

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1910

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QUESTIONS.

ARREARS, GOWRIE REPURCHASED ESTATE.

Mr. LESINA (*Clermont*) asked the Secretary for Public Lands—

1. Is it true that one selector on the Gowrie Repurchased Estate owes arrears of rent to the department amounting to £8,331 11s. 5d., and dating from as far back as 1902?

2. Has any attempt been made to recover this sum?

3. Has the Auditor-General drawn the attention of the department to the fact that, as rent under the Closer Settlement Acts includes interest on that portion of the purchase money remaining unpaid, action should be taken to recover the arrears?

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

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. No. There has been no need. Exceptional circumstances and conditions account in each case for the arrears. I am satisfied of eventual payment of principal and interest, and, indeed, probably before March, 1911; but in no case can there accrue loss in respect of these selections; therefore there is no need to resort to eviction.

RABBIT BOARDS—STATISTICS.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER (*Maranoa*) asked the Secretary for Public Lands—

1. The number and names of rabbit boards operating in the State?

2. The names of the clerks and salaries paid to each respectively?

3. The amount of revenue raised by each, and source of same, and assessment made by each?

4. The amount of Government endowment paid to each board?

5. What control does the Government exercise in the management, etc., of these boards?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS replied—

All the information available is given in pages 22 to 25 and 52 of the annual report of the Department of Public Lands. The Government exercises no control over the boards in their administration of the Rabbit Boards Act.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: Isn't it possible to get more information than that?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: I have no more information available.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: Try and get some.

SEED GRAIN TRUST ACCOUNT.

Mr. LESINA asked the Premier—

Is it the intention of the Justice Department to take legal proceedings for the recovery of the items £226, £177, £118, and £119, owing by certain well-known persons indebted to the seed grain trust account for seed wheat, oats, and barley, supplied on credit to farmers and selectors early in 1903?

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Kidston, *Rockhampton*) replied—

Instructions have been given to the Crown Solicitor, who is in communication with the parties.

WAGES, GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

Mr. LESINA asked the Treasurer—

1. What wage per week are the night staff compositors (hand-setting) being paid at the Government Printing Office?

2. What is the rate of pay per hour for the night staff?

3. How many of the night staff receive privileges—holidays and sick pay?

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, 1910.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (W. D. Armstrong, Esq., *Lockyer*) took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

PAPERS.

RAILWAY EXTENSION, WESTERN COUNTRY.

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. W. T. Paget, *Mackay*): I beg to lay on the table Railway Surveyor Amos's reports on his examination of the Western country with a view to railway extension. I should like to say that the plans accompanying these reports will be distributed to hon. members within a very few days. I move that the papers be printed.

Question put and passed.

EXPENDITURE ON CROYDON GOLDFIELD.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. J. G. Appel, *Albert*) laid on the table a return showing the expenditure on the Croydon field from the various votes for assistance to mining during the financial years 1902-3 to 1909-10.

Ordered to be printed.

4. Is there any distinction made between members of the staff in these matters?
5. Is there any difference in the wages of the day and the night "casuals"?
6. What is the greatest length of service of a "casual" on the night staff?

The TREASURER (Hon. A. G. C. Hawthorn, *Enoggera*) replied—

1. £3 per week.
2. 1s. 3d. per hour.
3. Two on permanent staff.
4. Casuals do not receive annual leave or sick pay.
5. Day casuals, 1s. 3d. per hour; night, 10s. for 7½ hours.
6. The night staff is only employed during the parliamentary session. One of the casuals was first employed on that staff in 1890, and two others in 1891.

CASE OF MR. J. DUNNE.

Mr. LESINA asked the Home Secretary—

1. Has the Home Department received a complaint from Mr. J. Dunne, until recently an inmate of the Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Institution, asking for an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his suspension by the committee of that body?
2. Does he propose to grant the inquiry?

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. G. Appel, *Albert*) replied—

1. Yes.
2. An inquiry has been held.

DETENTION OF INEBRIATE ASYLUM INMATE.

Mr. LESINA asked the Home Secretary—

Is it a fact that a recent inmate of Peel Island Inebriate Asylum, who was ordered to be detained in the institution for a period of three months, was not released until 1st November, two days after he should legally have been released?

The HOME SECRETARY replied—

No inmate was released on 1st November, but if the hon. member will supply full particulars, further inquiry will be made.

LEAVE TO RAILWAY SURVEYORS' CHAINMEN.

Mr. BRESLIN (*Port Curtis*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

- (a) Is he aware that surveyors' chainmen, employed by the Railway Department, have lately been refused the customary leave and passes as granted to permanent staff after eight years' service?
- (b) Have not such men been previously granted leave and passes under usual conditions?
- (c) Does he not consider that they should be still allowed the privileges?
- (d) Why have they been deprived of same?

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. W. T. Paget, *Mackay*) replied—

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) I am not aware they have been deprived.

RESUMPTIONS, BOYNE VALLEY LINE.

Mr. BRESLIN asked the Secretary for Railways—

- (a) Under what system of valuation was compensation offered for land resumed for railway purposes along the route of the Boyne Valley line?
- (b) Is it correct that whilst, in the same locality at Boppa, one person was offered £29 5s. in total settlement for 18½ acres resumed, another person received over £60 for about 23 acres?
- (c) Will he lay on the table of the House a return showing the various areas resumed, the amounts paid for each, and to whom paid?

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS replied—

(a) Valuations were arrived at upon information obtained from the Lands Department, the local authorities, and the resident engineer in charge of the construction. The amount of compensation in each case was settled on its own merits, having due regard to justice and equity.

(b) Yes, but the circumstances were entirely different. In the latter case three properties were affected, involving a resumption of nearly 27 acres, and consequently a larger payment for severance.

(c) It is not advisable to publish each landholder's private business.

