

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER 1898

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER, 1898.

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

MINING COMPANIES BILL.

FIRST READING.

The House in committee having affirmed the desirableness of introducing this Bill, it was, on the motion of the TREASURER, read a first time, and its second reading made an Order of the Day for Monday next.

SUPPLY.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE.

Mr. ANNEAR, as Chairman of Committees, presented a report from Committee of Supply covering resolutions passed in connection with the departments of Treasury, Lands, and Agriculture.

Resolutions agreed to.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION moved that £4,410 be granted for salaries and contingencies in this department. There was an increase of £85 in the vote which was made up of small advances to clerks, £25 in one case, and in six other cases £10 each.

Mr. GLASSEY wished to direct attention to a few paragraphs in the report of the General Inspector for the year, which deserved the serious consideration of the Minister and of members of the Committee. At page 49 of the report of the department it would be found that the General Inspector said—

In the statistics for the year I again note provisional schools to the number of sixty-seven, which, on the warrant of their average attendance, ought to be State schools. I do not bring this matter forward or press it unduly, so as to hamper the Minister or trespass violently on the financial resources of the country; but makeshifts should not be tolerated a day longer than can be helped, let alone perpetuated; and I am bound to point out the immense impulse that would be imparted to the service by establishing State schools to supersede large provisional schools amid a settled population, and thus affording comfortable homes and larger duties for married men now serving as assistants, on a salary which was never designed to be a salary for a married man. Of these there are now a score on the list, and I know of others who would marry at once if they saw an open door to a home without straitened circumstances.

During the time he had been a member of the House if there had been one thing which had pleased him more than another it was the liberality which had always been shown by hon. members to make provision for the education of the children of the colony in a reasonable manner. He was sure that the circumstances of married men occupying the position of teachers of provisional schools at the very small salary attached to that position must be straitened, as those salaries were entirely inadequate for the ordinary requirements of a married man and his family. He did not think the Minister had shown that vigour and determination that he ought to have exhibited in not converting those sixty-seven provisional schools into State schools, in not seeing that competent teachers were provided, and that they were paid reasonable salaries. Persons of ability and culture would not enter the service in consequence of the small remuneration which was now paid in provisional schools, and which it had never been intended that the teachers should live upon. He was pleased to see in the Chief Inspector's report, that in

consequence of the increased attendance, necessitating an increase in the teaching staff of 110, and through a number of the teachers' salaries being restored, there was an increase in salaries of £19,000. It was very gratifying to know that the system of retrenchment was being somewhat relaxed this year; but, at the same time, it in no way affected the provisional school teachers.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION considered the report of the Chief Inspector a very valuable document. The hon. member for Bundaberg seemed to imagine that the fact that sixty-seven provisional schools had not been converted into State schools was due to some default on the part of the department. If the department had the power to compel persons to subscribe towards the erection of schools and to send their children to school, they would be able to make those schools into State schools; but, if the inhabitants in a district, in which the attendance at a provisional school was over thirty, declined to subscribe one-fifth of the cost of the necessary buildings, the department was unable to take any steps whatever. To show that the department was desirous that the present state of affairs should terminate, he might inform the Committee that a circular had been sent to all the committees and teachers of those schools, begging them to do their part and that the department would find the requisite four-fifths as soon as they did so. In every way possible they had impressed upon those interested the necessity of doing their part in the matter. If the hon. member would only suggest any means by which anything additional could be done, he would be exceedingly indebted to him. He thought it would be better to postpone any discussion on the salaries until they had discussed the administration of the department and the reports of the Under Secretary and the General Inspector.

Mr. GLASSEY: He was glad to hear that the department had tried to remedy the state of affairs that existed at present. He was sure that the Minister, and the department generally, would admit that things were not satisfactory when they had no less than sixty-seven provisional schools, some of them in places where large populations were fairly settled. He did not find any fault with the Minister for this. The law required altering, and the sooner they altered it the better, so that the inhabitants should not be hampered by reason of their having to find one-fifth of the cost of a State school before the department could move in the matter. Notwithstanding the prosperity they heard of, it was very difficult to raise this amount, and certainly the Chief Inspector implied that there was some laxity on the part of the department, when he said that he did not wish to hamper the Minister or trespass unduly upon the financial resources of the colony. If a different state of things obtained, there were many young men who would marry if they could see their way to maintain wives and families.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He had not the slightest doubt that the inclination of mankind was to marry, but the usual stumbling-block was circumstances. In regard to the interpretation which the hon. gentleman placed upon the remarks of the Chief Inspector, what he understood from the report was that that officer was not a politician. His business was to deal with scholastic matters strictly, and his meaning simply was that he did not wish to interfere with political matters, which were for the legislature to deal with. With regard to the hon. member's criticisms respecting provisional schools which might be made into State schools, he was glad to find that they did not reflect on the administration of the department, but were directed to the present

state of the law. They were, however, now dealing with the Estimates for the department, and not with the law, which might be right or might be wrong. In some places where there were overgrown provisional schools, the people whose children were attending the schools, were so thoroughly satisfied with the master and the tuition imparted to their children that they did not want any alteration, because they knew that the moment the provisional school became a State school, the teacher with whom they were familiar, and whose abilities and attention they admired, must be superseded by a classified officer. That was one reason why the present state of affairs was continued in some localities. Another reason was that there were considerable differences both in respect to wealth and in the inclination which people had to part with what was theirs for social objects, so that their disposition to contribute towards the cost of converting a provisional school into a State school did not always coincide with their means. A third reason was that in portions of the country which depended on a timber demand or the permanence of a mining field there was no guarantee that in three or four years the population would not dwindle considerably, and the inhabitants did not think it advisable to go to the expense of putting up a costly school. The department some time ago despatched the following circular to the secretaries of provisional school committees where the attendance at the provisional school was over thirty, namely:—

To the secretary of the provisional school at
The attendance at the provisional school at
has averaged for the last As defined by the Education Act of 1875, a provisional school is a school in which temporary provision is made for the instruction of children; and in regulation 7 it is laid down that a State school may be established where an average attendance of thirty children is likely to be secured.

Provisional schools were designed only for thinly-peopled districts, where the attendance of pupils must necessarily be small, and were not intended to meet the educational wants of a numerous settled population: for the latter a State school is the proper provision, and is the provision contemplated by the framers of the Education Act, and by the Parliament that passed it. The provisional school is a makeshift, and the department is not organised to equip those schools with buildings, furniture, and teachers in a satisfactory way, or to fit them to give an education up to the standard required by the State.

I am directed by the Secretary for Public Instruction to draw your attention to the foregoing facts, and to request the school committee to take steps forthwith for the establishment of a State school to supersede the provisional school at If the existing buildings are of use in connection with a State school, an allowance will be made for them.

The school committee are invited to raise the necessary local contributions, and to ask me for any further information they require.

I have, etc.,
Under Secretary.

If any suspicion existed in the mind of the hon. member that the department had been at fault in the matter, he would ask what more the department could have done than they had already done?

Mr. SMITH had always found the Minister and the department very anxious to further the cause of education in every possible way. He should like to know whether the committee of the provisional school at the Lower Proserpine had taken any steps to establish a State school there instead of the present provisional school? The place was a large centre of population, and its prospects were very promising. At the time the school was established he advocated that it should be a State school; but notwithstanding his advocacy a provisional school was established.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION was very glad to be able to inform the hon. member that the committee had taken

the necessary steps to have a State school established at the Lower Proserpine, and that the Works Department had been instructed to prepare plans and estimates of a building, and to value the existing building for the purpose of making an equitable allowance to the committee.

Mr. McDONNELL thought the Minister deserved recognition of the action taken with respect to the salaries of head teachers and assistants as shown by those Estimates. He was pleased to see that the salaries of the lower paid head teachers had been increased. The Ministry had in this case departed from their traditional policy by increasing the lower paid at the expense of the higher instead of increasing the higher paid at the expense of the lower.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: No; no one loses.

Mr. McDONNELL thought he could show that what he had said was correct. The senior member for Toowoomba had intended to deal with the matter, but he was prevented from being present to do so because he had to preside at the breaking-up of the Toowoomba schools, as he had done for the past fifteen years. The hon. member had asked him to bring forward a few matters connected with the head teachers, and amongst them the case of the Drayton State school, which was closed for ten days through the outbreak of measles. No doubt hon. members, in common with himself, had received a circular from the Teachers' Association, and if hon. members would look at tables A, B, and C, it would be found that there was a decrease in the salaries paid to head teachers as compared with what they were getting in 1893. There were thirty-six salaries connected with eight classes of schools, and out of that number there were twenty-six on which there were decreases. In Class I., division 1, there was a decrease, of £30; Class II., £56; Class III., £60, and Class IV., £52; and the only classes of schools in which increases were received by the head teachers were Classes VI., VII., and VIII. In the rest the salaries paid were lower than in 1893 before the retrenchment.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I was not talking about that.

Mr. McDONNELL was glad the hon. member admitted that he was correct. With the exception of some wages men in the Railway Department and the teachers, all classes in the Public Service had had restored to them the amount of salary by which they had been retrenched in 1893. The school teachers had been more severely retrenched at that time than any other servants of the State, but the Treasury was now in a good condition and the teachers should receive the consideration that was due to them. Under the new scheme of 1898 the salaries of head teachers would depend to some extent on the attendance at their schools, for there were no emoluments.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: They got emoluments, only we don't call them emoluments.

Mr. McDONNELL: They got emoluments before, in addition to salary.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: But they got less salary. On the whole, they got more now than they have been getting, or at least as much.

Mr. McDONNELL: He was pointing out that the salary would now depend to some extent upon the attendance, and he hoped that the spirit of the regulation 27 of the 1885 Regulations would be observed in cases where a considerable diminution in the average attendance at a school was due to the outbreak of epidemics, or to other causes for which the teacher could not be held responsible, and the salary should not suffer in consequence. The 6th paragraph of the head teachers' circular stated that about seventy head teachers would

receive less than they received just prior to the 1893 retrenchment. A large number of head teachers were very dissatisfied with the 1898 basis of payment, and their claims to have their salaries restored to what they were in 1893 was reasonable, and deserved consideration. Since they discussed the Estimates last year the hon. gentleman had removed some of the grievances, but there was still room for improvement. In dealing with the case of the assistant teachers, the most remarkable feature in connection with the reduction which had been made in the time that should elapse between promotion and promotion was that it had been so strongly opposed by the Minister in the past. He did not see why the hon. gentleman could not have done some years ago what he had done this year.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: You do not hold the purse-strings, nor do I.

Mr. McDONNELL: The general opinion among hon. members for years had been that the salaries of assistant teachers were not commensurate with their work, and the regrettable feature in connection with the reduction in time between promotions was that it was practically confined to Class III. He knew that there was a reduction of one year between promotions in Class II.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: In every division—a reduction of 33 per cent. in the time.

