception-house at Brisbane was nearly always full. People were continually being brought in by the police, sometimes only for temporary treatment—to see whether it was necessary to send them to Goodna, or whether they should be discharged; and it took a good many persons to look after them. He did not think there were too many people there for that purpose at all. He was looking over the place recently, and certainly thought there was quite enough for them to do there.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he was given to understand that the establishment was used partially as a kind of inebriate asylum. If such were the case it might save the country a lot of money. If reception-houses were the means of curing inebriates and restoring them to their friends, all good and well; but he did not know whether that was the case or not. If

men were put there for a day or two, until they were recovered, and then sent back to their friends, it would be a good thing.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said cases of that kind had frequently occurred, where men were taken there and it was not known whether they were suffering from *delirium tremens* or from insanity; and they were kept for a day or two until the doctor had visited them. Several persons had been there under those circumstances.

Mr. MURPHY said while they were on that unpleasant subject of insanity he would ask the Colonial Secretary a question. He understood there were some new wards being erected in connection with the present lunatic asylum, but before the Government went to any further expenditure upon those buildings, ought they not to make some inquiries as to the best mode of housing these unfortunate people? The Government would find that it was a great mistake to add ward after ward, and increase the size of those buildings. The modern way of treating lunatics was to do so under the "cottage" system, and separate them as much as possible. He knew that in Victoria they had found that the number of patients who recovered in the large asylums, like the Kew Asylum, was very small compared with the number who recovered in the Yarra Bend Asylum, on the cottage system. They found they were utterly unable to manage that huge place properly; it was much more expensive, and the number of recoveries there was very small when compared with the number that recovered in the cottage hospitals. The cottage system was, besides, cleaner and more wholesome, and the patients got better health, and could be much better attended to under that system than under any other. He hoped, therefore, if the Government intended to extend the accommodation for those unfortunate people they would not do so by extending the present buildings at all, but that any additions they might make would be upon the cottage system.

Mr. CHUBB said that was a convenient opportunity for asking an explanation in connection with another matter. Could the Colonial Secretary tell the Committee what had been the effect of the administration of the new Insanity Act, which was passed not long ago? He would like to know how it had worked in the direction of obtaining from persons able to pay a proportion of the maintenance of patients in the asylum.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that if the hon. gentleman would look at page 3 of the superintendent's report he would find that the superintendent stated:—

"The curator reports the amount collected for maintenance of patients to December, 1885, and paid into the Treasury, was £1,396 14s. 4d.

"This amount is far in excess of any amount ever before obtained, and considering that this is the first year of the working of the Insanity Act, during which the relatives of all patients whose addresses could be obtained had to be communicated with, their circumstances inquired into, and the amounts of their contributions fixed, the result is highly satisfactory."

That was what the curator said on the subject.

Question put and passed.

GAOLS, PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, AND REFORMATORIES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £10,488 be granted for Gaols, Penal Establishments, and Reformatories.

Mr. CHUBB asked whether it was proposed to make any additions to any of the gaols during the coming year? He had heard it stated that some of the gaols—Brisbane Gaol for one—had more prisoners in them than there was accommo-

dation for; in some instances almost double the number there was proper accommodation for. Of course, if that were so, it was not a proper state of things. He did not believe in making prisoners comfortable, but, on the other hand, they should not be cruel to them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that increased accommodation was being provided at the Brisbane Gaol, but he could not say how far it had proceeded, as he had not visited the gaol very lately. There were also one or two other gaols to which some additions were being made.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL asked if it was the intention of the Colonial Secretary to establish any gaol out west, say at Muttaborra or some such place? The matter had several times been brought before the hon. gentleman's notice during the recess, and also during the present session. Considerable expense and inconvenience was occasioned by prisoners having to be brought long distances in Cobb and Co.'s coaches from Winton, Aramac, Muttaborra, and such places. They had to be brought down at much cost to the country, and sometimes one and sometimes two constables had to accompany them. If there was a local gaol at a central place like Muttaborra, all that trouble, inconvenience, and expense might be saved, and not only that, but the police would be enabled to remain in their districts instead of spending half their time on the road.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the matter had been brought under his notice. The hon. member for Gregory, he thought, had requested that there should be a gaol established at Muttaborra, and very soon after that an application was made for the establishment of a gaol at Winton. The matter was receiving the consideration of the Government.

Mr. CHUBB said there was another place where a gaol was necessary, and it ought not to be delayed very long, and that was at Normanton. It was a tremendous distance to bring prisoners from Normanton to Townsville where the nearest gaol was. They had to be taken to Townsville to await their trial, taken back to Normanton for the trial and returned to Townsville to serve their sentence, and at great expense to the country. Another matter should receive the attention of the Colonial Secretary, and that was that all prisoners whose terms of imprisonment exceeded twelve months were, he believed, brought down to Brisbane to serve the term. It was not the rule to allow long-sentenced prisoners to be incarcerated in outside gaols, the reason being that the country gaols were not considered so secure as the gaols of the metropolis. That might be very well from one point of view, but it was very expensive to bring prisoners down here. So far as possible the prisoners should be kept in the districts in which they committed the offences for which they were punished. If they could be incarcerated in the local gaols it would save a great deal of expense, and considerable expense was now entailed by the system adopted of bringing them down for incarceration in Brisbane Gaol or at St. Helena.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that, as far as he knew, prisoners of over twelve months were kept in country gaols. He could not speak authoritatively on the subject, but he judged that such was the case from the number of petitions coming down from prisoners in those gaols asking for a remission of their sentence.

Mr. BLACK said he would like to know what steps the hon. gentleman intended to take with regard to the erection of a new gaol at Mackay, for which the sum of £1,500 had been voted? He had referred to the matter before, but it

seemed to be almost necessary to constantly reiterate a complaint before it received proper attention. He would direct attention to a few remarks in the Sheriff's reports on gaols, which confirmed the statements he (Mr. Black) had made on a previous occasion with respect to the condition of the gaol at Mackay. The Sheriff said:—

"The sanitary arrangements are bad (particularly during the wet season) for want of proper drainage. There are only open drains without a proper fall, so that the water remains in them, occasioning offensive odours. Lime and other disinfectants are freely used to prevent sickness which might arise from the impure air."

He might mention that was using one stink to disguise another; that was really what the free use of disinfectants amounted to. The report continued—

"There have been a few cases of diarrhoea and low fever, but no deaths have occurred in the gaol during the year."

He did not think anything coming from a Government officer could be more condemnatory of the gaol than those few words written by the Sheriff. Of course, that officer naturally did not want to make out an extreme case, but he (Mr. Black) could say that the condition of the gaol at Mackay was disgraceful. They had all read about the "Black Hole" at Calcutta, but he said that the suffering the unfortunate prisoners had to undergo in the Mackay gaol was a disgrace to any Government who allowed them to be perpetuated after attention had been drawn to the matter. As hon. members were well aware, Mackay was situated in the tropics, yet the cells of the gaol were constructed on the same scale and on the same plan with regard to ventilation as those in the southern part of the colony. He knew of his own knowledge that the sufferings of the prisoners confined in that place, many of them not guilty, but who had been arrested and were awaiting their trial, were unnecessarily severe, and a disgrace to any country like Queensland, which was supposed to be civilised. They had heard the description of the Brisbane lockup, and knew the disgraceful state of affairs that had been divulged in connection with that place, which was almost under their own eyes. But he ventured to say that what had been going on in the gaol at Mackay was worse than the state of affairs depicted in Brisbane and which until recently received no attention from the Government. The Sheriff further stated that—

"There were three attempts made by prisoners to escape, but in each case the endeavour was frustrated. The wall round the building is not sufficiently high to be safe, and it is too near the gaol, because, as the gaoler informs me, at night-time persons outside on the foot-path are in the habit of talking to prisoners under lock, which they can do by speaking loudly."

He might explain that the gaol was erected right in the middle of the town, on what was probably one of the most valuable building sites in Mackay. It was surrounded with what he might call a hoarding—a wooden wall about nine feet high—such a structure as was used for posting bills on by bill-stickers in Brisbane. Right alongside the gaol was a bank, about one of the best buildings in Mackay, and it was a matter of serious inconvenience to the inhabitants of the bank—if that circumstance was entitled to be taken into consideration. That side of the house overlooking the gaol-yards was uninhabitable, owing to prisoners having to be let out of the cells into those yards to get fresh air. The report also said:—

"The accommodation in this gaol consists of one associated ward sufficient for ten prisoners, a cell for four prisoners, and two cells sufficiently large for two prisoners each, but as it is contrary to all rule to place two prisoners together in a cell, they can be used only for one prisoner each, or overcrowded by placing three

prisoners in each, which, during the warm weather, is dangerous to health. Two of the cells are required for drunks and lunatics, one for female prisoners, leaving only one cell for other prisoners. Kanakas, Cingalese, Javanese, and other coloured races, and European prisoners, have to be confined in the same cells, which is highly objectionable, and leads to constant quarrels amongst the prisoners."

That was not a new matter, but he referred to it again because he thought the urgency of the case demanded more serious attention from the Colonial Secretary than it had received up to the present time. He regretted the Minister for Works was not in his place, because the hon. gentleman had himself inspected the gaol and was loud in denouncing the system which prevailed there. Not only did the hon. gentleman say that it was a disgrace to the town and district to have a gaol situated as it was, but he also gave a reasonable promise that the matter should be attended to without unnecessary delay. Hon. members must understand that £1,500 had been voted for some time to remedy the very disgraceful state of affairs that at present existed. He would like to know from the Colonial Secretary whether the very strong report the Sheriff had considered it necessary to write in connection with that subject was likely to receive immediate attention. He would himself suggest that the Government should remove the gaol to a more suitable site in the outskirts of the town, and he believed that arrangements could be made with the municipality for getting a site. There was no doubt that it would be necessary to have a small lockup for the use of the court-house, which was immediately adjoining the present gaol; but whatever the hon. gentleman intended to do with respect to that matter, it was necessary that something should be done to remedy the present disgraceful state of things. There was, he believed, no more disgraceful state of affairs in any part of the colony than existed at the present time at Mackay. The other day when he was up there, there were twenty-four prisoners in those little cells, in which he ventured to say that there was no room—that was, if the dictates of humanity were to prevail at all—for more than eight or ten.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that of late years there had been some trouble with regard to the gaols along the Northern coast. They were built with the idea that there was going to be a white population in Queensland, but to a great extent they had been used for receiving runaway Cingalese and Javanese. Those persons filled the wards of the gaols up north, and as soon as they were returned to the places from which they had deserted, their employers took them back, perfectly satisfied with having had the work of capturing them undertaken by the public, and the cost paid by the Government. He did not know at the present moment whether he had seen anything about the Mackay gaol. He did not think the matter had come before him lately, but he was under the impression that some alterations were being made in that gaol. There was a great outcry that the gaols in the North were not large enough now, and the reason was, as he had already stated, that they were filled with runaway Cingalese, Javanese, and kanakas.

Mr. BAILEY said he was rather surprised that the hon. member for Mackay should take the trouble to again bring that matter under the notice of the Colonial Secretary. That hon. gentleman's department was rapidly becoming entangled in a coil of red tape, and infested with "Tite Barnacles," whose only care was how not to do anything. The state of the prisons and gaols had been represented in the House over and over again, and there was always some such excuse as that they were filled with a few

Javanese or Cingalese. The state of the prisons and gaols in the North was something horrible. Even if they had a right to punish a man, they had no right to punish him with extraordinary cruelty; and that innocent people should be dragged hundreds of miles and crowded into the holes he had seen was a disgrace to humanity. And what did the "Tite Barnacles" say? "We had an idea when we built those places that we should have a white population, and now we find coloured people there." And so, forsooth, they were to crowd white men, charged with crime, and possibly innocent, into those infested holes with a lot of coloured men stinking them out! There was something horrible in the state of things, and the department simply drew their salaries, and found out how not to do it. Write to them about the subject, and you were put off; write again—put off again; write again—some technical objection; write again—next year; write again—next year again; bring it up in the House—next year again. Since the head of the department left, it had drifted into a miserable state. He quite acknowledged the necessity for the Chief Secretary dividing his duties, but he was sorry to say that since that hon. gentleman left the department things had not been at all satisfactory to members on either side of the House. He (Mr. Bailey) had reason to complain, and he would take an early opportunity of bringing several subjects before the House in connection with that department. He did not see why, because he was on that side of the House, he was to be tongue-tied; and he would always say what he thought when his constituents were aggrieved, or when any of the Northern constituencies were aggrieved. When he saw cruelties practised in consequence of the negligence, and worse than negligence, of that department, he was bound, in the name of humanity, to protest against it.

The PREMIER said he would like to know what the hon. member's speech was all about. It had nothing to do with that vote, or with any of the gaols; it was about some other grievance. Why did not the hon. member make a clean breast of it, and tell them what it was? With respect to the gaols and lockups, no doubt in a country like this some of them were not comfortable, and he did not see any particular reason why they should be. The men in them, of course, should not be treated inhumanly; but, as had been said before, if the accommodation in them was as good as the ordinary accommodation in the places where they were established, the inmates had no reason to complain. With regard to the Northern gaols, there was a great deal in what his hon. colleague had said—that they were full of coloured labour. It would soon be necessary for the House to make provision for the maintenance of those men by their employers; it was absurd to have to build gaols, and have them chiefly occupied by runaway workmen who were being punished for not doing their work. That was purely a breach of contract, although by the law it was punishable by imprisonment. The gaols in the South were also, no doubt, very much crowded. Money had been provided by Parliament for enlarging the penal establishment at St. Helena, but for various reasons it had not been taken in hand up to the present time.

Mr. LISSNER said he was sorry to hear the Chief Secretary and the Colonial Secretary say the gaols in the North were overcrowded because they were filled with Cingalese and slaves. He had the pleasure of representing a place where they were short of Cingalese and slaves. There were about 10,000 inhabitants, and sometimes there were fifteen or sixteen people incar-

cerated in a cell 8 feet by 10 feet, who were neither Cingalese nor Chinamen. Certainly, one night there were twenty-eight Chinamen and a boss Chinaman in one cell, who were run-in for gambling at *fantan*; and the Government got £160 revenue out of them next morning. Besides that, there were white men in the same cells. Two cells measuring 8 feet by 10 feet were certainly not enough for a population of 10,000, and the Colonial Secretary's statement about there being only blackfellows and Cingalese was not applicable there, at any rate.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said the Colonial Secretary's explanation was exceedingly unsatisfactory. It was no new thing to have kanakas and Cingalese at Mackay, and complaints had been made year after year without receiving the slightest attention. The very existence of those kanakas and Cingalese ought to lead the Colonial Secretary to take steps to prevent white men who might unfortunately have to be locked up from being boxed up with them. It was an outrage on decency that a thing of that sort should go on year after year, simply because of the masterly policy of inactivity followed by the department.

