

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

MONDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 1889

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 2 September, 1889.

Rockhampton Gas Company Bill—third reading.—Motion for Adjournment—strike at the London docks.
—Stafford Bros. Railway Bill—report from select committee.—Supply—resumption of committee.—Ann Street Presbyterian Church Bill.—Adjournment.

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

ROCKHAMPTON GAS COMPANY BILL. THIRD READING.

On the motion of Mr. MURRAY, this Bill was read a third time, passed, and ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Council for their concurrence, by message in the usual form.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

STRIKE AT THE LONDON DOCKS.

Mr. GLASSEY said: Mr. Speaker,—I rise to move the adjournment of the House to draw attention to a subject embodied in a question I put to the Chief Secretary on Friday last. I gave notice of the question on Thursday, in compliance with a promise I made to a deputation from the Maritime Labour Council which represents the whole of the maritime labourers in Queensland. The Chief Secretary, with his characteristic impetuosity in dealing with questions that come from this side, except those put by the leader of the Opposition, answered very abruptly—in fact, before I had time to hand the question to the Clerk of the House—that the Government intended to take no action in the matter. I put the question to the head of the Government with the view of ascertaining whether the Government would intercede to prevent any unpleasantness from arising not only in the minds of people in London in connection with the very serious dispute existing there, but also to prevent any feeling arising in the minds of people in this colony who reasonably sympathise with the people at home who are struggling to obtain some redress. Before I put that question, my attention was drawn to the following telegram which appeared in the *Telegraph* on Wednesday, the 28th August:—

"The British India Company's steamer 'Taroba' is being loaded with the assistance of a number of immigrants who are booked for Queensland."

Those immigrants are brought here at the expense of the colony, and are under the charge of the Queensland Government as soon as they enter the dépôt in London; and finding that a very strong feeling has been evoked in every country in the world, through the action the

London dock labourers have thought fit to take in order to redress their grievances, I deemed it advisable to ask the Chief Secretary the question to which I have referred. And I cannot help expressing my regret that the Chief Secretary should have given such an abrupt and hasty answer, instead of taking a little time to consider the matter carefully and ask his colleagues—if he thought it worth while to ask them—whether any action should be taken to prevent any unpleasantness from arising in connection with the employment of those immigrants. I may state that before bringing this matter forward I received the following official letter from the body of men to whom I have referred, and I will read that letter to show that I did not act on my own responsibility, but at their request after they had deliberated on the subject:—

"Maritime Labour Council of Queensland,
"Eagle street, Brisbane,
"29th August, 1889.

"DEAR SIR,

"Am instructed by the executive of the above council to draw your attention to the reports in the papers that immigrants bound for Queensland are working the R.M.S. 'Taroba' at London, and to request you to ask the Premier whether there is any truth in the report, and if he has cabled the Agent-General in London to prevent the immigrants from taking any part in the dispute existing between the dock labourers there and their employers.

"I remain, etc.,

"W. MABBOTT,

"Secretary.

"Mr. Thos. Glassey, M.L.A."

This question has evoked not only widespread sympathy over the whole civilised world, but, in fact, has created amazement among all sorts and conditions of men; and I cannot but again express my regret that the Chief Secretary, to whom we have every reason to look for some guidance, and, I might add, a little sympathy, should have spoken as he did. I say it is unreasonable and unfair that a gentleman occupying the high and honourable position he does, should act with such haste over a reasonable question, asked in a reasonable manner, and I think that some consideration should have been given before a decided answer, so abrupt and so unfair as the one he gave, was given. In order to prove the amount of sympathy which is expressed by the body of men to whom I have referred I will presently inform hon. members what is being done. As one hon. gentleman said here very wisely and very pertinently on Friday night when the sugar question was under discussion "What sort of sympathy do you wish to extend?" It is all very well giving expression to word sympathy, but we want something more, and I may say that the body of men whom I now represent do not express word sympathy, but that notwithstanding they earn their living in a very precarious way, their employment not being regular, they at once voted £150 from the wharf labourer's funds, and £100 from the seamen's union funds, and cabled it home to London to their brothers who are struggling to obtain some redress from the enormous grievances under which they labour. That was practical sympathy, and I sincerely trust that the movement which is now on foot for holding a large demonstration on Wednesday next will result in thorough unanimity and an expression of practical sympathy. The body of men to whom I refer—the maritime labour body—comprise 2,000 men at the various ports on the coast of Queensland, and I ask this House, in a reasonable and prudent spirit, what sort of feeling will arise in their minds when the immigrants by the "Taroba" approach our shores, having acted as they have done—if not at the request of the Queensland Government, at least with their sanction? Can that feeling be other than an

angry feeling? We should try to prevent that; and had the Chief Secretary in his wisdom acted in a more discreet manner, and said that under all the circumstances it was much better that no action should be taken, that spirit of anger which may, perhaps, be aroused, would unquestionably be prevented. It may be asked if the demands of the London dock labourers are reasonable. If they are not, it would be quite right that no sympathy should be extended, but I think that hon. members will agree that they have reason and justice on their side and that their demands are not unreasonable. In order to prove that statement I cannot do better than read the sub-leader which appeared in the *Courier* on Saturday last, which puts the case of the men fairly and sympathetically. The expressions of that influential journal are undoubtedly on the side of the men. The article, which is not very long, says:—

"It happens that the public is in a really good position for estimating at least the main issues in question in the great London Dock strike. Exhaustive evidence on the condition of the London Docks was given recently before a committee of the House of Lords, and was reproduced by all the large newspapers. The précis of it, published in the *Daily News*, appeared in these columns under the ominous title of 'The sweating system in England.' The demands of the strikers are twofold—the abolition of the middlemen and the raising of the wages. Public opinion in England seems to have been educated by the recent revelations into cordially supporting the workmen on both points. Sixteen years ago a dock labourer could earn on an average 24s. a week; now the average is 7s. Indisputably the remote cause of this is the enormous surplus labour in the large cities, but the near cause is the abominable process known as the sweating system. This is indisputably due to the more or less deliberate attempt of the dock companies, who in all, or almost all, the large British seaport towns form a virtual monopoly to evade the Employers' Liability Act. By letting out the work to a subcontractor the subcontractor becomes responsible, and he in turn shifts the onus elsewhere, and so on to a quite astonishing degree. The contract for unloading a vessel generally goes in this way through three hands; formerly it often went through as many as seven. And all these middlemen must have their profit, of course, with the result that—to take one example—at the Millwall Docks, where 1s. 8d. per ton was paid by the original letter-out of the contract, 4d. per ton, and even 3d. per ton, was the sum received by the actual performer of the work. And as the supply of labour was always more than double and sometimes as much as treble the demand, the subcontractor could always be sure of getting men. The onus of the Employers' Liability Act has been spoken of, and when we remember that there is not a dock in London where every week one or two men are not either killed or maimed for life, the nature of this onus is as obvious as its elusion by the companies. It was useless for a man or his relatives to proceed against the last subcontractor, from whom there was little or nothing to be extorted. This was not all. Men refused to come forward to give evidence in such a case knowing that to do so meant the loss of all future work, and this was the case with regard to evidence for the committee. The number employed at the London Docks has been variously estimated. Mr. G. R. Sims, in his 'Horrible London,' puts it as high as 200,000. Mr. Tillett, the secretary of the Dock Labourers' Union, puts it at 100,000 at the seven big metropolitan docks—the London and Saint Katherine—"

I may just say that if I had anything to do with the naming of the docks, I would suggest, under existing circumstances, that the name of that dock should be changed. I think it is a sad pity that a dock at which such a system as we are now referring to is carried on, should be elevated by the name of a saint, and I would be inclined to suggest a very different title for it—

"The London and St. Katherine, the Albert and Victoria, the East and West India, the Tilbury, the Millwall, the Surrey Commercial, and the Regent's Canal Dock. The companies, when they found out how the sub-contractors were sweating the men, cut down the price of the contracts, until the present point has been reached, where, as Colonel Taylor, the secretary of the

East and West Indian Docks Company, declared efficient labour could be got for 2d. an hour. In other words, a strong able-bodied man could make less than a girl or a woman could by washing, charring, or even match-making. Wages have been reduced 40 per cent. It is not astonishing that with this grim record of the naked facts before it, public opinion in England should support the men in their demand for the abrogation of the sweating system and the direct handing over to the men themselves of the original payment of the work they do. This in itself would constitute the rise in wages, which is their second demand. What is clearly wanted is the organisation of the men into a union that could deal directly with the companies, which should no longer be able to escape the responsibility fixed upon them by the laws of the land."

That is the article in question, and when we have it on record, that sixteen years ago those men, who are now struggling for some redress of their grievances, were working for 24s. a week, and are now working for the miserable sum of 7s. a week, I think some expression of sympathy with them should be given; and again, I cannot help expressing my regret at the very abrupt answer given by the Premier to the very reasonable question put to him. Before sitting down there is just one little matter I would like to refer to, and it is this: We are sometimes told that it is not right or proper that questions which are raised in this House should be submitted by young members, and that as young members we should not assume certain positions in this House. May we infer from these remarks that we are going to have some change in the Constitution of this country and that the Premier of the day is going to dictate to the constituencies as to what members they shall send to this House and what questions those members shall submit for the consideration of this Chamber? If there be any intention on the part of the Government to amend the Constitution in the way I have indicated, the House is entitled to know that a change is impending, and also the nature of that change. I suppose we may expect at the same time to have a change made in the forms of the House, and that we shall have to address ourselves in a very meek and humble manner when we have a question to ask. I never like to be offensive; I dislike it altogether, and I dislike interrupting speakers when they are addressing the House—that is a thing I never indulge in. But I say that humble as we may be, and whatever our position in this House may be, we are entitled to that respect and consideration which should be accorded each and every member of Parliament, and particularly from the head of the Government. I have not the slightest intention of being offensive to the Premier, but I resent those strictures, and so long as I have a seat in this House I shall try to conduct myself so as to avoid censure, so far as the regulations and Constitution of the country are concerned. When the strictures of which I have spoken emanate from the head of the Government, may we not expect strictures of a worse nature emanating from humbler members of the House following the bad example set? I trust that in future, whether our questions give offence in certain quarters or not, we shall be treated with the respect due to us and the constituents who sent us here. I say again, I do not intend to be offensive, and I do not intend to take up any more of the time of the House than I think the performance of my duty warrants, but so far as I am personally concerned, I entirely resent the dictation that is sometimes put upon us. It seems to be assumed that members occupying certain positions in this House should go cap in hand and ask the Premier what they are to do and say, and how they are to say and do it. I hope we shall be treated with the respect due to us, and to those who sent us here. I do not intend to take up any more of the time of the

House on this question than is necessary; but I do hope that the Premier will see his way clear, if any further action is taken on the part of the British India Company in employing men so long as the struggle lasts, to at least refrain from taking sides in this great struggle. This company is subsidised largely by the money of the people of this country, and, under the circumstances, I say we have a right to enter a protest against their action, and endeavour, if possible, to prevent the unpleasantness with which I fore-shadow the arrival of the "Taroba" immigrants is likely to be received. I beg to move the adjournment of the House.

The PREMIER (Hon. B. D. Morehead) said: Mr. Speaker,—I regret very much that the answer I gave the hon. gentleman the other night seems to have annoyed him. It is exactly the answer I intended to give him, and the language in which it is couched is exactly that in which I intended it should be couched. I think the words cannot in any way be called offensive, and the answer accurately and succinctly defines the intention of the Government in connection with the matter; and that is, that the Government do not intend to take any action in the matter. That is a definite answer to a definite question, and I think the hon. gentleman cannot feel personally annoyed that the answer should have been given to him. I think the House will agree with me that it is not the business of the Government to interfere in this matter at all. I think that, even assuming, for the sake of argument, that the telegram recorded in the *Telegraph* is correct, it is not the business of this Government to interfere with the British-India Company in carrying out their business; nor is it any part of the business of the Government to interfere with any individual immigrant who may be employed by, and accept employment from, the company, in loading their vessels, as the immigrants employed may be assisted immigrants, or immigrants paying their own passages. The Government are determined, as any reasonable body of men would determine, not to put a finger into this business, or have anything to do with it. I sympathise most deeply with the men who are out on strike, if the statements reported in the Press are facts; but it is not the function of the Government to interfere in a matter of this sort, and it is a function that this Government will never take up. With regard to the rest of the hon. member's remarks as to a probable change in the Constitution, I do not apprehend that any hon. member but the hon. member himself fears that anything such as he spoke of is likely to take place.

Question of adjournment put and negatived.

STAFFORD BROS. RAILWAY BILL.

REPORT FROM SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. BARLOW said: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to submit, on behalf of the chairman, the report of the select committee on the Stafford Brothers Railway Bill, and move that the papers be printed.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of Mr. BARLOW, the second reading of the Bill was made an order of the day for 19th September.

Mr. BARLOW said: Mr. Speaker,—Since I proposed that the second reading of the Stafford Brothers Railway Bill should be made an order for the 19th instant, I have found that Friday, the 6th of September, is open, and I would therefore ask the indulgence of the House to withdraw the motion or amend it in some form, so as to fix the second reading for Friday next.

The SPEAKER said: The motion cannot be withdrawn, as the question has been put, and the second reading of the Bill made an Order of the Day. It is not usual to rescind an Order of the Day on the day on which the motion is passed, but I think that, as the date was fixed by inadvertence, and the mistake discovered immediately afterwards, with the permission of the House, the order may be rescinded, and a fresh order made.

Mr. BARLOW said: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that the Order of the Day just passed with reference to the second reading of the Stafford Brothers Railway Bill be rescinded.

Question put and passed.

Mr. BARLOW said: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that the second reading of the Bill stand an Order of the Day for Friday, the 6th of September.

Question put and passed.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. W. Pattison) the Speaker left the chair, and the House went into committee to further consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. B. D. Morehead) moved that there be granted for the service of the year 1889-90, a sum not exceeding £1,660 for salaries and contingencies in connection with His Excellency the Governor. Hon. members would see that that was £300 less than the amount set down on the Estimate, and would remember that that sum was voted the last time they were in Committee of Supply. The only increase in the vote was a sum of £20 for one of the orderlies, who was previously a senior constable. The orderlies were appointed from the police force.

Question put and passed.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved that there be granted for the service of the year 1889-90 a sum not exceeding £1,039 for salaries and contingencies in connection with the Executive Council. The amount was the same as was voted last year.

Question put and passed.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved that there be granted for the service of the year 1889-90 a sum not exceeding £3,400 for salaries and contingencies in connection with the Legislative Council. That was identical with the vote of last year.

Question put and passed.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved that the sum of £3,808 be granted for salaries and contingencies, Legislative Assembly, and said that the vote differed slightly from that of last year. There was an increase down for the clerk, Mr. Costin, from £200 to £250. That officer had been five years in the service of the Legislative Assembly and had done his work well. The next was an increase, or rather a new appointment of an assistant messenger at £60 per annum. Then there was £135 set down as a gratuity to the late messenger, Mr. Smith, one year's salary. That officer had been an old and faithful servant, and he did not think any old member of the Committee would deny that the man was well entitled to that recognition of his services. There was also an additional message boy at £18.

Mr. GLASSEY said he would like to know the age of the boy who was only receiving £18 per annum; the salary seemed to be a very small one, and it would be a very poor messenger who was not worth more than that.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the sum put down amounted to about 12s. a week while Parliament was in session. Those appointments were generally made by the Speaker, and he believed the boy was a very good one.

Question put and passed.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved that the sum of £8,141 be granted for the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly—"Library, Reporting Staff, Refreshment Rooms, and Contingencies," and said the only change was that in the salary of the night watchman, from £104 to £156. Having regard to the value of the Parliamentary Buildings, it had been found necessary to have, as it were, an expert, a watchman who could turn on the hose, and take the necessary steps in the event of a fire before communicating with the brigade office. It was the joint recommendation of the President, the Speaker, and the Minister for Mines and Works, and he thought the appointment commended itself to every member of the Committee.

Mr. BARLOW said he wished to know if the Chief Secretary had any information as to the state of the library catalogue. He believed it was only brought up to the year 1881, and did not know if it was the duty of the librarian to keep that catalogue up to date.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he did not think the catalogue in the hands of the librarian was back for a single day, although that in the hands of hon. members was back some years. He believed the Speaker could give more information than he could upon that point.

Mr. NORTON said that although the catalogue in the hands of hon. members was prepared some years back, the librarian had kept it up in the same form as that issued, and it could be published at any time Parliament thought necessary. As the publication of the catalogue would be costly, it was for Parliament to decide when a fresh edition should be issued.

Mr. BARLOW said he was very much obliged to the hon. gentleman for his explanation. He was not aware that the catalogue was kept up in that way. While they were on the subject of the library, he thought the question might well be mooted as to whether a portion of the library should not be made available to the public. He did not think there was any possibility, in the present state of the finances of the colony, of a large sum of money being spent in the erection of a public library in Brisbane, and there were many classes of books in the Parliamentary Library which might be made available, either by way of loan to institutions or in some other manner. There was a large amount of valuable information at present comparatively locked up for the benefit of a few people.

Mr. GLASSEY said he noticed that the librarian's assistant and messenger were receiving £100 and £65 respectively. Speaking of messengers generally, they were a class that deserved some consideration at their hands. Every hon. member must admit that they received a great deal of civility and attention when they required anything from the library, and, considering the length of hours those officers had to be in attendance, hon. members would agree that the salaries they received were very

small. He might say that not one of those men had ever spoken a single word to him in regard to the salaries received, and he had intended to bring the matter forward last year, but there were so many other things that required their attention that he had refrained from doing so. He hoped those salaries would be increased next year. The porter in the hall gave much attention to his work, and had been receiving the salary of £104 for many years, and he ought to receive an increase also. Attention in that direction seemed to be given to every department but their own, and turned away from people who were close to their own doors. They ought not to neglect their own servants, who had many peculiar duties to attend to, and from whom they at all times received civility and assistance. The salaries of £100 and £65 were too small for the junior messengers, considering the duties they had to do and the hours they had to attend the building, and £104 for the hall porter was a quite inadequate salary for the duties he had to perform and the length of time he had been in the service of the House.

