

Queensland



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[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 1889

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.*Monday, 14 October, 1889.*

Crown Lands Acts Amendment Bill—message to the Legislative Council.—Question.—Federal Council Referring Bill (Queensland) No. 1—third reading.—Supply—resumption of committee.—Message from the Governor—the loan vote.—Supply—resumption of committee.—Adjournment.

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

CROWN LANDS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.**MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. H. Black) moved that the following message be transmitted to the Legislative Council:—

The Legislative Assembly having had under consideration the Legislative Council's amendments in the Crown Lands Acts, 1884 to 1886, Amendment Bill:—

Agree to the amendment in subsection (1) of clause 3.

Disagree to the proposed amendment in subsection (8) of clause 3—Because the amendment would destroy the intention of the clause.

Disagree to the proposed amendment in clause 15—Because fourteen days would be insufficient to allow of objections being lodged from remote parts of the colony; and

Propose to amend proposed new clause 17 to read as follows: "All lands which are now or may be hereafter dedicated to the public as roads, may be dealt with in the same manner as any other roads which have been dedicated to public use by the Crown"—in which amendment they invite the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Question put and passed.

QUESTION.

Mr. ARCHER asked the Minister for Mines and Works—

If the Government, taking into consideration the very general desire, as expressed by the petition presented to this House on the 7th instant, for the continuation of the endowment to the divisional boards at the present rate, are prepared during the recess to take the matter into favourable consideration?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS (Hon. J. M. Macrossan) replied—

The Government will take the matter into their consideration during the recess.

FEDERAL COUNCIL REFERRING BILL (QUEENSLAND), NO. 1.**THIRD READING.**

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said: Mr. Speaker,—I move that this Bill be now read a third time. When it was under consideration in committee on Friday evening, the leader of the Opposition asked if the Government had had any communication with South Australia on the subject of the Bill.

The SPEAKER: I must remind the hon. gentleman that, as the question has been allowed to go as a formal motion, there can be no discussion.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS: I want to answer the hon. gentleman's question. I think it is a very important one, and I hope the House will give me permission to answer it.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS: I was not able to give a definite answer then; in fact I had forgotten at the time that the Government had communicated with

the South Australian Government. That was on the 10th September, and we have received no reply whatever.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS, the Bill was passed, and ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Council for their concurrence, by message in the usual form.

SUPPLY.**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.**

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. W. Pattison) moved that the Speaker leave the chair, and the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, further to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

The Hon. Sir S. W. GRIFFITH said: Mr. Speaker,—Will the Colonial Treasurer tell us what course he proposes to adopt with respect to the Loan Estimates? I understand he proposes to take them into consideration to-morrow. Does he intend to make an explanatory speech relating to the loan vote, and, if so, does he propose to make it in the House before going into committee or afterwards? I should also like to know whether, in the event of the Colonial Treasurer's speech containing debatable matter, which is probable, he proposes that the discussion should come on at once or at a later date?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said: Mr. Speaker,—In reference to the hon. gentleman's question, as far as I can ascertain, on the last occasion of Loan Estimates being introduced, the late Treasurer Dickson moved them with the Speaker in the chair. I think it was some few days after when the Committee considered the items in detail. As far as I am aware, the Government intend to proceed with the consideration of the Loan Estimates to-morrow. Of course, it will be necessary to make a short speech in introducing them, and with the Speaker in the chair. After that we will discuss each item separately in committee. I think that is the precedent which has been laid down, and I propose to follow it. I am not aware whether it will be necessary to debate the Estimates before the Speaker leaves the chair; but when Mr. Dickson introduced his Loan Estimates no debate took place. I think that would be a convenient method to follow.

The Hon. Sir S. W. GRIFFITH: Perhaps I did not make myself clear. Does the hon. gentleman propose that the Loan Estimates shall be considered in committee to-morrow?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Yes. I believe it is the wish of both sides of the House that there should be no delay. It would have been more convenient possibly if the General Estimates had been dealt with first, but against that I am told there is some objection, and whichever plan the House may wish to adopt, the Government are prepared to meet the wishes of hon. members, either by going on with the Loan Estimates to-morrow or with the General Estimates. I may say, that I hope to be able to lay the proposed loan expenditure on the table of the House this afternoon.

Question put and passed.

STATE NURSERIES.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1889-90, a sum not exceeding £813 for State Nurseries. Hon. gentlemen would see that that was an entirely new vote, which extended the usefulness of the Department of Agriculture. Those two nurseries had been established for the purpose

of endeavouring to introduce new agricultural industries in the North, so that the Northern part of the colony should not be dependent upon only one agricultural industry—namely, sugar cultivation. The annual report of the Department of Agriculture brought up to the latest available date, 30th May, was in the hands of hon. members, and they would find on page 46 a list of the plants that had already been introduced at Mackay, and which would also be introduced at Kamerunga, the second nursery, as soon as the land was in a fit state to plant. The variety of new subjects of agriculture were very considerable, and he had a recent report from the Mackay nursery which was of a very encouraging nature, and which he had no doubt would interest hon. members. It was not very long, and he would read it, so as to give some idea of the probable usefulness of the two State nurseries.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH: Where is the Mackay nursery?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: On the far side of the lagoon—on the Meadowlands side. There was an overseer there at £150 a year, who had one labourer to assist him at £2 per week. The report said—

“Most satisfactory progress has been made here. The nursery, which has an area of 20 acres, has been fenced with a secure wire and netting fence. House accommodation for the overseer and out-buildings for working the nursery, have been erected, and surrounded with a substantial netting and barbed wire fence. Mr. D. Buchanan, who has experience in connection with nursery work, has been appointed overseer. Five acres have been ploughed to a depth of fourteen inches, and is all under crop with different economic plants from various parts of the world. Seven different varieties of wheat imported from the Nile Delta and two from France have been sown, and promise good returns.”

He had later information which stated that the wheat had matured in a most unexpected and satisfactory manner, and up to the present time had shown no signs whatever of rust. Hon. gentlemen would see by the list of wheats which the department had introduced during the past year that every effort was being made to introduce varieties of wheat, some of which it was hoped would prove rust proof.

“Several varieties of fodder plants are being experimented with, and efforts are being made to preserve them as ensilage. Sixteen different varieties of tobacco are under trial, with a view of securing the most suitable for cultivation in the district. In addition to the plants enumerated in the annual report of the department a large variety of plants have since been imported, and are doing well at the nursery. Mr. Bailey, the colonial botanist, visited the nursery on his return from Cairns, and expressed himself as well pleased with the progress made in such a short time.”

With regard to the Kamerunga nursery the report said—

“Area of nursery, 20 acres. Owing to the dense scrub progress has not been great; 10 acres have, however, been felled and burned off, and the overseer's house and out-buildings to be erected are approaching completion. Fencing operations are in progress, and in a short time the nursery will be in a fit state to receive a large consignment of plants and seeds that have been ordered from different countries, and which are likely to be of commercial value to the Northern portion of the colony. Mr. E. Cowley has been appointed overseer and is pushing the work ahead. The objects of these nurseries are to test and reproduce for distribution plants of economic value, so that a general system of agriculture may be entered upon instead of farmers confining their efforts to the production of only one or two crops, such as sugar, maize, bananas, etc.”

The vote for Kamerunga it would be seen was only for nine months, while that for Mackay was for twelve months.

Mr. HODGKINSON: Where was the land got at the Kamerunga nursery?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said it was Crown land close to the railway line, he believed, where there was a deviation from the main line.

The HON. P. PERKINS said he would like to ask the hon. gentleman if anything had been done to improve the growth of grapes suitable for wine purposes in the colony?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said that vine cuttings were being distributed; but the Under Secretary for Agriculture informed him that it was impossible to introduce new varieties of vines in consequence of phylloxera.

The HON. P. PERKINS said that what he wished to know really was whether anything was being done to introduce competent persons skilled in the growth of grapes in the old countries?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said nothing had been done in that direction.

Mr. ISAMBERT said it was quite possible to introduce new varieties of vines from the old country without any danger from phylloxera. If the Agricultural Department would apply to some of the agricultural colleges on the Continent, he was sure they would get new varieties of vines sent out here carefully packed, and certified by scientific men to be free from phylloxera. There would not be the least difficulty in it, and, besides, it was not so certain that they were absolutely free from phylloxera in Queensland, as a party from Gympie had informed him that his vines had been destroyed by phylloxera. He would like the Minister in charge of the department to pay attention to that matter.

The HON. P. PERKINS said he must confess that he was somewhat disappointed that the hon. gentleman who had introduced the travelling dairy and so many other industrial appliances, had done nothing in the direction he had himself referred to. All sorts of people attempted to grow grapes and make wine in this colony, and they mistook the locality. The locality was everything in growing grapes for wine, and they knew that Brisbane was not a suitable place, nor was Ipswich. They made a certain commodity up there which he would not say any more about, as the last time he had expressed an opinion upon colonial wine it did not seem to agree with some hon. members. He would refrain from saying anything about that now, but he would say that there were places in the colony where they could grow good grapes and make first-class wine. None of those engaged in the industry here had the proper idea of it yet. They all seemed to think rich land was necessary, but good wine could not be made from grapes grown on rich land. He had made that discovery in another place. When he was in France he made it a study. He had been entertained at Cognac, and had been driven about the country in a drag, and had been introduced to some of the proprietors of vineyards there. He had told them that competent skilled men amongst them could make a fortune by coming out here, where they could get the land at so low a price. They had asked him what the wages were here, and he had answered that they were not higher than 8s. and not lower than 5s. a day. They were passing through a vineyard at the time in a drag drawn by four horses, and they saw 300 or 400 persons engaged in attending to the vines for making brandy at Hennessy's place in Aquitaine, and one of the company asked him to look down at the vineyard and see all the people at work. He said he saw them, and he was asked, “What do you think they had for dinner to-day?” He said he thought they had had a bottle of wine and some bread and meat, and the reply was, “A bottle of wine! Do you think we would give them a bottle of wine? If we gave them a bottle of wine they would not

look at it. They have had four snails and a piece of brown bread each." He had told those in his company then that he did not wonder any longer that they did not care to come out to Queensland if they could get men to be slaves to them in that fashion; and one of them said to him, "You go down amongst them and tempt them as much as you like, ten times as much as you have tempted me, and you will find they won't leave this country." The Minister for Lands had now two commissioners to relieve him, and he thought that as the hon. gentleman must have had a good deal of leisure time as well as the commissioners—who must have done all the work allotted to them by this time—he would have searched for some Continental people to come out and give him some hints in searching for a locality for the growth of grapes for making wine, as the locality was everything in the making of wine.

Mr. GLASSEY said the salaries set down for the overseers of those nurseries appeared to him to be very small for men who required so much intelligence and training. Only £150 a year, with house allowance in the North, was too little for such work, especially when they found more than £200 a year being paid to messengers in some of the departments. The Minister for Lands had not stretched his conscience in fixing the salaries to the men engaged in such work as overseeing those nurseries. He would suggest to the hon. member that when the Estimates came on next year, if those men were to be retained and their work to be continued he should pay them salaries in some way proportionate to the nature of the work in which they were engaged. Men should be paid higher salaries in the North than in the South, and £150 a year was a paltry sum to pay the overseer of a State nursery in the North, when men in the South were paid £300 a year for doing work that certainly did not require so much intelligence.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he would point out the exact position of those overseers of State nurseries, and would take as an illustration the nursery at Mackay. That nursery was a piece of land covered with couch grass, and it required some one with good farming knowledge—a good cultivator—to put it in proper working order. He quite admitted that when the land was in good working order, and there was scope for scientific development, it might be necessary to pay a higher salary to a man of more scientific attainments; but if he had appointed a scientific gentleman at £250 or £300 a year to take charge of the nursery now, a man would still be required at £150, because the former would not work with the plough and harrow. He had had no difficulty in getting a good farming man to accept the position of overseer at £150 per annum.

Mr. MELLOR said it had been stated that steps would be taken to carry out a system of forest conservancy, and he would like to know what was the connection between forest conservancy and State nurseries?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said there was no connection between the two; they were totally distinct. The forestry department, when initiated, would be for the purpose of re-foresting large areas of land which had already been denuded of their commercial timbers. It was quite possible that some of the trees for planting those forests might eventually be raised in some of the State nurseries, but not necessarily.

The HON. P. PERKINS said the hon. gentleman had not answered his question whether any steps would be taken to introduce from the

Continent of Europe experienced men competent to select the best localities for growing grapes for wine-making purposes.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he would have inquiry made into the matter, but he was rather inclined to think that they could get just as good men in the colonies as they could import. If they wanted to get good men to select land suitable for vine-growing, assuming that they had not men here of sufficient experience, which he doubted, they might go to Victoria or South Australia and get men there equal to any men on the Continent of Europe.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said they all acknowledged that vine-growing had been neglected in this colony. There was plenty of land for vine-growing and plenty of labour, and he did not question for a single moment that the farmers of the colony could grow grapes, but it was not done. Would the hon. gentleman undertake to do something to encourage the development of that industry?

Mr. HODGKINSON said that a very great deal of useful information could be obtained at a small expense. In the library they could find information as to the grape-growing soils in France and Germany. Each vineyard had its own particular characteristics, and produced wine of a particular quality. Probably a vineyard on one side of a fence might be worth five times that on the other side of the fence, and to the ordinary observer there would appear to be no difference in the soils; but there was a chemical difference in the constituents of the soil that made all the difference in the character of the grape produced. Information of that kind could be obtained by the department and disseminated through the Press. The men who grew grapes here had to work on the knowledge already at the service of the public. What they needed was information as to what effect modifications of temperature and moisture, and climatic conditions generally, had upon the chemical constituents of the soil. The question as to the proper soil for producing grapes for wine-making purposes, for eating, and for drying as raisins, was one that could be determined without any difficulty, by ascertaining the chemical constituents of the soil. The idea that some persons had, that as long as they could get a grape and squeeze it, they could make wine, was a great mistake.

Mr. ISAMBERT said the chemical constituents of the soil was not the only matter to be considered. It was of far more importance what varieties of grapes were cultivated, and until they knew what particular sort of grape would produce the best wine in this colony, considering climate and soil, the industry would not be a great success. Some of the grapes which produced the finest wine in Europe would not thrive in this climate. Books of reference would not teach what was required in that respect. Experience was necessary, and if they induced the best vignerons from the old country to come to the colony, those persons would have a great deal to learn by experience. If the Under-Secretary for Agriculture continued to pay attention to that matter in the way he had commenced, he would be able to collect a great deal of useful information; and there was any amount of information to be got in the colony; it had only to be focussed and distributed again. But what was the good of encouraging the wine industry when everything was done to discourage the sale of wine? When the storekeepers were allowed to sell a bottle of wine over the counter there was a large sale, but since wine selling had been confined to licensed wine shops the sale had been limited, as many people could not afford to pay £10 a year license fee. Unless greater facilities

were offered for retailing wine it was no use to encourage its manufacture. The vignerons were moving in the matter, and he believed that before Parliament met again they would make representations to the Government, asking them to introduce such legislation as would facilitate the sale of wine.

Question put and passed.

BOTANIC GARDENS.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS, in moving that there be granted for the service of the year 1889-90 the sum of £2,186 for salaries and contingencies in connection with the Botanic Gardens, said there was an increase of £100 on that vote as compared with last year, in consequence of the engagement of a gentleman of scientific attainments as curator at £300 instead of £200 per annum. The vote of £100 granted last year for repairing asphalt walks was not required for the present year, but against that there was a sum of £74 for a horse lawn mower, which it was considered necessary to purchase for the purpose of keeping down the great growth of grass, and an increase of £26 in the amount for labour, plant collecting, incidental expenses, and forage.

The HON. P. PERKINS said reports had been circulated to the effect that certain privileged individuals were able to obtain flowers and plants from the gardens in any quantity as they liked, and that privilege was denied to other people. He would like to know if that report was true?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said amongst the instructions issued to the curator of the gardens when he took office was one to the effect that applications from private persons for seeds, plants, etc., must be submitted to the Under Secretary for Agriculture before being dealt with, and that gentleman had received instructions that nothing was to be removed from the gardens for private distribution. That removed the onus of refusing to give plants to private persons from the curator. Care was taken not to in any way interfere with the interests of private gardeners. It was true that applications were occasionally made, which were always referred to the department before the curator acted upon them, and then the curator was only allowed to give such flowers as could be conveniently spared, and would not interfere with the requirements of the gardens. Pot plants had been lent on one or two occasions for decorative purposes; but that was not done until the curator had received the consent of the Under Secretary for Agriculture.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he thought it would be a very good thing if the trustees were instructed to forward flowers to the hospital occasionally, as there was nothing more cheering to the patients. A large number of blossoms could be sent without any loss to the gardens. There were, undoubtedly, people who used to obtain plants, but they had opportunities now of getting them from private persons by paying for them, which the hospital patients were not in a position to do. There was one thing that must strike anyone who took an interest in the gardens, and that was that the gentleman who was now in charge had made a great many improvements. In the first place, he had carefully attended to the interests of the animals kept in confinement there, and it was now a pleasure to see them. Every little thing was done that would administer to their comfort in captivity, and the only thing that could be regretted was the smallness of the vote. There was one thing he would point out, and that was that the ponds of water, instead of being objects of repulsion, should be made objects of pleasure.

Unless there was a very heavy rainfall those ponds were simply collections of fetid matter; but a very small stream of water would purify and keep them clean. If the hon. gentleman would see his way clear to take that step he would remove a very great source of danger to the health of the city, and add considerably to the benefits to be derived from the gardens. Around those ponds was a favourite resort of persons watching the waterfowl in the summer evenings, but a very offensive miasma arose from them at present. A small pipe conveying a continuous stream of water, and discharging the surplus into the river, would keep those ponds clean, and they would be an adornment instead of an object of repulsion.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said in regard to the suggestion of the hon. member that flowers should be sent to the hospital, he could inform him that a large bunch was sent to the hospital every Wednesday with the greatest regularity. In regard to the ponds, he would cause inquiry to be made, and now that there was a large supply of water at Enoggera it might be possible to do what the hon. member suggested; but till the recent rains came there had been too great a scarcity of water. If the ponds really required cleaning out, the curator would give attention to the matter.