Mr. CHUBB said the figures he had referred to would be found in the Sheriff's report, which corroborated what he had said with regard to the overcrowding in the Brisbane Gaol. The Sheriff said the daily average number of prisoners confined there was 103·2, while the actual accommodation for prisoners in single cells was only 62, so that there was an average of 41 every day more than the number for which accommodation in single cells was provided. He would like to know whether any consideration was to be given to the Sheriff's recommendation as to making the prisoners do more and better work:—

"I would strongly recommend the erection of workshops, where remunerative employment at various trades might be carried on by the prisoners; and a treadmill constructed for penal labour. Without proper appliances gaols cannot be made either deterrent or reformatory. Mats, brushware, contractors' barrows, volunteer uniforms, boots, prison clothing, and various other articles might be made in the gaol; and, as remarked to me by Captain Jekyll, the manufacture of concrete slabs suitable for street footpaths, and far superior to asphalt, might be carried out in the establishment."

Further on the Sheriff referred to the Southern gaols, which he had visited during his leave of absence last year, and made some very good recommendations with regard to administration. He (Mr. Chubb) would like to know whether effect would be given to any of those recommendations during the coming year?

Mr. FOOTE said the accommodation at present was far too small, and he considered the way the Government had of providing accommodation was very expensive. It was quite time the colony set about the business in a very different way. Instead of the taxpayers of the colony bearing the great burthen of providing prison accommodation, prisoners should be compelled to build their own gaols. That was quite feasible. There were generally plenty of mechanics, masons, carpenters, and so on in the gaols quite capable of carrying on the work, and it would not cost the taxpayers of the country one-third of what it now costs them. It would also tend to alter the system of prison discipline. Some hon. members complained of the tyranny of gaol discipline. His own idea was that it was far too easy. The prisoners were well fed, but they were not sufficiently worked, and the work they did was of too easy a character. When last at St. Helena he noticed that a large number of the prisoners—at least a third—were quite young men, and the next most numerous body, according to apparent age, seemed to be between twenty-five and thirty. Those men should be

employed, not only in building such gaols as were required, but to make the wharves that might be needed at various ports, and to do the dredging of all the rivers. The Sheriff, he noticed, recommended that the prisoners should be taught certain trades, such as brushmaking. He (Mr. Foote) did not think that prisoners should be taught a trade in gaol, to come afterwards into competition with the taxpayers of the colony who had maintained them while there; but they might be safely employed in the manual labour he had mentioned, and also in breaking vast quantities of road metal. It would greatly facilitate the work of divisional boards if they could get road-metal cheap. He hoped the Government would give the matter their consideration. If gone about in the right way, ample gaol accommodation could be provided all over the colony at a very much smaller cost than was at present paid.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the recommendations of the Sheriff with reference to the labour of prisoners was now under consideration. The Government were now considering whether the proposed new penal establishment should be erected at St. Helena or elsewhere, and when the plans came from the Works Office the question would come before them in a more practical form. If it was determined to build at St. Helena—which he believed would be the case—the work would be done by prison labour. As some hon. members knew, there were always a number of prisoners in the gaols at Brisbane, Roma, and Toowoomba, who were employed outside breaking stones and doing other work for the municipalities. The hon. member, Mr. Foote, did not seem to like the idea of prisoners being taught a trade, such as brushmaking, because they would afterwards come into competition with other brushmakers who had never been in gaol. But the hon. member seemed to forget that if they were employed in dredging rivers and erecting wharves they would come into direct competition with the working men of the colony, for whom the Government were now trying to find work. With regard to the conduct of the hon. member for Wide Bay, Mr. Bailey, that hon. member seemed to think that since he (Mr. Moreton) had been in the Colonial Secretary's office things had gone to "wrack and ruin," and that he (Mr. Bailey) could get nothing done that he wished to get done or asked to get done. Only that afternoon the hon. member came in in a state of rage, and threw a paper at him, which was almost intended to hit him in the face, because a letter had been sent to him from the Colonial Secretary's office stating that a certain thing could not be done which he wished to have done. Because the Cabinet had not come to a determination to which the hon. member thought they ought to have come, he had almost insulted him (Mr. Moreton) in the House—if he could take anything of that sort from that hon. member. If the hon. member felt aggrieved at anything he (Mr. Moreton) had done, let the hon. member bring it before the House, when he would be able to give very good and substantial reasons for what had been done, instead of crying like a child because he could not get what he wanted.

Mr. GOVETT said that some two months ago he waited on the Colonial Secretary with regard to the erection of a gaol at Muttaborra, and the hon. gentleman promised him that he would call for a report on the subject and let him know the result. Was the hon. gentleman now in a position to give him any information on the subject? Conveying prisoners by rail had always been a very costly business, and in the interests of economy, to say nothing about the large district, a gaol was greatly needed at Muttaborra.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the hon. member was not in the House when he mentioned the fact before. Shortly after the application referred to was made, another came in requesting that a gaol should be built at Winton instead of Muttaborra, and he had stated to the Committee that the matter was being looked into to ascertain which was the best place for it.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he would like the Colonial Secretary to give some information as to how long it was likely to take him to look into it. This question had been going on for a very considerable time to his certain knowledge. In either or both places he was certain something of the sort was very necessary. At Winton there was only a small lockup attached to the police quarters, with a rotten floor, and the other day two black boys, who were there charged with murder, escaped from it, but were recaptured after a great deal of trouble. There ought to be some secure place of confinement at either one or other of those townships. It would pay for its own cost in a very few years, as he had pointed out to the Colonial Secretary, both there and in his own office, in the saving of the transport of prisoners and police. Moreover, it would obviate the necessity of having the police constantly travelling down to Rockhampton with prisoners. He should like to know how long it would take the hon. gentleman to decide.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not know how long it would be. What might be a short time to him might be a long time to the hon. member for Cook.

Mr. MURPHY said he was one of those who also had brought a complaint before the Colonial Secretary with regard to a gaol, or rather a lockup. There was a township called Tambo in his constituency, and he thought it had the honour of having the oldest lockup and police court in the west of Queensland. That lockup and police court were now tumbling about the ears of the prisoners, police, and police magistrate. In fact, the whole place would shortly be on the ground. He would like to know from the Colonial Secretary what steps were being taken to have it put in order or a new one built.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he believed that tenders had come in for altering it, but they were more than the amount put on the previous estimate, and therefore it was not done.

Mr. MURPHY thought the hon. gentleman had got rather mixed as to the police quarters at Jundah and Tambo. He wanted to know what was going to be done at Tambo, not at Jundah.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that a report had come in about the buildings, and the tender was more than the amount on the Estimates.

Mr. MURPHY: And so nothing would be done! That was the usual way they were treated in the West. The Colonial Architect designed buildings on a palatial scale, and because they would cost more money than the Government put on the Estimates, they did not send the plans back to be remodelled, so as to come within the amount the Government were willing to expend. He did not want the Government to spend an enormous sum on those buildings, but it was absolutely necessary that they should have them. Why not make the Colonial Architect plan his buildings to meet the money the Government were willing to spend on them? He would like to know from the Colonial Secretary what he was going to do under the circumstances. They could not go on without the buildings.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the vote for the buildings was in the Works Department. He did not know what the plans would be.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said he thought he was able to throw some light on the subject. Recently they had a very expensive Colonial Architect who was very fond of preparing plans of buildings on a very expensive scale. When tenders were called for, the consequence was that they could not get the work done for the sum voted by Parliament. No doubt that was the cause of delay. The Government had to dispense with the services of that gentleman, and they had now got a man who would prepare plans in accordance with the amount provided by Parliament. He did not think that in the future there would be any complaints on that score.

Mr. SHERIDAN said he merely rose to express his surprise that an elderly, kind gentleman like the hon. member for Bundamba should object to the moral improvement of prisoners in the gaols of the colony and to their being taught trades. He had no doubt that there was many a man in gaol who, if he had been a tradesman, would never have got into gaol at all. The most beneficial way to treat such prisoners was to teach them to earn a living when they came out. He would rather hope that the Government would insist on every man who went into gaol learning a trade, so that he would be able to earn an honest living when he was released.

Mr. FOOTE said his philanthropy took another direction; it went in a practical direction. He would make prisoners self-supporting. They should pay their own expenses when in gaol, and pay for the gaol they were in. He did not object to young men learning trades—the youthful portion of the prisoners—if they were likely to be benefited by it morally. But on the other hand, he objected seriously and sincerely to the heavy burden which the taxpayers of the colony had to bear from year to year on account of the very heavy expenditure for buildings, and the maintaining those gaols.

Mr. SHERIDAN agreed with the hon. member as far as making the gaols self-supporting. He firmly believed also that the way to do so was to teach the men how to work, so that the produce of their labour should pay the expense of their maintenance. He would do as was done in America. Every man sent to gaol in that country was made to work and earn his living. The consequence was that the gaols there were no very great expense to the country.

Mr. FOOTE said he was informed that the gaols in America were almost saloons, parlours, places almost of renown, where prisoners luxuriated in very great ease. He hoped they should never follow the example of America in that respect.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said this matter was too important to let it slide into anything like fun, or into discussions about the herding together of wrong-doers of white skins and wrong-doers of coloured skins. He admitted that this question of making the prisoners work was a difficult one. The member for Bundamba objected to their being taught trades, but would allow them to do dredge-work. It was no matter what direction they went they would tread on somebody's toes.

Mr. FOOTE: Don't tread on the taxpayer's toes.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS: No; that was why he rose to call attention to the matter. There should be some relief. Here was this sum of £10,488 without a single set-off. When they came to St. Helena they found a set-off, but as against that large amount there was nothing, or only a very trifling sum. He would read a paragraph from

the report on gaols—it was the one before him—that which was read by the hon. member for Bowen:—

“It would be both profitable and beneficial if all the short-sentenced prisoners could be employed in breaking stones for road metal, and there would be fewer complaints from the prisoners themselves, who are used to hard work, that the life they are leading makes their hands soft and renders them unfit for work on their discharge from gaol.”

That seemed to be somewhat astounding—that the prisoners themselves objected to the idle, listless life that they led within the prison walls. Turning to the report of the Sheriff upon the Mackay gaol, the next paragraph before that quoted by the hon. member for Mackay, said—

“Prisoners sentenced to hard labour were employed cutting firewood for the use of the gaol.”

What full employment that must be! He believed that Mackay was in the tropics—at any rate, it was not quite at the North Pole—and yet there were eighty prisoners sentenced to hard labour, that hard labour consisting of cutting firewood for the gaol. It seemed to him that they ought to cast about for some way of making those men do what the hon. member for Bundamba wished them to do. But they would have to hedge off first one trade and then another, and the question would come up at last whether the taxpayers would rather pay a portion of their wages to keep some wrong-doers in idleness, or whether they should not enter to some extent—it might be very well guarded—into competition with them. He hoped that something earnest and energetic would be undertaken in that direction to relieve the taxpayer.

Mr. MURPHY said he thought the hon. gentleman who advocated putting prisoners to work on dredges, to dredge their rivers, build harbours and piers, and that kind of work, would not be brave enough to advocate that on the platform before his constituents. In Victoria no man dared to say anything of that kind at a gathering of working men—to make a proposition of that sort—that the prisoners should be used for any work outside the gaol. The electors simply would not hear of it for a moment. He was sure that when those hon. members next came before their constituents they would hear about this. He was not at all satisfied with the answer that he had received from the Minister for Works in regard to the police court at Tambo. That hon. gentleman put the blame upon the late Colonial Architect. He (Mr. Murphy) wished to know whether the plans had not been drawn by the present Colonial Architect, who had been in office for some months. The plans were comparatively recent, and could not have been prepared by the gentleman who lately occupied that position. They must have been drawn by the present Colonial Architect, who was following the footsteps apparently of his predecessor. A report was received from the police magistrate in Tambo that explained the actual fact to the Colonial Secretary, that the present buildings were tumbling down. No real answer had been given yet to his question as to whether anything was to be done in the matter, and when it would be done. Did the Government intend to take any steps to have a building erected for which they were willing to vote the money?

Mr. FOOTE said, in answer to the hon. member for Barcoo, he would not object in the slightest degree to state before his constituents, or any portion of them, what he had stated in that Committee.

Mr. KELLETT said he was glad the hon. member for Bundamba had alluded to the remark of the hon. member for Barcoo. He did

not know what sort of constituents that hon. gentleman must have; but he (Mr. Kellett) was not afraid to go and repeat his remarks before his constituents, and he hoped that very few hon. members in the Committee were afraid to back up the remarks of the hon. member for Bundamba. All those prisoners should be made to earn their living, if possible. He did not know which was found to answer best—working at a trade, or working on the roads; but some system should be adopted for that purpose. He would not employ them for only eight hours; he would give them ten or even twelve hours' solid work every day they were in gaol. It was said they got very good ideas from Victoria. Everything good came from Victoria! They were told the other night that all the scientific squatters came from Victoria; but this was a new science—keeping a lot of idle, lazy ruffians. They did not want to keep them here.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said, in reply to the hon. member for Barcoo, that he might rest assured that he would see the work was proceeded with, if it could be done at a reasonable sum.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he would ask the Colonial Secretary if he had seen the report about the Cooktown gaol, in his (Mr. Hill's) constituency? The Sheriff said that the gaol was insecure, and insufficient in accommodation, consisting only of three cells. Prisoners awaiting their trial had frequently to be sent to Townsville, and all prisoners sentenced to long period of confinement were transferred to the Brisbane Gaol. He did not wonder that the North wanted separation, when they could not even get a decent gaol, but had to go to Brisbane to be locked up. That alone was sufficient to justify the demand for separation. The same remarks applied to the Herberton gaol, which was comprised of three cells capable of accommodating two prisoners in each. But it was contrary to gaol discipline to adopt that course; either one or three prisoners must be placed in each cell. He hoped the Minister would call the attention of the new Colonial Architect to the necessity of disregarding the system of building cells just large enough for two prisoners. They were generally too large for one, and too small for three; and it was a well-known fact that it was against prison discipline to have two prisoners in the one cell. He hoped the Colonial Architect would cut his coat according to his cloth, and in apportioning the money voted for the erection of lockups and gaols in certain places, he would spend it in the most economical way possible, and not in the most extravagant and foolish way—that the money would be laid out with proper regard to economy, and getting the greatest amount of accommodation with the smallest amount of expenditure.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said in regard to the hon. member for Barcoo, who complained about police buildings not being carried out, he was rather surprised. The hon. gentleman told them the other night that he was a scientific squatter. If he was such he must know perfectly well that during the last two or three years it had been almost impossible to get timber drawn for those buildings, and that invariably when tenders were called for, they were all far above the amount appropriated by Parliament. Even when a tender was accepted the contractor generally failed to carry out the work. A great deal of the delay in erecting those buildings was owing to the state of the country, and the long distance timber had to be drawn, the high price of carriage raising the cost of the buildings considerably. If Parliament voted £500 for a building, he was not permitted to accept a tender for that building for £1,000.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN : Yes, you are.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said he would not be prepared to undertake the responsibility of it.