Mr. McDONNELL: There was a reduction of one year between the different divisions in Class III., and one year between the different divisions in Class II. and Class I. The Minister should at all events have made a reduction of two years between promotions in Class II. divisions, which would bring the intervals in that class in line with Class III. The salary for Class II. Division 1 was £168, and, even if the concession he asked for was made, it would mean that a man must be at least thirty years of age before he could receive that salary; and in order to obtain it a teacher had to undergo what was admitted by the department to be one of the stiffest examinations in the service. Under the regulation as it stood he would have to be thirty-two or thirty-three years of age before he could receive that salary, or after thirteen years' service. It could not be argued that this concession would involve any considerable expenditure, because there were only nineteen teachers in Class III. who were eligible by examination for admission to Class II., and there were only eleven assistant teachers at present in Class II. He admitted that the amended regulation made a great concession to the assistant teachers, but the request that the reduction in time between promotions in Class II. should be two years instead of one year was not unfair when it was remembered that under the regulations of 1895 promotions from one division to another division of the same class could be made annually as a reward for efficient service, which had been testified to by one or more favourable reports from inspectors. No matter what ability a man might show, it was impossible for him to receive the salary he had mentioned until he had been sixteen years in the department; and, admitting as he did, that a concession had been granted by the amendment of the regulations, he still maintained that the salaries now paid, particularly in Class III., were not sufficient. There were twenty-four married assistants in the department, and of that number one received £102, eleven £114, and ten £126. The leader of the Opposition dealt with the paragraph relating to the position of these officers, which was a matter that should receive greater attention than it had up to the present; and he thought it was to the credit of Mr. Ewart, who was always candid and open in his utterances, that he had written in the strain he had,

Of course the Minister might say that these assistants should not get married, but if an assistant did not get married he could not get charge of a school, and in order to advance himself he naturally got married. It was a most awkward position to put an assistant teacher in, and it was as well to recognise the position. If he did not get married he could not get charge of a State school; and if he did he would only receive a wage which, according to Mr. Ewart, was not sufficient for a married man. No matter how economical a man might be, he could not live comfortably on such a salary.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: There are many who receive more than that who are not married.

Mr. McDONNELL: Not very many, possibly eight or nine, who received more than £126, and seven of them were teachers who received allowances under the regulations before 1890. The point he wished to make was that, considering there was a number of assistant teachers receiving a salary of less than £126 per annum, and that there was a very small possibility of their being absorbed as head teachers, the Minister should favourably consider the advisability, if not the justice, of giving married assistants an allowance in the shape of rent. That was done in the case of the police, and it should be done in that of the teachers, who had to live up to a certain position, and it was humiliating that they should have to bring up a family on a salary of £114 per annum. Another point he should like to refer to was that of staff rank. At an interview granted by the late Premier to the teachers at Charters Towers, the late Mr. Byrnes said he thoroughly agreed that their claim to have staff rank reinstated was a just one. Staff rank was abolished in 1888; and in that year, according to a reply the Minister gave to a question he asked the other day, £4,184 was paid to assistants in the shape of emoluments. That amount had practically been retrenched from their salaries since then, and they had received no consideration in respect of that retrenchment. At the time staff rank was in vogue, a teacher who showed a considerable amount of ability could at the age of twenty-five obtain a salary of £200 per annum, inclusive of his emoluments, and those emoluments were paid as a recognition of exceptional ability. But now a teacher of exceptional ability had no better chance of promotion from one class to another than the man who was possessed of very little ability. This matter had been brought prominently before the public by the agitation of the teachers, and he believed that it was owing to the fact that the prospects of a person entering the department were not as good as they ought to be because of such discouragements that the department had a difficulty in obtaining male pupil-teachers. Under the present system all teachers were practically on the one plane, and the abolition of staff rank had produced the further grievance that when a head teacher was absent from his post through illness, or on leave, he had the right to nominate a teacher to take charge of the school, a system which was open to grave abuses.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I do not think so.

Mr. McDONNELL: Perhaps "abuse" was not the correct word to use; but what he meant was that the head teacher might nominate a teacher of Class III. for that duty when there was a teacher of Class II. in the same school.

THE TREASURER: He might be a better teacher.

Mr. McDONNELL: Of course he was speaking of cases in which the men might be equal as far as teaching ability was concerned. When staff rank was in force no such difficulty could arise, because the first assistant would naturally

take charge of the school in the absence of the head teacher. The *Queensland Education Journal* of November contained an expression of opinion of the head teachers on this question, in which it was stated that the system of staff rank in vogue for assistants prior to the retrenchment was a reward for meritorious service and a recognition of the ability of a teacher, and that its reintroduction would remove the dissatisfaction among the assistants. He hoped the Minister would recognise that the establishment of staff rank was a necessity, as under that system the most deserving and capable men would receive recognition for their ability and deserts. A reduction of the time between promotions had been promised by the late Premier when he was up North. He had seen that hon. gentleman on his return to Brisbane on 17th August, and had received his assurance that the reduction would be granted, and at the same time Mr. Byrnes had told him that he was strongly in favour of the re-establishment of staff rank, but he could not at the time make any definite statement in the matter. He gave this information at the time to the assistant teachers' executive.

Mr. FINNEY: The Minister had made a splendid move ahead by the reduction of the periods between promotions in all classes and grades, and the great body of the teachers were very grateful for the improvement which had placed them in a better position than that they had been in before. There were still, however, some who had grievances which he hoped the Minister would redress. Several head teachers retrenched in 1893 had not yet had their original salaries restored to them, and seeing that all other classes in the service had had their salaries restored, it was only fair that those men should receive similar treatment. He agreed with the hon. member for Bundaberg that the married assistants were hardly dealt with, and he hoped the Minister would do what he could to improve their position. Another matter he wished to refer to was the small pay received by a number of the pupil-teachers. While he was glad to know that from the 1st January next the male pupil-teachers would receive a small advance in salary, he was sorry to learn that the girls were to get no advance at all. He was surprised to find that the Minister had forgotten them; he thought that even as a matter of gallantry the hon. gentleman should have raised the salaries of the girls before the boys. He hoped the points he had referred to would be taken into favourable consideration. He knew Ministers could not do all they wished, but if they did all they could, no more could be expected from them.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The hon. member for Fortitude Valley had asked certain questions which he stated would have been asked by the hon. member for Toowoomba had he been present. He regretted very much the absence of that hon. member. The diminution in attendance at the Drayton school was not singular. A great many schools had had to be closed in consequence of epidemics, and the rule of the department in such a case was to take the average attendance of the previous year. The hon. member had dealt with the time which had elapsed between promotions. He had admitted that a very considerable concession had been made in Class III., as teachers would now be able to obtain in two years that promotion which had in the past taken them three years to obtain. But even in the highest grades of the service the time between promotions had been reduced by one year—from four years to three years; so that in every case there was a reduction of one year. The same principle had been followed which held in other departments—that promotion

in the lower grades was more rapid than in the higher, where the responsibility was much greater.

Mr. McDONNELL: There is a difference between the Education Department and the other departments. In the Education Department the examinations get more difficult as they advance.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The course adopted had only been adopted after very considerable reflection, and it was not thought desirable to make any further change. He would just give hon. members some information regarding promotions in the department. A boy entering the department as a pupil-teacher at the age of fourteen years, under the old system received £30, which was more than boys of that age received outside the department. After passing his examination—and failures were the exception—at fifteen years of age he received £40, at sixteen years he received £50, and at seventeen years £65 a year. There were plenty of men employed on stations and farms who did not receive more than £65 a year—or £1 5s. a week.

Mr. JACKSON: Those boys have to study at night in order to pass their examinations.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Had not every child at school to study at night?

Mr. JACKSON: You are drawing a comparison between these boys and those employed outside.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Was there anything to prevent a boy employed outside attending the technical college at night? As a matter of fact many of them did. If the pupil-teacher at the end of his fourth year passed his examination for admission into Class III, at the age of eighteen years, he received £102. Three years of routine work would bring him into the next division, and at the age of twenty-one years he would receive £114 a year, and by the time he was twenty-four years old he would receive £126 per annum. Of course during his pupilage he had been receiving a good education, which should count for something. Under the new system, owing to the period between promotions being reduced from three years to two years, he could receive the same salary of £126 when he was in his twenty-third year. If he had passed Class II, he would, in his twenty-fifth year, be receiving £144 per annum. As to the statement of the Chief Inspector that there were married assistants in the service who were receiving salaries that were never designed for married men, he might remark that there were many people in the world who married on a salary which was never designed for a married man, but whether they married or not was a matter that must be left to their own discretion. It did not necessarily follow that because a man married on a small salary it was the duty of the State to instantly increase it, and pay him for the delightful privilege of living the life of a benedict. If the hon. member laid that down as a principle it would be intelligible, although he might not agree with him. But they must either do that or do as they did in banks, and refuse to allow any of their officers to marry until they received a certain salary. There was no necessity for the hon. member to make a grievance of the fact that assistant teachers got married, although he admitted that it was undesirable that they should marry on small salaries, but still it was not the fault of the department.

Mr. McDONNELL: Is it not the rule that a man cannot be given charge of a school unless he is married?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: They did not appoint single men to mixed schools, but the rule did not apply

to boys' schools. There were plenty of married teachers in the service already, and there were some in the intermediate state, which they called "engaged," who deferred their marriage until they got charge of a school. But there was no necessity for teachers to get married on the chance of getting charge of a school. As he said, according to the hon. member's view they would either have to increase every officer's salary simply because he chose to get married, or else they would have to forbid marriage until the officer received a certain salary. The hon. member could not expect them to open fresh schools just because there happened to be a great number of teachers who were married or wished to get married. Although it was a source of congratulation that there were so many good officers in the service, they could not make offices for them; they must wait until vacancies occurred. Another point the hon. member for the Valley made was that the head teachers did not receive as large salaries as they did in 1893. He did not question that, but he made no profession to deal with that that year. They did not receive any less than they did last year, and he saw no reason why the remuneration paid years ago in salary and emoluments should be an inflexible standard. He had heard hon. members opposite lay down the principle that the question was not whether an officer received a certain sum of money five or six years ago, but whether the payment he received now was a fair payment. The hon. member would, he thought, contend that the change which had been made was unreasonable in itself.

Mr. McDONNELL: I do not think it is fair to a number of the teachers to reduce their salaries.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: They had not reduced the salary of any head teacher.