Mr. SMYTH said he lived close to the gardens, and often went into them, but he could not see any very great improvements. There was certainly an extension of the bush house, but he could not see that the gardens were any better than when Mr. Pink and Mr. Cowan were there, and he did not see why another £100 should be added to the present curator's salary. They were supposed to be going in for retrenchment, and he did not see why they should be so extravagant in that matter. They could get a very good man for £200 a year.

Mr. SAYERS said he agreed with the hon. member for Gympie. He went into the gardens very often, and could see no improvements. That might be through his obtuseness, perhaps; but at any rate he could not see it, and a great many were of his opinion. He noticed that the curator was also allowed a residence valued at £65 per annum. The overseer, who actually did the work, received only £120 per annum, while they were asked to give the curator something like £7 per week merely for giving orders. It was nothing more nor less than pure extravagance.

The HON. P. PERKINS said the economical method had been tried, and it had been found a failure. The hon. member for Charters Towers was anxious to exercise economy in the working of the gardens; but he might inform the hon. member that he had made efforts in that direction, but had not been successful. One or two persons had been employed there at low rates of wages, and the gardens had suffered. The gentleman who was at present in charge of those gardens, he considered, was well worth the money paid him. It must not be lost sight of that the present curator had spent the best part of his life in acquiring the knowledge necessary to enable him to conduct the gardens. He (Mr. Perkins) was only giving his own experience in conjunction with the present Surveyor-General, that they tried working the gardens on a very economical system, and Mr. Tully could corroborate his statement that it ended in failure.

Mr. SAYERS said that unless he got some more information on the matter he should move the reduction of the vote. If they had an overseer for the gardens at a salary of £120 they did not want a man over the overseer at £300 a year. One man could surely overlook all the work done there. It was all very well to say that a

man of scientific attainments should be well paid, but they did not want a man of scientific attainments for a garden like that.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he was of opinion that a city like Brisbane, the capital of the colony, with such a magnificent piece of ground, was justified in having a garden which should be a credit to it; and he would go further, and say that those gardens were a credit to Brisbane, and to the curator in charge of them. He did not consider that £300 a year for a gentleman of the scientific attainments of Mr. McMahon was too much. He knew the curator was a gentleman who, if sufficient funds were voted by Parliament, would still further beautify the gardens; he was quite capable of doing it. Mr. McMahon was a gentleman of considerable scientific attainments. He (Mr. Black) had lately received from him an elaborate treatise on the best means of giving effect to the desire of the House with regard to the establishment of a forestry department—a subject in which he was well versed—and the gentleman would no doubt be able to render good service to the Agricultural Department in many ways; a salary of £300 a year was not a bit too much for him.

Mr. SMYTH said that after what they had seen in the reduction of the salaries of certain clerks, it seemed to be the way with the present Government to increase the salaries of those who were high in office, and to cut down the salaries of those who were low down, but who did all the work.

Mr. SAYERS said the curator might be a man of very high attainments, and be able to write treatises on forestry, and to examine Chinese gardens, but it was a shame and a scandal that he should be paid £300 a year for the work done in the gardens. There were no more improvements there now than there were two years ago. It was no use talking about scientific attainments. They wanted to see something for the money, and he contended that there was nothing whatever to show for it; and that was the opinion of a great many people in the city who knew more about the matter than he did. They did not object to Brisbane having a creditable public garden, but they did object to paying £300 a year to a curator who walked about the gardens in lavender kid gloves. He moved the reduction of the vote by £100.

Mr. HAMILTON said a dead set was being made against the curator by certain hon. members who were not capable of judging what scientific attainments were. One objection to Mr. McMahon was that he wore kid gloves, and another was to the colour of the gloves he wore. He supposed that if the curator wore kid gloves of whatever colour he paid for them. Some of those present got better paid than the curator, and did less for it. He had often been in the gardens, but he had never seen the curator wearing kid gloves there; and if he did there could be no objection to it. His experience of the gardens since the present curator had been there was that his salary was well earned. Mr. McMahon was a gentleman who had a long course of training in one of the first gardens in the world before coming to Brisbane, and he thought Brisbane ought to congratulate itself that it had such a curator for its Botanical Gardens, at a salary which he considered very small. Anyone who was an authority on the subject must admit that the curator was doing his work very well.

Mr. TOZER asked whether the appointment of the curator, and the increase in his salary, had been recommended or approved by the trustees?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied that that was so.

Mr. SAYERS said his principal object in moving the reduction was to call attention to the next item—"Overseer, £120"—to see whether that officer's salary could not be increased. Of course it could not be increased in Committee of Supply, but by reducing the increase to the curator the Government would be able to put an extra £50 for the overseer on the Supplementary Estimates, and also increases for the propagator at £114, and the park ranger at £100, who must surely be men a little above the average. There was no increase to those salaries, probably because they were the salaries of working men. He would like to ask the Minister for Lands whether the curator, who was said to be a gentleman of high scientific attainments, had been first engaged at a salary of £200 or £300 per annum?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the curator was engaged at a salary of £300 a year.

Mr. SAYERS said that being so he would withdraw his amendment. He was under the impression that Mr. McMahon had been engaged at a salary of £200 per annum, and that he was now to receive an increase of £100.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said he agreed with the hon. gentleman in his views, and if he would propose that increases should be made to the other salaries on the Supplementary Estimates, he would give the hon. gentleman every assistance.

Mr. SAYERS said he would like to ask the Minister for Lands what the house in the gardens was used for?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the building was the curator's residence. It was a very small building, and it had been recommended that a new building should be erected, with a large hall in which lectures could be delivered. The curator was quite agreeable to deliver a course of lectures if he had a suitable room in which to do so.

Mr. SAYERS said he asked because when he and some others had been there the other Sunday they had found the building empty. There seemed to be nothing in the house; the windows were without blinds; and, with the exception of one room in which there was a table and a book, as if someone had been writing in it, the building was entirely empty.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the house had been undergoing a course of repairs by the Works Department. He was not prepared to say whether it was quite finished yet. By this time it should be finished.

Mr. SMYTH said the last curator had had £200 a year and quarters; but evidently the present curator did not think the house good enough, and next year they would probably find on the Estimates an allowance of £100 in lieu of quarters for that gentleman. The cottage in the gardens could be made quite good enough without making it necessary to pull it down and put up a new building. The present curator was altogether too big.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said he understood that Mr. McMahon was a gentleman of high scientific attainments, and one who could do a great deal more work than look after the gardens. He believed Mr. McMahon was well worth a salary of £300 a year. He understood that he had had some experience in forestry, which was a subject previous Governments, as well as the present Government, had often thought of initiating in the colony. He would like to know whether the Government had received any information from Mr. McMahon upon the subject

of forestry, and he should also like to know whether the Government contemplated doing anything in that direction? It was quite time that they began, and he believed the curator could give practical information upon the subject.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said that he had mentioned earlier in the afternoon that Mr. McMahon had written a most valuable article in connection with forestry. The article was most lengthy, and went minutely into the details, and showed how the whole scheme could be worked. He hoped to be able to give effect to the treatise after the session was over. He had also invited other gentlemen, competent to express an opinion, to do so.

Mr. ISAMBERT said he hoped that Mr. McMahon had also made some remarks with reference to the destruction of their timber, and with reference to the way in which timber licenses were granted. They were destroying more timber under their present system in one year than a forestry department could make good in ten years. To think of replanting forests while they allowed people to destroy the forests was downright nonsense. The Forestry Department would have to see that the timber was conserved as well as replant trees. On the Continent and in all civilised countries, forestry was a regular science, and a most important one; and unless their forests were taken care of the land soon became exhausted and unprofitable.

Mr. HODGKINSON said the proper way to deal with their forests was to reserve all the timber land. All the marketable timber on the ranges should be marked, and if any other trees were cut a heavy penalty should be imposed. It would be better to sell the marked trees by auction on stated occasions, and the rangers of the districts should see that no other trees were cut. That would prevent the wholesale destruction of timber, which would be a great source of future loss, and was exceedingly discreditable to the colony.

Question put and passed.

RESERVES.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that £5,545 be voted for reserves. There was a grant of £100 for fencing at Cooktown, and another addition of £60 for Howard. The vote was the same as that of last year with those exceptions.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he would ask the Minister for Lands who was responsible for the selection of the site of the Cooktown reserve? because a more hopelessly unfortunate selection it would be impossible for crass ignorance to make.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the site had been selected some years back, and he was quite unable to attach the credit or blame of making the choice to anyone.

Mr. TOZER said he wished the Minister for Lands would inform the Committee on what principle those sums were apportioned? He could find no principle from looking at the votes for the last ten years. He found that the taxpayers of the colony since 1880 had had to pay to Rockhampton £6,000 for reserves. Toowoomba came next with £5,736; Townsville received £4,550; Maryborough, £4,500; Ipswich, £4,750; One-tree Hill, £4,050; Warwick, £3,000; Mackay, £2,300; South Brisbane, £2,600; Gympie, for two reserves, £2,500; Bowen got £2,125, and other places received lesser amounts. It appeared that in some years there had been special reasons for giving larger amounts, for fencing or some other necessary work. Then the Government next year simply took that as a basis and carried it out. There was nothing whatever to guide the Committee in

arriving at any principle in connection with the vote. He trusted that next year, with the exception of national works, such as the Botanic Gardens and Victoria Park, the whole of those reserves would be placed in the charge of local bodies who should look after them. It seemed monstrous that a large town like Charters Towers should be put down for so small a sum as £175. Then taking Gympie, the population there was something like 10,000 or 11,000; they had two reserves, and all they got was the paltry sum of £87 a year each. On the other hand, Ipswich, which seemed to preserve its power in that respect, got £500; Townsville, £500; Toowoomba, £500, and Rockhampton, £500. Those towns having in the course of years got between £5,000 and £6,000 each, one would think they did not now require so much, and that other places which had received little or nothing would want more; but there was evidently no system whatever in the apportionment of the vote. It was simply this: certain persons in years past had been able to get a certain sum put down for a certain place, and that had been continued ever since. He thought the favoured towns he had named should rely upon past expenditure, and a good deal upon their own resources; and he hoped that in future there would be some principle underlying that expenditure. He hoped that the hon. gentleman in charge of the department, if he remained in office, would next year run through the items in the vote, and apportion the amounts in proportion to previous votes in different localities, and the necessity that existed for the expenditure.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he quite agreed with the hon. gentleman. He was unable to explain how those votes had been perpetuated year after year as they had been; but under the present arrangement the Agricultural Department would take charge of the whole of those reserves, and it was the intention before next session to get a special report upon each one. The Government would then strike off those votes where the expenditure had not been justified during the past few years. He should like to see the votes for those reserves placed on very much the same footing as votes for agricultural and horticultural societies—that the people should subscribe for their maintenance, and the Government should endow their subscriptions. It would then very soon be seen what reserves deserved consideration. Of course there were certain reserves which might be looked upon as national which should not be included in that arrangement, such as Mount Cootth and Victoria Park. He could only promise that as soon as the reports he had mentioned were received, he would see if some of the votes could not be reduced, and very likely it would be found justifiable to increase some of them. The vote of £175 for Charters Towers was very small, and so were the votes for some other places; but without further information he did not feel justified in increasing the amounts.

Mr. SALKELD said it was promised when that matter was under discussion last year, that the vote would be put upon a basis that could be understood, but nothing appeared to have been done in that direction. He hoped the Minister would adopt the principle of putting all those reserves on the same basis as agricultural societies and hospitals, so far as Government assistance was concerned. He did not see why Government expenditure of that kind should be confined to towns. If small centres of population in country districts put their hands in their pockets to help themselves in that way, why should they not get assistance. It had been said that the Botanic Gardens in Brisbane and Victoria Park

should be considered as national undertakings; but why should they? Why should not the people of Brisbane, who were so heavily endowed with Government expenditure, contribute to things of that kind as well as other places? He should certainly oppose anything of that kind, and hoped that when the regulation was brought in, all places would be put on the same basis.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he would ask how was the money voted expended?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the trustees of the reserves had control of the expenditure.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he quite agreed with the hon. member for Fassifern, Mr. Salkeld. He did not see why the country should be taxed for the benefit of a few people who had not the public spirit to subscribe anything towards the maintenance of those reserves themselves. Out of the £5,545 asked for, about one fourth was for Brisbane alone.

Mr. SAYERS said the Minister for Lands had repeated almost word for word the remarks he made last year when that vote was under discussion. The hon. gentleman was going to place the vote on a proper basis, and do all sorts of things; but once it was got through there the matter ended, and the same thing occurred year after year. In the way the £175 was given for the reserve at Charters Towers it was simply so much money thrown away, because the place had never been even formed. There was a population of nearly 14,000 people there, and some of them had subscribed to improve the place a little, because the vote was only about sufficient to keep one man at work. He thought it would be far better and cheaper if the Government voted a sum to put those reserves in proper order, and then handed them over to the people of the district to look after. That was one of those votes that was held up to members who sat on the Government side. If they were good boys they would get £100 a year extra put on, and their constituents would give them all the credit for it, and the Government did not like to reduce it afterwards. He noticed that the vote for Bundaberg, £300, to which he had called special attention last year, was the same again for the present year. They got an increase last year, and it was only supposed to be for the year, but it had been put down again. He thought that such towns as Charters Towers and Gympie had as much right to receive £500 a year as Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, or Toowoomba. On what principle were votes given to some towns, and withheld from others? He was certain, judging from the population of Charters Towers, that more revenue was contributed by it than any two towns of the same size on the coast. What Government money had been spent there during the last year? If he asked for anything, the reply was that there was no money. There was a post-office there which was a disgrace to the country. Last year he was promised that something should be done to it. Nothing had been done, and yet other towns had fine two-storied brick buildings. If the people at Charters Towers had a post-office like that at Rockhampton, they would think they had a very decent building, and yet that building was to be pulled down to make room for a new one. The only post-office at Charters Towers was an old wooden building, which was nearly burnt down recently, and it was a great pity it was not burnt. The Government took every shilling of revenue they could get from the place, but gave back nothing in return. He thought the Government might see that the town he represented had a fair share of expenditure. Those things were not as they ought to be, and he should

like to have some explanation of the distinction drawn between one town and another, as to the amounts put down for reserves and parks.

The Hon. P. PERKINS said he agreed with what the hon. member for Charters Towers had stated. He had had a look over the reserve at Charters Towers recently, and all he could see that had been done was the planting of a few trees. It was therefore waste of money to vote only £175 a year to that town, as it could never pay the cost of trenching and planting. The reserve had a very shabby appearance, and comparing the town with others which received votes of £500 a year, he thought it was at least entitled to an equal amount. If £1,000 was granted, that would put the reserve in proper order, and he did not think the money would be wasted. Charters Towers had given a great stimulus to the colony, and would continue to promote its prosperity. He believed it would continue to yield gold for many years, and that children yet unborn would make fortunes there. It would be a worthy act on the part of the Government to put down £1,000 for the reserve at that place, so that the trustees could make a start by putting up the necessary fencing, and trenching the ground. They had been overtaken for the last three years with a very severe drought, and the country up there had a very thirsty appearance. He thought, in all fairness, that Charters Towers was entitled to as large a vote as many of the Southern towns received. It would not be at all a waste of money, considering the direct and indirect benefits accruing to the country from the gold yielded by Charters Towers, to give that town a substantial vote, and he did not think the taxpayers of the colony would object to it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said that for the information of the hon. member for Charters Towers, he might state that the Government had in contemplation the bestowing of a park of forty acres upon Charters Towers. He thought the hon. gentleman knew a little about it. He could not say how much money would be spent on it, but it was the intention to resume a portion of land at Charters Towers, which was already fenced in, and bestow it on the municipality as a recreation park for the people.

The Hon. Sir S. W. GRIFFITH said two years ago, when those Estimates were under consideration, he called attention to the fact that in many parts of the world public parks were under the control of the local authorities, and speaking then on behalf of the Government, he said it was the intention of the Government to endeavour to enforce that principle in this colony as well. In America one would laugh at the idea of the general revenue bearing the expense of keeping up recreation grounds. In the neighbouring colony of Tasmania there were two admirable parks in the city of Launceston, altogether maintained by the municipality, which was not by any means a wealthy one. He said then, and he repeated it now, that it was quite time the local authorities undertook those duties for themselves. It certainly would come to that, and he regretted the Government had not taken the matter in hand. Instead of that, the estimate was unchanged, the only alteration being a vote of £60 to Howard. What on earth was the use of that, unless by putting it on the Estimates it was hoped that in subsequent years it would be increased? It was quite evident that the vote for parks had been revised when the Government were tired of revising the Estimates, and they allowed it to go without any attention.

Mr. NORTON said he would like to say a word in connection with the vote for parks, and what had fallen from the hon. the leader of the

Opposition. A short time ago he was in Adelaide, where they had more parks than in any other town in the Australian colonies. There were something like seventeen or eighteen hundred acres of park land there, which were entirely kept up by the city corporation, and there were no votes put down on the Estimates for towns here and there all over the colony. The great objection to the vote under consideration was that some towns received votes and others did not. If that system was to be carried out it should be carried out on a proper principle, and the principle should be applied to all towns alike. If that could not be done, then the sooner those votes were done away with the better.

