

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1890

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 18 November, 1890.

Question.—Formal Motion.—Message from the Administrator of the Government—Supplementary Estimates and Supplementary Loan Estimates.—Census Bill—second reading—committee.—Prisons Bill—Legislative Council's amendments—committee.—Supply—resumption of committee—committee.—Messages from the Legislative Council—Ivory Estate Enabling Bill—Solicitors Bill—first reading—Valuation and Rating Bill.—Adjournment.

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

QUESTION.

Mr. BARLOW asked the Minister for Works—

1. Whether it is his intention to introduce, during the present session, a Bill in relation to the proposed new bridge over the Bremer River, at Ipswich, on the lines of the Granville and Burnett Bridges Act of 1889, as already requested by my colleague and myself?

2. Whether provision is made in the Loan Proposals of the Government in that behalf?

3. If not, will he be pleased to assign reasons for such omissions?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. #H. Tozer) replied—

1. No.

2. No.

3. Till the site is definitely settled, and application is made by the municipality of Ipswich for the loan they require, it is not considered advisable to seek the authority of Parliament to borrow money for the purpose specified.

FORMAL MOTION.

The following formal motion was agreed to:—

By the MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. T. O. Unmack)—

That the plan, section, and book of reference of the proposed Mount Morgan Railway, laid upon the table of this House on the 31st October, and referred to in the Mount Morgan Gold-Mining Company, Limited, Railway Bill, be forwarded to the Legislative Council.

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES AND SUPPLEMENTARY LOAN ESTIMATES.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, transmitting Supplementary Estimates No. 2, 1889-90, and Supplementary Loan Estimates No. 1, 1890-91.

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. Sir T. McIlwraith) moved that the message be printed and referred to Committee of Supply.

Question put and passed.

CENSUS BILL.

SECOND READING.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. Tozer) said: Mr. Speaker,—This Bill, as its title implies, is a Bill to amend the Quinquennial

Census Act of 1875 with respect to the day upon which the census shall be taken in the year 1891. A communication has been received from Lord Knutsford, informing the Government that it is proposed to take the census on the 5th of April next year, instead of the 1st day of May, as provided by our statute. An alteration of this character was made once before, and this Bill is a *fac-simile* of the measure passed at that time. The same alteration as is here proposed has been made in the other colonies, and the result will be that throughout nearly the whole of Her Majesty's possessions the census next year will be taken on the same day. The object of this Bill is to accomplish that. I move that it be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Speaker left the chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill in detail.

The several clauses of the Bill and the preamble were passed as printed.

The House resumed; and the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment.

The third reading of the Bill was made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

PRISONS BILL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS.

On the Order of the Day being read for the consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments in this Bill,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said: Mr. Speaker,—I move that you do now leave the chair.

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not intend to weary the Committee by going into details of all the amendments emanating from the Legislative Council, as the Government had considered them, and proposed to accept them. Hon. members would see that the Council in sending their message intimated that they agreed with all the Assembly's amendments in the Bill, of which there were a great many, except those in clauses 22, 27, and 53. He would, therefore, deal with them in the order in which they appeared in the message. He moved that the Committee agree with the Legislative Council in their disagreement to the amendment in clause 22.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the next clause in which the Council disagreed to the amendments of the Assembly was 27. The words "or Minister" had been struck out by the Assembly and the Legislative Council desired to re-insert them—

"Because it is deemed advisable that the visiting justice should have the right to report to the Minister independent of the comptroller-general."

He moved that the Committee agree with the Legislative Council in their disagreement to that amendment.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the next amendment to which the Legislative Council disagreed was the insertion of "on each visit" in the 1st line of the 3rd paragraph of the same clause, the reason given being—

"Because it is thought that a duty would be imposed on the visiting justice which it would be impossible for him to perform."

He moved that the Committee do not insist on its amendment in that part of the clause.

Mr. DRAKE said the objection that it would be impossible for the visiting justice to inspect the prison in all its parts on each visit seemed a reasonable one, but if the words "on each visit" were omitted, he thought it would be necessary to insert some provision as to how often the visiting justice should inspect the prison. If there was no time stated he might not do it at all.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said in the same subsection it was provided that the visiting justice should "once at least in every month be accompanied by the visiting surgeon, that he may satisfy himself as to the health of the prisoners and the sanitary state of the prison." The Legislative Council thought that he might require to visit the prison for purposes other than inspection, and therefore struck out "on each visit." He must visit once a month.

Question—That the Committee do not insist on their amendment—put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the Assembly had inserted a detailed subsection in place of the general subsection in the Bill as originally introduced. The Legislative Council, deeming the original subsection the wiser, had reinstated it in place of the Legislative Assembly's amendment. He moved that the Legislative Assembly do not insist on its amendment.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Assembly did not insist on their amendments in clauses 41 and 53 of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that clause 64, as it left the Assembly, provided that any escaped criminal prisoner might be apprehended with or without warrant by any prison officer, constable, or police officer. The Council had omitted the words "prison officer, constable, or police officer," and inserted the word "person." He moved that the Legislative Assembly do not insist on its amendment in the clause, and agree to the amendment of the Legislative Council.

Mr. DRAKE said it was giving a very large power to any person to arrest an escaped prisoner without a warrant. It was something altogether different from the ordinary idea of British justice.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the clause did not refer to all escaped prisoners, but only to escaped criminal prisoners. An ordinary prisoner was any person who had been sent to prison on remand for safe custody; it was not proposed to give any person power to arrest without warrant such prisoner who might have escaped. A criminal prisoner was any person under sentence of imprisonment or penal servitude for an indictable offence; and the Council thought—and he agreed with them—that any person should have the right to arrest such escaped prisoner without a warrant. In the event, say, of a criminal prisoner escaping from St. Helena, it would give an opportunity for his arrest when otherwise he might get away. Supposing there was a mutiny on St. Helena and certain prisoners got across to the mainland, it was right that all persons should have the power to assist in arresting those amongst the escapees who were criminal prisoners without a warrant. That was the proposal of the Legislative Council, and he agreed with it.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: What would the prisoner get for escaping?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he might get two years or two hours; that would rest with the persons who tried him, but it

did not enter into the question before them at all. The question before them was whether it was advisable to enact that a criminal prisoner, as described in the Bill, escaping from gaol might be arrested by any person without a warrant. That was the only question raised by the amendment.

Mr. SALKELD said he believed the provision would be a complete dead letter if it was agreed to. The amendment provided that an escaped prisoner might be arrested by any person. If a person arrested a man on the ground that he was an escaped prisoner, and it was afterwards proved that the man so arrested was not an escaped prisoner, he supposed the person arresting him would be liable for a false arrest.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. SALKELD said he would like to know how the hon. member could think that any man, no matter how public-spirited he might be, would assist in the arrest of an escaped prisoner with the risk of punishment for false arrest, unless he had special instructions to effect the arrest? The amendment was not necessary for the object assigned to it, as any police officer had the power to call upon any person to assist him in making an arrest, and the police officers should know whether a man was an escaped criminal prisoner or not. A person, on being called upon in that way to assist in an arrest, was relieved of responsibility, and was compelled to assist. Under the amendment a person might arrest a man who was not an escaped prisoner, and he would be liable to punishment if he did. It was better to leave out the amendment.

Mr. DRAKE said of course what was really meant by the amendment was that an escaped criminal prisoner was to be considered as an outlaw; but he questioned whether it was desirable to make every person in the community a policeman able to arrest another person without a warrant. At present any citizen could be called upon by a policeman to assist him in effecting an arrest, and that was right; but the amendment proposed an extension of the law in that respect at the present time. A man could be punished for not assisting a constable when called upon to do so, but according to the amendment every man would be placed in the position of a police constable, and would have power to arrest an escaped prisoner without a warrant.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he hoped hon. members would not attempt to strike out the amendment. The Prisons Bill had emanated from the Legislative Council, where it had received a great deal of consideration. The Hon. Mr. Thynne was leader of the Council when the Bill was introduced there, and that hon. gentleman had taken a great deal of trouble in putting it through. After a great deal of consideration, the Council had decided to insert the word "person" instead of the words "prison officer, constable, or police officer." It was desirable that anyone should have the power to arrest or assist in arresting an escaped prisoner, and he hoped the Committee would agree to the very wise provision of the Legislative Council in that clause.

Mr. GLASSEY said he hoped the Committee would not agree to give such very large powers to any person to arrest a man whom he might imagine was an escaped prisoner. That was a very objectionable power to give, and many persons might abuse it. It was much better that a man should escape than that they should make every man in the community a police constable. A man under the amendment proposed might go up to any person and say, "I believe you to be an escaped prisoner, and under section so-and-so

of the Prisons Act it is my duty to arrest you." Such a provision might cause great difficulty, and might entail great hardship, and such a power should not be placed in the hands of any individual who might feel called upon to exercise it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said he did not see why hon. members should be so anxious in the defence of prisoners. If a person saw a man whom he knew to be a criminal prisoner make his escape from a prison, would it not be the duty of such a person to arrest that man if he could?

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: How would he know that the man was an escaped criminal prisoner?

The COLONIAL TREASURER said the man arresting him would be responsible for what he did if he arrested the wrong man. If a man saw a prisoner escaping from gaol, and he had an opportunity to take him by the scruff of the neck and put him back again it was his duty to do it. The clause simply referred to the arrest of a criminal prisoner, and had nothing to do with the question of arresting a man who was not an escaped criminal prisoner. The amendment simply gave every man the power to do his duty in arresting, or assisting in the arrest, of a criminal prisoner when he was in a position to do so.

Mr. SALKELD said the question arose, how was a person to be sure that the man he arrested was an escaped criminal prisoner? The Colonial Treasurer said that if anyone met a man whom he believed to be an escaped criminal prisoner it was his duty to arrest him; but he could not know that he was a prisoner. He might have been a prisoner the week before, and have been since discharged, and if such a man were arrested, the person making the arrest could be punished. It was necessary that a person making an arrest should have some previous knowledge and instruction on the matter. If anyone were at liberty to arrest a man, then innocent persons might be arrested. Unless the clause was allowed to be inoperative, it would be a trap for people. They might know a man had been at St. Helena, and might arrest him, although he had been discharged without their knowledge. A police constable had power now to call on any citizen to assist him, and that was quite sufficient. If a wrongful arrest were made, the police constable was responsible, and not the citizen, as he was merely doing his duty in assisting the police officer when called upon to do so.

Mr. PAUL said he rose to a point of order. It was perfectly disgraceful for the hon. member to keep on repeating what he said.

Mr. GLASSEY said he called the hon. gentleman to order. He would like to ask what was the point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Chair!

The CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member what is the point of order?

Mr. PAUL said the point of order was that the hon. member was simply repeating what he had said previously, and he always did the same thing. He spoke about four times on one clause, and it was a cruel thing to detain them day after day reiterating the same thing.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is quite in order.

Mr. SALKELD said he did not know why the hon. member for Leichhardt had acted as he had done. He might have repeated himself the same as some hon. members who said "goodness gracious" over a dozen times in a speech. He could not see why the Colonial Secretary could not let the clause remain as it had been agreed to

by them. At present a police officer could call upon anyone to assist him, and they had a guarantee that the wrong person would not be arrested, and so inconvenienced and disgraced, because those who saw him being arrested would not know that he was innocent.

The Hon. A. RUTLEDGE said that the hon. member was unnecessarily alarming himself. A constable was not always at hand to arrest a person who was suspected of being an escaped criminal prisoner. For instance, if an escaped man from New Caledonia, who had been imprisoned for a very serious crime, and was a most dangerous man, had been seen by a gentleman living in Brisbane near his house, and he knew that the man was an escaped prisoner of a very dangerous character, what would he be supposed to do under the circumstances? Should he arrest the man, before he obtained possession of firearms and was in a position to do mischief, or wait until he had a warrant before he arrested him? If he saw a man committing a felony, or knew that he had just committed a felony, he had power now to arrest him. As to arresting an innocent person, as the Colonial Treasurer had just pointed out, if a meddlesome person chose to constitute himself into a constable, and went about arresting individuals without any justification, he would give effect to his meddlesome proclivities at his own risk. There was nothing revolutionary in the proposal of the Legislative Council, and it had been proposed by a gentleman well versed in the law, and who would not be disposed to ask the legislature to sanction anything that was a serious innovation.

Mr. HAMILTON said the objection of the hon. member for Fassifern was perfectly absurd. If a man made a mistake, and arrested the wrong individual, he would have to suffer the consequences. The same thing could be done now under the Towns Police Act. If a person saw a breach of the peace committed he was justified in arresting the person committing the breach of the peace, and in the same way he would be justified in arresting an escaped criminal.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said there were certain prisoners in St. Helena whom it was wise to keep there always for their own protection. Many sentences had been inflicted upon persons for criminal assaults upon women and children, and if such a prisoner escaped to the mainland—as police constables would not be always able to make arrests upon warrants—if such men escaped they would probably try and commit similar offences, and why should not the father or brother of anyone so assaulted have power to arrest such an escaped criminal prisoner? The amendment showed the wisdom of the Legislative Council, and he hoped the Committee would agree to it.

Mr. DRAKE said if the majority of hon. members were in favour of agreeing to the amendment, it would, of course, have to go. He had done nothing but his duty in pointing out to the Colonial Secretary that it was an innovation in the law. He thought the hon. member for Charters Towers would also admit that it was an innovation. It was all very well to bring up extreme instances, but they had to remember there was a danger of the law being abused, and an innovation of that sort was, at all events, worthy of a few minutes' consideration before agreeing to it.

Mr. SALKELD said the Colonial Secretary stated that the clause would give power to any person when he saw a prisoner escape and about to commit an offence to arrest him, while the hon. member for Charters Towers, who ought to be an authority, said he had a right now to make an arrest. The hon. member for Cook also said

that if a man saw another commit an assault, he had the power to arrest him; but if a man saw a murder or an assault committed, the wrong man could not be arrested, as he had been seen to commit the offence. In fact, people had that right now, and no mistake could be made. He had no objection to the amendment if the majority wished to retain it; but it would be either a dead letter or a trap for men to fall into.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Chairman leave the chair, and report that the Committee do not insist upon their amendments to which the Legislative Council disagree, and agree to the further amendments made by the Legislative Council in the Bill.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed; and the CHAIRMAN reported the resolution.

The report was adopted, and it was ordered that the Bill be returned to the Legislative Council, by message in the usual form.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

On the Order of the Day being read,

The COLONIAL TREASURER said: Mr. Speaker,—I move that you do now leave the chair.

Mr. BARLOW said: Mr. Speaker,—As this is the proper time for the redress of grievances, and as I brought forward a matter of which the House has actual though not official cognisance, having occurred in committee, I wish to refer to that matter again. Hon. members are aware that I called for certain papers in connection with the contracts for supplies for the Woogaroo and Sandy Gallop Government institutions. It was then shown by those papers that the tender which was accepted was composed of the tenders of two other parties; and under that tender the supplies are now being carried out. I brought forward this matter at the request of a constituent, having no knowledge of the parties or who were the tenderers; and I have since been requested by that gentleman to make a further statement, which I think will throw light on the subject, I have been supplied by him with a memorandum as follows:—

"I see by *Hansard* the remarks made by Mr. O'Sullivan in the House that Keogh was the only man up to business in West Moreton or Ipswich, that is competent to carry out a large contract such as supplying Woogaroo or Sandy Gallop.

"I notice in one of Mr. Keogh's letters he had bought heavily on the expectation of his tender being accepted; if not accepted, would have to be sold at a severe loss—so much for the stuff he supplies the poor loonies—that Mr. Keogh was at a loss of over £200 in potatoes alone.

"I hereby inform you for the benefit of the member for Stanley that I had the contract for the above during the year of 1888 for potatoes alone, and my contract price was £5 per ton; during that year the tariff rose 5s. per ton on imported. Potatoes was only available from the South. From the time the tariff rose, about the middle of September, the Colonial Secretary allowed me the amount of extra duty from that date. Potatoes rose higher every week, and before the end of my contract I paid the small amount of £26 per ton. During that year I lost up to £400 by my Government contract."

This is from Robert Watson, whose prices were amalgamated with the tender of the successful tenderer, and he is now referring to the tenders for 1888. He says further:—

"I made an application to the Colonial Secretary, asking him if he would allow me to put half potatoes and half rice. Before writing the Colonial Secretary I saw Dr. Scholes personally. He told me straight he dare not reduce the quantities of any of the patients' food

without leave, but if I would write the Colonial Secretary he would assist me as far as he possibly could, which I never received a reply from. At the end of my term, when tenders were called for 1889, I sent my boy to the asylum with a memo. asking Dr. Scholes for a reference how I had discharged my contract for the year 1888. Dr. Scholes being from home, Dr. Hogg gave me one, which I appended to my tender.

"I think, under the circumstances, I am entitled to compensation for loss of profits, as for the present year I should have reaped profit at least £300."

I need say no more about this memo, because it speaks for itself. Up to the moment it was sent to me last night I had not the slightest idea that he ever had the contract; on the contrary, the whole tendency of the debate, and the whole tendency of the papers laid on the table, went to show that Mr. Keogh had been the contractor for eight years. I have also heard incidentally that Messrs. Cribb and Foote had the contract for supplying potatoes to the Ipswich Hospital. They were paid by the Government 4s. 9d. per cwt., but though they had to pay 2s. per cwt. for a considerable time they never asked for any rebate or any other indulgence. In laying these facts before the House and the country, I may say that I have no objection to Mr. Keogh having any contract he has secured; the only objection I have is to the manner in which it has been secured to the detriment of another man equally able to fulfil the contract. I am informed—and I state expressly and straight that this information comes from a source outside any Government department, so the Minister need not suppose that any secret information has been conveyed to me—I say I am informed that a communication was addressed by the Government to the police magistrate at Ipswich asking as to the stability of Mr. Watson, and, as far as I understand, I believe that report was favourable. I cannot help thinking that my constituent, Mr. Watson, has been harshly dealt with, and I can see no reason why he was so treated. The facts speak for themselves, and I consider that he has lost at least £300 by the non-acceptance of his tender.

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

AGRICULTURE.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (Hon. A. S. Cowley), in moving that there be granted, for the service of the year 1890-91, a sum not exceeding £8,724 for agriculture, said there were two errors in that vote, which made the total amount appear £10,724. The first error was in the item of contingencies. The amount voted for contingencies last year was £1,250, and not £2,250. The other mistake was in the vote for agricultural and horticultural societies. The sum of £4,250 was voted under that head last year, and through a mistake the same amount was put down for the present year, whereas it should be only £2,250. The total now was £8,724, being a decrease of £208 on the previous vote. He might say that since the last Estimates were voted the rooms occupied by the Agricultural Department in the Lands Department had been found to be too small, and the department had therefore been removed to the old immigration depot, where the Under Secretary for Agriculture, the Instructor in Agriculture, and the Colonial Botanist were all located. The museum of economic botany and agriculture and all the officers of the Agricultural Department were also accommodated in the same building. At the rate the department was now progressing that building would soon prove too small, and he hoped that before very long, when the new museum building was erected, the present museum building would be devoted to the purposes of the Agricultural Department.

