

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 1905**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER, 1905.

The SPEAKER (Hon. Sir A. S. Cowley, *Herbert*) took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

## QUESTIONS.

## PRICKLY PEAR INFESTED AREAS.

Mr. MAXWELL (*Burke*) asked the Secretary for Public Lands, without notice—

1. Can he get an estimate prepared of the number of acres of land thickly infested with prickly pear in Queensland?

2. Further, can he get an estimate of the amount of deterioration taking place yearly from the spread of this pest?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. J. T. Bell, *Dalby*) replied—

I shall be very glad to do all I can to give the information which the hon. member desires.

## MISREPRESENTING QUEENSLAND.

Mr. KENNA (*Bowen*) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Is he aware that the following paragraph appeared recently in a London paper:—"Queensland rivers and lagoons are haunted by ferocious alligators, which lie in wait for cattle and incautious bathers. The far North is a land of fierce heat and occasional cyclones and siroccos. On the treeless plains to the west of the dividing range the temperature rises at times almost to boiling point. Eggs have been cooked by simply turning them over on the sand, which is so hot as to make the natives hop about like cats on hot bricks"?

2. Was the Agent-General requested to contradict the above statements?

3. Did he refuse to do so?

The PREMIER (Hon. A. Morgan, *Warwick*) replied—

The paragraph quoted by the hon. member appears in an Australian Reader in use in the New South Wales public schools, and has been the subject of correspondence between the Queensland and New South Wales Education Departments. I have not communicated with the Agent-General on the matter.

## STATEMENTS BY A. J. COTTON.

Mr. REINHOLD (*Brisbane South*) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a paragraph appearing in the *Brisbane Courier* of 19th instant, headed "A. J. Cotton Interviewed," a leading article in the following issue of the same paper dealing with the same matter, and further references to the same subject—namely, "The Alien Restriction Act," also in the same paper on the 21st instant?

2. Is it a fact, as stated in these articles, that if Mr. Cotton wanted to bring a man to look after his horses on the voyage, or a nurse to look after his children, he would have to guarantee that they would leave the country within six months?

3. Have any steps been taken, or is it the intention of the Government to take steps, to induce the Federal Government to remove these wrong impressions concerning the Alien Restriction Act?

4. Will the Government instruct the Agent-General to do his best on every occasion not only to contradict such statements when made, but to assist in making it impossible for such statements to be believed?

The PREMIER replied—

1. Yes.

2, 3, and 4. I am in communication with the Commonwealth Government and the Queensland Agent-General on the subject.

## RELIEVING WATCHMAN.

Mr. REINHOLD asked the Secretary for Public Works—

Is it a fact that a man who has a boot and shoe business in George street gets the bulk of the relieving work for both day and night watchmen on the Treasury and Executive buildings?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. D. F. Denham, *Oxley*) replied—

Patrick Hanlon was appointed 19th January, 1901, as relieving watchman. Upon inquiry, I learn he has a small boot shop in George street.

## BRISBANE TRAFFIC BILL.

Mr. LESINA (*Clermont*) asked the Chief Secretary, without notice—

How it is the Traffic Bill does not appear on the business-sheet at all to-day?

(No answer.)

## INSPECTION OF LAND BOILERS.

Mr. WOODS (*Woothakata*) asked the Secretary for Public Works, without notice—

In view of the recent explosion at Pimpama Island, is it the intention of the Minister to amend Part III. of the Factories and Shops Acts to provide for inspection of land boilers?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS replied—

Not only that district but other districts are at present receiving the consideration of the department with regard to Part III. of the Act recited.

## BRANDS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

## FIRST READING.

On the motion of the SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. D. F. Denham, *Oxley*), this Bill was read a first time, and the second reading made an Order of the Day for tomorrow.

AGRICULTURAL BANK ACTS  
AMENDMENT BILL.

## PROPOSED INTRODUCTION.

On the motion of the SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE, it was formally resolved—

That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of the desirability of introducing a Bill to amend the Agricultural Bank Act Amendment Act of 1904 in certain particulars.

## SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.  
PUBLIC HEALTH.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £6,913 be granted for "Public Health." There was a decrease of £32 as compared with last year. There was an increase of £22 in salaries, Central Board of Health, and a decrease of £170 in incidental expenses, railway fares, freights, etc. There was an increase of £40 in the Bacteriological Institute. "Dairies" disappeared from the vote, having been taken over by the Agricultural Department. In "Lock Hospitals" there was a decrease of £50; in "Lazarets—contingencies," an increase of £200, making a total decrease of £32.

Mr. KENNA pointed out that the report of the Commissioner of Public Health disclosed a very unsatisfactory state of affairs with respect to the adulteration and sale of food. Bread was exhibited for sale along with decaying vegetables

and fruit, and exposed to the germ-laden dust of the streets. Disinfectants were sold which were a danger to the community. Butcher shops were in many instances insanitary owing to defective drainage. There were also sixty-nine places in which baby-farming was carried on, some of which were in a deplorable condition. Dr. Ham also gave details with regard to numerous articles of food and drink which were adulterated with deleterious substances. It was deplorable that this adulteration should be allowed to go on practically unchecked. The Commissioner of Public Health was dependent for analyses upon the Government Analyst, and, as Mr. Henderson was very busy, Dr. Ham's operations were sadly hampered. Some attempt should be made by the Government to deal drastically with people who, for the sake of gain, were poisoning the community, and some explanation was due to the Committee as to why, in the face of Dr. Ham's report, no decided action was taken. He was glad to see that some action was to be taken with regard to the protection of children. Mr. Henderson showed that a large proportion of the infant mortality was due to the adulteration of milk with water. That sort of thing was practically murder, and it was more dastardly because it was not done openly. He wished to know what the Home Secretary proposed to do in regard to the various matters he had mentioned.

Mr. BOUCHARD called attention again to the inadequate salaries paid to the laboratory assistants in the Bacteriological Institute. The first assistant received £150 and the second assistant £110 per annum, the latter being down for an increase of £10 this year. Last year the Home Secretary promised to take the matter into consideration. According to the report of the Health Commissioner, those officers had examined no less than 27,131 specimens during the year 1904, including 217 specimens of tuberculosis, 369 of the blood of typhoid fever patients, and 25,278 plague-stricken rats and mice. Considering the offensive and dangerous character of their work, it must be admitted that those two officers were very inadequately paid, and he thought the Home Secretary should make provision for giving them increases. It must be remembered that upon their report Brisbane might be proclaimed a plague-infected port.

Mr. REINHOLD asked what work was performed by the laboratory assistants?

The HOME SECRETARY: It was unfortunately true that they had not been able to provide for the proper inspection of foods and drugs, but that was because the finances did not permit of their appointing the number of inspectors who would be required to carry out the work efficiently. They would have to be paid something like £150 per annum, and the total cost would be about £1,500 a year. With regard to baby-farming, he proposed to proceed with a Bill, during the course of the next few weeks, dealing with the protection of infants. Proceedings had been taken in a number of cases of adulteration of milk, but unfortunately the Act was defective. There would be some further prosecutions next Tuesday. With regard to the salaries of the laboratory assistants, it was quite true that he promised to take them into consideration last year, and the second assistant was down for an increase of £10. He understood that their duties were to examine the specimens sent to the Bacteriological Institute.

Mr. HAWTHORN recognised that there were considerable difficulties in the way of the Health Department so far as expense was concerned. If plenty of money was available, the

department could operate on a more extensive basis. During the last two or three years, as a result of its efforts, the food supplies of Brisbane had greatly improved in quality; and if, when times improved, the Home Secretary appointed more inspectors, even better results would be attained.

Mr. LESINA: The chief causes for failure in connection with the administration of the sections of the Health Act dealing with adulteration of foods and drugs were the criminal apathy of the local authorities, and the starving of the Health Department. Articles of food of local manufacture were mostly good, but a lot of cheap and nasty stuff of southern manufacture was put on the Brisbane market. The only thing to prevent that was to insist on all goods being properly labelled, so that the manufacturers could be identified. The Health Department required an analyst of its own. Mr. Henderson, the Government Analyst, was a very busy man. He was already overworked; in fact, some of his work was months behind, and any work he did for the Health Department was done purely as a matter of courtesy. The result was that difficulties were placed in the way of the Health Department instituting prosecutions for adulteration. The way to remove that difficulty was to place another analyst under the control of the Health Commissioner, whose business should be to deal

[4 p.m.] with the sophistication of food products and drugs, and other matters relating to health.

Dr. Ham had pointed out what was necessary, but, owing to the deadly, dull apathy of the local authorities, nothing was done. As a result of analyses, prosecutions could be instituted against the dirty, unscrupulous grocers of Brisbane, who were trying to turn a dishonest penny by selling cheap and nasty articles to the poor, who could not afford to buy better. Sauce was being sold in Brisbane at 1s. per dozen, probably some poisonous concoction, like other adulterated food, which not only injured the present generation, but undermined the stamina of generations to come. It was the duty of the Health Department to hound down and banish out of existence altogether the unscrupulous trader who resorted to such practices. It was nothing but an attempt to commit homicide. Among the articles mentioned in Dr. Ham's report as having been analysed were—oils, milk, tea, oatmeal, vinegar, pickles, liquors, cordials, jam, confectionery, cochineal, essences, sauce, baking powder, curry powder, custard powder, cocoa, pepper, mustard, tinned fish and tinned meat. In all these cases there had been adulteration, and in some instances there was not one grain of the original article it was supposed to represent. Dr. Ham mentioned that the tinned fish paste was something diabolical—stuff sold at 2d. a tin or 1s. 6d. the dozen, which poor women gave their children as a cheap and reliable kind of lunch. Dr. Ham gave instances of the adulteration of sardines, and of turkey and ham paste, which consisted of meat of ancient history, boric acid, and starch. Poor people were forced to buy these cheap articles; their consumption led to internal disorders and disease, which filled our hospitals and charitable institutions. Dr. Ham recommended that a more uniform system of dealing with adulterated food should be adopted throughout Australia, and pointed out that proper and adequate labelling would go far to protect the health and interests of the public. In the southern States the name and address of the manufacturer had to be shown on every tin, but it was not so in Queensland, with the result that the other States sent all their "cheap and nasty" rubbish to Queensland to be disposed

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f. Dr. Ham also stated that the only local authority which carried out its duty under the Act by appointing an analyst was the Brisbane Municipal Council, and that the lack of qualified analysts was brought about on the score of expense. The Government should step in and bridge that difficulty at once. If they could find the money to pay £26,000 to the Orient Company to find a market for the produce from the Darling Downs, then they should be able to find £1,000 for establishing a separate analytical department under the Health Act. The only prosecution initiated last year was one initiated by the head of the Inland Revenue Department, Mr. Gabriel, who had done good work in connection with the prosecution of Sizer, that monster of iniquity who had kept the Normanby Hotel, and who was convicted of adulteration, and paid a fine of £300. The most up-to-date way of poisoning people seemed now to be to start a hotel, adulterate the liquor, and if you were prosecuted and found guilty, to pay a fine of £200 or £300, and then clear out from the State and start again somewhere else. Mr. Gabriel had also done excellent work in connection with the prosecution of the licensee of the Broadway Hotel, who had also been poisoning people for a number of years. There was room for more energetic action in Brisbane in connection with the adulterated liquor sold at some of the hotels, and also soft drinks, many of which, such as ginger ale and raspberry syrup, did not contain any of the constituents which their name implied. Dr. Ham said that he was not able to obtain a genuine bottle of wine in Brisbane, and that wine sold here by unscrupulous people did not contain 1 oz. of grape food. The Minister should give Dr. Ham every assistance in carrying out the provisions of the Act in order to preserve the health of the community.

Mr. BOWMAN directed attention to Dr. Ham's remarks on the claim of Captain Rost, of the Indian Medical Service, to have grown the leprosy bacillus and to have successfully treated the disease by inoculation with "leprolin." Dr. Ham stated that a small supply of "leprolin" was received by the department in May last through the good offices of Dr. Culpin, M. H. R., and that a leper at the lazaret at Stradbroke Island was injected with one dose at intervals of a fortnight, that the man considered himself very much better, that both he and other patients were urgent in their demand that further supplies of "leprolin" should be procured for their treatment, and that the material was now being manufactured at the Bacteriological Institute under Mr. Pound. One leper had written to him (Mr. Bowman) asking him to get him some "leprolin," but he had been unable to get it at any chemist's in Brisbane. He should like to know whether any other lepers had been treated with "leprolin," and whether the results were satisfactory.

Mr. NIELSON said there was an increasing number of lepers among kanakas. At the end of 1904 there were 7,870 kanakas in Queensland, and out of the nineteen cases of leprosy in the State that year thirteen were kanakas. How many cases had occurred last year he did not know, but he knew that there had been some cases among kanakas. Three kanakas suffering from leprosy were brought down from his district last Tuesday. The cases had been discovered partly by accident, and he was satisfied that there were more cases of apparent leprosy among kanakas which were not known officially. He suggested that the kanakas should be examined by the Government medical officers in their respective districts.