Mr. SAYERS said it was all very well for the leader of the Opposition and other members to get up and say those votes should be done away with. The hon. member for Wide Bay had only a little time ago shown them that some £50,000 had already been spent upon existing parks, and now it was proposed that other towns, after contributing to make the existing parks in other places, should find the money themselves to make parks of their own. They had a barren piece of ground at the lower end of Mossman street at Charters Towers; but at present it was almost useless, as there was not a decent tree of any description there, and people could not go there to enjoy themselves in the heat of the sun, unless some shelter was provided for them. The people themselves were raising subscriptions for a band pavillion there. They were to get a piece of ground; but if something was not done to improve it and plant it with trees it would be virtually useless. There were deep gullies in the land, and it would require a large sum of money to make the ground, before any planting was done on it at all. They were now to be told by those representing other towns that had had thousands of pounds spent on their parks to put them in proper order and beautify them, that the Government would be doing the best thing to knock off those votes altogether, and let the towns that had not heretofore had any share in the plunder do the best they could for themselves. That was certainly not fair play; but if those towns that had not fair grants were voted a sum of money to put their parks in order, he would then be prepared to see the vote dropped, and not until then.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said he had been waiting to hear some opinions expressed by the hon. members for Ipswich with respect to those parks. They had so far been reticent, and he supposed it was because they had nothing to complain of. The Minister for Lands had given expression to an opinion which he must entirely disagree with. The hon. gentleman had stated that possibly he would not be very much against knocking off the votes for outside parks and recreation grounds, but that the recreation grounds in Brisbane were really national parks, and must be attended to. Once they went outside the boundaries of Brisbane nothing could be considered national. Were not the parks at Ipswich, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, or any other towns as "national" as the parks in Brisbane? The hon. gentleman could hardly have given the matter proper consideration. The parks were in the first instance put into the hands of trustees, and required an immense deal of clearing, fencing, and planting. The park at Ipswich supplied the whole district, and there were 10,000 or 12,000 inhabitants in its vicinity. It was as national and as useful to the inhabitants of Ipswich as the Brisbane parks were to Brisbane people; and the same could be said of the parks all over the colony. Plants, shrubs, and flowers had been distributed from the Ipswich park amongst the people there, and the people had received a good deal of

education for their own gardens from those in charge of the Ipswich park. The money voted was at present spent only on the central part of the reserve at Ipswich, as the reserve was divided into three parts by public roads which the corporation had to keep in order. It was a mistake made in the beginning to put those parks into the hands of trustees. He was unfortunately one of the trustees of the Ipswich park, and they had had it in contemplation for some time to hand the park entirely over to the corporation. There were a few difficulties in the way that could easily be got over, and the trustees would be prepared to sign deeds placing the park in the hands of the corporation at any time. He had no doubt that if it was placed in the hands of the corporation they would adopt some means or other to make it pay, in order to prepare for the day, if it should ever come, when the £500 vote would be knocked off. The park was never without men working in it, and the trustees had an overseer and men improving it, and keeping it in order at all times for the benefit of the public; and there was a proper account kept of every farthing laid out upon it by the clerk of the municipality. The gardens they had made there were very useful, and were resorted to by an immense number of people.

Mr. BARLOW said he could assure the Committee that the park at Ipswich was conducted by the trustees on most economical and efficient principles, and, as the hon. member for Stanley had said, an account was kept by the town clerk of Ipswich of all the moneys expended upon it. He did not think that £500 was anything too much to keep it in decent order, and it was the only place to which the people could have recourse for recreation where there was any shade or shelter. He was rather astonished at a doctrine which had been protested against before being again propounded in that Committee—that all Brisbane institutions were "national" works, and that the metropolis should stand on any different footing from other places. They had a population of about 15,000 people about Ipswich, and they had by no means too large an expenditure upon their park. The expenditure upon it was carefully shepherded and proper accounts of it rendered, and he considered the Ipswich park a credit to the trustees.

Mr. COWLEY said the Minister for Lands had promised to revise that vote, and he hoped the hon. gentleman in doing so would consider the claims of the North. The total of the vote was £5,545, and out of that the North got £1,225, whilst three small towns, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Maryborough, got £1,500. That was a most extraordinary state of things. That showed where their Northern surplus went—to support these parks. It must be remembered also that the £1,225 for the whole of the North was not an annual vote, as £100 of it was a special grant for fencing at Cooktown. The Minister for Lands should remember the statement made by the hon. member for Wide Bay as to the thousands of pounds spent on parks down in the South in years gone by, and consider the claims of the North when revising the vote.

Mr. ANNEAR said hon. members must not forget the returns laid on the table the other day, which showed that in about eight years the colony had paid £1,500,000 for a mail service, which was almost exclusively for the benefit of the North. The North had been very well treated in that respect, and the hon. member should not therefore talk about the way their Northern surplus has been expended. He quite agreed with the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Barlow, that it was necessary that there should be those nice reserves, and that they should have nice shade-trees and flowers in them; but he thought that

the people in the different towns where those reserves were situated should have sufficient energy and public spirit to contribute something towards the cost of bringing them into existence. He supposed the Auditor-General went through the accounts of the different trustees, and would like to know what sum was contributed by the public of Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville, Ipswich, and Maryborough, each of which received £500, and also by the public of Brisbane, which received a much larger amount?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he did not think the public contributed anything, except in Rockhampton, where the sum of £500 was found to be insufficient.

Mr. ANNEAR: So they do in Maryborough.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said very likely the people of Maryborough did contribute something. The Rockhampton park was the distributing ground for the whole of the Central district. The gardens at Maryborough and Toowoomba were a credit to their respective districts. He did not, of course, say that the gardens in other places were not creditable to the districts, but he knew of his own personal knowledge that the money was well expended in those two towns.

Mr. SMITH said he could not let the remark of the hon. member for Maryborough, Mr. Annear, that the mail service was principally for the benefit of the North, pass without notice. Brisbane, which was the terminus of the service, derived more benefit from it than any other place in the colony. With regard to the vote under discussion, he trusted that the anomaly which existed and which had existed in it for years past, would not appear when the Estimates were again brought forward. Such places as Charters Towers and Gympie, with their large populations varying from 10,000 to 14,000 people, had an equal right to £500 a year for reserves as Ipswich, Maryborough, and the other towns mentioned in that vote. He thought the Government did not exercise proper supervision over the expenditure of the money granted, and he believed that if the Minister for Lands carried out his intention of making inquiries into the matter, he would gain a great deal of knowledge which would rather astonish him. He (Mr. Smith) thought a great deal of the money was thrown away, especially in those places which received the largest grants. He trusted that when inquiry was made, the whole thing would be rectified to the satisfaction of all concerned, and that some principle would be adopted on which grants should be given for the establishment of reserves.

Mr. HODGKINSON said it seemed that neither the Minister for Lands nor any member of the Committee could give any information as to the principle on which those grants were made. The whole thing seemed to be a matter of chance; sometimes a place got on to the list, but a great many places never got there. The distribution of the money was very unequal. In order to test the sincerity of hon. members who had detected the inequality, he would move an amendment to the effect that the grant allowed to any place should not exceed the amount of local subscriptions. There was no man who had a deeper sense of the value of those recreation grounds than he had; but he objected to the whole colony being taxed for certain favoured sections—to places which had no chance of participating in the delights, having to bear the brunt of expense for other people. That the distribution of the money was very capricious had been generally admitted. Every one of those reserves added to the value of the property in the

neighbourhood. For instance, it would pay the owners of property in the immediate neighbourhood of Victoria Park, near Brisbane, to contribute a sum equal to the grant in aid for the maintenance of that reserve, simply for the value accruing to their property from the keeping of the reserve in good order, and the same remark would apply to other places. As hon. members appeared to be of opinion that the distribution of those grants was capricious and unjust and required amendment, he would move that the question be amended by the addition of the words "subject to the condition that no grant in aid shall exceed the amount of local subscription."

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said the hon. member founded the statement by which he supported his amendment on illogical premises. The hon. member stated that those recreation parks were of no use, except to those who lived in the neighbourhood. He was not at all certain that they did enhance the value of land in the neighbourhood. It had never been his experience that in the neighbourhood of a park the land was enhanced in value in any way, and he believed that those parks were taken advantage of by people from all parts of the colony. It was proposed now that the amount granted to parks should not exceed the amount raised by subscription; but if that system were adopted at present, the Ipswich people would be deprived of every shilling.

Mr. HODGKINSON: If the people gave 1s. per head they could raise £750.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said they had not the machinery for collecting the money. He was quite satisfied that if the Government had taken the advice of the trustees of the Ipswich park many years ago they would have the machinery to-morrow. That advice was, that the park should be taken out of the hands of the trustees and handed over to the municipality. At present the mayor and the corporation had no power over that reserve; there were only three of the original trustees alive; and judging by himself, he was quite sure that all three would not be alive long. If the reserve were placed under the control of the corporation, the machinery was available by which they could be made to pay something. Although he did not represent Ipswich, he was an Ipswich man, and his feelings and interests were there; and he could say that the people of Ipswich would be quite ready to fall in with the views of the Government if they would transfer to the municipality the control of that park, which was one of the best conducted in the colony. If the Government would hand over that park to the municipality, the trustees were prepared to sign the deed to-morrow.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he had not anticipated that there would have been such a long discussion upon the vote, and judging by what had been said there seemed to be an idea that the money granted to the larger parks was spent unwisely. He could not speak of any park but that at Ipswich, and he knew that the money granted for that was wisely and well expended. There were four men employed there constantly, and extra labourers at different times during the year. There was a surrounding population of 60,000 people, and that park was actually required for the whole of the West Moreton district more than for the town of Ipswich. As the hon. member for Stanley had said, the park had been vested in seven trustees, four of whom were dead, and there were only two acting, as the hon. member, who was one of them, had his parliamentary duties to attend to. He should be very glad when

the time came that the park trustees should be helped according to the work they did. If any hon. member would go to Limestone Hill and look down upon that park, he would see that the money received had been well expended, and it had been said that it was the finest park in Queensland. It was a favourite resort, and very much taken advantage of by the inhabitants of Ipswich. So long as the money was voted for it there was no doubt that the Ipswich people would be very careful that it was well spent.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said ten acres of the park had been appropriated for a girls' grammar school.

Mr. MURPHY said he could not agree with the amendment that had been proposed by the hon. member for Burke, because it would practically mean the destruction of all those places; but he thought it was time that the Government took into consideration the advisableness of throwing the burden of supporting those parks upon the local authorities, and if the Government had the courage to adopt that course they would meet with the support of every member of that Committee. But it would be absurd for them to carry the amendment that had been proposed. If an expression of opinion were given, it would be something which would guide the Government in their future action, and whatever Government was in power next year could take the matter in hand. He would certainly support the Government in throwing the burden of those parks upon the local authorities, and relieving the general revenue.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he was sure the discussion upon the vote would not be a waste of time. He thought that it was time that those reserves should be placed upon the same footing as horticultural and agricultural societies; but it would be unjust to initiate the scheme now. One quarter of the year had already elapsed, and it would hardly be fair to take the trustees by surprise. They should give the trustees notice that the Government had good grounds for carrying out what had been suggested by the Committee next year, and then there would be no injustice done either to the trustees or to the municipalities which would hold the parks in trust. But they had had fair warning. He entirely approved of it, and believed it was the right system. A certain amount of favouritism was almost inseparable from a vote of that kind, and he was unable to see why one town should have £175 for its park and another £300. It was a system that had been prevailing for many years past, and it would be only a fair thing to introduce a better one. After the expression of opinion the Committee had given on the subject, the hon. member for Burke might very well withdraw his amendment.

Mr. HODGKINSON said the hon. gentleman, he was sure, would acquit him of any desire to embarrass the vote. He had no intention to press his amendment to a division, as he should be very sorry to see it carried, for the reason mentioned by the Minister for Lands, that it would be springing a surprise on the local authorities. The amendment was merely meant as a warning note; but unless an alteration were made in the system, the Government might next year find him more obstinate on the point. The vote was absolutely indefensible. With the permission of the Committee he would withdraw the amendment.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the CHAIRMAN left the chair, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again at a later hour of the day.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

THE LOAN VOTE.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a message from His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with the 18th section of the Constitution Act, recommending to the Legislative Assembly the necessary expenditure from loan votes for the year 1889-90.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the message was ordered to be printed and referred to Committee of Supply.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the Speaker left the chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply.

RESERVES (CONTINUED).

Mr. GLASSEY said he could only agree to the proposal to endow the various parks with £1 for £1 subscribed by the general public, on the conditions that they were all first placed in a similar position to the parks in a few of the larger towns. Such a system as that proposed by hon. members would be very unfair if applied to Charters Towers, Gympie, Croydon, and other places that might be named, where large sums would have to be subscribed by the inhabitants before their parks were in a similar condition to those at Brisbane, Maryborough, Ipswich, and elsewhere. Before the endowment system was adopted, a lump sum of £5,000 or £10,000 should be given to each of the large centres of population, to enable them to put their parks in a reasonable condition, so as to place them on equal terms with other existing parks, which those places with poor parks helped to pay for. Those were the only terms on which he would be prepared to adopt the system of endowment.

Mr. MURPHY said that if the terms of the hon. member for Bundamba were to be accepted by the Government they might as well at once add another £1,000,000 to their Loan Estimates, as every town in the colony would want £5,000 to form botanical gardens laid out with asphalt footpaths on their local reserves. What he was contending for was not that the Government should endow parks with £1 for £1, but that the entire burden of maintaining the parks should be thrown upon the local authorities, and that the general revenue should pay nothing whatever towards them. That, he believed, was the general opinion of the people of the colony. The bulk of the people of the colony derived no benefit from the vote. It was only in the large centres of population that there were parks, and there were other centres of population that were quite as worthy of consideration as the large centres the hon. member referred to. The best plan would be to wipe off the vote from the Estimates altogether and throw the burden of the parks on the local authorities. If the corporation of the city of Brisbane was not wealthy enough to find £1,250 a year for its parks and reserves, it must be the very poorest of all the capital cities of Australia. The entire amount of the vote for all the parks in the colony was only £5,545. The amount was a mere bagatelle, but he thought upon principle the local authorities should have to bear the burden. Taking the town of Ipswich, for instance, there were a great many men like the two hon. members for Ipswich, and the hon. member for Stanley, who would not allow their beautiful park to go to ruin for want of £500. He thought it was absurd to waste so much valuable time in arguing about a matter of that kind. If the Ministry would abolish the vote and throw the

burden of the parks upon the local authorities, they would receive the support of the colony generally.

Mr. HODGKINSON: The whole Brisbane vote is a charge of 3½d. per head upon the population.

Mr. MURPHY said he hoped that, as it was such a paltry matter, the Government would hand the parks over to the local authorities.

Mr. UNMACK said one point which had been entirely overlooked was that only recently a conference had been held in Brisbane of representatives from all the local authorities, and that one of the first resolutions they had passed recommended that all public reserves should be vested in the local authorities. There could be no difficulty, when they remembered that fact, about handing over those parks to the various local authorities.

Mr. MURPHY: The conference did not advise that the Government should take away the endowment.

Mr. UNMACK said that followed as a matter of course. Nothing now remained for the Government to do but to authorise the trustees of the various parks and reserves to hand over their right and title to the corporations and local bodies. He had been one of the trustees of the Albert Park for eight or nine years, and a great deal of labour had devolved upon him and his co-trustees in consequence of their position. He should be only too delighted to get rid of all the trouble. In connection with Albert Park, he had a matter to bring under the notice of the Minister for Lands. He wished to state that the trustees required an additional £100 a year, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would place that amount upon the Supplementary Estimates. The Albert Park was originally full of gullies and holes, but the trustees had beautified it in every possible way, so that it was now a most attractive place of resort. They had planted nearly 1,000 trees, and had laid out fine wide footpaths, erected seats, and provided every comfort. They had gone further than that, and had accepted donations from different clubs and associations to the amount of about £100, with which they had formed lawn tennis grounds, and a cricket and football ground, all of them open to the public. A paltry vote of £100 was set down on the Estimates for the maintenance of all that work. He was sure that £100 would barely suffice to pay for the labour of one man, and it would be utterly impossible for one man to keep such a place in order. Since the end of the last financial year the trustees had been without money, but they had kept a man on in the hope that they would get an additional vote of £100, so that one-third of the vote had been spent by that time. He did not know what they would do during the remainder of the year to keep the place from going to wreck and ruin. He did not think any hon. member would like that state of things to occur, and he trusted the Minister for Lands would place another £100 on the Supplementary Estimates. At the same time he hoped the trustees would soon be instructed by the Government to hand their trust over to the Municipal Council of Brisbane. He, for one, would be delighted to do so without one day's delay. He felt that the conditions of the trust were such that the trustees would have no right to levy any charge for entrance to the park. The trustees felt that they had no right to charge an entrance fee on special occasions when those grounds were being used, and therefore they were wholly dependent upon the Government. He quite agreed with the opinion that the local authorities should contribute the whole of the cost. The local authorities

had shown by the resolutions passed by the united conference that they were quite willing to bear the burden. He trusted the Government would take the matter into consideration, and place an additional sum of £100 upon the Supplementary Estimates for Albert Park, and that he would give the trustees the right to transfer their trust to the local body.

Mr. SALKELD said that, in reference to the suggestion of the hon. member for Bundanba, while he trusted that the Government would deal with the question before next session, he hoped they would not be led away to enter upon a retrospective scheme. They must remember that there were many other places besides those mentioned by the hon. member for Bundanba. In the Fassifern and Bundanba electorates they had no parks, and he supposed there were many other electorates in the same condition. If large grants were to be made to some places he trusted they would all be placed on a level. He had no objection to all places being placed upon a level, if the Colonial Treasurer had none. There was no doubt that the feeling of the Committee was in favour of the principle that the local authorities should bear the expense of their parks and reserves.

Mr. PAUL said that the hon. member for Barcoo and himself represented districts where no reserves were required, so that they could approach the subject free from prejudice. He considered that wherever there was a reserve near a centre of population it should be vested in the hands of the local authorities. It was destructive to independence and enterprise for communities to rely too much on the Government for support; and therefore he agreed with the hon. member for Barcoo that the reserves should be placed entirely in the hands of the local authorities.

Mr. UNMACK said that when he spoke before, he forgot to mention one important point in connection with handing over the reserves to the local authorities. A stringent condition should be attached, to the effect that under no consideration should any local authority be permitted either to dispose of the property, or to rent or lease it for any other purpose than that for which the land was reserved. He also wished to state that the Auditor-General had very little insight into the administration of the funds voted in connection with reserves. A few months ago he discovered by accident that the accounts of the Albert Park had not been audited since the trustees had received Government grants. He at once suggested that the Auditor-General should be asked to send an officer to examine the accounts; and that was promptly done. When the accounts in connection with a reserve in Brisbane, which was so accessible to the Audit Office, could go for eight years without being looked after by the Auditor-General, what could be expected in the country? That was a point that should be brought under the notice of the Auditor-General, because whenever funds were granted by Parliament for any public purpose that officer should know how they were spent.