Mr. POWERS said he noticed that there was a sum of £65 set down for forestry. That was a matter which had been brought before hon. members so often, and approved of so heartily by them, that he had hoped the Government would do something in the way of establishing a system of forestry in the colony. He would like to know what it was proposed to do with the £65 which appeared on the Estimates.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said the £65 on the Estimates was to pay for the caretaker of the nurseries on Fraser Island. The Government had not had time to give that consideration to the question of forestry which it deserved, and it was therefore thought best for the present simply to ask for the money necessary for the nursery at Fraser Island.

Mr. BLACK said he would like to know what was the result of Mr. Lamb's visit to the North in connection with tobacco culture.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said that Mr. Lamb had sent in a report, showing that he had lectured in several centres of settlement in the North, and given a great deal of valuable information to the settlers. His services had been highly appreciated, and letters had been received by the department from settlers acknowledging the assistance and information they had received from Mr. Lamb. Mr. Lamb had not finished his work in the North, as having suffered from ill-health, he asked permission to come down South for a change, and he had accordingly been sent to Texas, where he was now lecturing. From the reports which he had submitted to the department he seemed to be a valuable officer; to thoroughly understand the subject of tobacco culture; and also to be able to impart the necessary information on the matter to those who required it.

Mr. SMITH said that was one of the most useful departments of the public service. It had lately been of very much service to those engaged in agriculture, especially in the mode of diffusing knowledge which was adopted by the late Minister for Lands. The travelling dairies had been a great success. There was no doubt that large results had accrued from the teaching which those dairies had been the means of imparting in different parts of the colony. He noticed that the department was expanding in that direction, and he was glad of it, because that mode of giving technical education was one which cost less than any other means they could adopt at the present time. He wished to know if anything had been done in the way of gaining information or of obtaining an expert in fruit-preserving? Every year there were large quantities of fruit, tons and tons, lost in the North and other parts of the colony, because the people had not the knowledge how to preserve it, and if an expert in that particular industry were obtained, it would be a great benefit to many farmers, especially to those who grew fruit.

Mr. BLACK said there was no doubt that the method which the Government were now adopting, and which had been adopted by their predecessors, to give practical, or, as it was called, technical, instruction to farmers as to the means of utilising their produce, was one which commended itself to the Committee, and he hoped the present Government would continue in the same course, and get other experts. They could be got, and he was quite sure that if the services of more such men were obtained, many other agricultural industries in the colony would be developed more than they had been hitherto. A great deal could be done in that way. He also believed that a great deal of good could be effected

by having experts to travel along the coast and give the people instruction in connection with the enormous wealth of fish which existed in our waters. However valuable agricultural colleges might be—he was not going to say a single word against them—however good they might be for conveying instruction to the people—such institutions would, of course, be located in certain districts, and would be only to a certain extent available to those districts; those experts travelling about the colony and instructing farmers and others in the most economical way of utilising the products they grew, would, in his opinion, do a great deal more good than two or three agricultural colleges. Agricultural colleges would no doubt benefit the future generation, but those experts benefited the present generation by imparting information to settlers, and putting them in the way of utilising what a bountiful nature had supplied them with. He understood that the ham and bacon curing expert, Mr. Watson, had ceased to operate. Was that so?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE: Yes; on account of the season.

Mr. BLACK said he assumed that it was in consequence of the season. He hoped the Government would pursue that branch of technical education still further next winter. He believed Mr. Watson was as efficient an instructor as could be procured. The cost of employing him had been considerable, and would hardly justify retaining his services unnecessarily long; but he believed that in time they would be able to get two or three experts sufficiently able to instruct farmers in ham and bacon curing, at a moderate cost. Without wishing in any way to criticise the work of the gentleman to whom he was about to refer, he desired to point out that when the Instructor in Agriculture was engaged in America at the instigation of the present Chief Secretary, when in power before, it was with the intention of establishing an agricultural college over which that gentleman should preside. The Government had, however, taken no immediate steps towards initiating an agricultural college, and it struck him very forcibly that they had a gentleman of very great agricultural attainments, and had got almost no work for him to do. He must say from his knowledge of the Agricultural Department that he considered it unnecessary expenditure to have an Under Secretary and also an Instructor in Agriculture. Each was an able man in his way, and he thought it would be a benefit to the general taxpayer if some other employment was found for one of them. The Instructor in Agriculture was fully competent to undertake the duty of Under Secretary for that department, and he had no doubt the Government could find some other employment in the Civil Service for the present Under Secretary without loss of salary. To his mind the present arrangement was an unnecessary piece of extravagance, involving an expenditure of £1,500 a year for two officers when the duties could be effectually performed by one.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he wished to bear testimony to the good the farmers as a whole had received through the operations of the travelling dairy. He happened to know, from the nature of the business he was engaged in, that in the article of butter alone there had been a great improvement, while cheese was not far behind, inasmuch as while previously people would hardly look at Queensland cheese, it could now be sold at within 1d. a lb. of the price paid for cheese from the other colonies. He was very glad to be able to bear that testimony to the good that had resulted from

the travelling dairies. One thing to which he thought the Under Secretary for Agriculture and the Instructor in Agriculture should direct their attention was how the weevil in maize might be arrested. That insect caused great loss to farmers every year, and it would be a good thing if the heads of the department would try and discover some means for arresting its progress. With reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Mackay, there could be no doubt that that gentleman by his management had brought the department into working shape, which would soon begin to tell beneficially on the country, and yet the hon. gentleman now suggested something which, if carried into effect, would send the department back for years for the sake of saving a few hundred pounds. What had they got an Instructor in Agriculture for except to go about among the farmers and instruct them, and if he were appointed Under Secretary for Agriculture he could not perform that work. He (Mr. Macfarlane) hoped the Minister would not listen to the hon. gentleman's advice in that respect. The two gentlemen referred to were both well up in their work; they had both plenty to do, and the result of putting the department under one of them would be that the duties of neither would be properly performed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said, in reply to the hon. member for Bowen, he might state that the department had been in communication with the authorities in Victoria asking them to recommend a duly qualified man to give lessons in fruit-preserving. He might also mention that Professor Shelton had taken the matter in hand, and had given some information on the subject to the farmers of the Logan district, which was very interesting and valuable. There was also in preparation in the printing office a "Bulletin" which would shortly be issued, and which he was sure would be of great service to all who were engaged in the cultivation of fruit. He should certainly bear the matter in mind, and, if possible, try and arrange to have a competent man engaged during the fruit season to travel round the various fruit-growing districts to impart instruction on preserving. With respect to the suggestion of the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Macfarlane, he might state that Professor Shelton had already written a pamphlet on how to protect corn from the ravages of the weevil; and if the hon. member would inform his constituents to that effect, and they sent their names and addresses to the Agricultural Department, copies of it would be forwarded to them. He was surprised at the suggestion of the hon. member for Mackay, than whom, as was well known, there was no one whose heart and soul were more thoroughly devoted to the improvement of agriculture. The short time he (Mr. Cowley) had been in office had enabled him to see that it would be a suicidal policy to dispense with the services of the Under Secretary. There was no public officer in the service who was more devoted to his work; his entire time was occupied, and he honestly believed the Under Secretary for Agriculture was the hardest-worked officer in the service. It would be utterly impossible for Mr. Shelton to do the work he was wanted to do and to act as Under Secretary as well. Mr. Shelton had spent most of his time travelling through the country lecturing to the farmers, and writing and disseminating information among them; and to take him away from that would be a very serious blow to the cause of agriculture in the colony. During the short time he had been in the colony, Professor Shelton had visited and given lectures at nearly every place where agriculture was carried on; and, knowing the vast extent of the country and the importance of the agricultural interest, it

must be admitted that it would be utterly impossible for that gentleman to act as Under Secretary.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he had heard it stated—whether it was correct or not he did not know—that the ham and bacon curer, Mr. Watson, had on one or two occasions cured bacon so badly that it was unmarketable. Possibly the Minister could inform the Committee whether that was so or not.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said that had occurred in only one instance, and it was solely owing to the pigs having been overdriven just before being killed.

Mr. MURRAY said he was pleased to hear that the travelling dairy had been productive of so much good, and he thought it was high time the Central district had a visit from it, so as to share in the benefits to be derived from it. Last year he called attention to the fact that neither of the travelling dairies had ever visited the Central district, and the same complaint still held good. They had been taken to the North and the South of the colony, while Rockhampton had always been carefully avoided. He would suggest to the Minister that Professor Shelton should be placed in some position where he would be able to give practical effect to the information he undoubtedly possessed. Otherwise, with all his knowledge, very little good would be done. The professor should be placed on an experimental farm, so as to show the farmers in a practical way what they ought to do. It was very easy to go about the country telling the farmers what they should do; the difficulty was to do it, and that could best be shown practically on some sort of experimental farm. There had been tons of paper printed, and any amount of lectures delivered, on agricultural work generally, and what had been the result of it all? He believed that 90 per cent. of the farming of the present day was carried on in exactly the same style as that adopted by the early Egyptians. The only improvements ever introduced were merely mechanical contrivances for the manipulation of the crops. He hoped that before another year passed Professor Shelton would be placed on an experimental farm, and be able to show the country what he could do in a practical way.

Mr. STEVENSON said he had no doubt the Agricultural Department was a very useful and important one, but it was certainly making very rapid strides in the way of expenditure. The Estimates were supposed to be framed on principles of the strictest economy, but there were a great many increases even in that small vote. The salary of the manager of travelling dairy No. 1 was increased by £100. In his opinion £300 a year was a very fair salary for a man travelling about with a dairy, and he knew plenty of men who, perhaps, understood the work quite as well as that gentleman, and who would be very glad to do the work at a good deal less. There was also a large increase in the salary of the manager of travelling dairy No. 2. In addition to those large increases of salary they were to have an assistant each. That was a new item.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said the assistants were paid from contingencies last year.

Mr. STEVENSON said there was a good deal in what the hon. member for Normanby said with reference to the Instructor in Agriculture. Although that gentleman put "Professor" to his name, he did not think there was much in that, especially as he came from America, where titles were very easily obtained. He thought £750 a year was an exorbitant sum

to pay a man for going about the country lecturing, when one-half of his lectures were not understood by the farming class to whom he lectured. Unless he could practically show the farmers what was wanted to be done, the man might lecture until doomsday, and they would not be any the better for it. A practical farmer from the old country—and many would be glad to accept the position at half the salary—would be able to give practical instruction, and would be better for the colony than Professor Shelton with £750 a year. Another matter he noticed in connection with the vote was that in an office employing fourteen persons only, including the office cleaner, there were five clerks provided for, one at £250 a year, and four at salaries amounting to £380 a year. It was clear to him that that department must be over-manned. Every word that had fallen from the Minister for Lands with respect to the Under Secretary for Agriculture was perfectly true, as he was sure that gentleman was a most painstaking and conscientious officer. At the same time, he failed to see how his time could be filled up in bossing a department of that sort. He could easily understand that when Mr. McLean travelled about himself, and gave lectures, and looked after the working of the department, his time must have been fully occupied; but now that Professor Shelton did the lecturing and travelling about he could not see how Mr. McLean's time could be taken up, as the Agricultural Department was not like the large departments, in which the under secretaries had to be always in the offices looking after the work. He could not see how Mr. McLean could find work now that he had ceased to travel about and lecture.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: He is just kept in the billet.

Mr. STEVENSON said that Mr. McLean was a man of practical ability, and the Government could find a better billet for such a man than to place him where he was not wanted.

Mr. ALLAN said there was a good deal in what had been said by the members for Clermont and Normanby about the dual capacities of Professor Shelton and Mr. McLean, and the department should find some special work for Professor Shelton in connection, for instance, with the supervision of an agricultural college. That was what was wanted, and then there would be more than sufficient work for both gentlemen. They were both capable and willing men, and he did not think they could get better men for the work they had in hand. The vote of £10,000 for agriculture was, he thought, a very small sum indeed if they wished to see it made self-supporting and the people of the colony find themselves in wheat and other cereals. He could not agree with the hon. member for Clermont in the remarks that hon. member had made about the salaries set down for the men in charge of the travelling dairies. He knew that the visit of the dairies to his district had proved of incalculable benefit to the district. There were no two opinions in his part of the country about the benefit that had accrued from them, and the capabilities of the men in charge of them. Those men had made a study of their work a pleasure to the pupils who had gone to them, and the visits of the dairies had had such an effect in his district that two or three large dairies on the same lines had in consequence been started there. He did not believe that all the legislation that had taken place for the last two or three years taken together had done more good than the establishment of the travelling dairies, and the appointment of the instructor in the curing of ham and bacon. Those were real, practical, hard-headed facts they had got in those

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matters to deal with, and he would be sorry to see the slightest reduction made in any of those items. He had taken some interest himself in the experimental farm established at Yeulba, but that was a very absurd business, because it was started in a country where there was no good soil. They should certainly by this time have an agricultural farm in a district like the Darling Downs, where agriculture was in vogue, and there might be another in the sugar-growing country. If two or three such farms were established they could be worked so as to return more than the cost of working them, and then Professor Shelton would find plenty of work to do. He would like to hear from the Minister for Lands some definite statement as to what the Government intended to do in the matter of the establishment of agricultural colleges, as the matter was of great consequence in his part of the country. Professor Shelton, he could say, had lectured all over the Darling Downs district, and wherever he had gone he had left his mark most distinctly. He was a most able and fearless man, who did not care a bit whom he offended in telling the truth, and the truth was what the farmers wanted. A merely political man travelling about the country would be more anxious to please in what he had to say. Professor Shelton did not mind that, but told the farmers the truth about what they were doing, and that was what was wanted. He trusted there would be no reduction made in that vote. He hoped the Minister for Lands would inform the Committee as to what scheme the Government proposed to submit for the establishment of agricultural colleges, as the matter had been before the House time and again. The Hon. J. D. Macansh, of the Legislative Council, had offered 500 acres, the very pick of his land, than which there was no better to be found in the whole of the colony, for the purposes of an agricultural college, and he believed that Professor Shelton and Mr. McLean considered the country admirably adapted for the purpose. He would like to know from the Minister for Lands whether there was not a probability, but a certainty, of that offer being accepted; and if not, did the Government propose to adopt some alternative scheme?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said that with regard to what had fallen from the hon. member for Clermont, the increase to Mr. Jones, of the travelling dairy, was necessary in order to retain his services, because the South Australian Government had offered that gentleman £400 a year to go there. The late Minister for Lands considered Mr. Jones's services so valuable that he determined on retaining them, and he (Mr. Cowley) thoroughly endorsed the hon. gentleman's action in that respect. Mr. Jones had given universal satisfaction in every district which he had visited. Hon. members must remember that it was one thing to be possessed of information, and another thing to be able to impart it; and Mr. Jones was very happy in that respect. All his pupils had done well, and he had proved himself to be the right man in the right place, and they were justified in giving him the increase of £100 a year. The assistants for the travelling dairies had previously been paid from contingencies; but it was thought better to put the amount voted for them upon the Estimates.

Mr. DONALDSON: The late Minister adopted the same course.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said the late Minister, as the hon. gentleman said, had adopted the same course. With regard to the statement of the hon. member for Clermont as to Professor

Shelton's lectures not being understood, he might say that he had had the pleasure of listening to four of Professor Shelton's lectures, and he could assure the hon. member that the farmers addressed by the professor thoroughly understood all he said, because the professor had a very happy knack of imparting information and convincing his audiences. The professor was thoroughly in touch with his audiences, understood his subject thoroughly, and could grasp the wants of the farmers; and he must say he had never heard anyone impart valuable information in such a happy way as the professor did. He was pleased to find that the farmers not only understood what Professor Shelton said to them, but they had acted upon his advice and instruction with good results in the Wide Bay and Maryborough district, and he was sure good results would follow in every district visited by that gentleman. With regard to what had fallen from the hon. member for Cunningham, it was true that the Hon. Mr. Macansh had offered the Government 500 acres of very good land on condition that an agricultural college was commenced there, in order to instruct the farmers in practical farming. Well, that matter was under the consideration of the Government. They did not think it wise to accept the first offer made, as some other public-spirited man might come forward and offer land in a more suitable situation, or offer to endow an agricultural college. However, the matter was under the consideration of the Government, and would be dealt with. He might further say, for the information of hon. members, that he had in print a Bill providing for the endowment of agricultural colleges, and also a Bill to provide for irrigation; but the session had been dragged out to an interminable length, and it was felt to be perfectly impossible, with the work they had to do, to introduce the Bills that session. He regretted that, but he could assure the Committee that if he were in office next session he should come down with a scheme providing for the endowment of agricultural colleges either by a vote of money or on the land-grant system.

Mr. PAUL said he noticed in the vote for agricultural and horticultural societies that the reduction did not apply to the National Association.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE: They are only to get £250.

Mr. PAUL said the present Government were a Queen-street Government, all but the Minister for Lands and Agriculture being connected with Brisbane, and now they found that all the country societies were not to receive the same advantages as the National Association. There were two societies which had done good service in the past—the Royal Agricultural Society at Toowoomba and the Queensland Pastoral Society of Springsure, of which he had the honour of being president for many years. Those societies deserved to be encouraged, as they did good work in the improving of stock. The Queensland Pastoral Society not only did that, but they established a church, a hospital, and a jockey club. The present Government appeared to be in favour of societies in the large centres of population, but they should bear in mind that it was the sheep and cattle of the Western districts which made Brisbane, Rockhampton, and Townsville the important cities they were. It was a pity that the colony could not be divided into squares, giving each a member, in order to prevent the voting power being placed in the hands of the towns. He supposed it was on account of the voting power that the present Government cut down the votes to the country societies and favoured the National Association. He had been a member of the council of the National Association, and he was

very sorry to find that they had come into antagonism with the Toowoomba society, which was a much older institution than the National Association. He trusted the Toowoomba society would resist the encroachments of the National Association. It was most disgraceful for the latter to attempt to take the week of the Toowoomba show for their own, because the National Association show interfered with the Singleton show. What had they to do with Singleton? He was very sorry to find that the Government were reducing the vote to the country societies.

Mr. GANNON said he was glad to hear the hon. member for Cunningham bring up the matter of the agricultural college, and he was very sorry that the answer of the Minister for Lands and Agriculture was so vague. That was a matter which ought to be taken in hand at once. If the Minister for Lands and Agriculture was going to wait until some public-spirited individual gave them another 500 acres of land, or gave £10,000 or £20,000 by way of endowment of an agricultural college, he was afraid it would be a long time before anything was done. He would like the hon. gentleman to let them know at once how long it would take the Government to make up their minds. It was a grand gift, and although the value of the land of the donor might be increased thereby, that did not affect the value of the gift, and he certainly would like to see something done without delay. He had only just come down from the Darling Downs, and he knew that the information imparted by Professor Shelton would do good. He noticed that all the farmers who knew how to farm had got on and made money, and it was a treat to see how the work had been done by those men who knew how to farm. He would not cavil at the amount of money spent in agricultural work of that kind. The amount on the Estimates was very small, and he would not object to ten times as much if it were doing good work for the colony. He trusted the Minister for Lands and Agriculture would inform them as to how long it would take the Government to come to a decision with regard to the Hon. Mr. Macansh's offer.