The HOME SECRETARY understood that those lepers at Stradbroke who asked for the

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"leprolin" treatment were allowed to have it, and that there were symptoms of improvement in the lepers who were using "leprolin," but it was impossible to say at present whether the relief would be permanent, or whether the remedy would effect a cure. With regard to the suggestion of the hon. member for Bundaberg—that they should have all kanakas examined by Government medical officers—he was afraid that if they undertook to subject the whole of the coloured population to medical examination, in order to see if any of them were afflicted with leprosy, they would have a rather big bill to meet; and, if they instituted such an examination in regard to leprosy, there was no reason why they should not make a similar examination with respect to tuberculosis, which was a very prevalent disease in Queensland.

Mr. MULCAHY urged that where a case of suspected leprosy occurred it should be attended to at once, and said he had been informed that it had been known for some time that one of the lepers brought down from Bundaberg last Tuesday had been suffering from leprosy for a considerable time.

The HOME SECRETARY pointed out that it was not sufficient for a local medical man to give his opinion on a suspected case of leprosy, as he might not be an expert. They had to send specimens of serum from the person suspected to the Bacteriological Institute for examination. They had to exercise very great care in the matter, as once a person was pronounced to be suffering from leprosy he was practically imprisoned for life. Moreover, it was inadvisable to create a scare about leprosy, because, although a great many persons did not mind living in the same house with a consumptive patient, they became panic-stricken when a case of leprosy was reported.

Mr. MANN suggested that suspected lepers should be segregated in some isolated place away from population, and not in the neighbourhood of population, as was done in a recent case at Cairns, where the patient was kept for several weeks in the police yard.

Mr. FORSYTH, who was indistinctly heard, was understood to urge that a separate analyst should be appointed in connection with the Health Department, and that it should be compulsory that there should be a tuberculin test of all milk which went into consumption, the persons supplying the milk paying a fee for each analysis. He pointed out that Dr. Baxter-Tyrie stated that there were 3,769 cows in milk in the metropolitan area last year, and that practically no precautions were taken to prevent the transmission of tuberculosis by cows' milk. The doctor further stated that in 127 cases of tuberculosis examined by Woodhead, intestinal ulceration was found in forty-three, and that in 100 cases, or nearly 79 per cent. of the whole, the intestinal glands were in some stage of tubercular degeneration. It was evident, therefore, that this was a matter which should receive very serious consideration.

Mr. LESINA said he understood the hon. member for Carpentaria—who spoke so low that he could only catch an odd word at intervals—to urge that a separate analyst should be appointed for the Health Department, and that tuberculin tests of milk should be insisted upon. He entirely agreed with that suggestion. Dr. Ham stated, on page 10 of his report, that it was necessary that a special analyst should be attached to his department, and the Home Secretary should make an effort to appoint such an officer, otherwise the Health Act was going to remain a dead letter so far as adulteration was concerned.

In England, Victoria, and the United States, great attention was devoted to the purity of the food supplies of the community, but in Queensland nothing was done. Their Health Department was presided over by an officer drawing a very big salary, and the only thing that prevented his seeing that articles of food were not adulterated was a matter of about £1,000 per annum for an analyst. They were able to pay £3,000 to Dr. Maxwell and £26,000 per annum to the Orient Company, and yet they could not afford to vote £1,000 for the Health Department for that purpose. If he were the Minister, he would see that it was done. The constant whine was that the Government had no money; but what did they keep a Government in office for but to find revenue to carry out the law? He wished to know whether the Home Secretary intended to do anything in regard to the appointment of an analyst.

HON. R. PHILP hoped the Home Secretary would not appoint a special analyst for the Health Department. They had a most capable Government Analyst and a very efficient assistant, and work was undertaken by that department for all the Government departments, including the Health Department. Last year no less than 278 samples were examined for Dr. Ham. Why did Dr. Ham not institute prosecutions upon the strength of the reports in some of those cases? The only prosecution he remembered which was instituted by the Health Department was a case in which salad oil was proved to be cotton-seed oil instead of olive oil. Well, cotton-seed oil was not poisonous. Dr. Ham had greater powers than any Minister; why did he not take action? Every department wanted an analyst of its own. He did not know any State in Australia with as good an analytical department as Queensland. The work done for Dr. Ham practically took up the time of one assistant; the work done was enormous, and, if the staff was inadequate for the work, another assistant might be appointed. Mr. Gabriel, who was attached to the Treasury Department, got work done by the Government Analyst, and he instituted a lot of prosecutions, and Dr. Ham could do the same if he liked. When the Hospitals Board came into existence, Dr. Ham's work would be greatly reduced.

The HOME SECRETARY: Dr. Ham's usefulness would not be impaired by the hospitals board, as the only portion of the work under the Health Act that would be taken over by the hospitals board was the functions which were imposed upon the Joint Epidemic Board in respect of infectious diseases, whereas the principal matters concerning health were sanitation and drainage. They could not hope, in equipping a health department in a young State like Queensland, to start on such a scale as they could afford to do it in a populous country.

Mr. KEOGH was thoroughly in accord with the hon. member for Clermont in regard to the necessity for the analysis of articles of human consumption. All imported foodstuffs should be analysed by the Customs Department in the same way as tea. That would be some proof that, if adulterated articles were sold, they must have been adulterated after coming here. A paper had just been put into his hand which contained an advertisement offering jam in 1-lb. tins for 2d. and in 2-lb. tins for 4d. Now, genuine jam could not be made at those prices. The same remarks applied to fish and other articles of food. Why should he and other traders be placed in the awkward position of selling things which the manufacturers said were good? The money that would be spent in appointing an analyst would be for the benefit

of the general public, and he hoped the Home Secretary would take the suggestion into serious consideration.

Mr. BURROWS: It seemed strange that year after year the same report should come before them and no action be taken. Surely this was an exceptional case in which the Government would be justified in incurring the necessary expense of appointing the analyst who Dr. Ham asserted was required. Dr. Ham pointed out the milk vendor who adulterated his milk by adding 10 per cent. of water would get £1 13s. 4d. a day for water if he sold 100 gallons at 4d. a quart; but that was a small matter compared with the injury done by adulteration. He would like to know how it was that no prosecutions were instituted in cases in which analyses disclosed the fact that there had been adulteration? There had been prosecutions with regard to certain publicans, and strict supervision in regard to articles of food was just as necessary as in regard to liquor. From Dr. Ham's report, it would appear that, through the Health Commissioner not having an analyst at his disposal, he was often compelled to wait for a considerable time before he could get the result of the analyses from the Government Analyst. That appeared to him to be the reason why no prosecutions had taken place.

The HOME SECRETARY: The prosecutions in these cases was really the business of the local authorities, and before Dr. [5 p.m.] Ham could take action he must prove that the local authority had neglected their duty. It would be rather a serious matter to the State if the central authority—the Health Department—had to take action when the local authorities in any city neglected their duty. He thought the local authorities were very remiss and very careless in this matter, and that the proceeding that had to be followed was somewhat cumbersome.

Mr. LESINA: If Dr. Ham had to prove that the local authority was negligent before he took action, by the time he did that the opportunity for prosecution would be past. The proper course was to amend the Health Act so as to take the whole business out of the hands of the local authorities, who, as a rule, consisted of little petty-fogging grocers and other traders who were interested in the sale of these very food products that were complained about, and it was not likely that they were going to take any action.

Question put and passed.

#### MEDICAL.—MEDICAL OFFICERS.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £2,710 be granted for "Medical Officers." The vote was £50 less than that for last year. The medical officers held *post mortem* examinations, and attended on the police and the prisoners.

Mr. LESINA had one or two serious allegations to make against the Government medical officer at Charters Towers. He was not the senior medical officer on Charters Towers, either by residence or qualification, and the perfunctory and negligent way he carried out his duties in one or two instances led to inquiries being made into the deaths of two or three people. His appointment by the late Government was largely the result of political influence. He was the servile puppet of the Lower Mosman street push, to which belonged the Hon. E. B. Miles and the newly elected member for Charters Towers, Mr. Paul. When he (Mr. Lesina) was in Charters Towers some years ago this same medical officer conspired with other men to down the *Eagle*, the Labour paper there, and they practically succeeded. He also did his very best to prevent the

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carrying out of the sanitary prosecutions which were commenced at Dr. Ham's instigation for the suppression of the plague spots on Charters Towers. He was also a member of the Charters Towers Licensing Bench, but he was only known to sit on the bench on one occasion, when he went there especially to secure a license for a female friend of his. This man was paid £100 a year by the Government, and had the right of private practice. With regard to the case of McCrae, whose death was to some extent a mystery to-day, the rival theories formed by two sections of the police as to the cause of death led to an inquiry, and the appointment by the present Government of a man named Francis to hold another inquiry into the matter. This man Francis bore an unwholesome reputation amongst Labour people on account of certain actions of his at Cunnamulla in connection with an election there. Yet men like Francis and members of the Police Force, who were particularly odious to the Labour party in connection with the strike, were the very people selected by the present Minister to make such reports as these, and yet the Minister was a Labour man. [The PREMIER: That has nothing whatever to do with it.]

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order. He must confine his remarks to the matter under discussion.

Mr. LESINA: McCrae's body was found in August of last year, and the first inquiry was held on the 15th of that month. The statements published on the 23rd August, 1904, showed that the death certificate of Dr. Forrest put the cause of death down to fracture of the base of the skull. The inquiry published on the 16th January, on the other hand, stated that—

The parietal bone, the highest, was smashed in, the fracture extending to the base of the skull: the size of the fracture was 3 inches.

As there were other bones between the parietal and the base, measuring in the shortest space over an inch, the fracture could not reach there without breaking some of them, but this was not mentioned. The evidence given by Thornton, the undertaker's assistant, was that the fracture was near the top of the head, and 6 inches would not reach the base by the shortest course, nor 9 inches from the top backwards. The whole of Dr. Forrest's evidence as published in the *Miner* revealed gross carelessness as compared with that given by Dr. O'Brien at Cairns in the Le Vaux case. Dr. O'Brien showed skill and care, while Dr. Forrest slumped his work, which was skilfully covered afterwards by distortion of facts and evasion. Thornton said that when the body was brought in in a coffin Dr. Forrest only took up a bone in his hand and after examining it for a few minutes threw it back into a bucket of water without cutting or dissecting the soft structures of it. The examination of McCrae, made by Dr. Forrest, was the foundation of almost the whole of the bungling that took place from the discovery of the body up till the present time, and the case was not yet settled. He believed, if the body of McCrae were exhumed, considerable light would be thrown upon the question by a careful examination of the skeleton. There were a number of people in Charters Towers who thought the Home Secretary would have had sufficient backbone to say, "There have been a number of mysteries in Charters Towers; but now I have the opportunity, I will sift this one to the bottom." If he did that, the people would think there was a Minister with a stiff spine in charge of the department. Had he been present when the Police Estimates were going through, he would have asked the cause of illness of the

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sub-inspector at the time all this bungling took place; but he would let that pass. There were other cases, the names of which he would not mention; but the Home Secretary could have them if he wished. Mrs. T—, aged about thirty-five, living in Forbes street, died suddenly on the 7th May, 1904. She had been in town getting her things ready for her wedding, which was fixed to take place on the following day. She slept with a young woman, and when she awoke she broke out in a violent fit of laughter and fell back dead. Dr. Redmond, who was sent for, asked to be allowed to make a *post mortem* examination, but his application was declined, and no *post mortem* examination was permitted. The body was taken to the morgue, and the Government medical officer, Dr. Forrest, went over and looked at it. The doctor examined the heart, and certified that death was due to fatty degeneration of the heart. No other organ was opened, though poisoning by cyanide, or apoplexy, would explain the cause of death just as reasonably as fatty degeneration of the heart. A more glaring case was that of Mrs. W—, which was reported in the Charters Towers *Evening Telegraph* of the 6th June, 1904. Mrs. W— lived with her husband, with whom she had had two or three good quarrels, owing to her habits of intoxication. Some of her neighbours stated that on the night previous to the discovery of her death they heard blows as of a heavy stick, and cries of "Murder!" The constable who gave evidence at the inquiry stated that there were marks of violence on the woman, and yet this accommodating doctor certified the cause of death to be natural—namely, kidney, heart, and liver disease, and alcoholism. He (Mr. Lesina) believed, and many residents of Charters Towers believed that if the body of that woman were exhumed it was almost certain that fractured ribs would be discovered, and that it would be found that those fractures were of a recent date. Another case was that of Mrs. M—, who resided at Charters Towers, and who died suddenly on the 21st of July, 1904. She was about thirty years of age, was living apart from her husband, and she had been pregnant for four months. A medical man was called in after death, and he discovered certain signs which convinced him that everything pointed in the direction of her death being due to hemorrhage of the genital organs, the assumption being that abortion had been attempted. The police took the body to the morgue, where it was examined by Dr. Forrest, who certified that death was due to hemorrhage—whether it was hemorrhage of the lungs, the heart, or any other organ, he did not say, but simply used the one word, "hemorrhage." This was the perfunctory fashion in which the Government medical officer at Charters Towers performed his duty, and he was able to perform his duty in that way because he had behind him a strong Government and a powerful clique in Charters Towers. In the case of Mrs. M—, hemorrhage was not the primary cause of death, it was only the secondary cause. The primary cause was, he believed, something altogether different—some instrumental or accidental means were the cause of the hemorrhage, and he held that the case was one which should form the subject of a searching inquiry. Constable Aspinall was present at the *post mortem* examination in this instance, and his description of what he saw to some extent bore out the theory of certain medical men and residents on the field—that death was undoubtedly due to hemorrhage, resulting from an attempt to procure abortion. Another case was that of Mr. C—, a well-known resident of Charters Towers—a very popular man, whom he had known personally for many years. Mr. C— was found dead, in October, in a

private house at Richmond Hill. It was stated at the inquiry that he had been drinking and taking opium—he had been employed in a chemist's shop—but nothing was done to show whether death was due to accident, to suicide, or to homicide. No inquiry was held, and the police magistrate gave an order for burial. There the matter ended. Was this the way in which Government medical officers carried out their duties? He thought it was advisable that the Home Secretary should give Dr. Forrest, the Government medical officer at Charters Towers, a rap over the knuckles, and let him clearly understand that he must perform his duties carefully, and not slum them over as he had done in the cases he had just mentioned.