CADET CLERKS, PUBLIC SERVICE.

Mr. BRESLIN asked the Premier—

(a) The number of cadet clerks engaged in the public service prior to the last public service examination?

(b) How many of these cadet clerks were competitors at that examination?

(c) How many vacancies were announced to be filled from the result of that examination?

(d) How many of the cadet clerks who were competitors obtained positions in the regular service as a result of that examination?

The PREMIER replied—

(a) Sixty-two (62).

(b) Thirty-four (34).

(c) Twenty vacancies for males and three for females in the ordinary division, and ten for males and two for females in the professional division.

(d) One has been appointed, leaving six who passed the examination to be appointed.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE. PRISONS.

Question stated—That the sum of £24,319 be granted for "Prisons"—

The HOME SECRETARY: When the Chairman left the chair last Friday night he was about to give the Committee certain information in connection with this vote. That information he would now supply. There was an increase of £114 in the total vote. The clerk of prisons received an increase of £20, the junior clerk an increase of £10, and the messenger an increase of £10. In the Brisbane Prison the superintendent received an increase of £20; there was a decrease of £10 in the vote for the chief warder on account of the appointment of Chief Warder J. Murphy to that position, *vice* R. A. McDonald, promoted; the matron received an increase of £10; there was a decrease of £10 in the item, Senior Warder, P. O'Sullivan having been appointed to that position on the promotion of the previous occupant of the office; there was an increase of £5 to the senior female warder, and an increase of £5 to a junior female warder; and the amount for classification increases to warders and increases to probationers was increased from £4 to £8. The vote for the Mackay Prison showed a decrease of £120. At Rockhampton there was a decrease in the amount for the salary of the superintendent, owing to the promotion of Jas. A. Macdonald, *vice* J. Hamilton, and provision was made for an extra warder at £120. At St. Helena there was an increase of £20 in the salary of the superintendent, and an increase of £10 in the salary of the clerk and storekeeper; the salary of the assistant storekeeper, £140, was now entered as a separate item—previously it was paid from contingencies. There was an increase to warders,

owing to classification increases, of £80; a decrease of £42 in connection with classification increases to warders. In Townsville there was a decrease in connection with classification increases to warders of £10. At Thursday Island there was an increase to the superintendent of £10; classification increase to a warder of £10; an additional amount required for classification of £3. In connection with "Contingencies," there was a decrease of £3; an increase of £100 for gratuities to discharged prisoners; a decrease of £100 in provisions, stores, and incidentals; also a decrease of £150, the amount placed on the Estimates last year as a gratuity to the widow of Mr. Hamilton, superintendent at Rockhampton. The net increase was £114.

Mr. BOUCHARD (*Brisbane South*) thought the increase to the superintendent of the South Brisbane Gaol was well deserved. The officer occupying that position was discharging his duties efficiently, and was at the present time receiving considerably less salary than his predecessor received. With regard to the warders, he was surprised to see that no provision was made for an increase in their salaries. During the debate on the Financial Statement, if he remembered aright, the Premier stated that almost all the public servants had received an increase in their salaries during the past four or five years. The position of those warders to-day was worse than it was four or five years ago. At the time of the retrenchment they had certain allowances, which were reduced; and they were now worse off than they were before that time. It was well known that the cost of living had considerably increased, and that rents had gone up considerably, and he thought there was no reason why the warders should not have their salaries increased. The regulations in connection with the gaol in his electorate compelled the warders to reside within sound of the bell, so that they had to reside in a locality where rents had increased; and the warders of the South Brisbane Gaol—and, he thought, those in other parts of Queensland—had reason to complain by reason of not having participated in the increase accorded to the public service generally. He had interviewed the Home Secretary on the matter on several occasions, and put before him the claims of the warders. Those claims had received the favourable recommendation of the Comptroller of Prisons; and he would like to ask the Minister whether he proposed to put on the Supplementary Estimates an additional amount for the warders of the respective prisons. Under the circumstances to which he had referred, he thought the hon. gentleman would see the justice of providing some increase, not only in salaries, but also in allowances.

Mr. LENNON (*Herbert*) called attention to the statement frequently made that all the lower-paid officers had received substantial increases this year; also to the fact that reductions had been moved in votes as a protest against large increases to high officials—Under Secretaries and others—while those receiving small salaries did not receive adequate consideration. He would take the Townsville Penal Establishment and compare it with the Brisbane Gaol. In both cases there were eleven warders. In the Brisbane Gaol there were eleven warders getting £140 a year—he supposed they had been getting that for a number of years—and no increase was down

for these men. Compare that with the Townsville Penal Establishment, where there were also eleven warders, three of whom got £140, five £130, one £120, and two £100. These men in the North were at a disadvantage, where living was higher than in Brisbane, and were removed from some of the advantages attached to a residence in Brisbane, and yet they received a lower scale of pay altogether than did the warders in the Brisbane Gaol. He observed also that the matron of the Brisbane Gaol had a rise from £90 to £100, whereas the matron of the Townsville Penal Establishment got £60 a year and no increase at all. It only went to show that if you happened to get a sufficiently large salary under this Government you were quite certain of getting a larger salary; but if you happened to get a sufficiently low salary you were perfectly certain to get no increase. That seemed to be the principle which guided this Government in their rule-of-thumb method of giving increases to the public servants. Now, the life of the policeman was not a happy one, so the song writer told us, though he had no experience of his own, and he thought the life of the warder was not a happy one either, and taking into account the fact that these men in Townsville, with the exception of the first three, were all receiving lower salaries than the warders in Brisbane Gaol, he regarded it as a distinct injustice to the warders in Townsville, where the cost of living was certainly somewhat higher than in Brisbane, and the climatic conditions were not so good. The Government, even at this late stage, should alter this injustice.

The HOME SECRETARY: They are juniors in Townsville.