Mr. McDONNELL: They are getting less than they were in 1893.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Head teachers were not getting less than they had received during the last two years, and they had got back most of what was taken from them at the retrenchment of 1893, while the teachers in the lower classes were very materially benefited by the change. The only ones who had not benefited by the advance in salary were a very small number of head teachers, and they had not lost. The question hon. members had to consider was, not what was paid to teachers in 1893, but whether the present salaries were reasonable or not reasonable. The lower paid teachers received an increase, and the higher paid teachers got the following sums:—In schools of Class VI., £240; Class V., £280; Class IV., £320; Class III., £360; Class II., £400; and Class I., £450, and in each case the teacher had a house. At the present time there were rectors, at any rate in England, whose emoluments did not amount to £100, after the necessary deductions for taxes. Was £450 and a house, or £400 and a house, a fair salary for a teacher? Of course it was natural that an association should endeavour to get more money for those who belonged to that association; but that fact did not affect the reasonableness of the salaries paid. The arrangement was as fair as the department had been able to make it. In considering the position of the lower-paid teachers, they felt that the increase given to them was more imperatively necessary, but if the Committee considered that the salaries proposed were insufficient, and the public were of that opinion, then no doubt the teachers would get more on some future occasion. With regard to staff rank, he was entirely unable to agree with the hon. member. It was quite true that his late leader and lamented friend had expressed himself in favour of staff rank; but the hon. gentleman after-

wards told him that he did not profess to know very much about the matter. He could assure the Committee that it would be exceedingly injudicious to restore staff rank. The year before last a board of eleven inspectors considered the matter, and the opinion of the majority was that staff rank was absolutely unworkable. That was why it had been abolished. That was the opinion of the Under Secretary, of Inspector Platt, and of the General Inspector, and he ventured to say that on a subject of that sort the opinion of those gentlemen would necessarily be of more value than any formed by other persons who had not the same experience. That he considered a fatal objection to it.

Mr. McDONNELL: The head teachers were in favour of it.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Naturally. They belonged to the one body, and as trade unionists they stood by one another. When by staff rank an assistant teacher would get a certain title and take the position of the head teacher in his absence, with so much more money attached to the position, naturally from a feeling of camaraderie they would think it very desirable that that should take place. Staff rank it had been decided by the permanent head of the department and by a majority of eleven inspectors in conference, was unworkable. He was also perfectly clear in his own mind that it was unworkable, and that was about as good a reason as one could give.

Mr. JACKSON: After the increase recently given to male pupil-teachers, they were pretty well paid, but he did not think the female pupil-teachers were paid well enough. He was aware that in the department, as well as outside, females did not get the same rate of pay as males for doing the same work. He did not know the cause of that unless it was that women were not organised as men were, and in the case of the female teachers it was probable that they had received no increase, because they were not members of the teachers' association. Before the increase to male pupil-teachers, boys up North could do better at almost any other occupation, and from some correspondence he had read from some of the Townsville schools he thought the increase had been given because of the difficulty experienced in getting male pupil-teachers in the North. He was quite sure that if they did not increase the pay to female pupil-teachers they would soon find great difficulty in getting girls to enter the department. Wages outside were going up; at all events he knew it was very difficult to get domestic servants at present, and it might be found that girls would prefer to go to service rather than to enter the department at the salary at present offered.

Mr. MORGAN: I am very much afraid that will not be so.

Mr. JACKSON: They might not prefer to go to domestic service, but they might prefer to go to factories or shops rather than to enter the department, when it involved a good deal of study at night. The Minister seemed to minimise that difficulty, and to think that the study at night was a good thing.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: From an educational point of view I venture to think so.

Mr. JACKSON thought it a good thing for boys and girls, as well as for the country; but in the case of those engaged in other occupations, where it was done it was done voluntarily. He was sorry some deputations had not waited upon the Minister to secure some improvement in the salaries of female pupil-teachers. Otherwise he

could congratulate the Government with regard to the teachers, whose position, on the whole, had been considerably improved.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION said there was no distinction made between the sexes in so far as the increases to head teachers were concerned. It was true they were not paid at the same rate, but that was a universal custom, and he was not therefore concerned to defend it.

Mr. JACKSON: Can you justify it?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION could, but he did not think it worth while under the circumstances. With regard to the female pupil-teachers he pointed out that the boys who had had an advance only got now what had been given to male pupil-teachers many years ago, while in the case of the girls there had been no reduction at all. With regard to the difficulty of getting male pupil-teachers, returning, as it were, to school was not generally looked forward to with enthusiasm by boys; but the evidence which had been adduced at Townsville did not prove that the difficulty there was due to the want of attractiveness in the schools, because there was the same difficulty in getting candidates for admission into the Public Service, where the lowest pay was £50. A very good reason why they should not offer greater inducements to female pupil-teachers was that they already had too many applicants for departmental requirements. At the same time the salaries had not been reduced, and, taking the average, the pay given to female pupil-teachers in private schools was not more than half what was paid by the department. It would not be humane to endeavour to attract a far larger number of people than they could find employment for. He wished to remove the impression that the meeting of the Teachers' Association had had anything to do with the raising of salaries. The matter had been under consideration by the department for a long time and it was more a question of want of funds than anything else that nothing had been done before. When the permanent heads of the department made representations to the Minister which were reasonable, he was only too glad to accede to them, and the conditions being now more propitious a change had been made, which appeared to be generally approved of by hon members.

Mr. McDONNELL did not consider the hon. gentleman had given a satisfactory explanation of the disparity between the salaries of male and female pupil-teachers. There was a difference of £20 for each of the four years. Even admitting that females received less outside the department as well as inside it, the difference was too great; and, if the payment could not be equalised, the difference might be reduced. In good business houses—such as drapery establishments—ladies received almost as much as men in the leading positions. He had never been able to understand why women should not receive the same remuneration as men for the same class of work, and it was unwise of the State to support the principle merely because it was of such general application. He believed that there was not such a great difference between the salaries paid to male and female teachers in the grammar schools. The salaries of the female pupil-teachers should also be increased, because he had been given to understand that they had been reduced in 1893.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The information which he had given was perfectly correct. The salaries of the female pupil-teachers had never been reduced.

Mr. McDONNELL: That was no argument why they should not be increased now. Another matter which he wished to submit to the Minister dealt with the regulations in connection

with female provisional teachers who had passed the examination for admission into Class III. At present female teachers had to pass an examination for classification in State schools, but they were obliged to remain in the provisional schools waiting for appointments for some years, and allowance should be made to them during that period. He hoped the Minister would take that into consideration. In dealing with the salaries of head teachers, the Minister said that he did not take into consideration the rates that were paid in 1893, but only those paid now; but he thought those officers had reason to believe that their salaries would be restored to what they were in 1893, the same as those of officers in other branches of the service had been. They had received back half the amount of the reduction, and had been expecting to be restored to the old rates, although he did not know whether they had any reason to expect a full restoration. Of course he felt more sympathy with the lower paid assistants, and desired more to see their salaries increased; but he admitted that the head teachers, who were highly certificated men, should also receive consideration. In regard to the assistants, there was the inducement held out to them to get married that they would then have the chance of being placed in charge of State schools, and as they did not receive any increase of salary on their marriage, it was only fair that they should be given some concession in the shape of an allowance for rent.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: In connection with female pupil-teachers, he had said that he was not aware that any alteration had taken place in their salaries—and that was perfectly correct—since 1875. Previous to that the old board of education existed, and under that board the salaries were lower than now, and they were now being paid small amounts as probationers, which they had not been paid previously.

MR. McDONNELL: I was talking about female teachers in charge of provisional schools, who have passed their examinations for classification; and I suggested that they should receive some allowance for the period between the passing of the examination and their admission into State schools.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He would give the matter further consideration and see if anything could be done. In regard to head teachers, he admitted that they might possibly anticipate that they would be reinstated into the same position that they occupied before the retrenchment of 1893. One-half of what was taken from the teachers in 1893 had been restored. But the whole system had been changed, and teachers were not paid by the same methods now as they were formerly. It was generally considered that the plan of paying them partly by classification and partly by additional emoluments was exceedingly anomalous, unsatisfactory, and complicated, and they had adopted a new system. And while the fact that teachers were receiving a certain salary in 1893 was taken into consideration in framing this new system, it was not considered that the teachers had any ground of complaint at present in consequence of their having had a particular salary six years ago; nor was it considered that the department were bound to replace them with regard to emoluments in precisely the same position as they occupied in 1893. Under the present arrangement there had been to some extent an equalisation of the salaries of the lower paid and the higher paid teachers. With regard to the statement that the department offered inducements to teachers to get married, while the department said that a

single teacher was not eligible for the charge of a mixed State school, yet they did not induce teachers to get married, and they did not ask them to get married.

MR. CALLAN thought the teachers were in a remarkably good position, and that far too much money was spent on them. In a colony like this, where there were so many children growing up without education, the first object of the department should be to see that those children received some instruction. A short time ago he asked the Minister for a school at Mount Morgan. The estimated cost of that school was £2,240, and out of that there was £450 for a teacher's residence, and the people who wanted the school had to subscribe one-fifth of the whole amount required. He thought that £450 out of such a sum for a teacher's residence was outrageous. On his representing the matter to the Minister the cost was reduced to £300, but even that was too much. The first thing the department should do was to provide means for giving the children at least the rudiments of education, and not make the teachers so awfully comfortable. The head mistress of the girls' school recently erected at Mount Morgan, at a cost of about £2,000, was provided with no accommodation. If they did not supply house accommodation for the mistress of a girls' school, why should they do so for the master of a boys' school? The matter was one which the department should rectify.

MR. FOGARTY did not agree with the hon. member that their teachers were overpaid. On the contrary, he thought many of them were underpaid, and he was sure that nine-tenths of the members of the House would support the restoration of their salaries to what they were prior to the retrenchment of 1893. He complained of the way in which the colony was divided with respect to allowances for extra cost of living. The colony was divided into four divisions, some of which were 800 or 900 miles across, and those at the extreme end of such a large division were at a great disadvantage in the matter. As a case in point, he knew of a female teacher who had been transferred at the same salary 400 miles away from the centre of civilisation where she had been previously employed, and she got no allowance for extra cost of living.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Where was the change from, and to?

MR. FOGARTY did not care about answering that question, but he would give the information to the hon. member privately. He hoped the department would consider the absolute necessity of increasing the salaries paid to provisional schools teachers, and of providing them with house accommodation. He knew of one case in which a small settlement of poor people had put their hands into their pockets and provided a house for their teacher, and the Government should step in and follow so good an example. He hoped that if they were not inclined to do so, the House would compel them to do it. In connection with a school where there had been a falling off in the attendance due to an epidemic such as measles—

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: That has been already explained.

MR. FOGARTY was pleased to hear it, and that no loss would fall upon the teachers in consequence. With respect to the intervals between promotions from one grade to another, he thought there should be no fixed time but that the examinations should be held, say, every year or every half-year, and the higher classifications gained at the examinations should be given effect to at once. It might cost a little more money to adopt that system, but it would be money well spent. The Education Department was the most important in the State, and he knew several head teachers who, if they had been engaged in any

other pursuit, would be in receipt of at least twice their present salaries. Considering the numbers of teachers, the sum of £3,500 was not sufficient for the extra cost of living. He did not charge the department with unfairness in the matter, but if inquiries were made it would be found that there was a great difference in the cost of the necessities of life in the various divisions, and some allowance should be made on that account. He noticed that the chief clerk was again down to receive £400. He had not the honour of his acquaintance, but, considering the good work he did, his services deserved some recognition in the way of an increase of salary. He was sorry that no provision had been made with regard to the suggestion made last session by the hon. member for Cambooya with reference to the strychnine cure for snakebite. The whole of the people on the Darling Downs were in favour of the hon. member's suggestion.