Mr. SALKELD said he knew it was very liberal of the Hon. Mr. Macansh to make that offer of 500 acres, but it was very strange if the Government had not 500 acres of their own which would be suitable for the establishment of an agricultural college. That was the inference to be drawn from the offer, and it would be most damaging if such an idea were to go forth in the old country, as it would prevent immigration. The position of the agricultural college was a matter of considerable importance, and it should be placed in some accessible place. No doubt it would be in the vicinity of a railway; but surely the Government had 500 or 5,000 acres of their own for an agricultural college. He did not know whether the land should be of the richest quality, in order to instruct people in farming, because when they went on to poorer land the conditions were not so favourable, and the work was different and much harder. He thought that a site for an agricultural college ought to be fixed upon, and a start made as soon as possible, in order to advance the interests of agriculture, which was at present in a most backward state. A farmer could only get a lesson when he planted his crop; but a great deal of good might be done if hints on the best methods were given by the instructor, and if the experience of farmers in all parts of the colony were made generally known among the farming community.

Mr. CAMPBELL said he noticed that the Government had put down only £65 for "Forestry." It was a pity that they were not

more alive to the importance of forestry, and the value of some of the Queensland timbers. Cedar was worth £1 5s. per 100 feet at the stump, and a great quantity of that timber was exported. A great quantity of silky oak also was exported to South Australia, where it was required by the vignerons for the manufacture of casks.

Mr. ALLAN said, with regard to the remarks of the hon. member for Fassifern, that the Government no doubt had 500,000 acres of land quite as good as that offered by Mr. Macansh; but they had not 500 acres as suitable for an agricultural college. There was a main line of railway running through the middle of the land; the climate was suitable, and members of Parliament would be able to go there on a Saturday, and see what was being done.

Mr. DONALDSON: And it is in the midst of a farming district.

Mr. ALLAN said it was in the midst of the best farming district in Queensland. Another thing, the land was worth £3 an acre; and seeing that it was in every respect suitable for the purpose, it would be foolish not to take advantage of the offer. He therefore trusted that the Minister for Lands would see his way to state definitely what the Government proposed to do in the matter—not in the near future, but within a year or six months.

Mr. PALMER said it was almost a reflection on the department of the Minister for Lands that such a small sum as £65 was put down in connection with such an important matter as forestry. The late Minister for Lands placed £1,000 on the Estimates for forestry, and intended to introduce a Forestry Bill, and also to constitute a Forestry Department somewhat similar to the one in South Australia, which had worked wonders, not only in the propagation of useful timbers, but also in reforesting land all over that colony. Queensland was far better off than South Australia with regard to timber, but without proper attention it would become a very scarce article. He thought the Colonial Botanist, the Instructor in Agriculture, and the Under Secretary for Agriculture could carry out the duties of a forestry department in addition to their present duties; and if such a department were established, it would prove self-supporting. In South Australia it was not only self-supporting, but had been the means of increasing the wealth of that country to an enormous extent by distributing millions of young trees in different places. In his opinion the Minister for Lands could not devote himself to a better subject than a forestry department. The inspector of forests in South Australia, who in nine years brought the department to a successful condition, was offered a very important position in New South Wales, which he accepted. He was appointed by the Government there to institute a forestry department in New South Wales, and he was now travelling over all parts of that colony for the express purpose of getting the necessary information; and he was certain that the establishment of such a department in New South Wales would be as great a success as it had been in South Australia. There was no better field than Queensland for the operations of a forestry department, and it was unfortunate that when one Minister for Lands went out of office the policy initiated by him was not carried on by his successor, especially in connection with such an important matter as forestry.

Mr. MURRAY said the Minister for Lands had not answered his inquiry as to the intention of the department to order the manager of the travelling dairy to visit the Central district. The hon. gentleman said that Mr. Baron Jones was doing a great deal of good, because he had a

happy knack of imparting the knowledge he possessed. He would like to see the Instructor in Agriculture occupy the same position with regard to a farm that Mr. Baron Jones occupied with regard to the travelling dairy. The manager of the dairy did not talk; he worked, and let the people see what he did. In the same way, he would like the Instructor in Agriculture to practically show the farmers what they ought to do. He hoped that when the Government were considering the question of establishing an agricultural college or experimental farm to be under the charge of the Instructor in Agriculture, they would remember that there were magnificent lands in the Central district very suitable for carrying on an experimental farm.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said it had been arranged that a travelling dairy should visit the Central district. One of them was at present in the North, but it had only been in the southern part of that division as yet, and had not gone north of Townsville. The other dairy was working up towards the Central district, and it was expected that it would be there in May next year. He was led to understand that the Central district had been offered a travelling dairy by a private individual, but they declined to accept it. It seemed strange, if they were really so very desirous to obtain a travelling dairy, that they would not accept one when it was offered to them. With regard to what had fallen from the hon. member for Toombul, he might state that Mr. Macansh's offer was under consideration, and that Mr. Macansh had consented to allow it to remain open for twelve or fifteen months. It would be useless for the Government to accept the offer until they had thoroughly considered what would be the result and the cost. When that was considered the offer would be dealt with. He (the Minister for Lands and Agriculture) was very anxious indeed to establish an agricultural college, as he was fully impressed with the necessity and importance of such an institution, and the matter would have his earnest and serious attention during the recess.

Mr. BLACK said it had been remarked before that a travelling dairy had been offered to the Central district, and they did not accept it. He did not think that was a fair way to put it. There was no doubt that an hon. gentleman in that House was very liberal in making an offer of a travelling dairy to the Central district, but what was the use of a dairy without a competent instructor? That was where the difficulty came in; the people wanted someone to show them how to use the dairy. The reason the late Government found it necessary to increase the salary of Mr. Baron Jones to £400 per annum was that the South Australian Government, having heard of the success which had resulted from the introduction of travelling dairies into Queensland, had decided to follow the example of this colony. They got a travelling dairy, but, unfortunately for them, they were unable to obtain the services of a competent instructor, and they had, he believed, made a liberal offer to Mr. Baron Jones, to whom the success of the travelling dairies in this colony was almost entirely due, if he would transfer his services from Queensland to South Australia. It was therefore considered desirable, and for the benefit of the colony, to increase the salary of Mr. Baron Jones, and he thought the colony got ample value for the money that officer received in the services he rendered. The success of technical experts entirely depended on the class of men appointed. They might get a man who professed to know all about the manufacture or preserving of articles of agriculture, and he might turn out a thorough duffer and know nothing about it, and so bring discredit upon the department and the

Minister, and cause dissatisfaction among the farmers. Fortunately, they had been extremely lucky in the selection of experts, there not having been one single failure in the four who had been appointed.

Mr. SAYERS: Could you not find more?

Mr. BLACK said more could be found, but it required great care in selecting them, and a great deal of discretionary power must be left to the Minister, who should be prepared to accept responsibility in the matter, and whose heart and soul should be entirely in the work. The Minister should choose the best man obtainable for the purpose, and then if the appointment was a success, he would get credit for having done his duty. He (Mr. Black) would suggest to the Government—if the offer of a travelling dairy for the Central district was still available—that they should engage an expert to travel with it in the same way as was done in connection with the other travelling dairies. When he saw the risk the country was liable to in consequence of the offer made to Mr. Baron Jones by the Government of South Australia—namely, the risk of having their experts taken away by the adjoining colonies, who were prepared to take advantage of the expenditure to which the Government had gone, he issued instructions pointing out to the managers of the travelling dairies the necessity of their trying to get permanent pupils attached to the dairies, who should travel about with them at the expense of the country, so that they might in their turn be competent to take charge of a Government dairy or of one worked on the co-operative system. He did not know whether that had been carried out, but he considered that it was an essential feature of the scheme that they should train up young men who would themselves become experts.

Mr. GANNON said he was sorry the Minister could not say something more definite than what he stated just now in reference to the offer of Mr. Macansh. They did not know what might happen in twelve or fifteen months. There might be a change of Ministry in that time, and they could surely decide in three months, or even in one month, whether it would pay to establish an agricultural college at the place suggested. He hoped the Government would give the matter, which was a very serious and important one for the colony, their earnest consideration.

Mr. LUYA said he certainly had expected that some better results would have accrued from the discussion which took place last session on the subject of forestry. From the manner in which the matter was debated and the favour with which it was received, he certainly had expected to see something more on the Estimates than £65 for the caretaker of the nursery at Fraser Island. He understood that on the Estimates brought in by the late Ministry there was a sum of £1,000 for forestry. But even that was only a commencement. The expenditure on forestry was one which would repay itself over and over again in a very short time. None of the other colonies had the same facilities for forest conservancy as Queensland had. None of them had the same class of timber, and none of them had the same rainfall as they had on the coast of Queensland, which was absolutely necessary for the proper growth of timber. The only thing he could see that the Government did at present was to make large reserves, where timber was allowed to come to maturity, and then it was cut down and left to rot, no use whatever being made of it. He should like to hear what the Minister had to say on the subject after the opinion expressed last session.

Mr. SAYERS said, with reference to an agricultural college, he hoped that when the Government saw their way to erect one they would put it on land belonging to the people, not on that belonging to any private individual. The hon. member for Cunningham stated that the land offered was very suitable, and no doubt it was. It was in one of the best agricultural localities in the colony, and if farming could succeed anywhere it should be there. But they wanted the experiment tried in other places. It was all very well to say that Mr. Macansh had offered to give the Government 500 acres of land for an agricultural college; but the effect of erecting such a building there at a cost of some thousands of pounds would simply be that it would be a good paying advertisement for the remainder of his land. The Government would not be justified in spending the money of the public in any such way. The Minister for Lands had stated that the Government had received a magnificent offer of land, and were waiting to see if other people would make other offers before they decided where the agricultural college should be placed. Surely he did not want it to go forth that the Government had not 500 acres of land of their own where they could erect an agricultural college.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Five hundred thousand.

Mr. SAYERS said the remarks of the Minister for Lands would lead people to believe that the Government were hard up for a bit of land.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No, no!

Mr. SAYERS said that was the impression left on his mind, and the minds of several other hon. members. Of course they knew to the contrary, but that was the impression that would go forth from the hon. gentleman's statement, and it was as well that it should be contradicted. The hon. member for Normanby had given the best illustration of what to do with the Instructor in Agriculture. That was to give him 500 or 1,000 acres of land to start a farm, and see if he could make his own salary out of it. That would be a practical test. It was all very well, as the hon. member said, for that officer to go round the country telling people what they ought to do and what they ought not to do; but if he proved that he himself could make £750 a year out of 500 acres of land, he would confer a great benefit on the country.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE: Hundreds have proved that.

Mr. SAYERS said if it had been proved by hundreds they did not want the services of an instructor. There was no necessity for paying him £750 a year. Under those circumstances, it was simply wasting money.

Mr. STEVENS said with reference to what had fallen from the hon. member for South Brisbane, Mr. Luya, he would inform the Minister for Lands and Agriculture, if he was not previously aware of it, that in South Australia they had met with great success in forestry. They had large reserves planted with different kinds of timber, more or less valuable; the growth of the trees had been first-class, and from the time of starting the first tree until last year they had made a profit of £8,000, besides having something like £800,000 worth of saleable timber. There was nothing to prevent equal if not even greater success being accomplished in Queensland, where they had such an immense area of land and so many kinds of valuable indigenous timbers. He believed that if the matter were taken in hand, the colony would, in less time than it had taken in South Australia, make a very large profit indeed.

Mr. GOLDRING said that the vote was one which met with the approval of all hon. members, and he thought the increases given to the managers of the travelling dairies were well earned. He was very glad to hear the Minister for Lands and Agriculture say that it was the intention of the department to send the travelling dairy, which was now at Mackay, throughout the Northern districts before removing it to some other portion of the colony. In the list of places that had been read out by the Minister, it was stated that the Instructor in Agriculture had visited Hughenden; but he did not mention how many hours that gentleman had been there. He was sorry to say the period of that officer's stay there was so short that he had not time to even go and inspect the land upon which he was supposed to lecture. It was merely a lecture on agriculture without any practical illustration of what might or should be done in that particular part of the country; and although Professor Shelton might be an admirable agriculturist, well up in all branches of the industry, it was impossible for him to instruct farmers how to cultivate land that he himself knew nothing about. That land might be of a peculiar description, requiring working in a different manner from that in any other part of the colony; and he thought it would be far better that the professor should be allowed to remain for a week or a fortnight in an agricultural district, or one that was likely to become an agricultural district, in order to give the farmers there practical information as to how to work their land to the best advantage. He believed that would have a better effect than even the formation of an agricultural college, because if there was only one large college it could only be in one portion of the colony, and very likely many people interested in farming would not be able to attend it. It had been said that there was not sufficient work for the Under Secretary and the Instructor in Agriculture, but there would be ample work for both if that course were pursued.

Mr. LUYA said he would like to hear some explanation from the Minister for Lands and Agriculture, with respect to the £65 put down for forestry; and also as to what was being done at Fraser Island?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said he had already stated, when explaining the vote, that the £65 was paid to the caretaker of the nursery at Fraser Island.

Mr. LUYA: We know that.

Mr. ISAMBERT said the objection had been raised against the expenditure of the department that the colony did not get value for the money expended; that in addition to an Under Secretary they had engaged at great expense an agricultural instructor, and that practically there was no work for him to do. That gentleman was appointed to act as instructor at an agricultural college to be established. It was to be regretted that the Government had not seen their way to bring forward a practical proposition for the establishment of such an institution. For want of that the agricultural instructor had to be sent about the country lecturing—looking for work, as it were. He believed Professor Shelton had done good service in that respect, but not nearly so much as he would have done if he had the proper machinery for imparting the instruction. There should be not one agricultural college, but several. In Victoria the Government were at first just as dilatory in establishing agricultural colleges as that of Queensland. At last a private member introduced a Bill for establishing them, and ever since then the college in that colony had done good service, and was much frequented. Lately,

he was informed, that two young men had left this colony to study agriculture. One went to America; the other to Dookie. If such an establishment existed in Queensland, there would have been no necessity to send those young men away to obtain their agricultural information. It was not so much the money expenditure as the loss the country was sustaining that ought to be taken most into account. The Government took great credit to themselves for the great good the travelling dairies had done. He believed they were quite entitled to it. The instruction imparted by the travelling dairies had done great service to the country; it had reformed the dairy production. But were the Government sincere in that? The travelling dairies would have been a complete failure but for the agricultural societies; and yet those societies, which were the only institutions in the country which encouraged agriculture, were only to get 10s. for every £1 they collected. That was really too bad. He supported the Government in retaining the services of men like Mr. Jones of the travelling dairy, who had proved themselves valuable officers. With regard to the statement from the hon. member for Logan on the subject of forestry, there was a very erroneous impression abroad that the Forestry Department in South Australia had been such a great success that it more than paid the expenses of working. That impression was incorrect, as the Forest Department proper had never paid in that colony yet.

Mr. PALMER: It has paid.

Mr. ISAMBERT said it had not, and the impression that it had paid arose from the fact that the department had the control of certain areas of land, and it was from the rent derived from those lands that the department received its income. It had so far received no income from forestry proper. It was simply a transfer of revenue from the Lands Department to the Forestry Department. He would like to hear from the Minister for Lands that agricultural societies would be given £1 for £1 subscribed, or the hon. gentleman would hear of it when they got to the vote for reserves. The National Association and the Acclimatisation Society were to get their grants, and it was not right to make flesh of one and fish of another.

Mr. LUYA said he had already asked the Minister for Lands if he could give the Committee any information as to the plantation of pines on Fraser Island. It was only a small matter of £65 a year thrown away, he might say. The whole thing should be under a separate department, and he was surprised that the Premier, now that he had the power, did not fulfil the promise he made when in opposition. Last session, when the hon. gentleman was speaking upon Mr. Hyne's motion—

"That, in the opinion of this House, the present rapid rate at which the exhaustion of the natural timbers of Queensland is proceeding, and the possibility that, in the near future, serious loss and inconvenience may arise to various industries of the colony, call for some immediate action in the direction of replanting our forests, and the creation of a department of forestry"—

he said:—

"I remember, more than ten or twelve years ago now, preparing a Bill dealing with the subject, but it never came to anything. A great many times since then somebody has moved in the matter, and I am glad to hear the Minister for Lands say that the Government have taken it in hand. Since the time I mention a great deal of information has become available with respect to the system known as afforestation, which has been practised in India, in many parts of Europe, and on this continent in South Australia, with great success. The Government have now in their employment a gentleman who has had a large experience, and a great deal of information will probably be derived from the professor who is coming from America, who is, I understand, also qualified in the same

regard ; so that the Government will have, very shortly, the best advice in dealing with the subject. I do sincerely hope that it will be dealt with and not simply talked about, as it has been so often before. I trust that the Government will really take it in hand."

That was the hon. gentleman's profession last year, but what had the Government done since then? Why, they had actually struck off £1,000 which was intended to initiate the department. That looked as if the Government were not going to take any steps in the matter at all, but were going to shelve it, notwithstanding what had been said last session. It had been admitted by both sides that no subject could be taken up that would so well repay the cost as the establishment of a forestry department. He trusted the Minister for Lands and Agriculture would at all events give some information as to the intentions of the Government.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir S. W. Griffith) said the hon. member must surely know that owing to the short time they had at their disposal before the Estimates were brought in, the Government were not in a position to formulate any definite scheme for dealing with forestry. That was not a matter to be dealt with simply by placing a sum of money on the Estimates and saying they had good intentions. They hoped to be in a position to bring forward a definite scheme next year, but it was not possible in the time at their disposal to do so during the present session, as they had not had more than six weeks to prepare and bring in the Estimates, and since then they had had no time. He wondered the hon. member had not recognised that fact. That was the reason the Government had brought forward no proposal of the kind, but they were fully alive to the importance of the question of forestry, and hoped to be in a position to bring in some scheme next year that they themselves had thought out, which they could support in the House, and which would be likely to commend itself to hon. members as well. Until they could do that, it would be idle to place a sum of money on the Estimates, and that was the reason there was nothing on the Estimates for the present year.

Mr. BLACK said he quite admitted the present Government had not had much time to formulate any new scheme; but when they took office a scheme was in the Lands Office ready to their hands. In consequence of the debate which took place last session, as soon as the session terminated he had taken steps to obtain the most reliable information, and that information he now held in his hand. The Minister for Lands and Agriculture had got it in the office, and it would be a very good thing if that correspondence were laid on the table of the House, so that hon. members would be able to see that he had not made an empty promise last session, but had obtained reliable information from the gentlemen most competent to give an opinion, as to the best means of establishing a forestry department. He had got the opinions of the Under Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. McLean; Mr. P. MacMahon, the curator of the Botanic Gardens, a gentleman who had had vast experience in India in forestry. Mr. A. McDowall had sent in a report, and so had Mr. F. M. Bailey, the Colonial Botanist, Mr. Wm. Soutter, and Mr. Byerly; while Mr. C. H. Barton, of Maryborough, had sent in a most elaborate and valuable report. In addition to those, probably the most practical report of the whole was made by Mr. L. Board, who, acting on his (Mr. Black's) instructions, had visited Fraser Island, and reported fully on what was being done there. He would read Mr. Board's report, because it was on his report that the late Government had placed £1,000 on the Estimates for the purpose of carrying into

effect the system which had been fraught with successful results on Fraser Island. There was a great deal of ignorance existing with regard to the work going on at Fraser Island. He did not know whether the Minister for Lands and Agriculture thought £65 was all that was being spent there; but it was not. There was a ranger who got £160 a year for looking after the forestry on Fraser Island, and he was the father of the Mitchell who was down on the Estimates for £65 a year. Why the blunder had been perpetuated year after year he could not say; but those two men were employed on Fraser Island looking after the forestry there. The late Government had desired to give effect to the wish of the House and of the country to replant forests in the denuded portions of the country, and also to protect as far as possible the growing timber. It had never been his intention to ask the House to agree to the vote for the purpose of paying large salaries to anyone. The idea was to get practical men to carry out the work which was already being carried out satisfactorily on Fraser Island. He would read Mr. Board's report to show the lines on which the late Government had intended to introduce the forestry system into Queensland, to be afterwards enlarged according to the success which attended the expenditure of the small sum of £1,000. The report was dated 11th January, 1890, so that hon. members would see no time was lost in giving effect to what he knew to be the wish of the House. The report was as follows:—

"Public Lands Office,
Gympie, 11th January, 1890.