Mr. LENNON: That was just the same way they were pinching acting sergeants.

The HOME SECRETARY: Oh, what nonsense!

Mr. LENNON: There was no nonsense about it.

The HOME SECRETARY: It is nonsense, and you know it.

Mr. LENNON: The hon. gentleman might think so, but the public did not think so.

The HOME SECRETARY: It is nonsense. You are talking to the gallery.

Mr. LENNON: He was speaking in the way he always did, and not to the gallery. The gallery had no attractions for him, as it had to the Home Secretary, nor did he cast his eyes there so frequently as the hon. gentleman did. (Laughter.)

The HOME SECRETARY: You are on the wrong side. (Laughter.)

Mr. LENNON: He did not want to take up too much time in the matter, but he wanted to testify to the fact that the men were not receiving the same treatment in Townsville as they were in Brisbane. The Home Secretary retorted that they were the juniors. Fancy keeping the bulk of the men as juniors! Out of eleven men in the Townsville Gaol there were only three who received the princely salary of £140 a year, and they tapered down to £100 a year. As it was in his district he was obliged to call attention to it, whether the Home Secretary cared for it or not—nor did he care for the gallery either. This was not a fair thing. It went on year after year and nothing was done, and yet this Government, through its most boastful member, the Home Secretary, said

Mr. Lennon.]

they were doing more for the lower-paid officers of the service generally than any previous Government.

The HOME SECRETARY: Quite correct.

Mr. LENNON: They were doing more for the higher-paid men than any previous Government ever did, because those men were getting rises of £100 at a time when men who lived on a low salary in a place where living was higher than it was in Brisbane got no rise at all.

Mr. KEOGH (*Rosewood*): He saw that the matron on Thursday Island only received £10 a year, and he asked if that was a sufficient remuneration for anyone who performed the duties of that position?

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes; she is the wife of the superintendent. Her duties are practically nominal.

Mr. KEOGH thought the remuneration was inadequate, and suggested that the Home Secretary should increase the amount.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I hope the hon. member will address the Chair, and not the few select members around him. (Laughter.)

Mr. KEOGH thought it was a disgrace to offer £10 to anyone in that position. He thought the whole of the vote ought to have been increased.

Mr. COYNE (*Warrego*) would ask the Home Secretary, when replying to questions in connection with this vote, to explain whether all the warders in the Brisbane Prison were of a superior class, comparing their salaries with those paid at Townsville and also with St. Helena.

The HOME SECRETARY: They are senior.

Mr. COYNE: He supposed they were all senior warders in Brisbane. He understood the long-sentence prisoners were confined in St. Helena, and it certainly required more experienced warders to control the long-sentence prisoners than prisoners who were only in for a week or two at Brisbane. Another thing, could not the juniors be taught their duties at the Brisbane establishment, as well as at St. Helena or at Townsville? On the face of it, it appeared as if they could not be taught at Brisbane, otherwise there would be some juniors there. It might be that all the men in the

[4 p.m.] Brisbane Prison were married men, and they would have to be separated from their families if they were at St. Helena; but that did not apply to Townsville and Rockhampton. During the time he had been a member of the Assembly he had endeavoured to make out a case for the release of a prisoner named Kenniff, who had been incarcerated in St. Helena for the last eight years. He had introduced deputations to the present Home Secretary and to his predecessors in office, and he had presented a petition to the predecessor of the present Home Secretary, which, although only got up a few weeks before it was presented, bore thousands of signatures coming from all parts of Queensland. The matter was considered by the Cabinet, and they decided to take no action. Subsequent to that the present Home Secretary received a deputation of members on both sides of the Chamber requesting the release of Kenniff, who the members of the deputation were satisfied was innocent of the crime with which he had been charged; but who, even if he had been an accessory after the fact, had been sufficiently punished for his crime. The

[*Mr. Lennon.*]

deputation was probably the largest deputation of members of Parliament that had ever interviewed any Minister in this State. The Home Secretary told them that he would refer the matter to the judge who tried the case. The moment the hon. gentleman said that, he (Mr. Coyne) said to some of the other members of the deputation that that ended the matter, because there was very little chance that the judge, on whose summing up, to a great extent, one of the brothers was hanged, would go back on his summing up. There were numbers of cases in which deputations and petitions had secured the release of prisoners without the matter being first submitted to the judges who tried those prisoners. The fact that those were only cases of minor offences had really nothing to do with it. There were two men convicted recently of robbery at the Zillmere jam factory, and one of the men, who got a very severe lecture from the police magistrate for his misconduct, was released without that police magistrate being asked whether he should be released or not. Then they did not forget that some time ago one of the foulest murders that was ever perpetrated in Queensland was committed just outside Brisbane. The hon. member for Nundah would remember the case, because he was one of the first to see the remains of the little boy who was so cruelly murdered on that occasion. Although the murder was not sheeted home to the man who was accused of it, simply because of some technical mistake having been made by the police, the man was released, though sentenced to life or a long term of imprisonment, and he felt positive that his case was never submitted to the judge who tried him. Why single out this man Kenniff? He felt certain that 99 per cent. of the people of Queensland believed in their heart of hearts that he was innocent of the capital crime of which he was convicted. Next year the coronation of the King would take place. He would not ask that justice should be done, because that might be considered a reflection on the Cabinet that they had not meted out justice in the case before; but he would ask them at least to extend mercy—if there was any remnant of it left in them—and release this man Kenniff next year. He would ask the Home Secretary to make a note of his request, as he might not have another opportunity of speaking about the matter before the coronation.

Mr. MANN (*Cairns*) said that he was not going to make a complaint against the Government for keeping people in prison too long. He believed there was a great deal in what had been said about Kenniff by the hon. member for Warrego. There was a doubt in most people's minds whether James Kenniff had been guilty of murder or not. After all, he was convicted on the evidence of a blackfellow, and there were grave doubts as to who really committed the crime. But, if the Government had kept James Kenniff in prison too long, they had not always been so severe in other cases. For example, they had a doctor in Brisbane who was convicted of abortion.