Mr. SMITH did not understand the hon. member for Fitzroy to contend that head teachers were overpaid, but that male teachers were very much better provided for than the female teachers. He would like to know whether anything had been done in connection with the establishment of superior schools? Another matter on which he wished for information was if any bursaries to the Agricultural College had been applied for?

The TREASURER: Only one this year—three last year.

Mr. SMITH was sorry that there had only been one application, but it was possibly due to the fact that sufficient publicity had not been given to the establishment of the bursaries. The department might very wisely have a printed card in every school letting the scholars know that bursaries and scholarships were obtainable under certain conditions. In the outside districts they were quite an unknown thing, and if the scholars were informed of the conditions on which they were granted, there might be more applications for them. In a place like Brisbane there was plenty of competition among the various schools, but in the outside districts the teachers might be encouraged to prepare their pupils for the bursaries and grammar school scholarships, as at present they did not seem to take the interest they should in the matter.

Mr. HOOD: He thought they should all be proud of their Education Act, but he wished to point out that there were a number of settlers in the Western districts who did not live close enough together to get up a provisional school. There were also a large number of married men working on the rabbit fences and on stations who lived from fifteen to twenty miles apart, and their families were growing up, in many cases, totally without education. When a man had done a hard day's work he did not feel inclined to give his children much education, and the children had no one else to look to for education but their parents. He hoped the Minister would take the matter into consideration during the recess, and see if he could not initiate some system by which itinerant teachers might be sent to those sparsely populated districts.

Mr. DANIELS: The department had gone to considerable expense in printing large cards showing the various descriptions of snakes and explaining the symptoms of snakebite, but they had given no instructions as to how to cure those bites. At the Springside State School in his electorate there had been two cases of snakebite; and last year two children died from it at Pittsworth, whose lives would certainly have been saved if Dr. Mueller's cure had been used. The first cure of a death adder's bite that he had ever heard of was in the case of a niece of his own, aged eighteen months, who was bitten in the finger, and the snake held on until it was shaken

off, tearing away portions of the flesh. The cure was a very simple one, and he would read the directions for using it:—

Dr. MUELLER says:—“(a) I am using a solution of nitrate of strychnine of 1 in 240 of water with a little glycerine. (b) 20 minims of this are injected in the usual manner of an hypodermic injection. (c) The frequency of repetition depends on the symptoms being more or less threatening, say from 10 to 20 minutes. When all have disappeared, and the strychnine shows its first independent action by slight muscular spasms, the injections must, as a matter of course, be discontinued, unless after a while the poison again re-asserts itself. The quantity of strychnine required in some cases has amounted to a grain or more within a few hours. Both poisons are thoroughly antagonistic, and no hesitation need be felt on pushing on the use of the drug to quantities that would be fatal in the absence of snake poison. Out of about 100 cases treated after my method, some of them at the point of death, there has been but one failure, and this arose from the injections being discontinued after 1½ grains had been injected. (d) Any part of the body will of course do for the injection, though I am in the habit of making them in the neighbourhood of the bitten part, or on it.”

The CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. member that there is no item in the vote dealing with the matter to which the hon. member is now referring. I am very sorry to have to stop him, because his remarks are very interesting and instructive.

Mr. DANIELS: He had been into schools, and had seen large cards giving descriptions of snakes, and he only wanted the Government to go a little further in a direction in which a great deal of good might be done. He sincerely trusted that the Minister would take the matter into consideration, and take the advice, not of the expert Dr. Wray, but of the expert Dr. Hunt.

Mr. GRIMES was pleased that something had been done towards restoring the salaries of teachers to what they were previous to the retrenchment, and hoped the Minister would continue in that direction until the whole of the claims were satisfied. He was also glad to hear that on account of the large amount of sickness which had prevailed among children this year—necessitating the closing of schools in some instances—the department intended to take the rolls of last year in deciding the classifications of schools. Some of the teachers had been attacked by the same sickness as was prevalent among the children, and it would have been very hard on them if their salaries had been reduced at a time when they were put to additional expense.

Mr. KEOGH wished to refer to the salary of the chief clerk, Mr. Woodcock. Previous to 1893 that gentleman received £500 per annum, but he was then retrenched along with other officers in the service, and he had not been reinstated, as most of the other officers had been, in his former position, his present salary being only £400 a year. Considering that he was a very capable officer, and that some 16,000 or 17,000 letters passed through his hands in the course of a year, he was certainly entitled to some consideration. He hoped the Minister would see his way to restore to Mr. Woodcock the salary he formerly received.

Mr. GLASSEY had a very great regard for the chief clerk, who was a very excellent officer, but did not think there was any justification for increasing his salary, and he should certainly oppose any proposal in that direction. Mr. Woodcock received a salary of £400 a year, and £50 from other sources, and he was well paid at £9 a week. There was no less than five inspectors of schools who received only £400, and they were men of the highest attainments and capacity, and had to travel from place to place to examine the schools; and he did not see any reason why a larger salary should be paid to the chief clerk than was paid to those officers.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: With regard to an increase of

the salary of the officer referred to, he could only say that the Estimates had been very carefully considered, and as the hon. member should know, even if he were disposed to add to them, he could not do so. Allusion had been made to the fact that accommodation was provided for male and not for female head teachers, but it must be obvious that accommodation had to be provided in the case of a man with a wife and family, which was not necessary in the case of a female head teacher who was a woman without a husband. With respect to the suggestion that accommodation should be provided for provisional school teachers, it was eminently undesirable to provide a single lodging for a man in the bush, and still more undesirable to provide a single lodging for a young woman with no one to protect her. With reference to the question of the hon. member for Bowen, about the secondary education which the House had approved of, he was glad to be able to say that the system was in force in every State school where there was a sufficient number of children. With regard to the bursaries to the Agricultural College there had been three last year and there was one this year. It was a matter for regret that there had been so little competition for them. He did not know what was the reason, but he could inform the Committee that they intended to send circulars round to all the State school teachers this year asking them to direct the attention of the school committees, the parents, and the children to the fact that those bursaries were at the disposal of those who won them. With respect to the matter mentioned by the hon. member for Cambooya, he was informed by the health officer that it was not advisable that school teachers should become bush surgeons and be entrusted with hypodermic syringes and strychnine to experiment upon people who believed they had been bitten by snakes, which, after all, might be of a perfectly harmless variety. It might as reasonably be suggested that because people were sometimes poisoned in the country districts the school teachers should be provided with stomach pumps and instructed in their use, and then he did not know where it would end, unless they provided that every teacher should be a duly qualified medical man. The matter of allowances for extra cost of living was one which required a good deal of investigation, and was not easy to arrange. It had been under the consideration of a board of inspectors who travelled in every part of the colony; and it had so far been decided that for the purpose the colony should be divided into four divisions, and the allowances graded accordingly. The objections to that scheme were only such as might be raised to any scheme contrived by human ingenuity, and he believed it would be found on the whole to work satisfactorily. It had been stated that the retrenchment which took place some years ago amounted to one-third of the teachers' salaries. That was not by any means correct. There had been a loss, but the reduction was in connection with what they called "additional emoluments." The salaries of the teachers, as salaries, had never been interfered with.

Mr. BROWNE drew attention to the vote passed last session that in the opinion of the House with regard to the cost of buildings provisional schools should be placed on the same footing as State schools. He had received inquiries as to when that would come into force. He saw their vote for the purpose was doubled this year, and perhaps the Minister would give the Committee some information about it.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Although he was anxious to carry into effect the will of the House in the

matter, it could not be done until the vote for the purpose was carried. Hon. members would see that the vote which last year stood at £1,500 was now increased to £3,000, and that had been placed on the Estimates to meet the additional demands which the department expected would arise by their having in future to bear four-fifths instead of half the expense of putting up provisional schools. As soon as the vote was passed regulations would be framed to give it effect, and would be gazetted as soon as possible.

Mr. FOGARTY asked for an explanation of the fact that while both Ipswich and Toowoomba received £250 last year, in the shape of grants in aid of technical education, this year Ipswich was down for £500, while Toowoomba was only to receive £250, although Toowoomba was larger than Ipswich?

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The people of Ipswich had this year subscribed a much larger amount, and as the grant was in the nature of a subsidy of £1 for £1, the vote was increased in consequence. If the people of Toowoomba had informed him that the sum of £250 would be insufficient, he should have been very glad to have placed a larger sum on the Estimates. In Ipswich technical education had grown to considerable magnitude.

Mr. FOGARTY had reason to believe that the people of Toowoomba would subscribe a very considerable sum of money for technical education in the next six months, and he regretted that the Minister had not been approached in reference to an increased grant. In the event of his anticipation being verified, could the hon. gentleman make provision for the increased subsidy on the Supplementary Estimates?

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: could not make any such promise. It was purely a matter for the Cabinet. If the hon. member had approached him at an earlier period, he would gladly have put more money on the Estimates, and if it was possible to meet the hon. member's views, if more money was required, he would do what he could do to help him.

Mr. MAUGHAN congratulated the department on its report, and also on the increase in the vote. There was no doubt that the department was taking steps to remedy a good many of the evils under which the teachers had suffered for years past. The hon. member for Warrego would have the sympathy of every country member in his remarks as to the necessity for employing itinerant teachers. There were dozens of children who were receiving no education even in his electorate, which was in the so-called settled district. He had had occasion to bring several cases under the notice of the department, which had always shown its sympathy. He was glad that the Minister had brought about some reform in connection with the awarding of scholarships, concerning which there had previously been a good deal of heart-burning. He was also glad to see that the vote for State schools was largely increased, and also that the cost of administration and inspection was so small. He had had to approach the department on several occasions, and he wished to place on record his satisfaction at the manner in which the claims of his constituents had been received. One matter which required some attention was the salary which was paid to the acting chief clerk—Mr. Story. He was down to receive £190 this year—an increase of £10—but, considering the importance of his work, he was very much underpaid. He was one of the most competent young officers in the service, and he hoped to see him getting a much larger salary next year. He saw no reference in the report to reports from the various grammar

chools; and he would like to see arrangements made for reports from the trustees of the grammar schools as to the work of the schools during the year. He wished also to refer to the condition of the boys' school at Ipswich, and he was sure that if either of the members for that electorate had been present they would have extorted some promise from the Minister that something should be done in the direction of repairs. He was pleased with the report as a whole, and believed that the Minister had taken a great interest in the department.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He might inform the hon. member that the plans for a new school at Ipswich had been approved by the department, and the only difficulty now was a local one. The school committee desired to erect the new building on a site which was controlled by the municipality, who were not disposed to grant it, and he regretted that *no modus vivendi* had yet been arrived at. In regard to the salary paid to Mr. Story, who was really only acting chief clerk, he had recommended that it should be increased; and if it were increased to £300 a year, he should consider that nobody could be more thoroughly worth it. Concerning the grammar schools, he should be exceedingly pleased to have these reports sent in to the department; but grammar schools were independent bodies, and resented being interfered with in any way. He did not think the Grammar Schools Act gave him power to insist upon reports being supplied.