Mr. MELLOR said he would like to obtain some information from some member of the Refreshment Room Committee with reference to the new order of things that had been going on there lately—whether it was really a saving to the State or not. He did not know what the arrangement with the caterer was—whether it was a guarantee for so many per head; but he did not think it would result in any saving to the State since the number of hon. members had been so largely increased.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he would call attention to an occurrence that took place the other evening. On going down to tea he found that certain members of the Refreshment Room Committee and members on the other side of the Committee were allowed to use fish knives and fish forks, which were denied to all other members. On trying to ascertain the cause, he found that of twenty-four fish knives and forks belonging to the refreshment room no less than twenty were appropriated to the table where the Ministers and their friends mutually enjoyed their meals. He had not the slightest objection to those hon. members having fish knives and forks, but he could not understand by what process of selection so large a number out of the twenty-four were devoted to one table. Was it a delicate compliment to the pastoral tenants of the Crown, who during the long drought may not have been able to obtain much fish, and were now making up for lost time. Great wars at times from little causes sprang, and some people might think that that was an indication of a deeply-laid scheme on the part of the Government against the Constitution of the country. He was not going to make any fuss about it, but why should not he, or any other hon. member, stand upon his dignity, and insist upon having a fish knife or a fish fork, if he could not have both. They might take it in turns with the pastoral tenants, and have the fork and the knife alternately, one digging and the other shovelling.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the best way to get over the difficulty would be by a representation made to the Refreshment Room Committee to order some more fish knives and forks.

Mr. BARLOW said it was well known that fish contained phosphorus, and that phosphorus supplied brain power. It was no doubt a delicate attempt on the part of the Government to give increased brain power to their followers.

Mr. ADAMS said he did not often go into the upper library, but when he did he seldom found a messenger there. He thought a messenger

should be always there to give information to hon. members when they required it. He had another complaint to make with regard to the delivery of hon. members' letters. Some letters were addressed to members at the library and others at the House, and it often happened that letters addressed to the House were not delivered at the library until twenty minutes or half an hour after they were received.

Mr. NORTON said it had always been the practice for the library messenger to bring up letters addressed to the library, and for the Assembly messenger to bring up letters addressed to the Assembly, and for the Council messenger to take up letters addressed to the Council. He did not know how the practice originated, but it had been in force ever since he had been a member of the House. One or two hon. members complained to him some time ago that letters were delayed, that they had not been brought up by the Assembly messenger. He did not think that much delay had taken place except possibly on one or two occasions, but when representations were made to him on the subject he gave instructions that the messenger should go to the post office in the morning and bring the letters straight to the House in order that they might be delivered at once. In some cases hon. members were misled as to the time they ought to receive their letters, because, in addition to the stated hours in the day, if the messengers were in town at any time they always called at the post office and brought back any letters that might happen to be there. On many occasions letters were delivered before the usual time. With respect to the refreshment rooms, he was sorry he could not give a direct answer to the question of the hon. member for Gympie. There was to be a meeting of the committee to-morrow, but not having anticipated the question he had not the information the hon. member asked for. He could say, however, that the caterer, Mr. Baldwin, had complained to him that the present arrangement did not pay him so well as the old one. He presumed that if it did not pay the caterer so well, it must pay the country somewhat better.

Mr. ARCHER said it ought to be an instruction to the chief messenger that when letters arrived at the House after the close of the session they should be sent to the Clerk of the Assembly to be forwarded to the members to whom they were addressed. Last year an important letter from England was addressed to him at the House, and arrived after the session was over. He did not receive it. He received a second letter asking him to carry out a request contained in the first one. He wrote back to say that as he had not got the first letter he could not say what the request contained in it was. On returning to town, at the opening of the present session, he found that the missing letter had been received by the messenger, put into his (Mr. Archer's) drawer, and left there. The letter did not concern himself personally; it concerned an intimate friend of his, and he was very much annoyed at what had occurred. He trusted the suggestion he had thrown out would be attended to.

Mr. SAYERS said the trouble with regard to the delivery of letters arose from two or three messengers doing the work that could be done by one. The Northern boats arrived on certain days only, and he had heard frequent complaints about the way letters were brought to the House. The hon. member for Herbert, he believed, had taken the precaution at the beginning of the session to get his letters addressed to the library, and by that means he got his correspondence somewhat earlier than other members. But

people in the country were not aware of that red-tape distinction—that one messenger brought the letters addressed to the library and another those addressed to the Legislative Assembly. The result was that some members got their letters an hour and a-half or two hours after other members, and sometimes they were unable to reply by the outgoing mail. He thought some arrangement should be made by which that red-tapeism would be abolished, and that one messenger should bring all the letters, whether addressed to the Assembly or to the library.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he was not aware of that absurdity, which the hon. member had very properly pointed out. He did not think the members of the Library Committee were aware of it, and he was sure it only required to be mentioned to be remedied.

Mr. NORTON said he would point out that the "absurdity" was one that had continued for a great number of years. He thought it might be obviated by making an arrangement by which one messenger should bring the whole of the letters to the House. With regard to the complaint made by the hon. member for Rockhampton, it was a thing that might happen, but as his attention had been called to it he would take steps to see that it did not occur again during the recess. It was the practice of some hon. members on leaving the House after prorogation to leave their country address with the librarian, so that any letters coming to the library for them might be forwarded on; but if similar directions were not given to the Clerk of the Assembly, the same difficulty would arise as had occurred about bringing letters from the post office. However, he would give instructions after prorogation that all letters arriving at the Assembly should be sent to the library, in order to ascertain if instructions had been given to forward them on to members.

Mr. GLASSEY said he would like to hear the Premier's opinion as to granting some increases to the messengers to whom he had referred. The hon. gentleman was a good paymaster in his own firm; and he (Mr. Glassey) certainly thought that considering the long hours those officers had to work, that they were entitled to substantial increases, and to a reasonable allowance for extra sittings.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said hon. members were aware that no action was taken by the Government with regard to those salaries, unless on the recommendation of those who had to deal with the internal management of the two Houses. As to the claim made on behalf of the messengers in question, it must be borne in mind that the session did not last all through the year, and for a considerable time the work was very light indeed; besides which those officers got extra pay from contingences for attending on Sundays and Saturday afternoons. They were in very good hands—the Library Committee and the Hon. the President and Speaker—who would see that they were fairly treated.

Mr. NORTON said the chief library messenger was appointed to that position about three years ago, and that was promotion for him. The lad, who was assistant messenger, had his salary increased two years ago; and the hall porter had been given an increase of £10 for looking after the gas meters. Hitherto, that officer had been required to attend on Sunday mornings, but now the front door was closed, and a notice was put up asking members to go in the back way on those mornings, so that the hall porter might have the whole of Sunday to himself. A room had also been fitted

up for him in which he could sleep when he was obliged to stay late at night; so that he had a good deal of consideration shown him.

Mr. HODGKINSON: Does he get a pension for Imperial service?

Mr. NORTON: Yes. The post was really a sinecure, except that somebody must be in attendance; and that officer had got an increase of salary without having to do any extra work.

Question put and passed.

AGENT-GENERAL FOR THE COLONY.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved that £3,550 be granted, for 1889-90, for salaries for that department.

Mr. HODGKINSON said there was a footnote to the estimate saying, "For remainder of staff, see salaries paid from the loan fund, page 90," but on looking at that page he saw nothing about it.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that was a clerical error, made in copying from the Estimates of last year.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he did not attempt to make any change, but he would ask if it were right that those salaries should not all be paid in the same way? Some of them were paid out of revenue, while others were paid out of the loan vote. Why should the correspondence clerk be paid out of the loan fund, while the indent clerk was paid out of general revenue, and the same with other officers? It might have been adopted originally for convenience; but it certainly tended to give a false impression, and it included in the loan vote items which might fairly be chargeable to general revenue.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that it had been the practice for years past, and he considered it was the proper practice. Possibly it would be better, if there was to be any discussion upon the point, that it should come on when they were considering the loan vote. There was no doubt that immigration was purely a matter concerning the loan fund, and the salaries for the emigration staff should be charges on the loan fund.

Mr. GLASSEY said that he wished to have some expression of opinion from the Government, with regard to whether they were going to continue immigration or not. Last year he had brought the matter forward, and he had then stated that there was no room for extra labourers in the colony at that time; and every hon. member of that Committee must know that the colony had not improved much during the past year. The very severe drought they had experienced had not by any means improved the condition of the country so as to induce the Government to continue introducing a stream of immigration. He was not opposed to people being brought to the colony if there were abundance of employment for them, but the condition of the country did not warrant the bringing out of any more labourers, who would only swell the ranks of the unemployed. In every branch of business—whether mining, pastoral, or agricultural—there was no room for more labourers, and unless there was a slackening off in immigration, in a short time there would be meetings of the unemployed held in various parts of the colony—in fact meetings had already been held. Just that day he had been speaking to a man who was employed in Sutton's foundry, and in his small business—he was an ironmoulder—there were only seven men employed. Moulding was now stopped. Some time ago there had been nearly 300 hands in that foundry, and to-day that number was reduced to about 40 or 50.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. H. Black): The state of the sugar industry caused that.

Mr. GLASSEY said that the sugar industry had done nothing of the sort. When they discussed the sugar industry it would be proved that that industry had not been the means of employing so many men as some people were trying to make out. It must be admitted that they could not have their foundries always engaged in making new plant for the sugar mills. They all knew that after the plant was once made it only required people to keep it in repair. According to some hon. members, the sugar industry was of such a nature that all their foundries had been employed making fresh machinery for the sugar plantations; but that was hardly borne out by the evidence. Nothing could be more foolish than to spend large sums of money in bringing out large numbers of immigrants to swell the ranks of the unemployed. On Charter Towers a short time ago there were 500 idle men, and in his own district if a single place were vacant there were three or four applicants for the situation, and in every other industry the same state of things existed. During the discussion upon the sugar industry nearly every hon. member who had spoken had stated that in his district there were hundreds of unemployed. Was it wise to bring people from the old country when there was no remunerative occupation for them, or was it just to the people in the colony that they should have to pay to introduce more people who would only reduce their wages? He should like to know whether the Government intended to limit the immigration in any way. If the Minister for Lands would take a new departure, and devote a sum of money, in addition to offering tracts of land to go upon, in order to give immigrants monetary assistance, he was persuaded that in time it would be a great boon to the country. Some time ago reference had been made to the village settlement scheme, and there had been a good deal of laughing and sneering over it; but although there might be some defects in the scheme proposed, and it might not be the best possible means for ameliorating the condition of the unemployed, and of bringing people here, he thought the scheme, if it could be given effect to in a practical manner, would commend itself to hon. members. In Canada, and in other countries where they had offered special inducements for settlers to go on to the soil, they lent large sums of money to enable the settlers to purchase farming implements and other things required by them in carrying on their operations, and the scheme had proved a great success. He was positive that if this colony took a similar step, and gave monetary aid to settle people on the soil, great good would result.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that the views of the Government were pretty well known upon that subject. It was well known to the Committee and to the country outside that the Government were limiting the introduction of immigrants to agricultural labourers and domestic servants. The immigration of nominated passengers was allowed by Act of Parliament, and he did not know that they were prepared to go so far as to repeal the Act which allowed people to be nominated. The Government at the present time were bringing out no artisans, but only domestic servants and agricultural labourers, for both of which classes, according to the information he had obtained, there was a constant demand; but for a good while past the Government had not brought out any other classes. He thought it would be a very bad thing in more ways than one to absolutely stop immigration. It would do very great damage to the credit of the colony.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said that notwithstanding the answer of the hon. gentleman, there never was a time when the country was so overstocked with labour. During all the time he had been in Queensland, he had never seen such a scarcity of employment. Strong, able-bodied men who were willing to work waylaid people in the streets asking for it. The hon. gentleman said that immigration was limited to agricultural labourers. Possibly that was the instruction, but it was not the case. What was to prevent any man at home calling himself an agricultural labourer? Those men were induced to come here by means of the non-transferable land orders. They were not agriculturists at all, but tradesmen. Possibly three out of every five never saw a farm, but they came out here with those non-transferable land orders, and carried them about until they melted away. They were not allowed to hand them over to someone else who could go on to a farm, but they had those land orders and were starving. He knew of one case in which twenty men were wanted for a job and 151 applied. As for the danger of stopping immigration, there was no danger. There was such a thing as floating labour, and when there was no work to be done in one colony men went to another. What prospect was there for immigrants at the present time, in face of the able statement made the other night by the Minister for Railways? Was it not clear from his statement that no Government works worthy of the name were to be gone on with for the next two or three years? Not even some of the contracts that had been already made would be carried out, and under those circumstances what was the use of bringing labour to the colony? Certainly he had no objection to assisted immigrants always coming here, but why should a gentleman be kept at home at a cost of £500 a year to lecture, and induce people to come here by promising them a land order when they came? When they got the £20 land order it was not worth 20d. He thought the objection made by the hon. member for Bundamba was perfectly right. With regard to assisting people to go on to the land, he had noticed that whenever people came to the colony they received no assistance. There was no one to show them how to go on the land; there were no depôts to go to, and no assistance from the Government to enable them to go into an agricultural district where they could look about and settle down. Why, some of those people who had been in the colony a great many years might go to a land office and really not be able to find a spot within five miles of it. They could not get the maps they wanted, and an immigrant coming here was entirely lost and thrown on the streets. There was not an hon. member present who had not seen, during the last six months, men looking for work, and who jostled them in the street. They came across fine, healthy, hearty young men, who were asking for work, and many of whom said their wives and families were starving. He had been confronted with that sort of thing no later than that day.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Hon. J. Donaldson): Asking for Government billets?

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said they must apply for Government billets, because there were no contracts or other work. There was no quarry work, no brick-making, there was actually nothing doing. One very remarkable thing he had noticed lately, which he had never noticed before, and that was that the farmers' sons were actually leaving their fathers' houses and applying for billets in the police force, or any other employment they could get.

Mr. SMYTH: That is common in the other colonies.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said it might be common everywhere, but there was nothing more certain than that they did not require more labour in the colony at the present time, and the sooner they stopped it the better.

Mr. SAYERS said they were rather premature in discussing the question. He had intended to discuss it under the next item. He agreed with the Chief Secretary that they should not stop nominated immigrants coming here. If people chose to send home for their friends, they generally had some employment for them, or could keep them until they got employment. He represented one of the chief working men's constituencies in the colony, and he had been asked to oppose that vote. He was also a member of the divisional board of the district; and the latest addition to the Upper House, Hon. John Dean, who was chairman of that board, had told him recently that the divisional board had been spending £100 a week in nothing else but relief works. They had been having stone broken at 2s. a yard, and laying it on one side until such time as it was required. When they found the largest goldfield in the colony in such a state as that, it was time that they looked round and saw the necessity of preventing immigrants being brought to the colony. Last year £150,000 was spent in immigration. He thought that would be better spent in works in the colony, than overstocking the labour market. The Chief Secretary had said that agricultural labourers only were being brought here, but he (Mr. Sayers) knew, for a fact, that that was not so, although perhaps that was the intention of the Government. There were labourers of all classes being brought out as agricultural labourers, and they did not go in for agricultural labour when they came here. He knew men who had been brought from the South of England who had been miners all their lives, and they were landed in Mackay as agricultural labourers and afterwards drifted to the various goldfields. When the loan vote for immigration came on he would take steps to try and reduce it. It would be as well if the Government in the meantime got information from all parts of the colony as to the state of the labour market, and he thought they would then be willing to save that sum of money. He would be heartily with them to save about £100,000 a year in that way until they could afford to spend it to better advantage.

Mr. GANNON said he was very glad to hear the Government were reducing the number of immigrants brought out, because he could say that labour was suffering very severely in the colony at the present time. He could hardly move about the streets without seeing a lot of men requiring work, and he might say that it was amongst the hardworking men, the real labourers, that that was most apparent. As to the remarks about the number of men who wanted to be policemen, he was satisfied the members of the Government were worried by many persons in want of employment. He could say the want of employment at present was something terrible, and he considered it a great mistake to bring out immigrants in large numbers in opposition to the local labour market, and to reduce the wages of the people who were here. He hoped immigration would be checked, as the Chief Secretary had said, and when the vote of £500 for an immigration lecturer came on he would have a little more to say upon the subject.

Mr. HAMILTON said the Chief Secretary had satisfactorily explained that indiscriminate immigration was to be stopped, and that, it having been observed that there was a plethora of artisans, instructions had been sent to

discontinue that class of emigration. The remarks of the hon. member for Charters Towers, as to miners being brought out by representing themselves as agricultural labourers, might be true to a certain extent, but they knew there was a demand for agricultural labourers and domestic servants, and it would be a great misfortune if immigration of that character was stopped. Although he did not like to see a plethora of immigration not of the required character, still, on the other hand, he did not care to pass over the statements of the hon. members for Stanley and Charters Towers that relief works had to be established, and that they saw men knocking around everywhere who could not get work. Those statements were calculated to discredit the name of the colony, and he knew that it was not the case in the Northern part of the colony. It might be true of some of the large towns of the colony, as there were many persons who did not care to leave the pleasures and comforts of the town. They were not afraid to work, but they did not care to go outside to look for it. In regard to the North he noticed that on many of the goldfields the wages were still at £4 a week, and that showed that there was a good demand for labour. There was a strike in Croydon the other day, simply because the men objected to work for £3 10s. a week, and he noticed in the last issue of the Cooktown paper the statement was made that the manager of the Lion's Den Tin Mining Company had issued a notice to the men to the effect that in future the miners would have to work eight hours a day, or forty-eight hours a week, and that the miners employed by the company threatened to strike if that notice was not rescinded, on the ground that on the Northern goldfields the regulation working hours were forty-four per week or five and a-half days. He was very glad to see that statement, because it showed there was a demand for labour, or the miners could not afford to do that. He hoped they would long be able to do so, and he mentioned the statement to show that if in some parts of the colony there was a plethora of labour, in other parts there was not such an over supply.