Mr. COYNE: A murderer.

Mr. MANN: Well, he was a murderer in a sense. He was let out before he had served his sentence. They had a case not long ago where one man was kept in prison and one man was let out simply because some justices of the peace and two or three ministers who appeared to be running this Government signed a petition for his release. He would

not have minded his being let out if there was any more reason that he should be released than the other, but it was apparent from the evidence that it was not a first offence. He would like to ask if the police magistrate who tried the case had been consulted in that instance? In regard to the abolitionist of whom he spoke, they could see from his advertisements in some of the papers that he was carrying on the same game again, and yet this God-fearing Ministry let loose a scoundrel like that to prey upon the people of Queensland. They ought to hide their heads in shame when a man like that was released before his time was up, unless there were good and sufficient reasons given for his release. In the case of Kenniff there was a doubt as to whether he committed murder, but there was no doubt at all about the other case, and yet the Government let the one out and kept the other in prison. He would like to ask the Home Secretary what was the reason of the reduction in the salary of the superintendent at Rockhampton? Last year the salary was £300 and this year he was only down for £280.

THE HOME SECRETARY: The old superintendent, who was the senior officer, died, and the present superintendent will get an increase in salary, but he will not get the same amount that Mr. Hamilton got, as he has not served the same period.

MR. MANN: Was it for the same reason that the salary of the chief warden at Brisbane had been reduced £10?

THE HOME SECRETARY: That is so.

MR. FORSYTH (Moreton): The question of the prison buildings at St. Helena had cropped up in the report of the Comptroller of Prisons. The present buildings were very old, and the expense of keeping them in proper repair would become greater and greater each year, and the Government should take into consideration the question of putting up new buildings altogether. He did not know whether it would benefit the prisoners; but, as far as classification was concerned, it would certainly be a great advantage. In his report, on page 5, in connection with classification, the Comptroller said—

The classification of prisoners has been carried out as far as practicable. Although very much is done in this direction, there are a few of our prisons which, by construction, will not admit of it being carried out as strictly as I would like, but I trust that before many years have passed this will be remedied.

He would like to ask the Home Secretary what the Government purposed doing in connection with the erection of new buildings at St. Helena?

MR. LENNON: The cells are no bigger than dog kennels.

MR. FORSYTH: In any case he thought it was necessary to have new buildings as soon as possible. The Comptroller, in his report, on page 6, also referred to the position of the warders. The salaries those men received were not particularly high for that class of work, and the men in that position were entitled to some consideration. There was a recommendation in the report which he thought was a particularly good one. The Comptroller said—

When a warden reaches the highest class in his rank, which is attained after ten years' service, provided his conduct has been good and he has given satisfaction in the performance of his duties, he has not much to look forward to, as opportunities for promotion to the higher grades are very few and far between. To somewhat

ameliorate this. I would like to see some provision made whereby warders who have satisfactorily completed, say, fifteen years' service, and who are not occupying quarters free of charge, be granted a rent allowance.

That was a particularly good suggestion, and he hoped it would be taken up by the Home Secretary. Those men deserved very great consideration, and he certainly thought that a man after being engaged in that class of work for fifteen years was entitled to some consideration in the way of an allowance for rent or an annuity. That was a very fair thing to do. As a matter of fact, that system was becoming very prevalent, not only in connection with the Government, but also in connection with private firms. The policy now appeared to be, in the commercial service, that after a man has served a certain time, if he was a good man, he would receive something more than the actual remuneration he received for his services. The chief warden at St. Helena, who was on the top, only received £240 a year, and the senior warden got £156 a year. After all, that was not a very high salary, and those men deserved some consideration. The salaries of the warders ranged from £140 a year down to £100. That was not a very high salary either for a man. Of course, the juniors could not expect to get a very big salary, but they should be given increases each year until they obtained the maximum, and he certainly thought the maximum should be a good deal more than £140 a year. He did not see why they should not get £200 a year, and now that the country was prosperous he hoped the Home Secretary would try and do something in connection with the suggestion made, and also have the salaries increased.

MR. COYNE: We cannot do it here.

MR. FORSYTH: They could get the opinion of the Committee, and an amount could be put on the Supplementary Estimates. That had been done two or three years ago in connection with the parliamentary librarian.

THE HOME SECRETARY: In reference to that matter, which was first brought before the Committee by the junior member for Brisbane South, he desired to inform the Committee that that hon. member, some six weeks or two months ago, brought the matter before him, and in view of the information he had given, he (Mr. Appel) proposed to have the matter fully reported on with regard to getting the opinion of the permanent heads of the Prisons Department upon the subject-matter of increases to warders after they had served a certain number of years. Following out the promise, he had just received a report which he proposed to submit to the Cabinet, and he thought the Committee—in view of the fact that the Government had always endeavoured to do what was right and just in connection with the public servants—might rest assured that justice would be done to the present employees of the prisons.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

THE HOME SECRETARY: The representations which had been made by the Comptroller of Prisons to himself would receive the approbation of the whole prison service. He had not the least doubt of that, as it embodied what they considered was a fair thing as presented to him by the junior member for South Brisbane.

MR. FOLEY: One of your own side?

Hon. J. G. Appel.]

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes. (Opposition laughter.) In view of the action which had been taken by hon. members opposite, he had no doubt they would like to claim the hon. member for Brisbane South as one of their side, but to that hon. member was due the recommendation which he proposed to put before his colleagues in the Cabinet. It was due to the action of the junior member for South Brisbane in bringing before him what he considered was due and what was just to the prison service.

Mr. MURPHY: Has it not been done by others as well?