Mr. WOODS wished to know whether it was the duty of the Government medical officer in the Cairns district to examine persons supposed to be of unsound mind. [The HOME SECRETARY: I understand that it is.] Well, a short time ago there was arrested at Thornborough a man who was supposed to be of unsound mind, and he was brought to Cairns. There he was examined by the Government medical officer, who pronounced him to be a fit subject for Goodna. The man was brought down to Brisbane under an escort, and the medical expert who examined him here found that there was nothing at all wrong with the man. The man was then turned adrift in Brisbane. Subsequently the officers of the Home Secretary's Department had him sent back to his family. By the action of the Government medical officer at Cairns the State was put to the expense of sending the man to Brisbane with an escort, and the man was branded with the stigma of having been arrested as a person of unsound mind. Where a public officer perpetrated acts of that kind it was the duty of the department to get rid of him. Another matter to which he wished to direct attention was the fact that there was only £30 down for a medical officer at Herberton, an officer who had to supervise six different hospitals. [Hon. R. PHILP: Does he ever see them?] He was satisfied that that officer never saw two of them. However, that was not the point. The medical officer at Cairns, who had only to supervise two hospitals, received £100, and at one time there was a medical officer at Thornborough at £30. He thought the allowance for the Herberton medical officer was insufficient, considering the number of hospitals he had to supervise.

The HOME SECRETARY: It was quite possible that the medical officer made a mistake, but he understood that the case presented some peculiarities. It was not the duty of medical officers to inspect hospitals at all.

Mr. MAXWELL: In outside districts doctors did not care about taking the £30—they had so much to do that it paid them better to get fees for any Government work. In his district one doctor was sent about 150 miles to view the body of a man who had been dead about a week, and all he was supposed to get was £30 per annum. One of the duties of the medical officers was to attend to the police of the district. The hon. member for Woothakata had one medical officer in his district and wanted six or seven, but he (Mr. Maxwell) did not complain, though there was none at all in his electorate. If the doctor at Chillagoe did anything for the Government, he would ask for a nice fee, and any other doctor in the district would do the same.

Mr. LESINA: In his opinion, doctors did not perform the duties appertaining to the office of medical officer as they should be performed. Of course, they were allowed the right of private practice, and their official duties suffered in comparison with their private practice. In a case

like McCrae's a most perfunctory examination was made. If the Home Secretary would read up the Press reports in connection with that case he would come to the conclusion that it was advisable to rap Dr. Forrest over the knuckles, and tell him that, if he intended to continue to hold the position of medical officer, he must discharge his duties more satisfactorily than he had done in the past.

Mr. FORSYTH asked why there was no medical officer at Normanton? At Cairns and Cooktown £100 was paid, and Normanton was about as important as Cooktown.

The HOME SECRETARY understood that at Normanton the medical man was paid by fees.

Question put and passed.

#### QUARANTINE.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £130 be granted for "Quarantine." There was a reduction in the vote this year of £50. The salary of the medical superintendent, Brisbane—£50—was omitted owing to the death of the late superintendent and the position not being filled up again.

Mr. LESINA asked how the cultivation experiment at Peel Island was getting on?

The HOME SECRETARY: There would be a report laid on the table very shortly upon the subject. It was utterly impossible to make the experiment a success on the site chosen.

Mr. FORSYTH wished to know why the position of medical superintendent, Brisbane, had not been filled up. If it was because there was now no quarantine station to superintend, it would be all right. [The HOME SECRETARY: I do not think there is any need for a medical superintendent.]

Mr. WOODS asked what the £80 for Magnetic Island, Townsville, was for? [The HOME SECRETARY: There are caretakers there.]

Mr. LESINA: If it was necessary to establish quarantine again, would the Government use the establishment at Peel Island? [The HOME SECRETARY: We would have to do that.] He understood the Federal Government intended taking over the quarantine station at Magnetic Island. Had they made any offer in connection with the matter?

The HOME SECRETARY: There was some talk of their doing so, but apparently the matter had lapsed.

HON. R. PHILP thought it would be far better to turn the Magnetic Island quarantine station into a Northern Dunwich. If they waited until the Federal Government took over quarantine, they were likely to wait a long time.

Mr. LESINA understood that the people from Dunwich who were engaged in growing sisal hemp and vegetables at Peel Island received extra rations and certain payment. What amount did they receive, and what were the extra rations?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. member is in order in going into that question.

Mr. LESINA: Well, the Chairman allowed it last year, as he would see on reference to *Hansard*, and now he shut down on it.

The HOME SECRETARY had no objection to giving the hon. member the information he desired. When the old men first went to Peel Island the understanding was that they were to receive an extra ration of tobacco. On one occasion when he was down they asked him if he

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would make a certain cash allowance in lieu of the extra tobacco. He thought it was a reasonable request, and granted it, and the old men were very well satisfied with the change.

Question put and passed.

#### ELECTORAL REGISTRATION.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £3,630 be granted for "Electoral Registration." Last year the vote was £9,350, so that there was a reduction of £5,720. The principal increase was one of £780 in the item "Railway fares, freights, printing, stationery, and telegrams," whilst there was a reduction under the heading of "Elections" of £6,550.

Mr. FORSYTH asked if the increase in the vote for "Railway fares, freights, printing, etc.," was due to the preparation of the rolls under the new Elections Act? [The HOME SECRETARY: Yes, principally.]

Mr. BOWMAN asked if it was intended to remove the department to more commodious quarters? At present they were greatly hampered for want of room.

The HOME SECRETARY: The Secretary for Works informed him that preparations were now being made to locate the department in the rooms in the Treasury Building at the corner of Queen and William streets which had been vacated by Dr. Ham.

Mr. REINHOLD: Some of the officers connected with electoral registration had been a very considerable time in the service. The passage of the last Elections Act had given them a great deal more work to do, and he thought, in view of the large amount of overtime they had worked during the last six or eight months, it would be a graceful recognition of their work if some bonus were given them. The work was splendidly done now, and the people of the State were regaining the confidence in the office which had been to a very large extent shaken for some years past.

Mr. HAWTHORN thought the office was really undermanned. (Hear, hear!) The work done during the last few months was very creditable to the officers, and he was sorry that no rises had been given, because the department was very efficiently conducted.

Mr. MACARTNEY was sorry that the hon. member, Mr. Reinhold, was not present, because, while he said what was no doubt true—that everyone had confidence in the Electoral Department—he went further and said that such was not the case a little time since. When an hon. member made a statement of that kind he should give some reason for the insinuation. Whatever had been said in the House in times gone by on election matters generally, he was not aware that any charge had ever been made against the electoral officer, and, so far as he knew, that department was now officered largely by the same men who had been there for years, with the exception of the head of the department. It was a statement which would not have been made if the hon. member had any experience of the matters which he had referred to. He believed that the department had been overworked, and he hoped the Minister would take the matter into serious consideration. He asked the Minister if it were possible to get advance copies of the annual electoral rolls? The work of putting the names of women on the rolls was a very large one. The women were interesting themselves in the matter amongst their own associations, and it would help them in their work if they could get advance copies.

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The HOME SECRETARY: He did not see any chance of getting the rolls out before next year, but if there was any opportunity of sending out proof sheets, they would do it to accommodate those who required them.

Mr. MAUGHAN: Speaking of his own district, he could say that matters in connection with the registration and revision of names, and electoral matters generally, had been carried out very satisfactorily. He would draw attention to the form of declaration in the claim for enrolment under the new Elections Act. Large numbers of electors in Ipswich had attested the claims as "electors of Ipswich," and these had been returned with instructions to append the words "an elector enrolled on the electoral roll for the electoral district of Ipswich." This was a long and useless declaration to make, and should be made much more simple. He would suggest that an elector should simply be required to sign as "an elector." He believed that the Government were very anxious to have the registration of claims made in the simplest possible way, and it would save a great deal of trouble and inconvenience if the words he had suggested were printed in the form by the Government Printer when new forms were being prepared.

Question put and passed.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING BOARD.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £4,320 be granted for the "Government Advertising Board." The amount showed an increase of £262 as compared with the vote of last year—£12 to the clerk and £250 in contingencies. The additional amount was required to cover the cost of advertising under the Elections Act of 1905.

Question put and passed.

#### STEAMER "OTTER."

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £2,548 be granted for the steamer "Otter." There was a decrease of £100 as compared with last year.

Mr. FORSYTH noticed a reduction from £450 to £350 for "repairs and overhaul." He presumed the decrease was accounted for by the special amount spent for those purposes last year. [The HOME SECRETARY: Yes.]

Mr. MACARTNEY wished to refer to the matter of lending Government steamers, but not in any acrimonious manner. A question was asked on his behalf in connection with the "Lucinda" vote during his enforced absence, and the Minister's reply to that was that the circumstances referred to happened two years before. That was not so, as it happened since the passing of the Estimates of last year. [The PREMIER: You are referring to the "Lucinda"?] The Premier was not going to stop him from speaking. What he wanted to know was, if the Government steamers were going to be issued by the Government for party purposes? Were they going to be lent to supporters of the Government, and refused to their opponents? His constituents were entitled to receive the same treatment as the constituents of any other electorate. [The PREMIER: Make your charge.] He had no charge to make. (Government laughter.) He would make his charge. He went to the Chief Secretary's Office and asked if the "Lucinda" could be granted to him for the use of his constituents, in accordance with the regulations, and he was refused it. A few days after another member, who supported the Government, applied for the steamer on behalf of the same people, and it was granted. Owing to a device which was

practised it was made to appear that the steamer was granted to a Minister—he would not mention his name—who required the steamer for that day, and the people who had asked for it went down the river as his guests. He understood that the Minister did not accompany the steamer, and that the people who asked for it did not go as his guests at all. What he asked for was that they should know the rules which governed the lending of the Government steamers. He thought the boat should be lent openly, and not be granted to supporters and refused to political opponents.

\* The PREMIER: The hon. gentleman, speaking on the vote for the steamer "Otter," made a more or less acrimonious complaint about something which had occurred in regard to the "Lucinda." The matter was first raised by his deputy, the hon. member for Bulimba, when the vote for the "Lucinda" was under consideration. In *Hansard* of the 11th October, on page 1130, the following appeared:—

Mr. BARNES had asked his question on behalf of the hon. member for Toowong, who was unable to be present that evening. He was assured by the hon. member that on one occasion when he made application for the use of the "Lucinda" for a certain institution, he was told by the Under Secretary that there was no chance of getting her. The hon. member for Toowong was, therefore, much surprised to find that about a fortnight later the same institution obtained the use of the "Lucinda" through the agency of a member sitting on the other side, and the feeling in the mind of the hon. member was that whilst he sat on the Opposition side there was no possibility of getting the steamer. He was not in a position to mention the institution, but the Under Secretary could give the information.

The Under Secretary at that time was in the gallery, and he (the Premier) consulted that officer before he made his reply. This was the reply he gave, as shown in *Hansard*, page 1131—

The PREMIER understood that the matter to which the member for Bulimba referred occurred two years ago. An application for the use of the boat was made by the member for Toowong in connection with a Roman Catholic church or institution in one of the suburbs. He was told that the boat was not available for such a purpose, and it would be no use making application to the Minister. Later on another hon. member on the Government side made a similar application on behalf of the same institution and received a similar answer. At a later stage the steamer was granted to a Minister of the Crown, who invited the representatives of that institution to accompany him on the occasion. Of course, the application was granted merely because it came from a Minister of the Crown. The Attorney-General was the culprit, and he would keep his eye on him in the future.