"Sir,

"As directed by memo. of 24th December, I would inform the Under Secretary that through the courtesy of Captain Boulton, Harbour-master at Maryborough, I was enabled to visit Fraser Island in the steamer 'Llewellyn,' arriving there on the 7th instant and returning on the 9th instant.

"I find that the largest plantation is on Boginbah Creek, about seven miles inland from Sandy Straits, and extends for about two and a-half miles through the old kauri pine scrub worked out several years ago. The first work done in the way of planting young kauri pines was by clearing a distance of about a chain wide along the main timber road wherever the scrub was found suitable, and planting the several clearings with young plants from the nurseries. The total length of these clearings is about one mile, and the trees planted therein appear to be healthy, and to have made a growth of about six inches since the spring. The young trees in these clearings average in height from one to three feet, but of course there are many plants exceeding this average. I noticed that a number of the young trees had been affected at the top, and died back for two or three inches, but show a fresh growth below the portion that had been destroyed. I am unable to ascertain the cause of this, as the caretaker informs me that he has noticed this for years past, but that it did not injure the plants permanently. It was found that the system of clearings gave the plants too much sun, and the system was changed to cutting lanes some three or four feet wide and distant one chain from each other, extending back from the main roads through the scrub as far as was practicable. These lanes were then planted with young kauri taken from the nurseries at a distance of six feet apart. The lane system, while removing the undergrowth of vines, &c., and giving the plants room to grow, does not allow too much sun, and appears to be a more practicable manner of planting than by clearings. The plants in the lanes were planted in holes dug to a depth of about two feet, and are all growing and healthy, the percentage of misses all through the plantation being, I should estimate, under 10 per cent. It appears to me that the young trees in a number of the lanes were too small when transplanted from the nurseries, and therefore the growth has been retarded, and the plants, although healthy, are still small. I base this opinion on the fact that where larger plants were used the growth during the same period has been much greater.

"I find from reference to Mr. Mitchell, the caretaker, and from plans and documents in his possession, that the lanes planted in the Boginbah Scrub are of a total length of over forty-five miles, and the number of young kauri pines planted in the lanes, clearings, and through

the scrub amount to 71,550 plants; there have also been 26,154 natural plants cleared round in this plantation, giving a total of 97,704 young trees to be kept clean and attended to.

"The locality of Boginbah appears to be in every way suitable for a plantation, having been originally a kauri scrub, from which very large quantities of timber have been removed, and the soil, although sandy, contains a very large deposit of vegetable matter.

"Very little planting has been done during the last two years, as the caretaker finds that the scrub available and suitable for planting at Boginbah is almost all already planted, and that he has as much work as he can do keeping the large number of trees already planted free from fallen scrub and vines, etc.

"At Yankee Jack's Creek plantation little work has been done planting, but eleven miles of lanes have been prepared for planting next season, and 28,518 young trees naturally planted have been cleared round and fostered, and in the nursery at this plantation there are 5,050 young plants available for transplanting.

"The work of tending the plants over such a large area of lanes is very heavy, as the scrub is continually dropping, and the plants require clearing round to prevent their being choked, and in time of drought large numbers require watering. This work is carried out by Mr. Mitchell at a salary of £165 per annum, and Alex. Mitchell at £65 per annum, but Mr. Mitchell finds that the work cannot be carried out with this labour only, and employs aborigines to assist in this work, defraying the cost out of his own pocket.

"I find that the vermin that in past years destroyed large numbers of young plants have not troubled the plantation for some time past.

"After my inspection I was slightly disappointed at the small growth made by the young trees, as I expected that after five or six years they would show a larger growth; but it is evident that kauri pine receives a check when transplanted, and which it takes a long time to recover. At the same time, I was greatly pleased with the healthy appearance of the young trees, and the state of the lanes and clearings reflects great credit upon Mr. Mitchell, who takes great interest in this work.

"As I have never previously inspected any State nursery, I am placed at a great disadvantage in making this report, and I am not in a position to give a qualified opinion on the growth of young pine, but I have simply given my opinion from the facts brought under my notice during my visit of inspection.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"L. BOARD,

"L.C., Maryborough."

He thought the information contained in that report was quite sufficient to justify him in endeavouring to carry out on a greater scale what had been successfully carried out on Fraser Island, and the late Government placed £1,000 on the Estimates for the purpose of extending the operations to different places in the Southern part of the colony. The question of introducing legislation for the purpose of setting apart large areas of land for forest reservation was a matter that could be dealt with at any time; but the intention of the late Government was to give immediate practical effect to such a scheme, and the Under Secretary for Agriculture had in his possession the whole of the information on which the estimate of £1,000 was based.

Mr. DALRYMPLE said that while it was wise to provide for the future by appointing officers to educate the people in certain matters, it was of even more importance to provide for the present. He had received a letter from some of his constituents, asking what was going to be done with the sugar industry. In a short time the recruiting of kanakas would cease, and they said that they feared they would not be able to carry on unless they got a bonus or assistance in some other way. He should like to have seen the urgency of the position in connection with the sugar-growers taken notice of by the Government in framing the Estimates. The Chief Secretary and the leader of the Opposition, and hon. members generally, last session appeared to admit it was time that something should be done in connection

with the industry, which was four times as important, in point of money value, as all the other agricultural industries of the colony put together. Its value was shown to be £1,000,000 per annum by the Royal Commission of which the hon. member for Toowoomba was chairman; and the persons to whom he referred wanted to know what Parliament was going to do for them, having taken away from them something which was of very great consequence. The farmers had travelling dairies, and they were told how to preserve fruit; but that would not satisfy the country; and he did hope to hear from the Minister for Lands, who was aware of the importance of the matter, that steps would be taken to provide some means of escape in view of the probable termination of the sugar industry. He would like to know from the hon. gentleman whether the matter had been taken into consideration, and, while provision was made for smaller industries, why that great industry should be overlooked. Those engaged in the sugar industry did not want agricultural colleges, because there were persons who had graduated in agricultural colleges engaged in the industry; but they wanted some means of carrying on that particular species of agriculture which occupied a great space in the economy of the colony. If it was a good thing to build up new industries, it was also a good thing to take care of the industries they had at present.

Mr. ISAMBERT said he wished to know what the Government intended to do with regard to agricultural societies. Did they intend to cut down the subsidy to them to 10s. for every £1 subscribed locally?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said it was the intention of the Government to give for the present year to agricultural societies only 10s. for every £1 subscribed up to £200, except the National Agricultural and Industrial Association, which was to receive £250.

Mr. DONALDSON said he did not think the agriculturists of the colony had much to thank the present or any preceding Government for, inasmuch as very little interest had been taken by the various Governments, until very recently at all events, in the teaching of the science of agriculture, or doing anything whatever to try to improve the condition of the agricultural industry. It was a remarkable thing that in a colony like Queensland, which had the largest area of rich lands in any colony in the whole of Australia, they had to import 40,000 tons of flour per annum. Some of the finest wheat lands he had ever seen, he had seen in Queensland. Certainly, in the Warwick district he had seen some of the finest wheat crops he had ever seen in his life, and he thought the Government should take steps to establish an agricultural college in that district. The offer of Mr. Macanish was a very liberal one, and it should not require much time to consider it. He (Mr. Donaldson) knew something about agriculture, and his opinion was that the offer should be availed of at once, and steps taken to see what could be done in that district. He was confident that wheat-growing and fruit-growing also would be very successful in that district. He had seen some of the finest fruit he had ever seen in Australia in the Warwick district, and it only required more people to go into the industry to make it profitable. Tinning and preserving fruit ought to be one of the industries of the colony, but if the Government did not take some steps to teach the people how to carry on agricultural operations successfully, he feared that agriculture in the colony would not make the progress it ought to make. There was only one agricultural industry that had ever done well in the colony, and that was the sugar

industry, but the Government had not done anything to assist in developing it. He was told that on the higher lands in the Herberton district there was splendid agricultural soil, and he thought the Government should establish experimental farms in such localities in order to test their capabilities. He was speaking now, not of the present Government, because they had not been long enough in office to do anything in that direction—but of past Governments, and he contended that they should have established experimental farms in suitable places, with the view of ascertaining what were the agricultural capabilities of the colony. Only £8,724 was now asked for agriculture. He ventured to say that a vote of £40,000 in that connection would be money well spent. With regard to forestry, that was another important subject. The fact of the matter was that they had been too well provided for in this colony in regard to timber, and they did not see the necessity of forest conservancy. The position of South Australia was quite different. There they had very little good natural forest country, and the Government saw the necessity of establishing a system of forest conservancy, and the success which had attended their enterprise was far beyond what the most sanguine anticipated at the time the system was inaugurated. In Queensland forest country in many cases was selected not for the value of the land, but for the value of the timber which it contained. In his opinion the forests should be preserved to the country, and as the timber was taken off the land should be replanted. If that were done the land would prove a good source of income to the country, and they would preserve one of their most valuable assets. Their forest lands should not be allowed to pass into private hands; in fact, he thought that none of the valuable natural products of the country should be permitted to go into the hands of private individuals. What had been done in the way of planting at Fraser Island had just been read by the late Minister for Lands, and it showed that considerable success had attended the work on that island, which was not one of the best pieces of land in the colony. Last session he (Mr. Donaldson) followed with great interest the very able speech of the hon. member for South Brisbane, Mr. Luya, on timber-growing, and the success of the experiments the hon. member had made. Surely it was time the Government took the matter in hand. But no, with cheeseparating economy they had knocked off the Estimates the sum of £1,000 which the late Government had proposed to vote for forest conservancy, instead of allowing the work to proceed. And they also cut down the subsidies to agricultural societies from £1 for £1 to 10s. for £1. The people in the country districts had a good deal to complain of in that matter. He saw the objection of the hon. member for Rosewood to the proposal, and was sorry that there should be any cause for complaint. The hon. member for Rosewood contended that the National Agricultural and Industrial Association received a very large sum out of the total vote for agricultural societies—£250 out of £2,250, and an amount of £500 previously granted to the Acclimatisation Society, while agricultural societies in the country would receive a comparatively small sum, not in any case more than £200. The amount proposed to be given to the National Association was necessary, because the Bill which had been passed that session made a charge of £750 per annum, on the National Association for twenty years. Therefore, instead of voting £500 to the Acclimatisation Society, it was proposed to give that sum to the National Association, together with the £250 usually voted to it, and he hoped that grant would be continued

for a few years at all events. He was sorry that there had been any clashing between the Association and the Toowoomba Society, and trusted that steps would be taken to remove the ground of complaint. But, at the same time, he did not wonder that when £750 was voted to the National Association, hon. members should complain that the subsidy to agricultural societies in the country had been reduced. He was thoroughly in favour of the National Association receiving that large sum of money, but he did not see why other societies should be cut down, and that was a source of very great grievance and complaint. He thought those reductions were a very improper piece of economy, and he took very great exception to it. The agricultural societies of the colony were doing very good work indeed, and forestry was a matter that ought to take a very prominent position in the colony. Their forests would not last for ever, and in the course of a few years the best of them would be denuded. Trees could not be grown in a few months or years; it was a matter of long time before they arrived at maturity, so that the sooner they started planting the better, and the sooner the country would receive a benefit from it. The late Minister for Education had gained some considerable knowledge on the subject in South Australia, and for that reason he had started the arbor day, which had so far been a great success. It would teach the children to take an interest in forestry; but the number of trees planted was not sufficiently great for the State to receive much benefit. He regretted exceedingly that the Government had not seen their way to allow those Estimates to remain as they were, as there were many directions in which economy could have been better practised than in the reduction of those items.

Mr. AGNEW said he did not think the attention of the Government had been drawn to that subject one day too early. He remembered listening to the speech the leader of the Opposition had referred to with very great pleasure indeed, and distinctly remembered the marks of approbation that met that speech from both sides of the Committee. From the way in which the Premier received that speech, he had expected that on that hon. gentleman's advent to office he would have given the matter some attention.

The PREMIER: We are only human, and cannot do more than twenty-four hours' work in a day.

Mr. AGNEW said he was glad to hear the explanation of the Premier, because he believed he had not lost interest in the subject, and that want of time alone had prevented him from dealing with it. He knew nothing he could say on the subject would have much weight in inducing the Government to develop a scheme at once; but he wished to show them that there were others besides the hon. member for South Brisbane who took an interest in the subject. He took a very great interest in it, and the Government need not be afraid to give whatever time they could spare to it, as they would be well repaid for the trouble they bestowed upon it. It was evident that the Committee saw the propriety of wasting no more time than was necessary to formulate a scheme in order to do something to develop the forestry of the colony. He should always be willing to assist the hon. member for South Brisbane in that direction.

Mr. LUYA said he had gone into figures in regard to the young kauri pine trees in the scrub at Fraser Island, and had calculated that when they arrived at maturity, taking the average of such timber, they would yield 388,000,000 feet of timber, and it would take about twenty years for them to reach maturity. Transplanting the kauri pine was an operation

of the most delicate character. In fact, a sapling two feet above the ground would have a tap root twice as long, and if that root were broken the growth of the tree would be stopped. It would be far better to take the seeds, of which there were so many millions lying about, and plant them, and then weed out afterwards, so that the young trees would not be disturbed. He wished to say a word in regard to agricultural colleges. He thought they were not doing enough to foster agriculture in the colony, and he had also a few figures upon that subject. Within the last two years there had been two flour-mills established in Queensland, and they were the only ones that imported wheat, all the others using locally-grown wheat. He was sure he was within the mark when he said that those two mills imported 400,000 bushels per annum, worth about £85,000. That money was being sent out of the colony to South Australia annually to buy wheat that surely might be grown here. They were able to grow a great deal more wheat than they did, enough, at all events, to keep their local factories going, and keep the money within the colony. If the Department of Agriculture could do anything towards filling up that gap they would do well, and would deserve well of the country.

Mr. BARLOW said he had not spoken on the agricultural question. They were always talking about the settlement of the people on the land, and he should like very much to know if the Government had heard anything more from England about the evidence given by their Agent-General in regard to his statements concerning the adaptability of the colony for white settlement? The Premier said some time ago that the information was on the road, and perhaps the hon. gentleman could favour them with some information on the subject.

The PREMIER said it was most unusual to hear a question of that kind asked on the Estimates of the Lands Department. He did not think it was fair.

Mr. BARLOW said he had asked the question, and he was not ashamed or afraid of having done so. They had been talking about settling people on the lands all the evening, and as a very important element in that matter was the supply of people from the old country to settle on them, he thought the question a pertinent one. However, if the Premier did not see his way to answer it, he (Mr. Barlow) would not press it.

Mr. DALRYMPLE said he should like to hear from the Minister for Lands whether the Government had taken seriously into consideration the position of tropical agriculture? That had something very important to do with the settlement of people on the land; and what was happening at the present time was this: The Government by certain regulations would compel persons who were growing sugar-cane to grow it at a larger price; at the same time they had to compete with other people, and unless something was done to make up the extra cost to which those people would be put, a great deal of cultivation in the colony would, he had been credibly informed, cease, and a great many people would no longer be settled on the land. At any rate the way they would be settled on the land was one which he should be very sorry to see.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said the Government were well aware of the gravity of the question the hon. member for Mackay had referred to, and had the matter under consideration.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said it was all very well for hon. members to laugh, but it was not a question that could be settled in a day, nor a week, nor perhaps in months. It was a very serious matter, involving the welfare of large numbers of people in the Northern portions of the colony and in the South also, and it required most careful consideration before it could be definitely settled. He hoped, however, that they would be able to find a solution of the difficulty. If not, it would not be for want of trying.

Mr. PAUL said, with regard to forestry, as an old squatter he knew the large destruction of timber that had taken place through barking trees, and also, in the early days before the introduction of galvanised iron, from the necessity of having to use timber for all sorts of buildings and other purposes. Considering the enormous destruction of timber that was going on, it was incumbent on the Government to encourage the growth of trees in every way. In the western districts of Victoria, large plains, which were perfectly treeless, had been planted to a large extent with gum trees, and along their railway lines in the same portion of that colony they had planted wattle trees for the purpose of getting tanning bark. He thought the Government here would do well to follow the example of Victoria in that respect. By doing so they would encourage various industries; and not only would it result in profit from the production of timber, but it would have a beneficial effect upon the rainfall, because he could say from experience out west that treeless country was invariably dry country.

Mr. POWERS said he did not like to see the vote for forestry reduced from £1,000 to £65. He was sure the Committee would gladly have voted the £1,000 and left it to the Government to consider, as soon as practicable, what was the best way of spending that money. After what was said last session, especially by members who then sat on the Opposition benches, he certainly thought that something would be done in connection with forestry. All they had got from the hon. gentleman in charge of the department was that he would consider the matter; but while he was considering, their forests were being denuded, and timber was going to waste in all directions. They were not doing their duty in allowing things to go on as they were. In South Australia, Parliament, besides voting an amount for forestry, granted £300 a year for the purpose of raising trees for distribution among the land owners of the colony; and from a pamphlet published by the Woods and Forests Department in that colony, he found that during the season of 1890-91 there had been 1,210 applicants for trees, that 368,653 plants had been given to them, and that 1,250,000 had been given away by the department during the last six years. They were doing very good work there on a very small amount of money, and he was sure the Committee would far sooner have seen a much larger sum on the Estimates than that it should be reduced to £65. Then they found that the grants to all the agricultural societies in the colony were to be reduced, except that to the National Association, which was to be paid in full. He did not think the country would receive that part of the proposal very graciously. He did not think the reduction necessary, considering other sums that appeared on the Estimates. Again, several hon. members had asked the Minister for Lands during the session whether the Government would consider the claims of certain places in connection with the establishment of agricultural colleges, and at last the answer given was that every place would receive consideration. The policy of the

Government therefore appeared to be one of consideration, not one of action. The Ministry had also promised that a Bill would be brought in dealing with agricultural colleges, but that, too, he had heard was to be shelved. Therefore, the Government were taking no action at all in connection with the establishment of agricultural colleges. The Government had taken off the money for agricultural societies, forestry, and irrigation—an expenditure which would have been of great service to the colony, and with which the people would have been satisfied. He hoped the consideration which the Minister had promised to give to those matters would result in some sort of action.

Question put and passed.

STATE NURSERIES.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE moved that £2,000 be granted for State nurseries. The increase in the vote was for the supplying of water to the State nurseries at Mackay and Kamerunga.

Question put and passed.