Mr. LENNON (to the Home Secretary): Is that the proper method of going about it? Is that the method you recommend for members to follow—to see you about it?

The HOME SECRETARY: When hon. members brought matters under notice, and such matters had justice on their side, he could assure them that they would be inquired into, and if possible given effect to. He had always endeavoured to carry out that principle, and hon. members would give him the credit of always having done so. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. MURPHY: But why should one man be singled out like that?

The HOME SECRETARY: The deputy leader of the Opposition referred to the salaries. The salaries were fixed on a classification basis. When an officer entered the prison service he received a certain salary, and after a number of years he received a classification increase, and so on and so on.

Mr. LENNON: Does that account for there being eleven senior warders in Brisbane and only three in Townsville?

The HOME SECRETARY: Brisbane was considered to be the plum in the whole service. As a man reached seniority he was transferred to Brisbane, as it was considered that Brisbane was the most desirable place to be stationed in. Townsville at the present time had a large number of junior warders.

Mr. LENNON: Juniors in age or service?

The HOME SECRETARY: Both age and service.

Mr. LENNON: I believe none of them are under thirty years.

The HOME SECRETARY: That was the method adopted in connection with salaries paid to the prison warders. The hon. member for Warrego referred to the case of a prisoner at St. Helena, and he questioned whether an opinion was taken from judges in all cases. For the information of the Committee, he could say that it was a rule that was absolutely never departed from. When a person was tried by a judge of the Supreme Court, that judge's opinion was always taken when a petition was received upon a question of any remission of sentence to that prisoner.

Mr. COYNE: Was that done in the cases of Dr. Forbes and Wilson?

The HOME SECRETARY: The judiciary claimed that they had that right, and that right had been accorded them. So far as the case of the abortionist was concerned, he knew absolutely nothing about the case, as it did not happen during the time he had been the administrator at the Home Department.

Mr. COYNE: Then it is simply an innovation?

[Hon. J. G. Appel.

The HOME SECRETARY: It was claimed about three years ago that owing to the omission in one case, which was not the case in question—owing to the judge not having been consulted—the Chief Justice, on behalf of the bench, brought the matter before the Cabinet that the justices claimed it as their right, and that right had always been accorded to them.

Mr. MURPHY: Why should it be?

The HOME SECRETARY: They claimed it, and the right was accorded them, and he was not prepared to depart from it. Referring once more to the prisoner Kenniff, he informed the deputation which waited upon him that he proposed to refer the matter to the judge who tried the case, provided he was willing to express an opinion upon it. The judge agreed to express an opinion on it, and his opinion was to the effect that he declined to recommend any remission or release of the prisoner in question. In view of the importance of the case, he could not see his way to go outside that opinion. Now, so far as the cases tried by District Court judges and police magistrates were concerned, that rule was not followed to the same extent as it was in the case of the Supreme Court judges, but during the time he had been administering the Home Department, so far as it was possible, he had got an expression of opinion from the District Court judges upon petitions of prisoners asking for remission or termination of their sentences.

Mr. COYNE: Don't forget that the judge in the case I refer to is not now a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland but of the High Court.

The HOME SECRETARY: That was why he asked him if he was willing to express an opinion upon it, and it was a matter of courtesy on his part that he was prepared to go through the papers and express an opinion on it.

Mr. COYNE: It was a matter of earnest desire.

The HOME SECRETARY: So far as that case was concerned, every consideration would be given to the prisoner, and, according to his conduct and his industry no differentiation would be made so far as he was concerned. He would be treated in entirely the same way as any other prisoner. The hon. member for Rosewood referred to the matrons. He was sure that members of the Committee were always willing to do something for the fair sex. (Laughter.) The matrons who received only £10 were the wives of the lockup-keepers, and, in many instances, they did not have more than one or two cases in the twelve months. They received a sufficient amount for their services, as in many instances they received at the rate of £1, £2, or £3 sometimes for each inmate.

Mr. LENNON: What about the matron in Brisbane at £100 and the matron in Townsville at £60?

The HOME SECRETARY: In Brisbane the female gaol was an institution in itself, but in Townsville it was only a ward of the gaol there. In connection with the buildings at St. Helena, to which attention had been drawn in the report of the Comptroller, it was proposed to get the Works Department to draw up a plan and estimate of the probable cost of a new gaol there. That would be done during the present financial year, and probably on the next Estimates; hon. members would be asked to vote the necessary appropriation for the erection of a gaol there which would be up to date. At the

same time, members who visited the gaol, despite the fact that it was liable to fire, would admit—as visitors from all parts of the world admitted—that in every way every attempt had been made to make it as comfortable and perfect as a gaol should be made. With the officers in charge there, it was more a reformatory than a penitentiary. He was pleased to say that many men [4.30 p.m.] who had passed through that gaol had learned a trade, and when they were released they entered into and carried on the trade or business they had learned there, and were now reputable members of society.

Mr. LESINA: One of the most gratifying features of the report of the Comptroller-General of Prisons was to be found in the table at the very beginning. In view of the fact that a great deal had been heard during the past few years about the moral degradation of the people of this State, owing to the lack of religious instruction in State schools, it was gratifying to learn from the cold-blooded automatic statistician that our criminal population was rapidly decreasing, and that from every point of view the people of Queensland were an increasingly moral people. According to the report, on the last day of 1904 out of every 925 of the general population one was in gaol, while on the last day of 1909 only one in every 1,121 was in gaol. That was about as adequate a reply as they could offer to the jeremiades of the Bible in State schools people and the Council of Public Morals, who made reckless charges against the morals of the people of this State. If the people were degenerate or had become demoralised through the lack of religious instruction, there would be a larger number of persons in gaol than was shown by those statistics. St. Helena was an excellently conducted institution, and, apart from the fact that it had some architectural disabilities, which the Home Secretary told them would be corrected in the course of time, it was one of the best-conducted institutions of its kind in the world. With regard to the cost of maintaining prisoners, the Comptroller said—

Taking into consideration the total expenditure for supervision, maintenance, and all requirements, the gross cost of prisoners per head was £48 11s. 3d. If the £10,895 15s. for manufactures, etc., be taken into account, the cost per head is reduced to £26 7s. 8d.