Mr. McMASTER said that on two or three previous occasions he had suggested that the Government should hand over the control of the parks to the local authorities. It was very kind of the hon. member for Toowong to ask the Minister for Lands to hand over the Albert Park to the corporation of the municipality of Brisbane; but he thought the trustees should have made more improvements in that park before wanting to hand it over. Two or three years ago the Wickham terrace reserve and the Constance street reserve were handed over to the Brisbane Municipal Council, and anyone could see that the appearance of

the Wickham terrace reserve was far more creditable to the council than the Albert Park was to the trustees. For the last two or three years the municipal council had also been spending a considerable sum of money on the Victoria Park, subject to the approval of the trustees; and the work that was being done would make that park one of the grandest parks in the colony. He thought that all parks should be vested in the local authorities, and that the Government endowment should be £1 for every £1 contributed by the local authorities. He did not think the Brisbane municipality would object to taking over any reserve on a fair and reasonable basis; nor did he think any local authority would consent to sell any portion of a reserve even if they had the privilege; but it was not fair to ask a local authority to spend money on a reserve if the Government could step in and sell three or four acres at any time.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. BUCKLAND said the debate on those reserves usually occupied more time than any other item in the Lands Department, considering the amount involved, and he hoped the Minister for Lands would see his way to remove that vote from the Estimates altogether next year, by accepting the advice tendered to him by hon. members, and vesting all those reserves and parks in the local authorities or municipal councils. If that were done, he believed they would be quite as well looked after as they were at present. One of the resolutions arrived at by the late conference of local authorities was very emphatic in desiring the Government to adopt that course. They had heard a great deal lately, and during several sessions, about the importance of forest conservancy, and he was certain that a plan could be devised by which, if those reserves were vested in the local authorities, they could devote their attention to the growth of timber which might be suitable in various districts, such as cedar, gums, ironbark, and other timbers of marketable value. He spoke with some knowledge on that matter, because, during the time he was chairman of a certain local authority, he waited on the Minister for Lands to endeavour to get a reserve vested in that authority. He referred more particularly to the reserve at Nudgee beach, and he was sorry that the hon. gentleman representing that district was not present. That reserve was largely availed of in the summer months by people seeking pleasure and health; but it was almost impossible that respectable persons could frequent it, owing to the class of persons who assembled there, and who were becoming quite a nuisance. The local authority had expended money for several years to keep the reserve clear of prickly pear, and if the Government had vested it in them they were prepared to have fenced it in, and erected a caretaker's cottage so as to keep the place respectable. As it was, the place was anything but what it should be, and he hoped the Government would take the matter into consideration at an early date and vest that reserve as well as the rest in the hands of the local authorities. He had also spoken to the Minister several times lately in reference to a reserve which had occupied the attention of the House once or twice lately, and he hoped there would be no more difficulty about it.

Mr. SMYTH said there had been a mistake for three or four years in connection with the votes for the parks at Gympie and One-Mile. Some years ago the vote for those parks was £350, but for some reason or another it had been reduced to £175. He believed the reason was that when the reduction was made, there was an impression that there was only one reserve on

the Gympie Gold Field, when as a matter of fact there were two over a mile apart. The One-Mile Recreation Ground was really a reserve for the people of the Wide Bay electorate, and it was situated on the boundary of that electorate. The two parks were quite distinct, and he had explained the mistake made in reducing the vote to £175 to the Minister. That gentleman had promised to rectify the mistake, but it had not yet been rectified. Parks were really more necessary on a goldfield than on other places. Persons employed below ground in a coal mine had to inhale coal dust and foul gases, and they required fresh air when they came up. In gold-mining it was the same, as the miners had to inhale the fumes of dynamite, and many miners suffered in consequence from bronchial complaints. Those were the people who required open spaces to resort to, and lungs for their towns; yet many towns such as Brisbane, and sea-coast towns that were well off in that respect, had any amount of reserves. Many towns had the advantage of fine beaches, and in Brisbane they had a splendid lung in the Brisbane River. He hoped that if any consideration was given to the claims of various places in the matter of reserves, the goldfields and places where coal miners were located would receive the first consideration. As for the back blocks, there were any amount of reserves there and more open land than they knew what to do with; but on the goldfields they could not go more than a mile without getting into somebody's paddock. If the vote was to be reconsidered in connection with the Supplementary Estimates, he hoped something would be provided for the Gympie and Charters Towers Gold Fields. Charters Towers was getting but £175, the same as Gympie, and he thought both places should get at least what Gympie had at one time received—namely, £350. If there was to be any arrangement such as had been suggested, for placing the reserves in the hands of the local authorities, or subsidising them in the same way as agricultural and horticultural societies, he hoped the local contributions would be given out of the rates, because, if it was left to people to go round collecting, the money would come only from a few, whereas if it was taken from the rates all would have to contribute alike, and those who had most property and paid most rates, would also have to pay most towards keeping the reserves in order.

Mr. HAMILTON said he hardly thought it was because the Government were under the impression that there was only one park at Gympie that the amount previously given had been reduced, because the present vote had appeared on the Estimates for some time. He recollected that he represented Gympie when the reduction was made; and he had pointed out that the reduced sum was not sufficient, and the amount of £350 was given to Gympie. What had happened since to cause the reduction he did not know.

Mr. MELLOR said he did not entirely agree with the hon. member, as he thought the reduced amount had been on the Estimates only for a few years.

Mr. HAMILTON: Since 1884.

Mr. MELLOR said he thought it was only since 1886.

Mr. HAMILTON: No; the amount was reduced when I represented Gympie, and I had the old amount of £350 put on.

Mr. MELLOR said that great inequalities had been pointed out in connection with the vote, and a promise had been made to alter them; but year after year they had the same complaint to make. As had been said, the conference of

local authorities had recommended that all reserves should be handed over to the local authorities. He had pointed out that if that was done the Government might not grant any subsidy, but that had not prevented the resolution being passed by the conference of local authorities. In Gympie the people had at first contributed very largely towards the reserves there, and a lot of time, labour, and money were expended by the people before the Government subsidised those parks at all. It was a long time after the reserves were granted before the Government subsidised them at all, and the vote at present given was not sufficient to keep the reserves at Gympie in order. He hoped that if the Government placed any additional sums on the Supplementary Estimates for subsidies for reserves they would do so in a way that would remove the inequality at present existing.

Mr. AGNEW said if any further sums in connection with that vote were placed on the Supplementary Estimates, he hoped Sandgate would not be forgotten. He noticed that Cleveland was down for £75; and he could not understand why Sandgate was omitted, as it had a very much larger population than Cleveland had, or was likely to have for some years to come. With reference to placing the reserves under the control of the local authorities, he thought that was a proper step to take. If votes for reserves were to be granted year after year they must grow, and it would be better to place the reserves in the hands of the local authorities. Sandgate had had no grants made to it for reserves, and he believed the reserves there were in as good a condition as those in any other part of the colony. The lands had been fenced in and improved and shelter-houses erected on them, and all that was done out of the rates of the municipality, and by the energy of the municipal authorities. He was sure that if the reserves had been in the hands of trustees they would not have been in anything like the condition they were in at the present time. He should be very pleased to see all reserves, as far as possible, vested in the local authorities.

Question put and passed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS, in moving that there be granted for the service of the year 1889-90, the sum of £5,665 for miscellaneous services, said the first vote, £250 for stores, did not appear in that Estimate before, and was taken from the general store vote. The amount for the destruction of Bathurst burr was the same as last year—namely, £500. The vote for forest nurseries, was also the same as last year—£65. It was a very small vote, and was for keeping up the forest nursery at Fraser's Island. There was no doubt that there had been a certain amount of success attending that nursery, and he hoped that next year that vote would appear under a general vote of forest conservancy. He now came to a new vote, £2,000 for "irrigation"—two engineers, not one engineer, as stated in the Estimates, "wages, travelling expenses, etc." That vote required a certain amount of explanation, and he would tell hon. members what had been done up to the present time. In order to give effect to the intentions of the Government, which, he believed, were in accordance with the desires of the Committee and the country, the Government were collecting as much information as possible as to suitable sites in different parts of the country where irrigation was practicable, with the view next session of taking some practical steps to carry out an irrigation scheme. They were all, he believed, perfectly satisfied that it was absolutely necessary for the proper development of the

agricultural industries of the colony that some scheme of irrigation should be adopted; but before the Government could mature a scheme they must have information as to where it was practicable to carry out irrigation, and for that purpose they had two engineers, both of them thoroughly competent men, engaged in ascertaining suitable localities where water could be stored. One of those engineers had been on the Darling Downs and had traversed the Condamine from one end to the other, and he was now on the Warrego. Reports of very great value had been received from him with respect to the Condamine River, and from his surveys and plans it appeared that at a comparatively small cost no less than forty-five miles of water could be conserved by the formation of three not very expensive weirs, each of which would throw the water back fifteen miles. The instructions to the engineers were to make their investigations and plans quite irrespective of whether the land was freehold or Crown land. If it was Crown land, so much better; it would enable the Government to mature a scheme which perhaps they could not do otherwise. If it was freehold land a scheme might be matured by which the Government would put up the head works, and leave the development of the scheme to the local authorities. He was not prepared to sketch out the perfect scheme at present, but he mentioned those matters to show hon. members what had already been done. The second engineer had just completed his work in the Mackay district, a district which possessed undoubted agricultural resources, and where it was hoped—the House and the country having decided that coloured labour should not form one of the institutions of the colony—some other scheme would be adopted by which relief should be afforded to agriculturists. Having completed his work there, he would proceed to the Burdekin district. In fact, the services of those hydraulic engineers were to be made available for any district which might be suggested to the Government as a suitable locality for the storage of water. For the purpose of giving effect to the desire of the Government, he asked the Committee to vote the preliminary sum of £2,000. Should the whole of that sum not be required, it would, of course, not be spent. Should it be found insufficient, he appealed to the Committee with the confidence that they would provide any additional sum that might be required to carry out that work, which would advance the progress of the colony. The vote for agricultural and horticultural societies was increased by £200. That and the next vote, the Acclimatisation Society, had been transferred from the Colonial Secretary's Department, and would in future appear in the agricultural vote of the Lands Department, to which department they properly belonged, so that the Agricultural Department, which he was certain would assume very much greater proportions than it had in the past, would be able to exercise proper supervision over the expenditure of the money voted by the Committee. He had referred to that matter previously, and he might again state that it was the intention of the department that proper reports should be brought up and laid on the table, to show how the votes for agricultural and horticultural societies were expended, in the same way as he hoped similar reports would be laid on the table with regard to the expenditure of the money granted for reserves in the last vote. Those were the two new votes appearing in that estimate. They increased the estimate of the Lands Department, but reduced by a corresponding amount the estimate of the Colonial Secretary's Department. Then there was the new vote of £100 for

the formation of a botanical library, which was extremely necessary. The Agricultural Department would in future be located in the old immigrant barracks, which was now being fitted up for the purpose, and it would certainly be necessary for the effective working of the department that a botanical library should be established. He therefore asked the Committee to vote the sum of £100 for that purpose. It was not much, but he did not wish to ask for too large a vote at first. He desired to allow the department to advance by degrees, and let it gain the confidence of the Committee and the country, when, he was sure, if a larger vote was wanted at a future time it would be readily granted. Then there was the sum of £50 for eradicating lantana on the Government Domain reserve. That reserve having been placed under the Agricultural Department, and representations having been made to the Government that the reserve was overrun with lantana, the Committee were asked to vote that amount for eradicating the pest. He had now mentioned all the new votes in that estimate.

Mr. HODGKINSON : What about the Acclimatisation Society ?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said that was not a new vote. The amount was the same as was granted last year, and he would leave hon. members to discuss that matter. He had briefly stated the reasons why the whole vote appeared very much larger for the present year than it did on the previous estimate.

The HON. SIR S. W. GRIFFITH said before the details of the vote were considered, he wished to draw the attention of the Government to a matter to which attention had previously been called by the hon. member for Burke, and that was in reference to work being done by Government officers in competition with outside people. He had been informed that notwithstanding what was said upon that occasion by the Colonial Secretary, and the promise that was given that the practice should be discontinued, it was going on the same as before, and even worse. He had been informed upon authority that he thought was reliable that the matter had gone to this extent : That an officer in a Government department who wanted to do work for private persons applied for leave of absence on account of ill-health, and did the private work then. He believed that was an actual fact, and more than that, he had been also informed that certain officers took work and sublet it. Government officers actually took work and sublet it. He hoped the Government would deal with the subject, and referred to it because the work he alluded to was done by an officer in the department of the Minister for Lands.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he could only assure the hon. gentleman that if he would give him the information privately or publicly, he would very soon put a stop to it. It was the first time he had heard of it. He was perfectly certain the hon. gentleman would not have made such a statement unless he had had it upon very good authority, and he could only assure him that he knew nothing about it. He had never heard of such a thing. It would be most monstrous to grant leave of absence on the ground of ill-health to enable officers to do private work, and if they could not do it themselves to farm it out. He hoped the hon. gentleman would give him an opportunity of investigating it. It could not be justified for one moment, and he could only promise that he would put a stop to it. He was really at a loss to know what reply to make, the thing seemed so preposterous. He

could not understand any Civil servant risking his position by such a gross act of irregularity as that, and certainly would promise to look into it.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he could only state in connection with the paragraphs in a local newspaper the other day, which he was accused by an hon. member opposite of having written, that he could affirm that the gentleman to whom reference was made still continued to do private work at the expense of men who depended upon that kind of work for their livelihood. He had a distinct promise from the Colonial Secretary that that should be put a stop to ; but he still recognised the same hand week after week at the same work, and had received complaints from private individuals who, as he had said before, depended for their livelihood upon that occupation, and who were undersold by the advantages that the person he referred to could command from his drawing a State salary. If it occurred again, he should make the matter public through the Press, and give the name and particulars.

Mr. MURPHY : Make it public now.

Mr. HODGKINSON said the hon. gentleman in charge of the department was not in a good state of health, and it might be unfair to refer to the subject any further at present. He had every confidence that it must have escaped the hon. gentleman's memory in the pressure of business. He was sure that the matter would be taken in hand soon. In regard to the statement made by the Minister for Lands that they were about to commence a very important development in the shape of irrigation, they had been told that the instructions given to the officers of the department did not confine them to any particular description of land, whether freehold or Crown land. If they once began to do that work upon freehold land they would be almost inviting the proprietors of that land to initiate some gigantic jobbery. Was it to be supposed for one moment that in the enormous area of Queensland, there was not sufficient Crown land available for the purpose of irrigation, and furnishing every facility ? Was it consonant with their duty to vote a sum of money for the improvement of land belonging to private individuals ? The whole history of the colony showed the evils that had originated in that sort of thing. They had developed districts by their railways to an enormous extent, and had given compensation when they should have received payment, and now they were asked to go on in the same old style. Any Ministry, however good might be their intentions, would by so doing expose themselves to obloquy, and be charged with having taken action in the interests of individuals. As a matter of policy it was unwise, and the hon. gentleman in charge of that department would have to come down to that Committee for additional power to carry out an idea which might open the door to what might possibly be a form of jobbery. There was abundance of land in the North, in the South, and in the Central districts, which was the property of the Government, and which would offer just as great facilities for irrigation as any private land ; and the public money would then be confined to the development of the public estate. He was quite certain that the Committee would meet any demand when called upon for the development of that very important branch of agriculture ; but if it were once supposed that any private individual was to benefit by that expenditure he did not think the proposal would be looked upon with very much favour.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he would lay upon the table a plan which would give information to hon. members. In the case he had referred to forty-five miles of water would be conserved on the Condamine by three weirs.

Hon. members would see by that plan that although there was a considerable amount of freehold land selections there, there was a large amount of Crown land there also.

Mr. HODGKINSON: What frontage of Crown land is there?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said there was far more frontage of Crown land than freehold land. It would be impossible to carry out a survey for irrigation purposes if they were to search for places where there was absolutely no freehold land at all.

Mr. MURPHY: You would not have any irrigation at all.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said they must go into localities which were suitable for the storage of water, and he would be glad to receive information upon that subject, leaving it to the Committee to decide afterwards what scheme to adopt to give effect to the irrigation. He failed to see how they could initiate a scheme of irrigation if they were to confine themselves to Crown lands.

Mr. MURRAY said if the hon. gentleman wanted information as to localities suitable for irrigation, he might draw his attention to the country about the Fitzroy and the Dawson, which in many places offered great facilities for irrigation and the storage of water. Enormous quantities of water could be stored there at a very small cost. In carrying out that scheme it was not desirable to go into what was considered the best agricultural country in the colony, but they should try the arid dry districts, such as the Central district was represented to be. Those were the localities best suited for irrigation. In carrying out a scheme of irrigation, it was universally admitted that a dry climate was more suitable than localities where there was much rain, because it offered greater facilities for harvesting and gathering crops. He hoped the Minister for Lands would give instructions to the engineers to proceed to the Fitzroy and Dawson Rivers, and make the necessary investigations. There were places on the Dawson River most admirably suited for the storage of water, where a weir could be put across at a very small expense, and where the water could be thrown back for seventy or eighty miles.

Mr. MURPHY asked how the £500 for the destruction of Bathurst burr was disposed of?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the divisional boards destroyed the Bathurst burr on Crown reserves, and sent in their vouchers for the work done.

Mr. MURPHY said that if that fact became known to divisional boards generally, £500 would not nearly cover the expense. As a rule the divisional boards destroyed the burr at their own expense without getting anything whatever from the Government. What boards had received payment for the work?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the amount spent last year was £442 17s. 10d., and was distributed as follows:—Glengallan Divisional Board, Wambo Divisional Board, Drayton Shire Council, Gowrie Divisional Board, Rosalie Divisional Board, Tingalpa Divisional Board, Baramba Divisional Board, and Wambo Divisional Board a second time.