Mr. BLACK : Unless it was something for Ipswich.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said the Works Department was now conducted on business principles, though it was not so conducted when the hon. member for Townsville was in the department. He (Mr. Miles) would not take the responsibility of spending double the amount authorised by Parliament. He knew the hon. member did not care about that, as all he had to do was to go to his Minister for Lands and ask him to sell some 150,000 acres to meet the expenditure. The present Government did not fall back upon the sale of the land, but endeavoured to keep within the amount authorised by Parliament. He hoped that explanation would be satisfactory to the hon. member for Barcoo.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he was beginning to think they were being kept in gaol long enough. They had heard many complaints every year of the want of proper gaol accommodation in the North, and he thought there should be a committee of inquiry appointed to find out why the North required so much more gaol accommodation than the South. There must be some reason for it, and he hoped they would some day find out the cause of the great demand for gaol accommodation in the North. The hon. member for Barcoo had referred to a matter the Committee might look to, and that was that in the country districts there was no occasion for very elaborate buildings. The head of the department might almost do without the assistance of the Colonial Architect at all, as all that was wanted was a substantial building with plenty of room and good ventilation. That was the principal thing, and they need not attempt to make their gaols too comfortable. If the idea of the hon. member for Barcoo, coupled with that of the hon. member for Bundamba, could be carried out, a good substantial gaol might be built in the country districts, with the assistance of the prisoners, that would answer all purposes of gaol accommodation for some time to come. If they went back to the old days before Separation, they would find that their first gaol was built by prisoners, and there was no reason why the hon. member's idea should not be acted upon, and the prisoners made to assist in building the country gaols now.

Mr. MURPHY said the Minister for Works had said that his department was managed on commercial principles, and that he would not exceed the amount of money voted for a particular work, if the tenders exceeded that amount. What about the duplication of the line from Ipswich to Brisbane? Did the hon. gentleman mean to say that work was being constructed on commercial principles? Perhaps the estimate was not exceeded there? The hon. member would expend over £60,000 or £70,000 over the estimate in that work, and yet he would not give people out west a £5-note or a £10-note for building a court-house or gaol. It was the usual complaint that those near at hand got all the best of it, and they who were far away got all the worst of it. He did not see where the commercial principles came in.

Mr. FOOTE said it was the usual complaint that the squatters must always get the benefits, and they did get them. The line spoken of was but a duplication of a part of the line which went out west. He had never seen in print any estimate of what the cost of that work would be.

Hon. members had got into their heads the idea that it was to cost a certain sum, and the sum they named was ridiculously low. The bridges cost more than half the money they named.

Mr. ALAND said hon. members had got it into their heads because it was shoved into them by the Minister for Works. On the Loan Estimates something like £80,000 was down for that duplication, and the Minister for Works was distinctly asked by the hon. member for Port Curtis whether that sum would meet the whole cost of the duplication, and the Minister for Works said, "Most decidedly it will."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : No.

Mr. ALAND said the good time was coming when they would turn up *Hansard* and show the Minister for Works what he had said. He had himself looked it up within the last few days.

Mr. FOOTE said the hon. member must be mistaken, because the estimate for the bridges was between £40,000 and £60,000, and hon. members must know that the rest of the work could not be done for the remainder of the sum named.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS : I will give the explanation at the proper time.

Mr. FOXTON said that as some hon. members were going in for retrenchment in small items, there was an item in the vote before them that might be considered, and that was the amount set down for a photographer.

Mr. FOOTE : That is necessary.

Mr. FOXTON said he knew it was necessary to take photos of the prisoners, but he could not see why they should not introduce a little high art into their gaols and do a little photographing on their own account. A very short course of instruction would be sufficient to enable a turn-key or warder to take the photographs, and thus save the £60 set down for the work.

Mr. BLACK said that considerable discussion had intervened since he asked the Colonial Secretary what steps had been taken to expend the £1,500 voted for the Mackay Gaol. The hon. gentleman had replied by saying that the gaol had been erected for Europeans, and that it was occupied chiefly by coloured men. That was entirely wrong. The lockup, or "gaol" as it was called, at Mackay had been erected at a time when there was a large number of coloured men in Mackay. The Premier had held out some sort of threat that the time was not far distant when certain localities in the North would be called upon to pay the expense of a gaol necessary for the accommodation of those people. Those threats had no weight with him, and he would be prepared to discuss that matter when it came up on its merits. At the present time they were paying considerably more than they had a right to pay to the general taxation of the country. He would not be a bit surprised to find the Premier put on any additional charge he could in connection with the district he represented.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the money voted for the gaol at Mackay would be spent on that work.

Mr. BLACK said that he had had a conversation with the Colonial Secretary, and he thought that gentleman admitted the urgency of the case in connection with Mackay gaol, which he (Mr. Black) had referred to. He should like to have an assurance from the Colonial Secretary that no unnecessary delay would take place in remedying the unsatisfactory state of affairs that had been in existence in Mackay for the last two years, more especially as a sum of £1,500 was voted two years ago for that purpose.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was very glad to hear the remarks of the hon. member. He quite agreed with him as to the necessity of a new gaol being erected there. The hon. member had brought under the notice of the Government the desirability of a change of site, and he could only assure him that the Government would do what they could to immediately rectify the matter. He could give him his word that he would do all he could to remedy the existing state of affairs.

Question put and passed.

PENAL ESTABLISHMENT, ST. HELENA.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving that the sum of £10,450 be granted for the Penal Establishment at St. Helena, said hon. members would see that the estimate was only about £20 over what it was last year. There was an increase to one warder, although that did not represent the increase of salaries, because there was a slight decrease in one or two other things.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said he had already made some slight reference to the report on the penal establishment on St. Helena. It was satisfactory to him, at any rate, to find that those who were confined there were not living in idleness, but that they did something for their food, at all events. He was rather surprised to find that while the prisoners of the Roman Catholic church were periodically visited by their clergymen, no Protestant clergyman visited the establishment in the year. If the Protestant people did not look after their prisoners, he was not quite sure that he would not have to do it himself during the next year. He was afraid some hon. members would look upon that as not the very best thing, as he might give them a little bit of unorthodox teaching. As one connected with the Prisoners' Aid Society, he was pleased to find some reference to that agency in the report. Hon. members who had the report in their hands would see that during the year the work done at St. Helena was estimated at £6,715, and Captain Townley told them that if he were to put a value on the odd labour done during the year it would be much more. It was a difficult thing putting a value on field or other desultory labour, and it had not hitherto been attempted to show the labour earnings of prisoners at such work; but in future Captain Townley intended to put a low average upon it—say 1s. 10d. The gaol averages in New South Wales and Victoria were made out on that principle, and he hoped to pursue that plan in the future. There would be an approximate sum of about £3,500 more, making the total earnings about £10,000. As one member of the Committee he must express his gratification at finding that state of things at St. Helena.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he was very glad to hear from the report referred to by the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, that that establishment was to some extent recouping itself by the earnings of the prisoners. There was one item in the vote on which he would like some information. Last year it was understood, although it was not quite a definite promise on the part of the Government, that the salary of the clerk and storekeeper, which was now £150, would be increased by about £25. He observed that there was no increase in the Estimates, and would like to know whether it was intended to increase the salary of that officer this year?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said there was no intention of making any increase in the vote this year. He was very sorry that he was not able to increase the salary of both the chief

warder and the clerk and storekeeper, as they were both deserving of an increase, but the necessities of the year and the times prevented it being granted at present.

Mr. BUCKLAND said the reason he referred to the matter was because he believed the chief warder and the storekeeper, as well as other warders, were almost promised increases last year.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he noticed that there was a sugar-boiler down there at £150 a year. He would like to know what was the crop of sugar this year at St. Helena, and whether sugar-making was carried on at a profit?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he really did not know what was the crop this year, but he had no doubt that, taking into consideration the low price of sugar, that industry was not carried on at a profit. The value of sugar and molasses manufactured last year was put down at £423 4s. 4d., but he did not suppose that covered the expenditure.

Mr. BLACK said he entirely agreed with the remarks of members on the other side that as far as possible the prisoners ought to be self-supporting. But he thought that in a return like that furnished by the superintendent, an over-estimate of the value of the services of the prisoners should be discouraged. The value of the sugar manufactured on the island was estimated at £400, and as there were twenty-one tons of sugar, that was something like £20 per ton. If the other estimates of the work done by the prisoners were as much too high as that was, then the value of their labour was over-estimated by about 30 per cent. If the Government valued sugar at £20 a ton he only wished they would purchase some of that manufactured in the North, which he knew was of very considerably more value than that produced at St. Helena, where the appliances were naturally of a more primitive description. The correct value of the St. Helena sugar would be from £10 to £13 per ton. Then he found that there were 1,000 gallons of molasses valued at 5½d. per gallon, which was 100 per cent. more than it was really worth. He pointed out these matters to the Colonial Secretary, in order that he might request the superintendent at St. Helena in future to value the articles produced by the prisoners at what might be considered a fair commercial value, so that the Committee might not be misled into supposing that the prisoners were self-supporting to a greater extent than they really were.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS said if the hon. member would turn to the second table on page 3 of the superintendent's report he would see full particulars with regard to the sugar account. From that it appeared that twelve tons were sent to the Colonial Stores for the use of the Government departments, and that was valued at 2½d. per lb. Then there was a certain amount used at St. Helena. That, he supposed, was valued at what would be paid for it if the article were supplied by contract. There were also certain other amounts sold by auction, and sold at St. Helena. So that the estimate did not seem a very unreasonable one.

Mr. BLACK said he would turn to the table referred to by the hon. member, and he thought it more than endorsed what he had stated. In that table he found there was sent to the Colonial Stores and sold by auction eight tons of sugar for £78, which was rather under £10 per ton. Yet credit was taken for twenty-one tons at very nearly £20, or for £400. He thought he was quite right in the deduction he had drawn.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he thought the figures given by the hon. member for Mackay—from £10 to £13 a ton—were much nearer the mark than those quoted in the report. He gave credit to the sugar-boiler, for he knew that with his appliances it was impossible to turn out better sugar. Not only the price given for sugar, but also that for molasses—5½d. per gallon—was far too high.

Mr. WAKEFIELD said he would like to draw the attention of the hon. member for Barcoo, who had made some remarks in the earlier part of the evening upon the erection of buildings without the supervision of the Colonial Architect, to the fact that almost the whole of the buildings at St. Helena had been constructed by prison labour. They were adapted to the requirements, without any view to appearance, and had been built in a very economical manner.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he thought if they kept up that sugar-growing business it should be carried out on a sounder basis. It would be better to stop "tiddlewinking" with imperfect machinery, and apply the labour in a different direction, as for example in building the additional accommodation which he believed was required. They might just as well put the prisoners on the treadmill as make them grow sugar in an unprofitable manner, and unless they went to the expense of providing proper machinery they ought to stop it.

Mr. BLACK said that with reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Cook he would like to point out that £10 a ton was not an exceptionally low price, and the sugar-boiler ought to get credit for producing sugar worth £10 a ton with such imperfect machinery, instead of receiving reprobation. There were many large estates in the northern portion of Queensland that last year did not get more than £11 per ton on the whole of their crop. At St. Helena they had the advantage of cheap labour and plenty of it; and the sugar produced reflected very great credit on the sugar-boiler, considering the appliances he had. The employment of prisoners in that industry should certainly be encouraged, and if possible he would like to see it extended.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said he had not intended to cast the slightest reflection on the sugar-boiler; but he believed the labour, instead of being employed in turning out a small quantity of low-class sugar, would be much better applied to other purposes, such as putting up additional accommodation.

Question put and passed.

LYTTON AND TOOWOOMBA REFORMATORIES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that there be granted £2,210 for the Reformatories at Lytton and Toowoomba. There was no change in the estimate.

Mr. MACFARLANE asked if the girls' reformatory at Toowoomba was within the walls of the gaol?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; it is in a building outside.

Mr. MACFARLANE asked if it would not be possible to dispense with the superintendent, who was also superintendent of the gaol? He believed there only about twenty-five or thirty girls, and, seeing that they had a female warder, it would be better for the girls and cheaper for the country if they did away with the gaoler and matron. He did not like the idea of the gaol and reformatory being connected.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not exactly see what the hon. member was afraid of. The superintendent and matron were

both very worthy people, who had taken great pains with the girls, and he thought, from what he had seen, that they had done their duty very well indeed. He had been over the building, and he thought they both deserved all they were paid.