The fact that the cost of maintenance was being reduced, and the fact that young men were being trained in habits of industry, so that later on when they became free men they might maintain themselves, were splendid achievements. The work done by Captain Pennefather stood to his credit, and he (Mr. Lesina) ventured to say that, taking it as a whole, the St. Helena Prison stood pre-eminently above all other prisons in Australia for humanitarian and economical administration. Therefore, he was inclined to join himself with those members who advocated higher rates of remuneration for those employed in the institution, and he hoped the suggestions made in that connection would receive consideration when the Government were framing the Supplementary Estimates. The Comptroller said—

Special attention has been given to the training of youthful offenders, and those of first conviction, in trades which may be helpful to them in obtaining an honest and profitable living when released from prison, and I believe that many have benefited thereby.

That was a good thing. As a matter of fact, those youthful offenders should be treated as wards of the State, maintained in an industrial prison, and he thought they should be paid certain wages, as they were in prisons

in other places, a certain proportion of which should be applied to their own keep and a certain proportion to the maintenance of their families, if they had families. He was glad to notice from Table XI. of the report, which gave a return of the offences committed within the prison and the punishments awarded, that there had been no dark cell or corporal punishments. Punishments of that nature were relics of barbarism. A few years back he used to find a number of cases in which prisoners were committed to dark cells or suffered corporal punishment. He was glad to see that this prison had been so conducted recently that the authorities were able to dispense entirely with corporal punishment. He should also like to see capital punishment abolished. With regard to the case of James Kenniff, which the hon. member for Warrego had advocated for years, he was pleased to hear the Home Secretary say that it would be taken into consideration. From the first he (Mr. Lesina) had had his doubts, as many persons had their doubts, with respect to the participation by James Kenniff in the murder of Constable Doyle, for which his brother was hanged. He had always held the view that if Patrick Kenniff was guilty James Kenniff was guilty, and that both should have been hanged, or both should have been reprieved. However, he hoped that the Cabinet would give the case their favourable consideration. The Home Secretary had pointed out that visitors to St. Helena had spoken very highly of the institution as compared with other establishments they had seen. The Comptroller referred to that fact in his report, and stated that Mr. Ambrose Pratt, the well-known author and journalist, had visited St. Helena, and expressed the opinion that "it is a reformatory prison of which any country might be proud." There was also this in the report in connection with "Hygiene"—

The Rev. William Asher, of the Chapman-Alexander Mission, who is intimately acquainted with the various prison systems of the United States of America, stated, in a letter to me respecting his visit to St. Helena, on the 8th July last—

"My visit to St. Helena was a delightful surprise. I never found a better condition of affairs anywhere. I found the cellrooms absolutely clean and well ventilated. It is true that the cells are rather small, but when one remembers that they are used almost only for sleeping purposes it works no hardship on the prisoner. Going through the workshops, I found they were neat, tidy, and clean. The ceilings are a good height, allowing plenty of good fresh air to circulate through the rooms. I know of no prison where there is a better sanitary arrangement."

Further on the Comptroller-General of Prisons pointed out that since the inauguration of the system of separate treatment of female prisoners there had been a gratifying decrease in the number of female prisoners received. If that system was generally adopted, there would be no inducement for females of that type to welcome a conviction. Where the separate system of treatment was not adopted they welcomed an occasional conviction, because going to gaol was like returning home, where they could swap opinions with their friends. Generally, he thought the prison system in Queensland was one of which they might very well be proud; and Captain Pennefather deserved great credit for its administration.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: In the report of the Comptroller-General of Prisons there was a number of statements well worthy of consideration. This was one—

It is necessary for me to press home the solemn fact that we are all potential criminals, but saved by our heredity, education, and environment.

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Change any of these factors, and we are at once on the edge of a precipice. We need not, therefore, be proud of our virtues, but thankful that we are permitted to have them.

The consideration of that statement should lead them to temper justice with mercy. In a great many instances the persons sent to gaol were "more sinned against than sinning," and had been transgressed against before committing the offence which led to their imprisonment. There was also this statement—

When a criminal is caught he should not be treated like a hunted animal, but like a diseased organism, or even as a psychological problem.

The treatment of prisoners in the past had been in the wrong direction; but steps were now being taken to go on different lines and get at the causes which brought people to prison. One thing that produced reformatory effects as well as a decrease in the number of criminals was the fact that they were put in places like St. Helena, which could hardly be characterised as a prison, compared with penal establishments of past times. One of the reasons why men found themselves in prison was the fact that they had not been profitably employed when at large; and one of the things to bring about their reformation was to have them usefully and profitably employed. He also thought that something more might be done—they might be given a better opportunity than was sometimes given to them when they regained their liberty. The establishment at St. Helena was profitably worked, but he was sorry to say that was not true of some of the other gaols. The average number of prisoners in that establishment was 248, and the value of their productions was £11,554 19s. At Stewart's Creek, where there were 100 prisoners, the value of the work was only £1,878.