Mr. FOXTON said he was glad to see the item of £2,000 for irrigation, and trusted the time would soon come when it would be increased to ten times as much in each annual estimate. It would be money well spent. As hon. members were offering suggestions as to suitable places for irrigation works, he would mention one which he thought was far and away the most suitable that could be found. He referred to the district immediately around Goondiwindi,

where there was probably some of the finest land in the colony, although it was very dry, and a river, the McIntyre, from which a very large supply of water could be obtained. That position was forcibly borne out by the reports of Mr. Henderson and Mr. McLean, who visited the district in June, 1887. Mr. Henderson, who had been examining the district in his capacity of hydraulic engineer, said:—

“The McIntyre contains many fine-looking reaches of water, some of which extend well up the Severn to a distance of about 20 miles above Goondiwindi. I did not measure the depth of them all, but soundings I took in the town reach for a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles above the bridge, indicated depths ranging from 5 to 20 feet, the surface of the water being then 34 feet 2 inches below the top of the gravel beam, near the south-east end of the bridge, and from further rough measurements I then took, I came to the conclusion that, including the portion below the bridge, the length of this reach cannot be less than 9 miles, that its width is from 2 to 2½ chains, and its average depth about 8 or 9 feet. From gaugings I took of the flow of the water in the river at Boggabilla Crossing, about 6 miles above the town, I find that at the time of my visit water was passing down the stream at the rate of about 302,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours.”

There was an opportunity which could scarcely be equalled in any other part of Queensland for the trial of irrigation works. There was, moreover, a very large quantity of unalienated Crown lands which could be formed into a most excellent irrigation colony. Mr. McLean reported that the soil was admirably suited for agriculture, and anyone who had travelled through the country must see that such was the case. Probably with the exception of the Darling Downs proper, there was no richer soil in the whole of Queensland. Another advantage was the number of billabongs and large lagoons which could be made capable of holding very large stores of water, which could be distributed over the country by gravitation. As was often the case, the banks of the river formed the highest part of the country, and the water, when once raised to the top of the banks, would flow by gravitation to almost any part of the district. He mentioned that because he thought it would be a pity if the engineers should not visit that particular district. If they did, he had not the slightest doubt they would find it eminently suitable for the purpose of irrigation. He trusted the Minister for Lands would bear it in mind, and that as soon as one of the engineers was disengaged he would be sent there to report on the suitability of the district for irrigation. If he did, he was sure the result would be satisfactory.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he already had a report about the McIntyre Brook district, and Mr. Rigby would proceed to the McIntyre River as soon as he had finished on the Warrego.

Mr. SMYTH said that in his district they suffered sometimes from too much water. One mine employing seventy or eighty men had been six weeks bailing out water, and those men were consequently thrown out of employment, to their own loss and to the injury of business in the town. About six weeks ago he wrote to the Colonial Treasurer asking him to get the Hydraulic Engineer to investigate a scheme for taking some of the flood waters away from the Six-mile Creek into the Noosa River. It was said by people who knew the locality, that by cutting through a small ridge a-quarter of a mile long a great deal of the water going down now by the Mary River could be diverted into the Noosa River. To that letter he had not yet received a reply. He hoped one of the engineers would be sent there, and that he would be a good engineer. A hydraulic engineer was sent to Bundaberg once to show them how to bring water out of the Woon-garra Scrub, but the man was no more a

hydraulic engineer than he (Mr. Smyth) was. He was now a well-known character in Victoria, where he filled some important position. He hoped that an engineer might be sent to report upon the way to deal with the flood waters at Gympie. He would ask the Minister for Lands who were the two hydraulic engineers who had been appointed?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said one was Mr. Rigby, and the other was Mr. McKinnon, who was in the Hydraulic Engineer's Department. Mr. Rigby had had a large experience as a civil engineer in India and Egypt. When Mr. Henderson visited Macleay for the purpose of reporting upon the waterworks there, he had spoken very highly of Mr. Rigby's ability in his private capacity, he having been engaged in gauging the water supply of the Pioneer River for some considerable time.

Mr. LUYA said that the hon. member for Gympie had spoken of a scheme for diverting the flood waters of the Six-mile Creek into the Noosa River. A scheme of that sort had been mooted several years ago, and letters had been forwarded to the Government stating that they would be held responsible for all damage done to Noosa. They had at Noosa quite as much water as they could possibly deal with, and they did not want any more from the Six-mile Creek. If the scheme were to be adopted, the very large volume of water sent down to Noosa would back up the lakes.

Mr. SMYTH: Which is the more important, Gympie, or the lakes?

Mr. LUYA said the lakes were more important to him. In flood time all the low-lying lands were covered, and the water could only escape by breaking across the land, and down to the beach. He would look with dismay upon any scheme which would send a large body of water down the Noosa River, as it would cause very serious damage to the district, and the people would have a claim upon the Government. They should look at both sides of the question before attempting to deal with it.

Mr. O'CONNELL said he was glad to hear what the Minister for Lands had said during the discussion, though he was rather surprised to find where Mr. Rigby had been sent. Some time back the people of Bundaberg had gone to the expense of getting an irrigation district surveyed, and had sent data of all the details necessary to carry out the scheme to the Colonial Treasurer. They did not ask the Government to do anything more than they did in connection with local works—that was a loan to enable them to carry out the works. They were not asking for a grant, because they were in a position to show by statistics that the water which would be used would repay the money expended in the works. They were also in a position to prove that the yield of sugar from the land which would be benefited by the scheme would be enormously increased. That was a scheme which the Government should certainly pay every attention to. It was useless to send a man to the Warrego, where it was problematical whether agriculture could be carried on successfully. It seemed a waste of time, especially when there was a place where such an irrigation scheme would prove remunerative, and where agriculture could be carried on successfully. There was no place in Queensland which had gone to the same trouble as the people in the Woongarra Scrub had to prove that irrigation could be successfully carried out. He hoped the Minister for Lands would see that an engineer was sent to report upon the Woongarra Scrub irrigation scheme.

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Mr. LITTLE said he hoped the Minister for Lands would not forget the district of Woothakata. They had in that district the Walsh and Mitchell Rivers, with hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile land in their vicinity, not an acre of which was sold. The hon. member for Burke had objected to the Government irrigating freehold land unless the owners of the land paid part of the cost, but on the rivers he had mentioned there was no freehold land.

Mr. SAYERS said he was glad that an irrigation scheme was about to be initiated, and that two engineers had been sent to report upon various districts; but he hoped they would not perpetuate the same system which had existed with regard to the construction of their railways. The contention of the hon. member for Burke was a good one. If they were going to start a system of irrigation which would benefit freehold property, the owners of that property should be made to pay their proportion of the cost. Within the last two days he had been over a railway in a locality to which he was a stranger, but he had asked various questions about the line from persons who had been with him. He had found that along the twenty-seven miles of that railway nearly all the land on one side was the property of one individual, and that it had been originally obtained by dummying it at 5s. per acre. Although that line of railway had doubled the value of that property, the State had not received a single shilling of the cost of construction of the railway. In fact, the land was worth from £3 to £10 per acre now, because there was railway communication, and there were many farmers settled all round. He hoped that in their irrigation scheme those who received benefit would have to pay for it. No doubt if the question had been raised about any of the railways which they had passed, they would have been told that the people to be benefited were willing to contribute their share to the cost; but they had not contributed, and they could not get over that fact. Before the Government adopted any irrigation scheme, he trusted that they would take some steps to compel the owners of freehold land which would be benefited to pay a certain proportion of the expenditure. Hon. gentlemen might say they should only pay if they used the water; but if the people were not going to use the water there was no need for the Government carrying out the scheme, because if it was no benefit to those people it would be no benefit to the country. He felt afraid that the same system would be adopted that had prevailed in the construction of their railways, unless the Committee set its face against it.

Mr. MURPHY said that before the Government spent any more money, except in connection with preliminary surveys and explorations, they ought to introduce a Bill dealing with irrigation generally. In each district requiring irrigation there should be an irrigation trust, and the money for the necessary works should be borrowed by the local authorities under the same conditions as loans for other works. It was only where the land had been alienated that it would be worth while to go in for irrigation, because the land must be pretty well populated in order to make irrigation a success.

Mr. SAYERS said he agreed with what the hon. member for Barcoo had just said. He wished to remind the Committee, however, that the other day they approved of a railway to the Woongarra Scrub where it was now proposed to take steps in connection with irrigation. The land was all private land, and the Government were buying it back at a great deal more than they got for it. That railway was intended to assist the sugar industry, and it would enhance

the value of private land ; but the country would not benefit by it, because it was not even expected to pay. It was about time a stop was put to that sort of Government expenditure.

Mr. HODGKINSON said that if an industry was worth encouraging it should be sufficient for the Government to lend money for the purpose under the usual conditions. The colony was not in a position to undertake all kinds of private enterprises. If they did so £1,000,000 would be wanted one year, £5,000,000 another, and £10,000,000 another year, till the colony would get into such a state that there would be very little difference between Queensland bonds and Pennsylvania bonds.

Mr. ADAMS said he understood the hon. member for Burke to mean that the Government should lend money for such enterprises so long as they saw that they could get the money back ; but, he would ask, how could they see whether the money would be repaid unless they sent an engineer to see whether the works could be carried out satisfactorily or not ? He was sorry to hear the hon. member for Gympie, Mr. Smyth, speak as he did in reference to the hydraulic engineer who visited the Woongarra Scrub, because the hon. member's remarks were not warranted. Mr. Henderson, of the Hydraulic Engineer's Department, took a person with him to the place, and gave instructions as to what portion should be surveyed. After that, he had done with it altogether. It was not a scheme for irrigating the scrub, but for supplying the town of Bundaberg with water. The people of Bundaberg and the surrounding district thought so much of irrigation that they invited Chaffey Brothers to send an engineer to formulate a scheme ; and if they had formulated a scheme in accordance with the representations first made, the irrigation of Bundaberg would now have been an accomplished fact. At first the people of Bundaberg were told that the scheme would cost £50,000 ; then they were told that it would cost £100,000. It was found that Chaffey Brothers wanted 20,000 £1 shares, and their agent wanted 10,000 £1 shares ; in fact, he might say that altogether they wanted £30,000 for their name and their name only. He thought that in addition to irrigation the Government should take the labour question into consideration. Irrigation would make two canes grow where only one grew before ; but unless there was enough labour to take the cane off the ground it was no use going to the expense of irrigation. Another thing, everybody in the locality should be made to take the water. In dry seasons everyone would be glad of the water ; but in a favourable season only a few would pay for it, unless they were compelled to do so ; therefore he thought that any scheme for irrigation should contain a provision compelling all persons in the locality to pay for the water.

Mr. SMYTH said he hoped the remarks of the hon. member for South Brisbane, Mr. Luya, would not in any way influence the Government not to send an engineer to inquire about diverting the water from the Six-mile Creek into Noosa River. The hon. member represented one firm who had a large area of land there, but it was most unfair that one firm should be considered in preference to the people of a large mining township, whose property was sometimes flooded, and great injury done. He thought the hon. member was very wrong in speaking so selfishly, as to try and get his firm protected against the whole town. He believed the scheme was practicable enough, and that in place of injuring the Noosa River, it would improve it for navigation by the scour that would be created. He hoped the Government would not allow the remarks of the hon. member to act

as a damper on the scheme, but that they would send a qualified man there to settle definitely whether it was workable or not.

Mr. LUYA said he did not want to throw cold water on the scheme. What he did say was that if the Government diverted water from the creek into the river it would do a great deal of injury, unless they went further and dredged the bars in the Noosa River, and built a retaining wall, so as to get rid of the water that would come down. If the Government were prepared to go to that expense, well and good ; but unless that was done, great injury would be done to many people living at Noosa besides his firm. If the scheme was to be considered at all, it should be considered as a whole, not merely one part of it. The creek in question, which was called Ringtail Creek, was a very large one at the top, but, like many other coast creeks, it lost itself in melon-holes when it ran into the river, and was scarcely noticed ; but if the proposal of the hon. member was carried out without any provision being made for getting rid of the water that would come down, all the surrounding country would be flooded, and a large number of selections would be seriously injured.

Mr. MELLOR said he did not know whether the hon. member for South Brisbane was an engineer or not, but he (Mr. Mellor) had heard it confidently reported that if the water was turned out of Six-mile Creek into the Noosa River, instead of doing that river harm it would do it a great deal of good ; and that was his own candid opinion. The scour would increase the depth of water at the bar, and enable vessels to get in more easily than they could at present. He hoped the Colonial Treasurer would, at all events, cause a survey to be made by some engineer of experience, so as to ascertain whether the scheme was practicable or not. He would like to ask the Minister for Lands if £65 was all that was paid to the man in charge of the forest nurseries. That man had to live with his family on an isolated island ; he was a very good officer, who had done good service, and to give him only £65 a year was simply monstrous.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said the £65 was the pay of a young man or lad whose father was the ranger. He was paid that amount for looking after the young trees that were planted.

Mr. GLASSEY : What is the lad's age ?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he could not tell exactly, except that he was under twenty-one years, and lived with his father.

Mr. GLASSEY said that over and over again he had heard of young lads receiving small salaries, and when he came to inquire into the matter, and saw the persons, he found they were young men, who had beards on their faces as strong as his own. He did not say it was so in that instance, but he wished to impress upon Ministers generally that they should receive the information they sometimes got with respect to the ages of youths, or young men, with a grain of salt. One argument put forward for paying small salaries was that the person lived with his father ; but what excuse was that for paying insufficient wages ? Those young lads often turned out to be twenty-six or twenty-seven years of age, and some of them even had wives and families, notwithstanding the small salaries they received. He contended that every man who did work for the State should receive fair pay for that work, no matter whether he lived with his father, his mother, or anybody else. Nothing so damped the ardour and energy and courage of young men rising in life as to keep them working for extremely low wages, particularly on the plausible

excuse that they were living with their parents. They should deal fairly and equitably as between man and man with all Government employes, whether they lived with their parents or anybody else. As the hon. member for Gympie, Mr. Smyth, pointed out the other day, a young man was sent up to the Lands Office at Gympie; his predecessor had been in the receipt of £150, and if he could do the work as efficiently as his predecessor, and to the entire satisfaction of the heads of the department, why should he not also receive £150 a year? Instead of that he only received £120 a year. There was no justice in the thing at all. It was urged by some persons that to give young men high salaries was to do them harm, but that only held good in isolated cases. He repeated that nothing encouraged a young man so much as to pay him fairly for his work, and nothing damped his ardour or prevented him so much from putting forth his best efforts as to find that he was treated differently and got a lower salary than the man he succeeded, and whose work he was competent to perform. He thought £65 was a very small salary for such a young man as had been here described, especially in such an isolated position, no matter whether he lived with his father or not. The Minister for Lands was not inclined to pay small salaries if he could afford better, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would consult with the Colonial Treasurer, and bring forward an increase in that young man's salary on next year's Estimates.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he was very glad to see the item of £2,000 put down for irrigation, as it was a step in the right direction. He hoped, however, that before they went in for any very large expenditure for irrigation, the Government would get a Bill passed defining the rights to natural water. The matter was attracting attention in the Southern colonies, and he believed some legal cases had arisen there in connection with the defining of rights to natural water. In the old country he had known of lots of cases that had arisen over the construction of weirs for mills; and legal actions, costing large sums of money, had been brought by parties aggrieved by the flooding of land above the weirs. He saw it was proposed to construct three weirs in the Condamine, and it was quite possible that unless a Bill to define the rights to natural water was passed, any extensive irrigation works might give rise to a great deal of litigation. Only lately the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria had had some difference of opinion in reference to the Murray River, as the Victorian Government intended some time ago to put a weir across that river, and the New South Wales Government strongly objected to it. They knew what the effect of a weir might be in throwing water back upon the lands above it, and he, therefore, presumed it was the intention of the Government to introduce such a Bill as he had referred to before entering upon any definite irrigation schemes. With reference to the vote for a forest nursery, he would like to know if it was the intention of the department to form a second forest nursery?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he had already stated in the Committee that it was the intention of the Government to deal with the question of forest conservancy next year, and he hoped on a very large scale.

Mr. MURPHY said he thought they had now sufficiently discussed the matter of irrigation, and there was another matter arising under the heading of the vote which he wished to bring before the Minister for Lands. He referred to the dispute that had been going on for some time between the Acclimatisation Society and the National Association.

He wished to know from the Minister for Lands if it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill dealing with the matter that session. It was a very serious question for the National Association, as their building having been burnt down, they were losing a considerable revenue every year. If they did not get the Bill passed at once, to enable the association to raise money for the purpose of erecting a building, their finances would get into a very bad state, because the public would find that the main attraction to the grounds was gone when there was no building there. Farmers who had agricultural produce to exhibit, those who had flowers to exhibit, and perishable goods of all descriptions, and those who had exhibits in arts, and the hundred and one things which were exhibited at the annual show, required some building in which their exhibits would be preserved from exposure, and that could not be properly provided for in such a building as they had there now. The Government had promised to take action in the matter, and he wished to impress upon them the absolute necessity for bringing in the Bill that session. He would suggest, under the circumstances, that instead of passing the vote of £500 for the Acclimatisation Society, the Minister for Lands would do well to withdraw it from the Estimates, pending the passage of the Bill to which he had referred. He understood that the Bill was already drafted and printed, and that the Government had a scheme for providing for the Acclimatisation Society in another way. He hoped, under the circumstances, that the Minister would see his way to withdraw that item for the present, pending the consideration of the Bill, and if the Bill did not receive the sanction of the House, the money could be put back again on the Supplementary Estimates.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said that in the absence of the Chief Secretary, in whose hands the Bill referred to by the hon. member was placed, he could not give any positive promise. He knew it was the intention of the Government to introduce the Bill that session, and it might still be done though the session was nearly at an end, if the House would consent to pass it through all its stages in one day. It was quite likely that there would be a certain amount of objection to it, and discussion upon it; but he had not the least objection to accept the suggestion made by the hon. member for Barcoo, and withdraw the vote temporarily, on the understanding that the Government would do their best to introduce the measure, and, if it did not become law, they would reintroduce the vote on the Supplementary Estimates. He was as anxious as any hon. member interested in either society to do justice to both. He would do all he could to forward the matter, and would begin by meeting the wishes of hon. gentlemen, and withdraw the vote. He therefore begged to move that the vote be reduced by the sum of £500 for the Acclimatisation Society, and that £5,165 only be granted.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said he thought it would do no harm to pass the vote, even if the Bill was introduced. He did not see any necessity for withdrawing the vote, and it would not eat anything if it was passed. If the Bill was not introduced, there would be a chance of the Acclimatisation Society not getting the money at all. He would remind the hon. gentleman that the present session had lasted longer than any session they had yet had. Members were in their places five nights a week, and now at the far end of the session it was stated that a new Bill would be introduced. He objected to the vote for the Acclimatisation Society being withdrawn.