Mr. GROOM said he could assure the hon. member for Ipswich that that was one of the most valuable places that could possibly have been chosen for those girls. The colony was certainly indebted to Sir Arthur Palmer, who was Colonial Secretary at the time it was established. It had done an immense amount of good, and the girls were exceedingly well taken care of. There were little things—waifs and strays—from eight up to about thirteen, and the matron and warder took a very great interest in them. He was not quite sure, but he thought he was justified in saying that in laundry-work alone they earned a very considerable amount in the course of the month; he believed the returns furnished to the Colonial Secretary would show that it reached £10 or £12 a month, so that the place was to some extent self-supporting. There were ladies who took a great interest in the institution, and altogether it was working very satisfactorily. Anyone who visited it would be struck by the cleanliness and good order and discipline which prevailed; he did not suppose there was another place in the Australian colonies that would excel it. It was a credit to Sir Arthur Palmer, who saw the opportunity of doing good to these girls, and it had certainly done all he desired. Many of the girls had been reclaimed, and as far as relapses were concerned he was happy to learn from a return with which the gaoler had furnished him that they had been very few indeed. Taking it altogether, it was an admirable reformatory institution for girls, and it was an excellent thing that there was such a place where girls, often without either father or mother, and unable to take care of themselves, could be sent, instead of mixing with bad characters outside, until they were old enough to be placed out in respectable service. Great interest was taken in the institution by clergymen and philanthropic ladies. With regard to the superintendent it was quite necessary that there should be one in order to the maintenance of discipline. The cost of the institution to the State was remarkably small—smaller, perhaps, than any other of the same kind in the colonies—while the results had exceeded all expectations. As he had said before, the colony owed a debt of gratitude to Sir Arthur Palmer for founding the institution, which had been the means of doing an immense amount of good from its establishment up to the present time.

Mr. MACFARLANE said it was because he approved of the institution that he asked the question, and he was very glad to have heard the explanation just given by the hon. member. Judging from the amount set down for provisions and incidentals, £360, his idea was that the institution contained not more than about twenty inmates, and he thought the superintendent and matron of the gaol would have quite enough to do to manage their own department without attending also to the reformatory; and that as it was a reformatory for girls it would be far better without male superintendence.

Mr. BUCKLAND asked how many boys there were in the Lytton Reformatory, and how much was paid last year by the parents of the boys towards their maintenance?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that there were at present about seventy boys in the reformatory, and that last year the sum of £563 18s. 4d. was received towards their maintenance.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he was glad to receive such a good account of the institution. The payments mentioned by the Colonial Secretary would considerably reduce the cost of supporting it.

Mr. JESSOP said that before they passed from the Estimates for gaols he would ask if any steps had been taken towards carrying out the inquiry into the gaols of the colony, which was resolved upon in consequence of a motion moved by him in the House some time ago?

The PREMIER replied that the question had not been lost sight of, but with the House sitting four days a week it was quite impossible to find time to inquire into it at present.

Question put and passed.

BENEVOLENT ASYLUM, DUNWICH.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that £8,048 be granted for the Benevolent Asylum, Dunwich. There had been a slight alteration in the method of putting the salaries down. In past years some of them, such as the carpenter, the baker, and the cook, were paid from contingencies. They were now put down under the heading of salaries. The only addition to the staff was the appointment of an engineer, to look after the waterworks. The increase in contingencies from £6,000 to £6,750 was owing to the erection of a new female ward, which would give accommodation for sixty-four additional inmates.

Mr. JESSOP asked whether Mr. Hamilton, the late superintendent of Dunwich, was still employed in the service of the colony?

The PREMIER replied that when the Charitable Institutions Act came into operation it became necessary, as was fully explained at the time, to place a medical man in charge of the asylum at Dunwich. Mr. Hamilton, therefore, no longer retained the office, and in consideration of his long service twelve months' leave of absence was given to him on full pay. It was hoped that some other appointment could be found for Mr. Hamilton, but he preferred to retire from the service on the pension to which he was entitled under the Civil Service Act. The amount on the estimate covered Mr. Hamilton's full pay for the twelve months.

Mr. MELLOR asked whether any of the inmates paid anything, or had anything paid for them, towards their maintenance?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that he believed not. The present superintendent, who had been there only a short time, had not yet got into the work under the new Act. No doubt, when that Act came into full working order, money would be received towards the maintenance of some of the inmates.

Question put and passed.

STEAMERS "LUCINDA" AND "OTTER."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1885-7, a sum of £6,224 on account of the steamers "Lucinda" and "Otter." There was an increase of £276 in the "Lucinda" vote, and a slight increase in the contingencies for the "Otter"—victualling, coals, and stores.

Mr. BLACK said he would like to point out to the Committee that those steamers—at all events one of them, the "Lucinda"—were a very expensive luxury to the colony at the present time. He regretted very much to notice that it had been found necessary to appoint a chief officer at £15 a month. That steamer, nearly half the time, if not more, was laid up in the river doing very little, and it cost last year

£1,014, and this year £1,290, or an increase of £276. But that did not seem to him to properly represent the cost of this expensive toy, because down at the bottom of the page there was "allowance for victualling £800," and coal, stores, etc., £3,000; in all, £3,800 for contingencies. It was a very convenient vote—"contingencies." It covered all sorts of unauthorised expenditure. He would like to have some information as to what really was the probable proportion of this £3,800—which belonged to the "Lucinda," and how much to the "Otter"; or was the majority of this extra expenditure, of which the Committee had no cognisance, for the "Lucinda"?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not know how much was spent on the "Lucinda" and how much on the "Otter." There were more men on the "Lucinda."

Mr. DONALDSON: The men are provided for.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; but their food was not. He supposed they might take very nearly half for each.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he did not see where the difficulty came in to prevent an explanation being made of how much was spent on the "Lucinda." In the largest merchant fleets in the world there were separate accounts of the expenditure on each vessel, and why should they not have them as to their little fleet—two steamers? Surely there was enough clerical skill in the department to find that out without referring to the Blue Book, which was so incorrect! He was astonished that the Colonial Secretary knew so little about his own department. "Lord High Admiral," he supposed, they would have to call him now. They ought to know more about the "Lucinda" than the hon. gentleman seemed inclined to tell them.

The PREMIER said that if returns had been asked as to the details of the expenditure, the information would have been furnished. But it was not usual to ask for that information from the Minister in charge of the vote, who was not usually prepared to give it. The hon. gentleman, when he was in office, did not give it.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: We had not the "Lucinda" and "Otter" when we were in office.

The PREMIER: No, but they ordered the "Lucinda," although they had not the pleasure of using her. She had done a great deal of good service to the country. There was a singular mistake in the foot-note, which said, "Further expenditure to be charged to Loan Fund." If hon. members would look at page 13, they would notice a foot-note under the head of "Contingencies" in the immigration vote—"Masters, chief officers, and engineers at 3s. 6d. per diem; men at 2s. per diem." Previously both items had been in the same page, and in separating them the foot-notes had been transposed—a printer's error.

Mr. JESSOP said he noticed that there was a sum of £15,060 for the steamer "Otter." He would like to know whether the odd £60 was for that screeching whistle.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: It has not got a screeching whistle. It is the "Beaver" that has the "syren."

Mr. JESSOP said he thought it was the "Otter."

Mr. BUCKLAND said he saw under the heading "'Lucinda,' Master—£25 a month." He would like to ask whether this gentleman was exempt from pilotage. He believed that during the late visit of the hon. the Chief Secretary and the Treasurer to the North a special pilot was employed. He thought surely the master of a

vessel like the "Lucinda" should be able to take that vessel to any port in Queensland. It was all very plain sailing—if sailing at all. He thought at all events the country should be saved the expense of pilotage.

The PREMIER said that on the trip referred to the "Lucinda" called at every port except Broadsound.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Mackay?

The PREMIER said he did not call Mackay a port. They passed through the limits of the port of Mackay, which did not take much navigation. He did not know that any pilot knew the way into all the ports of Queensland. For instance, when they came to places like Hinchinbrook Channel and Geraldton or in the Gulf, it was necessary to get the local pilot. A pilot was engaged because it was absolutely necessary in going a long voyage like that to have more than one person on board who knew the road. Navigation from Cooktown northwards was extremely intricate, and he would be very sorry to go a voyage of that sort without two persons on board—one of whom could relieve the other—and who knew all the dangerous reefs on that part of the coast. Unless there was a larger staff than was on board the "Lucinda" he did not think it would be safe to go to sea without them.

Mr. BUCKLAND said the reason why he asked the question was, that when the "Lucinda" left Brisbane she took with her a deep-sea pilot, and what he wanted to know was, whether the expense of the extra pilot, as well as the master, was charged to that trip.

The PREMIER said there was a staff of Torres Straits pilots at the Port Office—five or six of them—who took ships from Brisbane north as far as Thursday Island. Application was made to the Port Office, and one of these pilots was taken by the "Lucinda" just as any other vessel would have done.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN quite agreed that when the Chief Secretary went on such a voyage as that he should have a pilot. The largest vessels of the British-India fleet were obliged to have pilots, and why should not the captain of the "Lucinda," who certainly had not more experience than the masters of those large vessels, also have a pilot? Why should not he be required to have a pilot also, seeing that he had such a valuable cargo on board? He was surprised at the hon. gentleman saying that he would not like to go on board the "Lucinda" on such a voyage without two experienced officers on board. Surely the hon. gentleman himself was capable of taking charge of the "Lucinda."

The PREMIER: No.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he was surprised to hear the hon. gentleman say "No." He thought he was capable of doing anything.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he did not know whether the "Lucinda" took a Straits pilot, but he knew when she left Brisbane she took a deep-sea pilot, who had been in charge of vessels trading between here and London for many years.

The PREMIER said the hon. gentleman was referring to the occasion when the Administrator of the Government went north lately. He believed she did take a deep-sea pilot then; but when they reached Maryborough his services were dispensed with.

Mr. FOXTON said he wished to know if there were two responsible officers on board the vessel on the last trip, when such precious cargo was on board? He certainly thought that if it

was necessary that there should be two competent officers when members of the Government were on board, there should be two very competent officers when the Administrator of the Government was on board.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he wished to draw the attention of the Committee to the second item—the chief officer. He thought such luxuries might be dispensed with, considering the state the colony was in. The chief officer received £15 per month, and the steward £7 per month. Could not the chief officer have done the steward's work? Perhaps the Colonial Secretary could tell them what the duties of the chief officer were. He supposed it was to look after the victualling.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said, he could answer the hon. member. He went on that trip with the Premier, and he thought the captain and chief officer and pilot had quite enough to do without the chief officer turning steward. A more ridiculous proposal he had never heard in his life. On a long voyage like that it would be perfectly impossible, and very unsafe in that intricate navigation, to work the ship with less than three officers. Surely the hon. member for Ipswich would not have the captain and pilot doing duty for twelve hours each at a time! They worked on the eight-hours principle, and eight hours was quite enough. They had very rough weather sometimes, and the three men could not do more than eight hours each. He could assure hon. members that the chief officer had plenty to do, and all his time was taken up without assisting the steward in any way.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he could quite understand the chief officer on a long voyage having enough to do; but how many long voyages did the "Lucinda" make in a year? One, or two at the outside. Why keep a chief officer at £15 per month for one or two voyages a year? A chief officer was not required to go down to Southport. That was why he wished the Colonial Secretary to tell them what were the duties of the chief officer. On a long voyage, of course, the captain could not always be on duty; but to keep a chief officer to make two trips a year was preposterous.

Mr. BLACK said he agreed with the hon. member that the chief officer must have been necessary during the trip to the North, but the question that now arose was whether it was necessary, now that the "Lucinda" only made a few trips to the bay, to keep up this expenditure. That was the point that struck him on looking over the Estimates at first. With regard to the hon. member's suggestion that the chief officer might act as steward, he certainly could not agree with him in that. So far as he could remember, from the explanation of members who were on board the "Lucinda" on that trip to the North somewhat recently, the steward was a gentleman who understood many languages.

The PREMIER: That was the cook.

Mr. BLACK said he understood that that highly accomplished gentleman was the steward, and that he spoke many languages—in fact, some hon. gentleman, who had the pleasure of his company upon that trip, stated that he was competent to be a member of the House, and the only objection that could have been urged against his occupying that proud position was his colour. They did not all know it was a gentleman of a coloured race who was considered such a necessary adjunct to the hon. the Premier in making that trip to the Northern ports of the colony. He was glad, however, to find that the steward was not the gentleman referred to.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL: He is of the same colour!

Mr. BLACK said he could hardly credit it. He would like some explanation from the Colonial Secretary on the subject.

The PREMIER: What subject?

Mr. BLACK said the hon. member for Cook assured him that the steward was a coloured man. Could he believe his ears? He was very glad to hear it. It showed that the Government were getting beyond that absurd prejudice which they used to hold—that a man's colour should debar him from obtaining service in the country. Now that the Government had taken that step, he should say no more upon the subject. He was glad to hear that they had overcome the prejudice which they had held a short time ago, and that they employed the most suitable man to do the work he was best able to do.

Question put and passed.

CHARITABLE ALLOWANCES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £47,600 be granted for Charitable Allowances—hospitals and relief boards.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he would ask the Colonial Secretary a question in reference to the first item on the list—"Hospitals generally." In the last month of last session he called for a certain return in reference to the hospitals of the colony—that there should be laid on the table of the House certain tables in reference to the amount of liquor consumed in the various hospitals of the colony, also at St. Helena and other institutions. That return had never been laid on the table of the House up to the present time, and he would like some explanation from the Colonial Secretary as to the reason. He had been given to understand that many of the hospitals had sent in their returns; yet they had never been supplied to hon. members. He looked upon that as a breach of faith on the part of the department, and if they passed such motions, there should be some effort made to lay the returns upon the table.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that when the hon. member moved for the return he was not in the Colonial Secretary's position, and therefore knew nothing about it. He understood that instructions were sent to the different hospitals to send in returns. Nearly all of them did so, but they were sent in all forms, according to the different views they held as to how the returns should be furnished, and it had taken a considerable time to have these returns sent back, so that they might be altered in such a way as to be of some use in the compilation of the return asked for by the hon. member.

Mr. DONALDSON said he noticed the first item was for general hospitals. It would be within the recollection of hon. members that last year a very large deputation waited upon the Premier with regard to the moneys paid by paying patients. He wished to know whether that matter had been fully considered by the Government, and whether the subsidy would be allowed on amounts received from pay patients.

The PREMIER said that matter had been settled some time ago. The Government had arrived at the conclusion that payments made by patients for attendance while in the hospital could not be considered voluntary subscriptions, and he had not heard that any difficulty had arisen on account of that decision. Many people went into a hospital who could not afford to pay as patients, but when they came out they made such a donation to the funds of the institution, in which they had been served so well, as they could afford. Such donations were *bonâ fide* voluntary subscriptions, and the subsidy

was paid on them. But there were others who went into the hospitals and paid for what they got—paid for their accommodation, in fact, in the hospital. That was a very different thing, and was really a bargain, and their payments could not be considered voluntary donations. That was the rule laid down, and he was not aware that any difficulty whatever had arisen in consequence. He did not know whether his hon. colleague had received any correspondence on the subject, but he knew that correspondence on the subject had ceased for some time before he left the department.