The HOME SECRETARY: They have not the same opportunities.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: The Comptroller pointed out the fact that there were not the same facilities or opportunities at Stewart's Creek, but he said that sufficient work was found to keep them constantly employed. There was a difference, however, in different kinds of work; and he thought they should be profitably employed as far as possible. The value of the manufactures was put down as £475, and the value of the ordinary service of the prison at £1,402. It seemed strange that such a number of men should put in their time chopping wood and emptying slops and performing other services in connection with the prison. He believed they did not even bake their own bread. Something should be done in the direction of having them profitably employed, not only from an economic standpoint but also from a reformatory standpoint. He also noticed that reference was made in the report to indeterminate sentences. It had been pointed out that, while it had not been acted on to any great extent, there was reason to believe that it was not so much a question of the time a man put in as the recovery he made towards being a healthy human being which should determine the length of time that he stopped there. In his opinion, it would be infinitely better in a large number of instances if these men were sent to these establishments, not for any specified time but until those in charge thought it would be quite safe to set them at liberty again, and that they could regain their footing in society. He thought that solitary confinement and corporal punishment should be done away with. We were beginning to recognise that it was not a matter of

inflicting punishment so much as to bring about a reformation in the character and life of these people. He thought that, in the case he had referred to, it would be fitting during the coronation year to consider whether that individual should not be released. On the whole, he thought we were dealing in the right manner with these people, and, as far as the warders were concerned, he did not think any of them were over-remunerated. The work the warders had to do was not uplifting; they had not much to look forward to after putting in ten or twenty years at this work, and they were entitled to the very best consideration. He thought £100 a year was not an adequate remuneration, even if they went up there on probation. One would think that £2 10s. a week was little enough to give a man who was practically shut up for the bulk of his time from society.

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon. member must remember that there is, in addition, rations and uniforms and regular leave.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: Yes; but the work was such that a man deserved all he got.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN indicated that the hon. member's time had expired.

Mr. McLACHLAN (*Fortitude Valley*): The Minister had made reference to the fact that matters had been brought under his notice by the hon. member for South Brisbane some six weeks ago, and as a result of investigations which had taken place he had received a report which he proposed to submit to the Cabinet, which he thought would be accepted and would have the effect of improving the conditions of the warders. It was a pity that it took six weeks to get the information together, and that they could not have the report when they discussed the Estimates. It would have facilitated the passage of the Estimates if the Minister had been able to place before the Committee the exact information which he had in his possession. Before the Minister rose to speak he thought he would have had an opportunity of bringing under his notice another matter in connection with the warders on which he had not touched, and that was the reduction in uniforms supplied to prison warders. Some little time ago a question was asked by the hon. member for Barcoo with reference to the uniforms formerly supplied to warders and those supplied now, and there was a considerable reduction in those now supplied. In looking through the replies to the question he found there were several articles which the warders received recently which were not now allowed. The total amount of the saving per annum was £170. He would like the Minister to give some information as to the necessity for this cheeseparing in connection with the salaries and allowances of lower-paid officers in the Government service. It had been pointed out that warders were receiving as low a salary as £100 per annum, and still the clothing and other allowances had been reduced. He did not think warders were receiving any too much in the way of wearing apparel prior to the reduction which had taken place, and the Minister might take into consideration the question of restoring the articles taken from them. He found that, not only in the prison service but in other services throughout the State, there was a tendency to ask men, simply because they happened to be juniors, to work at a low figure. To be a junior in the public service did not necessarily mean that the persons concerned were young. It might mean a man or woman over forty years of age, but

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because they had not been long in the service they were classified as juniors. In connection with the Federal public service, there was a regulation that any employee after three years' service was to receive a minimum salary of not less than £110 a year. He noticed, since the change which had taken place recently in connection with the Commonwealth Government, that, on and after 1st January next, there was to be a minimum salary paid to all Federal public servants over the age of twenty-one years of £110 a year, irrespective of the length of time they might have been employed in the service. That was a step in the right direction. He had advocated in this House that there should be established in the public service, and in connection with wages generally, what might be termed a national minimum. In his opinion 1s. an hour was little enough to offer any adult as recompense for services rendered. The Minister might take this into consideration in connection with the prison service.

The HOME SECRETARY: The £100 a year here is worth more than £110. There are quarters and food and uniforms.

Mr. McLACHLAN: He understood there were certain privileges attaching to persons in the prison service and other services, but that did not alter the fact that £190 a year was very small for the arduous work of the position of a warder. He trusted that the report which the Minister had received from the Comptroller would have the effect of increasing the wages of warders to such an extent that they would be amply paid for the work they performed. He again impressed upon the Home Secretary the desirableness of reviewing the matter of uniforms.

The total amount involved was [5 p.m.] only £170, and that was less than the increases given to two highly-paid officers in the service.

Mr. NEVITT (*Carpentaria*): During the last twelve months he had visited one or two of the penal establishments, and in every case he was very pleased to find everything in a very good condition. The prison staffs were a credit to the department. At the same time, he was inclined to think some of the junior members of the staffs were not sufficiently remunerated. In some of the small country prisons, the superintendent of which usually holds the rank of senior constable or acting sergeant, the salary paid by the Prisons Department was only £20 per annum. That was not an adequate salary for the extra responsibility placed upon the officers in charge. He was pleased that in some of those country gaols the system of providing work for the prisoners had been inaugurated, with beneficial results to the prisoners and at reduced cost to the country. He hoped the Minister would bring it under the notice of the Comptroller that this entailed a considerable amount of extra work on the superintendents. He knew of one place where they purchased firewood by the cord, and the prisoners were employed in cutting it up. There was a good deal of extra work in purchasing the wood, disposing of it, and keeping the books; and yet the superintendent received no additional remuneration for the extra work. He was pleased to learn from the superintendent of one of the larger establishments that he attributed the diminution in the number of prisoners to the existence of old-age pensions. His

explanation was that formerly many people had been sent to prison under the Vagrancy Act, but, now that they were receiving old-age pensions, they were not compelled to seek the protection of the gaol to keep body and soul together. The explanation was a very reasonable one, and he was pleased to think that he was one of those who had advocated the granting of old-age pensions. The report of the Comptroller was not so favourable with regard to Stewart's Creek as in connection with St. Helena. That was because the same conditions for the employment of the prisoners did not exist at the former prison. In the choice of a site for any future prison, the Government should keep in mind the necessity for selecting a place where prison labour could be utilised to the best advantage. They should not choose a practically barren spot like Stewart's Creek, where there was no work for the prisoners to do. There was an old saying that "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," and that was as true in the case of prisoners as in the case of other people.