Mr. UNMACK said if the vote was passed at the present time it would place the Acclimatisation Society in a very much stronger position to resist an amicable settlement of the question between them and the National Association, and no harm would be done by withdrawing it, and afterwards, if necessary, placing it on the Supplementary Estimates.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said he noticed that there was a sum of £500 set down for the destruction of Bathurst burr, and he would like to know whether the subject of the eradication of the prickly pear had engaged the attention of the Government? It must be painful to those who travelled by rail as well as by other means, through considerable portions of the colony, to notice the vast extent of land that seemed to be wholly given up to the growth of prickly pear. It was an evil which was spreading year by year, and would certainly do an amount of damage to the agricultural and pastoral interests of the colony, in comparison with which the damage done by Bathurst burr was almost infinitesimal. He noticed that the divisional boards in many places had made ineffectual attempts to grapple with the pest, and he was afraid that unless the Government led the way, and took prompt and effectual steps towards the eradication of the prickly pear, they would have vast areas now useful for agricultural and grazing purposes rendered wholly useless for any purpose at all.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said divisional boards had full power to destroy the prickly pear in the same way as Bathurst burr and other noxious weeds. The Government had not taken any steps in that direction, although there was no doubt it was becoming a rather serious nuisance in many parts of the colony.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said he did not want the hon. gentleman to tell him what the Divisional Board Act specified with regard to noxious weeds. He (Hon. A. Rutledge) knew that. But he understood that there were large areas of Crown lands devastated by those noxious weeds, and if it was right to put something on the Estimates for eradicating Bathurst burr, surely it was right that some assistance should be given to boards in the eradication of the prickly pear.

Mr. UNMACK said he would like to know under what system the vote for the destruction of Bathurst burr was allotted. It appeared that only those boards which applied for the money got it. He knew that he had received notices for rates, and also for destroying Bathurst burr from one or two divisional boards. If the Government paid for the eradication of that weed, the board would be paid twice, and would therefore receive double endowment. Did the Government pay the whole cost of destroying the burr, or only a portion?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he took it that the rates the hon. member paid were for the eradication of Bathurst burr on his own property. The amounts the Government paid for the eradication of Bathurst burr, and also prickly pear, were in connection with Crown lands. They did not pay anything for the eradication of those weeds on freehold or selected lands.

Mr. UNMACK said there was an item of £50 on that vote for eradicating lantana on the Government Domain reserve. In the previous vote £300 was allowed for the Government Domain. He would, therefore, ask that the Albert Park, for which only £100 was granted, might be inserted in place of the words "eradicating lantana, Government Domain Reserve." He had already given sufficient reasons why the vote for the

Albert Park should be increased, and trusted that that small request would be acceded to by the Minister.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said he could not accede to that request; it would simply be robbing Peter to pay Paul. A special demand had been made by the Agricultural Department for a sum of money to eradicate the lantana on the Government Domain reserve. The question was whether it was advisable to grant that or not. He thought it was. If the Albert Park was overrun with lantana, if the vote granted was really found insufficient, and application had been made in time to increase it, he would have been quite prepared to give that application full consideration. The hon. member knew they could not increase the Estimates, and he should bear in mind that the lengthy discussion which had taken place that evening showed that hon. members were of opinion that the vote for reserves should be done away with rather than increased. He (the Minister for Lands) believed that that £50 was a fair vote, that the money was really needed, and that the Government Domain would in future be one of the most ornamental parks about Brisbane.

Mr. UNMACK said he was sure the hon. gentleman had mistaken the feeling of the Committee on that occasion. However, if the hon. gentleman preferred it, he (Mr. Unmack) would call upon him on the following day and try to convince him that the request to increase the vote for the Albert Park was a reasonable one, and that an additional amount should be placed on the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. FOXTON said he would like to know whether the Government Domain reserve mentioned in that vote was the same Government Domain for which £300 had been granted in the previous vote, and which had been very materially improved of late by the permanent battery.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said that the particular reserve referred to was set apart as a site for the erection, at some future time, of a Government House. It was at the head of Victoria Park, across the railway line, and behind the Normanby Hill.

Mr. McMASTER said he would like to know whether the Under Secretary for Agriculture had been successful with some chemical preparation which it was reported he had introduced for the destruction of lantana. He knew that in one place—on Bowen terrace—where some of it had been used, it had completely destroyed the plants to which it was applied, and he wished to know whether it was intended to persevere with the remedy.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said that the Under Secretary for Agriculture informed him that it had been successful. A quantity had been sent to the Jondaryan Divisional Board, for the purpose of eradicating prickly pear.

Mr. McMASTER said he wished to know if it was very expensive? There were several places about Brisbane where it might be used. And it was desirable to know if the local authorities could procure it, and at what cost?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS said it cost £2 10s. per cwt. in Melbourne, which, when diluted, would make about 300 gallons. The general opinion was that, however efficacious it might be, it was more expensive than eradicating by hand.

Question put and passed.

SECRETARY FOR MINES AND WORKS.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS moved that £13,213 be granted for the Mines and Works Department, buildings branch, bridges, and contingencies. He said that hon. members would see that the amount for the Under Secretary for Mines and Works had been left off the Estimates. There were several increases. The accountant and chief clerk (Mines) received an extra £50 each, and there had been some fresh arrangements made amongst the clerks. There were the same number, but the alterations involved an increase of £25. Then there was another set of clerks which had been increased from two to four, and which brought about an increase of £115 in that item. An additional draftsman had been appointed also, at a salary of £300. In the buildings branch another draftsman had been appointed, to take charge in the absence of the Colonial Architect. It had been found when that officer was away the gentleman left in charge had no title to be called by, and only received the same salary as the other draftsmen; so that it was thought necessary to give him the title of chief draftsman, and an increase of £25. Hon. members would see that there was one draftsman more than last year. The number of cadets had been decreased, some of them having gone to other employment, and one of them having become a draftsman. There was an increase in the number of foremen of works, which arose from a fresh appointment having been made at Normanton on account of the new buildings going up there. The amount for temporary assistance remained the same as last year. There had been some changes in the Bridges Department. The engineer had been dispensed with and another one obtained from the Railway Department, who was at present receiving £600 a year, and was appointed temporarily. After the 1st January, he intended to gazette him engineer permanently, and give him the same salary as his predecessor had received. An assistant had been appointed at £250. Owing to re-arrangements the amount down for draftsmen in that department had been reduced. The clerk and cadet, who had been receiving £75, had been promoted to a draftsman, and another cadet had been appointed at £40. Then an inspector of divisional board works had been appointed. That was a new appointment. It existed when the divisional board system was first introduced; but after Mr. Clinton died no new appointment had been made until now, when it was found necessary to supervise the work being carried out by Government loan money in the Southern part of the colony. The amounts for travelling expenses and advertising remained the same as last year.

Mr. HODGKINSON said it seemed strange that they should have had no information as to the item of "contingencies" which covered nearly one-third of the whole vote; but that appeared to have been the custom for a great number of years. He would like to know how it was that the Mines and Works Department, which was one of the most extensive departments in the service, and certainly inferior to none in importance to the colony, was deprived of an under secretary? It certainly could not be on the score of economy, because it was not wise economy. It was within the bounds of probability that the gentleman who now occupied the position of Minister might some day vacate that office, and be succeeded by a gentleman who was not so familiar with the details as he was. Another objection was that a laudable object of ambition to a Civil servant was denied him, and the two gentlemen who discharged the duties of under secretaries were placed in false positions. They were at present in the first class, but when the Civil Service Bill came

into operation they would be in only the second class, and he had yet to learn that they were inferior either in ability or in the manner in which they discharged their duties to gentlemen who were not discharging more important duties, and who would occupy superior official positions. In spite of the increase shown in the estimate, there had been a saving in the expenditure, and a very large amount of money passed through the hands of the accountant. He failed to see why the department should be deprived of an under secretary. If there was any reason he would like to know what it was?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said the work of the department was being very well carried on at present without an under secretary. There could scarcely be two under secretaries—one for the Mines Department and the other for the Works Department. The gentleman who occupied the position of chief clerk in the Mines Department, and who was acting as Under Secretary, was thoroughly competent to do the work of the department; and the gentleman who occupied the position of accountant, and was acting as Under Secretary for Works, was also thoroughly competent in his department. Whatever Minister might occupy the position, the Acting Under Secretary—the chief clerk—would be quite competent to advise him. The time would no doubt come when the two departments would have to be separated, with an under secretary for each; but that time had not come yet in his estimation. No doubt the hon. gentleman knew that the work of the two departments was not yet so great as to necessitate the severance, and for each to have an under secretary.

Mr. HODGKINSON said that what the hon. gentleman had stated was perfectly correct; but the work was done by an under secretary until a short time ago, and, without deprecating that officer, he would say that the men now performing the work were each of them fully as competent, and perhaps more so. But if they wished to get really zealous service they must not deprive the Civil servants of a laudable and just object for their ambition. He was aware there was a difficulty—that there were two officers who had equal claims to the appointment—but changes had recently been made in the Civil Service which would have enabled the Government to do justice to both officers. It was calculated to discourage any man who had given the best years of his life to the service, and had a just claim to promotion, if he should suddenly find, when the vacancy occurred, that it was not to be filled up. The question of precedence or of selection could be settled by appointing the present chief clerk Under Secretary of Mines, and by giving the other gentleman, whose financial knowledge would be equally valuable in any other department, an equivalent appointment elsewhere.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said he did not know of any vacancy to which the officer could be appointed.

The HON. A. RUTLEDGE said it seemed to him that the abolition of an office which had been so long in existence as that of Under Secretary for Mines and Works was a proclamation to the outside world that the Department of Mines was of less importance now than it used to be. He did not think anybody believed that that was the case. The mining industry of the colony was one of continually increasing importance, and to say that it was the only department in which there should not be an under secretary receiving £800 a year was progressing in the wrong direction. He did not think the fact that there were two zealous officers who were getting less pay than was accorded to an under secretary was a sufficient answer to

the objection raised by his hon. friend. Granted that there were zealous and capable officers willing to give their best talent and experience for £500 or £550 a year, that was no reason for abolishing the office of under secretary. The same argument might apply to any other department of the Public Service. It was not only abolishing one of the prizes of the service, but it had a very damaging effect in the minds of the public outside, who would naturally conclude that the department was less efficiently conducted than formerly. Looking at the whole estimate, the vote for that very valuable department was in some respect very much less than it was before. There were one or two proposed increases, and one or two new offices that were not on last year's Estimates, but taking the vote as a whole, there was a tendency to decrease the expenditure rather than to increase it. The matter was spoken of to him at Charters Towers last year; the people there did not view with favour a proposal which they understood had been suggested to do away with the Under Secretary for Mines. It was paying the mining industry a very poor compliment to let it go forth to the world that it was of such comparatively small importance, as compared with the other departments, that the most important office in it had been abolished. If it was proposed at some future time to re-institute the office, greater difficulties would arise than were experienced now. It would be regarded as creating a new office, involving a considerable expenditure, which might be met by serious objections. With regard to the number of cadets, he noticed that last year there were four cadets receiving £50 each, while now there was only one. Had the other three been promoted to positions in the service? He understood it had been the custom to take boys from the grammar schools, who had displayed a talent in that particular direction, and appoint them cadets, and that they had often developed into first-class officers. Did the Government intend to continue the system in that department?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said that of the cadets one had left the service, and the other two had been promoted.

Mr. HAMILTON said that hitherto the Government had been attacked for not economising. Now, when it was proposed to economise, instead of being congratulated they were blamed. He hoped the time would soon come when two under secretaries would be required, and he hoped the claims of those two gentlemen would be recognised. He noticed that the chief clerk, who was discharging the duties of Under Secretary for Mines, was getting £50 less than the accountant who filled the other office. Considering the great length of time the chief clerk had been in the service, and considering his efficiency—because no more competent man had ever filled the position of Under Secretary for Mines—it was only fair that the salary of the chief clerk should be increased next session, so as to equalise it with that paid to the other gentleman.

Mr. SAYERS said the question might be argued from both points of view. The work of the chief clerk in the Mines Department was equal to that of any under secretary, but he was not getting the salary paid to other under secretaries. That showed that all their contentions had been right. Time after time hon. members on his side of the Committee had contended that if the Government were going to economise they should begin with those gentlemen who were getting £800 a year, but who did no more work than the chief clerk in the Mines Department, who had only been receiving up to the present £450 a year. That officer had been acting as

Under Secretary for Mines, and was acknowledged to be as efficient as any under secretary they had had, and he was doing the work for £450 a year. The same condition of things prevailed through all the departments. If they tried at any time to reduce a salary, the Government at once defended it. The only conclusion he could come to was that either the under secretaries in the other departments were overpaid, or else that gentleman in the Mines Department was underpaid. Considering the magnitude of the mining industry in the colony, if an under secretary was required in any other department, they should have one in the Mines Department. It simply placed them in the position with the outside world that it was merely a hole-and-corner business, and that a chief clerk was quite sufficient to do all the business. In one department there were two under secretaries, and there was an under secretary in every other department, except the Mines Department. He hoped the Government would take the matter into consideration, and see that that gentleman who did the work as efficiently as any under secretary, received the same salary as the under secretaries. If an under secretary were sent from another department to the Mines Department he would get £800 a year, and he would not do half the work. All the departments were worked in the same way. The work was done by the chief clerks, but the under secretaries received higher positions and higher salaries without doing any more work for it. All the departments should be placed on the same footing. Either the salaries of the under secretaries in the other departments should be reduced, or the salary of that gentleman should be increased.

Mr. HODGKINSON said the arguments used by the Minister for Mines and Works were very feeble. The other night a Bill had been introduced in the interests of one individual. He had nothing to say against that; but was merely quoting it as an instance. A departure had been made in that Bill, which he had never heard of in all his experience. That Bill had been introduced with a view of increasing the salary voted by Parliament as sufficient for the position, because that salary was not considered sufficient by the gentleman to whom the position was offered. A special Bill was brought in to enable him to antedate his retiring allowance; and although he was still in active service he was actually drawing the pension of an invalided officer. Not only had the Government done that, but they had gone absolutely in the face of the Bill they had themselves introduced, by appointing that gentleman when he was in excess of the age at which that office could be held. The Government would listen in the present case to neither precedent, argument, logic, or justice. The Government recognised that the acting Under Secretary for Mines had discharged the duties satisfactorily, and if he were to be treated in that way it would undoubtedly foster a feeling of disgust in the service generally. That would operate far more prejudicially than the £200 or £300 a year which was being saved by that misplaced economy.

Mr. AGNEW said both those departments had now grown to such a magnitude that there ought to be a separate under secretary for each. The mines in the colony were now of tremendous importance, although they would still develop marvellously. The Works Department also covered an enormous amount of work, and it would certainly add to the better management of things if the two departments were divided. Both the chief clerk and the accountant were efficient officers, and the Government could easily get out of the difficulty by appointing one to be the Under Secretary for Mines, and the

other to be Under Secretary for Works. That would give satisfaction both to the Committee and to the country.

Mr. UNMACK said he could not agree with the arguments which had been used by some hon. members, and all praise was due to the Minister for Mines and Works for trying to economise in the way he had done. If the hon. gentleman was satisfied that the work was being efficiently done by the two officers who were there at present, and with the small increases he proposed to give them, the Committee had no right to press upon the hon. gentleman, and endeavour to get him to raise their salaries. If those officers could do the work at the salaries they were drawing, then he wished to impress upon the Government that officers of similar standing in other departments should also receive no more salary, whether they were called under secretaries or acting under secretaries or chief clerks. Evidently the only difference between the heads of that and other departments was in salary. Competent men could be found in other departments to discharge the duties of under secretaries, at the same salaries that were paid to those acting in that capacity in the Mines and Works Department. He noticed that in that department the Government were increasing the salaries of nearly all the officers. Some were receiving increases of £50, some £25, and so on. Now he feared that the present arrangement would only last for twelve months, when an under secretary would be appointed with a salary of £700 or £800, whilst the other officers would draw their increased salaries in addition; so that, instead of a reduction, there would be a considerable increase. As for dividing the department, and having two under secretaries, that would necessitate having two staffs, and there was no knowing where it would end. Some of the Estimates were increasing at an alarming rate. During last year the Government spent £320,000 more than the Griffith Ministry spent in their last year of office.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: They did no such thing.

Mr. UNMACK said he had all the figures, and he had already shown that such was the case. He repeated, without fear of contradiction, that the present Government spent £320,000 more last year than the Griffith Ministry spent during their last year of office.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I contradict you.

Mr. UNMACK said he would take another opportunity of convincing the hon. gentleman. There was no getting over the figures, no matter how much he might contradict. The money had gone somehow, but he did not know how.

Mr. HAMILTON: It went to make up the deficit.