That was precisely what he was informed took place. He did not know that either the hon. member for Toowong or the hon. member for Fortitude Valley had applied for the boat for that institution, and if the application had been made to him he would have refused to grant it, because the rule was that the boat would only be available for schools or charitable institutions, or upon the application of a Minister. There was no political significance in the matter, as the boat was refused to both the hon. member for Toowong and the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, because their applications for the boat were for purposes for which it was not the practice to grant the steamer. The hon. member for Toowong had no grievance whatever in the matter, and he was astonished that the hon. member had again raised it before the Committee.

Mr. MACARTNEY: There were more ways than one of killing a cat, and the only difference was that he was killed the other way. It was quite true that the Under Secretary told him he could not get the boat, and that he also told the hon. member for Fortitude Valley that he

could not get it; but the Under Secretary pointed out to the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, in an ingenious way, how he could get the steamer. [An honourable member: How do you know?] Because the Under Secretary pointed out to himself that he could get the boat if he got a Minister to apply for it. He declined to do that, because if he could not get the boat direct he would not get it at all. He accepted the personal explanation of the Premier, and could quite understand that he had nothing to do with the matter. But the principle was bad, and should not be continued.

\* The PREMIER: The hon. member had no grievance whatever. [Mr. MACARTNEY: I will leave it to a wider audience to decide that.] He was quite content to leave it to a wider audience. The hon. member had twice attempted to make political capital out of the incident, though at the same time the hon. member acquitted him (the Premier) of any improper motive, as indeed he must do, seeing that he knew nothing whatever of his application or of the application of the hon. member for Fortitude Valley. He only knew of the applications for the steamer for the purpose for which it was used when the matter was raised in the House. The fact that the steamer was refused to a supporter of the Government as well as to the hon. member showed that there was no political influence in the matter; but the hon. member was angry now because the hon. member for Fortitude Valley followed the suggestion, which the hon. member said was made to himself, as a way of evading the rule.

Mr. MACARTNEY: If the hon. gentleman thought he was going to bend the knee to him and say, "Please, Mr. Morgan, will you do me a personal favour," he was greatly mistaken, because he was not going to do anything which might deprive him of his right of free criticism in the House.

Mr. PETRIE: As a member of the Opposition, he wished, in justice to the Government, to say that whenever he had applied for the steamer for schools he had received fair play. On one occasion the use of the steamer was refused to a school committee in his electorate because, although he had told them it was a rule that they must not make any money out of the trip, they ignored the condition—an act for which he was not to blame; but they had regretted that action, and he hoped that it would be overlooked in the event of their making another application for the use of the steamer.

Mr. HAWTHORN: Although he supported the Government, he had on several occasions been refused the use of the steamer when he applied for it for what he considered was a desirable purpose. He understood that the retail grocers had applied for the steamer, thinking they would get it on the same terms as the Brisbane Traders' Association and the Chamber of Commerce, and they naturally felt aggrieved when their application was refused. He thought the rule should be the same in all cases, and that no exception should be made in favour of any institution.

Mr. LESINA pointed out that since the year 1898 the steamer "Otter" had cost the State £22,453, and that the vote had been exceeded every year. Last year the amount expended was £3,133, whereas the sum voted was £2,648, and they had no guarantee that the present vote would not be exceeded. The "Lucinda" had cost £21,682 since 1898, so that since that year the two boats had cost nearly £44,000. Between 1895 and 1898 the two boats cost between them £19,729. He understood that the boilers of the "Otter" were out of repair. [The HOME SECRETARY: No; they were repaired last year.] Well,

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the leader of the Opposition had pointed out on a previous occasion that it was a bad move to repair the boilers, as the vessel wanted a new hull, and it would be cheaper to buy a new steamer.

HON. R. PHILP asked what amount was spent on the "Otter" last year?

The HOME SECRETARY: The total expenditure on the vessel last year was £3,210, of which £925 was for repairs. [Hon. R. PHILP: What was the nature of the repairs?] The boiler was put in thorough order, and the vessel generally received a good overhaul.

HON. R. PHILP: The "Otter" was an old boat, and had been constantly repaired. He understood that there were not sufficient life-saving appliances on board, but in any case he did not think she should be lent for large parties, as it would be very risky for her to go down the Bay with a large number of passengers. All excursions should be confined to the "Lucinda," and the "Otter" should be kept for a working boat, because people who borrowed the latter ran a great risk. He believed there were only sufficient life-saving appliances for about 100 people.

The HOME SECRETARY: That was what he was doing. During the last twelve months the "Otter" had not been used more than twice for excursion purposes.

Mr. WOODS asked who was responsible for the "Otter" sinking in dock when she went in for repairs?

The HOME SECRETARY had no information about the matter, and there was no records in the office of such an occurrence.

Mr. WOODS pointed out some time ago that when the vessel was docked, before she went North with the Treasurer, she sank in the dock. Seeing the hon. gentleman had a competent engineer in his department, he should get him to inspect the boilers of the "Lucinda" and "Otter," and then they would know where they were. Last year, when he called attention to the condition of the boilers in both ships, the Home Secretary and the Premier said that the boilers were examined by a competent man, and were found to be in good order. Yet those reports proved to be absolutely incorrect. The present engineer on the "Lucinda" had had to put a patch on the boiler of that vessel himself, and the "Otter" actually went to the bottom of the dock with 4 feet of water in her hold. It was rather singular that the Home Secretary knew nothing about it, seeing he (Mr. Woods) brought the matter under his notice some time ago. After the "Otter" returned from the North, she had to go in dock for further repairs to her boiler. The boiler inspector of the department was a most competent man, and he should be asked to examine the boilers of both boats. He understood the hon. member for Fortitude Valley had the use of both vessels last Saturday, and he wanted the Home Secretary to guard the lives of the children on board the boats against such accidents as that which occurred the other day in the district of the hon. member for the Logan. [Hon. R. PHILP: They were examined every six months.] They were not examined every six months. The boilers of the "Lucinda" were found to be as thin as tissue paper, and after the "Otter" returned from the North, although her boilers were supposed to be in good order, when they were filled they leaked so badly that the vessel sank to the bottom of the dock.

HON. R. PHILP: Everyone acquainted with shipping knew that all vessels were inspected every six months by a competent marine surveyor. He believed the marine surveyor for

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the port of Brisbane was a competent man. He passed all the vessels on the coast, and his certificate was accepted in Sydney, Melbourne, and in London. Surely he was qualified to pass the boilers of the "Lucinda" and "Otter," and he understood that he inspected them every six months.

Mr. LESINA: If the life-saving appliances on the "Otter" were as inadequate as the leader of the Opposition had stated, the Home Secretary should not allow the boat to be used for excursion purposes. [The HOME SECRETARY: It is for that reason I am not letting her out.] He believed that last Saturday there was something like 700 people—principally children—on board, and, in the event of anything going wrong, and it became necessary to resort to the life-saving appliances, there might be a terrible holocaust.

Mr. WOODS: Seeing the leader of the Opposition had raised the question, it was only fair that he should take exception to his statement that the inspector referred to was a competent marine engineer. As a matter of fact, his experience as an engineer was confined to two years behind the bar in Phillips's hotel in Creek street, and his qualifications were distinctly proved in the recent case in the Supreme Court over the "Kingswear." [Hon. R. PHILP: What is the man's name?] No one knew his name better than the hon. gentleman. A few years ago the same man was in the service at Townsville, and, in company with the locomotive superintendent there, he went to examine the boilers of a vessel. This man said the boilers were all right, but when the locomotive superintendent tapped the boiler with a hammer, the hammer went right through the boiler.

HON. R. PHILP thought the Home Secretary should take note of this charge. He thought the man's name was Campbell. If he was not competent he ought not to be there, but he had always heard that he was a good man. He did not know him personally, but he knew that his certificate went all over the world. As to saying that a boiler was like tissue-paper, the man who said that made a statement that he knew was devoid of truth. Such a boiler would collapse. [Mr. WOODS: The hon. gentleman knows the meaning of the term.] He did not. The hon. member was never an engineer, although he posed as one. [Mr. WOODS: That is all you know about it.] The hon. member was what was called a "shovel engineer"; he had passed no apprenticeship.

Question put and passed.

#### HOSPITALS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £64,850 be granted for "Hospitals and Charitable Institutions." There was a net decrease on the vote of £133 this year. He called the attention of hon. members to the fact that there was a different arrangement of the vote this year. Last year £52,000 was put down for hospitals generally, and £3,000 for emergency patients, Brisbane Hospital was a separate item. This year the amount for the Brisbane Hospital—£8,500—was put down separately, and then there was an item of £46,500 for hospitals generally.

Mr. FORSYTH: The total number of employees in the Diamantina Hospital was 25, while the average number of patients was 67, although there were 74 in the hospital last year, and 92 admissions during the year, making a total of 166. It appeared to him that 25 employees for 67 patients—more than one-third of the total figures—was rather too much. He asked for some explanation of the matter.

Mr. TURNER: He had been asked by a patient of the Diamantina Hospital to specially express her thanks for the kind treatment she had received at the hands of the matron and the staff generally. She said she spoke not only for herself, but also for the other patients, and she hoped that he would speak about it the first time he had the opportunity.

Mr. MULCAHY: Both the Dalby Sanatorium and the Diamantina Hospitals were excellent institutions, but there was always considerable difficulty in getting a patient in there, because there was not sufficient accommodation. It was well known that they would not take patients into the Dalby Sanatorium except in the early stages of the disease. Now these patients might have been in hospitals for perhaps one, two, or three months, and he knew a number of them who were wretchedly poor and had no shelter, and it was only the charitably disposed people living in the district who assisted them. Surely if they took patients in the early stage of the disease they should also make provision for them in the later stages. Something should be done for those people.

The HOME SECRETARY: With regard to the Diamantina Hospital, he must admit that there was an undue preponderance of employees as compared with the number of patients, but the hospital was fully equipped and could accommodate two or three times that number of patients. He would point out that these patients needed a very large amount of attention in every way, and the expense was out of all proportion to those in other hospitals. He was sorry that they had not more accommodation in the Dalby and Diamantina institutions so that they could admit all the cases that desired to get accommodation there. Of course, the doctor had to be given a certain amount of latitude. After diagnosing the cases, if he saw any chance of curing a person he admitted him, and if he thought the person beyond the curing stage he refused to admit him. It was unfortunate that they had a number of cases of tuberculosis in one form or another in the State, and he was afraid they would have to provide more expenditure for it in the future.

Mr. COWAP drew attention to the existence of numerous cases of miners' phthisis or miners' consumption on the mining fields. The miners took no notice of the complaint, thinking that it was merely a bit of a cold, until it got such a hold of them that it was incurable, and then they could not get admission into the sanatorium at Dalby or the Diamantina Hospital. He suggested that the matter should be inquired into with the view of providing a ward for these unfortunate miners who were suffering from miners' tuberculosis. He believed it would cost only £80 or £90.

Mr. PAGET thought the Minister might seriously consider the matter to which attention had been drawn by the hon. member for Fitzroy. The institution at Dalby seemed to be of great benefit to the patients who had been there. Looking over the report for last year, he saw the average cost of patients only amounted to £47. The medical officer's report stated that of the patients who left the institution in 1901 six were lost sight of, five had relapses, and ten were doing well when last heard of. That showed that that particular locality was specially suited for these people who were suffering from this complaint. Then, last year, of those who were discharged in 1902 five were lost sight of, one only had a relapse, and the remaining ten were enjoying good health when last heard of. The Minister might well take into consideration the advisableness of extending this institution.

He drew the attention of the Minister to the report of Nurse Amy Perry, on page 19 of the Health Commissioner's report. The report stated that she visited people at certain places. Were the whole of those visits made in Brisbane, or did they include outside places as well?

The HOME SECRETARY: The first page of the report referred to visits in Brisbane only. He did not think Nurse Perry visited other places. [Mr. PAGET: She seems to be doing very good work.] With regard to the question of hospital treatment for consumptives, he would quote from the report of the Inspector of General Hospitals in 1902, which said—

Reference was made in last year's report to the tendency on the part of the general hospitals of the State to refuse admission to cases of consumption. This tendency is increasing, and the difficulty of finding accommodation for this class of patient is daily becoming more acute. The Jubilee Sanatorium can accommodate but thirty-two, and by its rules it is precluded from admitting cases other than those which are presumably curable. The Diamantina Hospital for chronic diseases has hitherto been able to accommodate eight only. When the new additions are complete, there will be accommodation for eight or twelve more. But this, in comparison with the number of cases demanding treatment, is a small matter. When both the abovenamed institutions are full, cases who are without means will still have to be sent on, as now, to the Benevolent Asylum at Dunwich, an institution quite unsuitable for the purpose.

It will be impossible for the Government to undertake the isolation and treatment of all Queensland's consumptives; and there seems no reason why it should be asked to do so. Nor, as already pointed out, is there any reason why the general hospitals of the State should refuse many of these cases. Consumption is a communicable disease, but its communicability may be rendered harmless by simple precautions which are now well understood. The open-air treatment can be practised efficiently in tents or open-air wards, which can be erected economically, and ordinary care is sufficient to prevent the spread of infection.