BOTANIC GARDENS.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE moved that £2,296 be granted for the Botanic Gardens.

Mr. GANNON said he would again, as he had done in previous years, draw the attention of the Minister to the question of opening up the river walk in the gardens at night for the use of the people of the city. Notwithstanding that Brisbane had so much river accommodation, there was not a foot of river frontage that the people could walk along at night. That particular walk, which would of course be well lighted, would make a splendid evening promenade. He hoped the hon. gentleman would take the matter into consideration. The late Minister for Lands had a report sent to him from the curator of the gardens. He (Mr. Gannon) did not know the effect of the report; probably the present Minister for Lands might tell the Committee something about it.

The HON. A. RUTLEDGE said that under some new arrangement the Department of Lands had little or no control over the Botanic Gardens, and the condition of things was not by any means satisfactory. There was a new regulation in force now by which, if any member of the public, although well known to be a person of horticultural tastes, wished to give the gardens exchanges, he had to apply to the Agricultural Department for leave to do so. He had had occasion to refer to the curator of the gardens on that subject. He might say that the present curator, Mr. McMahon, was, to his mind—and he claimed to know something about horticulture—a gentleman of first-class attainments in his department, and he congratulated the late Minister for Lands on having been fortunate enough to secure to the colony the services of a gentleman so thoroughly competent. But by the regulation to which he was referring, the curator was reduced to the position of a sort of under gardener. Any person who required to have any benefit from the existence of those gardens had to apply to the Department of Agriculture, and if the Under Secretary happened to be absent, reference was made to a clerk in the department. He did not think they could expect to retain very long the services of a gentleman of the capacity of Mr. McMahon, if in a matter of that sort he was to be totally deprived of the exercise of his discretion. The gardens ought to be under the special jurisdiction of the Minister for Lands, and there ought not to be such an amount of impediment and red-tape practised in connec-

tion with it. As far as he was personally concerned—although he should not cease to give anything to the gardens in the shape of flower seeds—he should never apply to a clerk in the department if he wanted an exchange from the gardens. He did it once, but he should never again submit himself to the humiliation; nor should the curator be subjected to the still greater humiliation of having to ask leave of a subordinate in the Department of Agriculture to exercise a function which ought properly to be entrusted to him.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said he knew nothing whatever about the report referred to by the hon. member for Toombul as to the opening of the river road. He would look it up, and if the matter was possible, and would be for the benefit of the city, he would see if it could be carried out. With regard to what the hon. member for Charters Towers, Mr. Rutledge, had said, it had been very wisely decided to put the Botanic Gardens under the control of the Agricultural Department. In times past great complaints had been made by florists in the city about the large quantities of pot-plants which were given away from the gardens to private individuals to the detriment of their own industry. It was to prevent that that the gardens were put under the Department of Agriculture. Surely there was nothing humiliating in anyone who wished to obtain plants to address a letter to the Agricultural Department.

Mr. BARLOW said he was pleased with the word "exchange," as applied by the hon. member for Charters Towers. Some time ago a former curator of the gardens was dismissed for the wholesale way in which he made his exchanges. Neither in the case of the Botanic Gardens, nor in that of the gardens of the Acclimatisation Society, should they enter into competition with the professional gardeners, who had to pay rent and labour, and get their living. As to not consulting any particular department, when people wanted anything they ought not to be above asking for it. He did not find fault with the hon. gentleman's feelings, but his own feelings were that when he went begging for plants he would go anywhere he could get them.

Mr. GANNON said that following up what had been said by the hon. member for Ipswich, he would remind the Committee that not so long ago an indignation meeting of local florists took place in Brisbane to protest against the action of the late curator of the Botanic Gardens in giving away a lot of plants from the gardens. That meeting was well attended, and it was complained that the local florists had no chance of making a living while that practice was followed.

Mr. BLACK said that, with regard to the present curator of the gardens, hon. members he thought would readily admit that the change made had been a good one, as the gardens had never been in better order than they were in at the present time. He thought the colony was to be congratulated upon having secured the services of so competent a curator for those valuable gardens, and at a comparatively small salary. That the present curator kept the gardens in order to the satisfaction of the public, and to his own credit, was undoubted. Whilst he was Minister for Lands he had considered it necessary that those gardens should be placed under the Agricultural Department of the colony, and he could give many good reasons for it. Prior to that they were supposed to be managed by a number of trustees, some of whom did no work at all, while others did too much. He had thought it desirable that there should be some department

responsible for the proper and efficient management of those gardens. Mr. McMahon was, he considered, a most efficient and painstaking gentleman, and well qualified for the position he occupied. He could not understand how there could be any friction between that gentleman and the Minister, but there might probably be some friction between him and the Under Secretary for Agriculture, and he believed there was some little friction between them. While Minister for Lands he had always been very glad to see any of the under secretaries of the department personally, and he would recommend that course to the present Minister for Lands. There were a good many branches in the Lands Department, and he had departed from what used to be the system of seeing only the chief Under Secretary. He would recommend the Minister, if any friction was likely to occur between the Under Secretary for Agriculture and the curator of the gardens, to see the curator himself and get at the bottom of the thing, wipe it away, and have done with it. Both were good men; but he would warn the Minister not to allow the management of the departments to slip too much out of his own hands and into those of the under secretaries.

Mr. GLASSEY said there was a little matter there he would like to call attention to. He noticed an item down for rent allowance in lieu of quarters for the curator. He understood there were quarters in the gardens?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said there were quarters in the gardens, but they were unfit to live in, and the late Minister for Lands had promised the curator that he should have an allowance for rent; and he (the Minister for Lands and Agriculture) thought that was only fair, as the gentleman in question had suffered very severely from rheumatic fever in the quarters in the gardens. They had a medical certificate that the house in the gardens was unfit to live in, and, in fact, it had been condemned by the Works Department some time ago. Following up the recommendation of the late Minister for Lands, he had placed the amount for allowance in lieu of rent upon the Estimates.

Mr. BUCKLAND said he would like to know if the Minister could inform the Committee whether any steps had been taken to prevent the introduction of insect pests from other countries? A very dangerous pest was likely to be brought to the colony in the shape of the codlin moth, and the Colorado beetle they had heard so much about. Last year, he believed, some steps were taken to prevent the introduction of insect pests by means of apples brought from America.

Mr. GLASSEY said he understood that the question of the Colorado beetle had been thrashed out many years ago in the British Parliament, and there was nothing left for colonial Parliaments to do in that matter. He would like to know whether it would not be possible to put the residence in the gardens in order, so that it might be occupied. He had passed by it, and had been in it, and he thought he could live in it. A medical gentleman, no doubt, had more knowledge on a question like that than he had, but considerable sums of money were voted away in the direction of allowances in lieu of rent, while they were very close-fisted in other matters where a little money was required. Something should be done with a view of utilising the building, as it was no use to have it standing idle there and paying a considerable sum for the rent of another building.

Question put and passed.

RESERVES.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE moved that the sum of £5,145 be granted for reserves.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he had a suggestion to make to the Minister for Lands in connection with that vote. A good deal had been said about agricultural colleges and farms, and the advisability of putting the Instructor in Agriculture upon one of the farms to see whether he could raise sufficient to pay his own salary. There were six large centres participating in the vote—Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Rockhampton, and Townsville—and each got £500 for Queen's Parks. He would suggest that at each of these parks an agricultural farm should be established on a small scale. If they allowed an extra £200 a year for each, that would only be £1,200, and they could be put in charge of one man, and under the control of the Instructor in Agriculture. If something of the kind was done he thought that much good would result from experiments and tests made in each of the six centres. He commended the suggestion to the Minister for Lands and Agriculture for what it was worth.

Mr. FOXTON said he would like to know if the promises made in regard to that vote were any nearer realisation than they were three or four years ago? He wanted to know whether they were ever going to be kept? If Government subsidies were going to be given for the maintenance of reserves in favoured localities, he should like to see the vote made more general. He could point out many places quite as much entitled to the money, and where it would be quite as well expended as at Southport, where they got £75, and Tiaro, where they got £60, and Howard, where they also got £60. No one had ever yet been able to define the principle upon which that money was apportioned amongst those favoured localities. He was very much inclined to move the reduction of the vote, as he felt very strongly upon it. There were two centres in his own electorate which were just as much entitled to a vote as many of the places included in the vote.

Mr. REES R. JONES said there was a piece of scrub land on the railway near the sea at Emu Park, which contained some water and some very valuable and handsome native trees. He was sorry to say that a number of people, without any permission from anyone, had destroyed a number of most beautiful trees. An application was made some time ago to the Department of Lands to have that land proclaimed a reserve and put under the control of trustees; but the application was refused, and those beautiful trees would very shortly be completely destroyed unless some steps were taken to protect them. He would like to know what steps would be taken.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said the matter had never come under his notice; but he was very pleased the hon. gentleman had referred to it, as he would inquire into it at once.

Mr. AGNEW said he agreed with the remarks made by the hon. member for Carnarvon. The Minister for Lands and Agriculture should give some information as to how that vote was apportioned. He knew of one place in his electorate which as many people visited in one year as visited the places referred to by the hon. member in three years, and if they were entitled to £75, the place he referred to was very much more entitled. The people supported the reserves there by public subscriptions. He could not understand how the vote first originated, and

they were entitled to some explanation. If they had to make application, he certainly should do so at once.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said he did not select the districts, and he really could not tell how they came to be there, although he knew they had been there for some years, and so they had been put on that year. In reply to hon. members, he had had no applications from them; if applications were made they would receive consideration, but the Government could not be expected to run after them.

Mr. GANNON said he would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Lands and Agriculture to the very great necessity for proclaiming a recreation reserve at the powder magazine. There was a piece of land on the river bank which large numbers of people visited. It seemed rather strange to ask for a recreation reserve beside the powder magazine, but he should have something to say upon the powder magazine at another time. He had received a promise from the late Minister for Works in regard to the removal of the powder magazine, to which he would refer on a future occasion. He had been in communication with the late Minister for Lands about the reserve he asked for, and that hon. gentleman had promised to assist him in getting the reserve proclaimed. He felt confident the Minister for Lands and Agriculture would see the necessity for the reserve, and he would be only too glad to give the hon. gentleman any information with regard to the number of people who went there.

Mr. FOXTON said the Minister for Lands and Agriculture appeared to have misunderstood him. He had not made any application for any participation in the vote, but he objected to the grant altogether. When the residents in some towns were compelled to beautify their reserves out of their own pockets, others ought to be put in the same position. If he remembered rightly, the late Minister for Lands had last year promised that the vote should not appear again, in that form at all events, and that he would send Mr. McLean round to report upon all those reserves.

Mr. BLACK: Well, the reports are all there.

Mr. FOXTON said he would like to know what the Minister for Lands and Agriculture proposed to do? Getting reports furnished would not put that vote right unless some action was taken; but notwithstanding the reports, they saw exactly the same thing that year as in previous years. It would be the same next year and the year after. He certainly protested most strenuously against the perpetuation of the vote unless it was to be made general, and the various places put on the same footing as the agricultural societies, where everyone who participated in the vote had to show their *bona fides* by contributing a proportional part of the amount to be spent in the locality.

Mr. SAYERS said the hon. gentleman would have to protest a long time. Last year they had been promised that there would be a change made for the present year, and the late Minister for Lands had made exactly the same reply to him that the present Minister for Lands and Agriculture had just made to the hon. member for Nundah—that he did not know how the vote had got there, as he had not put it there in the first place. That was all the satisfaction they could get from any Minister in connection with any vote. The distribution of that vote showed a great amount of partiality. The money was put on the Estimates at some time or other, and each Minister continued the same

routine as his predecessor; so that if somebody put £500 down ten years ago, it was kept on till now. He only hoped the hon. member for Carnarvon would try to make some amendment in the vote. Last year he (Mr. Sayers) tried hard to get it altered. At Charters Towers there was a piece of ground which would require a large sum of money to put it in order. The £175 on the Estimates only paid a man's wages to look after the ground; it was impossible to lay the ground out with that amount, and he considered that the vote was, to a certain extent, a waste of money. The Government ought to give a certain amount for the purpose of laying out the ground, and then let the corporation take it over and keep it in order. In some places where the reserves were already laid out the trustees received £500 a year for keeping them in order; but he thought it was time that those votes were reduced, and that the votes for reserves that had not yet been laid out should be increased. If some hon. gentleman would move a reduction on the vote, he would give the motion his support.

Mr. SALKELD said the various sums included in the vote appeared to be put down at random. When once a place happened to be put on the list it would remain there. There were many districts where perhaps it was not necessary to have those reserves laid out as gardens, but where Government assistance was required in other directions. The grants to schools of art and agricultural societies, which were of great benefit in many districts, had been reduced, but no reduction had been made in the vote for reserves. Why did not the Government throw the maintenance of those reserves on the hands of the local authorities, who were the proper people to look after them? He believed a Bill was promised the year before last with that object in view, and he thought that such a measure ought to be passed, or else some system of endowment should be adopted in connection with those reserves. At present the vote fell, like thunder showers, in only a few places; and he hoped that the Ministry would take the matter into their consideration, and come down next session with some definite plan.

Mr. MURRAY said he hoped the Minister for Lands and Agriculture would consider the suggestion made by the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Macfarlane, with regard to giving increased votes to Queen's parks for the purpose of enabling them to propagate and distribute plants all over the colony. Much more good would be done in that way than if the whole of the money voted for forestry were spent in one district. The curator of the Botanical Gardens at Rockhampton had sent out thousands of plants, and he complained that he had not the means or he would have done a great deal more. He hoped the Minister for Lands and Agriculture would consider the suggestion, because he thought it was a really good one.

Question put and passed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE moved that £1,000 be granted for miscellaneous services.

Mr. POWERS said he wished to know whether anything had been done, or would be done, before the next meeting of Parliament in reference to irrigation?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said that a Bill had been prepared dealing with the subject, but the Government had not had time to bring it in. They had asked for no more money for irrigation, because the inspectors had done their work, and all the information they could give had been received.

Mr. SALKELD said the present was very likely the last time the vote for the rabbit-proof fence would appear on the Estimates. The present Premier indicated when the money was originally voted, that some means would be taken to provide that the parties immediately benefited by the fence should be made to contribute. Had any steps been taken, or did the Government intend to take any steps to recoup the colony for the heavy expense incurred?

The PREMIER said he believed, speaking from memory, that he said three years ago it was contemplated by the then Government, for the purpose of making an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, that provision should be made for raising some of the cost of the rabbit-proof fence by special taxation. That, however, was not carried out, and the present Government were not prepared to bring forward any proposal of the kind, at any rate during the present session.

Mr. STEVENS said he wished to have some information with regard to the present condition of the rabbit-proof fence.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said there were 650 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles authorised, and 648 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles had been completed, and the balance should by this time be finished.

Mr. GLASSEY said he would like to know how that fence, which had cost so much money, was to be kept in order?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said the fence was patrolled by boundary riders, and kept in order by the money already voted.

Mr. BLACK said the position of the rabbit vote was as follows: The total amount voted was £132,503, and the expenditure up to the 30th of June last was £116,820, leaving a balance of £15,683. The outstanding liabilities for fencing, etc., amounted to £5,908, so that there would be a balance when those were paid of about £9,700. The estimated expense of working and keeping the fence in order for the twelve months ending on the 30th of June next, was £11,200, so that at the end of the year the vote would be slightly exceeded. He certainly thought the Government should take some early steps to mature a scheme for keeping the fence in order, and not wait until considerable expenditure had been incurred, and then come down and ask the Committee to vote the money. The boundary riders would have to continue their work, for which no provision whatever was made in the present Estimates.

Mr. SALKELD said he would like to know whether the fence had been effective in keeping out rabbits?

Mr. ALLAN said he was living in that district, and he could say that the fence had been most effective; in fact, it was the only thing that had had any effect at all in keeping out the rabbits. He would ask the Minister how far the fence had to be constructed to reach the South Australian border?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said the fence had gone considerably up the South Australian border in a northerly direction. The land at the corner was swampy and flooded, and the fence therefore had not gone straight to the border, but had been taken across the angle, and carried some distance along the border in a northerly direction.

Mr. BUCKLAND said it was reported that during the late floods a portion of the rabbit fence had been carried away.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE: It has been repaired.

Mr. SALKELD said he would like to know whether the Minister considered that the fence had been effectual in keeping out rabbits, and whether there were any wild rabbits inside the colony?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said there were rabbits in the colony before the fence was erected. The fence had done very good service in keeping the rabbits out, and there was only one instance on record where a rabbit had got under the fence.

Mr. ALLAN said there were several gaps in the fence between Mungindi and Curriwillinghi. Had the fencing of those gaps been completed?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said the last gap was finished last week.

Mr. GLASSEY said he would like to know what was the exact amount required for the payment of the caretakers and boundary riders and for keeping the fence in repair, and whether it was contemplated that in future the pastoralists, who had benefited so much by the fence, should contribute something towards the cost of its maintenance?

Mr. ANNEAR said he was not a pastoralist, but he thought that in the interest of the country the money could not have been better expended than it had been in the erection of the rabbit fence. In the other colonies the rabbit pest had been the greatest pest they had ever known, and it had cost New Zealand hundreds of thousands, aye millions, of pounds, and it had been the same in New South Wales and Victoria. He looked upon that fence as a national work, and it had always been so regarded in that Committee.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE said he could not say just then what was the exact amount required to maintain the rabbit fence; but he could tell the hon. member for Bundamba that there was a sufficient sum voted at present to do all that was necessary.

Mr. GLASSEY said that, seeing that vote was likely to be continued, he wished to know what amount of money would be required annually to pay the caretakers, boundary riders, etc.?

Mr. BLACK said he had papers with him, from which it appeared that the salaries and allowances for superintendence, including three overseers, thirteen boundary riders, four rabbiters, a clerk, and the cost of repairs to fence and incidentals for twelve months, were estimated at £11,212.

Mr. ALLAN said the money expended was a good investment, and was really a form of insurance, as in New South Wales the rabbit pest had cost £500,000.

Question put and passed.

SECRETARY FOR MINES.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. W. O. Hodgkinson) moved that there be granted for the service of the year 1890-91 a sum not exceeding £3,168 for the Department of Mines.

Mr. STEVENSON said he wished to bring under the notice of the Committee a matter in connection with the lending of specimens for the Melbourne Exhibition. One of his constituents, who was only a working man, replied to an advertisement published some time ago by the present Minister for Mines asking for the loan of specimens for the Melbourne Exhibition, and sent down specimens to the value of £90. He had written several times to the Mines Department to have those specimens returned, but had been unable to get any information in regard to them.

He had tried to find some traces of them, but had not been able. He had been referred to Mr. Fenwick, and that gentleman had referred him to someone else; but he could obtain no information. He wished to know from the Minister for Mines whether the Government were going to make good that sum?

The MINISTER FOR MINES said he was afraid, if the Government were to undertake to make good losses of that kind, they would be let in for very much more than was contemplated. He had sent specimens down there, and had never heard anything more of them, and those specimens were valued at £200. He could not promise to refund the money, as he had no fund available for such a purpose.