Mr. DONALDSON said that no doubt it had ceased, but only to be brought up again. Hon. members would remember that the deputation which waited upon the Premier last year consisted of representatives of the bulk of the hospitals in the colony, and their object was to have the subsidy allowed upon payments from pay patients.

The PREMIER: I think they all acquiesced in the conclusion arrived at.

Mr. DONALDSON said there was no doubt that it had been allowed year after year, and it was only recently that any question on the subject had arisen at all. He had been informed that a number of hospitals in the colony would not be able to continue to give the accommodation they were giving at present if they were not granted the subsidy on amounts paid by pay patients. Many patients did not care about taking advantage of the hospitals if they had got a little money; and in the country districts, in places like Charleville and Cunnamulla, the only medical man in the place was the hospital doctor, and the only accommodation they could get in those places was at the hospitals. Those institutions would suffer great injury if they were prevented from getting the subsidy. There was no doubt that if the subsidy were not granted, it could be evaded, because, instead of putting down the amount as received from pay patients, it could be passed through the books as a donation. It was, however, a pity that such a thing should have to be done, and he would far rather see matters conducted fairly and above board. It had only been within the last two years that the question as to whether the subsidy should be paid on those amounts was raised at all; and, as he had said, he was afraid that if the subsidy was not paid, many institutions would not be able to continue their work.

Mr. ADAMS said he saw there was £150 down for the Bundaberg Hospital, and he would like to ask if it was the same amount as last year.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. ADAMS said he had been snubbed on one occasion before by the Colonial Secretary, and he did not wish to be snubbed again by him. He had risen simply to say that the amount for the hospital at Bundaberg should be supplemented, for the reason that Bundaberg, being a seaport town, a great many persons come down from the North for accommodation, and many of them were unable to pay a solitary penny towards their maintenance. He might say also that he had, as a member of the committee, applied on several occasions to have people received at Dunwich, but they would not be received, on the ground that there was not sufficient accommodation for them at Dunwich. The consequence was they had to maintain them in the hospital out of charity, and to draw on other funds to maintain them. He had asked on several occasions that the sum voted for Bundaberg should be supplemented, so that they might be able to maintain those people without unneces-

sarily fleeing the subscribers to the hospital. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would see his way to granting something more than was at present granted to that hospital.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he regretted extremely that he had snubbed the hon. member at one time or another; he had never intended to do so. In respect to the amount of money put down for Bundaberg, he had received a request from Bundaberg for more money, and not only from Bundaberg, but from several other towns along the seaboard. He was very sorry to think that he could not accede to any one of them, as they were not in a position to spend any more money this year than they could possibly help. Whenever they could have an opportunity of acceding to those requests, Bundaberg would not be forgotten, whether he was the Minister to look after it or not. As to the request that certain persons should be removed to Dunwich because the asylum was so full, he thought that nearly all the country hospitals were much the same as the Bundaberg Hospital in that respect at times. Now that the new buildings at Dunwich were approaching completion there would be more accommodation there. However, as well as he could remember, a couple were sent down from Bundaberg the other day.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he would call the attention of the Committee to the last item under the head of hospitals—that was the Lock Hospital—£1,600. On Friday night he had taken some considerable pains to show how much better it would be to have their lock patients in the general hospital rather than in places such as the lock hospitals generally were. Lock hospitals were not so much places for kindly treatment as a kind of prisons, and both for the benefit of the patients themselves and for the sake of the expense he thought it would be better to make arrangements for treating such persons in the general hospitals. In the first place, it would do away with the necessity of any superintendent other than the superintendent of the general hospital; and besides that, as the House had twice affirmed—not certainly by a large majority, as it was carried by the vote of the Speaker on each occasion—the desirability of repealing the Contagious Diseases Act, it was time for the Government to do away with compulsory examination and allow the girls to apply without hindrance to the general hospital. That would do away with a tremendous amount of expense; and he said without fear of contradiction that it would be better for the girls themselves, and reduce the maximum of the disease which was said to be raging in the colony. For those reasons he would impress on the Committee the desirability of adopting the system which was in force in Glasgow, the largest and best conducted hospital, he believed, in the kingdom, so far as that disease was concerned. It had been found there that by simply receiving the girls when they required help, and treating them kindly till they were restored to health, a great expense was saved to the country, and the system was attended by better results. Public opinion outside was far in advance of opinion inside the House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No, no!

Mr. MACFARLANE said he knew it was. In England the repeal of the Act had not been followed by any evil results, and he thought we could not do better than follow our mother; as a rule, we did not go far astray by doing so. He had no desire to reduce the vote; but looking at it from a monetary point of view, the thirty girls, which the Chief Secretary had told them

was the average number in the hospital at a time, at 10s. a week, would only cost £780 a year, so that they could save half the money to begin with. He had brought the matter forward again, and he hoped there would be some discussion upon it.

The PREMIER said the reduction in the expense would not be so great as the hon. member anticipated. If the scheme were carried out, separate wards would have to be established. In many of the large hospitals of the colony there were already lock wards, quite irrespective of the Contagious Diseases Act. He would be very glad if all the hospital authorities would make special provision of that kind, and he believed they did where there was any great necessity for it, but it involved the expenditure of a considerable sum of money.

Mr. W. BROOKES said he thought the adoption of the Glasgow plan would diminish the expense rather than increase it. As matters were now, the lock hospital was an entirely separate building.

The PREMIER: And necessarily so.

Mr. W. BROOKES: Yes, but it also required entirely separate administration.

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. BROOKES said he looked forward to the time when the lock hospital would not be in the nature of a gaol. It would be necessary for the Government to make different arrangements in connection with the lock hospitals from those now prevailing, because the abolition of the compulsory examination of women would necessitate a different mode of dealing with those women. Under any system which included the compulsory examination of women, all moral and religious consideration and appliances seemed to be excluded from the nature of the case; no reformatory idea could enter into such a plan. Compulsory examination fixed a woman's status, and all efforts had been found useless to awaken in that woman the hope of returning to her former virtuous life. He would like to know what amount of religious assistance the inmates of the lock hospitals received.

The PREMIER: That can only be given voluntarily.

Mr. W. BROOKES said he would like to know how much was given voluntarily. All those who desired the abolition of the Contagious Diseases Act aimed at the moral elevation of the prostitute. They saw that compulsory examination made all efforts to reform her almost hopeless. When she went to the lock hospital, her position was not improved: she might be attended to medically, but the place was an institution which people avoided as if it were a leper hospital. It was not necessary to say much more upon the subject; but he thought it should be prominently kept before the mind of the Government that the necessity would arise, had arisen, and would increase in time for their looking to this matter of the lock hospital. What method they would adopt he was not prepared to say, but they had the experience of other places to guide them, which they might safely follow.

Mr. ADAMS said the hon. member for South Brisbane (Mr. Jordan) seemed to have lost a great deal of his energy. Although he had advocated the abolition of the Contagious Diseases Act for a couple of hours the other night, and had carried his motion on a division by the casting vote of the Speaker, yet he was allowing the Government to ask for £1,600 for lock hospitals, just as if his motion had never been passed.

Mr. BAILEY asked whether it was true now, as formerly, that in the lock hospital of Brisbane, men seriously afflicted with venereal diseases were placed in sheds to be treated side by side with patients suffering from cancer?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that it was the first time he had ever heard anything of the kind. The doctors at the hospital would never permit such a thing, and he did not think it had ever occurred.

Mr. W. BROOKES said the hon. member for Wide Bay seemed to be shooting his arrows in air. Did he wish the Committee to understand that cancerous patients and syphilitic patients had been put side by side in sheds in the Brisbane Hospital?

Mr. BAILEY : I asked whether it is so.

Mr. W. BROOKES said he only wondered the hon. member for Wide Bay could believe any such rubbish, and would say no more about it. The hon. member for Mulgrave had fallen into the mistake that many people did when they talked about what they did not know very much about. The hon. member seemed to think that because the motion of the hon. member for South Brisbane was carried therefore the item of £1,600 for the lock hospital should disappear from the Estimates. It was exactly the other way. What he, and those who believed with him, proposed to do was to abolish the compulsory examination of women; but no expense that was necessary to provide those unfortunate creatures with the fullest measure of medical attendance and medical and other comforts would be objected to by those who were the enemies of the Contagious Diseases Act. That did not appear to be realised by everybody. The Premier even gave a kind of intimation that the enemies of the Act would not care if those syphilitic men and women died in the street. Such a remark carried its own refutation with it.

The PREMIER : When did I say that?

Mr. W. BROOKES : It is in *Hansard*.

The PREMIER : You will not find it in *Hansard*.

Mr. W. BROOKES said he believed the hon. gentleman's remark on that occasion was that there were some people who would allow them to die in the streets.

The PREMIER : That is very different.

Mr. W. BROOKES said the Christian women who were leading in that work would take very good care that all adequate hospital accommodation was got for those unfortunate women when the Contagious Diseases Act was abolished, and so would all who took any interest in them. The worst of it was that under the Contagious Diseases Act no interest was taken in them; they were a class apart; they were licensed women. The State gave them a ticket—licensed fornication—and said, "You are at liberty to follow your rotten calling, and the lock hospital is the gaol to which we shall send you." Whenever money was wanted he was certain that the public opinion of the colony would be unanimous in paying whatever money was necessary—whether £1,600 or twice £1,600—for that very noble purpose.

Mr. S. W. BROOKS was glad that the hon. member for North Brisbane had set this matter in its true light. If the Contagious Diseases Act were repealed it would not interfere with this vote. They would still want the money. What, in this world, or any other world, the compulsory examination of the women had to do with the vote he could not see. For the benefit of the hon. member for Wide Bay,

Mr. Bailey, he could assure him, as a member of the hospital committee, that no such thing as he had referred to took place. Certainly he had not been a member of that committee very long, and he could not say that he had visited the lock ward, but it was under the same administration as the general hospital, and whatever arrangements were made, there was bound to be a separate place for those who suffered from that disease. Just as surely as they had a separate fever ward and a separate cancer ward, so surely must they have a separate lock ward.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said the member for Fortitude Valley had anticipated what he had to say. If the Contagious Diseases Act was repealed they would still have to get this money. It would be a great pity if they were to initiate a second debate on the Contagious Diseases Act, such as they had on Friday night.

Mr. BAILEY said he had made an inquiry as to a matter of fact, and hoped that some information might be obtained as to whether venereal cases and cancer cases were mixed up in the same ward, or imitation of a ward. It was the duty of those who had charge of this vote to get some sort of a report on the subject. He remembered visiting the hospital some years ago, and seeing anything but a satisfactory state of things. He still believed that cancer cases and venereal cases were put together in some ward or shed. Certainly some officer of the department should report to the Minister what the actual state of things was.

Mr. ADAMS said that before coming to the House he had heard a great deal of Mr. W. Brookes, but he now found that he was a gentleman intoxicated with his own verbosity. Possibly he might be wrong, but he thought he was able to grasp a small matter in a few hours' debate, as well as that hon. gentleman. No doubt the hon. member might be a great man standing on the floor of the House for the time he had done. But he (Mr. Adams) had not the slightest doubt that some people had got common sense as well as that hon. gentleman, and he could not see why they should debate for six hours at a stretch, and after the whole thing had been carried by the casting vote of the Speaker, that it should not be taken notice of. He had taken notice of it, and he asked why they should want £1,600 if the Act was to be abolished? It was time the public should know that no action was to be taken on this matter. He had seen it stated within the last two days that 1,200 *Hansards* had been sent out by clergymen and others showing that the Act was to be abolished. That might do a great deal of good, so far as he knew. He did not know that there was much evil in it unless to those who thought evil. He was satisfied that there was not evil in many things read unless the people who read them were evil themselves. But if the Act was to be abolished, why should they want £1,600 for the lock hospital?

Mr. LUMLEY HILL : Because it is not abolished.

Mr. ADAMS said that, to test the feeling of the Committee, he moved that the vote for lock hospitals be reduced by £1,000.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he would like to inform the hon. member that the advocates of the repeal of the Act had no idea of voting against the £1,600. The £1,600 would be required whether the Act was repealed or not.

Mr. McMASTER thought it was undesirable to allow such a statement as had been made by the hon. member for Wide Bay to go abroad without being flatly contradicted. He should like to know from the hon. member how many years

ago it was that he saw a shed with any patients in it at Brisbane Hospital? Before bringing such a serious charge, such a libel, as that against the hospital of the metropolis of the colony, which received patients from all parts of the country, he ought to have gone and made himself acquainted with the facts.

Mr. BAILEY said he had asked simply for information from the Colonial Secretary whether in the Brisbane Hospital there were two different classes of patients which should not be intermixed, who were intermixed. He had reasons for believing that they were intermixed. He knew for a fact that some years ago they were. They had heard that one of the committee, Mr. Brooks, had never visited that part of the hospital and knew nothing about it. He found that the officers of the department had no information to give to the head of the department, and the Colonial Secretary could give no information. He did not see where the libel came in. If it were a fact it was not a libel, but a very sad fact; if it were not so, the Colonial Secretary or the member of committee, who was in his place in the House, ought to have been able to give them some information.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had been in the hospital and the lock hospital lately, and he must say he had not seen anything like a shed. Everything he saw there was conducted in a very proper manner indeed. There were only three women in when he was there, and everything was conducted in the most cleanly manner possible.

Mr. BAILEY said the Colonial Secretary had not been in the place he meant at all. It was the place where the unfortunate people who were dying of cancer—in the agonies which they knew that disease caused—had to remain and pass the remainder of their days. It was in that place—what was called a ward—that he had found venereal patients. It was a kind of shed with an earthen floor, and, of course, it was impossible for a place of that kind to be either sweet-smelling or anything like clean. He objected to individuals dying of cancer being placed in the same wards with venereal patients. He only asked for information, whether such was the case or not, and he was quite justified in doing so in the interests of those poor unfortunates who could not say a word for themselves.