The Diamantina Hospital had two such open-air wards, and it might be useful to some outside hospitals if they sent a representative there to see how cases were treated.

Mr. MULCAHY was sure that country hospitals never refused to take such patients. They did take them, and kept them for a considerable time. At the hospital in his own district they were sometimes kept for six and twelve months, but it was a great drain upon the funds of country hospitals to keep patients such a long time, and he thought a special effort should be made to do something for those unfortunate people who could not help themselves.

Mr. RYLAND thought the Dalby and Roma districts were very suitable for consumptive patients, and he believed they had a sufficient staff in the hospitals now in existence to treat a much larger number of patients than were at present under treatment, if only the necessary accommodation were provided. He hoped the Minister would use his influence with the Government, and see that the Diamantina Hospital was enlarged.

Mr. MACARTNEY: If the institutions under discussion were absolutely required as institutions which ought to be supported by the Government, then they should provide the necessary accommodation for the treatment of patients seeking admission. If they did not do that, then they should support the general hospitals in such a way as would enable them to provide reasonable treatment for such patients. Where an institution was limited in its capacity some people must be refused admission, and while there might not be any favouritism exercised in deciding who should be received into the institution, those who were refused admission would

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think it a great hardship. He knew of one case where a patient applied some two or three months ago for admission, and, as far as he was aware, not even an acknowledgment of his application had yet been received. He had seen the medical certificate of a well-known medical man in which it was stated that the case was a curable one, but a few weeks after the application was made the patient died. When applications were made they should be dealt with at once, so that the applicants might know in what position they stood.

The HOME SECRETARY : He did not know the particular case to which the hon. member alluded, but if the hon. member would give him the name he would have inquiries made into the matter. As a matter of fact, there were many considerations which might induce an outside practitioner to take a merciful view of a case, and recommend the patient for admission to the hospital, but it was inadvisable to interfere with the officer in charge of the institution in such matters.

HON. R. PHILP supposed the Government could provide double the present accommodation at the Diamantina Hospital and the Dalby Sanatorium without incurring much more expense for nurses, and he hoped they would take the matter into their serious consideration, as country hospitals would not be able to keep patients for six or nine months as they had done in the past.

Mr. PAGET : Under the heading "Miscellaneous Receipts" the Auditor-General reported that the sum of £7,217 13s. 6d. was received from asylums, orphanages, etc. Could the Minister tell the Committee what amount was received from patients in the Dalby Sanatorium, and what was the proportion of paying to non-paying patients in that institution?

The HOME SECRETARY replied that patients in the Dalby Sanatorium were supposed to pay if they were able, and some paid only 5s. a week. Of course, if a patient could not afford to pay, he was not required to do so. He could not say how many paying patients there were in the institution.

Mr. REINHOLD pointed out that probationers at the Brisbane General Hospital were paid only £5 a year, whereas probationers at the Diamantina Hospital were paid £20 per annum. He noticed that at the Jubilee Sanatorium a gardener received £100 a year while a labourer got only £52, and that at the Diamantina Hospital five employees got as wages only £100 among them. Were the latter employed all the year round, and what wages did they receive?

The HOME SECRETARY replied that the men referred to were not employed constantly. He could not say what was their weekly wage, as he did not know how long they were employed.

Mr. FORSYTH thought that £33 was a small sum to collect from 124 patients in the Diamantina Hospital. At the Lady Lamington Hospital they had a scale of payments, which was printed on cards and furnished to the patients. The relatives paid according to their means, and inquiries were made in all cases to ascertain whether the patient or her relatives were in a position to pay. This system had worked remarkably well. About £20 was received during one week, but the average was probably only £4 or £5. Such a system might bring in a considerable amount of revenue in connection with the Diamantina Hospital. Of course, any persons who were unable to pay should not be asked for payment. [The HOME SECRETARY : Some of the patients in the Dia-

mantina Hospital are very poor.] There were some who could probably afford to pay. [Mr. LESINA : Speak up ; we cannot hear a word you say. It is just a casual conversation.]

Mr. BOWMAN hoped that some place would be provided in connection with the Diamantina Hospital where clergymen could conduct the funeral service. At present the only place for the purpose was the mortuary. The Diamantina Hospital was one of the best conducted institutions he had come across. The matron was beloved by all the patients ; she seemed to have thorough control, and the patients were treated in such a way that there were no accusations of favouritism. With regard to the Dalby Sanatorium, he had been instrumental in getting a number of patients sent there, and there was little or no difficulty in getting them in, particularly when Dr. Stuart approved of their cases. From letters received from patients, he knew they had derived great benefit from their stay.

Mr. REINHOLD asked whether it was a fact that some of the probationers in the Brisbane Hospital had occasionally to put in twelve hours at a stretch, and at night-time were left in sole charge of a ward, for £5 a year?

The HOME SECRETARY had no information on the subject, but some member of Committee might be able to answer the hon. member.

Mr. LESINA thought the question a very pertinent one. [Hon. R. PHILP : It is a Government hospital now.] The practice had lasted for many years, and, if the Government intended to follow it, he protested against it. [The HOME SECRETARY : The old régime is still in effect. We have not interfered in the arrangements at all.] For that reason it might not be well to attempt to disturb things now, but they might get an assurance from the Home Secretary that the system would not be continued. If they had to find a considerable proportion of the money for the upkeep of the hospital, they ought to have some say in regard to the labour conditions of the employees. The Government would certainly have to make a change if all that he heard about the institution was correct. However, he was more concerned in some of the country hospitals. The Clermont Hospital, he was glad to say, was doing very well. When the endowment was reduced last year, they held a sports carnival and raised about £200, and most of the country hospitals did the same. He regretted very much, all the same, that the endowment was again reduced. [The HOME SECRETARY : It is the same as last year.] With the good seasons they were having, the Government ought to increase the endowment next year, though he did not hear much outcry from the hospital people now. He believed the Proserpine Hospital had closed down and the furniture had been sold, though the Secretary for Agriculture gave him a distinct assurance last year that no hospital would be allowed to close its doors. In spite of that promise, however, the Ravenswood Hospital, the Proserpine Hospital, and the Mount Garret Hospital had closed, and the Charters Towers Hospital was heavily in debt. What was the value of Ministerial promises in the face of facts like that? No more deserving expenditure appeared on the Estimates than the subvention to hospitals, and the only regret was when it was found necessary to reduce the amount. If it was not increased next year, he thought there would be a great outcry amongst hon. members and from the public outside. The grant in aid of benevolent societies was £3,000. Seeing those institutions received Government money, he thought copies of their balance-sheets and reports should be placed in the hands of

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hon. members. The Charities Organisation Society in Brisbane received £70 last year from donations, and he noticed that £65 was spent in salaries, the balance being all that was spent in charity. [Mr. PAGET: They received £128 in endowment last year.] It appeared that the society was composed of the representatives of other benevolent societies, and their business was to discover malingerers and impostors. [Mr. BARNES: They are doing good work.] If they found persons who fell one-eighth of an inch below their standard, these professional philanthropists and Pecksniffs put them down as undeserving of assistance. No more odious organisation of human beings was ever gathered together than those Paul Prys, who ought to be in petticoats. They seemed to take a ghoulish delight in prying into the inmost recesses of other people's characters, and he thought the society ought to be knocked on the head and refused any more Government endowment. To endow them when the hospitals were crying out for assistance was infamous. He did not believe in subventions being paid to any of those societies at all. The whole system of charity ought to be placed on a national basis and administered by officers responsible to Parliament. Such societies gave assistance to their own kith and kin, and to those of the same persuasion—a condition of things which was absolutely indefensible. He did not know whether the Salvation Army, mentioned as receiving the money, had any connection with the "doss" house in

[9 p.m.] Ann street, which was run on very loose and lax lines. All the helpless hardups of the city congregated there, and they had to pay for what they received. It was only a small price, but they had to pay just the same. It was nothing for nothing, and they were liable to be bumped out with all the strength and ferocity that could be displayed by the officer in charge. [The HOME SECRETARY: They get nothing out of this vote.] Well, the Rescue Home got £200, and he objected to it. The people had to contribute towards that amount, and they should be consulted through their representatives. If there were needs that must be met, then they should be met by the Government. People could then come and get the assistance as a matter of right. When the late Hon. W. H. Browne was in office he asked him to go around and interview these institutions; he did so, but he did not know what the result was. [The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: He was perfectly satisfied.] At any rate one or two institutions were struck off the list through it. Then he (Mr. Lesina) tackled the late Home Secretary, Mr. Foxton, and kept at him for two years until he closed another institution which had been banking the subsidies received for about twenty-five years. He contended that all these subsidies should be knocked on the head and the money spent in a much more rational and more respectable manner by the State.

Mr. BARNES: The hon. member for Clermont evidently was not in touch with the work done by these societies. The Charity Organisation Society was saving the Government large sums of money, and was also saving the business people large sums of money, because it prevented impostors from going round and collecting in the name of the charitable institutions. He was surprised to hear the hon. member speak against the rescue work of the Salvation Army. No Government department could do the work, either as thoroughly or as well as the two societies to which the hon. member referred. The hon. member wanted the people outside to believe that he was the only person who was looking after the funds of the country.

\* Mr. PAGET: The sum of £55,000 was asked for for hospitals, including the Brisbane Hospital. In the Auditor-General's report and in the Treasurer's tables there was the sum of £60,370 5s. spent in endowments to hospitals last year, which amounted to £1 3s. to the £1. He would like to know what would be the endowment this year, because he understood that the endowment was to be paid on the receipts of last year. He believed that the £46,500 was to be divided *pro rata* amongst the country hospitals, and he would like to know at how much to the £1 it would work out.

The HOME SECRETARY: The £60,000 alluded to included £17,000 spent on account the previous year, £3,000 for emergency patients, and £40,000 for last year. The rate of endowment would be a little over £1 4s. to the £1.

Mr. HAWTHORN took exception to the remarks made by the hon. member for Clermont about the charitable institutions, particularly with reference to the benevolent society. [Mr. LESINA: I said the Charity Organisation Society.] He did not know anything about the Charity Organisation Society, but he knew the benevolent institutions were doing splendid work. They collected the money themselves, and the Government allowed endowment on the amounts so collected. They sought out the people who needed relief and gave it to them. They should not let the hon. member's statements go unchallenged.

Mr. LESINA: He did not object to these people running these institutions themselves, but he objected to the State contributing to their funds. Why should not the principle which the Government applied to Dunwich and other places be extended to take in the work which these societies were now doing? The Charity Organisation Society was neither more nor less than a private detective agency which went round spying on people and were doing work which the police should be doing. He would read what the *Age*, a Brisbane paper, said about this society, and he would tell them of the methods of another society which did not receive any aid from the State in comparison. The *Age* of the 11th February, 1905, got hold of a balance-sheet of the Charity Organisation Society, and here was its analysis—

Any idea that this society concerns itself with giving away its funds to widows and orphans, and hardups, generally, is baseless. Its balance-sheet shows that its total expenditure was £292 10s. 4d., out of which £241 18s. 4d. was spent in secretary's salary and collector's commission. This left £50 to be distributed in relief in the twelve months.

That worked out that about £5 was spent in secretary's salary and collector's commission, and 19s. 5½d. a week was spent in relief. He knew another society, St. Vincent's, which did not receive State aid, and worked on different lines to that. [Mr. MACARTNEY: You should include all the benevolent institutions, as they are all included in the Charity Organisation Society.] This was the society which said it was formed to prevent impostors going round imposing on the business people. The late Hon. W. H. Browne said that it would be better to be imposed on annually by a few impostors than to give away the money every year to the Charity Organisation Society. They had a large body of police, and why could they not hunt out these impostors and arrest them under the Vagrant Act? His contention was that the society was not a charity society at all, but a private detective agency for the discovery of impostors, and such work was the proper and legitimate function of the police. The society's income for the year was made up as follows:—Subscriptions, £124 2s. 9d.; refunds, £1 0s. 6d.; Government endowment,

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£164 18s. 10d. The Government endowment was a little more than £3 5s. for every £1 of relief given by the society. The balance-sheet of the St. Vincent de Paul Society showed a very different state of things. Out of a total expenditure of £96 10s. 11d. for the year they spent £95 1s. 5d. in relief, leaving only £1 9s. 6d. for expenses. Some people might imagine that this was a sectarian organisation, but he would point out that one of its rules was—

The title of the poor to our commiseration is their poverty itself. We do not inquire what party or sect they belong to.

That was true charity, and he held that such societies had no right to inquire into the habits of the poor because they needed assistance. The Home Secretary should knock out this endowment, and devote it to Government relief purposes or to hospitals.