Mr. SIM said there was a sum of £7,550 down for technical education, which he considered a most important question, and he should be very glad if the Minister would tell them what was being done in connection with the expenditure of that money.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The department was doing all that it could, and the hon. member would see that the amount had been increased. He was glad to say that they expected that the whole of this amount would probably be applied for in order to subsidise the amounts raised locally. In North Brisbane there were over 1,300 pupils and some thirty or forty teachers, and there was a growing interest in the system all over the colony. The sum available last year was £6,100, and out of that £4,700 was applied for and paid. North Brisbane received £1,750; South Brisbane, £125; Ipswich, £500; Toowoomba, £221; Warwick, £247; Gympie, £224; Rockhampton, £250; Townsville, £500; Mackay, £116; and Charters Towers, £250. The subsidies really represented half the amount spent in each place, and, generally speaking, three-quarters of the sum available was demanded and paid.

Mr. KERR: A request had been made for endowment of funds raised by shearers on stations for the purpose of establishing libraries. Had anything been done in the matter?

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Terrick Terrick and Barcaldine had applied, and all possible steps had been taken to meet the request that had been made.

Mr. KERR thanked the Minister for the way in which he had met the request of the men. The money raised the first year had not been paid into the bank, but steps were being taken to obtain a voucher from the station manager, so as to satisfy the department that the money was spent on the object for which it was raised.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The department would accept any proof of which the Auditor-General approved.

Mr. GLASSEY: Regarding the refusal of the grammar schools to furnish reports to the department, he did not see why they should resent such a request. Parliament had been very liberal to

them, and had a right to demand reports from the schools. If the grammar schools took up that lofty attitude, he would be disinclined to give them a shilling of endowment. It was certainly not to their interest to withhold the reports.

Mr. MAUGHAN: Had the Minister any recollection of the department asking for those reports?

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The department made application some twenty years ago, but the reply was so chilling that they had not ventured to repeat the request. The schools were not in any way subject to the department, and probably men of high attainments might think it *infra dig.* to supply reports to a department occupied more immediately with primary education. Reports were, however, issued yearly at the distribution of prizes.

Mr. GLASSEY was glad the refusal had taken place so far back as twenty years ago. It was a reasonable request to make, and Parliament would be very pleased to get the information.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He would see that the grammar schools were acquainted with the expression of opinion by hon. members.

Mr. BELL: The leader of the Opposition seemed disposed to take stringent measures if such reports were not furnished to Parliament, but he was sure there was no disinclination on the part of the grammar schools to submit to competent authorities what they were doing. The inspectorial staff of the department no doubt comprised an excellent body of men, but if the department undertook the investigation of the work of the grammar schools it would probably require inspectors with higher qualifications, and the cost of inspection would be considerably increased. The grammar schools issued annually most comprehensive reports, and if the department sent inspectors to those schools, he really did not know that the public would be made acquainted with any more than they knew now.

Mr. GLASSEY: What he had said was that as Parliament voted £10,000 a year for grammar schools it was not too much to ask that an annual report should be furnished by them to the department.

Mr. STORY: In the last session and the previous session the House affirmed that something should be done for the purpose of educating bush children. He was not going over the whole argument again, but wished to call attention to the fact that nothing whatever had been done in that direction. He bore willing testimony to the usefulness and kindness of the Minister and the officials of the department, who had helped him in every way within the regulations towards getting schools in the outside districts. But there was a point at which their help was stopped by regulation, and it was beyond that point that the greatest difficulty was found in doing anything at all. Without being presumptuous, he might say that before the next election it would be well for the Minister to give the greatest consideration to this matter. It was not a matter that affected the towns like it affected the people in the far West, who looked confidently to the Government for some help. In some places, where provisional schools had been established twenty or thirty miles from other schools, it was impossible to get suitable teachers to go to those places. He did not mean that they were unsuitable as far as attainments were concerned, but on account of the surroundings being so very different from anything to which they had been accustomed where civilisation was more advanced, and it was not to be expected that they would be satisfied

with the conditions that existed there. It cost a considerable amount to send a teacher to one of those places, and after a few months there was a request for a transfer; then another teacher had to be sent, and that teacher very soon wished to be transferred, and so the dissatisfaction and the expense went on. And there were numbers of children in the West who could not possibly attend any State, provisional, or half-time school.

The CHAIRMAN: We have had all this from the hon. member before.

Mr. STORY: Not this session.

The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member means to assist the Minister to carry on his business, I hope he is not going over the whole question again.

Mr. STORY: He said, when he commenced, that he did not intend to go over the whole question again, but the Committee would understand that this was a matter of great gravity in his district. The children who were eleven years old when he spoke on the question in 1896, were now past school age and at work, so their chance was gone; and this time three years there would be another lot whose chance would have gone. That must be his excuse for bringing the question forward. There was a way out of the difficulty, as had been proved at homestead after homestead in the West, which had turned out well-educated men, and intellectual, gracious, and graceful women. This had been done by employing tutors accustomed to the conditions that existed in that part of the country, and if the State would assist the people there to educate their own children, as they were paying for the education of everybody else, he would ask no more.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He took it that what the hon. gentleman advocated was that the department should periodically examine those children to whom he referred, and pay by results.

Mr. STORY: Exactly—however they are educated.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Short of providing a tutor for every family, the department had done all it could; but those to whom offers of assistance had been made were not satisfied. In the case of those groups, the Under Secretary had written to those interested, and told them he would place an itinerant teacher at their disposal; but when they understood that he would be at one place only a short time before he would have to go on to the next, they expressed their disapproval of the proposal.

Mr. STORY: I have always said that could not possibly work.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The desirability of doing something in the matter was quite evident to the department, and that they had really done everything they could, short of providing a tutor for each family.

Mr. BELL recognised fully the earnestness of the hon. member for Balonne, but thought it was only right that he should bear his testimony to the work of the department in the matter of providing teaching for isolated groups of children. They might not provide teachers for children in groups of two, three, or four; they might not provide a tutor for each family; but wherever ten or twelve children could be gathered together, the department were prepared to provide a teacher and to establish a provisional school.

The PREMIER: He had expressed a desire that the House should rise before Christmas, but certainly if they occupied six hours every night in discussing an item of £4,000, as they had done

this evening, it would be utterly hopeless to expect the session to close before Christmas. Unless they got through the Education Estimates and the Mines Estimates to-night, he should give up all hope of closing before Christmas, and would throw the whole responsibility on those hon. members who would not exercise a little self-restraint, and so enable them to get through the business they desired to get through before the holiday. He had no desire to sit after Christmas, but if hon. members did not want the session to close before then it was far better that that should be distinctly understood. He was quite willing to act on their instruction.

Mr. BELL thought the hon. gentleman had taken a very unhappy moment to make the intimation he had just made. He did not suppose he had made three speeches during the passage of the whole of the Estimates.

The PREMIER: I did not refer to you.

Mr. BELL: Possibly the hon. gentleman did not refer to him, but immediately he sat down the hon. gentleman jumped up and delivered a homily which, if addressed to somebody else, would have been very well deserved. The hon. gentleman had not shown his usual tact in this matter.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Personally, he was not in the least disappointed at the progress they were making. They were discussing matters in a perfectly friendly spirit, and though they were dealing with a good deal that might technically be reserved until a later period, yet he thought that when they had finished those Estimates it would be found that they had not taken up any more time over them than usual.

Mr. STORY: The remarks of the Premier did not apply to him, because he did not think he had made one speech on the Estimates until this evening. With regard to the remarks of the hon. member for Dalby, he would not allow that hon. member or anyone else, by implication, to place him in antagonism with the Education Department. Neither the hon. member nor anybody else had received more kindly help from the department, or acknowledged it more willingly, than he had. The idea of the department supplying a tutor to every family had never entered his head; all he wanted them to do was to allow every family to supply themselves with a tutor, and to pay them by results.

Question put and passed.

STATE SCHOOLS INSPECTION.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION moved that £6,970 be granted for the inspection of State schools. There was a small addition to the pay of the inspectors, but seeing that those officers had previously been paid considerably less than first and second class public school teachers, he thought hon. members would agree that the increase was perfectly justifiable.

Mr. GLASSEY welcomed the change in this vote, and had suggested something of the kind last year. He understood that the Premier had a few minutes ago made some observations of an unpleasant character, and threatened that in consequence of the length of the discussion on the previous vote they should sit after Christmas. Those remarks were entirely uncalculated, and he was satisfied that if the hon. gentleman had been in the Chamber the whole of the afternoon and evening he would not have made such remarks, for there had been no waste of time in the discussion, which had been of a very timely character.

Question put and passed.

STATE AND PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION moved that £220,386 be granted for State and provisional schools. The increase upon the vote for last year was represented by £7,291 for additional teachers, and promotion and classification of teachers; £750 for State school requisites; incidental expenses, £1,465; salaries and allowance to provisional school teachers, £3,815; requisites for provisional schools, £250; in aid of provisional school buildings, £1,500; aboriginal schools, £20—an increase of salary at Myora. The vote generally was made up of the salaries hon. members had already discussed, but if he could give any further information required, he would be very glad to do so.

Mr. STEWART drew attention to the insufficient salaries paid to assistant teachers, who, considering the responsibility of their positions and the qualifications required of them, were the worst paid officers in the public service. The remark applied with even more force to the female assistant teachers. Common clerks in the department received salaries of £300, £220, £200, and £190, while the salary paid to an assistant male teacher of Class II., Division 1, was £168; Division 2, £156; Division 3, £145; Class III., Division 1, £126; Division 2, £114; and Division 3, £102. He had directed attention to the matter last year. It had been complained that young men did not seem to care about entering upon the profession of teaching, and he did not wonder. He would ask the Minister if there was any probability that in the near future assistant teachers, male and female, would receive a salary commensurate with their duties and qualifications?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He had already explained this matter; but the hon. member was not present. A very considerable measure of improvement had been dealt out by the department; but at present they could not afford to pay more, for the reasons he had already given. He would point out what were the salaries of head masters who had a seat on the boards of the governing bodies under the Voluntary Schools Act of 1897 in the United Kingdom: In the Wesleyan schools, £172; British and other schools, £142; Roman Catholic, £117; and Church of England schools, £121. The salaries and prospects of assistant teachers in the colony of Queensland would compare favourably with those in any other portion of the globe. They had an opportunity of tolerably rapid promotion, and the interval within which they might gain promotion had been altered, so that they were now in a better position than they were last year.

Question put and passed.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION moved that £5,109 be granted for scholarships and bursaries. He ventured to say hon. members were perfectly familiar with the items of the vote.

Mr. McDONNELL asked what was the number of scholarships granted and provided for last year?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Thirty-six scholarships, eight bursaries, and four agricultural scholarships, to be taken up at any grammar school in the colony.