Mr. UNMACK said it had been ground out of the people by taxation, and it had been spent. He was glad to see, however, that there was an attempt at economising in one way; and he wished he could say the same of every department. Last year he directed attention to the question of messengers. In connection with the Mines and Works Department there was a messenger who received more remuneration than a member of Parliament. If hon. members would look at the schedule they would find a messenger named James Fallon down for £305 a year. He thought that must be wrong, because he believed that James Fallon was not now in the land of the living. Mrs. Fallon was set down as office-keeper at £60, and there was £60 on the Estimates for an office-keeper. The schedule for the present year

had been very carelessly prepared. There were two messengers and two watchmen for the Department of Mines and Works; but now that the department had moved into the new building, he did not see what there would be for them to do. They had already voted the salaries of two watchmen who would be employed in the new Treasury Buildings, and he did not know where all the messengers and watchmen were going to be stowed when all the departments got into the new offices. He believed an additional wing would have to be built to accommodate them. When the different departments had all moved into the new buildings the cost of the messengers employed there, according to the Estimates, would be about £5,000 a year.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said the number of watchmen and messengers was the same as last year. He had explained on a previous occasion that the two watchmen were not for the Works Department. The watchman of the Treasury was paid by the Works Department, and that was why two watchmen were set down. The former messenger, James Fallon, was dead; but he left a son, and he (the Minister for Mines and Works) had placed that son in his father's position to prevent the mother and the family from becoming objects of charity. He believed the hon. member for Toowong would say nothing against the vote when he knew that. The mother was put down as office-keeper with £60 a year, but it should be "office-cleaner." She either cleaned the offices herself or paid someone else for doing the work. As to the increases proposed, he could assure the hon. gentleman that they were no more than the officers in question were entitled to. He had put down an increase of £50 for the chief clerk when he left office in 1883, and the increase ought to have been given then, but it had not been given yet. The accountant also was entitled to an increase of £50. He could say nothing too strong in favour of those two gentlemen; but they were doing no more now than they were before. He knew nothing about under secretaries; but he knew the position of the under secretary in his department. That officer used to sit in his chair, and the information which now came direct to the Minister from the chief clerk in the Mines Department, and from the accountant in the Works Department, used to be filtered through the under secretary. He considered that the present arrangement was an economy that was desirable, and ought to be carried out. He did not say that they were not entitled to more pay; but the proposition of the hon. member for Nundah to divide the departments into two, with an under secretary over each, was going too far altogether. By-and-by there would be a demand for a Minister for each also, and neither Minister nor under secretary would have more than two days' work in the week. Such a thing would be monstrous. He did not believe the dignity of the Mines Department would suffer because there was not an under secretary paid £800 a year. It was not the under secretary who made the Mines Department known throughout the world; it was the yield of gold, and that would not decrease because there was no highly paid under secretary at the head of the department.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said he hoped the hon. gentleman did not understand him to complain of the increase proposed to the salary of either of those officers. On the contrary, he thought they were highly deserving of those increases. The hon. gentleman was simply carrying out a promise made to the Committee last year, when there was a concurrence of opinion that those officers were underpaid; but there was something in the argument that

if those officers were only now getting what they deserved, officers holding similar positions in other departments must be getting a great deal more than they deserved. The salary of the chief clerk was only now advanced to £500, but they found that the chief clerks in the Department of Public Instruction and in the Lands Department had been receiving that salary for some time; so that the salary of the officer in question was only now being dragged up to the level of that of men who were doing only half the work he had been doing all along.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS: He would have had it six years ago if I had remained in office.

THE HON. A. RUTLEDGE said he did not know why he did not get it. Probably having a highly paid under secretary, who, perhaps, did not earn his salary, had served as a bar to his progress. But he saw no reason why one of those gentlemen should not be placed in the position of under secretary. There would be then no filtering business through the under secretary to the Minister; he would have a live man to deal with. He did not blame the hon. gentleman for trying to economise, but he was afraid that the Estimates would have an ugly appearance to the people. They would see that while every other department had an under secretary the pruning knife had been put into the Mines Department only; hence they might entertain the idea that the Mines Department was considered of less importance than the others. He was not justifying that feeling, but when they had officers, both of whom were admittedly possessed of great ability, he thought it a great pity that they should not be levelled up to the same position with regard to emoluments as other officers who had not half the work to do, and were not of the same value to the country.

MR. UNMACK said he was afraid the Hon. the Minister for Mines and Works had not comprehended his argument. He did not find fault with him for economising; on the contrary he commended him for it, and said that similar economy ought to be exercised in other departments. As for the increases to the salaries of the chief clerk and the accountant, they had his most hearty approval, as he believed that both officers honestly deserved them. In fact he, for one, would not object if they had been given a trifle more. With regard to the messengers, it was all very well for the Minister to say it was a matter of charity to place the son in the father's place, but when that charity cost the country £305 a year, it was rather extravagant. He did not see the least occasion to start that young man with a salary of £130 and allowances which, together with his mother's salary for cleaning the office, made up £305. There, on the Estimates, they had educated professional gentlemen, draftsmen, receiving £125 and £208 a year, and one who was to take charge of the building branch in the absence of the chief of that department, received only £275. Yet there was a messenger getting £305. He had all along objected to messengers being paid those high salaries. They were mostly strong, able-bodied men, and it was a sin and a shame to see them standing about the doors of offices or carrying a letter from one end of a building to another. Lads at £50 or £60 a year could do all the work that was required, and he hoped that the Civil Service Commissioners would take the matter in hand, and not pay the present extravagant salaries. He would not dismiss the present messengers but would give them some more suitable employment, something that they could earn their salary at; for he contended that they did not earn £200 and £300 a year by carrying a letter occasionally from one corner of

a building to another. If the Government would only take a lesson from mercantile offices in that matter it would result in great saving to the country. The salary put down for the watchmen, £110, was reasonable; in fact, he would be inclined to give them a little more; but he could not understand why so many messengers were required, especially since the offices had been removed to the new buildings. A person could scarcely walk along a passage without tumbling over messengers everywhere. Of course he knew the vote must go; but he would like to know if it was intended to keep up that numerous staff of messengers in the new building, or would the services of some of them be dispensed with?

THE HON. A. RUTLEDGE said he disagreed with the hon. member for Toowong with regard to the utility of messengers. The hon. member had a very strong opinion that boys should be employed as messengers, but the result of that would be that as soon as those boys got to know their work and became useful as messengers they would be taken away by their parents and sent to some other employment. He had had some experience of messengers, and found that they always required a certain amount of training to fit them for the position. He considered a good messenger must be a careful, steady, grave, trustworthy man. He did not know where the hon. member for Toowong got his experience of stumbling over messengers lolling about in the offices, because he (Hon. A. Rutledge) knew the services of the messengers in the department with which he was connected were in such request that it was difficult to find them in. A man or a boy required to serve some sort of apprenticeship as a departmental messenger, as he had to know the rounds of all the offices. The messengers were also frequently intrusted with money; they were a very useful class of men, and the longer they remained in one department the more useful they became, and some of them when they had been there a long time were almost indispensable. If they were to have boys only as messengers, anyone who knew anything about them would know what that meant. He had had some experience of them, and he knew that in the Town Hall offices when they had a boy at 10s. a week for three or four weeks, and he was beginning to be of some use his parents took him away to find something better for him. If they got youths as messengers they would idle their time away and stand looking at the pictures in the shop windows, and when they had men to do the work who went about their business in a business-like way they saved time and money to the country. If they had a system of boys as messengers in the departments, the Ministers and under secretaries would be in rebellion in the course of a few weeks.

MR. GLASSEY said he did not share the opinions of the hon. members for Charters Towers and Burke with respect to under secretaries for those departments. The question was: Was the work being done efficiently now? If it was being done efficiently, there was no necessity for an under secretary. It was admitted that it was being done efficiently, and it would be as well if they took into consideration the necessity for dispensing with some of the under secretaries in other departments, and let some of the chief clerks do the work as thoroughly and well as they did in the Mines Department. He did not agree with the sentimental notion that the dignity of the department required an under secretary at £800 a year when it had been proved that such an officer could be done without. While on that part of the vote he would remind

the Committee that the late Under Secretary of the Works Department, Mr. Deighton, was now receiving a very fair salary of £500 a year by way of pension for doing nothing at all. He understood that that gentleman had been allowed to retire on his pension before he had reached the age stipulated in the Act—namely, sixty years. That question was to be dealt with by a Bill to be introduced either that year or next year to legalise pensions granted in such a way, and he could promise that no matter when it was brought forward it would meet with his most strenuous opposition, as he intended to do what he could to destroy the pension system root and branch. So long as a man was able to do work and there was work for him to do, he would protest against the country being saddled with a pension for such a man. He came now to the question of the messengers, and they had occupied the attention of the Committee a good deal lately. He would be the last man in the world to do anything to injure the interests of a family or cause them to be broken up in any way, but he thought £130 a year was rather too much to pay a boy who was employed as a messenger whether he happened to succeed his father or not. The effect of such a thing was to create jealousy, heart-burning, and disagreement in the department, and a feeling that the Minister did not dispense justice between person and person in the department equitably. With respect to the increase to the chief clerk and accountant he did not say those gentlemen were overpaid, but further down the list he saw there were four clerks whose aggregate salaries last year amounted to £600, and they amounted only to £625 for the present year, while another clerk was included in the vote, who last year received £225 and who was now to receive £275. There was an increase of £50 a year in one case, and an increase of £25 divided amongst four in another. From his point of view that was entirely wrong, and he set his face against those inequalities. He required some information other than that supplied by the Estimates, to convince him that justice and equity was administered in those cases. He was determined if possible to uplift those receiving small salaries, and if possible to bring down those receiving too much pay for the work they performed. They had proof positive of that sort of thing in connection with that department, because the Minister for Mines and Works had admitted that the late Under Secretary of the Works Department had occupied his office for years when he was not required. No member of the Committee could deny that, for the work of the department had been done as efficiently, and as thoroughly, and as well up to time, as it had been done in the past, notwithstanding the saving in the department of £800 a year. That, of course, could hardly be said to be saved entirely, as the gentleman who did receive it could now walk about with his hands in his pockets, and draw £10 a week pension money for doing nothing. It was said that he had resigned before he was sixty years of age, but let him be fifty, or sixty, or whatever age he might be, he appeared to be perfectly able to do useful work, and he should have an opportunity of doing it in the service of the State. If he failed to do that work, or declined to do it, then let the State deal with him. He (Mr. Glassey) hoped the Minister for Mines and Works would give some explanation as to how it was that four clerks only received £25 of an increase among them, while one clerk in the buildings branch received an increase of £50.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said the messenger was not a boy, as the hon. member appeared to think, but a

young man nineteen years of age. He heard the hon. member for Bundamba that evening, in very strong and emphatic language, declare that if a boy did the work of a man he was entitled to the pay. That young man did the work which had been done by his father, who was a very efficient messenger of fourteen or fifteen years' standing, and one of the most efficient messengers in the Public Service, and he did the work quite as well as his father. With regard to the clerk in the buildings branch, Mr. Crawford, who was receiving an increase of £50, he was deserving of that increase. He had been a very long time in the service, and had had no increase for many years. The four clerks who appeared by the Estimates to receive an increase of only £25 among them were really getting more than that, as he would explain. A clerk who last year was receiving £250 a year left the service, and another clerk, who was receiving £150 a year, took his place at £180 a year. The balance between the £180 and the £250 was divided among three other clerks, with £25 added, one clerk receiving an increase of £50, another £25, and the third £20.

MR. HODGKINSON said he still held that an Under Secretary for Mines was necessary. Without any disparagement to the chief clerk or any other officer, he contended that the work was not as well done now as it should be. It was impossible that the gentleman who occupied the position of chief clerk could deal with the current stream of business, and at the same time attend to the more important duties of an under secretary. There were most valuable records in the department, which were simply put away, instead of being made of public service. The under secretary he had in his mind was such a man as Brough Smythe, in Victoria, who gave such attention to the records in the office, with respect to the features of the various goldfields, that he was able to publish a standard work on the subject. They were losing the benefit of all those records in this colony. It was quite impossible for any gentleman, having to attend to the constant stream of business dealt with by the chief clerk, to perform the proper duties of an under secretary. As to the question of pay, and the argument that if they could get a man to do the work for £550, they should not pay £800, that could be locked at from several points of view. Why not put it out by tender? There were hundreds, perhaps thousands of persons in Brisbane who would be prepared to do the work for less than £550. He dared say that some might even be prepared to pay the Minister a premium for the position, in order to have the control of the expenditure of £157,000 of public money. They should dignify the position by paying a sufficient salary, and if they dignified the position the work would be better done. The proper work of an Under Secretary for Mines could not be done without the department obtained a man whose duty it was to do that work. It could not be done by the present acting under secretary, because he was charged with too many duties—duties which should be done by a subordinate—and the country would suffer very much from the want of an under secretary.

MR. GLASSEY said he was thoroughly satisfied with the explanation given by the Minister for Mines and Works with regard to the increases to the four clerks, and was also pleased to be enlightened with respect to the age of the messenger. There were two lads at the office, and he must have made a mistake as to which of them was the messenger in question. He should be very sorry to do any family an injury. With reference to the under secretary, he did not see why, if the work was done efficiently

now, as they were assured it was, hon. members should insist on the appointment of an under secretary at £800 per annum.

Mr. HODGKINSON : You cannot cut them all down to 5 feet 6 inches.

Mr. GLASSEY said he was aware of that, but he wanted to bring some of them up to 6 feet. It was the 5 feet 6 inches men who suffered, but the 6 feet men stood erect, and were always well defended.

Mr. HODGKINSON asked what was the meaning of the item £500 for temporary assistance in the buildings branch?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said that was for temporary draftsmen who were employed when there was a pressure of work. He quite appreciated what had fallen from the hon. member for Burke, as to an Under Secretary for Mines, but he would remind the hon. member and the Committee, that there was only one Brough Smythe in Victoria, amongst all the gentlemen they had had in the Mines Department in that colony. It was extremely hard to get such a man.

Mr. SAYERS said he believed the Colonial Architect had recently made a trip up North, and he would like to know whether that officer had reported upon the Government buildings in the North. He referred to Charters Towers, and intended to move in the matter.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said the Colonial Architect had been up North, and was going to report upon the public buildings he inspected; but since his return the press of business had been so great that he had been prevented from completing that report.

Mr. SAYERS said he was referring to something that took place in last April or May, and about which he wished for information. It was a matter in which he was particularly interested, as he knew there were Government buildings going to ruin. The hon. gentleman might be able to give him sufficient information verbally for his object. He would speak upon the matter when they came to the Postmaster-General's Estimates.

Mr. ANNEAR said he agreed with the hon. member for Bundamba as regarded the inequalities in the different salaries in the Mines and Bridges Departments; but he did not agree with some remarks that had been made that those departments were less dignified now than they formerly were. He believed the work was as well done as ever it had been; but he could not see why the accountant in the Works Office should receive £50 more than the gentleman who performed the duties of Under Secretary for Mines, who held quite as important an office. He happened to know both of those gentlemen, and was sure there were not two more efficient officers in the service. He hoped the Minister would take into consideration the importance of the office held by the chief clerk in the Mines Department, and next year place him upon equal terms with the other officer he had mentioned. He had opposed the granting of pensions to some of the district court judges the other evening as much as the hon. member for Bundamba, but he thought they must all admit that Mr. Deighton, the late Under Secretary, was entitled to some consideration. He had been a faithful officer, and had paid into the Superannuation Fund. There was another item which he wished to refer to, and that was the salary of the Colonial Architect. The Minister for Mines and Works had stated that he intended increasing the salary of the Engineer for Bridges to £700; but the Colonial Architect, who had charge of a much larger department, and who was intrusted with far

more money, was only down for £600. Before the present officer was appointed, every Colonial Architect had received £800 a year. The present Colonial Architect fulfilled his duties as efficiently as any man in the service, and he did not see why he should receive less salary than the Engineer for Bridges. There was another subject he wished to speak about. Although he had been away he had still read *Hansard*, and he was going to refer to a matter that he had assisted to discuss some time ago. It was in reference to the stone used in the new Treasury Buildings. He knew a stone when he saw it, possibly just as well as the Hon. A. C. Gregory, although he might not be able to make an analysis of it as that gentleman could. Still, he had been among stone in the colony some twenty-three or twenty-four years and knew something about it, and he had stated that the stone used in the Treasury Buildings was good stone, and a stone that would be durable. It was as good a stone as that used in the Parliamentary Buildings. But a question had been raised as to the quality of the stone used, and the Minister for Mines and Works had interjected that that stone was decaying at the present time. He wished to know if the hon. gentleman made that statement upon his own authority, or upon that of some one else. He had been round that building a dozen times, and had looked carefully into it, and had spoken to the men employed there, but he would defy any man to point out a decaying stone. He considered that building was a credit to the officers who supervised it, and to the men who constructed it. It had been faithfully built, and statements like those should not be allowed to go unchallenged.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said he made the statement he had made upon the authority of the Hon. A. C. Gregory. Since then he believed that gentleman had been called upon by the department to point out the stone that had decayed, but he did not think any answer had been received.

Mr. LUYA said he wished to point out some irregularities in the salaries, particularly in the bridges branch. The Colonial Architect received £600 a year; but the chief draftsman only received £275. The chief draftsman in that department should be a man pretty well equal to the Colonial Architect himself. They found a clerk in that department receiving £255, and a foreman of works received £300, the other foremen of works receiving £250 each. The chief draftsman was surely better than an outside foreman of works. He mentioned that so that the Minister might look into it. He knew that great dissatisfaction existed in the department with regard to salaries. As to the accountant and chief clerk of mines he believed they were thoroughly good and reliable officers. The late under secretary, Mr. Deighton, who received £800 a year, he did not believe retired of his own free will. Mr. Deighton was called upon to retire, although there were many years of work in him, and he felt it very keenly. If Mr. Deighton's services were not required in that department he might have been transferred to some other department without forcing him, when he had ten or fifteen years' work in him at the very least, to retire on a pension. Some alteration was required in the buildings branch, and it would add very much to the good work of the department if some different scale of salaries was adopted. In every architect's office in Brisbane better salaries were paid than were received by the chief and other draftsmen in the department, and he could not conceive that the chief draftsman, who was supposed to be able to take the place of the Colonial Architect at a moment's notice,

should be considered well paid on £275 a year. The difference was more apparent when it was seen that of the foremen of works one received £300 and the others £250 a year each. He knew as a fact that the draftsmen in the department were second to none in the colony. It was merely with the hope of rising in the service that they remained. When the Government got good men it was desirable to keep them by giving them fair and reasonable remuneration.

The HON. A. RUTLEDGE said he would ask whether it was intended to indicate to the public in any way the different departments located in the new building? It was a work of exploration at present, and a man might very easily get "bushed," to use a colonial phrase, in finding a particular department.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said he did not himself know yet how the departments were located. Certainly some system must be adopted to indicate the different departments.

Mr. BUCKLAND said the late Engineer for Bridges, Mr. Daniells, felt somewhat aggrieved that his case had not been brought more prominently before the Assembly. Possibly the Minister in charge of the vote would state what consideration was paid to Mr. Daniells when he was discharged from the service. He (Mr. Buckland) was not going to defend the bridges that were built by Mr. Daniells; nothing he could state would be very much in his favour. There were bridges in the immediate vicinity of the city, constructed from Mr. Daniells' designs, which had cost a considerable amount over and above the estimate before they could be used by the public, and there were others throughout the colony of which the same might be said. He asked the question merely because he knew Mr. Daniells felt aggrieved that his case had not been more prominently brought before the Assembly.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said he believed Mr. Daniells got the usual consideration that was given to a Civil servant when his services were dispensed with. He got one month's salary.