Mr. SMYTH said the vote before the Committee had nothing to do with mining, so far as he could understand. Mr. Randall had received instructions to send out only agricultural labourers and domestic servants, and had done his best to comply with those instructions, as the principal scene of his operations had been down in Lincolnshire, and he thought the hon. member for Bundaberg, Mr. Adams, could bear him out in saying that Mr. Randall had sent a considerable number of agricultural labourers to the port of Bundaberg. They were always talking of the quantity of waste lands they had in the colony, and that if they only had someone to till them, they would outdo Victoria and New South Wales, and obviate the necessity of those colonies sending produce here; and yet some members of the Committee appeared to wish to stop immigration. He thought it would be a great mistake to stop immigration; though they might limit it to some extent, and instead of sending out 500 or 600 in one vessel send out 200 or 250, and supply labour according to the demand for it. By sending out such large numbers in one vessel the supply exceeded the demand. He did not know what contract the Government had with the British-India Company as to the number to be sent out in each vessel; but they would do well to limit the number sent out in one vessel, and should see that only agricultural labourers were sent out. The Minister for Lands should then do all in his power to assist those people when they arrived here, by having them instructed, as was done in Canada and the United

States. Those people should be told there was land available for them, and should be shown how to get on to it, and a market should then be found for their produce. The Minister for Lands had introduced the travelling dairy and a number of other good things, and he thought the next thing the hon. gentleman should take in hand was the settlement of the immigrants when they landed upon their shores. Mr. Randall was, in his opinion, one of the best servants in the employ of the Government. He had seen him shipping immigrants at Tilbury Docks, and had heard the way in which he spoke to them, and encouraged them, and told them the plain truth that when they landed in the colony they would have to fight hard and play an uphill game; and in three or four years, when they had become properly acclimatised, they would thoroughly understand their position, and could strike out for themselves. Mr. Randall explained to them that they would not be taken in hand and be spoon-fed like children. They had established a splendid immigration depot at Kangaroo Point, and he would press the Committee to consider for a moment, before they stopped immigration. They wanted people to come to the colony to help them bear the burden of taxation, and to stay here when they came, and not come here one day and have their boxes found on the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company's wharf next day ready for removal to Sydney. They wanted to see those people detained in the colony. The Government had entered into a contract with them, and paid their passages, and they ought to remain here, and become citizens of Queensland. He did not think the action taken by the Government last year in reference to those two girls who went to New South Wales was at all out of the way. Those girls cost the colony £60 for their introduction, and then went to New South Wales for £1 10s., and some action ought to be taken to prevent immigrants who came out under those circumstances taking advantage of the facilities offered by their immigration system, and after their arrival here going to New South Wales. The action of the New South Wales Government in the matter he had referred to was very contemptible indeed. Queensland was the only colony in Australia that had a system of immigration, and the Government should put their foot down and see that it was not abused.

Mr. HODGKINSON said the fact that no other colony except Queensland found it necessary to foster immigration was one of the strongest arguments against continuing their present policy. He had been in the colony a great many years, and he had been in the Southern colonies too, and he knew perfectly well that the grandest immigration that ever obtained in any country in the world was the immigration that flocked to California on the opening of the goldfields there, and that flocked to New South Wales and Victoria on the opening of the goldfields in those colonies. He had seen more genuine distress, not among loafers, but among men anxious to work, during the last six months in this colony than he had ever seen during the thirty-five years he had been in Australia, and he had time after time to regret that his poverty would not enable him to afford relief to men who were compelled to supplicate for food to keep them from starvation. He contended, therefore, that they ought not to spend one shilling in introducing immigrants to the colony. They must face the position in which they had placed themselves by their extravagant expenditure and enormous debt. The great expenditure of public money would have to be curtailed; the wholesale construction of railways which did not fulfil the purpose for which they

were constructed, which did not pay interest on the cost of construction, would have to be stopped, or the result would be the insolvency of the colony. The £10,000,000 loan was gone, and another loan was required for the purpose of carrying out works already in existence, and the colony was not in a position to incur further liabilities in such a manner. It was just as well that hon. members should recognise those facts, and he hoped the Government would frame such a policy as was pursued by every honest individual in his private affairs, and cut their coat according to their cloth. The hon. member for Cook, who was intimately acquainted with the Northern goldfields, was, he thought, slightly in error in the arguments he advanced with regard to the demand for labour on those fields. The fact was that there was not an abundance of employment in the North. At the present moment there was a strike at Croydon in consequence of a reduction of the wages of miners from £4 to £3 10s. per week; but he (Mr. Hodgkinson) did not believe there were 120 miners continuously employed on the Croydon Gold Field at the present time. He knew it had been found necessary to grant extended exemptions on that field, because it was impossible to work the mines owing to the drought and the scarcity of water available for the quartz-crushing machines. The very nominal high rate of wages in the North was due to a variety of causes, to climatic conditions, to the expense of living, to the privations men had to undergo, and more than anything else to the slight demand there was for continuous labour. In the North there was one constant struggle going on between the holders of ground and the working miners, the former endeavouring to obtain as much exemption as possible for the ground they held, in order that they might not be compelled to incur a heavy expenditure in wages, and the latter striving to maintain the rate of wages to which they considered themselves entitled. At least nine-tenths of the claims on the Etheridge had, under one pretext or another, been held under exemption for the last fourteen years; they had been exempted and re-exempted; the leases had been thrown up and taken up again, and various other little dodges had been resorted to to accomplish the same end. He was perfectly certain that if fifty men flocked to the Etheridge, or Croydon, or that great abandoned goldfield Gilberton, they would fail to get employment. Where did the money they were spending on immigration go? That money was spent in introducing immigrants to the southern colonies, in increasing the already superabundant population in search of work in the colony, and in providing agricultural labour for a class in the community who had no market for their produce, or at any rate could not grow it, even with their protectionist tariff, at a price to compete with the farmers in the southern colonies. He knew perfectly well that it was heresy to speak in that way, as it was the fashion to talk about the fertile plains and grand agricultural resources of the colony. But what was really the position of the farming community? Except in a few isolated instances, where men had the cream of agricultural land with an abundant supply of water and easy access to market, their lot was not an enviable one. Selectors in the North had to battle with dense scrub, miles away from a market, and were pestered day and night with the thought of attack by blacks, living a life of fever and misery until they recognised defeat in their object of founding a home. If he had a deadly hatred for any man—a man he hated with an enduring hatred—he would certainly give him a selection in some remote part of the colony, and supply him with a bullock team and every appliance for agriculture,

and sit down and watch him, with a smile on his face, in his efforts to make a living. They must not forget that even in the United States, which were boasted of so much, the agriculturists were not in any satisfactory condition. He was reading only a few days ago an account of the increase in the number of mortgages upon farms in the State of Kansas. There were at least eight-tenths of the farms mortgaged for over their realisable value. The cultivation of wheat in British India and Southern Russia had almost deprived the American agriculturist of a market that he had relied upon for so long a time, although the cost of transport was so little that a bushel of wheat could be sent from the State of Illinois to Liverpool for less money than it cost to send a ton of pumpkins from Ipswich to Brisbane. Considering that, what must be the state of affairs in Queensland, except in a few favoured spots where roads were made and communication established? What could an agricultural labourer do in Queensland? He was not speaking of a few isolated cases; but could farmers as a body afford to employ hired labour? He appealed to the hon. member for Stanley.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: I am sure they cannot.

Mr. HODGKINSON said there was a certain wholesome and good demand for domestic servants, a demand which was an advantage to the domestic servant, and also to the State. But for other classes of labour there was no demand whatever. There was not one branch that was not overcrowded. There were at least three applicants for any vacancy that occurred, and in face of that they placed upon the Estimates every year upwards of £100,000 to import people to compete with a struggling population, and to swell the populations of the southern colonies. He hoped that when the proper time came some hon. member would move an amendment in the direction he indicated, and he was sure the vote of the Committee would be against the continuance of that expenditure.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said it was very clear that for some years they had been supplying the other colonies with population, and that those colonies needed no immigration system of their own. Many years ago he had made a calculation with Sir Thomas McIlwraith that the natural increase of the population of the colony at the time of separation would have brought the number of inhabitants up to what it was at present. So that in reality all their immigrants had gone to the other colonies, and they had been robbing the revenue by bringing out people who immediately went over the border. He must support the hon. member for Burke in regard to the great scarcity of employment in the colony at the present time. He had never seen so many people looking for work as there were now; and he did not refer to professional loafers, who went about looking for work not wishing to find it, but to men who would take any work they could obtain.

Mr. TOZER said he hoped hon. members would not be misled by the hon. members who had just spoken. Those gentlemen who took a humane view of the subject could go to the other colonies and see the condition of things there. In all parts of the world there were men who had money and others who were hard up, and there always would be. He could state from his experience of a great part of the world that there was no place on God's earth where the working classes were so well off as they were in Queensland. They could go to Hyde Park on any Sunday afternoon and see the thousands and thousands of men in whom the pinch of poverty was visible. Where did they see anything like that in Queensland? He knew

how difficult it was for a man to pass the emigration office in London. One or two persons might manage to get through under false pretences; but there were not many. A person came to him who was not really an agricultural labourer, but who had been working in gardens, and he asked for a passage for that man, and he (Mr. Tozer) was a perfect stranger to the office. But such crucial questions were put to that man that he could not pass through as a farm labourer, although he was a gardener. That was his experience of the working of the London office. Last year something like 6,000 people came out to the colony, and he could give a few instances of what became of them. There were many dissatisfied men walking about who tried to make others dissatisfied, but if they tried to make the people who came out content, they would stay in the colony. He brought a man out, and gave him £45 a year and the same food that he himself had, and within three months that man said he wanted to leave him and go into the Railway service, because someone had told him that persons so employed received better wages. Before six months had passed that man, who had been receiving about 7s. a week in the old country and finding himself, left him. A few weeks afterwards two new arrivals, labourers, came to him and asked for work, and he employed them at 6s. per day; but they had not been working a fortnight before they said that someone had told them they ought to be receiving 7s. per day. He told them he would not give them 7s. per day, and they left; but they were honest men when they first came out. There were a lot of dishonest men—growlers—walking about in the colony, who never did any work, but who tried to make people who came out discontented. The men Mr. Randall had been sending out were all that could be desired, and they left England with good intentions; but when they arrived here they met a lot of discontented agitators who did all the harm. They were the persons they should be on their guard against. He was not alluding to any particular persons; but in all places there were persons going about who would not allow a labourer to do as he should do and make a little start. In the instance he spoke of he brought the persons out at his own expense and endeavoured to make them good colonists. But people here set those men against their employers, and where were they now? They were amongst the discontented loafers wandering about the towns, who were called the unemployed of the colony. Those agriculturists were what the colony really wanted, men who would be content to gain wealth gradually by honest labour. Only that morning he had been reading in a paper an account of the Anglo-Saxon mine—a mine they all knew; and he read that although the reefs of that mine were most favourably situated for getting out the quartz, yet it cost £8 a ton to get it out. Although that was a very large reef, the expenses were something enormous, and when the chairman of directors in England was asked what was the meaning of it, he would have to answer that they could not get labour in Queensland that would do that work. There were few persons who were able to go into that locality, and they demanded for their work such an enormous amount in comparison to what was being got out that the mines could not possibly pay, and they never would pay unless those men would give a fair day's labour for a fair day's pay. It was the same on the Etheridge. Who was getting the money? Was there a single dividend declared on the Etheridge? To his knowledge there had not been a farthing paid in dividends as the result of proper earnings from capital on that goldfield. And so it was all over the colony. The Government might rest assured that there was a proper

supervision over the immigration vote at home. In his opinion they could not get a more valuable officer for the purpose if they searched through the world than Mr. Dicken; and he knew the desire of the colony to get a suitable class of labour. Of course there were exceptions to every rule, and no doubt now and then the one man got out to the colony who proved the exception. What he saw at the depot was a contented class of men, suitable in every way for the colony, and especially suitable to place on the farms of the colony. Looking at the question in every light, and viewing the immigrants as a valuable asset in the eyes of the public creditor, he trusted the Government would—although it might be desirable, and even necessary, to tighten the rein—continue the policy which had for years been pursued, not to import such as would crowd the labour market in those industries in which there might be distress. But let not hon. members cry out against it on the score of humanity, for he would say again, let those hon. members go into other parts of the world, let them visit Ireland, let them place themselves in London, and they would see there things which would distress them to see, and to which Queensland at present offered a picture the very reverse.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he would explain why those claims on the Etheridge had not paid dividends; and he might couple with them some claims on Gympie that were well known to the hon. member for Wide Bay. The leading claim on the Etheridge was the Cumberland, and that paid thousands of pounds in dividends to its original working proprietors. He was offered a fourth of a share for £100, but owing to the position he occupied at the time he was unable to take it. The man to whom it was subsequently offered was fortunate enough to take it, and retired in less than two years with £15,000 in dividends, and after having sold his share to one of his former mates for £9,000. While that mine was worked legitimately it paid dividends which, allowing for the amount of capital, were as great as those paid by the Mount Morgan mine. But when it was seized upon by some speculators in the London market, with a fictitious capital swollen from the few thousands paid to the original owners, to a nominal capital of £175,000, and when the agents and promoters had sucked the blood out of that capital, and had impregnated every shaft and tunnel of the mine with "their sisters and their cousins and their aunts" at high salaries, and little or no responsibility, then the mine failed to pay dividends, and it never would so long as it was subjected to that depleting process. Nor would any mine if it had the misfortune to fall into the hands of an English company. Colonial mines were floated in the London market not for the purpose of getting dividends out of them, but for stock-jobbing operations. It did not matter whether a mine turned out gold or not, so long as they could get fools enough to speculate in it.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said the hon. member for Wide Bay seemed to be under the impression that because he brought out one labourer from England there was no one out of work in the colony. Was that a logical conclusion to come to? If the hon. member would walk down the street with him he would show him, within an hour, a hundred men out of employment, each of them perhaps as honest as the hon. member himself. It had been stated that Mr. Randall had sent out nothing but agricultural labourers. He knew of fifty sent out by Mr. Randall who never saw a farm. He knew of one man, sent out about eighteen months ago, who had been a practising barrister in New York for fifteen years, and never saw a farm; and another who was a master painter at home and never saw a

farm. The hon. member seemed to think that nobody could tell the truth but himself. It was a fact that there had not, for a long period, been so many unemployed in the colony as there were at the present time. There were hundreds of men in Brisbane and Ipswich looking for work. The statement of the hon. member for Cook, that there was a good deal of employment in a few solitary little places in the North, was no answer to the point he was putting. He was not referring to those isolated places, but to what anybody could see for himself in Brisbane and Ipswich. He had previously mentioned that in a certain place not thirty miles from Brisbane there was employment for twenty men, and 151 applied for it; and if the hon. member doubted the assertion, he (Mr. O'Sullivan) was prepared to mention names.

Mr. SMYTH said he believed everything that had been said by the hon. member for Wide Bay was perfectly true. Most hon. members knew how people who were their own flesh and blood were suffering in Great Britain, and how they could get up in that Committee and try to stop those unfortunate people from coming here, he could not understand. It was exceedingly selfish. He could tell the hon. member for Stanley that there were thousands upon thousands of men on the other side of the ocean who were practically starving through want of employment. In Victoria they had similar trouble—people crowding into towns. If 100 men were wanted in the Railway Department there, or in the Civil Service, there were about 1,000 applications; it was the same in New York and other large towns in America, and the same thing would happen in Australia. All the people wanted to settle in the big coast towns; they would not go into the bush to get employment. They all wanted to get Government employment, especially in the police. The hon. member for Stanley sometimes complained that his countrymen did not get a fair share of Government employment, but he (Mr. Smyth) could tell him that they got a great deal more than their fair share compared with the population of the colony. What he desired especially to say was that the condition of the poor starving people in the old country should touch every hon. member to the heart. The great strike now going on in London by the dock labourers was exciting sympathy all over the world, and throughout Australia, and subscriptions were pouring in to help those unfortunate people. Fancy men having to work for 4d. an hour, and intermittent work at that. What had the hon. member for Stanley to say to that?

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: They would be glad to get it here.

Mr. SMYTH said those poor people were unfortunately in the hands of the "sweaters," and he quite agreed with the hon. member for Wide Bay, that when they induced people to immigrate, they should give them something more than they could get in the old country—plenty to eat, and a fair amount of wages as beginners. They could not expect to get as much as old hands. They had to be acclimatised, and get used to the ways of the colony, and how was it that they became dissatisfied when they came here? Through agitators who were at work all over the colony, telling them they should join this union and that union, and that they should get as much wages as old hands. Put a man who had been hoeing turnips in the old country on a station, and ask him to shear a sheep, and see what a job he would make of it. Yet that man expected to receive as much wages as a man who had been shearing for twenty years. He contended that those people should be agreeable to work for a fair, honest wage, according to their experience. Although they might work for a little less than those who

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had been some time in the colony, their pay would be 100 per cent. better than what they got in the place they left. He did not at all agree with the hon. member for Stanley, and thought the speech of the hon. member for Wide Bay one of the most straightforward ever delivered in that Chamber. He was satisfied that Mr. Randall was one of the best and most conscientious emigration agents Queensland ever had. He did not know whether that gentleman was appointed by the McIlwraith Government or the Griffith Government, but he was a most valuable officer. He confined his operations entirely to sending out domestic servants and farm labourers, without touching the great manufacturing centres. He (Mr. Smyth) was sorry the hon. members for Bundaberg and Musgrave were not present, because he was sure they could bear testimony to the first-rate class of men sent there by that officer. He had sent out a most valuable class of immigrants for developing the agricultural resources of the colony, and he (Mr. Smyth) sincerely hoped the vote would pass so that they might be able still further to encourage that industry.