Mr. McDONNELL had referred to the matter of scholarships last year, and to what he considered unfair in the regulations, and the Minister expressed surprise that the regulations should be as he had stated them. He expected

to find that there would have been some amendment of them, but they were exactly the same. The scholarships were outside the system of primary education. There was no inspection or supervision of grammar schools, and the results of those schools were not in proportion to the amount of money expended on them; nor was the original object of the scholarships being carried out. The object of establishing the scholarships was to enable boys who were unable to obtain a higher education without assistance to get that education, but scholarships were won by the children of those who could well afford to pay for their education. When the university was established, they would require more feeders for that institution, and consequently they should offer great facilities for secondary education. The regulations dealing with the scholarships should be made broader, as there were now schools in Brisbane and other places in the colony which were providing as good a secondary education as the grammar schools. The results of the examinations proved his statement. Seeing that the scholarships had been established with the view of providing poor boys with a higher education, no high school in the colony should be debarred from participating in the competition for those scholarships. Successful competitors should have the option of taking out their scholarships at any high school they chose to select. The best proof of the work of any secondary school was the results of the Sydney senior and junior examinations, and of the examinations for the university exhibitions. He was not advocating the cause of any one class of schools. He believed that no particular class of school should have an advantage over another. As far as primary education was concerned, he admitted that it was one of the best systems in any English-speaking community, and he did not advocate that there should be the slightest interference in that respect. But when prizes were offered for brilliant boys—and particularly poor boys—it was only common justice to ask that no boy should be debarred from competing for those prizes, or from attending at the secondary school where he considered he would receive the best education. The Minister might argue that he had no power to alter the regulations, but the Governor in Council had that power, and generally acted on the advice of the Minister who recommended the alteration. Last year, in a debate on a motion of the hon. member for Toowoomba in connection with grammar school scholarships, a majority of hon. members were in favour of some such proposal as he now made. It fact, had it not been that the question had come up in an amended form about the second last night of the session, he believed the question would have been carried in the direction he now indicated. The Minister would certainly be justified in making that departure. It was the merest justice he asked for. The grammar schools would still have their subsidy of £1,000 a year, and the State schools would still be in the running for the prizes. It should be the desire of the Government to assist in the development of secondary education, and any school should have the right to send its pupils in for the competition. At present there was a regulation that a boy or girl must attend a State school.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Oh, no!

Mr. McDONNELL: Or a State-inspected school. He did not mean to omit that. But there were numbers of boys who could not attend any State-inspected school. In the bush a man might have to educate his boy himself, or employ a private tutor, and that boy should not be debarred from competing for a scholarship. The

most important point was that even if that portion of the regulation was amended, the winner of a scholarship would not be allowed to take it out where he desired.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He quite recognised that this question had two sides, and there was a great deal in what the hon. gentleman said; but the intention of the State in connection with these scholarships was to deal with primary and secondary education, both of which were given by the State. The scholarship was not a reward; it simply meant that if a student showed a certain amount of ability at a State school the State would pay his fees at the grammar school. It was not a scholarship in the sense that it could be taken out anywhere; if it were there would be no necessity for the hon. member to have introduced this question. In New South Wales scholarships which were granted to State school scholars were available at the high schools, but nowhere else, and by that he imagined that they intended to encourage both their State systems. In South Australia and Victoria the winners of scholarships could go to any high school that they chose, but the reason for that was that they had no grammar schools and no State high schools. He called the grammar schools here State schools, because the State endowed them to the extent of £1,000 a year each, and also found a great deal of the money for the erection of the buildings. The hon. member desired him to take it upon himself to change a system that had been in force for some thirty years, and as that would indirectly raise the religious question he did not feel disposed to make any promise. Every step that was taken would have to be taken with the greatest care.

MR. GLASSEY: He quite agreed that this was a matter that required very careful consideration, and no doubt the Minister would be slow to give any promise; but still there was a great deal in the contention of the hon. member for the Valley. He approached the subject with great diffidence, because it required very careful handling, but he had always urged that the plea put forth by the hon. member had some justification. He knew a family of children on the Darling Downs who were instructed by a private tutor, but they were unable to compete for these prizes, and he could not see why they should be. Neither could he see why children educated at private schools belonging to any religious denomination should not take advantage of the system. No sectarian feeling would be raised by that, and the children who obtained those scholarships should be allowed to use them in the way they considered best. He thought it was a reasonable request, and ought to be conceded with good grace.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The hon. member seemed to be under the impression that a boy trained at a Roman Catholic school could not compete for a grammar school scholarship. That was absolutely incorrect. Certainly the bush boy educated by a private tutor would not be eligible, but there were few such cases. Any school inspected by the department could compete for grammar school scholarships, and the Catholic schools as well as others were inspected. But the point raised by the hon. member for Fortitude Valley was that boys who won scholarships should be allowed to take them out at any of the higher schools, and not necessarily at a grammar school. The leader of the Opposition had mixed up two entirely different questions.

MR. GLASSEY did not see any reason why a State school scholarship having been won, it should not be allowed to be taken out at any school.

MR. McDONNELL: No barrier was placed against a boy, who won a university exhibition, going to any university he liked. The school which competed most successfully with the grammar school was the Christian Brothers' College, and he could see no reason why the winner of a grammar school scholarship should not be allowed, if he wished, to take it out at that college. There was a Church of England college, also, which was a successful competitor with the grammar school, and exactly the same argument applied to it. The scholarships should be absolutely free to be taken out where the boy or girl wished.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He was not responsible for the present system. The hon. member pointed out that holders of university exhibitions were free to go to any university. That was perfectly true, but the explanation was to be found in the fact that there was no Queensland university. He ventured to say that if one existed, the exhibitioners would not be free to go to any university they liked, but would be confined to the Queensland university. He had no doubt that exactly the same reasons prevailed with those who framed the existing regulations with regard to grammar school scholarships. If the award was to be given at all the idea has been that it should be given in such a way as to benefit the high school for which the State found the funds. It was merely a matter of keeping the business in the family.

MR. LEAHY: The position taken up by the Minister was illogical. He had based his argument on the assumption that the grammar school was a State school, which it was not. The State gave it a certain subsidy, and it was very well treated without the students being compelled to give it the proceeds of any scholarships they might acquire also. And over the subsidy the Government had no control whatever. In that way it had an advantage over the other schools that were capable of competing with it. Last year the hon. member for Toowoomba introduced a motion on the subject, and at the request of the Attorney-General it was amended in such a way as to bring about the very result which the hon. member, Mr. McDonnell, was advocating. According to the rule of the House, if one hon. member objected the amendment could not be put. One hon. member did object, and it was not put; but there was no doubt that if the late Premier had lived the policy he foreshadowed then would have become the law of the land.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I do not remember the circumstance; but the conclusion is unwarranted if the House had no opportunity of expressing an opinion.

MR. LEAHY: If the motion had been carried in its amended form the hon. gentleman would have had to act in accordance with the resolution of the House, and it was only by what he might call a fluke that it was not the resolution of the House. If 10,000 persons educated their children without calling upon the State for assistance, that must be a saving to the State of some thousands of pounds, and in common justice those of them who won scholarships ought to be permitted to select the institution to which they would go, unless, of course, any such institution did not come up to the standard required by the department.

MR. BROWNE: There was a new item on the Estimate—council of education, £500—would the Minister give them some information as to what it meant?

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: That was a vote which would in any case lapse. At one time it was intended to pass a short Act creating a council of educa-

tion. Subsequently it was considered that that would be unnecessary in consequence of the passing of the University Bill, but it did not seem likely that that would be passed during the present session; and no Bill having been passed to create the council of education, the vote would necessarily lapse.

Mr. CASTLING: The hon. member for Bulloo stated that the Government had no control over its subsidy to grammar schools. That was not the case. If the attendance of pupils fell below a certain number the Government had the right to reduce the subsidy by one-half. They also nominated one-half of the trustees.

Question put and passed.

SCHOOLS OF ARTS.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION moved that £10,650 be granted for schools of arts.

Mr. SIM would again ask the question he had asked earlier in the session. Was it the intention of the Minister to take into consideration the requirements of schools of arts with regard to repairs? In many outside places the population were not wealthy, and it taxed all their means to purchase the necessary books, pay the caretaker, and generally to meet the current expenses. When the building began to fall into disrepair they had nothing to fall back upon. That was particularly the case in the extreme North. It was with difficulty they could keep their doors open, and when they were faced with demands far the purposes of repair they were simply unable to meet them, and the consequence often was that a very useful building fell into a state not fit for occupation.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The State gave a subsidy of 10s. in the £1 to the committee of any live school of arts. As long as they raised the money the Government made no special inquiries as to whether they spent it in repairs, books, or building.

Mr. CALLAN: The grants for schools of arts appeared to be put down on a most absurd basis. For instance, West End, Toowoomba, Ravenswood, Mount Morgan, Cooktown, and Normanton were put down for £250 each. Mount Morgan had a population of 6,000, while Normanton had about 600. He thought the places with a large population should receive a greater amount than those with only a small population.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The first item of £3,000 was for grants in aid of schools of arts, and each grant was at the rate of 10s. for every £1 subscribed. The amounts mentioned by the hon. member were grants in aid of technical education, which were purely conditional on similar amounts being raised locally. If the people of Mount Morgan desired more than £250, and informed the department that the amount of £250 on the Estimates would be insufficient to subsidise the money raised locally, an additional sum would be put on the Estimates. There was not the slightest desire to be parsimonious with regard to technical education.

Question put and passed.

MUSEUM, BRISBANE.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION moved that £1,154 be granted for the museum, Brisbane. There was an increase of £50 for the library, and an additional £12 was divided between the messengers.

Mr. SIM: Was it contemplated by the Government to vote a further sum for extending the collection at the museum? There was no more instructive institution; and a few hundreds or thousands might very well be spent every year in extending the building, and adding to the collection.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: It was impossible to do anything in the way of adding to the collection until a new building was provided. There was not sufficient space for the specimens already in the building. The apportionment of the Exhibition ground was under consideration, and endeavours were being made to fix on a suitable site for the museum. When that was done some better accommodation would doubtless be provided.

Mr. SIM: If it was in contemplation to build a new museum he would respectfully suggest to the Minister the advisability of making it an instructive institution, something on the basis of the institution in Paris, where models of all kinds were exhibited for the benefit of mechanics and others.

Question put and passed.

ORPHANAGES.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION moved that £23,667 be granted for orphanages. There was a small increase; but the salaries were practically the same as last year, and the number of children had not altered to any great extent since then.