Mr. UNMACK said that in the case of a professional man, whose reputation was at stake, and who had been specially engaged to do certain work, to be suddenly dismissed with a month's salary was scarcely the right thing to do. He had no knowledge of the facts of the case except what he had gathered from the papers laid on the table of the House, and not printed, and although some of the points might not be in Mr. Daniells' favour, in the case of a professional man some special reasons should be given for his dismissal. He certainly ought not to be treated as an ordinary clerk and dismissed with a month's salary.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said Mr. Daniells was not dismissed upon the reputation he brought with him from New South Wales. He was dispensed with on account of the experience of the Government here of him. He did not wish to say anything against Mr. Daniells as a professional man, and as he did not wish to injure him in any way he would content himself with saying that it would have been better for the country if Mr. Daniells had never been employed in the service.

Mr. SMYTH said he thought Mr. Daniells had been very badly used. He had gone through nearly all the correspondence, and it was clear that many of the mistakes in the Northern bridges were made by those who preceded Mr. Daniells. That was particularly the

case with the Mackay Bridge, where the material was ordered in accordance with the measurements given to him. Mr. Daniells brought a good reputation with him from New South Wales. The Government engaged him on that reputation, and his prospects had been almost blighted by the way in which he had been treated by the Government. He should be given a fair chance of clearing his professional character.

Mr. McMASTER said that after reading the evidence, he was inclined to think that the board was as much to blame as Mr. Daniells for the extra cost of the Breakfast Creek Bridge. Tenders were called for the bridge before the board received the proper plans. They had no alignment put up; and it came out in the evidence that the engineer who had measured and reported on the bridge stated that his measurement would have come within an inch of Mr. Daniells' had it been put in the proper place. He thought the bridge was in its proper place in a straight line with the street; but at the same time Mr. Daniells had placed the bridge correctly across the stream in another direction. He did not think that Mr. Daniells should be blamed for the mistake altogether, because the local authorities had called for tenders before the plans had left the office, when they had not the proper alignment. He did not know anything about the Northern bridges, but he had heard that they were erected in the middle of streams, and had no approaches. They were bridges without any ends by which to get over them. They landed nowhere. He did not think Mr. Daniells was altogether to blame for the Breakfast Creek bridge, and his reputation had been injured by the action of the Government in dismissing him without more than a week's notice, and with a month's salary.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he had no doubt that Mr. Daniells' reputation as a bridge engineer had suffered somewhat from the loss of his position under the Government. With regard to the Breakfast Creek Bridge, Mr. Daniells had made an estimate, but that estimate had been doubled, so that evidently he must have made some grievous mistake. Possibly both parties might have been to blame, but the engineer must have been at fault when his estimate was rather more than doubled.

Mr. HAMILTON said he had not read the papers in connection with the dismissal of Mr. Daniells, but he knew that in some instances that gentleman had had to bear blame for the faults of others. In connection with the Annan Bridge an officer had been sent up to take soundings. That officer had not been sent by Mr. Daniells. His soundings were unreliable, and the consequence was the construction of that bridge was delayed a considerable time, and the blame had to be borne by Mr. Daniells. They had been told of a bridge at Clermont having been put in the middle of a lagoon. It was generally known that Mr. Daniells had pointed that out to the Minister for Works at that time, but that gentleman had said that the divisional board could make the approaches to the bridge if they chose. That was under the late Administration. Then at Mackay, the bridge had to cross the river; then there was some low lying ground, and another bridge had to be built across the swamp. It had been pointed out by Mr. Daniells to the Minister for Mines and Works that the bridge would really be in the middle of the river, and that no one could get upon the bridge in order to cross the river. The onus rested on the Minister for Works at that time, and not upon Mr. Daniells. In those instances he believed Mr. Daniells was not to blame.

Mr. HODGKINSON said that if Mr. Daniells had made such a statement as that referred to by the hon. member for Cook it was sufficient reason for his services being dispensed with. Any officer who made such statements should not be in the Government service. He would like to know who was the Minister for Works the hon. member for Cook had referred to. He knew the ingenuity of that hon. gentleman in turning a little thing into an attack upon a political opponent, and he would ask the hon. gentleman to give the name of the Minister for Works referred to. It was not the present Minister for Mines and Works, and he was perfectly certain that it was not the late Mr. Miles, as he would never have said or done any such thing as had been stated by the hon. member for Cook.

Mr. HAMILTON said the hon. gentleman had spoken with considerable ingenuity in insinuating that he (Mr. Hamilton) had asserted that Mr. Daniells had made those statements. He had not suggested anything of the kind, and anyone who had listened impartially to what he had said must be aware of that. If the hon. member for Burke wished to know what Minister for Works had been referred to, let him turn up the papers and he could find the name.

Mr. ANNEAR said he thought Mr. Daniells might well say, "Save me from my friends." He was sorry for that gentleman's sake that the discussion had been raised. It was childish for a gentleman who professed to be an engineer to say the mistakes were not his, but had been committed by someone else. It had been stated in that Committee previously that Mr. Daniells had said the measurements had been made for the Mackay Bridge by Mr. Nisbet, that from those measurements he had prepared the plans, and upon those plans the contract had been let. Any man's reputation was in his own hands, and any man coming to the colony with a reputation as an engineer, should have ascertained the correctness of those measurements for himself. He was sorry the question had been raised. If Mr. Daniells had the reputation which some hon. members seemed to think, he should do well in this colony—far better than by remaining in the Government service. He had come here with a first-class reputation, but somehow or other he had been unfortunate. A bridge for Maryborough had been before them lately, and that bridge had been dangled before their eyes for a long time. Mr. Daniells had first estimated the cost of that bridge at £20,000, then he raised the estimate to £23,000, and now the estimated cost by another engineer was £40,000. That was his great objection to Mr. Daniells. In nearly every instance his estimate had been only about half the actual cost. Mr. Daniells was a very nice gentleman, and he should be very sorry to say anything against him, but he had made a great mistake in asking any hon. member to bring his case forward that evening.

Mr. SMYTH said the hon. member for Maryborough made a mistake in saying that Mr. Nisbet had made the measurements for the Mackay Bridge. They had been taken by an officer in Mr. Nisbet's office, whom the hon. member for Maryborough knew. What did they have Government officers for if they could not be sent to take the measurements for the erection of a bridge? Any miner or chainman could take the measurements, and find how wide a river was, and where the piers would be. Mr. Daniells had had a great deal of office work to do, and it was impossible that he should go and take all the measurements himself. He had to draw up the plans and prepare the estimates of all the bridges, and he could not be

expected to go and look after all the bridges in the colony except when they were in the course of construction. He stood up to defend Mr. Daniells from the charge that all the bridges he had constructed in the colony were underestimated, and that all the mistakes which had been made were attributable to him.

Mr. McMASTER said he had no wish to stand up as a champion for Mr. Daniells in the least; but the hon. member for Bulimba had stated that the Breakfast Creek Bridge had cost more than double the amount estimated by Mr. Daniells. It had cost a very large sum he knew. The reason of the increased cost was because the bridge was not placed in the position for which it was designed by Mr. Daniells. It was placed in a straight line with the Breakfast Creek road instead of at an angle, and when the material was imported, it was found that the bridge would be twenty feet or twenty-five feet too short. He had read the decision of the arbitrator, Mr. Thorneloe Smith, and that gentleman said that if the bridge had been placed in the position for which it was designed by Mr. Daniells it could have been constructed for the estimated amount. Before he sat down he wished to ask why the Colonial Architect was kept at £200 a year less than his predecessor? He thought that officer was quite as competent as his predecessor, and he believed the public thought so too.

Mr. HODGKINSON said that during the régime of the last Colonial Architect the office was in a state of insubordination owing to his infirmities of temper, whereas now the work of the office was carried on with good feeling, and discipline was observed. The Colonial Architect had an enormous amount of responsibility; and he virtually had the control of a great deal of money, because a small act of carelessness on his part might involve the loss of a large amount. He did not wish to say anything against the Engineer for Bridges; but it was strange that a gentleman who was almost taken on trial should have his salary raised to that of his predecessor almost as soon as he had assumed office; whereas a gentleman who had been in the service for some years, and had manifested his qualifications, was kept at £200 a year less than his predecessor. He was not a believer in cheap work. He believed in paying men well, and making them responsible for good work.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said he believed that it was not so long ago since the late Colonial Architect, who received £800 a year, was allowed private practice as well. The present Colonial Architect, he believed, devoted the whole of his time to the work of the department, yet his salary was limited to £600 a year. That was not the way to encourage the exercise of the best powers of an officer. No doubt the Colonial Architect would do his best under any circumstance; but it afforded a stimulus to a man to excel himself when he found that his abilities were rewarded. He wished to know whether the new officer appointed as inspector of divisional board works, came from the ranks of the Civil Service or from outside; also whether the money expended on such works, especially in the Southern district, was greater now than it was a few years ago? He knew of one or two instances in the neighbourhood of the metropolis where extensive contracts for important and much needed improvements were entered into by local authorities on the strength of obtaining loans from the Government; but those matters were now thrown into confusion because the loans could not be obtained. If that was going to be the policy of the Government, the necessity for the appointment of that officer would not be so great in the future as it had been in the past.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said that no appointment had yet been made. As to the amount of money asked for by local authorities in the neighbourhood of Brisbane and refused, he could not say anything; nor did he know the reason why. When loans were applied for by local authorities, his department reported on the works for which the loans were required, and those reports were sent to the Treasury. He knew that there was a necessity for the officer in question; and he thought that the office should have been filled when Mr. Clinton died.

Mr. DRAKE said he would be glad to know whether anything had been done for Peter Jones, late superintendent of bridges in the employment of the Government? He was appointed in October, 1887, and while superintending the construction of a bridge across the Six-mile Creek, at Gympie, he met with an accident. His hand was caught between a pulley and a rope, and two of his fingers were torn out, the sinews being drawn out from the elbow. The man was disabled for a fortnight, and after that he was sent to superintend the construction of another bridge. But on the 27th June last he suddenly received a notice, signed by Mr. Daniells, he (Mr. Drake) thought, to the effect that his services were no longer required. Since then he had not been able to get any employment in the department, and to a very great extent had been disabled from getting employment outside. He thought the matter had been brought under the notice of the Minister for Mines and Works; and he subsequently presented a petition to the House on the subject. He now wished to know whether anything had been done in the matter?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS: Nothing has been done.

Mr. DRAKE said he thought it was a very hard case. He would have brought it under the notice of the hon. gentleman himself, but he thought that some hon. member on the other side might have more weight with him, and there were hon. members on that side who were very well acquainted with the facts. The hon. gentleman might make the objection that there was no legal claim. Perhaps there was not; but, unless all the information in his possession was wrong, the man met with the accident while in the performance of his duty, and the fact that he was sent to another work a fortnight afterwards showed that he was considered a competent man. On the 27th of June last he was suddenly dismissed, and had been unable to get any satisfactory reason why he could obtain no further employment in the Government service.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said he did not know why the man referred to had been dismissed, but he would inquire into the matter.

Mr. SMYTH said he knew the man referred to very well, and his case was a most deserving one. He should be appointed as a messenger, or in charge of a level crossing on the railway line, or in some similar position where he would not be required to use both hands very much. It was a case in which the politics of the person injured should not be considered in any way.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said he was sorry the Minister had not obtained some information on the matter, especially as he had admitted that it had been brought under his notice previously. It was not a case that should be passed over and ignored. The man must have uncommon courage to be able to tackle work again in a fortnight after such a frightful

accident; and the fact that he had obtained work on another bridge was *prima facie* evidence that he was considered competent and worthy to be in the Government service. That his services should be summarily dispensed with under the circumstances was very cruel; and he hoped that the Minister would give the case his serious attention, and insist upon this man being appointed to the first vacancy that he was competent to fill.

Mr. DRAKE said he found, on referring to the petition, that Jones returned to work on the second day after the accident, which made the case more extraordinary and more deserving still.

Mr. SAYERS said the Minister for Mines and Works had said a short time ago that a messenger had been appointed out of charity on account of his family, but it appeared that Jones had a family depending on him also; so that in the one case they had a young man appointed as messenger at above the ordinary salary, and in the other the man was simply shelved, because he had met with an accident in the Government service which partially disabled him. There were plenty of posts in the Government service that he would be quite capable of filling. He would be likely to make a very efficient messenger, and would, no doubt devote the whole of his attention to whatever duties he had to discharge. He (Mr. Sayers) thought it was only right that the Minister should take some steps in the matter, and he was sure that every member would approve of his action.

Mr. MELLOR said he knew the person spoken of, and the case was certainly one which deserved some assistance. The Minister for Mines and Works had stated that the office of inspector of divisional boards works had yet to be filled, and he (Mr. Mellor) believed that Mr. Jones was well qualified to fill that position. Mr. Jones was certainly entitled to know why he was dismissed, but he had got no satisfactory reason, and he (Mr. Mellor) believed that it was on account of the accident which, to a certain extent, disabled him for life, unless he got some light occupation. He would like to know if the inspector of divisional boards works was to be inspector for the whole colony, or whether he was to be appointed for the Southern division only.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said the officer referred to would be required to do all the work it was possible for him to do in all parts of the colony. Whether he could attend to the requirements of all parts of the colony remained to be seen.

Mr. GLASSEY said he hoped the Minister would take into consideration the suggestions of hon. members that Peter Jones should be appointed to some suitable position.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said he had already promised to inquire into the case.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he thought some definite answer should be given to the question of the hon. member for the Valley, Mr. McMaster, respecting the Colonial Architect. The Committee had been told that the Engineer for Bridges was to get £700 a year, and that the Deputy Engineer of Harbours and Rivers was to get £700 a year, but yet the Colonial Architect, whose predecessor received £800 a year, was getting only £600. It seemed that all the chief officers of the Mines Department were being tabooed, he did not know why or wherefore.

Mr. SMYTH said he hoped the Minister would instruct the Colonial Architect to inspect the court-house at Gympie next year, and that

he would put down £4,000 or £5,000 for a new one. The present building was totally unsuitable for a court-house, and the district court judge had had to complain of it. The people of Gympie would be satisfied if they got one like that at Rockhampton.

Mr. McMASTER said he would like to know the intention of the Minister with regard to the salary of the Colonial Architect. He thought £600 a year was not sufficient for an officer of that gentleman's class.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said that next session the officers of the public departments would be under the Civil Service Board, and the Ministers would have very little to do with any of them.

Mr. McMASTER said if that was so, how was it that the Engineer for Bridges was to receive another £100? Was he not to be under the Civil Service Board as well?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS: Yes.

Mr. McMASTER said it had evidently been cut and dried that that gentleman should have another £100, and the Colonial Architect should not.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS: Because it is already approved of.

Mr. McMASTER said it seemed a strange thing that as soon as the vote was proposed the Minister should tell the Committee that a certain officer was to get an additional vote, and when they asked why another should not be similarly treated they were told it was because the latter would be under the Civil Service Board, as if the former would not. The hon. gentleman said it had been approved already, but it had not yet been approved by the Committee, and he could not see why one man's case should not be left to the Civil Service Board to deal with as well as the others. There must be something wrong about it.

Mr. ANNEAR said he was glad to hear what the Minister for Mines and Works had said with reference to Mr. Jones. That gentleman was a very intelligent man, and was fitted for a better position than that of a messenger. Mr. Jones was in good bodily health, and had superintended the construction of a bridge after the accident took place. They were going to construct several bridges throughout the colony, and he was sure a position could be found for that gentleman in connection with some of those works. He hoped that if the Minister for Mines and Works was in the same position next year that he was in that night, he would see that justice was done to the Colonial Architect. The Colonial Architect had to assume very great responsibilities. The wickedness of the North or increased crime in the North appeared to be so great that they required a new gaol at Townsville, the centre of what he might call the "Black North." That was to cost £30,000, and the money would have to be expended under the supervision of the Colonial Architect. They had young men in the colony who had done only two or three years' service in Queensland, as district railway engineers, and they were getting more salary than the Colonial Architect who had been in harness for fully twenty years. He would like to ask the Minister for Mines and Works whether it was his intention to equalise those salaries, so that the salary of the Colonial Architect might be made the same as the salary to be paid to the Engineer for Bridges, who had not the supervision of one-half the expenditure dealt with in the Colonial Architect's office.

Mr. PAUL said he wished to bring a subject of an historical nature before the Committee. When he was at Cooktown the inhabitants of the place had asked him, and other members who were associated with him, to request the House to vote a sum of money to put a statue of Captain Cook on the column erected there. He hoped he was not anticipating the hon member for Cook.

Mr. HAMILTON: You are anticipating the vote; it has not come on for discussion yet.

Mr. PAUL said in that case he would not say any more about the matter at present.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said he would like to know what arrangements were made with the acting Engineer for Bridges? Was he paid the salary of £600 with the promise that next year his salary would be raised?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said he was appointed at £600 with the understanding that his salary would be raised to £700 at the beginning of the year.

Mr. SAYERS said he saw an item of £1,000 down for advertising, and he would like to know how that money was paid. He supposed it was for advertising in connection with goldfields work, and as it was a large amount, he would like to know whether it was paid monthly or quarterly.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said it was paid neither monthly nor quarterly, but according as the vouchers came in. Although it appeared to be a large amount it had not been sufficient, as it included not only advertising on the goldfields, but advertising for the Works Department as well.

Mr. SAYERS said that if it included the cost of advertising for the Works Department as well, he did not think it could be sufficient, because, from his experience at Charters Towers, the wardens on their goldfields had a large amount of advertising to do.

Question put and passed.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether he intended to go any further with the Estimates that night?

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS: I would like to.

Mr. HODGKINSON said he would be glad to assist the hon. gentleman, but he was afraid he would find it difficult to go further that evening.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said if hon. members had no objection he would like to pass the next vote; it was only £92,390.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS on the Opposition side: It would take too long.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS moved that the Chairman leave the chair, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed; the CHAIRMAN reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT.

The MINISTER FOR MINES AND WORKS said: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at eight minutes to 11 o'clock.