Mr. PAUL said he was of opinion that capital and labour were almost synonymous terms, because capital was simply the accumulation of the results of labour; and he should like to see as much consideration shown to capital as to labour. He was satisfied that if capital was encouraged to come into the colony there would be a large field for the employment of labour. It might appear to be going somewhat outside the question to refer to the sugar industry, yet that industry had been one of the largest employers of labour in the colony since he had been in it, and recent legislation was against it. He, therefore, wished to record his opinion, that they should do all they could to encourage capital, and thereby encourage labour. Although by a large influx of labour wages might at times be reduced, that reduction would encourage capital to come in; therefore an equilibrium would be established. He hoped every hon. member would set aside the wretched system that existed of pandering to what was called the working man's vote, and trying to make out that capital was inimical to labour. The two must go hand in hand; they were each equally dependent upon one another; and as long as hon. members would assist in legislating so as to encourage the introduction of capital, he should be happy to do all he could to see that the working classes got their due. If they legislated for the advantage of capital, they would be legislating for the advantage of labour also.

Mr. COWLEY said the hon. member for Bundamba and others seemed afraid of the colony being flooded with immigrants, but if they read the report of the Immigration Agent for 1888 they would come to a different conclusion, and they would also find that the bulk of the people of the colony were not of their opinion. On page 2 of his report the Immigration Agent said:—

"The total receipts for nominations in the colony during 1888 were £10,385, as against £9,456 12s. 6d. for the previous twelve months; but although this shows an increase of £928 7s. 6d. for fees, the persons nominated number 2,470 less than in 1887; this is accounted for by the increased rates, under Schedule H of the Immigration Act Amendment Act of 1887, being collected throughout the year, whereas the raised scale was only in operation for three months of the previous year.

"That I was justified in stating, in my last report, remittance immigrants would now 'pay an average of over £3 per head, men, women, and children,' is shown by the following figures (the amount collected giving nearly £3 3s. per head all round):—2,708 statute adults contributing £3 10s. 2d. per head; 292 males

between 1 and 12, £2; and 302 females, same ages, £1 each. These figures are exclusive of 67 non-contributing infants under one year.

"It will be remembered that 752½ full-paying statute adults were landed last year; these embrace the 741 persons referred to in the foregoing summary of Table G as those 'among whom all other occupations are distributed.' Of these, 488 are set down as 'general labourers,' and it is worthy of note that of the remaining 153, blacksmiths, bootmakers, bricklayers, carpenters, joiners, masons, tailors, plumbers, and painters number only 59, as against 260 of these classes introduced in 1887.

"The effect of the cessation of State-aided immigration of artisans and mechanics is yearly becoming more marked, and the wisdom of the measures adopted is shown by reference to labour Table K, where, throughout the colony, supply for this class of labour exceeds demand.

"On 31st December last, I found from a table prepared in this office, there were about 1,614 nominated persons awaiting passages from Europe to Queensland, of whom 1,432 were British nominees, and 182 Continental."

That proved that people of the right class were being brought out, and that the bulk of them were being brought out by their friends, who therefore did not share the opinion of the hon. member for Bundanba, that there were too many people in the colony, and too many unemployed. The hon. member for Bundanba also said that the sugar industry did not give employment to many people; but the Immigration Agent said, on page 2 of his report:—

"Table K is compiled from the monthly labour reports of registrations at the places named. The total demand registered was 3,465; the total supply registered was 3,338; excess of demand for all classes, 127."

Following that came the report of the Townsville agent, who made the following statement with regard to the labour bureau established there:—

"Although the numbers compare favourably with those of the previous year, 1887, I have to state that the past season through drought, etc., has been a most trying one for all classes of industry—agricultural, pastoral, and mining. The sugar mills, which employ more labour than any other industry in and around this district (I may say at least 70 per cent more) have had but very poor returns, some of them only crushing for a month or so, which, with a favourable season, usually extends to at least six months, whilst others have been shut up entirely, and placed in the market. I must say I am surprised myself at so favourable a return as that I am forwarding you enclosed.

"The enclosed synopsis, however, does not at all include new arrivals, excepting amongst the number of engagements. The number 902 (supply) purely represents the number of persons, male and female, who have been some time in the colony, their names being registered as they call at this office seeking employment. The number 1,218 (demand) represents applications from 953 employers who have registered their names."

Taking those figures into consideration, they must conclude that there was no very great fear at the present time that the introduction of immigrants would exceed the demand, and that the immigrants now introduced were such as would be of benefit to the colony.

Mr. HAMILTON said the speeches some members had made would tend to terrify not only immigrants but any other persons from coming to the colony in order to benefit themselves; and he considered those speeches were not at all patriotic. He was not in favour of some kinds of immigration. He was not in favour of a class of immigration that was attempted to be introduced some years ago—namely, cheap Continental labour, which was intended for the benefit of a valuable agricultural industry for which labour was required. The best kind of labour for the agricultural industry was the labour of their own countrymen; and that was the kind of labour the Government were attempting to introduce now—that and domestic servants, which was a class of labour that was absorbed immediately on arrival in the colony.

His argument regarding high wages in the North was not an argument in support of the introduction of miners; it was intended to show that if some parts of the colony were so poverty-stricken as some hon. members made out, there were other parts of the colony where people worked short hours and got high wages. And though it was true, as the hon. member for Burke said, that there was a certain amount of surplus labour at present at Croydon, that was not on account of the want of resources there, but on account of the want of water. Only a short time since a claim there, in which he was interested, had been paying about £1,000 a month in wages alone for a couple of years, and as soon as there was a supply of water there, they expected to pay twice the amount, and to be well repaid for the expenditure. And that was only one instance out of scores that might be mentioned. And if the Government continued to provide assistance for the development of the mineral resources of the North, he was satisfied that, in a very short time, fields would be discovered that would employ twice as many labourers, and at as good wages as were paid at present.

Mr. SAYERS called attention to the state of the Committee.

Quorum formed.

Question put and passed.

IMMIGRATION.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved that £8,260 be granted for Immigration for the service of the year 1889-90. In the first item—Immigration Agent, Brisbane—there was a mistake, as the salary for the present year was only £450, instead of £500 as last year. A new officer had been appointed to that position, and he was only to receive £450 a year.

The Hon. Sir S. W. GRIFFITH: That is a mistake.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that he proposed to reduce the total vote by £50 in consequence of that error. The next alteration from last year's vote was that an officer was to receive £150 instead of £130, being an increase of £20. The officer in question, Mr. Abell, was a very good man. There was a reduction of £10 in the salary for the assistant immigration agent at Mackay. That was owing to a new appointment, and the reduction brought the salary down to that paid to the assistant agent at Bundaberg. There was a reduction also in the salary paid to the wardman in the immigration depot at Brisbane. The wardman who had held that appointment last year had gone, he believed, to Townsville, and his successor was receiving £80 instead of £100. Then there was an alteration in the quarantine stations from £365 to £280, owing to the abolition of the office of caretaker at Peel Island, for which the salary paid last year was £90; a small increase of £5 to the caretaker at Magnetic Island, making his salary the same as that of the caretaker at Keppel Bay. There was the omission of the allowance in lieu of quarters paid to the assistant immigration agent at Townsville. The reason of that was that quarters had been provided at Townsville. He moved that the sum of £8,260 be reduced by £50, and that £8,210 only be granted.

The Hon. Sir S. W. GRIFFITH said that he was rather sorry to see that the hon. gentleman proposed to reduce the salary of the immigration agent at Brisbane by £50. He regarded the office as one of considerable importance. There was a great deal of work to be done, and it had been well done during the last two or three years. Two immigration agents had been promoted to the office of Under Colonial Secretary, and, considering the importance of the office, he

was sorry that it was proposed to reduce the salary. Of course he was aware that when the Civil Service Act came into operation the salary would be increased from time to time, and it would work up to the amount previously paid. He rather regretted that anything should be done to lower the status of the office. He scarcely knew the gentleman who had been recently appointed. His only recollection of him was meeting him at Port Douglas, and his impressions of him were such that he afterwards recommended him for appointment as clerk of petty sessions at Ipswich, an important office he thought him capable of filling. He should like to ask the hon. gentleman about a gentleman who was lately employed at Ingham as inspector of Pacific Islanders, Mr. Forster, who had ceased to be in the Government service. He did not know why. He knew that a dead set was made against him by some of the planters who thought he did his duty too well, but he should be sorry to think that an officer doing his duty well would be regarded with disfavour. Why were Mr. Forster's services dispensed with? The work was now done by the police magistrate, he understood, but the functions of police magistrate and inspector of Pacific Islanders were rather incompatible, because if any complaint was made it had to be determined by the police magistrate. Practically the amalgamation of the offices of police magistrate and inspector of Polynesians amounted to the abolition of the independent office of inspector of Pacific Islanders, and, as there were still a great many islanders in the district, there was need of that officer's services.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the Government had returned to the same system as was in force when the hon. gentleman was in office, and when Captain Pennefather, who was now superintendent at St. Helena, filled the offices of police magistrate and inspector of Pacific Islanders at Ingham. That arrangement had worked well. He had every reason to believe that the present police magistrate, Mr. McArthur, was quite capable of doing the work, and hon. members must remember the position of Polynesian inspector was paid for out of trust funds. He thought that was, therefore, a fair opportunity of exercising economy. He had received no complaints about Mr. McArthur. Mr. Forster, he admitted, might have been a very capable man, but he was getting rather old for his work. In addition to that there was a great deal of friction all round with Mr. Forster. If it was found that the two positions were incompatible the Government would certainly remedy the matter; but the same state of affairs existed for a considerable period when the hon. gentleman was in office. With regard to the reduction of the salary of the Immigration Agent. The present occupant of the office, he quite agreed with the hon. gentleman, was a very capable man, but he had done very fairly in the Civil Service. He was appointed first by the McIlwraith Administration. He was then promoted by the leader of the Opposition, and had since been promoted to his present office by the present Government. It must be borne in mind that, in addition to the salary of £450, a house of the value of £120 a year was provided, so that the promotion was very substantial. That was a case in which a reduction might fairly take place, and if hereafter the gentleman showed himself capable of filling the office his salary might be increased. The increase which had been given to him amounted to about £150 a year.

Mr. HODGKINSON said there was an increase in the vote to wardsmen. There were five at £80 and one at £100. To whom was the increase of £20 to be given?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The increase is to the wardsmen at Rockhampton.

Mr. HODGKINSON said there was no just reason for the Rockhampton wardsmen getting £20 extra. There was not more work at Rockhampton than at Townsville, Toowoomba, or Maryborough, and why should the increase be given in that case?

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he would only assume that that increase was for seniority of service. He would give the hon. gentleman an explanation later on.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said with respect to Mr. Forster, the hon. gentleman said Mr. McArthur was able to do the work. He (Sir S. W. Griffith) believed that Mr. McArthur was older than Mr. Forster, and to dispense with a man's services on account of advanced age and put an older man to do the work seemed rather curious. Mr. Forster had done very good and conscientious work for some years, and was deserving of some consideration, and yet he had been turned adrift without any notice. He was quite aware, although he did not know whether the hon. gentleman was, that very soon after Mr. Forster began work he was told, by a gentleman with whom he was brought into official contact, that if he did not wink a little more at what was going on, the place would be made too hot for him. He hoped Mr. Forster's removal was not due to any such influence. He certainly thought that when that officer was removed, through no fault of his own, he was entitled to more consideration, especially as he was of advanced age.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he was not aware of what the hon. gentleman had just told him, and certainly if he had heard of such a threat being held out, it would have led him rather to have kept that gentleman when he had him.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: It was done, I know.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that an immense amount of pressure had been brought to bear upon him with regard to the dispensing with Forster's services, by that gentleman and his relatives throughout the colony. As he had said, the officer had been paid out of a trust fund, and not directly by the State. Numerous applications had been made by Mr. Forster and his relatives to have him reinstated in the service, and his reply had been that, when a suitable vacancy occurred, being an old man, his claim would receive consideration.

Mr. UNMACK said his recollection in reference to the staff of the Immigration Office was not a very favourable one, for while the staff was not as efficient as it might be, it was numerically too strong. That arose, he believed, from the fact that there were three supernumeraries who had been employed in that department for about eight years continuously, and they were paid out of contingencies. Speaking from memory, he believed the Civil Service Commissioners recommended that, taking into account the constant employment of supernumeraries, the staff could be reduced by two clerks, and possibly the salaries of more able men might be increased. He might say it was with great pleasure he noticed an increase of £20 set down for one of the clerks who, so far as his observation went, was most deserving of it. He would like to know whether it was the intention of the Government to continue the employment of those supernumeraries? It was, in his opinion, a reprehensible practice to employ supernumeraries continuously for so many years and pay them out of contingencies. There was another question he wished to ask before he sat down, and that was whether the Government intended to

continue the labour bureau in connection with that department? It had been started under special conditions which did not now exist, at a time when there was a considerable influx of immigrants and little labour to be found for them. Centres of inquiry had been established all over the colony, and he believed that very considerable abuses had been practised in connection with it by the obtaining of free railway passes through the medium of the bureau. He would like to know whether the Government intended to continue it?

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he thought it would be very inadvisable to abolish the labour bureau which had done good service in the past, and though not so much required at present, was likely to do good service in the future. It would be a pity to disperse the men who were well up to the work. He agreed to a great extent with the hon. gentleman on the question of the payment of clerks out of contingencies, and that it was a practice which should be materially altered. The hon. gentleman, he thought, would admit, on looking over the Estimates, that a material alteration had been made in the direction to which the hon. member had referred, and which the Civil Service Commission, of which the hon. gentleman was chairman—and which had done very good work—had recommended.

Mr. LITTLE said he thought hon. members were wandering away from the subject, which was the immigration vote. He intended to support the Chief Secretary in that matter, as he thought it was their bounden duty to bring men of their own kith and kin to Australia and provide places for them when they came here. He was an Australian, and he had always taken those people by the hand and endeavoured to instruct them and break them in to the industries of the colony. He thought the money spent on immigration was well invested. They required men from the empire—England, Ireland, and Scotland—to come here and join them, and when they came here he would always be one of the first men in the colony to help to place them on the land, and to assist them on to it, and so create close settlement. Those were his sentiments on immigration.

Mr. ADAMS said he was sorry he was not in the Chamber when the hon. member for Gympie had referred to Bundaberg as a field for the employment of labour. There had certainly been a sufficient supply for their wants, but he did not anticipate that the seasons there would always be the same as they were last year, and he hoped before long the seasons would so improve that they would be able to find employment for all the surplus labour in the colony. If they were to have an emigration lecturer at all, they could not have a better man than Mr. Randall. Speaking of Bundaberg itself, he might say he had had papers sent him from home containing several letters from the Bundaberg district, and each and every one of them praised up Queensland, and the writers asked their friends and relatives to emigrate to this happy land. When they saw letters of that kind sent home, it appeared to him that there could not be such a want of employment in the colony as some people tried to make out. In and around Brisbane and the larger centres of population there was no doubt a want of employment, but if the people out of work would go into the country he had no doubt they would get employment of some kind or another. The hon. member for Burke had said that if he had enmity against any man he would like to send him out to settle upon the land, and then sit and smile upon his efforts to make a home for himself. He did not know whether those were the real sentiments of the hon. gentleman. He

would like to know how they were to settle people upon the land? Were the people who had made the country what it was to take the immigrants by the hand and go out with them and watch them until they had made a home for themselves? He thought not. He had been on the lands of the colony for the last thirty-five years, and he had made his living upon the land by his own exertions. He said that everyone who came to the colony should have every facility given to him to settle upon the land, and if any were afraid to go upon the land, they did not deserve to have a bit of land in the colony. Lawyers and lawyers' clerks stood up in that Committee and spoke of settling people upon the land when they knew nothing about the subject. He maintained that the class of men they were getting out at present under the guidance of Mr. Randall could always find employment. He could point out several of them at the present time who had proved valuable agriculturists and valuable colonists. Except in a few cases, they were a class of people who had worked on the land in the old country, and although not familiar with the methods of agriculture adopted here, they had made magnificent farmers. He said last year, and here repeated now, that if they had such an influx of population that they could not find employment for all the people who came, it was useless paying a lecturer; but if they were to continue to employ a lecturer, he must say that Mr. Randall was a most suitable person for that position, and had done as well as any of his predecessors.

Mr. GLASSEY said several hon. members had stated that there was not a scarcity of work in the interior of the colony, and that there was, if not an abundance, at any rate a reasonable amount of work; but not one member who had made that statement had pointed out where employment was to be obtained. If hon. members had read the report of the Immigration Agent they would have found that there was not such an amount of work to be had. There had been two meetings of the unemployed at Rockhampton, also a large meeting at Townsville, and he believed one also at Normanton; and, had not those men who were called agitators by some hon. members prevented it, similar meetings would have been held in Brisbane. If hon. members who had stated that there was abundance of work to be had in various parts of the colony would indicate the places where employment could be obtained, they would render considerable service to the men now seeking work, as many scores of them had been in different parts of the country searching vainly for work. No hon. member was more desirous than he was to bring his fellow-countrymen to the colony, and if the Government would devote £50,000 or £60,000 to settling men on the soil of the country they would have his hearty support. But under present circumstances immigration should be slackened. He would not by any means advocate that it should be stopped, but he thought it should be limited. The Government had no doubt limited the number of immigrants introduced during the last year; but, even so, 488 ordinary labourers and 134 miners were brought to the colony during that period. Was there any room for so many ordinary labourers, or for so many miners, either on goldfields or coalfields? All he desired was, that until such time as there was a better outlet for labour than there was at present, and immigrants could obtain employment at the current or a reasonable rate of wages, immigration should be eased off a little. He would ask the Government to consider the desirableness of devoting a portion of the money now spent in introducing immigrants, to advancing small sums of money to assist men in settling on the lands and developing the resources of the

country. By so doing, they would render great service to the people who came here and to the country generally.

Question put and passed.