Mr. BROWNE did not object to the amount of the vote, but wished to call attention to the fact that in every Governor's Speech for the last six years a promise had been given that a State Children's Bill would be introduced, and it had not yet been submitted to Parliament. In 1893 the late Premier stated that such a Bill was in print, and would be introduced in 1894, but it had not been brought in yet. There were men connected with orphanages and boy's homes who were doing a lot of honorary work, and they had been anxiously waiting year after year for the Bill. He mentioned the matter now because he thought they should not allow the occasion to pass without expressing their opinion of the laxity shown by the Government.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He might inform the hon. member that the measure he referred to was still in print; but it would not be possible to pass it this session. The Bill was in the main a consolidation of existing Acts, and its principal object was to do away with circumlocution in the administration. The Bill was not absolutely necessary, as by the adoption of one or two processes they could do all that the measure would empower them to do; but if hon. members were really thirsting for the measure he would be prepared to bring it in even at this late stage of the session.

Question put and passed.

SECRETARY FOR MINES.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES moved that £3,260 be granted for the Department of the Secretary for Mines. The first increase in the vote was an increase in the salary of the chief clerk and accountant from £300 to £400. He believed that all the mining members would admit that Mr. Marshall was not overpaid at the increased salary. He had been in the office for a great number of years, and twelve months ago he was offered a larger salary to go to Western Australia, but he (the Secretary for Mines) prevailed upon him to stop here. Increases of £10 each were given to several clerks.

Mr. DUNSFORD: His colleague, Mr. Dawson, had intimated some time ago that when those Estimates came on he would refer to the action of the Mines Department, the Public Service Board, and Warden Mowbray in regard to a matter that took place at Charters Towers. The Minister had informed him (Mr. Dunsford) that Mr. Mowbray was at present dangerously ill. He regretted to hear that, and under the circumstances he would not go into the case any

further than to say that Mr. Hishon had been very badly treated by the Public Service Board, and punished by the department, though he certainly did not deserve it. Mr. Joseph Bowater had also suffered some loss and inconvenience owing to the action of the department, and had received no reparation.

Mr. HAMILTON quite agreed with the hon. member for Charters Towers. The same things that tended to exonerate one gentleman had the reverse effect in the case of Mr. Hishon, who had not received fair treatment, and he hoped the matter would be gone into again. As Warden Mowbray was so ill he should say no more.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Mr. Hishon had not been punished. The facts were that they had an officer at Georgetown who was suffering from asthma, and he had to have a change, and he was transferred to Charters Towers, Mr. Hishon being sent to Georgetown. So far from Mr. Hishon suffering by the change, he was put down for an increase of £20 per annum. The warden in charge of the office where he was previously stationed could not agree with Mr. Hishon, and there was a difference of opinion. Mr. Mowbray was very ill at present, and had to be granted leave of absence, otherwise the case would have been gone into. He had shown the hon. member, Mr. Dunsford, the report of the Public Service Board, who could see nothing in the charges at all.

Mr. JACKSON: There was an increase on the whole of the Mining Estimates of £5,000, represented by the vote for the London Mining Exhibition. He presumed that was mostly for the purchase of specimens, and would be returned in the course of time. The late Premier had stated that it was his intention to establish a mint in Queensland, and seeing that seven-tenths of the gold minted in New South Wales was sent from Queensland, it appeared only reasonable that they should have a mint here. The matter appeared to have been dropped, and perhaps the Minister would say whether the Government intended to establish a mint in Queensland or not. He wished to say a word with respect to schools of mines. They had a School of Mines Act, which required a local movement, and subscription for the establishment of a school of mines in any district. So far no advantage had been taken of the Act, and if it was not likely that anything would be done under the Act it would be better to repeal it and deal with the matter in another way—treating the mining industry as liberally as the agricultural industry, for the advancement of which they had established a college at the expense of the State without requiring any assistance from the agriculturists of the colony. He did not find fault with the Agricultural College, but he had no hesitation in saying that quicker and better results would follow the expenditure of the money in the establishment of a school of mines. Youths trained at the Agricultural College might or might not go into agriculture after they left the college, but certainly 90 per cent. of those trained in a school of mines would go into mining, and there was a demand for mining experts which did not exist for agricultural experts. He noticed in a telegram in this morning's *Courier* that in New South Wales, where they were not nearly so advanced in mining as in Queensland, bursaries were offered by the Mines Department to encourage youths to take up mine management and mining engineering. They did nothing of that kind here for mining, though they did provide bursaries for the Agricultural College. He suggested also that the Government might publish a mining journal, as was done in New Zealand, and if the suggestion of the hon. member for Charters

Towers with respect to the *Agricultural Journal* was adopted there was no reason why by advertisements and subscriptions it should not be made self-supporting. There was not a great deal to be said this year on the Mines Estimates, as they had mining before the House for so long in considering the Mining Bill. Speaking for himself he had no particular grievance to ventilate on those Estimates.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The matter of the establishment of a mint in Queensland had been under the consideration of the Treasury for some little time, and some four or six months ago a recommendation had been made from the Treasury to the Premier for the establishment of a mint. They had since made many inquiries from the banks, and they found that it was now found more profitable to ship the gold in bullion to London. All the gold from Croydon, and a great deal from Charters Towers, was sent home in that way. If they established a mint here it was not likely they would get more than half the gold produced in the colony. Not more than half now went to Sydney, and it was probable that even after the establishment of a mint here some would continue to be sent to Sydney. They had since heard that the Imperial Government was going to allow colonial mints to mint silver. It was said that there would be a considerable profit on the minting of silver, but the mints in the other colonies did not agree with that. If it was found that the establishment of a mint would pay they could go on with it, but in the meantime it was better to wait. He thought there would be a loss for the first few years if they established a mint of their own. As for a school of mines, he was exceedingly anxious that they should have something of the sort. Charters Towers had made a start. They had a piece of land, and had raised £500, and the Government had given them a subsidy of £1,000.

Mr. DUNSFORD: Under what regulations are they working?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: They had made their own regulations. The membership was free, and they were doing the best they could with the material at their disposal. He believed the best school of mines at present in Australia was the Sydney University. He had been rather opposed to the establishment of a university in Queensland; but when the late Premier informed him that a mining chair would be one of the principal chairs in the university, he cordially agreed with the proposal. That would give them a first-class school of mines on the lines of the Sydney University. The hon. member for Fitzroy could tell them that some of the students from the Sydney University had gone to Mount Morgan, and that that university was turning out the best mining experts in Australia. He would like to see some of the wealthy men at Charters Towers, Mount Morgan, or Rockhampton endow a school of mines to the extent of £2,000, which would mean a subsidy of £4,000 from the Government, but so far private enterprise had not been sufficiently liberal.

Mr. BROWNE: Private enterprise did not give much towards the agricultural college.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: If they were to have only a mining chair in the proposed university, it would pay the colony to have a university. With regard to a mining paper, they had a number of mining papers in Queensland at the present time. On Charters Towers they had four mining papers.

Mr. JACKSON: How is it they have not criticised the Mining Bill?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Perhaps they had been negligent in that respect. He was sorry that a leading paper like the *Northern*

Miner had not criticised the Bill; but the *Gympie* papers had. He did not know that the *Agricultural Journal* had been a great success. It was a very costly production, and he did not know whether they were getting value for the money they were spending on it. At the present time they were publishing illustrated books of all the goldfields, and Mr. Jack was taking home some 35,000 with the mining exhibit. They were going to advertise Queensland well in London. £5,000 was set down on the Estimates for the London Exhibition, though it would cost a great deal more than that before they were done with it. By the end of last financial year they had accumulated about £15,000 worth of specimens, and so far they had paid out of revenue about £40,000 in the purchase of gold and specimens. Of course the gold they could dispose of in London, and the specimens were worth the money they had cost. They would not exhibit at Paris because there was nothing like enough room offered. They were getting 20,000 feet in London, while in Paris they could only get 1,100 feet, and in an area of twenty-five acres it would be almost impossible to find such a small space. There was to be an exhibition at Glasgow the year after the Paris Exhibition, and very likely our exhibit would go there. Mr. Jack would leave for London at the end of this month, and had sufficient stuff packed and promised to make a good display in the 20,000 feet that they had taken. Mr. Jack was also getting up some lectures; he was full of valuable information with regard to our minerals, which he would be glad to impart to the people in the old country.

MR. JACKSON: Aren't you sending home any mining views?

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: Mr. Jack was taking home a lot of mining views, as well as other views illustrating the conditions of life in the colony, and a great deal of printed matter. Mr. Jack was a very modest man, but he told him (Mr. Philp) that he would make a display the like of which had never been seen in England.

MR. CALLAN: He had had something to do with sending gold home during the last few years, and he was strongly of opinion that at present a mint in Queensland would not pay. The tendency was to send home the gold in a raw state, as the exchange was in our favour. He was entirely in favour of a school of mines. He would like to see them established at Charters Towers, Mount Morgan, Gympie, and other mining centres, but not in a place where the practical instruction could not be combined with the theoretical. At the same time, Sydney University had turned out some most admirable men. They might be theoretical at first, but after they had the opportunity of applying their theories to practical work, they proved themselves first-class men in the treatment of ores. They had on Mount Morgan some eight or nine young men who had come from the Sydney University, and some who had been there had gone away. One was offered £1,000 a year to manage a mine near Sumatra, and another had gone to some other place. They had now a staff of men who could not be equalled in Australia, and nearly all of them came from the Sydney University. There was a growing demand for men possessing this class of knowledge, and the sooner schools of mines were established in the different mining centres the better. He would do all he could to assist in that direction.

MR. DUNSFORD hoped the Minister would accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Kennedy and establish a mining journal, which could be issued monthly, the same as in New Zealand. It was only a matter of starting it; and, as it would have a good circulation, they

should have no difficulty in regard to advertisements. He was pleased to know that a start was to be made with the school of mines in connection with the mining institute at Charters Towers. It would be rather a curious institution, as it would not be under the School of Mines Bill, and it was possible that it might clash with the technical class under the control of the school of arts, as one would be getting a grant of £1 for £1 and the other of £2 for £1.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: Only for the buildings.

MR. DUNSFORD: Now that they had provided in the Mining Bill that mining managers must have certificates, it was all the more necessary that there should be a school of mines. Another matter he wished to refer to was in connection with the complaints that came from Charters Towers in reference to the tailings that had been treated by the cyanide process. The people there were complaining that the sand, which was impregnated with cyanide, was blowing all over the place, and they were afraid that by getting into tanks it would be a source of danger. They had heard a good deal recently about lead-poisoning, but this was a more serious danger. He therefore hoped that before the Government made any regulations on the subject, the Government Analyst would make full inquiries, so as to find out the exact condition of affairs.

MR. STUMM: He understood the Secretary for Mines to say that the school of mines at Charters Towers was to be subsidised, so far as the building was concerned, to the extent of £2 for £1, and he presumed those conditions would be extended to other places.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: Yes.

MR. STUMM: He agreed with the necessity for schools of mines, but he was not so sanguine as to expect that they would turn out scientists equal to those who came from the Sydney University, still they must make a beginning. If there was no prospect at present of having a chair of mines in this colony, the Minister might seriously consider the advisability of granting bursaries available at Sydney.