Mr. MACARTNEY: It was an unfortunate thing that the hon. member could not deal with this matter in a fair manner. If the hon. member knew the facts, he would know that there were probably more than four or five benevolent societies in and around Brisbane. Their officers received no salaries, and they incurred no expenses, except, perhaps, for postage. But the hon. member, instead of taking the balance-sheets of those various benevolent societies and adding them together to ascertain the result of charitable work in the metropolitan area, took a body which worked in conjunction with those organisations, and called itself the Charity Organisation Society. That society represented the whole of the expenditure incurred for inquiries by the whole of the benevolent societies in and around the metropolis. It was absolutely essential that there should be some inquiries made in regard to applicants for assistance—not into the character of the applicants, because charity was given on the basis of need, but to protect the societies and the Government, who gave a large contribution to their funds, against fraud and imposition. [The TREASURER: They find that it is not only those who need who ask.] Quite so. There was gross imposition, some persons going from one society to another, and then to the Government, absolutely living on relief to which they had no right. The statement made by the hon. member was a gross exaggeration of the facts, and was quite misleading.

Mr. PAULL: He had no intention of saying anything in the House this week, but he could not let the attack made by the hon. member for Clermont on the Salvation Army pass without saying a few words in their defence. (Hear, hear!) No private subscription to charity, and no State subsidy for that purpose, was expended better or more worthily than the charity dispensed by the Salvation Army. Some three or four weeks ago he read a speech of the Chief Justice of South Australia, in which that gentleman pointed out how much the State benefited by the efforts of the Army Prison Gate Brigade, as well as other efforts in the direction of philanthropy. There were thousands of workers in the Salvation Army who received no remuneration whatever for their services, and they did a work which no State officers could do. He was of opinion that the £3,000 for benevolent societies was money well expended, as those societies spent the money very much better than it would be spent by any State institution.

Mr. LESINA: The balance-sheet of the Charity Organisation Society was the only one published and easily gettable. [Mr. BARNES: They all publish balance-sheets.] He knew they published balance-sheets. [Mr. BARNES: Then, why do you make that statement?] Because those balance-sheets were not available to hon.

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members as they should be. Each society should furnish at least two copies, one for the Minister and one for the library, where it could be seen by members of Parliament. He deprecated those societies doing the work of private detectives, and held that it was the function of the police to discover impostors. Private enterprise in charity distribution had broken down as lamentably as it had broken down in industry. The multiplicity of societies in and around Brisbane was largely responsible for there being impostors. As to the Salvation Army, he had made no attack on that body. At the same time he believed there had been more police court cases from that "doss" house in Ann street than from any other institution in Brisbane. As to the work of the Prison Rescue Brigade, he held that the work of rescue should commence inside the prison, and not at the gate, and the way to rescue criminals was to reorganise our present penal system. Private enterprise in charity had been a failure, and he hoped the day was not far distant when we should see the nationalisation of our hospitals, the nationalisation of our railways, and the nationalisation of our charity.

HON. R. PHILP asked whether £46,500 was the whole amount that was to be granted to hospitals generally? [The HOME SECRETARY: Yes.] He thought that before members of the public service, members of Parliament, and Ministers had their salaries restored, the endowment to hospitals might have been reinstated. Had the hon. gentleman received communications from any of the hospitals saying that they were in need of help? [The HOME SECRETARY: Only from the Townsville Hospital.] For some time the Townsville Hospital was a base hospital, but, owing to want of funds, it had been compelled to refuse to admit patients from outside a certain district.

The HOME SECRETARY confessed that the case of the Townsville Hospital was a peculiarly hard one. No town in Queensland had suffered more during the last year or two than Townsville. Following upon a disastrous cyclone, the place had suffered from the severe depression consequent on the drought in the interior. At the same time, its condition was no worse than that of Richmond, the district surrounding which had been ravaged for the last six years by one of the worst droughts on record. It was absolutely impossible to reinstate everything that had suffered retrenchment. There was no doubt that the Townsville Hospital was as much entitled to be treated as a base hospital as the Brisbane Hospital, and it was the intention of the Government, when framing their next Estimates, to take the whole question of base hospitals into consideration, and they would probably place the hospitals in Brisbane, Rockhampton, and Townsville on an equality in that respect. The communication he had received from Townsville showed a serious falling off in local contributions during last year, and, as the amount expended in relief during the same period was twice as much as in the preceding year, it was apparent that the town was suffering from severe financial depression. [Hon. R. PHILP: They spent about £10,000 in rebuilding the hospital.] They had received very liberal contributions from all parts of the State. If the hospital proved unable to carry on, he supposed the Government would have to provide a remedy, as they had done in the case of the Brisbane Hospital.

Mr. HARGREAVES hoped that the Home Secretary would also consider the claims of the Cooktown Hospital to be treated as a base hospital. No hospital outside Brisbane had more right to be considered as a base hospital.

Patients came from New Guinea and New Britain. The principle on which they received assistance some years ago was that they got an allowance for all patients who came from beyond a 100-mile radius. If that principle were applied to the Brisbane Hospital, he thought the amount it received would be considerably reduced. He trusted the Cooktown Hospital would not be lost sight of by the hon. gentleman, when dealing with the question.

Mr. KEOGH: No answer had yet been given to the statement of the hon. member for Clermont that all but 19s. 5d. of the amount received by the Charity Organisation Society had been expended in paying the secretary. [The HOME SECRETARY: It had been answered twice over.] It had never been explained that the secretary received that amount of money for work done for all the associated institutions.

Mr. FORSYTH: It had been distinctly stated that the Charity Organisation Society was only the centre of a large number of other institutions, and the secretary did the work of all those organisations. If they accepted the proposal of the hon. member for Clermont, and allowed the work of the benevolent societies to be done by the police, the £3,000 or £4,000 collected from voluntary contributions would go by the board, because the police would not be able to collect anything. The result would be that the Government would have to find double the amount they now paid. [The HOME SECRETARY: Quite true.] Therefore, the long tirade from the hon. member for Clermont might as well have been left unsaid. He would like to know if the country hospitals were to understand that next year the Government intended to raise the subsidy? [The HOME SECRETARY: I cannot possibly indicate that. I do not know what the state of the finances will be.] Though only one hospital had sent in applications for assistance, the hon. gentleman must know that many of them were in a very bad way. They were doing their level best to meet their engagements; and, if the Government promised that they would endeavour to raise the endowment next year to £1 10s., it would be an incentive to the committees to struggle along till next year.

The HOME SECRETARY: If the finances showed a substantial improvement next year, or if the Government could see any improvement which would justify them in being more generous to the hospitals, nothing would give them more pleasure than to revert to the higher scale of endowment. [Hon. R. PHILP: The Treasurer says he will not give more; and the Premier said so too.]

Mr. BARNES called attention to the fact that while, according to the Home Secretary, the country hospitals were to receive an endowment of £1 4s., the Brisbane Hospital would only receive 17s.

Question put and passed.

#### REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £5,270 be granted for the "Registrar-General." The increase on last year's vote was £430. There was a slight increase in the statistical office caused by increases of £10 each to the two clerks and the transfer of a typist from the General Registry Office. In the General Registry Office, owing to the transfer of Mr. Hennessy to Charters Towers, the staff had to be rearranged, with the result that there was an increase of £110, whilst the transfer of the typist to the Statistical Office caused a reduction of £60. A new appointment at Charters Towers caused a reduction in the vote there from £200 to £140; at Maryborough a clerk was appointed at £100 as against one at

£120; and at Rockhampton there was an increase from £70 to £90. There was an increase in railway fares, freights, stationery, and telegrams of £490. In district registrars there was a reduction of £130 through the transfer of the registrar from Nundah to the head office.

Mr. LESINA asked whether there was any chance of another issue of the "Year Book" being made? [The HOME SECRETARY: I do not think so. It is a fairly expensive matter.] They were practically dependent for their statistics upon the other States.

Mr. MAUGHAN: He had been requested by a number of people, especially aged people, to bring under the notice of the Minister that the office of the representative of the Registrar-General at Ipswich was very inconveniently situated, at the top of the Lands Office. He hoped the hon. gentleman would, if possible, have it removed to the ground floor, which would involve no expense, as there were other public buildings where accommodation could be found, and it would be a great public convenience.

The HOME SECRETARY: He would make inquiries into the matter.

Question put and passed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES (SUBDIVISION).

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £16,600 be granted for "Miscellaneous Services (Subdivision)." The vote for relief of aborigines had been transferred to this department, and rightly so, as the Aborigines Protection Act was administered mostly by the police, who were officers of this department. The incidental and miscellaneous expenses were £700 less than last year: railway fares and freights, printing, telegrams, and stationery, £660 less; and relief of aborigines, £150 less; making a total decrease of £1,410.

Mr. HARGREAVES: It would not come as a surprise to hon. members to see him move a reduction in the last item. His reason for that was in deference to an expressed wish of the majority of his constituents, who protested against the reappointment of Dr. Roth, principally on the grounds of maladministration of the Act: and, further, it was their opinion, and also his own, that the Act would be far better and more economically administered with the Commissioner of Police as chief protector. He trusted that hon. members, in recognition of that principle of fair play, would not attach to him any odium that might be acquired, whether rightly or wrongly, by his predecessor as member for Cook. Anything that had caused his predecessor to get into bad odour in the Chamber he knew nothing about until he became a member of the House. That such was the case, he was led to believe by the reception the petition he presented received on Wednesday last. So far as he could learn, the action taken by the Chamber in regard to that petition was altogether unprecedented. He might not have grasped the true significance of its rejection, but he considered it was not only an insult to every one of the gentlemen who signed it, but it was a direct blow to the liberty of the subject and the liberty of every member of the House, because it was patent to every hon. member that that was the channel through which they should ventilate their grievances. (Hear, hear!) For that reason he could only regard it as a deliberate insult to those who signed the petition, leaving himself out of the question altogether. In order to make his position perfectly clear, he would refer to a speech made by the leader of

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the Opposition, and also the reply of the Minister for Lands, when this vote was going through last year. The leader of the Opposition said, according to *Hansard*, 9th February, 1905, page 1228—

HON. R. PHILLIP stated that at one time he thought Dr. Roth was a good man, and he had spoken for him in the Chamber, but lately when travelling about in the North he found that he had not a good name at all. When Dr. Roth was first appointed he was a new chum, and wrote a book, and it was thought he would be able to treat sick aboriginals. He did not know that Dr. Roth was wanted at all. The missionaries in the Gulf country were doing splendid work—better than Dr. Roth—the blacks would be far better looked after if they were under the Commissioner of Police.

The Secretary for Public Lands in his reply to that said—

He agreed with what the leader of the Opposition said, and he was not at all sure that a little later on such a change might not be brought about.

As a result of that, the opinion was formed in the North, whether rightly or wrongly, that Dr. Roth would not be reappointed as Chief Protector of Aborigines. Numerous meetings were held, and resolutions forwarded to the Minister for Lands, protesting against Dr. Roth's reappointment. The Chief Protector himself resigned his position, but subsequently withdrew it, mainly at the instance of a deputation which waited on the Minister for Lands. The result was that a large representative public meeting was held at Cooktown, and meetings were afterwards held at Cairns, Ebagoolah, Coen, and he believed at Georgetown or Croydon, all protesting against the reappointment of Dr. Roth. His reappointment, therefore, came as a great surprise to the people of the North. With regard to the deputation that asked for the reappointment of Dr. Roth, they seemed to go largely on the fact that the protection was necessary for the blacks. Were the blacks less protected when Dr. Roth was in Western Australia? He thought not. They were better off during his absence than they would have been if he had been there administering the Act. The members of the deputation, in their remarks, seemed to think that the whites of the North were the greater savages of the two, but the whites of the North had just as white hearts as the whites of the South. They could see that by the amount spent in rations, which amounted to £809. How far would that go amongst 20,000 blacks? It showed that the blacks were largely fed by the people themselves, as they hung about the towns, owing to their hunting-grounds having been destroyed, and they had not the same opportunities for getting food as they formerly had. If it were not for the fact that the people assisted them in this way, the Government would have to spend a much larger amount to feed them. When he first took action in this matter, it was on the ground that there had been maladministration, and he thought the Act would be better administered by the Commissioner of Police. Quite recently he had had put into his hands a number of letters addressed to the Minister for Lands. There had been no action taken in connection with those letters, and in some cases they had not even received the courtesy of a reply. He would read extracts from one or two of those letters. [The hon. member here read an extract from a letter written by Mr. F. T. Briggs to the Minister for Lands on the 25th of March, in which he drew attention to the speech made by Mr. Forsyth in Parliament, stating that universal dissatisfaction reigned throughout his electorate with the way Dr. Roth administered the Aboriginal Act. Mr. Forsyth also cited grave charges against Dr.