THURSDAY ISLAND.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved that there be granted for the service of the year 1889-90 a sum not exceeding £3,010 in connection with salaries and the Government steamer "Albatross," Thursday Island. The only increase in the vote was an increase in the amount for contingencies and repairs in connection with the "Albatross" from £1,400 to £1,500. He was sorry to say that they had had to pay something like £800 recently for repairs to that steamer at Townsville.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: Has Mr. Douglas, the Government Resident at Thursday Island, anything to do with New Guinea now?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: No.

Question put and passed.

DEFENCE FORCE—LAND FORCE.

The CHIEF SECRETARY, in moving that there be granted for the service of the year 1889-90 a sum not exceeding £12,896 for the permanent staff and permanent force and school of instruction in connection with the land defence force, said the first increase was in the salary of the engineer staff-officer, which was £600 instead of £300, the vote last year being only for six months. The salary of the adjutant for volunteers and rifle clubs was also double what it was last year for the same reason. The staff-officer in the Northern district received an increase of £50, which was recommended by the commandant, and he believed the amount was well earned by the gentleman who occupied that position. Even then he did not think the salary was equal to that of staff officers in other colonies, and he thought the increase might well be allowed. Next, the salary of the instructor in submarine mining was to receive an increase from £180 to £210, and it was found necessary to appoint a clerk to the volunteer force at £100 a year. He was only a young man; but, he believed, a very good clerk. There was also an increase of £100 in the amount for sergeant instructors, who received from £60 to £150 each. The only other increase was in regard to the permanent force school of instruction, a quartermaster-sergeant from £101 to £120. Those were the only increases, otherwise the vote remained the same as last year.

Mr. HODGKINSON said a great many complaints had arisen in regard to the force, which he was informed, had commenced to assume a kind of Imperialistic tone. Other hon. members would no doubt have a good deal to say in reference to the vote; but he wished to ask the Chief Secretary if it was the intention of the Government that officers of the permanent staff should take the positions of directors of public companies, which were certainly incompatible with their positions as officers of the defence force. He thought those gentlemen could find quite sufficient to do in connection with the force. The vital element of the force, those young men who gave their time to their adopted country, had cause for complaint against those Imperialistic gentlemen, who should have more to do and less time to swagger about and take part in the directorship of public companies. He knew gentlemen who had gone to considerable expense in connection with the volunteer force, and who had been forced out of the service simply through the existence of a clique, who attempted to limit all occasions of public dignity and display to their own particular circle. He knew officers who had

been gazetted in charge of certain duties, but who had been at the last moment replaced by verbal orders. The advice he gave to a certain young officer was to put the man under arrest if he tried to interfere with him, and had he been in his position he should certainly have done so, unless that man had shown formal instructions according to the proper official code.

Mr. UNMACK said it had been usual to propose the vote for the defence force *in globo*, and he should prefer that course to be pursued upon the present occasion, as he had an amendment to move upon the total vote.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he was quite willing, with the permission of the Committee, to withdraw his motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the Committee that the motion be withdrawn?

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved that £53,133 be voted for the land defence force.

Mr. DRAKE said he wished to know if the motion could be withdrawn without the consent of the Committee? When the Chairman asked the question he said "No," and so did an hon. member behind him.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he did not hear the hon. member, nor did the Chairman, and he supposed the hon. member would accept his denial. He was quite willing to accept the hon. member's statement and propose the motion in the way he had at first.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS (Hon. J. M. Macrossan) said it would be more convenient if the vote were taken *in globo*. If hon. members looked at the Estimates they would see that the amounts at the end of each page were carried forward to the next. By moving the vote *in globo* there could be still discussion upon the different items; it did not make any difference.

Mr. SALKELD said he hoped when the Chief Secretary was asked a question, he would be good enough to answer it. The hon. member for Burke had asked a question, and it was desirable that it should be answered before anything else intervened.

Mr. MURPHY said he should like to have the ruling of the Chairman as to whether the motion of the Chief Secretary could be withdrawn.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said if any member of the Committee objected to the motion being withdrawn it could not be withdrawn, and he, therefore, withdrew his amendment, and moved the motion as he had at first proposed.

Question—That the sum of £12,896 be granted for the land force, permanent staff, permanent force, and school of instruction—put.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he wished to have an answer to his question. The appointments he had referred to were objects of very great desire in the old country. In the first place they enhanced the military experience of officers, and they also gave them authority to speak on matters connected with Australia. He wished to know if it was with the knowledge of the Government that officers in the defence force assumed duties in connection with commercial undertakings foreign to their duties as military officers?

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he would ask the hon. gentleman to mention a special case. The hon. member had asked if any officer was doing what he had no right to do under the terms of his engagement with the Queensland Government. But he should have informed them to what officer he had

referred, and of what were the conditions of that officer's engagement, and whether it was an Imperial officer or an officer simply in the service of the Queensland Government. To give a definite answer it was necessary to have a definite question.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he would put the question in a clearer form, but would not give the name of the officer he alluded to. He did not think anyone had a right to drag the name of any private individual before that Committee except in very serious cases. He put a general question, and had put it then because the matter should come under notice in connection with that vote. He would put the question in another form, and ask, if any officer, drawing his salary from the State, was permitted to devote a portion of his time, which was at the service of the Government, to the performance of private duties in commercial matters in which he had a pecuniary interest?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied that there were many officers who received pay from the State who were directors of companies, and who were quite justified in being so. There was one major who was the manager of an ice company.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he was speaking of officers in receipt of colonial full pay.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said if the hon. member would tell him to whom he was alluding he would answer him. He thought he had an idea as to whom was meant.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he would ask the hon. gentleman to reason on that idea and answer the question?

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that if the hon. member would ask him a distinct question he would give him a distinct answer.

Mr. SALKELD said that in some of the lower branches of the service officers were not allowed to engage in any kind of business outside of the service. He knew of one man who, because he happened to be a director of some co-operative company, elected by employes in his department, had to leave the service the other day. What was right for one class of officers ought to be right for another.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the Civil Service Bill, now in another place, provided that any officer in the defence force, when not in receipt of Imperial pay, should be a Civil servant under the Act, and must therefore devote his full time to the service of the State. That would meet the question raised by the hon. member for Burke.

Mr. FOXTON said the question opened up was a larger one than hon. members seemed to imagine. There was a Civil Service Co-operative Company, conducted for the benefit of Civil servants, and managed by directors who were members of the Civil Service. Were they to understand that those men should no longer act as directors of that company? If one class was to be dealt with so ought also the others, in all fairness and justice.

Mr. GANNON said that although no name had been mentioned, he thought he knew the officer to whom the hon. member for Burke referred. Although that officer sat on a certain board, he never sat on it during the time he ought to be engaged in Government work. The meetings took place late in the afternoon, after the officer in question had done the work for which he was paid by the State.

Mr. GLASSEY said he understood from the remarks of the Chief Secretary, in the event of the Civil Service Bill becoming law, the present directors of the Civil Service Stores would not have to retire. If so, the same rule

should apply to all other members of the Civil Service. He knew of a railway porter who married a woman who kept a small store, and a very short time afterwards he had an intimation from the department that he must cease shopkeeping. There was another case where the wife of a man in the Civil Service kept some boarders, and he got an intimation that he must cease to keep boarders, as he was competing with outside persons. All they desired was that there should be equity and justice all round the service. It seemed rather hard that the railway porter with 39s. a week, and the husband of the boarding-house keeper with £125 a year, should be denied the privilege accorded to Civil servants with £500 or £600 a year, who were allowed to be directors of companies, for which they were pretty well paid, in addition to drawing fairly good dividends. The question was a large one, and would have to be referred to again.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he had no intention to confine his remarks to any special branch of the service. It was a very grave question whether the Civil Service Co-operative Stores should be allowed to exist; they were entering into competition with the masters who supported them—the community in general.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said he laboured under the disadvantage of not having the slightest idea to whom reference was intended in the question addressed to the Chief Secretary. If officers of the defence force were members and directors of public companies, he could not see that there was any serious objection to their acting in that capacity if they were elected to that position by the shareholders. But a serious objection could be taken to members of the Civil Service entering into competition with the general public in matters of trade. He rose for the purpose of asking the Chief Secretary what was the nature of the agreement at present existing between the Government and the commandant? He noticed some short time ago in the papers that there was a prospect of the colony losing the advantages of that gentleman's distinguished services. He was sorry to see that there was a prospect of that engagement being determined at no distant date. He had also seen that the agreement had been extended by leave of the Imperial authorities, and no doubt a great many persons would like to know what was the nature of the agreement at present in existence.

Mr. MURPHY said with reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Burke respecting the Civil Service Co-operative Stores, he understood that that business was not entered into for the purpose of trading and making a profit in the ordinary way, but in order to enable Civil servants to get their necessary supplies at a cheaper rate than they could get them from general storekeepers. They were managed in the same way as the Civil Service stores and the Naval and Military stores in London. Whatever profit was made was used to reduce the price of the commodities to the persons dealing with the stores. Therefore it was practically a trades union, and he did not see how the hon. member for Burke, who was such a strong advocate of trades unionism, could possibly object to it, or how any person could object to a Civil servant being a director of a company of that kind.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said, in reply to the hon. member for Charters Towers, he had to state that the present arrangement with the Imperial authorities with regard to Colonel French was that his valuable services would be continued to the colony for two years from the 1st September.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he did not see any provision on the Estimates for drilling youths. Nothing could be more advantageous to the

establishment of a strong military spirit in the colony, as well as the development of natural physique amongst youngsters, than compelling them to be drilled for a certain period. Of course, that could not be done in all the public schools, but it could be done at very slight expense in all leading schools where there was an average attendance of over 100 boys. Training of that kind was very valuable, because it was well known that once a youngster was taught how to make the best use of his limbs, acquiring a proper gait, and so on, he never lost the faculty in after life, and it was easier to make a soldier of such a man in three months than it would be to make one of an undrilled adult in three years. Besides, independently of the military aspect of the question, he knew there was no member of the Committee who had a greater appreciation of the physical advantages of drilling and training in that way than the Chief Secretary; and he thought that some of the non-commissioned officers of the force, or even better class privates of their military or naval bodies, might be told off and allowed so much *per capita*, on proficiency, to drill the boys in the leading schools of the colony. The expense would be very small compared with the benefits that would be obtained.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he quite agreed with the hon. member's remarks, and he might mention that when the Minister for Public Instruction brought his Estimates before the Cabinet, he recommended a scheme somewhat similar to that suggested by the hon. member. On page 48 of the Estimates, hon. members would find, as a result of this, a new item for drill instructors—£200. If that sum was not sufficient, he was perfectly certain the Committee would be prepared to increase it for such a laudable purpose.

Mr. GANNON said he thought the time had arrived when they ought to provide a uniform more suitable for the climate of the colony than that at present in use by the Queensland army. He spoke from a large amount of experience, having had the honour of wearing that uniform for a number of years, and he could say that when he had to put on the full dress of an artillery officer, it was really like going through a mill—it was really hard work. He thought the material called "khakee," the same as that used by the mounted infantry, would make a very good uniform. It looked well, and was well suited to the climate. He also thought that the officers might do with a little less gold lace, and wear badges of rank, and rather finer cloth. When he had command of a battery in Ipswich some years ago, he found that the men could do very good work in the ordinary undress serge, far better than they could in the full dress uniform, which was terribly hot. He also thought the scarlet uniform of the infantry might be altered. It looked pretty, but was very heavy and hot; and he would like to hear an expression of opinion from the Committee as to whether a uniform more suitable to the climate could not be adopted. The commandant and other officers were in attendance, and possibly some useful information might be elicited.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said there was no doubt a good deal in what the hon. gentleman had said, but a good deal of money had been invested in uniforms, and although a uniform better adapted to the climate might be provided in the future, no radical change could be made at present. That was a matter that might very well be left to the Brigade Office and the Volunteer Office. As the present uniforms were worn out the suggestion of the hon. member might be adopted, but they would have to be worn out before new ones were obtained.

Mr. McMASTER said he understood the hon. member for Barcoo to say that the Civil Service Store as carried on in Brisbane was simply for the benefit of Civil servants, and that only Civil servants dealt there. The hon. member was under that impression, and would lead the Committee to believe that such was the case; but it was not so, because any person could go into the Civil Service store and buy what he liked.

Mr. MURPHY: I did not know that.

Mr. McMASTER said it was done daily. The Civil Service store served a large number of people beyond those in the Civil Service, and thereby competed with those who had to assist in paying the salaries of the members of the company. The business was managed by directors who were Civil servants. Whether they looked after the business in their own time or not he did not know, but he had met them in the wholesale houses purchasing goods between 11 and 12 o'clock in the day. He must admit, however, that he had not seen them so engaged for the last year or two.

Mr. MURPHY said he was not aware when he spoke that it was a trading company whose store was open to the public generally. He thought it was on the same footing as the Civil Service and Naval and Military stores in London.

Mr. DUNSMURE asked whether the services of the drill instructors for cadets would be available for the country districts?

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: Some of them.

Mr. DUNSMURE said that in Roma there was the best cadet corps in the colony, and the credit of that was not due to any instructor belonging to the defence force, but to the school which the boys attended. He hoped that assistance in connection with drill instruction would be extended to the country districts.

Mr. CROMBIE said that he sent two boys to the Brisbane Grammar School, and he wanted them admitted to the cadet corps, but they could not get in because there were no rifles. He had got one of them in since, but there was no rifle for the other one.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said he wished to know whether the case of the cadet corps force at Charters Towers, by Mr. Allom, had been brought under the notice of the Chief Secretary. Last year he referred to the case, and suggested that the Government should make provision for uniform for the members of that corps. Mr. Allom had done remarkably good work among the young people at Charters Towers with the slender resources at his disposal; and the corps he had formed reflected great credit on his public spiritedness and patriotism. He should be glad to know that the efforts of Mr. Allom had been recognised, and that the Government would give him every facility for carrying on the good work.

Mr. SMITH said he could endorse what the hon. member for Charters Towers had said with reference to Mr. Allom, who certainly deserved some recompense.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said Mr. Allom did not ask for any recompense, but for some attention to the lads, for whom he had done so much, and that attention had been paid. A certain sum of money had been provided for the cadet corps in question, and Mr. Allom might rest assured that no Government would fail to recognise the good work he was doing.

Mr. PAUL said the first volunteers in New South Wales simply had a blue serge shirt and trousers, which they found a very serviceable uniform. The plainer the uniform was, the better.

Mr. SAYERS said it was desirable that something should be done to encourage rifle clubs. In addition to the cadet corps at Charters Towers, there was a very good drum and fife band and a rifle club. There was no doubt that if soldiers could not shoot well they would not be of much use, and he thought the question of the encouragement of rifle clubs should be pressed on the attention of the Government.

Mr. FOXTON said that last year he called attention to the question of armament of the force, especially with regard to the field artillery. He pointed out that the weapons in use had become as obsolete as were the old smooth-bores which they replaced something like twenty years ago, and that marvellous improvements had taken place in the manufacture of rifled arms of all sorts. In the southern colonies experiments had been made with a gun he saw at the Melbourne exhibition, which was, no doubt, a very splendid weapon; and he thought it would be a step in the right direction for the Government to obtain guns of a modern character. The men working the guns at present in the colony would be completely at the mercy of any enemy armed with guns of modern construction. And the question of rifles was of even more importance. He mentioned the field guns, merely by way of introducing the subject, because he had referred to them last year, and as far as he knew, nothing had been done to remedy the evil of which he then complained. The question of rifles was a very much more important one. According to the commandant's report they had at the present time nearly 3,500 men under arms, and they should have at least 5,000 rifles in the colony. The rifles they had at present had become obsolete, and it was high time they had more effective weapons, as immense improvements had taken place in the construction of rifles. Magazine rifles were being adopted in the English army, and it was very necessary that they should follow the same course. He would like to call attention to a passage in the Commandant's report in reference to reserves of arms and ammunition. He said:—

"Practically nothing has been done towards the provision of a reserve of arms and ammunition. Hitherto I have not pressed the matter strongly on the notice of the Government, as the question of armament in the Imperial Service was in a transition stage. A magazine rifle having now been adopted I hope that no further delay may take place in this matter, and that some action may be taken towards inducing the Imperial Government to establish a large reserve dépôt for the Australian colonies. To those who might suppose that the Australian colonies should do this for themselves, I would point out that the conditions are quite different—(1) Because the Imperial Government must in any case keep up large reserves of arms and ammunition; (2) that such a reserve at Sydney or Melbourne would be available for India and the East, and would be the nearest in case of the Suez Canal being blocked; (3) that in the event of changes of armament the Imperial Government merely pass on the old arms in turn to the militia and volunteers, and finally to the native army in India, whereas the Australian Governments would have such stock a drag on their hands."

That must be patent to everybody. The stock of Martini-Henry rifles at present in the colony would become a drag on their hands, and would be of little use if they were to arm the whole force with a more modern weapon, but might be kept in reserve. The same objection would of course apply to any rifle adopted in the future, as further improvements would take place upon the weapon now being introduced into the English army, and again in turn that would be thrown upon their hands, and not only the rifles in use, but their reserve stock would be useless. It would be far better to obtain their reserves of arms and ammunition from the old

country, as suggested by the commandant, so long as they had a sufficiently large reserve in the colony. The commandant went on to say:—

"I am of opinion that a scheme whereby a large stock of arms and ammunition should be held in reserve in Australia can be easily formulated, the colonies paying for any extra cost of storage, and paying cash for supplies when wanted from time to time. It seems useless, if not absurd, that colonies which boast that they can turn out the whole male population for their defence in case of invasion, have not as yet made any preparation for arming more than a very small fraction thereof."

He thought there were nearly 3,500 men under arms at the present moment, and he was quite within the mark if he said that in less than a week, if necessity arose, there could be at least 5,000 men under arms in the colony, because, even since the Defence Act of 1884 had been passed, large numbers of men had enlisted and passed out of the ranks more or less efficient—many of them very efficient men indeed. Then there were enough retired officers and non-commissioned officers to duplicate the present strength of the force, and all that was required was that those men should be armed. Under those circumstances, it was folly to continue spending large sums of money upon the defence force unless they provided twice as many rifles as they had men actually under arms at any one time. He hoped that what he had said would direct the attention of the Government to that matter. Reference had been made to the possibility of something being done through the visit of Major-General Edwards, and he sincerely hoped some such provision as he had suggested would be made, not only in regard to arms, but with regard to having a large supply of ammunition.