Mr. LUMLEY HILL said the hon. member for Wide Bay made a very sympathetic and maudlin sort of speech about the poor unfortunates which he saw dying ten years ago from cancer, and he fondly imagined that they had been going on dying in the same way ever since—the cancerous patients amongst the syphilitic patients. If he had half the sympathy in his heart which he expressed with his tongue, he would have gone and made searching inquiries for himself to see if that kind of thing existed now, instead of waiting till this period to rake it up. If he (Mr. Lumley Hill) thought that such a thing was going on, he should have gone there himself, and have been prepared to sheet it home to the Colonial Secretary. He did not believe anything of the kind existed. He certainly had never been in the lock hospital; but he had frequently visited the general hospital, and had always found everything there very nice and well-conducted indeed. All the patients he had spoken to spoke gratefully and highly of the institution, and, as a whole, he did not think there was anything wrong going on there at all.

Mr. McMASTER said the proper course for the hon. member for Wide Bay to adopt would be to ask for returns of the patients that were there. He spoke of people dying of cancer, or, as the hon. member for Cook put it, they had

been dying for the last ten years. Was he aware of there being any case of cancer in the hospital at present? He ought to be acquainted with these matters before he made a charge like he had. He need not wait for the "red tape"; he could drop a note to the hospital doctor, who was a gentleman of that character that he would give him all the information that he required, as to whether any patients were suffering from cancer or any other such disease. There was no such place as a "shed" for patients at the hospital; the place was comfortable and clean, and had been so for many years—ever since the present buildings had been erected—and the additions made were so comfortable that the patients who left the place expressed their gratitude, and the Committee had been told by the Colonial Secretary that they frequently sent donations as soon as they could. The hon. member should have known how many patients were suffering from the dreadful disease he spoke of.

Mr. BAILEY said he was quite satisfied, in spite of the reprimands he had received from hon. members, that before another week was over some inquiry would be made, and if what he had hinted at was correct, it would be stated. He had said all he wanted to say.

Question—That the amount be reduced by the sum of £1,000—put and negatived.

Mr. MELLOR said he would ask the Colonial Secretary if the members of the relief board were all members of hospital committees?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the amounts were sometimes placed in the hands of people who were not members of committees of hospitals, and at other times they were placed in the hands of the committee.

Mr. BLACK asked the Colonial Secretary if there were any particular reason why the only increase on the list was made at Stanthorpe, which was to receive £100 instead of £50?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was found necessary to add something to the £50 received by the relief board at Stanthorpe, because there were a large number of men employed on the railways around there. Stanthorpe received one of the smaller amounts, and it was now brought up to the level of the others. There were only two others that received £50—Georgetown and Tenningering.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he would like to know upon what principle the votes to relief boards were fixed?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not think there was any strict principle upon which they were apportioned. A sum was put down which was thought necessary—as much as was likely to be wanted for the different places. The same sums were granted as had been given last year. The only increase was to Stanthorpe.

Mr. MELLOR said he would like to know from the Colonial Secretary how many applications for increases had been received. He knew that Gympie, which was a very thickly populated district, was only down for £100, while Stanthorpe, which had only one-third of the population, was increased to the same amount. He knew that the hospital committee at Gympie had made an application for an increase, and he should like to know whether there was any principle by which the amounts were distributed. He knew it had been brought under the notice of the Government that an increase should be made.

Mr. FOXTON said reference had been made to the increase of £50 to Stanthorpe, and a hint had been thrown out that it was in consequence of some extra pressure. As a matter of fact,

that £50 was simply a matter of justice to the Stanthorpe district, which had always received £100 until about the time of the last general election. He did not know how it was, but that £50 was knocked off, and from all the inquiries that were made by the hospital committee there, it appeared to have been done accidentally, and although the matter had been brought up in each succeeding year, and a promise had been made that it should be reinstated at the old figure, by some means or other until the present year that promise had never been fulfilled. It was unintentionally forgotten, and he had made it his business to remind the Government of their promise, and he trusted that it would not be unfulfilled on the present occasion. That was the true state of the case, and that was all the extra pressure which was hinted at by the hon. member for Wide Bay. The fact was the district did not receive what it ought to have been receiving for the last three years, entirely, so far as he could understand, through some oversight on the part of the officer who prepared the Estimates.

Mr. JESSOP said some scale should be drawn up for arranging those amounts. He saw that Bowen got £100 and Warwick £200. He presumed that amount was given to Warwick in anticipation of the commencement of the line from Warwick to St. George. Bundaberg, a much larger place than Warwick, got only £150, and Cairns £100. Surely those places were as important as Warwick, and being in the North there would probably be more sickness there. Dalby had but £100, against £200 for Warwick and £100 for Winton, which had a very small population. It would be advisable for the Government to arrange a scale in the future.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that hon. members must not forget that, although some of those places had not as large a population as others, they got an equal vote, because they were but sparsely populated and were not so rich or so well able to support themselves, and really wanted some assistance. Bowen might be cited as a case in point. There was no regular system adopted in apportioning those sums, and many places required a larger sum than others, though they had not as large a population.

Mr. CHUBB said he might say to the Colonial Secretary, "Speak for yourself." Bowen was an important town, and was not really in want of charitable relief. However, he noticed that the important and rising town of Gayndah got £100, but, judging by Mr. Phillips's report, it was very hard to find Gayndah, even with a microscope.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said it was time the list was revised, as for many years the same principle seemed to have been adopted in the apportionment of the amounts. As the hon. member for Wide Bay had pointed out, there was only £100 down for Gympie, though there was a very large population and a very large married population there. It was most unfair that Gympie should get such a small amount when places with only half the population got as much as £200, £300, and £400. It was time the list was revised, and he hoped it would be revised before the next meeting of Parliament.

Question put and passed.

MEDICAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £4,285 be granted for Medical Officers. There was only a small increase in the amount for Maytown and Thursday Island.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN asked if there was any principle adopted in the apportionment of that vote? He thought there ought to be; it ought to be apportioned according

to the amount of work the medical officer had to do. If that was the principle adopted there was one place in the list greatly under-estimated, and that was Townsville.

The PREMIER: The amount for Townsville was only recently increased.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: Yet Townsville got only £250, while Rockhampton got £400, Thursday Island £400, and Brisbane—where the medical officer had very little more work, if any more, than the officer at Townsville—£500.

The PREMIER: Oh, yes, he has!

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said there were a large number of vessels visiting Townsville that never showed a keel in Brisbane. There were, of course, other vessels that came to Brisbane, but he spoke of foreign-going vessels, which the medical officer had to visit.

The PREMIER: That is only a small portion of the work.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said that at any rate there was a very large disproportion in the salaries paid when they found that the medical officer at Rockhampton got £400, and the medical officer at Townsville only £250, and there was no comparison in the work to be done.

The PREMIER said the salary of the medical officer at Townsville had been raised to that sum within the last year or two, and he thought the amount stated was all that was asked. An increase having been so recently made, he did not think it was necessary to make a further increase. The hon. member might give the Government credit that they have some pleasure in making increases when they could fairly do so, but they did not make them merely for the sake of making them.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said the Government, he knew, did not like to make increases, but his argument was that the money should be apportioned according to the work to be done. The hon. gentleman knew that at Townsville four or five foreign-going steamers entered the port within almost as many days, and they had to be visited by the medical officer in addition to his other work. It was not because the item was increased a little time ago that it should not be put on a fair footing, or at least on an equal footing with other towns of less importance. The same number of foreign-going vessels called at Thursday Island and Townsville, and he was certain that there was more work done by the medical officer at Townsville than by the medical officer of any other town, with the exception perhaps of Brisbane, and he would even contest Brisbane. If the hon. gentleman really meant that those men should be paid according to the work they did the amount voted for Townsville should be raised, and it should have been raised a year or two ago.

Mr. GROOM said the salary of the medical officer at Toowoomba was exceptionally disproportionate to the services he had to perform. He had not only to attend the gaols and police, but he had to attend outside districts, and had even to supply the medicine for his patients. He did not know if the gentleman in question had applied for an increase of salary, but he knew he contemplated doing so, because the amount he was receiving—£75—was totally inadequate to the services performed. He had to attend the reformatory, where there were some twenty-five girls, in addition to the short-sentence men in the gaol; the whole of the female prisoners were sent to Toowoomba, and he had also to attend the police there, and if anything happened at the immigration depot he had to attend there also. He therefore thought the Committee would see that £75 a year was an exceptionally inadequate sum for the work to be performed.

Mr. JESSOP said he had intended to call the attention of the Committee to the way in which the money was divided in that estimate. He saw that Charleville only got £30, and that was too small a sum for a place so far out, where provisions were so dear, and where the cost of medicines was higher on account of the increased cost of carriage. Bundaberg had £50, and surely, on the basis of population or importance, Bundaberg should have more than Warwick, which also had £50. Dalby had only £40, and that was an important town.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he was glad attention had been called to that matter. He saw some very large items in looking down the column. Brisbane had £500, whereas Charters Towers had £50—only one-tenth. Cooktown had £200, and Dalby only £40; and he supposed Dalby had as large a population as Cooktown.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, no!

Mr. MACFARLANE: Maryborough had £200, and Ipswich only £70. Then they came to Rockhampton with £400, and Toowoomba with only £75; Townsville with £250, and Warwick with only £50. Now, all those five towns with the larger allowances were protected towns, and the others were not protected, hence the small amounts wanted for the latter. Here, again, they saw the expense of the Contagious Diseases Act coming in. He meant to test the feeling of the Committee on one of those items to see if they were willing to continue those large medical grants for what he considered to be principally the Contagious Diseases Act. It was true that the vote came under no less than six heads—vaccination, gaols, police, lock hospitals, and aborigines; but they were told the aborigines had died out for want of medical attention, so that not much attention was paid to them; the immigrants did not get very much; the police, being a strong healthy class of people, did not require very much attention; and the lock hospital vote of £1,600 ought to be sufficient to pay for medical attendance there; so that there was a great amount of money required for the medical men attending those protected towns. To test the question, seeing that a motion had been carried in favour of repealing the Act, he would move a reduction on the Brisbane vote first, and, if that were carried, he would do the same with regard to the other five towns. He therefore proposed that the sum of £500 for Brisbane be reduced by £300.

The PREMIER: That is absurd.

Mr. MACFARLANE: Well, it was only to test the principle; so he would move instead that it be reduced by £100.

Mr. W. BROOKES said he would not have voted for the larger reduction, but he thought £100 was only a fair reduction, considering that the compulsory examination of women was about to cease.

The PREMIER said it was unfortunate the hon. gentleman had not given notice of his intention to move an amendment of that kind, as it was desirable that the matter should be decided in a full House. He would like to know what the opinion of the House really was on the subject. There were many members not present, and they had no idea that such a question was to be raised, and he thought that it would be a very unfortunate thing if the salary of the health officer of Brisbane were reduced by £100 under such circumstances as that.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he had given notice while speaking on another item.

Mr. DONALDSON: Half-an-hour ago!

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said the hon. member had given notice when he saw he was

well supported by the advocates of the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. They were all round him; the benches were crowded with them.

Mr. MACFARLANE: There are a great number outside.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: Yes; no doubt a good many advocates of the repeal were in the Refreshment Room. It was very unfair to endeavour to reduce an officer's salary to test a question of that sort. If the hon. member wished to test it, let him give fair notice and have it decided in a full House; the division last Friday night was not a fair division of members of the House.

Mr. DONALDSON said neither would a division now be an expression of the opinion of the members of the House. It would be most unfortunate if the amendment were carried, because many members were absent who had not the slightest idea that such a thing was to be proposed. If the supporters of the repeal were strong enough, the Government would have to accede to their wishes; but it would be a pity to cripple the Act by an accidental majority such as might be obtained at the present time.

Mr. FOXTON said it would be an unfortunate circumstance, and it would be more unfortunate for the advocates of the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act than for anyone else; for it would show the country that in order to obtain a majority it was necessary for them to do it in a catch way like that. He trusted hon. members who had that matter at heart would look at it from a broader point of view than they seemed prepared to do. He was inclined to think they were sure of a majority, or the amendment would not have been proposed. The hon. member for Ipswich was sufficiently wide awake not to propose it if he thought he would not be in the majority; the Committee was not so large but that the hon. member's calculation would enable him to foresee pretty clearly the numbers for and against. If that were made a test point, he was inclined to think the Government would not be justified in regarding the wish of the Committee as stated to-night, in the face of the known number of members on the other side in a full House; and they were not justified in decreasing the salary of the health officer on that particular vote.

Mr. BULCOCK said that although he had voted for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act the other night, because, to put it in a few words, he believed it to be a villainous Act, yet to attempt to reduce the medical officer's salary on that ground was altogether unworthy of them, and he should vote against the amendment. He did not see why they should vent their spleen on Dr. Hobbs because they did not believe in the Act which he administered.

Mr. FOOTE said he was unaware until that moment who the officer in question was; and now that he had been informed that it was Dr. Hobbs, he might assure the hon. member for Ipswich that if he thought he was going to effect a reduction in the vote for a Brisbane officer he was very much mistaken. Such a thing had never been known, except perhaps when the late Government was in power. It was very proper that that should be made a test question. With regard to the feeling of the House on the main question, he believed that last Friday night, if hon. members had not talked so much trying to convince those who had already made up their minds, and had taken the division an hour or an hour and a-half earlier, there would have been a majority of five or ten in

favour of the motion. Although he was satisfied the hon. member would not carry his amendment, yet he should support him if he went to a division.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he should strongly recommend the hon. member to withdraw his amendment. He was certain the hon. member would not carry with him all those who voted for the motion of the hon. member for South Brisbane last Friday. He, for one, should not vote for it. If the amendment was persisted in it would have a most damaging effect on the prospects of those who proposed to repeal the Act; and the division would look so bad that it would discredit the promoters of the movement, and put it back several years.

Mr. WAKEFIELD said the hon. member, Mr. W. Brookes, was very inconsistent in saying that he should support the amendment. Not long ago the hon. member said that even if the Act was repealed the same expenditure would be required in voluntary medical attention and comforts for those women; and he failed to see how, after such a statement, he could support the amendment.

Mr. SHERIDAN said that two years ago, and again on last Friday evening, he voted for the repeal of the Act, and should do the same again whenever the question was brought forward in a straightforward, manly way. But he certainly should not support the amendment of the hon. member for Ipswich, which seemed to him to be a mean way of endeavouring to attain the object he had in view.