Mr. STEVENSON said it did not make matters any better to know that the Minister for Mines had lost some specimens. The man he referred to lent his specimens believing that the Mines Department would look after them. The Government paid enough to have those specimens looked after, and the people who lent specimens had a right to expect them to be returned. It was very little encouragement for people at any future time to help the Government in sending exhibits, either to an exhibition here or in the other colonies or in England, if they were to lose them altogether. The value of the specimens lost ought to be refunded to those who lent them, and that would be only a fair thing, especially when they were working men who took an interest in the matter, and the Government advertised for specimens.

The MINISTER FOR MINES said when the Government advertised they expressed the desirability of the colony being well represented; but in no sense did they undertake any responsibility.

Mr. BARLOW said he inferred from the remarks that had been made that the specimens had been stolen.

Mr. STEVENSON: They were not returned.

Mr. BARLOW said then they must have been stolen, and if they were stolen they were not properly looked after, and therefore the value should be made good.

Mr. AGNEW said the least the Government could do was to refund the value of the specimens sent. Certainly anyone reading the advertisement would think that the Government would hold themselves responsible.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Look at the advertisement before you say that.

Mr. AGNEW said he did not think the hon. member for Clermont would make a false statement, or a statement that would mislead. On the strength of an advertisement emanating from the Mines Department, a constituent of the hon. member was induced to send some geological specimens, and he would not have done so unless he thought that, to some extent, the Government held themselves responsible. He looked upon the matter in a broad way, and thought the least the Government could do was to recompense the senders for their loss. It did not alter the case to know that the Minister for Mines had lost £200 worth. He ought to be recompensed also; but if the hon. gentleman were satisfied to forego his claim, that was no reason why a constituent of the hon. member for Clermont should be asked to do so.

Mr. MURRAY said he had a complaint of a similar nature to make. He had received a letter from a person who had sent down exhibits for the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, to be forwarded to London, and which consisted of a silver-mounted emu egg, valued at £30, and three

saddles, the total value being £50. Those exhibits had never been heard of since, and he considered the Government were responsible for them. It was only a fair thing that the exhibitor should be recompensed, and he would like to see the matter investigated.

Mr. AGNEW said some time ago he designed a sleeping-car, and was asked by the authorities of the Brisbane exhibition if he would allow it to be exhibited. He took the precaution of asking if they would insure the car; but they declined the responsibility, and he would not send the car. He had assumed that they would willingly undertake that liability, and was astonished to find that they would not.

Mr. BARLOW said the Government must be frightfully poor if they could not, as a matter of honour, make good those losses. In private life he had never heard of such responsibility being declined.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said the case referred to by the hon. member for Normanby had come under his notice, and had been under the consideration of the Ministers for years; but no Minister yet seemed to have been able to come to a decision on the subject. The first question was whether the Government had received those things, and the second, what had become of them. He had unearthed all the papers, and was satisfied that the emu egg did reach Brisbane; but what had become of it afterwards he could never find out. In reference to the saddles spoken of, there was no doubt that they went to England, and were received by somebody who represented himself to be agent for a friend in Rockhampton. He had communicated with the Agent-General in order to try to ascertain what had become of them, and could assure the hon. member for Normanby that as soon as he received the proper information he should pay both claims.

Mr. GLASSEY said there was no doubt the advertisement referred to had appeared in the papers, inviting persons to forward exhibits, and he presumed the persons who forwarded those exhibits would naturally conclude that the Government would be represented at the exhibition. That being the case, if anything were lost, seeing those exhibits were in the charge of the commissioners, it was clearly the duty of the Government to pay for them. That was an honourable course, and if the matter came before Parliament in a more tangible form, he thought the amount would be granted. It was no answer to say that the exhibits had never reached their destination; the catalogue would show whether they had or not; but if they had, then unquestionably the persons who had forwarded those exhibits had a fair claim to be recompensed. In all fairness and justice, those claims ought to be considered.

The MINISTER FOR MINES said he would consider the claims when they were laid before him. He had had no claim submitted to him yet. With regard to the claims spoken of by the hon. member for Clermont, he had received a letter—he presumed from that hon. gentleman's constituent—to which he had replied. When he inserted the advertisement referred to, it was shortly after his appointment as Minister for Mines, and a few weeks afterwards he was out of office, long before the exhibition in question took place. He believed the gentlemen who filled that office since had endeavoured, to the best of their power, to make inquiries from the commissioners appointed by the Government as to what had become of those specimens. Those referred to by the hon. member for Clermont were not the only ones missing. So far the inquiries had failed in getting a

satisfactory result; but as soon as any claims were made to him officially, and he was satisfied that the Government were equitably responsible in the matter, he would endeavour to discharge that responsibility.

Mr. STEVENSON said he was pleased to hear the promise made by the hon. gentleman. He could say for certain that the specimens he referred to arrived at their destination, because he, and many others who attended the Melbourne Exhibition, saw them there, and the matter had been agitated in some of the newspapers. However, as the hon. gentleman had made a promise that he would recognise the claim, he was satisfied.

Mr. DONALDSON said he would like to know why the word "Acting" was kept before "Under Secretary"? Surely it was time that Mr. Glen Cameron was appointed to the full position he had occupied with so much credit to himself and benefit to the country. Was there any reason for retaining the word? Was there any intention to appoint any other person to the position of Under Secretary?

The MINISTER FOR MINES said he had a great deal of curiosity on the point referred to himself, and had often expressed it. The fact was that those Estimates were exactly the same as his predecessor's, and he had too much respect for that gentleman to omit even the word "acting."

Mr. DONALDSON said that was no answer to his question. If the hon. gentleman thought the term was wrong, he had had an opportunity of remedying it, and why had he not done so? If he intended to appoint another gentleman to the position of Under Secretary, he should say so. If not, he should remove the word "acting."

The MINISTER FOR MINES said he had made no alteration in the vote, for the reason that he would not attempt to recommend Mr. Cameron's appointment to the position of Under Secretary unless he could also recommend that he be paid the same salary as under secretaries in other departments, and in the present position of the finances he could not do so, much as he would like to give that officer the salary he deserved. He should bear the remarks of the hon. gentleman in mind, and was very pleased that he had expressed so clearly his own views on the matter.

Mr. GLASSEY said one point raised by the leader of the Opposition had not been touched upon by the Minister for Mines; that was whether there was any intention to appoint another gentleman as Under Secretary for Mines. Every hon. member was well satisfied with the work of the Acting Under Secretary, and would feel satisfied if the Minister stated that no other person was to be put over that officer's head.

The MINISTER FOR MINES said it had never been contemplated to appoint another officer over that gentleman's head. He should never be a party to doing so.

Mr. DONALDSON said he did not contemplate that the hon. gentleman would do so, but at the same time he did not like the word "acting." He would point out that in the Department of the Administration of Justice the Under Secretary received exactly the same salary as Mr. Cameron, and the word "acting" was not used. If that word were removed it would be very satisfactory. He believed the Minister was thoroughly in favour of appointing Mr. Cameron Under Secretary.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Hear, hear!

Mr. DONALDSON said he hoped the hon. gentleman would do Mr. Cameron tardy justice.

Mr. SAYERS said he raised that question last year, but the leader of the Opposition, who at that time occupied a seat on the Treasury benches, did not give him much assistance. He (Mr. Sayers) liked to get at those ex-Ministers, who, when in office, would never support a private member to remedy a thing that was wrong, and yet were ready enough to call attention to such matters when on the Opposition benches. They were very good when they were in opposition, but he would like to see them equally good when they were sitting on the Government benches. Those Estimates were precisely the same as those framed by the late Government, of which the hon. gentleman was a member, and if he then thought the word "acting" was wrong, why did he not use his power to get it altered? He (Mr. Sayers) hoped the Minister for Mines would do away with the word "acting," so that the mining industry would have an Under Secretary as well as other departments.

Mr. FOXTON said, as the representative of a mining constituency, he should like to hear what the late Minister for Mines had to say on that subject. When Mr. Deighton's services were dispensed with, that hon. gentleman, who was then sitting on the same bench as the hon. the leader of the Opposition, expressed the opinion that it was not necessary that there should be an Under Secretary to either the Mines or the Works Department, and he believed that the present arrangement was one made by the late colleague of the leader of the Opposition himself.

Mr. DONALDSON: No.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. FOXTON said he was under that impression.

Mr. DONALDSON: It is a wrong impression.

Mr. FOXTON said the remark came with very bad grace from the leader of the Opposition, if the assertion that his own colleague, who was generally supposed to "boss" the late Government, was the Minister who made the existing arrangement. He (Mr. Foxtton) would like to hear what the late Minister for Mines had to say on the subject, and also whether the leader of the Opposition was now prepared to endorse the opinion expressed by his late colleague.

Mr. DONALDSON: I am not justifying my late colleague.

Mr. GANNON said he hoped, after the opinions expressed, that the Minister would remove the word "Acting" from before "Under Secretary."

The PREMIER said he must protest against hon. gentlemen opposite not doing things when in office, and then coming down and complaining that they were not done. The responsibility of doing things devolved upon Ministers, not upon ex-Ministers; and if Ministers did not take those responsibilities when in office, they had no right to come down afterwards and try to get a little popularity by saying those things should be done by their successors. That was his opinion.

Mr. DONALDSON said the hon. gentleman had no right to make any such remark about attempts to gain popularity. When he spoke about the claims of an officer in the service, was there any popularity-hunting about that? The hon. gentleman had frequently hurled epithets across the Chamber for the purpose of gaining popularity, but he (Mr. Donaldson) was not going to follow in his footsteps.

Mr. FOXTON said he could sympathise with the leader of the Opposition. He did not see why the hon. gentleman should be the scapegoat

for his late colleague. If anyone was to defend the late Government, let it be the late Minister for Mines. He (Mr. Foxton) noticed that hon. gentleman did not say anything about the matter, but allowed the whole onus to fall on the leader of the Opposition. He was sure hon. members would like to hear what the late Minister for Mines had to say on the subject.

Mr. HAMILTON said the Ministry who proposed the Estimates must take the responsibility for them, although they were the Estimates of the late Ministry. At the same time, he would have objected to the term "acting under secretary," if it had been used under the late *régime*, as much as he objected to it now.

Mr. ANNEAR said he believed that last year the question of dignity arose. He did not think any wrong was caused to the public by the appointment. He knew the two gentlemen concerned, and believed they both properly performed their duties, and were fully satisfied with the positions they held. He was sorry the leader of the Opposition should be blamed, because he was only a young Minister, and there was a greater power than that hon. gentleman in the late Government, and he considered that greater power exercised his power in a proper manner. He (Mr. Annear) approved of the arrangement made by the late Minister as regarded the Acting Under Secretary for Mines and Acting Under Secretary for Works.

Question put and passed.

GOLD FIELDS.

The MINISTER FOR MINES moved that a sum not exceeding £24,772 be granted for goldfields. The alterations in the vote were really of no importance whatever. There were a few changes caused by the operation of the Civil Service Board, and there was an alteration with regard to the technical school at Charters Towers—the substitution of a vote of £2,000 for a vote of £750 last year. The estimate was virtually the estimate prepared by the late Government.

The HON. A. RUTLEDGE said he was very glad to notice the sum of £2,000 for a technical school at Charters Towers, but he should like the hon. gentleman to give some information as to when he would be able to bring the school into practical operation, and what form the proposed school was to take?

Mr. SAYERS said he was very much afraid that £2,000 vote was a will-o'-the-wisp. He had seen it down in the Estimates before, but nothing came of it. Where the money had gone he did not know. Last year there was £750 put on the Estimates for a technical school. It was very easy to vote a particular sum for a particular purpose, but when it was never put to that purpose it was time to speak. He saw £3,000 was put down for prospecting for gold last year, but that had been done away with. He was not going to say a great deal against that, because it was one of those votes that were filtered away without any good purpose being served.

Mr. LITTLE: No.

Mr. SAYERS said he was giving his own opinion. If the Government offered a sum of money as a reward for the discovery of a payable goldfield it would pay them better.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is done by Act of Parliament.

Mr. SAYERS said a reward of £1,000 was no reward. In consideration of a goldfield like Charters Towers or Gympie being discovered hundreds of thousands of pounds would be put in the pockets of the State. They saw £250,000

voted for rabbit-proof fencing, with £12,000 a year to keep it up; but they did not hear the Colonial Secretary interject much about that. That was all right enough, because there were a lot of people in the Committee to support it; but because there were only a few mining members, the Colonial Secretary interjected. He objected to the interjection of Ministers. He said the Government were fully justified in offering a reward of £10,000 to be paid for the discovery of a payable goldfield after it had been two years in existence. The Government would not have to expend a single penny in discovering it, or until they reaped the benefit of it. Many a man would as soon put his money into that as in sinking a shaft, and if the field turned out well the prospectors would ultimately get some benefit. Very often the prospectors were the people who got the least out of a field, because they were bound to report their discovery, and they only got a reward claim, which might be the poorest claim on the field, and other people came in and reaped the benefit of the best claims. Those men often got what was called a "tucker" claim, a claim that simply gave them their living, and when the field was in the height of its prosperity they were penniless. The country had reaped the benefit, and they got nothing. The Government might offer a large reward and surround it with any amount of safeguards. They might provide that the field must be payable after two years beyond any shadow of a doubt, and then pay over the £10,000. If that was done, he was perfectly satisfied that hundreds of people would be quite willing to prospect the whole country. That would be far better than putting on a vote of £3,000 for prospecting, because private enterprise would step in and do the work far better than the Government could hope to do it. If the Government equipped a party, political influence was brought to bear to get Tom, Dick, and Harry into it, and the money was frittered away. Hon. members seemed quite willing to pass large sums of money for other purposes, and all he asked was that the £10,000 should be put on the Estimates, and if no discovery was made the money would not be claimed. He would like to hear from the Minister for Mines if he would give the matter attention, because it was a subject well worthy of it. It would start a large number of people out prospecting, and he was quite certain that before three months had passed by there would be dozens of parties out prospecting the country in all directions, and they might discover a goldfield that would take the country out of the depressed state it was in.

Mr. HOOLAN said he wished to mention the claims of a prospector named McQueen, the discoverer of the Lane's Creek Gold Field. The field had been in existence for two years, but it had yielded very little gold until last September. It was situated adjacent to the Etheridge Gold Field, in the electorate of Burke, about twenty miles from Georgetown, and was entirely a new discovery. There was very little use in advancing the prospector's claim at present, considering that there was an empty Treasury; and prospectors had had a great deal of difficulty in obtaining the reward to which they were entitled. He trusted that when that particular prospector sent in his claim his case would be taken into just consideration, and that the reward to which he was entitled would be given to him. McQueen discovered the field in October, 1888, and worked at it under great hardships and difficulties for four or five months almost alone. He reported the discovery to the warden of the Etheridge Gold Field, and then the public sailed in, and it was becoming a nice promising goldfield, giving a steady yield of gold. There

was one crushing machine on the field, and the yield since September had been something like 1,000 oz. One claim had changed hands for £1,000, and a second battery was in course of erection with a guarantee of 2,000 tons of stone. He hoped that the claim of McQueen would be taken into consideration as honest and just. The claim might be disputed, but that man was undoubtedly the prospector of the goldfield. He agreed with the hon. member, Mr. Sayers, that there was very little encouragement given to prospectors. After a great deal of trouble and hardship they often picked out the worst claim on the field, while others came in and made their fortunes. More encouragement ought to be given to them. There were thousands of miles of unexplored country between Lane's Creek and Cape York. The subject was perhaps the most serious that the Committee could turn its attention to; and it would be far more creditable to them to give more time and attention to the future prospects of gold-mining than to waste time over trees, flowers, insects, and all the rest of it. He knew that anything he said would be taken badly, but he hoped, no matter what objection there might be to himself personally, that hereafter when that man's claim was put forward in the proper way, the Minister would give it due consideration and justice. The gold miners of the North looked forward to reforms in the Gold Fields Act, and as that had been promised by the hon. gentleman, he would leave those reforms to emanate from him, merely expressing a hope that he would introduce them as early as possible.

Mr. LITTLE said he would bring under the notice of the Minister for Mines the case of the prospectors of the Woolgar Gold Field. That field was discovered in 1883 by four prospectors, who were nine months in the wilderness, surrounded by savage blacks. When they first got payable gold provisions ran short. They dared not go into Georgetown, or they would have been followed and robbed of the fruits of their labours. Three of them volunteered to go to Normanton for supplies, and they were away six weeks, leaving their mate alone, living in a hole in the ground. They picked out the best claim there was, but they did not work it clean out, as they wanted to get back into civilisation. The present Minister for Mines was at that time warden at the Etheridge. They reported the find to him, and he, after examining the spot and getting payable prospects—as much as 2 dwts. to the dish—granted them a prospecting claim. Those men never dreamed that their right to the £1,000 would be disputed. They were in no hurry to put in their claim, as they knew they were justly entitled to the reward. Other men came on the ground, jumped their prospecting claim, and put in their own application for the reward. Communication at that time was very unfrequent, and when their claim arrived Parliament was in recess. The two applications were in, and the next session the McIlwraith Administration went out of office, and the consequence was that both applications for the reward were in the office at the present time. It was not necessary to ask for the papers, as he knew the facts. Thousands of ounces of gold had been got from the field, but there was no record of the yield from the Woolgar, and he could tell the Committee why that was so. Some of the gold taken from that field was taken into Hughenden, some to Normanton, some to Charters Towers, some to Townsville, and some to Georgetown. That was a fact; and the hon. member for Flinders, who had been on the field, could bear out what he said.

Mr. GOLDRING: Hear, hear!
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Mr. LITTLE said it was not yet too late to give those men the reward due to their discovery. One of the prospectors, known as "Long Jim," was dead, but the others were alive, and one of them supported eight brothers and two sisters. They were not like the prospectors of Charters Towers, whom he knew also—Hugh Mosman, George Edward Clarke, and Fraser. As an act of justice, he sincerely hoped the Minister for Mines would see that those men were rewarded for their discovery. He knew the state of the Treasury when he asked that, because he knew the Treasury was "stiff"; but he suggested that those men should be given 1,000 acres of land in the country he came from, and it could be equally divided amongst them, and it would cost the Government nothing to do that. Those men had done great service to the State, and it was in his opinion the bounden duty of the Government to remember the services they had rendered.

The MINISTER FOR MINES said that with regard to the remarks of the junior member for Burke he could only state that if a claim was established for a discovery of a new goldfield in that district it would meet with every consideration. It was almost unnecessary for him to say that, as he trusted every claim would receive consideration, but it must be brought forward in a proper manner. With regard to the claim mentioned by the hon. member for Woothakata, he knew something about it, and it had been for some years in abeyance, and if the hon. member desired to look over the papers in connection with it, he could do so by calling at the Mines Office. At the present time, as there had been for some years, a reward was given for the discovery of a new goldfield, proportionate to the value of the discovery made. The highest award was £1,000, and the awards would go from that downwards, according to the value of the discovery. To say the Government were doing nothing for the development of the mining industry was all nonsense. He held in his hand a list of twenty-six prospecting parties supported by the Government, and prospecting in various portions of the colony. At the present moment one of the oldest prospectors in the colony, and the discoverer of the Palmer Gold Field, was engaged in prospecting the conglomerate there, and he looked forward, if good fortune attended him, to discoveries of great importance there, because he thought from what he had read of the discoveries of South Africa there was a prospect of more gold being got from the Palmer field than had been got there yet. The hon. member for Charters Towers had asked about the technical school of mines, and he (the Minister for Mines) had an elaborate report from Mr. Jack, the best authority in the colony on the subject. That gentleman stated that it would cost £20,000 to initiate a school of mines that would be of the least use to the district, and that it would further take a very large annual sum to keep the school of mines in active operation. He was doing what he could in the mean time, and there was a geological lecturer there instructing those who chose to attend his lectures. When it was considered that they had a geological lecturer at Charters Towers, that they had at Gympie a drill attempting to find another bed of slate, which might really mean the resuscitation of Gympie, and when they had another drill at Croydon to prove the nature of the ground there, he could not understand how the Government could be justly accused of neglecting the mining industry.