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Roth. The residents of the district naturally expected that an inquiry would be held, and were prepared to prove the truth of every charge. A year, however, had elapsed, no inquiry was held, and Dr. Roth was still allowed to maladminister his department. Dr. Roth, when at the bar of the Legislative Council, said his strictly professional attainments were also brought into requisition, yet when the landlord of the Gregory Downs Hotel asked him to visit a blackfellow who was lying dangerously ill within two minutes' walk of the hotel, Dr. Roth replied that it was not his duty to attend sick aboriginals, and that it was extremely distasteful to him. The man died in a few weeks.] He had other letters, but he would not detain the House by reading them. [Mr. RYLAND: Let us have them all.] Well, he would read extracts from a letter which Mr. R. J. Bennett wrote to the Minister for Lands on the 20th of July, 1905. [The extracts were to the effect that Dr. Roth's inhumanity and indifference to the blacks, and his grossly indecent actions with the women, are notorious in the North among blacks and whites. In one instance, a black trooper rode up to Dr. Roth, and said his child was dying. Roth took no notice whatever, but Sergeant Whiteford and the constable at once went to the camp and did their best for the child. On their return Roth was still lounging on the veranda smoking. When Whiteford and his troopers were escorting Roth to the Starcke, two wild, naked gins ran across the track and were stopped by the troopers. Roth got down and photographed them in front, the two women shivering with terror. Apparently, any prurient-minded blackguard could be guilty of indecency to women if he called himself an ethnologist. In another instance, a trooper named George also told him (Bennett) that Roth behaved in a disgraceful manner in examining some gins seated on a log near Helenville, and the gins afterwards expressed intense disgust.] Another letter he had was one from a young fellow named Graham, who was born and reared on the Palmer, and could speak the language of the blacks in that district as well as his own tongue. That letter was dated 19th July, 1905, and was addressed to the Minister for Lands. [The hon. member here read the letter, in which the writer stated that Dr. Roth visited Maytown twice, the first time about four years ago, and again on the 10th of August, 1902, when the writer acted as interpreter. Mr. Graham stated that he read to the blacks, first in English, which they understood, and then in their own language, the tales which Dr. Roth, in his bulletin, said were common folklore among that tribe, though he had never seen them except for ten minutes on two occasions at an interval of two years. The blacks said they had never heard the tales before, and that any man who believed them was a fool.] From the documents which had been placed in his hand he was of opinion that there was ample ground for the inquiry which had been asked for. With reference to the petition which he presented to the House, and which had been rejected for no sufficient reason, he would read it to the Committee. (The petition was to the effect that Dr. Roth had been guilty of taking grossly indecent photographs, of conniving at immorality, of inhumane and unsatisfactory treatment, of making untruthful statements, of attacking the characters of respectable citizens, and of general unreliability and incapacity—and praying that inquiry be made.) He submitted that the information he had given to the committee justified the request for an

inquiry, and he held that, in the interests of Dr. Roth himself, it was desirable that an inquiry should take place. For this reason he moved that the item "Relief of Aborigines" be reduced by £1.

\* The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The hon. member for Cook appeared to be under the impression that the reception which was accorded a petition which he submitted to the House the other afternoon was in some degree a reflection upon himself. He could assure the hon. member that there was no such intention in rejecting the petition, for he did not think there was a gentleman in the Chamber who was more respected on account of his reputation and deportment than the hon. member for Cook. He much feared that the hon. member had been espousing a cause that, in his heart, he did not absolutely believe in, and that he was acting as representative or, as he had heard it said that afternoon, as a ventilator. It was a remarkable thing that, whatever might be the cause, in the locality represented by the hon. member, and in certain localities in the Gulf district, there appeared to be a vendetta against the Protector of Aborigines. He doubted whether any man who was Protector of Aborigines, whether in the North or in the South, would not excite the same antipathy in certain quarters, because, unquestionably, when there was a protector in South Queensland he (Mr. Bell) and his predecessors used to hear just as many denunciations in regard to him as he had heard in regard to Dr. Roth. Two instances had been cited by the hon. member for Cook in which charges were made against Dr. Roth. One was that a letter written by a gentleman named Briggs, who was the owner or manager of a station in the North, and also a justice of the peace, to the Lands Department, complaining of the Protector of Aborigines, was not acknowledged by the Department. This was a mistake, because he held in his hand a letter showing that on the 14th of April an acknowledgment was sent to a letter written by Mr. Briggs on 25th March of this year. The Protector of Aborigines in the part of the North in which Mr. Briggs lived—that was Inspector Galbraith—controverted all Mr. Briggs's statements, and said that Mr. Briggs was the only employer who, since he had been inspector, had asked to have an agreement cancelled on account of sickness. That should lead hon. members to come to the conclusion that before they condemned any official in Queensland they should have other evidence than that given by Mr. Briggs. With regard to a letter written by another gentleman, Mr. R. J. Bennett, it was dated the 20th July, and purported to be written at Tollerton House. The department sent an officer to Tollerton House to interview Mr. R. J. Bennett, but he was informed that no person of that name was known there. The only shred of recognition or identification they had in regard to that letter was the fact that the paper and the particular form of type in which it was written were similar to those which had been used by another gentleman who not many months before had been connected in an official capacity with the aborigines of Queensland. The hon. member for Cook made some allusion to maladministration, but, though he might have given examples of slack or careless administration, he had given none of maladministration. He had received persistent reports from the Cooktown district, and he decided to send one of the best men in the public service of Queensland to investigate those charges. That was Mr. W. J. Scott, the Under Secretary for Lands, who was

impartial in the matter, and he had written a long report on the subject, which was at the disposal of any hon. member who cared to peruse it. He did not think it was necessary to read the report. Briefly, Mr. Scott reported that there was nothing in the matter. [Mr. JENKINSON: What evidence did Mr. Scott take?] He stopped several days in Cooktown, and interviewed as many people as he could find who were hostile to Dr. Roth. Any hon. member who cared to read the report would see that it contained a refutation to all the charges made against Dr. Roth. [Mr. JENKINSON: Why not print it?] If there was considered to be any necessity for printing it, he was quite prepared to have it printed. Nothing had occurred since the matter was brought up in the Committee two years ago, when Mr. Foxton was in charge of the department—and when the feeling in the Chamber was overwhelmingly in favour of the Minister and of Dr. Roth—to cause the Protector of Aborigines to forfeit the confidence he had previously enjoyed.

\* Mr. FORSYTH did not think the Minister had disposed of the statement made by the hon. member for Cook with reference to the refusal of Dr. Roth to attend the sick black-fellow at Gregory Downs. Why was not Dr. Roth asked to state whether the statement made by Mr. Briggs was incorrect or not? Other accusations had been made against Dr. Roth. On page 10 of the report, reference was made to the removal of a half-caste child named "Uarry" from Lawn Hills Station to Mapoon. Why was that done? Mr. Macintosh, the manager of Lawn Hills Station, had brought the child up from the time his mother died, when he was a few months old, until he was over six years of age, and then a policeman was sent out, who simply said that, acting under instructions from the head office, he had to take the child away. He challenged the Minister or anyone else to prove that the child was ill-treated. Mr. Macintosh, who was well known in Brisbane, was known to be one of the most humane men in Queensland. There was another child on the station. Why was that child left when the little boy was taken away? Mr. Macintosh was told that, if he answered certain questions in the affirmative, the child would be allowed to remain, but he declined to answer those questions. He explained the whole matter to the Secretary for Public Lands before. He saw the boy at Lawn Hills, and afterwards travelled on the steamer on which he was taken to Mapoon, and knew that he was a plump little fellow, and well looked after, and that he could not by any stretch of imagination be called a destitute child. The point was that either both children should have been taken away or both should have been allowed to remain. He had received no satisfaction so far, and it was not likely he would get any satisfaction that evening. Whatever the opinion of the Secretary for Public Lands might be, the opinion in the Gulf country, as expressed in public meetings held in Croydon and Normanton and other places, was that they did not want Dr. Roth at all. From an economical point of view they preferred to have the whole thing under the police. When Dr. Roth was away in Western Australia, and the work was under the supervision of Mr. Howard, there were very few complaints. The work now was partly under the police, and why should it not be placed under their entire control? Dr. Roth probably only made a hurried visit once or twice a year, and it would be infinitely better to hand the whole thing over to them altogether. Another complaint was that these men did not want the

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boys all the time. As a matter of fact, they were only too willing to have workers, and the report showed that the boys were good workers, and the managers wanted them and wanted to pay them. But a great many boys who came in from the bush did not understand an agreement, as they could not speak English, and the whole thing was a farce. There was another point in connection with the gins. The station-owners had the power to pay the boys their wages direct, but not to pay the gins, and the consequence was the money was banked to the credit of the gins at places where there was a protector. It was quite possible that the money might be lying at a bank 300 or 400 miles away from where the gins were living, and if they wanted the money for urgent purposes it was next to impossible to get it. They had to make inquiries and wire for it, and before the gin could get the money a month or two would be gone. The boys got payment from the managers direct, and why was not payment made to the gins direct? Another matter was that a great many of these gins went to the station because some of the boys would not stay unless the gins were there, and the station managers, because they wanted the black boys, were quite willing to pay for the keep of these gins, yet as soon as they go there they must make an agreement straightaway and pay them wages too. It was a most unfair thing to have to sign an agreement to pay these gins when they were not there for their convenience at all. The hon. member for Croydon would bear him out when he stated that there was the biggest aggregation of blacks in one body in Queensland. He did not suppose the Government had paid 5s. towards them this year. Many of them were not fit to work, and were the most miserable specimens of humanity ever seen. No notice was taken of these people—if they lived they lived, and if they died they died. [The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: How does it come about that this is the first occasion you have shown any consideration for them at all?] He had raised a complaint last year. [The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Is your sympathy only an annual one?] He had brought it up on the Address in Reply last year when the Minister had tried to stop him. He raised one objection to Dr. Roth that had never been replied to—that he went to Burketown where there was a large crowd of blacks, but had never even went out to see whether they were dead or alive. He could hardly believe it, and had asked Dr. Roth about it, and he told the Minister, who owned that it was Dr. Roth's business to go there. It was his duty as the protector to go and see the conditions under which they lived, and it was a scandalous thing that he never thought of going to see them, and there was no doctor there either. He had mentioned the matter of a gin being brought in to Burketown from Floraville, a distance of 50 miles. Dr. Roth was there at the time—there was no doctor and they asked him to go and see the gin, but he refused, and the next day the gin died. These were things which should not occur. There was a universal feeling in the Gulf country against Dr. Roth, and these things would not occur if the matter was in the hands of the police. There was a large amount spent on blankets, but no blankets had been sent out to Lawn Hills district at all, and the blacks there could not get any. The reason was that there had been no request made by the inspector, but he had told the people that they should see the inspector, and that very likely they would get them this year. Some consideration should

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be shown to the wild blacks in the Lawn Hills district of which there were a large number among the hills and mountains. He hoped some good would come out of the debates that had taken place.

HON. R. PHILP: Last year he had suggested that they might dispense with Dr. Roth, because his duties were now largely performed by the police. He was engaged by Sir Horace Tozer, because he [11 p.m.] was a medical man, to go among the blacks and do them some good, but apparently he had not done that. He knew the Gregory Downs case, and that Dr. Roth refused to attend a blackfellow who was ill, and he also knew that at Burketown he declined to perform similar duty. What were his functions? He thought inquiry should be made in the Gulf country as to the truth of the charges that had been made. Mr. Briggs, the owner of Gregory Downs, had told him the whole story of the Gregory Downs case, and he afterwards told Dr. Roth, who said it was not true, but as against that Mr. Briggs was prepared to bring forward evidence. If the police were really doing the work, why should they not do it under their own Commissioner instead of Dr. Roth? Then there was the Lawn Hills case. Mr. Macintosh had been in that district for twenty-five years, and the blacks looked upon him as their protector, and it seemed a great mistake to take that boy away from the station. Last year Dr. Roth only spent three months in North Queensland, and how could he look after the blacks while sitting in an office in Brisbane? He again emphasised the fact that he was appointed because he was a medical man, and by his ministrations might do the blacks a great service. He certainly thought some inquiry should be held into the statements that had been made.

Mr. LESINA believed that inquiry should be held into the matters mentioned. He had frequently defended Dr. Roth, but very serious charges had been made against him, and in his own interest inquiry should be made. Another charge made was that while in the custody of Government property—certain ethnological specimens—he had sold a portion of them, and pocketed the proceeds. That matter had been the subject of a question put to the Secretary for Public Lands, who had refused to wire to Dr. Roth and get information on the matter. There were so many charges flying about against the protector that he should at all events have an opportunity of defending himself. When giving evidence before the Legislative Council, in 1901, he had said that certain specimens which he was collecting were the property of the nation, and Mr. Foxton had repeated the same thing in 1903. The present Secretary for Public Lands had also told them that Dr. Roth informed him that his collection of curios was the property of the country, and that he had never sold a curio in his life. Did the Minister say so now? [The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: As far as I am aware.] He would ask the Minister whether he had made any effort to discover the truth of the charge made in regard to the sale of curios, because only yesterday a wire was sent to the curator of the Sydney Museum on that subject, and his reply was as follows:—

Over 2,000 specimens sold by Dr. Roth to the Sydney Museum, but the curator cannot communicate the amount paid by the trustees until the next meeting on the 7th November.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS knew nothing of the question about the specimens beyond the information he had already

given. He had had no communication with Dr. Roth on the subject. Of course he should see him as soon as he got back, though on his return he would be under the authority of the Home Secretary. He had very little doubt that they should find there was a satisfactory explanation from Dr. Roth, and hon. members would have just the same opportunity of judging as he had. At all events, he was not there to take up the position that Dr. Roth was a perfect being. He did not assume that for one moment. His whole position was this—that officially, and in regard to all the information at his disposal, he was forced to the conclusion that the statements which had been made for a series of years against Dr. Roth were unfounded. He was not in the slightest degree biased towards him one way or the other. But he would say this in regard to those who were on Dr. Roth's track—he meant those outside the House—that he had no hesitation in saying that Dr. Roth was a far more worthy citizen than one or all of them.