Mr. GROOM said he hoped the hon. member would accept the suggestion of the Attorney-General, and withdraw his amendment. He knew the officer in question very well, and should be sorry to give a vote which would reduce that officer's salary on a test question of that kind. He expressed no opinion on the Act itself; it was not his place to do so; but he might go so far as to say that the attempt to reduce an officer's salary on a test question of that kind was not a proper course to take. The Government would be bound to replace the amount on the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. McMASTER said he voted for the motion on Friday night, but he was not going to vote for the present amendment, because it was not shown whether any portion of the proposed reduction would come out of the sums voted for other portions of the officer's numerous duties.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said he also would suggest to the hon. member that he should withdraw his amendment.

Mr. DONALDSON: He cannot get a chance: you rise up three at a time.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said he had consistently opposed the Act for the last twenty-two years, and had seen no reason yet to change his opinion concerning it; but he should not support the reduction of the vote.

Mr. MACFARLANE: You used to be a reformer.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said that was no reason why Ministers should be asked to vote against their own Estimates. He would ask the hon. member to withdraw his amendment, because by persisting in it it he was only damaging the cause he had at heart.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he voted on Friday evening for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act, and also on the former occasion, but he should not vote for the present amendment. If the hon. member had given notice yesterday of his intention to move it, it would have been more reasonable; but under the present conditions he could not possibly support it.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he had been twitted by some hon. members that when he moved the reduction he did so because he knew the position of the House on that side. The supporters of the repeal of the Act were certainly there, and most certainly he did not expect to hear the expressions of opinion he had heard. He had never yet known in the history of the House, since he had a seat in it, of the members for Brisbane or for constituencies just outside Brisbane voting for the reduction of estimates in which Brisbane was concerned. He had been advised that it would damage the cause in which he was interested if his amendment were carried, but he was satisfied that it would do more damage to the cause to refuse to make the reduction than to have carried it. He had gained his point by bringing the subject before the Committee. He was one of those who, when they took up a subject, tried to carry it out to the bitter end. He was perfectly consistent in trying to make the reduction, and he had no right to be twitted with this being a thin House, for he had never heard the same argument when the estimates were going through before. However, he should remember it now. After the expression of opinion, he saw perfectly well only a few would vote for the reduction, and therefore he would withdraw the amendment.

Amendment withdrawn.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he was sorry that the Attorney-General and Minister for Works had got up and occupied the floor of the House for ten or fifteen minutes protesting against the action of one of their own supporters. That gentleman believed it was impossible to carry any reduction when it was a Brisbane vote, and he had pretty good proof of that to-night. If that was the reason why he advocated the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act, he had better try again.

Mr. BUCKLAND said there was an item, "Health officer, Brisbane, and visiting surgeon, St. Helena, Dunwich, and Lytton, £400." He noticed that this gentleman had £400 as secretary of the Health Board. That was £800. He would ask where the headquarters of the Health Officer at Brisbane were? The reason he asked was that during the late quarantine regulations considerable detention was experienced by vessels coming to this port through the absence of the health officer. In some cases the vessels had to wait several hours because the health officer was not at his post at Lytton. He should like to know whether the health officer should not have been there at all reasonable hours when vessels were expected.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he believed the health officer's headquarters were at Lytton. During the time the hon. member referred to—the "Dorunda" scare—the health officer was in town, and was delayed for a few hours on one occasion, when a man was found who was supposed to have cholera, before he could get down to a vessel there.

Mr. BUCKLAND: More than once.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that was the only occasion on which he knew the health officer was delayed a short time.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN thought there should be an increase to the allowance made to the medical officer of health at Townsville. The vote had been increased two years ago, but he did not require to tell the hon. gentleman of the great increase that had taken place every year in the commerce of the port of Townsville. That officer visited all the sea-going vessels. That was in addition to the police and gaols. On that ground alone he

ought to have a larger salary, and ought to be placed on an equal footing with the medical officer at Brisbane.

Mr. FOXTON asked if this was the gentleman who went on board ships, and when he found disease came ashore, leaving other people on board, and burned his clothes. If it was he deserved an allowance for the clothes he burned.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that he had made a memorandum as to an increase to that health officer's salary, and he hoped they would be able to grant it next session.

Question put and passed.

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that there be granted, for the service of the year 1886-7, the sum of £1,000 for the Central Board of Health.

Mr. McMASTER said if the hon. member for Bundamba had been here they would have got some assistance to reduce this vote. They were not getting the worth of their money here. He would like to know what the Central Board of Health did. He supposed they must have a Central Board of Health for the sake of the name. The board sat once a fortnight; they had a secretary at £400 a year; they sat for half-an-hour—he did not know if even so long—and the members drew their two guineas a sitting. They did nothing except read papers and write to the local authority when matters came in to them. The local authority of Brisbane carried out all the work required of them. He did not know if the board got much work from the inland towns or seaports, but they got very little to do from Brisbane. He thought this was a vote they could very well reduce, unless it was necessary to have the Board of Health for the sake of saying they had such a board. He knew for a fact that questions had been referred to them of nuisances round Brisbane, and they had talked about them and written about them, and there they remained to this day. They had an inspector who was a capital penman, and if they required a secretary he would be quite capable of doing all the clerical work for the board. He thought £600 for fees was too much. The colony did not get value for £1,000, and hon. members should make a beginning by reducing this vote. They had not reduced the Estimates yet one shilling.

The PREMIER said that under the Health Act the Board of Health was the motive power to make the whole thing go. Many of the powers exercised by the Governor in Council under that Act were to be exercised on the recommendation of the board. The local authorities were supervised by the board. Their duties were ordinarily confined to advising, and he did not think it had been necessary up to the present time to exercise any compulsory power to compel the local authorities to do their duty. But the existence of a body that could exercise those powers was very necessary, as was pointed out when the Health Act was going through; it was essential, to make the Act workable. Unless there was some means of insisting upon local authorities doing their duty they would not do it. There must be a Board of Health. For some time the Board of Health met every fortnight, which was often unnecessary, and while he was Colonial Secretary instructions were given that they were to meet only when summoned by the Colonial Secretary. Now they did not meet unless they had some business to do. There was a great deal to be done by the secretary, who was also the health officer of Brisbane, in the way of correspondence with the local authorities, and assisting

them in various matters connected with health and so on. So that there must be a secretary to the board, unless the Health Act was to go out of operation altogether, which would be a very great misfortune. There were many powers which could be exercised by the Central Board if the local authorities did not exercise them themselves. As to the amount of fees to members, this amount was found to be not much more than was sufficient last year, when they met fortnightly, and now they only met when they were summoned by the Colonial Secretary to do some special work.

Mr. McMASTER said the Chief Secretary had told them that the Central Board of Health had the power to set local authorities going. He would like to know what that board had done in the matter of the Stratton drain? They could take no compulsory action, and could go no further than they had gone. A member of that board had told him that they had done all they possibly could, and could go no further.

The PREMIER: That is quite right.

Mr. McMASTER: So far as the public knew, all they did was to write a letter to the hon. Colonial Secretary asking him to act. That was all that was done. Supposing it were necessary to have a board—and he believed it was—was it necessary to have a medical man as secretary at £400 a year? They had an excellent inspector, Mr. Marlow, who had only to ride about and see whether the local authorities were doing their duty, and who was capable of acting both as secretary and inspector. He was quite satisfied, from what he knew of Brisbane and the boards surrounding it, the local authorities were anxious to keep the place clean, and did not want the Central Board to move them. They had tried to move the board themselves, but they could not. They tried to do it in reference to the Stratton drain, but failed. With regard to the salary of the secretary, £400 for writing letters, if he were necessary and had a lot of work to do, and duties to perform as medical officer of the board let him be put down as such—not as secretary to the Central Board of Health, which only met once a month.

The PREMIER said the hon. gentleman was quite wrong in every point he had taken up. In the first place, the boards around Brisbane were not the only boards in the colony. There were a great many of them—hundreds of them—with which this Central Board had to deal. The hon. gentleman was also wrong in regard to the Stratton drain. The Central Board did all it could in the matter. They could not compel the local authority to act. All they could do was to recommend to the Governor in Council to do so, and they did recommend; they went as far as they could go. They recommended that the Governor in Council should compel them—should take compulsory action to force the Booroodabin Divisional Board to construct that drain. The Government then called upon the divisional board to hear what they had to say before any action was taken, and that, no doubt, was the proper thing to do. The board pointed out that the matter was then before the Supreme Court, which would determine whether they were liable or whether the municipality of Brisbane was liable for the nuisance, and the Government thought it was not right to compel them to spend money upon a matter which might be the fault of the municipality of Brisbane. That appeared to the Government to be a sufficient reason for holding their hand until the Supreme Court had decided the matter. The result was that the Supreme Court decided that the municipality of Brisbane was to blame, and under the circumstances the Government took

no further action, conceiving that the two local authorities would, between them, provide proper drains. In that instance the Central Board of Health did all they could. They impressed upon him when he was Colonial Secretary, in writing and personally, the importance of taking some action; but, for the reasons he had pointed out, it did not seem to be the duty of the Government to do so, and, according to the decision of the Supreme Court also, it was not their duty. In regard to the secretary, when that appointment was made it was pointed out that the Central Board of Health was the Health Department of the colony, from which information was supplied to local authorities in all parts of the colony, and it was therefore necessary to have a medical officer as secretary to give advice and receive information. It was justly considered that the salary should be £800 a year, of which £400 was voted to him as medical officer in Brisbane and £400 as secretary to the board of health. That was the amount voted upon the Supplementary Estimates, and the arrangement had worked very satisfactorily. Certainly it did not work so unsatisfactorily as to justify any change being made.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: How many members of the board are there?

The PREMIER: Five, besides the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. JORDAN asked if the Health officer received any other salary?

The PREMIER: No. These duties take up all his time.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said it seemed that, in spite of the explanation of the Premier, the secretary of the board had very little to do. He got £400 a year for doing something else, which was not very heavy work, and altogether he got £800 a year, which was a nice fat billet indeed. He would ask the hon. gentleman who represented Fortitude Valley to try and reduce that amount, and he believed he would get a great deal of assistance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he could give some of the items included in that £600. There was £116 11s. 7d. to Dr. Usher, during the cholera scare; fees to nurses during that time, and other expenses in connection with the hospital buildings in Victoria Park.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: Were they to nurse the members of the board?

The PREMIER: They received retaining fees as nurses.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said there were the expenses of the family of the man who was supposed to have the cholera, which amounted to £44 19s. Those were the principal items. With regard to the fees, Mr. Finney received £30; Mr. Petrie, £45; Dr. Marks, £42; Dr. Bancroft, £42; and Dr. Thomson, £42.

Mr. McMASTER said that, although the Colonial Secretary said he was wrong in nearly all the points he had raised, he did not think he was. He pointed out that the board had gone as far as it possibly could, and there they stopped. He was perfectly correct in that according to the Colonial Secretary.

The PREMIER: You put the blame upon him.

Mr. McMASTER said his contention was that if the board could do no more than that, the people did not get full value for their money. That was his point. If they could not go any further than that—if they could not remove the nuisance—why did the Government vote the money?

They ought to have power to remove nuisances in the same way as other local authorities, who were as anxious to do so as the Central Board of Health. Besides, he did not think it necessary to have a medical officer as secretary to the board. It did not require a medical man to write a correspondent's letter. If he acted as an inspector, and went out to a place and examined and reported upon it, it would be something, but he did nothing of the sort. He remained in his office and conducted correspondence. He was right also in the statement that they met once a month, and they took their two guineas when they did meet. He could not see the necessity for such a large vote when the Treasury was so low and when there were so many people looking for work. He would therefore move that the item of £600 should be reduced by £200.

The PREMIER said that, so far as the secretary to the Board of Health was concerned, he should have explained that he was medical adviser to the Government in all matters in connection with public health. Although most of the work in connection with the Board of Health was done in the Colonial Secretary's office, it was necessary, if the work was to be carried on systematically, to have an officer of that kind. He had told the hon. member that if any blame was due in respect of the Fortitude Valley drain it was due to the Government, and he should blame the Government for it, because they did not think it desirable—for the reasons he before stated—to act on the recommendation of the board. The hon. member said the board should have been allowed to do that work, but that would be giving the board executive authority, and he was certain no one would advocate that. The Ministers should be responsible for that. The hon. member was not in the House when the Bill was going through or he would remember the scheme embodied in it.

Mr. McMASTER: I watched it carefully outside.

The PREMIER: So far as that particular item was concerned, it would not matter much whether it was £600 or £400. A great deal was spent on account of the cholera scare last year, and he hoped a similar expenditure would not be needed this year. However, if it was he could tell the Committee that the Government would spend the money whether it was voted or not. With regard to the inspectors, the board had the power to appoint inspectors and recover the cost from the local authorities; but there must be some source from which to defray the expense in the meantime, and he thought it was not desirable, therefore, to cut down the amount.

Question—That the item "Fees to non-official members and contingencies, £600," be reduced by the sum of £200—put and passed.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £4,000 be granted for Public Institutions.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he recollected that some six or seven years ago a case occurred concerning a school of arts in the northern part of the colony, where a sum of money had been raised by an entertainment, and the Colonial Secretary of the day disallowed that sum as an amount upon which he should pay the subsidy. He had been given to understand that that practice prevailed at the present time, and that the subsidy was now paid upon moneys raised by entertainments. He would like to know from the Colonial Secretary whether that was the case?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said nothing of the sort had come under his notice. If anything of the kind occurred it would probably have come under the notice of the Colonial Treasurer, through the Audit Office.

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. J. R. Dickson) said he did not remember any case in which the subsidy had been paid upon money raised as the proceeds of an entertainment in aid of a school of arts. He believed that in the case of an entertainment in aid of an hospital some claim was made, but he was not aware now how it was dealt with. There was no similar case in respect of a school of arts that he could remember.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he knew of a case in which a claim made for the subsidy in that way was refused. He knew such claims were not refused in the case of hospitals, as the proceeds were given as a subscription to the hospitals.

The PREMIER said that schools of arts were institutions kept up by the subscribers, and were associations of persons subscribing annually for their mutual and literary benefit. Money raised by entertainment in aid of schools of arts was not at all like money raised for a charitable purpose, such as the support of a hospital, as in the latter case the persons subscribing got no personal benefit from the subscription.