The HON. A. RUTLEDGE said the hon. gentleman had hardly given the answer that was expected; in fact, the answer he had given was very discouraging. If taken literally, it would mean that nothing was to be done.

The hon. gentleman told them that Mr. Jack said it would take £20,000 to establish a school of mines. No doubt, if they went in for a school of mines on the scale of the Ballarat School of Mines, a very large sum of money would be required, and it would involve also a large annual expenditure. But what he wanted to know from the hon. gentleman was this: £2,000 had been placed on the Estimates for the purpose of a technical school of mines, and he would like to know if the hon. gentleman had formulated any scheme for the expenditure of that money, and, if so, how he intended to expend it? Had the hon. gentleman yet formulated any scheme by which that £2,000 might be made, as far as possible, to serve, at all events, as a nucleus of what they hoped would be, sooner or later, a thoroughly efficient school of mines, that would serve the purpose, not only of the Charters Towers Gold Field, but of a very large area of the Northern districts as well.

The MINISTER FOR MINES said he could assure the hon. member that he was contemplating doing something, but the hon. member must make some allowance for the conditions under which he had taken office, and the extreme pressure of duty that had been upon him since. He was not deaf to the claims of Charters Towers, but he did not wish to make a failure. When he did anything for a place he would like to see some useful result from the money expended, and he was not in a position now to state to the Committee the exact manner in which that money could be best expended. It would require, he believed, a very earnest consultation with some of the authorities of Charters Towers and their assistance, and he looked forward to the assistance, in due time, of the hon. members for Charters Towers. There was not the slightest desire to defraud Charters Towers out of the vote, and the proof of that was that the amount, instead of being reduced, had been increased. No doubt in time the Committee would be in a position to increase the amount to such a sum as would enable them to fulfil the greatest expectations that could be formed. It was no use rushing into a thing hastily, and he might state that the professional adviser of the Government upon a point like that had been busily engaged for the last few weeks in the Northern district; and, as Minister for Mines, he would not move in such a matter without consulting that gentleman. He hoped soon to be able to have a conversation with him upon the best means of expending the vote, and fulfilling the wishes of the Committee in the matter.

Mr. HAMILTON said that in a colony like Queensland, which was so rich in minerals, it should especially be the duty of every Government to strain every nerve to develop the mining industry. When a mineral field was discovered it resulted in a considerable influx of population from the other colonies, and it was also the means of enriching other industries. He agreed with the hon. member for Charters Towers that some greater inducement should be given for the development of the mineral resources of the colony by putting a larger sum upon the Estimates for the discovery of goldfields, silver fields, or deposits of any other minerals. The Government lost nothing by paying rewards, because the money was not paid until a far larger sum had been obtained from the goldfield. At the same time, he was also in favour of putting a sum on the Estimates for prospecting purposes. One reason why nothing was put down for the present year probably was that only about half the money voted last year had been spent; but he did not think £20,000 would be too much to assist persons in prospect-

ing. He had had a conversation with the Minister for Mines in Victoria the other day, who had told him that Victoria had largely benefited from a similar vote. He alluded to the Napier lead in Maryborough, and to other remarkably rich claims which had been discovered by prospectors. He might also mention some instances in this colony where gold had been discovered by the expenditure of Government money. Of course, the objection had been that the money voted was frittered away in many cases, but they could take means to prevent a recurrence of that waste. There were many miners who would be only too glad to go prospecting if any inducements were offered. Many a time he had gone prospecting at his own expense. He thought that the Government should do all they could to assist the mining industry, because there was no industry which would cause the colony to forge ahead so quickly as the mining industry.

Mr. SMITH said he quite agreed with the hon. members who had spoken, that the discoverer of a new goldfield should receive a reasonable reward. They all knew that the discoverers of a goldfield were not the men who reaped the most benefit from their discoveries. He thought that even if £5,000 or £10,000 were put down, it would be a small item compared with the beneficial results to the colony which would follow. Of course, they should have payment according to results. The more valuable the discovery, the greater the reward payable. He hoped the Minister for Mines would endeavour to increase the reward for the discovery of a new goldfield.

Mr. DALRYMPLE said he wished to call the attention of the Minister for Mines to the fact that the Government officer, Mr. Mowbray, in Mackay had for the last twelve months or more to discharge the duties of gold warden at a place called Eungella, and for that work he received no additional remuneration whatever. He had to travel about 100 miles, and he (Mr. Dalrymple) believed he discharged his duties very satisfactorily; he hoped the funds of the colony would permit of that gentleman's services being properly rewarded.

Mr. SAYERS said the Minister for Mines had not given any information as to whether it was the intention of the Government to offer any other reward than that at present paid—that was £1,000. They had omitted the vote of £3,000 for prospecting. He did not cavil at that, but he thought some inducement should be held out. Every member of the Government knew the benefits the colony had derived from the mining industry, but they were just as bad as the previous Ministry, and gave no encouragement to mining at all. Two or three years ago there had been a sum of £2,000 put down for Charters Towers, but they had not got a penny of that money, and last year £750 had been voted, of which they had got none, and £2,000 was put down again for the present year. The Minister for Mines said that Charters Towers had not been badly treated, but that was an insult to the people of that place. Were they a lot of children that they should be played with as they had been? Let the Government say straight out that they were not going to do anything, and they could then go on their own resources, and would know what to do. Every other industry but mining was fostered, and those were the only estimates that were reduced. There was a reduction of about £6,000; and although he had gone through the Estimates several times, he had failed to find any single thing that had been put down which would in any way assist the mining industry.

Mr. FOXTON said he had listened with a considerable amount of amusement to the wrangling which had taken place on the part of the hon. members for Charters Towers, although his amusement was not altogether unmingled with some dissatisfaction and discontent at the treatment which his own district had received in comparison with the treatment received by Charters Towers. The fact of the matter was that, according to the Estimates for the last four or five years, Charters Towers had been wet-nursed at the expense of other mining centres. About four or five years ago a vote was placed on the Estimates for mineralogical lecturers, and it was understood that they were to deliver lectures at the various mining centres throughout the colony wherever it might be thought their lectures would lead to beneficial results. Two lecturers were appointed, and one of them was at Gympie for a considerable time. Some time ago he asked that his district should receive consideration in reference to the services of those gentlemen, and he received a promise from the then Minister for Mines, the late Mr. Miles, that they should go there. It had been stated that there was no gold in the district, but there was a considerable amount of gold, though, perhaps, not so much as at Charters Towers. There were also very large deposits of other minerals, including silver and tin; and if the information those mineralogical lecturers were in a position to impart had been obtainable, he had no hesitation in saying that a very different state of things would exist there now. It appeared that the money and the services of those gentlemen were meted out on the principle that those who had much should receive more. Mr. Thompson, at Charters Towers, received £800 a year, including allowances, and all sorts and conditions of men were getting the benefit of his lectures, including policemen. Mr. Jack's report contained a most extraordinary list of the men receiving instruction; and though he did not object to that in the least, he thought that when policemen were actually revelling in technical education it was about time that the mineralogical lecturer should be sent to some other district, seeing that he had been in one place three or four years. He thought that three or four months out of that period might be devoted to lecturing about Warwick and Stanthorpe. That £800 a year did not seem to be appreciated in Charters Towers. They wanted a technical college costing £2,000, or, as he understood the Minister for Mines to say, £20,000. The people in his district would be thankful, after waiting four or five years, to have the lecturer among them, and they would not cavil about the small amount of consideration they received.

Mr. GOLDRING said he was rather surprised to hear it stated that the reward for the discovery of Woolgar had not been paid, because he was under the impression that it was paid, but paid to the wrong party.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: What has this to do with the estimate, Mr. Jessop?

Mr. GOLDRING said he did not intend to refer to the matter at any length, but as to the matter having anything to do with the estimate under consideration, he was talking about the vote for prospecting which had been erased, and he thought that one had some connection with the other. He submitted that a vote for prospecting should be placed on the Estimates, and that the Government should use their discretion as to its distribution. Prospectors should be encouraged, because their discoveries were of benefit to the colony; they were exposed to great hardships, and in some cases they lost their lives in endeavouring to discover new goldfields. The present Minister for Mines was the warden at the Etheridge at the time Woolgar was dis-

covered, and he believed that no warden had visited the field since the hon. gentleman visited it himself. He did not blame the Minister for Mines or his predecessor; but the complaint had been made on more than one occasion that the warden at Etheridge did not visit Woolgar, and he hoped that the Minister for Mines would instruct that officer to pay the field an occasional visit. It was a very extensive field, and he thought that some day it might turn out to be a very rich field, though at present the returns were nothing extraordinary.

Mr. SAYERS said he should not have risen again had not the hon. member for Carnarvon made a statement which he could not allow to pass uncontradicted. The hon. member in giving his opinion on mining matters, stated that Charters Towers had been wet-nursed. He would accept the hon. member's opinion on a legal question but not on a mining matter. There were no minerals at all in the district the hon. member represented, and where did they find any provision in those Estimates for a mining surveyor or warden for that district? No doubt some years ago there was a considerable quantity of tin and some gold obtained there, but at the present time the place was practically deserted. If Charters Towers had been wet-nursed, the hon. member should have shown it, but he had not done so. All he had stated was that there was a mineralogical lecturer there; and that they wanted a palatial building at a cost of £20,000. Well, the district was entitled to that expenditure, but it would not erect a very palatial building. Charters Towers contributed more to the revenue of the colony in one month, in connection with mining, than the constituency of the hon. member did in five years. The mining rights alone on Charters Towers would be sufficient to buy out the whole of the mineral rights in the constituency of the hon. member for Carnarvon. Charters Towers produced more gold than any other goldfield of the colony of the same population, and Gympie came next. But where did the fostering of the mining industry by the Government come in? What were they doing to advance the mining industry? He hoped that the Government would give that industry greater consideration than it received in those Estimates.

Mr. SMYTH said he was very sorry to see a little friction arising between the hon. member for Charters Towers and the hon. member for Carnarvon. He could assure the hon. member for Charters Towers that before he came into the House one of the best supporters he had on mining matters was the hon. member for Carnarvon. When the Land Bill was going through, with a great struggle and with the assistance of the hon. member for Carnarvon he succeeded in getting a provision inserted to the effect that all minerals on lands sold should belong to the Crown. The hon. member for Townsville, when in office some years ago, issued a regulation providing that certain leases taken up on the Stanthorpe tin mines should not become freehold, but it was issued too late, as nearly the whole of Stanthorpe was then held as freehold by people in New South Wales. Had that regulation been in force twenty years ago Stanthorpe would be in a much better position than it was at the present time. He (Mr. Smyth) had now been a member of the House for seven years, and every year when that vote came on he had pleaded the cause of Mr. Nash, the discoverer of the Gympie Gold Field. In 1867 the colony was in a state of insolvency. Mr. Nash at that time discovered the Gympie Gold Field, and was the means of bringing 20,000 or 30,000 people into the colony from New Zealand, Victoria, New

South Wales, and elsewhere. If he had discovered the field five years earlier he would have been entitled to a reward of £5,000, but the law was altered during that time, and he only received £1,000. He was now in very poor circumstances, as all he received was £100 per annum salary as keeper of a powder magazine. He had had as much as 2,000 cases of dynamite and lithofracteur under his charge at one time, and if a bush fire had sprung up, and those explosives had exploded they would have blown Gympie into the next world. Was £100 a year sufficient remuneration for such a position, even to the greatest stranger in the colony, let alone to a man who had been a benefactor to his country? He contended that it was not. They paid considerable sums to a bacon curer and tobacco expert; but only £100 a year to a man who had rendered such timely and valuable service to the colony. With regard to the vote under consideration, he would ask why the sum of £750 for a school of mines had been knocked off? Previously that sum was set down as available for a school of mines when a like amount was subscribed in the district. But now it was omitted, as if the mining interest was not worth recognising. They were willing to put down £750 if the Government would put down the other £750. Surely the Governments of Queensland were very parsimonious in their Estimates. In Victoria they voted £80,000 a year for prospecting, and in New Zealand splendid books were published for the instruction of miners.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: They make their schools pay.

Mr. SMYTH said he had read that day that the interest they paid amounted to four-tenths of 1s. per cent. He had travelled in New Zealand lately, and from what he had seen there and in other places, he did not think there was any place in the world where mining was so much set upon as in Queensland. There was £175,000 voted for a wire fence for the protection of the pastoral industry, and agricultural colleges were to be established in support of another industry; but what had become of the mining industry? A commission had been appointed to go up North and see what had become of the sugar industry; but in Victoria they sent men all over the colony to see how they could benefit the mining industry. In Queensland, they were losing gold in the creeks and rivers, and the miners wanted to be shown how they could save that. He must acknowledge the assistance that he had received from the hon. member for Carnarvon in 1884, when the Land Act was going through, and the hon. member for Charters Towers would have stuck to him, although there had been a little friction between them. But there were only about two mining members in the Committee to speak up for the miners. He wanted to know what had become of the £750 which was on the Estimates last year for a school of mines at Gympie? They were losing thousands of pounds through ignorance on their own part. They imported men here as mineralogists and geologists; but in Victoria they trained them themselves, and in New Zealand also; and he was sure from what he had seen in his travels that there were as good men in Queensland as in the sister colonies if they were trained. Then there were restrictions placed upon the miners by the Mines Regulation Act, and he would refer to one instance. A person could not take charge of a winding engine unless he had a certificate. He had to pass a certain examination, and in the absence of a school of mines that was very much like the case of a man who said he would never go into the water until he had learnt to swim.

Where were they to obtain engine drivers if their young men could not go through a course of instruction either in a technical college or a mining school? They had to pass an examination, and could not get into a position to do so. They were not legislating for Queenslanders, but in such a way as to make it necessary to import men into the colony, and what were those men when they did come? He wished to know from the Minister for Mines what he intended to do about the school of mines at Gympie. Did he intend to give them that £750, if the people subscribed an equal amount?

Mr. FOXTON said he was very sorry if any remarks he had made had hurt the feelings of anybody. What he said appeared to have been misunderstood. He wished to point out that, in comparison with other districts, Charters Towers had been very well treated in regard to that mineralogical lecturer, whether he was appreciated there or not. What he wished was that a mineralogical lecturer should be sent to the district he represented, in accordance with a distinct promise made by the Minister some four or five years ago. They had been waiting patiently, and he had made representations almost annually ever since then; but so far without result, although from Mr. Jack's report most excellent results were to be expected. He certainly thought some two or three more lecturers might be appointed for the other districts of the colony, in order that the same benefits might be conferred upon those districts, which probably would be very much better off now, and more closely approach the prosperity which existed at Charters Towers than they did at present, had they the same opportunities.

Mr. POWERS said he wished to know when it was likely that the Howard Coal Fields would have the use of a diamond drill? The people there had applied for the use of one for some time, and had never had one yet. They wished to know whether there was any good hard coal lower down, and he hoped that the Minister for Mines would see his way to send the drill to the Howard Coal Fields before it was sent elsewhere. That district supported a large population, and it was not expecting too much to ask the Government to put down a bore on the Government land, of which there was a great quantity in the district. So far as the rest of the mining vote was concerned, he might express regret that the Government did not see their way to put an amount down for prospecting, or else adopt the suggestion made by the hon. member for Charters Towers, and increase the rewards offered for the discovery of new goldfields. When they looked at the total amount of the mining estimates, £24,000, and compared it with the amounts that were down for other industries, they would see that it was the smallest in any department, except in that of the Auditor-General. If any Ministry came down with an estimate giving assistance to the mining industry, he was sure the Committee would support that Ministry; and if the mining members sometimes complained that they did not receive assistance from other hon. members, they could not say that any hon. member had ever tried to reduce the mining vote. They did not all talk about those things, because they did not all know everything about mining, but they all recognised the importance of the mining industry; and if the mining members could induce the Government to put a larger vote on the Estimates than they had, he was sure they would find that they had more friends than enemies in that Committee.

Mr. ANNEAR said the mining industry had always had friends in that Committee. Members generally who did not represent mining

constituencies had always done their duty towards that industry; and it was too bad for the hon. members for Charters Towers and Gympie to get up and say that other members were opposed to the mining industry. He agreed with the hon. member for Burrum that they ought to give greater rewards for the discovery of new gold-fields, but the hon. members he had just referred to should remember that of £8,000 voted for deep sinking nearly the whole had been spent on Charters Towers and Gympie. He rose to defend himself and other hon. members who had always supported and assisted the mining industry. He had a good many miners and others interested in mining in his constituency, men who had spent thousands of pounds in prospecting for gold and buying into claims in different parts of the colony, and he was sure that hon. members would be always found ready to assist in the development of that most important industry.

Mr. SMYTH said he was thankful for the lecture just delivered by the hon. member for Maryborough. Gympie had actually supported the people of Maryborough for years by getting them to make crushing and mining plants, and in other ways, and now the hon. member for that constituency wanted to put the mining industry at the tail end of all industries. It was the leading industry of the colony. There was £24,000 down for mining—

The CHAIRMAN said the hon. gentleman was wandering from the question before the Committee.

Mr. SMYTH said he wanted to know from the Minister for Mines whether the £750 that had been knocked off from the Estimates would be replaced next year? Charters Towers had got £2,000 for a school of mines, and he would like to know if Gympie was to be left out in the cold?

The MINISTER FOR MINES said he was astonished at the remarks of the hon. member. There was no department in which so much money was spent upon scientific education as in the Department of Mines. Out of the whole vote of £24,000 for mines, only about £7,000 was spent in matters other than what might be termed "departmental administration." The hon. member complained about £750 being struck off; but would he not acknowledge that £3,000 had been spent in purchasing the best diamond drill in the colony for the special use of the Gympie Gold Field, and that the continued vitality of that field was dependent on the results of the action of that drill? If his predecessor in office had given the slightest pledge that £750 would be granted on any conditions whatever, he (the Minister for Mines) would be the last in the world to violate that pledge in any degree.

Mr. SMYTH said the Minister for Mines had not given an answer about the £750 yet; he was avoiding it. With reference to the diamond drill, the one procured was a duplicate of the "Giant" drill now working on Sandhurst, Victoria, one of the best in Australia. The mistake made was that it should have been of such a size that it could be taken down the shaft and worked below instead of from the surface. The one at work in the No. 180 mine at Sandhurst had been put down 390 feet from the 2,640 feet level to test the mine. He did not want to deliver a lecture on mining.

The COLONIAL TREASURER rose to a point of order. There was not the slightest connection between the question before the Committee and the remarks of the hon. member.

The CHAIRMAN said he considered the hon. member was wandering from the question before the Committee, and that he was out of order in doing so.