Mr. MURPHY: There was no doubt that throughout North Queensland there was a good deal of dissatisfaction with Dr. Roth. At the same time, he thought the money could be far better spent than by sending a police magistrate to Burketown to inquire into the couple of cases mentioned by the member for Carpentaria and the leader of the Opposition. He thought the police would be better engaged in gathering up the picanninies around Burketown, Georgetown, and Normanton, and seeing that they were well cared for, instead of going on to the stations, as the member for Carpentaria mentioned, to take a boy away. He saw that lad at Burketown waiting in the lockup to be sent to Mapoon. He was a well-cared-for boy. So far as the aborigines in the Gulf were concerned, he did not think the Protector did the slightest thing for those who were not on the stations. A return was prepared last year which showed that not a shilling was spent in either medicine or food for the blacks in Croydon or Georgetown last year, and there was only about £12 spent in Normanton. The Secretary for Lands told them last year that he thought the office was unnecessary and that the money could be saved. [The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: No, no! I said I think the time will come when we may dispense with the office.] He would take the Minister's word for that, but he thought the time had come now to dispense with Dr. Roth's services. He really did not know what Dr. Roth did, seeing that the police did the whole of the work required under the Aborigines Protection Act. Dr. Roth went up North occasionally, but he never even troubled to look after the blacks, and never bothered his head about the blacks at Croydon. He thought the money given to Dr. Roth would be well saved. If that money was spent in tobacco, food, and blankets for the blacks they would be doing more good than giving it to Dr. Roth. So far as the charges made against Dr. Roth were concerned, he thought that was a matter they might leave in the Minister's hands. If Dr. Roth was found doing wrong in that respect, the Minister would deal with him. He thought the Protector was unnecessary, and if a vote of his would remove him he would remove him.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: He gave the hon. member for Croydon an invitation to visit the Lands Department and see the amount of work there was in connection with the aborigines department. The hon. member would then realise that the work was greater than he thought.

Mr. MAXWELL could understand that the work of the aborigines department was heavy, when they found Sub-inspector Galbraith sent to

the various station managers to find out what sort of blacks were on the stations. When the Aborigines Bill was going through the House, he heard it said that the blacks were worse off under legislation than they were before. So far as Dr. Roth was concerned, he understood that the head of the department was going to dispense with his services. Dr. Roth might be a very good man, but he knew very little about the aborigines of Queensland. The blacks received no benefit from Dr. Roth's tours in the North. But he could not understand anyone suggesting that the money should be spent in giving blankets to the blacks, as it would be simply wasting money. He thought the best way of treating the blacks was to gather them all together and put them on the Government reserves. The aboriginal mission station near Cairns was a credit to the clergy who were running it. [Mr. KERR: Did you see what appeared in the paper?] He did not care what appeared in the paper, and he did not care what was said by a former Aborigines Protector, whose services were dispensed with by the Government. The only way to deal effectively with the blacks was to gather them together and put them on the various reserves throughout Queensland.

Mr. LESINA thought that the wire which he had read furnished a sufficient reason for holding an inquiry in regard to Dr. Roth's action. That wire showed that Dr. Roth had sold 2,000 specimens to the Sydney Museum. It was quite possible that the doctor had a collection of his own; but he distinctly told the Upper House that it was part of his business to collect curios, and those curios should therefore be the property of the State. Another reason why he should vote for the reduction of the vote was in order to make a protest against the snatch vote which was taken when the petition was presented to the House by the hon. member for Cook. He was astonished at the leader of the Government calling "No" when the question for the reception of the petition was put.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS rose to a point of order. The hon. member for Clermont was referring in Committee to what had taken place in the House.

The CHAIRMAN: The petition was referred to by the hon. member for Cook, and I did not call him to order; but now that my attention has been called to the matter, I must rule that the hon. member for Clermont is not in order in discussing the action taken by the House in regard to the petition.

Mr. LESINA: He should not refer any further to the matter. He thought an inquiry should be made into the allegations made against Dr. Roth, and for that reason he should vote for a reduction of the vote, as proposed by the hon. member for Cook.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS suspected that, if they could analyse the motives of the hon. member for Clermont, they would find that there was something more than a mere desire to discover what happened to certain aborigines. He wished to intimate to the Committee that when Dr. Roth returned from the North he should ask him for a report on the charges which had been made against him, and if that report, which he should certainly lay on the table of the House, was not satisfactory, then either he (Mr. Bell) or one of his colleagues would take further action in the matter.

Mr. HARGREAVES said he was quite willing to withdraw his amendment if the Minister would promise that an inquiry would be held, but otherwise he should press it to a division, as

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he considered that in any report that might be made by Dr. Roth he would say exactly what he had already said.

Mr. MURPHY: While he was prepared to give a vote in favour of doing away with Dr. Roth's services, he was not prepared to record a vote which would condemn any official without a trial; and the suggestion of the hon. member for Clermont, that this vote should be taken on the wire received from the Sydney Museum, would make him vote against the proposed reduction, because he considered it was not the duty of Parliament to condemn any public official without giving him an opportunity of defending himself.

HON. R. PHILP: Certain charges had been made against Dr. Roth, and the question was, were they true or not? The only way to find that out was by holding an inquiry. Dr. Roth had already denied the charges, but the people who made them still said they were true. He (Mr. Philp) had known Mr. Thomas Macintosh, of Lawn Hill, for nearly forty years, and would take his word before that of any other man he knew. Mr. Briggs, of Gregory Downs, he had not known so long, but he knew that that gentleman bore a good character. He (Mr. Philp) had defended Dr. Roth on previous occasions, but he thought that in that gentleman's own interest it was desirable that an inquiry should be held—at any rate, in regard to the charges concerning a gin at Burketown and a boy at Gregory Downs.

Mr. LESINA was not satisfied with the promise of the Minister that he would get a report from Dr. Roth and lay that report on the table of the House. The Minister should call upon Dr. Roth to answer those charges, or have the matter investigated by a small committee consisting of three or four members of the Assembly. [The PREMIER: Dr. Roth has the misfortune to have a job that a number of other [11.30 p.m.] people want.] Well, if they abolished the position the trouble from those people was likely to cease. An inquiry was necessary either to refute or to prove the charges that had been made. The Secretary for Lands accused him of being actuated by certain motives in speaking as he had done, but when the late Government "whip" attacked Dr. Roth he had defended him. But, when he was accused of selling certain curios which were said to be the property of the Queensland Government, then he wanted to know whether he had sold the collection, and, if so, why the money was not paid into the Queensland Treasury. Evidence could be obtained from Sydney, and a report made to the House without much delay, but, if the matter was referred to Dr. Roth, they might be prevented from dealing with it for another year.

Mr. MAXWELL: If the country was going to be put to the cost of an inquiry, perhaps they had better "sack" Dr. Roth and have done with it. If an inquiry was made into the charges that had been made and the report was tabled, then the hon. member for Cook could take action if he was dissatisfied with the report, but nothing was gained by moving a reduction of £1. If it were carried, it did not mean that either Dr. Roth or the aboriginals would receive £1 less than hitherto. The best thing to do was to accept the assurance of the Secretary for Lands and let the vote go.

Mr. JENKINSON asked whether the Secretary for Lands thought they were likely to receive the report before the House rose at the close of the session? [The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: I certainly hope so.] Another point was that the department was now under

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the Home Secretary. [The HOME SECRETARY: I shall certainly feel bound by any pledge which my colleague gives.] A significant fact in connection with the debate was that every Northern member who had spoken practically backed up the assertions of the hon. member for Cook, and for Dr. Roth's own protection it was necessary that he should have a chance of placing on record his answers to the charges that had been made. He was satisfied with the assurance of the Secretary for Lands. If the people who had made those charges failed to substantiate them, then no exposure could be too public for them. It was scandalous if public men were to be attacked either in the Press or in that Chamber without being afforded the opportunity of defending themselves.

Mr. KERR thought it was necessary for the protection of the taxpayers that there should be an inquiry. Session after session they had heard a great deal of Dr. Roth and Lizzie Johnson. There was a good deal in the Premier's interjection that certain people were after Dr. Roth's position. At the same time, they ought to know whether, if an inquiry was held and Dr. Roth was cleared, his position was going to be done away with. Many of the people who wished to see it abolished were people who had employed the blacks before Dr. Roth's appointment without paying them anything in return. Dr. Roth insisted on many station managers and bêche-de-mer gatherers paying aboriginals for the work they did, and those persons were responsible for many of the charges which had been made against Dr. Roth. Dr. Roth was no friend of his, but he knew what had happened in various parts of the State before Dr. Roth was appointed, and since his appointment the sub-protectors had taken a great deal of trouble in regard to the agreements under which the aboriginals worked. Some of the *bon ton* in Brisbane had gone over the head of the protector and complained to the late Home Secretary in the matter. He knew some who went to the late Home Secretary, because they wanted the gins for servants and could get them at a low rate, and simply because the protectors asked that they should be paid their due wages, these people complained because they could not get them for nothing. That was one reason for the outcry against Dr. Roth, and if an inquiry were held they would hear no more against him.

Mr. MURPHY: The Aboriginals Protection Act was passed for the protection of the blacks, and was administered while Dr. Roth was in Western Australia; and if Dr. Roth were to die to-morrow, surely the Minister would see that the Act was properly administered. He believed Dr. Roth's services could be dispensed with, and better use made of the money paid to him.

Mr. HARGREAVES: If the hon. member for Barcoo would look at the report he would find that in only two cases was compulsory payment found to be necessary last year. The police would see that the blacks were paid, and as to how they spent the money that they got. Whether Dr. Roth was the protector or not, the Act would be administered.

The CHAIRMAN: Do I understand the hon. member for Cook wishes to withdraw the amendment?

Mr. HARGREAVES: On the promise of the Secretary for Lands, and as he could discuss the matter on the Supplementary Estimates, he would withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. JENKINSON said several statements had been made by the leader of the Labour party and the hon. member for Croydon. [Mr.

KERR: I can give the names.] I may tell the hon. member, now he has made that statement, that it is a deliberate untruth.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, order!

Mr. KERR: Was the hon. member in order in saying it was a deliberate misstatement? He asked the hon. member to withdraw that.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must withdraw that statement.

Mr. JENKINSON: He would withdraw the words, but the hon. member for Barcoo had made an absolutely incorrect statement. He had probably taken up some statements which appeared in the Press, which had no foundation, and the statement he made was absolutely without foundation. [Mr. KERR: What statement?] The hon. member knew the statement, but was not game to say it outside, and he was surprised at the hon. member, occupying the position he did, descending to such trivialities. He wanted to point out the inconsistency of the hon. member in stating that he was of opinion that Dr. Roth's services were absolutely unnecessary. The hon. member had only to say a word and the salary would be reduced.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. JENKINSON: The Chairman repeatedly allowed members to address him in a manner which was not fair. No member was allowed to address a member in the House by his personal name.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must recognise that hon. members make interjections across the floor that I do not always catch, and if the hon. member for Barcoo made any disorderly interjections he should call my attention to it.

Mr. JENKINSON: A deliberate statement had been made by several members to the effect that the money paid to Dr. Roth was absolutely wasted. [Mr. HARGREAVES: Don't you agree with that?] He knew nothing about the subject. (Laughter.) He protested against the hypocrisy of any hon. member stating a sum was unnecessary, and then allowing it to be voted. The hon. member for Barcoo had sufficient weight in the Chamber to carry the reduction, if he was in earnest, that, on the score of economy, Dr. Roth's services ought to be dispensed with. They ought to get a reply from the Minister in regard to it.

Mr. REINHOLD: The South Brisbane Fire Brigade had been charged in the newspapers with having lost a considerable amount of time in getting to work at the recent fire in Melbourne street. He would ask the Minister if that was correct? He, personally, did not believe it.

The HOME SECRETARY: It just happened that the Treasurer and himself were passing along Melbourne street about the time the fire broke out. As they passed the shop there was no sign of fire; but three minutes had not elapsed before they heard a great outcry, and they walked quickly back. Before they got back, the fire brigade was already at work. It was possible, of course, that the fire was detected at the back, and the alarm given some time before; but as far as he was personally concerned, he thought the brigade turned out wonderfully quickly.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed. The CHAIRMAN reported progress, and the Committee obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

## HAWKERS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

### MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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

The House adjourned at six minutes to 12 o'clock.