MR. O'CONNELL: The Mining Commission took a great deal of evidence in regard to the establishment of a school of mines in Queensland. Mr. Richard, of Mount Morgan, who was a man who had worked himself up into an undoubtedly high position in the mining world, gave it as his opinion that the establishment of small local schools would very likely lead to an undesirable class of men getting positions which they were not competent to fill. The students should be thoroughly grounded in the higher branches, particularly mathematics, and should then have some practical experience. He believed some splendid men were being turned out at Mount Morgan. He strongly urged upon the Minister the wisdom of offering special mining bursaries, by which a thoroughly scientific education might be acquired, and students could then return to the colony to complete the practical portion of their education.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: He understood that all university students must matriculate. At present they were giving three exhibitions yearly to universities, and they might be increased by the addition of mining bursaries. He might almost promise that something of that sort would be done. He was glad to say that a son of a late Secretary for Mines, Mr. Macrossan, had just gained a university exhibition. As to the cyanide question, he would get the warden to report, and if necessary call in the assistance of the doctors of Charters Towers.

MR. SIM asked if it was the intention of the department to make any provision for supplying mining machinery to struggling goldfields? The

Minister had already initiated the system, and he should be glad to hear that it was likely to be extended.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: The department was prepared to assist outside fields; but of course they had to be very careful in making advances. At present there was an application in from the Coen, some people there offering to find £700 if the Government would advance £500. The warden was now reporting on the matter, and if his report was satisfactory arrangements would be made to. Such fields as Charters Towers and Gympie, of course, wanted no such assistance, as they had plenty of machinery.

MR. DUNS FORD: Ravenswood does.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES thought there was plenty of machinery round about Ravenswood.

MR. JACKSON: No.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: At all events the department was prepared to offer every assistance in such cases.

MR. SIM: £2,000 was on the Estimates for prospecting, though it was seldom the whole amount was spent. The allowance of £1 a week per man was altogether inadequate in many instances—especially in the north-western portion of Carpentaria—and he should be glad to know whether the special circumstances of prospecting parties would be taken into consideration and the allowance increased where the difficulties were greatest.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: That was being done now. The department paid as much as 30s. a week in some cases.

MR. NEWELL was glad to hear of the prospect of a school of mines being established, as it was much needed. Some years ago the Government employed gentlemen to travel round and instruct miners, and that information had been very useful. For instance, the demonstrators taught how to test for copper, silver, etc., and the information so imparted had, he believed, led to several discoveries. The district which he represented contained almost every known metal and mineral. A great deal of money had come out of it, and no doubt if people were educated up to testing for various metals further valuable discoveries would be made. There was a very fair show at present to develop them a little more. What was wanted was instruction to be given to the general public. They did not want schools of mines on the elaborate scale of Sydney or Ballarat; so long as a start was made on a proper basis it would be highly appreciated by students. He had no doubt that if schools of mines were established at the various centres miners would avail themselves of them, especially as under the new Bill mining managers would have to obtain certificates of competency. He hoped that next year the Estimates would contain a vote for this purpose.

MR. MAUGHAN: Some years ago he was connected with a movement in Brisbane having for its object the formation of schools of mines, but the Government of that day were not in sympathy with the project. He hoped that next year a start would be made by the present Government in that direction.

MR. BROWNE: When the Agricultural College Bill was under discussion, the mining members were encouraged to vote for it on the distinct assurance that a School of Mines Bill on exactly the same lines would be brought in. That had not been done. The miners were simply told that if they could find so much money for the purpose the Government would

find so much more. There was far more necessity for a school of mines than for an agricultural college. Managers of farms did not need to obtain certificates of competency, whereas, under the new Mining Bill, managers, engineers, and all in positions of responsibility, had to obtain certificates. They were all required to have a certain amount of scientific training, and the only place where that could be given was at a school of mines. The offer of a small subsidy by the Government was meant after the promise made, and the Minister ought to be ashamed of it. The School of Mines Act would be an insult to the mining community as long as it remained on the statute-book, unless the promise of the Government was redeemed.

Question put and passed.

GOLDFIELDS.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES moved that £17,799 be granted for goldfields. There was an increase of £80 to the warden at Mount Morgan. The warden was also police magistrate, and as the population of Mount Morgan was now between 6,000 and 7,000 he did not think £400 was too much. The salary of the warden at Gladstone had been increased to £400. At Eidsvold the previous warden got £400. A new appointment had been made at £300; the place was a very small one, and there was not much to do. Increases of £20 had been given to the mining registrars at Charters Towers, Gympie, Rockhampton, and Croydon. At Thornborough the mining registrar, who was also acting warden, had been given an increase of £40; he had previously been receiving only £160. The powder magazine keepers at Charters Towers and Gympie—Mr. Nash was the discoverer of Gympie—each received an increase of £20. The inspectors had been put back to the salaries they received before.

MR. BROWNE: The inspector at Croydon, Mr. McLean, originally had charge of Croydon, the Etheridge, and away to the Cloncurry. While Mr. Shakespeare was in the South, Mr. McLean was sent to Herberton, and since then Herberton had been tacked on to his district. It was a farce to call a man inspector of mines and expect him to travel all over that country. He thought Mr. McLean should have only Croydon and the Etheridge to look after, and that another inspector should have charge of the country on the eastern side of the range.

MR. NEWELL was glad to hear the remarks of the hon. member. He also thought that another inspector was necessary in view of the growing importance of the mining fields in the district he represented, and he hoped the Minister would be able to see his way to have another man appointed.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: If the Mining Bill became law he believed two more would have to be appointed. These Estimates were framed six or eight months ago, and the Mining Bill had not yet become law.

MR. JACKSON: The warden at Ravenswood was rather overworked on account of having no clerk. The clerk there formerly had been transferred, but that was not meant to be a permanent arrangement, and as mining was likely to boom in the district, and that would mean a good deal more work for the warden, he hoped the Minister would try to give Mr. Cusack an extra hand as soon as possible. Another thing, he understood it was the policy of the department to give Northern men transfers to the South after a number of years service, but Mr. Cusack had been at Ravenswood in the North sixteen or seventeen years without a change.

Question put and passed.

IN AID OF PROSPECTING.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES moved that a sum not exceeding £2,000 be granted in aid of prospecting.

Question put and passed.

Mr. CALLAN: Mr. Annear—

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Too late!

The CHAIRMAN: I declared that the "Ayes" had it.

Mr. CALLAN: I declare you did not.

The CHAIRMAN: I put the question, and declared that the "Ayes" had it.

LONDON MINING EXHIBITION.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES moved that £5,000 be granted for the London Mining Exhibition. He had given all the information about this vote already.

Question put and passed.

GOVERNMENT ANALYST.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES moved that £1,485 be granted for the Government Analyst. Provision was made for a new officer—Inspector of Magazines—at £275 a year. There was an advance of £20 each to two assistants, and an increase of £30 to the Government Analyst.

Question stated.

Mr. DUNSFORD: Mr. Annear—

Mr. CALLAN: You are too late, too. The same as I was.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. CALLAN: You are unfair.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is the first member in this House who has ever told me that. I am confident—

Mr. CALLAN: I am perfectly confident, too.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is not in order in making that statement.

Mr. CALLAN: I state it. I do not care whether I am in order or not.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not ask the hon. member to care for me, but he will have to obey the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. DUNSFORD asked if the Government had any students preparing to become inspectors of explosives.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The Government Analyst had trained the men who were at Rockhampton and Townsville at the present time. There had been several young men under him receiving instruction for three or four months, and at present he (the Secretary for Mines) had a son of his own there. Certificates had been granted to several young men, including one who had gone to Western Australia.

Mr. CALLAN: He was assured by the Premier and the hon. member for Cairns that he made a mistake just now, and he apologised to the Chairman.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The CHAIRMAN: I am confident that the hon. member would be one of the last members in the House to say anything offensive to me.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BROWNE had growled over this vote nearly every year, and he was no better satisfied with it now than he was when he first referred to it. He believed the Government Analyst was a really capable officer; but he had a miserable building, and no appliances to justify him in being called "Government Analyst." Why the vote should be included in the Estimates for the Mines Department he did not know, because for

one job the analyst did for that department he did eighty-seven for other branches of the public service. Last year the Minister stated that the Government were prepared to assay parcels of stone and tailings for miners.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: So they are now.

Mr. BROWNE: He had had a lot of correspondence during the year from several persons who had read the hon. gentleman's remarks, pointing out, among other things, that where a fee of 7s. 6d. would be charged by a private person, the charge made by the Government Analyst was £2 2s. Some men who had sent down some samples of tailings to be assayed, had shown him a reply from the Government Analyst stating that he had no appliances to test the samples. He hoped the Government would take steps to provide that officer with a suitable building and the necessary appliances and not keep him in a place which was a miserable affair compared with the laboratory at the Gatton Agricultural College.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: It was news to him that the Government Analyst could not do any work that was sent to him. He understood that he had all the appliances that he required. Nearly every member of the House had brought him stuff to be assayed, and it had been assayed free of cost. They had a scale of fees, because they did not want to compete with private assayers; but if anyone sent stone and said he could not afford to pay for the assay they did it for him. He was astonished that the hon. member for Croydon, who saw him about once a week about various matters, had not shown him the letter to which he had referred. The present building was put up for one man, Mr. Mar, while the laboratory at Gatton was built to accommodate thirty or forty students. If they were erecting a building now for the Government Analyst they would put up one suitable for present requirements. The Government Analyst got anything he asked for, and no one had a more complete plant. There was not too much room in the building, but he expected that the Exhibition Buildings would be ready soon, and there would be plenty of room there.

Mr. BROWNE: The hon. gentleman had asked why he had not brought him the letter he referred to, but he thought the Government Analyst and not the Minister was the man to go to with it. That gentleman hunted up his books and found that his reply was as he had stated it, and before he left Mr. Henderson gave him a copy of the scale of fees for assays. As for the plant, he had gone with Mr. Sellheim and Mr. Rands with some stuff to have assayed, and there was not a gold scales or a mould for smelting in the place. He was objecting only to the way in which the place was carried on.

Mr. HAMILTON: Miners in his district had requested him to get assays, and he had got them satisfactorily and correctly made by the Government Analyst. It did not interest him what appliances there were so long as the assays were made, and when he went to the department he did not look under the tables to see how many moulds there were.

Mr. BROWNE: If the hon. member had been entrusted, as he had been, with specimens sent to the exhibition, and asked to have them crushed, and to get the true value of them for his constituents, he would probably have been as careful in the matter as he (Mr. Browne) had been.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed; the CHAIRMAN reported progress, and the Committee obtained leave to sit again on Monday next.

MINING BILL.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from the Council, returning this Bill with amendments, in which they invited the concurrence of the Assembly.

On the motion of the SECRETARY FOR MINES, the message was ordered to be taken into consideration in committee on Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER: I move that this House do now adjourn. The business for Monday will be the consideration of the amendments of the Legislative Council in the Mining Bill.

Mr. JACKSON: I would like to ask the Secretary for Mines if we will have the Bill with the amendments in the morning?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Yes, I will arrange for that.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at half-past 11 o'clock.