Mr. SMYTH said that what they wanted on Gympie after they had done with the present drill was one that could be taken down the shaft and worked from the bottom with compressed air. With regard to the Government geologists, one of them had found it more profitable to turn mining assayer himself, and they now had one geological lecturer up North. In New Zealand they spent thousands of pounds on geological lecturers, and in Victoria they spent £80,000 a year in prospecting, but in this colony, which showed the largest output of minerals of all descriptions, there was the paltry sum of £24,000 voted for the Mines Department. Every other industry but the mining industry was wet-nursed.

Mr. HAMILTON said that in connection with the mining vote, the Government had not exercised economy but parsimony, and not only in connection with the vote for prospecting, but in other matters, and especially in regard to his constituency. On Thursday Island there was a mining registrar, who was doing his work for nothing, but his combined duties were very heavy. Sub-inspector Savage was clerk of petty sessions, and used to get an allowance of £25, but that had been reduced to £20. At Cooktown the police magistrate was mineral lands commissioner and goldfields warden, and there were also employed Mr. Beor as mining registrar and Mr. Emanuel as assistant. Mr. Emanuel had been dispensed with, and Mr. Milman, the police magistrate, had to visit the Annan Tin Fields forty or fifty times a year. During his absence Mr. Beor, the clerk of petty sessions, acted as police magistrate, and three or four days a week his court sat in the afternoon. Now that Mr. Emanuel had been discharged, the mining registrar's office would be closed. When a miner applied for a claim he had to go all the way to Cooktown; post his application to the warden, and then six days after he had to attend and answer any objections. When he did apply, the mining registrar would be doing duty as police magistrate, and he would have to stop an extra day in town in order to help in saving a paltry £150 a year, the salary paid to Mr. Emanuel. At present, £11,000 worth of tin was exported annually from Cooktown, and he thought the way in which his district had been treated was most unfair. If Mr. Emanuel's services were not retained, the mining registrar should have an assistant.

Mr. GLASSEY said there were many matters he wished to refer to, but as hon. members were getting impatient he would not take up much time, but he intended before the session closed to say something with regard to several matters that ought to be discussed on that vote. He was sorry that the Minister for Mines had not given a definite answer to the hon. member for Gympie with respect to whether the Government were prepared to give £750, provided that Gympie raised a similar sum. If he had answered in the affirmative, he (Mr. Glassey) was going to ask that a similar concession should be made to other mining districts. With respect to the mineralogical lecturer, he thought it would be fair to appoint another lecturer. He should be very sorry to object to Charters Towers getting the benefit of the lecturer's services; but he thought that other centres should get the services of a lecturer as well. He recollected hearing Mr. Hooker deliver a lecture on mining, which was a most interesting one, and imparted a great amount of information. He would ask the Minister for

Mines whether the money which was paid by engine drivers in the shape of fees for examination had been returned, because he had had a letter from a gentleman asking if such a thing had been done and whom to apply to?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes.

Mr. GLASSEY said he was glad to hear that. He wished to refer to another matter. In the returns of the output of coal there was an apparent reduction. As a matter of fact, there ought to be a considerable increase, but there was a reduction, because there was no compulsory power to insist upon the mine proprietors returning the output. He had urged the necessity of having a clause inserted in the Mining Bill when it was going through, compelling proprietors to make a return annually of the output of their mineral, but that was rejected. He found in a foot-note to the report of the Mines Department, that—

“There is an apparent falling off in the production of coal, which can be accounted for by the fact that several large coal proprietors have neglected to furnish returns of their output for the last year.”

That was a most serious thing. Persons reading the return would naturally come to the conclusion that there had been a considerable falling off, whereas, as a matter of fact, nothing of the kind had taken place. The Minister for Mines ought to insist upon the regulations being properly carried out.

Mr. SMYTH said he had not yet had an answer to his question about the £750 for a school of mines at Gympie.

Mr. FOXTON said he should like an answer to his question about a mineralogical lecturer for his own constituency.

The Hon. J. M. MACROSSAN said he could throw some light upon the question asked by the hon. member for Gympie. Immediately after the late Treasurer's Estimates were tabled the hon. member for Wide Bay—now the Colonial Secretary—drew his attention to the £2,000 on the Estimates for Charters Towers, and asked whether, if Gympie would subscribe £750 for a school of mines, the Government would subsidise it to the same amount. He (Mr. Macrossan) said he believed the Government would do so, and promised to get such a subsidy passed on those conditions, they being the same conditions on which Charters Towers was to get the £2,000.

The MINISTER FOR MINES said that every pledge given by his predecessor would be carried out. With regard to the application of the hon. member for Carnarvon, he had been in correspondence with the Government Geologist on the subject of the lecturer, and it appeared that the lecturer's duties at Charters Towers in teaching his classes were so continuous and so important that it would probably be some time before he could leave that place. If those classes were broken up, what object would be gained? The lecturer could only remain at Stanthorpe for a few weeks at the most, which would be of no practical benefit, while Charters Towers would be deprived of what was the nucleus of the school of mines they hoped to establish there.

Mr. FOXTON said that simply meant that Charters Towers was to derive all the benefit from the employment of the mineralogical lecturer, and the rest of the colony was to be allowed to potter along in the same old way without the necessary instruction to develop the mining industry.

Mr. LITTLE said it was very necessary that a mineralogical lecturer should be sent to Herberton to give the miners there some instruction.

Mr. SMYTH said that if the Government would build a new court-house at Gympie, and give them the present court-house for a school of mines, they would be perfectly satisfied.

The PREMIER said the hon. member must see that it was impossible for a Government to answer questions like that. The Government were not benevolent deities who could grant every request they thought fit. The Government had to consider whether they had the money before they could spend it.

Mr. SMYTH said all they wanted at Gympie was equal justice with other parts of the colony.

Mr. PAUL said the mineralogical lecturers ought to teach the miners something about strikes. The strike at Newcastle had been a most cruel thing. There should be a lecturer appointed by the Government to counteract the influence of those delegates who went about the country—

Mr. GLASSEY said he would ask whether the hon. member was in order.

The CHAIRMAN said the hon. member for Leichhardt was quite out of order. The question of strikes had nothing to do with the question before the Committee.

Mr. PAUL said the mineralogical lecturers should be instructed to advise those engaged in mining that they should not be led away by men who were paid delegates, and who interfered with their daily work. He knew he was always called to order.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: You are quite out of order now.

Mr. PAUL said that was a subject upon which every man who was a member of Parliament should speak. Every member who did not fear the working man's vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I again call the hon. member to order. He is not discussing the matter before the Committee.

Mr. PAUL said he insisted upon his right to speak, and he thought he was in order in referring to the vote for a mineralogical lecturer, and suggesting that the miners should be advised to avoid those delegates who had caused so much disturbance in Newcastle.

The MINISTER FOR MINES said he would ask the hon. member, as a gentleman, not to further delay the Committee by that irrelevant discussion.

Mr. PAUL said he was speaking seriously, and he thought it was the duty of every member of the Committee to ask the Government to instruct their lecturers to advise the miners against those delegates who led them astray.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Order, order!

The CHAIRMAN: I have already called the hon. member to order. The question is the vote for goldfields.

Mr. SAYERS said he would like the Minister for Mines to answer the question he had asked—

Mr. PAUL: I am in possession of the Chair.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Order, order!

The CHAIRMAN: I put the question, and the hon. member for Charters Towers rising in his place I called “Mr. Sayers.”

Mr. SAYERS said he wished to know whether the Government would consider the advisability of putting a sum of money on the Estimates for prospecting parties. He did not wish to delay the Committee, and his question could have been answered two hours ago. Four hours had been wasted that afternoon in discussing one item in the lands vote, and there had been no shaking of

heads over that. Every year he had been in the House the mines vote had come on in the fag end of the evening, and there was not sufficient time given to discuss it. Seeing that the £3,000 for prospecting had been struck off, he wished to know if the Government would consider the advisability of putting a certain sum on the Estimates for the purpose of encouraging private prospectors to attempt the discovery of gold-fields?

The MINISTER FOR MINES said the Government would take into consideration the advisability of putting a sum of money on the Estimates for private prospecting parties. As he had said before, there was a prospecting party of ten, or he should say two parties of five each, prospecting the conglomerate of the Palmer district at the present moment, and every application from private prospecting parties would receive consideration.

Mr. SAYERS: I mean a reward.

The MINISTER FOR MINES said there were rewards already provided by law, ranging from a small sum up to £1,000.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER the House resumed; the CHAIRMAN reported progress, and the Committee obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IVORY ESTATE ENABLING BILL.

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

SOLICITORS BILL.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Council forwarding this Bill for the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly.

FIRST READING.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that the Bill be read a first time. In doing so I may say that this is a Bill introduced in the Legislative Council by a member of my profession. It is not in any way connected with the Government, and I make the motion for the first reading as a matter of courtesy, and until such time as some member of the Assembly is appointed to take charge of the Bill here.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the second reading of the Bill was made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

VALUATION AND RATING BILL.

The SPEAKER, in announcing the receipt of a message from the Legislative Council, returning this Bill with amendments indicated in an accompanying schedule, and in which amendments the Legislative Council requested the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly, said: With respect to this message, I feel it my duty to direct the attention of the House to the character of some of the amendments which have been made, and which I am of opinion are a direct infringement of the privileges of this House. The 2nd section of the Constitution Act of 1867 provides that—

“All Bills for appropriating any part of the public revenue for imposing any new rate, tax, or impost, subject always to the limitations hereinafter provided, shall originate in the Legislative Assembly of the said colony.”

The phraseology of this provision seems to have encouraged the opinion that, although the Legislative Council could not originate Appropriation or Taxation Bills, they are, nevertheless, entitled to amend them when sent up to them from the Assembly, and this led to a dispute in 1885 between the two Houses. On the 12th November of that year the Assembly, in a message to the Council, point out that—

“It has generally been admitted that in British colonies in which there are two branches of the legislature the legislative functions of the Upper House correspond with those of the House of Lords, while the Lower House exercise the right and powers of the House of Commons.”

Following up this statement of claim, they maintain that their position with reference to Bills of aid and supply is similar to that of the House of Commons, and that these may not be amended by the Legislative Council. On the same date the Council in reply claim that—

“In the amendment of all Bills the Constitution Act of 1867 confers on the Legislative Council powers co-ordinate with those of the Legislative Assembly.”

In order to set the dispute at rest, a case was prepared and referred to the Privy Council, and the two following questions were submitted for decision:—

“1. Whether the Constitution Act of 1867 confers on the Legislative Council powers co-ordinate with those of the Legislative Assembly in the amendment of all Bills, including money Bills?

“2. Whether the claims of the Legislative Assembly, as set forth in their message of 12th November, are well-founded?”

The reply to those is as follows:—

“Their lordships agree humbly to report to your Majesty, as their opinion, that the first of these questions should be answered in the negative, and the second in the affirmative.”

It will be observed that the claim of the Legislative Council, which was thus disposed of, is exactly the same as that which was maintained by the House of Lords until about 200 years ago, when it was effectually resisted by the Commons. Up to the present time, the right of amendment in certain particulars is allowed, as is indicated by our Standing Order No. 268, which is an adaptation of that of the House of Commons; but the money clauses must not be altered by the Lords. I shall now read what “May” says on the subject. It will be found on page 641, and is as follows:—

“The Lords were not originally precluded from amending Bills of Supply; for there are numerous cases in the journals in which Lords’ amendments to such Bills were agreed to; but in 1671 the Commons advanced their claim somewhat further, by resolving *nem. con.*, ‘That in all aids given to the King by the Commons the rate or tax ought not to be altered;’ and in 1678 their claim was urged so far as to exclude the Lords from all power of amending Bills of Supply. On the 3rd of July in that year they resolved:—

“That all aids and supplies, and aids to His Majesty in Parliament are the sole gift of the Commons; and all Bills for the granting of any such aids and supplies ought to begin with the Commons; and that it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations, and qualifications of such grants, which ought not to be changed or altered by the House of Lords.”

“It is upon this latter resolution that all proceedings between the two Houses in matters of Supply are now founded. The principle is acquiesced in by the Lords, and, except in cases where it is difficult to determine whether a matter be strictly one of Supply or not, no serious difference can well arise. The Lords rarely attempt to make any but verbal alterations, in which the sense or intention is not affected; and even in regard to these, when the Commons have accepted them, they have made special entries in their journal, recording the character and object of the amendments and their reason for agreeing to them. So strictly is the principle observed in all matters affecting the public revenues, that where certain payments have been directed, by a Bill, to be made into and out of the consolidated fund, the

Commons have refused to permit the Lords to insert a clause, providing that such payments should be made under the same regulations as were applicable by law to other similar payments."

Nor may those affecting rates and charges, except where the intention of the Commons is not interfered with. On page 642, "May" says on this point:—

"In Bills not confined to matters of aid or taxation, but in which pecuniary burthens are imposed upon the people, the Lords may make any amendments, provided they do not alter the intentions of the Commons with regard to the amount of the rate or charge, whether by increase or reduction; its duration, its mode of assessment, levy, collection, appropriation, or management; or the persons who shall pay, receive, manage, or control it; or the limits within which it is proposed to be levied."

The relative position of the two Houses is indicated with equal clearness by "Dwarris on Statutes," page 338:—

"The House of Commons, indeed, from an early period of its history, had always claimed to itself, as its exclusive right, 'The grant of aids and taxes to the Crown for the Public Service.' But the Commons did not always insist with the same earnestness and precision as they have of late years exhibited upon their privileges—'That the Lords should make no amendments to Bills of Supply.' There are a variety of instances, particularly before the Revolution, where the Lords made amendments to Bills of this nature, to which amendments the Commons did agree. At this period they appear to have been satisfied with maintaining the principle, 'that all Bills of aid or Supply, or charge upon the people, should begin with them; and that the Lords should not commence any proceeding that might impose burthens upon the people.' But they soon found that under pretence of making amendments in Bills, originating in the Commons, the Lords inserted matter 'which had the appearance of trenching upon the privileges of the Commons,' so that after several discussions and conferences the Commons found themselves obliged to lay down the rule more largely, and to resolve, 'that in all aids given to the King by the Commons, the rate or tax ought not to be altered by the Lords'

"The first instance in which the Commons expressly took exception to the Lords inserting pecuniary penalties was in the year 1690. The ground and principle upon which this objection was made, and has since been maintained, is to prevent the Lords from evading, under a pretence of imposing a pecuniary fine or penalty, that rule so distinctly laid down by the Commons in several conferences which have been held upon the subject, 'That all charges upon the people begin with the Commons, and cannot be altered by the Lords.' Upon the same principle the Commons have objected to any alteration made by the Lords in the application or distribution of pecuniary penalties imposed by the Commons; but it does not appear that this objection has been extended by the Commons to instances in which the Lords, by disagreeing to clauses or making other alterations in the Bill as sent from the Commons, have entirely withdrawn from the penalty the object upon whom the Commons meant it should attach. The Lords have now for many years desisted either from beginning any Bill or from making amendments to Bills passed by the Commons, which, either in the form of positive taxes or pecuniary penalties, or in any other shape, might by construction be considered as imposing burthens upon the people, and the rules laid down by the Commons have been very generally acquiesced in.

"The following propositions are supposed by Mr Hatsell to contain nearly the whole of their undeniable pretensions:—

"First: That in Bills of aid and Supply, as the Lords cannot begin them, so they cannot make any alterations, either as to the *quantum* of the rate, or the disposition of it; or indeed any amendment whatsoever, except in correcting verbal or literal mistakes; and even these the House of Commons direct to be entered especially in their journals, that the nature of the amendments may appear, and that no argument prejudicial to their privileges may be hereafter drawn from their having agreed to such amendments.

Secondly: That in Bills which are not for the special grant of Supply, but which, however, impose pecuniary burthens upon the people, such as Bills for turnpike roads, for navigations, for paving, for managing the poor, etc., for which purposes tolls and rates must be collected; in these, though the Lords may make amendments, these amendments must not make any alterations

in the *quantum* of the toll or rate, in the disposition or duration of it, or in the persons, commissioners, or collectors appointed to manage it. In all the other parts and clauses of these Bills not relative to any of these matters, the Commons have not objected to the Lords making alterations or amendments.

"Thirdly: where the Bill or the amendments made by the Lords appear to be of a nature which, though not immediately, yet in their consequences, will bring a charge upon the people, the Commons have denied the right of the Lords to make such amendments, and the Lords have acquiesced.

"And, lastly, the Commons, assert that the Lords have no right to insert in a Bill pecuniary penalties or forfeitures, or to alter the application or distribution of the pecuniary penalties or forfeitures which have been inserted by the Commons."

As the Privy Council have decided that the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly occupy relatively similar positions to those of the Lords and Commons, it is unnecessary that I should quote other authorities to maintain my conclusion, that the Legislative Council by their amendments have infringed the privileges of the Assembly. It has, however, been suggested to me that the Lords, in 1888, exercised a similar right of amendment in the Local Government Act of that year. The seemingly most important of their amendments was made in section 44, subsection 1, paragraph (b). This section provides for the application of the Act to special counties and to liberties, and the paragraph originally read as follows:—

"(b) The eastern and western divisions of Sussex, under the County of Sussex Act of 1865, shall respectively be separate administrative counties for the purposes of this Act."

The Lords inserted after 1865 "and, except for rating purposes, the eastern and western divisions of Suffolk." This amendment the Commons accepted, with the omission of the words "except for rating purposes." The amendment does not indicate a desire on the part of the Lords to amend clauses relating to rating, but, on the contrary, proves how scrupulously they avoid interfering with the privileges of the Commons. The explanation of the double amendment is given by "May," p. 644, who quotes an exactly analogous case:—

"In 1846, the Lords extended the Contagious Diseases Bill to Scotland and Ireland, but as there were rating clauses, they inserted a clause providing that such rating powers should not be so extended. To this clause the Commons disagreed, the Lords did not insist upon their amendment, and thus the whole Bill was extended to Scotland and Ireland."

I would point out with regard to the amendment in the Local Government Act, that the Lords made the amendment under special circumstances, and with a special design. They admitted they had no right to interfere with the rating clauses, and, therefore, in their amendment they except the application of the rating to the particular county for the purpose mentioned. Under an understanding between the two Houses the words "except for rating purposes," were omitted, and the amendment was accepted with that omission, so that the Commons approving of the amendment of the House of Lords, which they desire to accept to give the full application of the Bill to the county of Suffolk, omitted the words "except for purposes of rating," thus bringing the county of Suffolk into the Bill in the same way as the other counties referred to. This taken in connection with "May" shows most distinctly that the House of Lords in a matter of this kind relating to rating avoid any interference with the privileges of the House of Commons.

The PREMIER said: Mr. Speaker,—I move that the message of the Legislative Council be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER said : Mr. Speaker,—I move that this House do now adjourn. The first business to-morrow will be the consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments in the Valuation and Rating Bill, and afterwards we propose to go on with Supply. I did hope to be able to bring on the resolutions relative to the Northern, Central, and Southern districts of the colony on Thursday evening, and if we make fair progress to-morrow I still hope to be able to do so.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN said : Mr Speaker,—I would ask the hon. gentleman if he expects to finish on Thursday evening?

The PREMIER : I do not expect to, but I hope it will not be a long debate.

The HON. J. M. MACROSSAN : It is impossible to say how long it will last.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past 11 o'clock.