Mr. MELLOR said that he agreed with what the hon. member for Carnarvon had just said. In reference to rifle clubs, he was glad that the Chief Secretary proposed to make a larger grant to the rifle associations; but he noticed that there was no increase for rifle ranges. There was a great difficulty in getting targets for the ranges, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would see that targets were supplied. Land had been supplied in some cases by private individuals, and it would be only fair that the Government should supply the targets. Rifle clubs were worthy of every consideration, and they were no expense to the Government. He would like to see a uniform adopted by rifle clubs. It was a well-known fact that they had now a Parliamentary rifle club, and he would like to see the members of that corps in their uniforms when they were discussing that vote. They existed principally for the purpose of encouraging rifle shooting, and it was a good thing that hon. members of that Committee had taken such an interest in the matter. There was no doubt that if they were to have an efficient defence force in the colony they must increase the vote. Hon. members must see the necessity of keeping up the defence force, and of voting a sufficient sum of money for the purpose of keeping it so.

Mr. BARLOW said that he had been requested by the Ipswich Railway Rifle Club to bring forward one or two matters in that connection. The principal grievance appeared to be contained in a circular issued by the Queensland Rifle Association, signed by Mr. Thomas W. Jeans, the secretary of the association. The circular stated that the association were endeavouring to get the Government grant increased from £300 to £500, and amongst other things it stated:—

"In 1850—one year after the formation of this association—the enrolled strength of the Queensland forces amounted to 1,150; in 1888 the number of men increased to 4,368 (including members of rifle clubs), being an increase of over 3,000 men."

"One of the chief considerations for bringing the question under your notice is, that the members of the defence force are only partially paid for their services, and the volunteers and members of rifle clubs receive no remuneration whatever.

"It is beyond dispute that since 1878 this association has exerted a powerful influence upon the practice and efficiency of rifle shooting throughout the colony; and it is considered that the grant of £300 is totally inadequate to meet the requirements of a successful prize meeting such as is held in the other colonies.

"The Government of Victoria grants £1,000, New South Wales £1,000, and Tasmania £500 per annum for this object. Over and above these allowances, the Victorian and Tasmanian Governments permit all association letters and parcels to be carried free of charge: and at least in New South Wales, the printing of the annual report, etc., is gratuitously performed for the Rifle Association by the Government Printer.

"Prior to 1886, the reports of this association were printed at the Government Printing Office; but, although the manuscript copy for 1886 has been in Mr. Beal's hands for over two years, the report is still unpublished.

"It may also be mentioned that the price of ammunition in the Southern colonies is fully 25 per cent. less than charged here."

The secretary of the Ipswich Railway Rifle Club had furnished him with a statement of all the disbursements made out of their own funds in connection with that matter from the 1st of September, 1887, to the 30th of June, 1889, the statement being signed by Mr. Moorhouse, the hon. secretary of the club. And the amount they had expended in various ways was £351 14s. 7d., so that he thought they had shown their *bona fides* in that matter. They spoke also of what he understood to be the capitation allowance. They wished to have that increased, as the present allowance was not found sufficient. The secretary of the club wrote to this effect: that the Government might very well alter the price of rifles to £2, seeing that they were always the property of the Government; he also referred to the question of free railway passes by train to the butts, and maintained that where a rifle club had to go to distant butts by train they should travel free. They said it was a severe tax that they should have to pay their own railway expenses. For his (Mr. Barlow's) part he did not hesitate to say that he did not believe in the permanent force. He believed in citizen soldiers. That was his idea, as far as he had any ideas on the subject, and he looked with considerable jealousy on any body or organised military force. On his side of the Committee they were sometimes charged with Imperialism, but he had always expressed the opinion that a paid military force, drilled apart from the people of the country, was by no means a good thing for the country. He was told by experienced volunteers that a force of that kind was necessary as a nucleus. He hoped it would be kept very much as a nucleus. He did not care for it at all, and if he had his way he would take very severe measures with it. The general opinion seemed to be that the money was well spent, but he objected to the thing on principle.

Mr. UNMACK said he had carefully listened to the different members who had spoken, and he found that one and all had omitted to ask the question whether the state of the finances justified them in voting such an enormous and rapidly increasing expenditure as they were called upon to vote for the purposes of defence. He understood that they were only to vote upon the first two items and he was sorry the question was put in that way, because on previous occasions the total vote had been put and any amendment that might be moved was taken *in globo*. It was not the duty of any individual member to propose a reduction in any one particular item, and it would be absurd to endeavour to interfere in that way. He really did not know how to approach

the subject under the circumstances, because he was absolutely certain that if he were to move a reduction in one item he would meet with very little success. He wished to say that the objection he had to the vote was against the permanent force employed. He did not believe in the permanent force; but he would say distinctly that he was thoroughly and sincerely in favour of a purely volunteer force. What return did they get from the permanent force? They had about 100 men, and a staff which was enormously expensive and highly paid. He had prepared figures showing what the permanent staff and permanent force had cost since it had been started in 1884-5, and it would surprise hon. members to see the enormous increase that had taken place in the cost. In 1884-5 the staff and permanent force cost £6,510. In 1885-6, £10,295; in 1886-7, £10,675; in 1887-8, £10,915; in 1889, £12,862; and for the present year the amount put down was £14,377. During the whole term the cost had been nearly double. In 1884-5 the staff cost £3,510; in 1885-6, £4,211; in 1886-7, £4,491; in 1887-8, £4,731; in 1888-9, £5,929; and in 1889-90, £6,684. It was just about double what it cost at the start. A small portion of that charge for the staff consisted of £2,000 for sergeant instructors, and was not fairly chargeable to the staff, because it was for instructing the volunteer force. But, on the other hand, the amount was compensated by the allowance under the schedule, which was made to the staff for forage, travelling expenses, and rent. Those items, under the schedule, at present amounted to £1,500, so that they might fairly say that the staff cost what had been put down on the vote. Now, what return had they got for all that outlay, which amounted since 1884-5 to £65,634 for the permanent force? What use was that handful of men to them? He said it was absolutely no use. He would not object at all to that amount of money being spent on the volunteer force, but as for the permanent force, he did not see what benefit was derived from it. A purely volunteer system he believed in thoroughly, because it was a system which enabled them to be ready to defend their homes. The training of young men in habits of obedience and discipline developed their mental and physical faculties, and was a general benefit to the colony. He did not object to the money which was spent annually for the sixteen days camp; that was money well spent, and should be continued to be spent. Now, the Chief Secretary had not told them whether the country could afford that expenditure, and he (Mr. Unmack) had already said that he did not think it was the place of any one member to say in which particular item the expenditure could be curtailed. Looking at the rapid increase of the amount which they were called upon to pay, he feared they would be very much in the same position with that vote as they were with the divisional board vote. It was constantly increasing, and the Treasurer was not able to say what amount would be required for any one year. He thought the time had come when some kind of a brake should be put upon the vote, and some limit should be placed on the expenditure, in order that they might know what the country would be called upon to spend. He thought the total amount on the Estimates for the land and marine forces in 1884-5, when the Act first came into operation, was £27,806, and on the Supplementary Estimates, £4,150. In 1885-6 the amount was £46,563, and the supplementary amount £7,219; in 1886-7 it was £50,302, with £476 supplementary; in 1887-8 it was £50,287, with £12,150 supplementary; and in 1888-9 £60,258; and for the present year they were asked to vote £67,196, and about £6,000 more in connection with the Works Department. That

made £73,000 for the present year, as against £31,956 five years ago. When they saw such figures, he said it was time they asked where they were going to stop. Were the Committee prepared year by year to give £10,000 or £12,000 more for that purpose, before some steps were taken to ascertain what the liability was likely to be? Then, on the loan vote, there was £134,000 on an authorised expenditure last year of £6,918 11s. 2d., giving a total of £140,918 11s. 2d. from the loan fund. As he had said before, he had intended to move an amendment in the total vote, but he did not know now how to get at it, in the way in which the vote had been moved. He felt the vote ought to be reduced, and had intended to move its reduction to the amount on the Estimates for last year, £47,717. In making those remarks he should have the hearty sympathy and assistance of the Hon. the Premier, the Hon. the Minister for Mines and Works, and the Hon. the Minister for Lands, as it was upon the suggestion of those hon. gentlemen he wished to move a reduction in the vote. He found that those hon. gentlemen, when in Opposition in 1887, occupied two full sittings in the discussion of the defence force vote. At that time the total vote for both forces was £50,000 in round numbers, while at present it was £37,000, with £6,000 under the Works Department. So that £23,000 more was asked for the present year. He looked also at the financial position of the country then and now. The hon. the present Premier then proposed that the vote of £50,000 should be reduced by about £6,000 or £7,000, because the financial position showed a deficit of about £400,000, and the country could not afford to pay the cost. Their position now was far worse, for though the deficit was about the same, the taxes were greater, and the vote asked was very much in excess of the vote asked at that time. He believed the able and eloquent speeches made at that time by the present Premier, the Minister for Mines and Works, and the Minister for Lands were made in all sincerity; but possibly, being on the Government benches now, their ideas had changed. He would read from *Hansard* one or two of the speeches made by those gentlemen then, when they were in a better position to criticise than they were in now. He found in vol. lii. at page 715, the present Premier was reported to have said:—

"He had carefully listened to the Chief Secretary, who had omitted only one matter—a matter which he generally omitted to mention when dealing with questions involving the expenditure of money the Committee was called upon to sanction—that was the element of cost, and whether the country could afford to spend the money. He thought the vote could be very easily reduced by a considerable sum; and if the necessity arose for reducing the permanent force, which seemed to be the only plan suggested by the Premier, even that difficulty might be got over by increasing the number of volunteers. He maintained that the volunteers had been improperly treated by the commandant and by the Government, and that full consideration had not been given to them for their services; and when hon. members saw the vote increasing year after year, it behoved them to consider whether they were justified in going to such an extent."

Then at page 719 the same gentleman continued:—

"He was never a believer in the defence force, but he was quite willing, as he had always been, to submit to what, in the opinion of that House, was the voice of the majority of the people of the colony. At the same time he must say that when the Bill for the establishment of that force became law, it was never intended, and it was never contemplated by anyone for a moment, that it would increase after a few years to the proportion it had reached now."

That was only £50,000, and they were called upon to vote £73,000 for the present year. The hon. gentleman went on to say:—

"It must be remembered that that increase was a continuous one year after year, without any adequate return for the expenditure involved. He submitted

that no case had been made out by the Premier for the continuance of the defence force on its present lines; and if he could not continue to run the force on those lines and for that money, he must run it on other lines for less money."

The then Premier, Sir S. W. Griffith, interjected, "You had better run it on other lines," and the present Premier continued, and said:—

"That was no reply to what he said at all. What he said was that the country could not afford to spend the enormous sum of money the Premier asked for on that particular object, and he maintained that if the volunteer system had received that recognition at the hands of the Government, and at the hands of the commandant and the permanent staff, to which it was entitled, they could easily get a force quite as efficient and very much larger in numbers than the force they had at the present time, and at a very much less cost to the country."

On page 755, the hon. gentleman wound up by saying:—

"Now, he maintained that in times like the present their duty was to cut down and reduce in every possible way, and he thought, when it was considered by members of the Committee and people outside what such a large annual vote really meant, they would see the expediency of reducing the estimate. Fifty thousand pounds a year meant interest on one and a-quarter millions of the public debt at 4 per cent. That was a very straight way of bringing it home to hon. members. They were paying the interest on one and a-quarter millions of money in order to keep up the defence force. Now, with regard to the arduous duties of the permanent force men, he would point out that there seemed to be an enormous amount of work undone. So far as they could discover from Major Grieve's report, the fort at Lytton was in a most deplorable state. Its guns were practically of no service, as it appeared that after two shots had been fired from them they were useless; and again there were two on the Lytton hill, where, he supposed, they would remain until they became the property of some other owner; but as far as the work done by the force was concerned, Major Grieve's report was a record of failure, and a continual cry for more money. More money, more men, and more everything! He said in times like the present, when the country was in the critical financial position that it was, they ought not to spend one shilling more on any branch of the service than they could afford, and he was certain financial reform could be exercised in that department as well as in any other department of the State."

Now he would quote a few words from the Hon. Mr. Macrossan's speech on the subject, at page 725 of the same volume:—

"There was another way of looking at the amount of money that they had been asked to expend for the defence force. They were asked to expend £50,000 altogether, including the cost of naval defence, and that was the amount required to pay interest on one and a-quarter millions of money at 4 per cent. That was a point worth considering in the present state, not only of the loan fund, but in the present state of the consolidated revenue fund. Now, the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government, when asked to make a railway for which money had been voted years ago, said that he would not do so until he found out the state of the loan fund and its liabilities, and yet that £50,000 which they were asked to vote for defence purposes would actually pay interest on one and a-quarter millions of money, which might be much better expended, with all due deference to the military knowledge of the hon. gentleman, than it was likely to be expended on defence. But it was not the intention of hon. members to destroy the force altogether."

"The Premier: Yes, it is."

"The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he believed a certain number of men were necessary, but he did not think they required to expend £37,000—in fact, he was certain they could not afford it; and if the hon. gentleman had a thorough idea of economy, as he ought to have, and as he (Mr. Macrossan) was afraid he had not, he would find means to economise."

Further on, the hon. gentleman said:—

"The system here was managed more economically, but that was no reason why they should spend £37,000 when they could only afford £30,000. Now, it was no use trying to frighten hon. members by saying that if the amendment was accepted the force must be disbanded. That was merely a threat,

and it was an idle, useless threat, he hoped, as far as hon. members were concerned. If the hon. gentleman only got £30,000 to spend he would only spend £30,000."

At page 727 the same hon. gentleman said:—

"He had not heard one single word from anyone that would lead him to alter his opinion as to the reduction of that vote. They could not afford to pay it. It was simply a question of money—whether they were able to spend that amount of £30,000 a year upon the two arms of their defence—the land and sea forces. He did not think they were, nor did he think they should be called upon to pay it. If the Government were really sincere in their endeavour to retrench and economise, they would certainly begin with the military force."

The Minister for Lands spoke on the same occasion, and said:—

"How was the colony being defended now? Was it by the volunteer force and the defence force, or by the permanent force which was costing the country so much? That was a very simple question, and he contended that by giving increased encouragement to the volunteers and the defence force, and less to that other extravagant branch of the service, which was sapping the very foundation of the whole system, and which was absorbing one-fourth of the whole expenditure, they would get as efficient a force as they could reasonably expect in the present state of the finances."

If such speeches could be delivered at a time when the colony was in a comparatively better position financially than it was at the present time, they might fairly expect that the vote now submitted would be reduced. It was utterly impossible to say at that moment upon which item the reduction should be made, but he was certain that if the Committee only voted a certain amount the Government would find the means of making that sufficient. Possibly some other hon. member might point out how the vote might be reduced.

Mr. FOXTON said he would point out, in reference to what had been said by the last speaker, that there was a very large increase in the number of men enlisted compared with what there was at the initiation of the system under the Defence Force Act of 1884, and the staff had been necessarily increased in consequence. Among the large salaries were those of officers who were added to make efficient the force which the hon. member so much admired and called the volunteer force—he supposed the hon. member meant the defence force proper. There was the engineer staff-officer, £600 per annum; the adjutant for volunteers and rifle clubs, £350; the staff-officer for the Northern district, £350, and several others, all of which had been added since 1884. It was quite absurd for hon. members to object to the maintenance of a staff of officers; it would be utterly impossible to work the defence force as a whole without such a staff. Any hon. member who would go down and spend a day at the headquarters office would see that there was a large amount of clerical and other work to be done, and would satisfy himself that the officers, who were specially selected for their knowledge in the various branches in which they were employed, were by no means underworked. That he could testify from his own personal knowledge. He might mention that very excellent military maps of the whole of the districts of Brisbane—and probably of the districts of Townsville—had been prepared, which would conduce immensely to the success of any operations for the defence of those particular towns, and which were of very great value in the field manoeuvres that took place. He noticed that the Chief Secretary had not made any reference to the subject which he (Mr. Foxton) had broached—namely, whether any or what steps would be taken to put the force on a proper footing with regard to armament as recommended in the extract he had read from the report of the commandant. He did not wish the hon. gentleman to disclose any matter that it was not advisable to disclose with respect to the extent

of arms and ammunition at present in store, but he might give some information as to whether the Government intended taking any action in the matter.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the hon. member might rest assured that proper steps would be, and were in course of being, taken with regard to that matter.

Mr. HAMILTON said he hoped the Government would take into consideration the suggestion made by the hon. member for Wide Bay, Mr. Mellor, in regard to giving targets to rifle clubs. He (Mr. Hamilton) did not approve of the cheese-paring policy advocated by some hon. members year after year in connection with the defence force, and was glad to see that it was never carried out, no matter what Government was in office. At the same time it must be admitted that good sharpshooters would be one of the most efficient forces they could have in the colony, and if targets were given to rifle clubs in the different districts of the colony it would lead to the training of crack shots. As to the charge made for rifles, he thought £3 was very low, and also that a penny a shot was a very reasonable charge for ammunition.