Question put and passed.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES (SUBDIVISION).

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the sum of £15,300 be granted for Miscellaneous Services.

Mr. FERGUSON said he noticed there was a vote of £3,000 in aid of agricultural and horticultural societies, and that such aid, at the rate of £1 for £1, was not to exceed £200 to any society except the Brisbane one, where it was not to exceed £500. He did not know whether that was a departure from the usual course.

The PREMIER: No, there is no change.

Mr. FERGUSON said he thought it ought to be quite the reverse. Brisbane was a wealthy city, and the society could get large subscriptions independent of Government aid; other societies were struggling for existence, and he thought they should be encouraged rather than kept down.

The PREMIER said he thought it had always been recognised that the central institution at Brisbane represented the whole colony. The committee of management represented nearly all the institutions of the colony, and it was regarded as an entirely national institution, while the others were almost entirely local institutions. They knew, of course, that £500 was a very small part of the actual subscriptions, while he did not know that any other institution had ever had subscriptions up to the maximum of £200.

Mr. MACFARLANE said there was £100 down for the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Now, he was connected with a society for the purpose of preventing cruelty to women, and that society spent a great deal of money every year. Such societies existed in a great number of towns, and their aim was to prevent cruelty to the higher class of animals—men and women. They attempted to raise fallen human beings, and he thought they were as much entitled to help as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He would like to know whether the Colonial Secretary would be willing to assist those societies.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: What are they?

Mr. MACFARLANE: The temperance societies.

Mr. ISAMBERT said the Government supported the agricultural and horticultural societies, and yet they said they had no power to stop gambling and cardsharpping at the exhibitions. They were public institutions, supported by public money, and the Government ought to see that the police did their duty there as well as the Revenue Department made them do it. If a publican omitted to paste a piece of paper on a bottle that went out of his house, he was dragged before the court; and it would be well if the police would exercise as much industry in preventing crimes from being committed at public gatherings. If the Government gave assistance to such societies, he would be glad to know if they had not the power to prevent the robbery of the people.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he concurred in a great deal that had been said by the hon. member for Rosewood. After what was witnessed at the annual exhibition at Bowen Park last year, he, for one, did not intend to subscribe to that institution again, unless a stop was put to the gambling and cardsharpping which were evidently licensed. From what he could learn, the committee consented to take fees to allow those men to go inside and practice their thievish games. He had heard of a little girl, who could not reach up to the table to put down her penny or sixpence, being helped by someone to put her money on one of those gambling arrangements, and lose it. He knew of two brothers, one of whom borrowed a shilling from the other only to put it on the wretched table and lose it. He had been in the habit since he was a boy of attending such institutions at home; he had been supporting this one since its foundation, and had been on the committee; but he would never subscribe again until those practices were stopped. He knew that was the feeling of a large number of exhibitors and supporters, financial and otherwise, and he hoped that in future they would not see the like occur. If, as the hon. member for Rosewood said, they employed police to detect the man who sold a bottle of wine, and perhaps to tell an untruth to induce him to sell it, surely they could employ police to put down such practices as that. He for one, would not support the institution any longer unless he had a guarantee that these things would not occur in the future.

Mr. ISAMBERT said that unless the Colonial Secretary would make a promise not to advance any money to those societies if they permitted such things again, he would move for a reduction of the whole sum.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he would like to ask the Attorney-General a question. About a year ago, perhaps a little over a year, he saw at one of those agricultural societies' meetings the secretary and a member of the committee overturn those money changers' tables and put them out of the gate. Was that an illegal act? Did they go beyond their powers? If they did not, others might do likewise.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that if any exhibition ground was a place to which the Police Jurisdiction Extension Act had been proclaimed applicable, the police could be called in to stop the prosecution of any unlawful game. He did not think the secretary referred to by the hon. member had any more right to use force and turn the men out than he (Mr. Rutledge) or anyone who happened to be present had.

Mr. MELLOR said that as a rule the committees gave those persons permission to gamble for the purpose of gaining a little revenue. With

reference to the recent show at Brisbane, it was about the most disgraceful affair in that respect that he ever saw. He was almost ashamed to see so many of those illegal games carried on.

Mr. BUCKLAND said that associations which resorted to that way of raising money would find in time that the result would be a loss of many right-minded subscribers. Nothing of the kind was permitted at the great shows in the old country. The Government were spending vast sums of money on the education of the rising generation, and yet they allowed the committees of the institutions they subsidised to so large an extent to vitiate the minds of the young people and teach them the vices of gambling and card-sharping.

Mr. BULCOCK said all that hon. members said about the late exhibition was perfectly true, but it should not be forgotten that since that time the committee of the association had taken steps which promised to effectually prevent the recurrence of such scenes as were then witnessed. He wished for some information about the item "Incidental and miscellaneous expenses, £3,000." It seemed a very large sum, and no information had been given about it.

The PREMIER said the item included every payment that was not provided for anywhere else. In one sense it resembled a secret service fund, although being subject to audit it was not a secret service fund. It was a sort of general contingency fund for all the departments of the Government.

Mr. JESSOP said he thought a great deal more had been made out of the fact that gambling took place at exhibitions than was at all necessary. When a large number of people were crowded into a small space, it was almost impossible to prevent those men from playing what they called "their little game." The committee of the National Association did all they could to prevent it, but when they found an unexpected crowd of 20,000 people packed into a space only big enough for 15,000 they found that all their efforts were of no avail. He was glad to say that the committee of the association had since taken measures to prevent the recurrence of anything of the kind. With regard to the vote for miscellaneous expenses, were the salaries of the revenue officers paid out of it?

The PREMIER: No salaries are paid out of that vote.

Mr. JESSOP: Then where do they come from?

The PREMIER: You must ask the Treasurer.

Mr. JESSOP said he had had a good deal of experience with regard to exhibitions, and the conclusion he had come to was that it was impossible to keep the card-sharpers off the ground. If their play was stopped, the moment the policeman's back was turned they began again.

Mr. ISAMBERT: I want to know whether the Government are determined to stop this gambling at public gatherings. If they are not, I shall move that the whole sum be reduced.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that the Government were as desirous as the hon. members was to prevent practices of that sort. But, as had been pointed out, the matter was to a large extent in the hands of the various committees. He had seen gambling carried on at one or two shows—at the large exhibition of the National Association, and at a much smaller one in the Rosewood Scrub. Wherever anything of the kind was brought under the notice of the Government

they would be only too willing to render assistance, and if the committees wished gambling to be kept down the Government would do all in their power to keep it down.

Mr. WHITE thought the Colonial Secretary ought to give them some promise that he would stipulate to the committees that they should not have any subsidy if they continued to allow those immoral practices on the ground. He was so thoroughly disgusted at this last exhibition with the thimble-rigging and other evil practices going on all over the grounds, that he came to the conclusion he should not visit the exhibition again. They could not go ten yards but they had to go round thimble-riggers and card-sharpers.

Mr. JESSOP: Nonsense!

Mr. WHITE: It was a fact; they were in every possible form all over the ground. It was most disgraceful beyond anything he ever saw in all his life; and really to give subsidies like this to committees that were not held responsible for the good conduct of the exhibitions was most preposterous.

Mr. FOXTON said that, unless he was mistaken, the matter was entirely in the hands of the committee. If they chose to exercise their power, they had a right to refuse admission to such people, or return them their money, and keep them out of the ground altogether. That was done in a celebrated case in England, and he knew that race clubs very frequently acted in that way.

Mr. ISAMBERT said that truly the administration of the law was a strange farce. Men were sent out to buy nobblers of whisky and brandy, and actually tempt people to commit a breach of the law in order that they might be dragged before the court. But here the Government had the power to stop gambling, but allowed it to go on. It was endangering the public safety, for it attracted a most undesirable class of persons to the colony, and they travelled about from one show or racecourse to another. He was perfectly sure that if the Colonial Secretary gave orders to the Commissioner for Police that these practices were to be put down they would be put down.

Mr. JESSOP agreed with the hon. member for Rosewood to a certain extent when he spoke about the revenue officers. He did not know whether it was from bad wine or spirits, but some of them he had seen on the railway platform the other day looked more fit for the hospital than for the police court to give evidence in. The hon. member for Stanley, Mr. White, must have been in a bad temper when he said he saw thimble-riggers and card-sharpers every ten yards. Surely he never went through the Exhibition Building, and he was not amongst the fat cattle or the horses. There was only one part of the ground amongst the side-shows where there were any such characters, and it was almost impossible to keep them out. He defied any committee in the world to open their gates at 1s. per head, and refuse them admission. They could not cross-examine every man who came to the gate, and ask him whether he was a card-sharpener or a thimble-rigger. No man had a greater down on card-sharpers and bookmakers than he had. He did not believe there was a man in Queensland that had taken more active steps to put them down either at shows or racecourses. He had taken them by the collar at Dalby and had thrown them and their boxes over the fence. Still he held it was impossible on a large ground for a committee to take steps to stop them or to put them out. He did not think reflections should be cast on the committee. The committee were very able men, and men who did their best for the public.

Mr. SHERIDAN said he had been at the exhibition and had been all over the ground, through the buildings and everywhere, and he did not see either a thimble-rigger or a card-sharper in all his travels.

Mr. ISAMBERT: Oh, oh!

Mr. SHERIDAN: The hon. member should not say "Oh." What he declared was true. He was not speaking from imagination or hearsay, but of what had occurred to himself. There might have been gambling, and thimble-rigging, and card-sharpping, but he saw no evidence of it. He thought those people were discovered by those who wanted to find them.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he found that last year £500 was down for relief of aborigines, and £1,000 for aboriginal reserves. They were lumped at £1,000 this year. Upon which of those items had the reduction been made?

The PREMIER said the £1,000 would cover both. It was convenient to put them together, because they could not tell how much each would cost. A good deal of money had been spent last year in relief of aborigines, because in some parts of the colony, owing to the dry weather, they had to be kept in food. As to the reserves, one was at Cape Bedford Bay. That had been started by the Moravian missionaries, and they were likely to do as much good as could be done with the aborigines. It was a suitable place, there was some cultivation, and they were not likely to be interfered with by settlement. Another place where a settlement had been started was Weary Bay on the Bloomfield River forty or fifty miles south of Cooktown. There was a large number of blacks there—he believed several hundreds. Some simple buildings had been put up to give them shelter, and missionaries would take charge of them before very long. In consequence of some correspondence that had taken place with the parent Moravian Society in Europe, it had not yet been settled whether the society in charge of the settlement at Bedford Bay—which was called Elim—would take charge of the settlement on the Bloomfield. If the Moravians did not take charge at the Bloomfield the Government had an offer from another body—the Presbyterians—to take it up. He thought it would be convenient that the same body should have charge of both stations. They were comparatively near together, and the chief missionary could travel readily from one place to another. Another place which he thought suitable for a reserve was on the Tully River, near Cardwell, which was frequented by some of the finest blacks of the colony. The Government had not yet seen how these stations would work, though they had the experience of the other colonies to guide them in some measure. One thing was certain—that the men who were engaged in this work were thoroughly in earnest, thoroughly devoted, and were likely to do as much good as was possible to be done in that direction.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he was sorry to see a reduction proposed. Although the drought had passed over, the same necessity existed for relief throughout some districts, Thornborough, for instance, as it did before. Even when there was no drought the late Government had to offer special relief to the blacks about Thornborough. The whole of the country upon which the blacks gained their living had been taken up, and the remainder of the tribe or tribes was driven about the country. Hon. members knew there was very little food there, and they were actually so weak from starvation that they could scarcely walk. He did not know how much money the Government had spent at Tambo, but they had spent a great deal, and he was sorry that there should be any reduction in the item with the idea

that since the drought was over the necessity for it had passed away. Did that amount for the relief of the aborigines include the money for the blankets which were distributed to them?

The PREMIER: No; that is in the Stores Department.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said there was another item that he wanted to hear something about. He saw there was an increase of £200 in the vote for foreign interpreters. Was there any real necessity for that, and why had the necessity arisen? He hoped it was not for Chinese interpreters.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said there had been some extra interpreters appointed. £500 was spent in Brisbane, £50 in Ipswich, £50 in Maryborough, £50 in Beenleigh, £50 in Cooktown, and £50 in Townsville. There were two interpreters in Brisbane—

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: Are they Chinese interpreters?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No. There was one at Cooktown, but he did not think he was included in the list.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said there might be a necessity for one at Cooktown, seeing that that was almost the headquarters of the Chinese population in the North, but he hoped there would be no increase in their number.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; all the rest are German.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he would ask the Colonial Secretary a question in regard to a vote which was not on the Estimates this year, but was on last year. Had the hon. gentleman any more information from the Geographical Society in Sydney in regard to the exploration of New Guinea, towards which they voted £1,000 and received nothing in return, not even a report. Had they received a report yet?

The PREMIER: No.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN: It is shameful.

The PREMIER said they had not been able to get any information whatever from the society in Sydney, and he agreed that it was shameful. He had written officially, and he had communicated with the president of the society in person, and had been able to get no information whatever on the subject.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he hoped in future they would be very chary in aiding Sydney in any such scheme. If they wanted to go in for the exploration of New Guinea they had better go in for it on their own account.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the House resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported progress.

The report was adopted, and on the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the Committee obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MARSUPIALS DESTRUCTION ACT CONTINUATION BILL.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Council intimating that they insisted upon their amendment to this Bill—

"Because the provisions of the Marsupials Destruction Act Continuation Act of 1885 already provide more effectually for regulating the rates of bonus payable than the clause omitted by the Council."

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the motion was ordered to be taken into consideration to-morrow.

HEALTH ACT OF 1884 AMENDMENT BILL.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Council, returning this Bill with amendments indicated in the accompanying schedule, in which amendments they requested the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the message was ordered to be taken into consideration to-morrow.

MINERAL LANDS (COAL MINING) BILL.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning this Bill without amendments.

BURNING OF THE "ROCKHAMPTON."

Mr. W. BROOKES said: I beg to present the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the burning of the British vessel "Rockhampton," at Normanton, and move that it be printed.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER, in moving the adjournment of the House, said: We will take to-morrow, after the private business, the two messages which have just come down from the Council, and then proceed with the Liquor Bill and Oyster Bill. If they do not take very long, I hope we shall go on with Supply afterwards.

The House adjourned at half-past 10 o'clock.