Mr. HODGKINSON said they were starting on the wrong basis, and adopting as their model the army of the United Kingdom which was the most extravagant in the world. The military vote for the United Kingdom very nearly equalled the cost of the armies of France and Germany which could turn out upwards of a million of men ready for service at forty-eight hours' notice. They knew what passed in England when the Crimean War broke out. He remembered seeing one of the most magnificent corps of soldiers that ever served under British colours march out to the Crimea, and seeing them come back perfect skeletons. What was the real cause of that? The army of Great Britain was essentially an aristocratic appanage of the aristocratic section of the community, and the whole of the money was expended for the provision of highly paid and innumerable ornamental officers. Let any hon. member of the Committee take the trouble to read the outspoken authorities on military matters in the united service and naval magazines. Look at the account, for instance, of the late Italian expedition, as compared with the expedition to the Crimea. The expenses were simply ridiculous in proportion, and the country in which the campaign was conducted presented obstacles fully as formidable as that in which Lord Napier carried out his Magdala campaign. That was a specimen of the style of the English military school. He was an Englishman, and should be very sorry to depreciate the courage of either the officers or the men of the English army; but they all knew very well that it was the laughing stock of Continental nations. The title of "Lord Napier of Magdala," and the "glorious" expedition from the coast to Magdala, cost the British nation something like £12,000,000, and there was no fighting—not half as much as he had seen when crossing the continent of Australia with three or four white men, who had no standard, and no artillery, and no money spent to insure safety and comfort. The same thing occurred in India. They all knew what were the causes of the Indian mutiny—simply the stupid, gross neglect of the English of the repeated warnings they received of the state of things amongst the native troops. He was most decidedly in favour of any volunteer or military force being organised by the best paid and most intelligent officers they could possibly obtain, because war was now a science, and it was true economy to obtain the best men they could from those European forces that were fully up to the modern standard of

efficiency. It was owing to the sudden strain and the absence of material to meet it, which cost the Americans, the Federals especially, in the war of secession, such an enormous amount of life and treasure for the first two years. Of course nobody who gauged the respective strength of the two forces could doubt that ultimately the North must conquer. As soon as ever the bases of supply of the Confederate lines were in their hands, the war was virtually at an end. Owing to the fact that Southern gentlemen were the chief men who maintained the military college at West Point, and who filled offices in the United States navy, immediately war was declared their sympathies led them to take service with the South, and for a long period the Northern troops and officers were learning military duty, which meant, of course, at the expense of the life and wealth of the country they were serving. He thought the Committee, in the votes before them, were adopting the English system, and were trying to make the military force an aristocratic appanage of the colony. He had had some little experience in the civil administration of the army, and although he served in the English school, which was not a very good one, he was sure that the colonial authorities might benefit from the lessons that were set forth by their progenitors. Take the permanent staff, in the first case. There was a vote of £6,684 for the salaries and allowances of the first section of the permanent staff, numbering forty-three individuals. In the next vote there was an almost equal amount—£6,212 for officers, sergeants, corporals, and others, commissioned and non-commissioned, bombardiers, trumpeters, fifty-five gunners and drivers, and one sergeant and five submarine miners. Out of a total of seventy-eight men, there were no less than eighteen highly-paid commissioned and non-commissioned officers. He was giving the full number of men, although the roll-call of actual attendance, he imagined, would fall very much below the number stated. The same rule seemed to prevail all through the defence force. Take the 1st Queensland (Moreton) Regiment. The total number of men was 497, and out of that 97 were commissioned and non-commissioned officers. The attendance was a matter of certainty only upon the Estimates; but for every five privates there was one officer in command. The same order of things prevailed in regard to the 2nd Queensland (Wide Bay and Burnett) Regiment, where there were 250 privates and 62 officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, and others, ranging from a major to a bugler. The moment a man donned a uniform as an officer he became satisfied with that state of things, and he could not quote a better sample of that than his friend the hon. member for Carnarvon. He was certain that if that hon. gentleman looked at those figures from any other than a military standpoint, he would be far less lenient than at present. He (Mr. Hodgkinson) was a firm believer in giving the people of the colony a military training; but he did object to the money of the colony being spent upon the frippery and follies of the force. After all, the unit of force was the fighting man, and he had sufficient belief in the intelligence of his follow-colonists, who comprised amongst them a very large number of retired officers perfectly capable of conducting the defences of the colony, should they ever be called upon to take charge of the troops. He looked with great suspicion upon the rapid increase of the vote, without a corresponding increase in the defensive or offensive force of the colony. His remarks were not in the least intended as any criticism upon the officers who had been engaged in the colonial service. The gentleman who had charge of their forces was one for

whose military capacity he had a very great respect, and he thought he had done a great deal of service to the colony. What he objected to was, as the hon. member for Toowong had said, that the vote was increasing year by year without a corresponding increase in the advantages they might reasonably hope to derive from it. If they should ever, unfortunately, be involved in any necessity for using that weapon, he had not the least doubt that capable men would spring up, and they must not forget one thing, that probably the very best of their officers who belonged to the Imperial service, in the event of a war breaking out, would be only too anxious to rejoin their regiments in the Imperial service; so that they might not even be able to retain their valuable services; they would probably be left to their own devices. The usual course adopted by Imperial officers abroad when war was declared was to go to the War Office as quickly as possible, and endeavour to get an appointment. Independent of that, the money would be far better laid out in drilling the youth of the colony, furnishing rifles wherever there were people who would take care of them and use them, and in teaching the colony to rely upon itself, instead of relying upon the paid assistance, however valuable, of persons not so intimately associated with the colony as citizen soldiers would be. It must not be supposed for one moment that he was a believer in the idea that simply putting a rifle in a man's hands made him a soldier. That was nonsense. A horde of men armed with rifles were simply sent out for slaughter; they were of no earthly use except to exemplify the folly of those who placed them in that position. But there was a medium between that and devoting such a large proportion of the vote to what he had termed the frippery of the service, as they appeared to be doing now. There were complaints all over the country. Some men could not get uniforms, others could not get rifles, and the reply of the permanent staff always was, and no doubt with justice, that those things could not be issued because they had not got them. Why had they not got them? Because the money went in what he believed to be unnecessary salaries, instead of being devoted to the material required for training their soldiers.

Mr. GANNON said he wished to draw the attention of the Chief Secretary to the item of £400 for the Queensland Rifle Association. It was really a very small amount, and if £100 or £200 more had been granted it would have been money well spent. It was far better to have men who could shoot well than who could only march well. As to the various corps, there was no doubt that the mounted infantry was the corps that should be supported, about Brisbane, at all events. He did not think they were very likely to be much troubled with hostile cruisers in the event of a war; they would go to the other colonies first, and all the colonies must be prepared to help each other.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the increase of £100 in the vote for the Queensland Rifle Association was a very material increase, and the Government were led to believe by those who made the application that with that increase they would be perfectly satisfied.

Mr. ARCHER said he had not intended to speak on the question, but the long lecture they had had from the hon member for Burke, on everything in general and all armies in particular, seemed to call for a few remarks. Some of the hon. member's remarks were not strictly accurate. The English army might at one time have been considered an appanage of the aristocracy, because no man without money could be an officer in the army; but that was no longer the

case to anything like the same extent. It should also be remembered that the English soldiers were paid better than any other soldiers in the world except the American, whereas in France, where the conscription was in force, the soldier got no pay, and very little to eat. The English soldier got plenty to eat, and that was no doubt one of the reasons why he was able to fight so well. To compare the cost of the English army with that of Continental armies was misleading. The reason for the cost of the English army arose, not from the fact that the officers were aristocratic, but because the country could not enlist men without their own consent, and could not get them except at a rate of pay which was at least three times that paid to any of the Continental troops. He sincerely trusted that the pay of the English soldiers would never be decreased, but rather increased. There was no doubt that during the Crimean war the English army suffered from having bad commanders—not bad officers—for whenever they had had a decent commander they had proved themselves equal to any body of men brought against them, and sometimes too much for them. The hon. member complained about the large amount spent on the staff. But the staff had to do the whole of the administrative work not for the defence force only, but for the volunteers as well, and he could assure the Committee that they had quite enough to do to keep them busy the whole of their time. If they deprived their army of the means by which it was administered, they would disorganise it to such an extent that it would be useless, for the men would no longer get that training which would fit them to act as soldiers, should they ever be called upon to do so. They wanted their soldiers to acquire themselves like men in any emergency that might arise, and that they could not possibly do unless they had a permanent staff to train them and see that they did their work properly. The defence force was called out sixteen days in the year, and for that they received pay ranging from 21s. a day for the lieutenant-colonel to 6s. a day for the privates, which latter sum was at least four times the amount received by any other troops in the world. Wages were so high in Queensland that men would not leave their work unless they were paid for it. He thought the men were very well paid. For example, a sergeant got 8s. a day, a corporal 7s. 6d., a bombardier 7s., and the men 6s. Those were the items that swelled up the total amount, and he should be sorry to see the day when the colony would have to pay less, because it would only prove that men wanted work, and that they could be got cheaper. He did not think there was anything to complain of in the number of the permanent staff or of the officers employed in the volunteer regiments, because they could not be expected to attend as regularly as men who were paid for doing that duty alone. They had to make their own living, and could not always attend; therefore it was necessary to have a larger number than if it was a regularly formed regiment fully officered.

Mr. SALKELD said he had expressed his opinions on that question on several occasions in previous sessions, and he had seen no reason to alter those opinions materially. He still thought they were spending too much money in connection with the defence force. Having expressed that opinion frequently, some persons thought he was opposed to a defence force, but he was not opposed to it. He believed in the volunteer system thoroughly, and judging from speeches that had been delivered by the Premier and his colleagues when sitting on the Opposition benches, he believed the remarks of the hon. member for Burke found an echo in that hon. gentleman's heart. The Premier had criticised that vote very

strongly in times past, and he gave the hon. gentleman credit for having acted with promptness and firmness in the matter of the removal of the late commander of the naval defence force. His action in that case was approved by the people from one end of the colony to the other. Of course being now in charge of the Estimate he had to do the best he could to carry it through. The hon. member for Burke, in commenting on the expensiveness of the British army, did not, as the hon. member for Rockhampton seemed to think, refer merely to the pay of the British soldier. That pay was very small indeed, and he was sure the hon. member for Burke did not mean to say that the pay of the typical "Tommy Atkins" was at all extravagant. That was not where the military votes of the British army went. He did not suppose more than £2,000,000 out of the whole amount went in pay to the private soldiers, and the amount that went to officers on active duty was not so very great. But if anyone would look over the blue books of the British Parliament, and saw the enormous array of officers, three-fourths of whom perhaps had never seen powder fired in earnest, who were pensioned off after serving a few years, they would soon see where the money went. He was astounded to see the hundreds of admirals and generals who stood in that position. One would almost think they included all those officers since the early Anglo-Saxon times. What he wanted to emphasise was that the extravagance in the British army was not in the pay of the private soldier. Reference had been made to the civil war in America, and it had been said over and over again that it was in consequence of the North not having a system similar to that of Great Britain that they were not able to bring the war to a close much sooner than they did. But he would point out that the United States had no volunteer system the same as Britain now had. If they had had citizen soldiers, men who understood the elementary duties of soldiers as to drill and so on, it would not have taken so long to put down the rebellion. And another matter to be taken into consideration was this: It was a well-known fact that the whole of the "military caste" in the United States supported the rebellion, or secession, and handed over ships, arms, and everything to the South; so that it was not well to depend upon a paid exclusive class of defenders. What had been done in America might be done in Australia yet. When the hon. the Premier and some of his friends were opposing the Naval Defence Bill, their contention was that the colony was asked to pay for the support of what was to some extent an alien force. Although he (Mr. Salkeld) would not like to designate the British naval force as "alien," still there was no disguising the fact that there was a growing feeling that Australia would yet be independent of Great Britain. He did not share that feeling, but he could not close his eyes to the fact that it existed; and it must be borne in mind that the naval and military officers imported from Great Britain to take charge of the forces in the colonies had all the feelings and prejudices of their class. There was no doubt that in any question of separation their sympathies would be entirely with the mother country, and there was great danger in having a class of defenders who were excluded from the great mass of the community. What they wanted was a naval and a military force identified with the interests of the country. There might be some difficulty in that so far as the naval branch was concerned, because it required experts all along the line; the very seamen required to be experts in their calling, and by the very nature of their calling they were separated to a certain

extent from the rest of the people. But there ought to be no difficulty in having a far larger volunteer force than they had now. He did not know of any specific charges, but he had been told, and he had seen it in the papers, that there was a strong feeling of dissatisfaction among the volunteers at the way they were treated by the headquarters staff; and if that was the case it could not be expected that the young men of the colony would be willing to be drilled into the position of the "Tommy Atkins" of the British army. On the other hand, if the volunteering spirit were properly fostered and not subjected to military snubbing, there would be plenty of men ready to come forward as volunteers, and if necessary fight for their homes and their country. He hoped the head of the Government would see that the expenditure in connection with the defence force did not grow, as it had done in the past. It was pointed out again and again in past years that the expenditure would not be like the rolling-stone that gathered no moss, but like the snowball which increased at every turn; and that had been the case. Only in one year was there a sort of stagnation in the expenditure, and that was on account of the state of the finances at the time, and perhaps to a certain extent on account of the criticism directed against the expenditure. He was not going to move an amendment, but he would point out to the hon. member for Toowong that if he wished to reduce the vote he should move the reduction of the present item, which included the headquarters staff. He did not know that any reduction was likely to be carried, but he had no doubt that the Premier would know what the feeling of the Committee was, and would take some trouble to see that the vote did not continually increase.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he would ask the hon. member what particular item was too large, as compared with the amount voted last year? He had already pointed out the increases which had taken place. There was an increase of £30 for the instructor in submarine mining, who was entitled to an increase under his agreement. Then there was £100 a year for a clerk in the volunteer office; there was also an increase of 1s. a day to the quartermaster-sergeant—from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. a day. Those were all the increases on last year's vote; and he would like the hon. member to point out what altered circumstances now existed to justify a decrease in the vote.

Mr. SALKELD said it was the amount of the whole vote to which he took exception. If the Premier would like to know the items he thought were too large, he had no hesitation in saying that the commandant got too much. That officer received equal to £1,100 a year and £100 forage allowance.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: That is under agreement.

Mr. SALKELD said he understood that the agreement had expired.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said it had been renewed for another two years, and he thought the Committee generally agreed that it was a good thing.

Mr. SALKELD said that some members might think so, but he spoke for himself. He would make a reduction in the salaries of the highly-paid officers. He was sure that, in proportion to the rate paid in the British army, those officers were overpaid; but he did not think the privates were overpaid, and he would do nothing to interfere with them.

Mr. FOXTON said the hon. member for Fassifern picked out the commandant as a highly-paid officer; but the question was whether the colony could get an equally good man for less

money. They had to consider whether a man who had attained to some military distinction in England could be induced, for less than the amount given to the present commandant, to give up his position there, together with the prospect of further distinction, in order to come to Queensland under a temporary engagement. They must pay well to secure the services of a man eminent in his profession. He thought that was a sufficient answer with reference to that particular item; and the same would apply to all the others in a less degree. Some hon. members thought the vote for the permanent staff ought to be cut down, but they might just as well expect a man, having had his head cut off, to work as well physically as he did before. The rest of the force, in which the hon. gentleman seemed to take so much pride, would become a mere rabble were it not for the governing body. The hon. members for Fassifern and Burke had both compared their expenditure with that in England, and they asked for citizen soldiers; but what had they got? Was all their expenditure not practically for the purpose of keeping on foot what was practically and essentially a citizen soldiery? Including the volunteers and rifle clubs they had nearly 4,000 men, and the particular expenditure to which the hon. members took exception was for the organising and governing body, which was necessary to keep that large body of men together. He could speak from practical experience, and the great complaint amongst the defence force officers—not the permanent force—was that there was a great deal too much clerical and detail work to do, and, of course, the salary they got was a mere bagatelle; but still that work was absolutely necessary in order to hold all those men together. He did not propose to follow the hon. member for Burke through the whole history he had given. He did not quite follow it all; but if it were all as correct as the part in which he had described Lord Napier as having conducted an expedition from Ashantee to Magdala, it was not worth much. He (Mr. Foxton) had always been under the impression that it was Lord Wolseley who went from Ashantee to Coomassie, and Lord Napier had gone to Magdala by another route altogether.

Mr. HODGKINSON: I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; I never said anything of the sort.

Mr. FOXTON said that probably the hon. gentleman did not mean to say so.

Mr. STEVENSON: I would back the hon. gentleman's information against yours.

Mr. FOXTON said he knew that the hon. member for Clermont was himself a great military authority. In fact, had it not been that he was a member of Parliament, on one occasion the hon. member would have been court-martialled for what he had done.

Mr. STEVENSON: I had the courage of my convictions, anyway, and that is more than you had.

Mr. FOXTON said that he must confess he was not satisfied with the answer he had received with regard to the question of arms. It was all very well for the Chief Secretary to say that due attention would be given to the matter, but he would like to know what had been done—whether any type of guns or rifles had been decided upon. The same question had been asked the previous year, and the same evasive answer had been given. Apparently there was nothing being done. The Government were responsible for the defence of the colony, and they should inform the Committee what measures had been taken as to the guns and rifles with which the men, upon whom they were spending so much money, were to

be armed. The hon. gentleman could scarcely expect that the Committee would be satisfied with being put off in an off-hand manner by being told that the matter would receive due consideration.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that he did not know whether the hon. gentleman was on the retired list or not, but if he were not, he should ask permission from his commanding officer before he put a question of that sort. He believed that the commandant was perfectly satisfied in the meantime with the field artillery, or with a portion of it. With regard to the rifles, the hon. gentleman, if he knew anything of his military duties, and was in the secrets of the commandant, must know that there was a great difficulty surrounding the obtaining of the new magazine rifles. There was a great difficulty in getting even one of them, not to speak of obtaining a sufficient number to arm the whole of their force. The Government were doing all they could, and they could do no more.

Mr. FOXTON said the hon. gentleman made a great mistake if he thought that he (Mr. Foxton) was going to ask anybody what questions he should ask when he was in that Committee. He did not recognise any commanding officer; he simply recognised his constituents, and it came with a bad grace from the hon. gentleman to say what he had done. Even though he belonged to the defence force, Colonel French had nothing to do with him in that Committee. Neither had the hon. gentleman, even though he was Minister for War. He objected to the hon. gentleman trying to sit on him because he was Minister for War.

Mr. STEVENSON: Don't laugh too much at yourself!

Mr. FOXTON said he was sorry that he had hurt the "laird's" feelings. The hon. member seemed to get in a dreadful frame of mind whenever he (Mr. Foxton) got up to speak. Probably the hon. gentleman had come back from "Auld Reekie," as he believed they called it—

Mr. STEVENSON: You don't even know the name, and you could not pronounce it if you did know.

Mr. FOXTON said that he certainly thought that the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government should do something more than he had promised to do. The other colonies were taking steps in that matter, while in Queensland they appeared to be doing nothing. Taking the commandant's own report and the reports appearing in the papers, the southern colonies were moving in the matter, and Queensland was apparently behind the other colonies.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that what he intended to convey to the hon. gentleman was that from the high position the hon. member occupied, he fancied he would have known even better than the Government that the commandant considered the field guns, or some of them, were quite sufficient for the present defence of the colony.

Mr. FOXTON: I did not know it. I know that is not the opinion of other military officers.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that it would be advantageous to possess improved artillery, but the commandant had stated that the present guns were quite sufficient. He had also told the hon. gentleman that the Government had not been able to get even one specimen of the new rifles from home. They intended arming a certain portion of the troops of the colony, at least, with the best possible weapon. The British army, they had been told, must be supplied first; but if they found that the

Imperial authorities would not supply them, the Government intended seeing if they could not purchase them elsewhere from private manufacturers.

Mr. PAUL said he had belonged to the volunteer force in New South Wales when the Imperial troops were in the colonies, and every volunteer did his level best to become as efficient a soldier as any the Imperial troops contained, and they were constantly brigaded the one against the other. He had been engaged in artillery practice, and they had beaten the regulars every time they met. That had been brought about by a spirit of emulation. The Imperial troops had been withdrawn, and they had now established a permanent force, which he looked upon as taking the place the Imperial troops had formerly occupied; and by making the permanent force, which he considered the nucleus of their system, as efficient as possible—by getting the best men as officers that the Imperial Government could lend them—they might hope to see a citizen soldiery formed in Australia which would equal the troops in any part of the world. He spoke feelingly, because as an old volunteer there was no one who wished to see the volunteer system more fully developed in this country than he did, and that might be done by creating emulation. They knew that the volunteers here were engaged in various vocations, and could not give their time to becoming efficient soldiers like those who were permanently engaged in the work. At the same time, if they had an efficient permanent force it would establish a rivalry which would bring about a volunteer system which would be a credit to the colony.

Mr. SAYERS said the staff officer of the Northern district received £300 last year and was to receive £350 for the present year. The Chief Secretary did not mention that increase.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I mentioned that specially.

Mr. SAYERS said that on referring to the schedule he found the salary last year was £300 with £75 allowances. Did the allowances still continue?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Of course they do. This is an increase to the emolument of the office.

Mr. SAYERS said the staff officer in the North was paid at a lower rate than the officers holding similar positions in the South. The man had a large district to travel over and his salary should be equal to the salaries paid in the South. The Northern division of the defence force would compare very favourably with any portion in other parts of the colony. They were a fine body of men, and if their efficiency was to be maintained, the Government ought to see that their staff officer was of equal rank to those in Brisbane.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said hon. members would agree with him that an increase of £50 was a substantial increase. An officer could only be promoted by steps and degrees.

Mr. SAYERS said he did not object to the increase; but when he found officers down South receiving so much more than those in the North, he could not help asking why such a distinction should be made. If anything, the Northern officers should receive more salary than those in Brisbane, on account of the difference of climate and the increased cost of living. He did not cavil at the action of the Government in granting the increase of £50, but if the amount put down was sufficient for the Northern officer, then other officers were paid too highly. It appeared to indicate that there was some favouritism.

Mr. BARLOW said the worst feature of the whole business was that the permanent force seemed to have imbued those hon. gentlemen who held commissions with the same miserable spirit of subjection and centralisation. He agreed with what the hon. member for Fassifern said. The increased expenditure for last year, including the Works Department, was £23,000, and yet they could not afford to take evidence concerning the establishment of a university. He had not the least faith in the centralisation system. The hon. member for Carnarvon had said that without the central force the defence force would become a rabble; that was a big admission to make. It did not become a rabble in the old days, or when the hon. member for Leichhardt was a member of the force, and why should it be a rabble now? The only case in which England, in all her little wars—and she had had many of them—got the worst of it, was at Majuba Hill.

Mr. COWLEY: Isandula?

Mr. BARLOW said the hon. gentleman was an adept at the Kaffir language, but that was the name by which it was called in English. He referred to the battle of Majuba Hill. At that battle the English troops were confronted with nothing but bushmen; there was no red tape or pipe clay about them. That was the only kind of force that would be of any use in this colony. Last year he had brought before the Committee the question of establishing an arms and powder factory in the colonies, and, he repeated again, there was really no security until they had something of the sort in Australia.

Mr. STEPHENS said he did not wish to delay the Committee, as it seemed quite evident that the vote was going to pass. What they really wanted to know was, were they going to get value for their money? He did not wish to say anything against the officers. He was a volunteer himself at one time, and once or twice, in an official capacity, he had to visit the Brigade Office. He really did not think the officers were overworked. The number of times some of them adjusted a flower in their button-holes, took off their coats and brushed them, perambulated round the room, and looked in the glass, was somewhat amusing to him, and did not give him the idea of overwork. He would like to see one or two Australians on the staff. Queensland had produced a business man like the Chief Secretary, and a professional man like the leader of the Opposition, and why should it not produce a man capable of taking charge of its little army? If there was any vacancy on the staff he trusted an Australian would get the preference. It was an open secret outside that the volunteers were more or less in open rebellion. Perhaps the Chief Secretary had not heard of that officially, but no doubt the hon. gentleman privately knew something about it. He would like to know, before they passed those salaries, whether the officers of the permanent staff were in touch with the volunteers, and whether they were really getting value for their money.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he was not aware that the volunteers were in open rebellion. He had not heard anything about it.

Mr. SAYERS: What about Rockhampton?

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he was not aware that there had been a rebellion in Rockhampton.

Mr. STEPHENS: Are the staff in touch with the volunteers?

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he did not know that they were not, and he had not received any information that they were not.

Mr. BARLOW said he had no wish to disturb the pleasant feelings which had hitherto prevailed; but it was not a reasonable doctrine to

promulgate, that because the leader of the Opposition had, on account of indisposition from overwork, gone home, they should allow the Estimates to slip through without remark. He thought there was a great deal of truth in the remark of the hon. member for Woolloongabba, that the staff were not in touch with the volunteer portion of the force, that the Imperialist arbitrary centre of the force was not in touch with the citizen soldiery. He had every reason, from instances that had come under his notice in his own district, to think that was the case. He agreed with the hon. member for Woolloongabba also as to the necessity for introducing into that centre some Australians, some natives who were interested in the soil, and were not merely importations who came here, got all they could, and then went away.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS (Hon. J. M. Macrossan) said he would like to point out to the hon. member for Woolloongabba that soldiering was as much a profession as lawyering, and the hon. gentleman had quoted the leader of the Opposition as a gentleman who was at the head of his profession, and was an Australian. What he wished to point out was that for a man to learn his profession as a military man he must be taught in a military college, just as a lawyer must be taught in some legal establishment. Therefore, if Australians were to be at the head of their soldiering department, they must send them home for education. If the hon. gentleman thought that a right thing to do he should move in that direction. Until that could be done they must be content with the Imperial officers that they brought here.

Question put and passed.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that as all the debatable matter had passed with reference to the vote, he begged that £40,237 be granted for the defence force—land force. He would show what the alterations in the Estimate were. The amount for the Northern military district, Townsville, was the same as last year. The amount for the headquarters' band was the same; and there was a vote for one additional regimental band in the Wide Bay district. On the next page there was a reduction in the vote for garrison batteries in consequence of the disbandment of the Cooktown garrison battery. The votes on the next page remained the same. On the next page there was an increase for the cost of one mounted infantry company additional; and on the next page provision was made for two ambulance corps instead of one. The deferred pay remained the same; and in the contingency subdivision there was an increase of £500 for arms and accoutrements.

Mr. HODGKINSON: There has been some complaint about uniforms, that the men cannot get uniforms, as the staff say they have not got them in store or have not the funds.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the additional £500 was absolutely necessary for uniforms. There was an increase of £100 to the Queensland Rifle Association, and £50 to the Northern Rifle Association. The capitation allowance for efficient volunteers was the same; and the item, rent of offices and stores, was reduced by £50; and then there was one item of £2,000 to provide for the formation of new corps. He hoped that would be sufficient, and it would no doubt meet with the approval of the Committee. It would apply to various parts of the colony, and would include the constituency represented by the hon. member for Ipswich.

Mr. HODGKINSON said the Chief Secretary knew well that they gave the Government credit for framing the Estimates with care; but he

hoped they would consider the almost unanimous expression of opinion that the vote had increased year by year in far greater proportion than the numerical efficiency of the force would appear to warrant. It had increased that year by £16,000 on the vote before them, and there was something like £6,000 more in the Estimates to be submitted by the Minister for Mines and Works. That was a very large increase, for the total force on paper was about 3,000, and the increase was, therefore, practically a capitation allowance of nearly £8 per man. That was a very serious item, especially when they were told by the staff charged with its organisation that the force was starved in some departments. It was complained that it was starved in weapons, in accoutrements, and in uniform; yet in spite of all those shortcomings in material the cost of the force was increased by £8 per man per annum. The colony could not stand that much longer, and the little ebullient feeling that had cropped up that evening might lead to some very strong or perhaps rash action in future if the vote went on increasing at that rate.

Mr. ARCHER said he would like to know whether the Chief Secretary would try to re-establish the company which had lately been disbanded at Rockhampton. He was not going to defend the men for some things they did, as he knew perfectly well that if there was to be military discipline it must be strict, and those who became volunteers must make up their minds to learn to obey orders; but he thought that probably there was a little want of temper on one side, and that it led to want of temper on the other. The men only wanted a little management, and it was a great pity that the company had to be disbanded. They were a fine body of men, and if the company was re-established it would be as good a company as any in the whole of Queensland.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he regretted, with the hon. member for Rockhampton, the disbandment of that company, but any movement for a reinstatement of the company must come from the men themselves. If the men themselves came forward and made a proposal of that kind he would do what he could to reinstate the company.

Mr. GANNON said he would draw attention to a body of men that really deserved credit for the work they did; he referred to the ambulance corps. He had seen them doing excellent work. He did not know whether their pay could be increased, but he would like to see their services properly recognised.

Mr. FOXTON said he understood that some change had been made in the arrangements with regard to uniforms. The commandant in his report said:—

"The Government having adopted the suggestions put forward in my last report with respect to making the man, and not the State, the owner of the uniform, the necessary changes in the regulations were gazetted, and the system has now been regularly introduced."

He thought it was certainly due to hon. members that information should be given them as to what those changes were. He did not know what the new system was; it had never appeared in the general orders, although he believed it had been gazetted.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he was told by the commandant that under the new system the uniform was paid for by the members of the defence force. If a man left he got nothing for it and if he continued in the service he had nothing further to pay.

Mr. FOXTON said he had heard that the payment was 30s. per man. Was that payment made at the end of each financial year?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Yes.

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Mr. FOXTON said he would also like to know what arrangements, if any, were to be made for the better horsing of the field artillery. That was a matter which he had continually brought before the Committee. The country had spent a lot of money in the purchase of splendid horses, and, with the exception of six or eight which did dray work about town, and were used for training the permanent force as drivers, the whole of them were kept in a paddock at North Pine. It took two days to get them down—one day to muster and another day to bring them in. That seemed to him a most absurd style of managing the horses; they should be kept very much nearer town, in a place where they would be available for the work of the force for which they were intended—namely, the field artillery. As it was at present, the artillery had no opportunity of drilling with the horses, except on special occasions and a few days before camp. He would suggest that they should be kept in the Mount Coot-tha reserve, or some such place as that. He was aware that in summer time the grass there was occasionally burnt.

Mr. MURPHY: It is sour.

Mr. FOXTON said he believed it was no better where they were; at least he was told so; he had never seen the place. There were about sixty or seventy horses, worth from £20 to £25 a-piece, and they should be kept in a more convenient place.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said no doubt there was great difficulty in paddocking the horses near town. If they were stabled the cost of keeping them would be enormous, but if the hon. member would suggest any paddock that was more convenient than the place where they were at present kept he would discuss the matter with the commandant. He quite agreed with the hon. member that the horses should be available for the purposes for which they were purchased.

Mr. STEVENSON said allusion had been made to the salary of the commandant, and the hon. member for Carnarvon then lavished such fulsome praise upon the commandant that one could fancy that officer could do no wrong. But since then the hon. member had made such remarks that it seemed as if the commandant was not fit for his position at all. According to the hon. member for Carnarvon, he did not know what to do with his horses, but sent them away for a two days' journey to some out-of-the-way place where they could not be obtained when they were wanted. He did not think the hon. member was consistent; first of all, he lavished all kinds of praise upon the commandant, and then he found fault with everything he did. He did not think the commandant needed any praise from the Committee, or from the volunteer officers who were members of the Committee.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he wished to refer to a matter he had already brought under the notice of the Chief Secretary, and that was the way in which the people of Lytton were treated in regard to their water supply during the last encampment. The divisional board had sunk a well at considerable expense, and then the inhabitants were not allowed by the military authorities to get the water. He hoped they should hear no more about that sort of thing occurring again. A great deal had been said about the increase in the vote, and he certainly did not expect after the argument used in the session of 1887 that there would have been such an increase. It would be recollected that the Chief Secretary, when he was leader of the Opposition, went so far as to stonewall the defence force Estimates, and they were told that

a sum of about £7,000 could be struck off the vote, and the vote was only carried by one or two votes. But now they found that in two years the vote had increased by £20,000. He quite understood that it was very difficult to cut down the vote. There was a large amount of valuable property which had been purchased for the defence force, and it was necessary to keep it in good order. Reference had been made to a paddock suitable for the horses belonging to the defence force. He was certain that Mount Coot-tha would be an unsuitable place; and the horses, if kept there, would soon be unfit for work. But he could suggest a paddock, a first-class fattening paddock, within ten or twelve miles of Brisbane, which would suit very well.

Mr. WIMBLE said he wished to know whether the Chief Secretary would give favourable consideration to an application made by the Cairns people for the formation of a volunteer corps. There were a number of residents who were desirous of forming such a body, and he did not think their application being granted would impair the efficiency of the garrison battery in any way; but would be a credit to the service.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he thought he informed the hon. member for Cairns some time ago that if the vote were passed, the application from Cairns would be favourably considered.

Mr. BARLOW said the remarks of the hon. member for Bulimba had reminded him of another instance of that Imperialism which they were encouraging. There was a well dug by the divisional board, and paid for by the people, who were shut out from it by the defence force. He also understood that an attempt was made to annoy people so as to evict them from houses, in order that the whole of the land might be turned into a parade ground. That was the sort of thing that made the people rebel against the vote, and there was a greater feeling outside against it than the Chief Secretary was possibly aware of.

Mr. BUCKLAND said not only was the water supply cut off from the inhabitants of Lytton, but since the time of the encampment a public road had been closed. One or two of his constituents told him that the people felt very much aggrieved at that action. He would be inclined to take the usual course in the case of a road illegally closed, and chop down the obstruction.

Mr. FOXTON said that reminded him of a matter that had come before the Government and also before the late Government, and that was the advisability of resuming a portion of the land on that Lytton Flat. The Minister for Mines and Works was under the impression that it would not be necessary to take additional powers, as the powers he possessed only extended to rifle ranges; but power was subsequently taken to resume such lands as that for parade grounds. In the event of two or three buildings or fences being erected on the Lytton Flat, the place would be rendered unfit for a parade ground, and in the event of hostilities breaking out it would be necessary to clear such obstructions away, or else the enemy would. He thought the rest of that flat could be resumed at a very small cost, and it would be a great benefit to the defence force.

Mr. GANNON said he would draw the attention of the Government to a spot which would make the grandest parade ground in the colony, and that was the large flat near Luggage Point. There was a large area of Government land there which could easily be made suitable. It was rather flat in places, and perhaps spring tides covered a portion of it. It would make a splendid parade ground, as well as a public park for recreation, and he had no doubt before long

a railway would be running down that way. With a little improvement, it would make a first-rate parade ground for their soldiers.

Mr. SALKELD said he trusted the attention of the Chief Secretary would be specially directed to the matter of the field artillery horses, referred to by the hon. member for Carnarvon. The sixty-five horses represented from £1,200 to £1,500 worth of stock, and that was a serious item. Those horses, it appeared, were only required once a month, and it seemed to him that it would be much cheaper and better in every way to hire horses that were worked four or five days a week in town than to bring down grass-fed horses that could not possibly be able to do the work required of them.

Mr. PHILP said that last year there were six companies of infantry in the North, while there were now only four. He wished to know the reason for the reduction.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that last year the Wide Bay and Bundaberg companies were included in the Northern division, and they were now merged into the Southern division.

Mr. ISAMBERT said that, with regard to rifle clubs, the commandant reported:—

"Though there is a small steady increase in the number of members, I confess that I am not satisfied at the progress made."

If anyone had a right to complain it was the members of the rifle clubs themselves, because they could not obtain rifles. He would suggest that rifle clubs, especially in agricultural districts, should be encouraged by being enabled to obtain their rifles free, the rifles, of course, to remain the property of the Government.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the CHIEF SECRETARY, the CHAIRMAN left the chair, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

ANN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BILL.

Mr. REES R. JONES brought up the report of the select committee to which this Bill was referred; and moved that it be printed.

Question put and passed.

The second reading of the Bill was made an Order of the Day for Friday, the 20th inst.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER moved the adjournment of the House, and stated that the business for to-morrow would be, first, the Crown Lands Acts Amendment Bill in committee, and, if time allowed, the further consideration of the Estimates.

Question put and passed.

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