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon member is not inferring that the superintendents are Satan, I hope.

Mr. NEVITT: His point was that it was far better for a prisoner if his time was usefully and profitably occupied.

The HOME SECRETARY: Hear, hear!

Mr. NEVITT: The system should be extended. They could not go too far with it. Prisoners had told him that they could not be better treated than they were by the prison officials, a fact which spoke well for the department. When they found such a creditable state of affairs, it was their duty as members of Parliament to give credit where that credit was due.

Mr. LENNON: Seeing that the Home Secretary was apparently quite ignorant in regard to the condition of affairs in the prisons until the junior member for Brisbane South brought under his notice, six weeks ago, the condition of things prevailing in the Brisbane Gaol, he would like to say that he (Mr. Lennon) had briefly referred to the state of things in the Townsville Gaol last year. *Hansard*, volume civ., page 646, reported him as saying—

He noticed that the same old rule was observed in this department as had been observed in all others, of giving the man at the top of the tree a substantial rise, whilst very few increases were granted to those in the lower grades of the service. There was only a net increase of £17 for the penal establishment at Townsville.

That was not a very large increase. In his copy of the Estimates for this year he had made this marginal note against the Townsville Penal Establishment: "Are none of these men deserving of an increase?" The total increase they got among them last year was £17, and this year they got less than nothing, if he might use the expression, because there was a falling off of £11 in the vote, brought about by the fact that the classification increases to warders and probationers—which he presumed were automatic rises—were £40 last year and only £29 this year. Leaving out the senior warders, who obtained the fat salary of £140 per annum—and which was described by the Home Secretary as the very plum of the service—a real *magnum bonum* at that—the probationers and others in the lower grades had only got among them the large

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increase of £29. Divided among eight, it worked out at £3 12s. 6d. each. What a considerate and generous Government this was to those in the lower ranks of the service! It was perfectly futile for the Home Secretary to plume himself on the fact that the Government were considering those men. All their consideration and all their thought was directed towards the highly-paid men; and that was proved particularly in regard to the vote. He hoped that even at this late hour the Home Secretary would place small increases for the lower-paid men on the Supplementary Estimates.

The HOME SECRETARY: I can assure the hon. member it is safe in my hands.

Mr. LENNON: He did not want to impugn the hon. member's kindness of heart or good intentions, but the cold, hard facts were that in Townsville there were no increases last year and none this year. It was a remarkable thing that those men who had to put up with a miserable pittance only received an increase of £3 12s. 6d. per annum. The Government should take into consideration the fact that there was a considerable element of danger in connection with their work. That was taken into consideration in connection with some walks in life, particularly in regard to the police, who were allowed to retire on a good pension; and in connection with warders, where that element of danger was also present, it should be taken into consideration in the matter of their pay. He sincerely hoped that there would be no need for him in the future to refer to that matter again.

Mr. MANN: The time at the disposal of hon. members was too short to discuss the prisons report, but he wished to bring particularly under the Home Secretary's notice the report in connection with buildings. The Comptroller-General stated—

The various prison buildings are generally in a fair state of repair. As pointed out in previous reports, new buildings are required at Roma and Cairns, and most particularly at the latter place, as the population of that town and district is on the increase. The present prison accommodation, which only consists of wards, in which several prisoners have to be confined, is inadequate for the present requirements and unsuitable both from a hygienic and administrative standpoint.

It was a rather serious reflection on the head of the department that such a state of things should be allowed to go on, and that was the second report on the matter. He might tell the Home Secretary that the prison yard in Cairns abutted on to one of the main streets, and the people walking past could see the prisoners in the yard. He would also point out that the buildings put up by the business people in Cairns were far ahead of those put up by the State. Not only the prison but the courthouse and every other public building in Cairns was in need of enlargement. He did not accuse the Home Secretary in regard to the abolitionist—he only accused the Government. He admitted that it was the previous occupant of that position who was responsible.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order, order! As that man was released some years ago he cannot be discussed on these Estimates.

Mr. MANN: Tell me when he was released.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: It was last year he was released.

Mr. MANN: The prisoner Kenniff was sentenced some years ago.

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The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is not discussing the Kenniff case.

Mr. MANN: He was glad the Home Secretary took so much notice of members on the Government side in regard to what should be done in connection with the prisons, and hoped it would be a tip to members on the Opposition side, when they got on the Treasury benches, that if any particular institution wanted reforming they would always assure the House that the member for the district was responsible for drawing attention to the matter, and it was attended to.

Question put and passed.

QUARANTINE.

The HOME SECRETARY: No appropriation was asked for in connection with quarantine, that matter having been taken over by the Federal Government.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £6,420 be granted for "Registrar-General." Hon. members would observe that there was a net increase in that vote of £50. The Government Statistician and Registrar-General had received an increase of £20, the second compiler an increase of £10; the salary of Mr. Staiger had been increased by £10; Mr. Jones had also received an increase of £10; and Misses Barns and Reinhold had each received an increase of £10; Mr. Robinson an increase of £10, and the second and third each received an increase of £10; and the typist had also received an increase of £10. That was in the statistical branch. In the registry office the chief clerk received an increase of £10, and the second and third clerks each an increase of £10; Misses Nesbit and Mills had each received an increase of £10, Miss Timmins an increase of £10, and Masterton had also received an increase of £10. There were two additional clerks appointed at £60 each. Clerk, office, A district, Charters Towers, an increase of £10; provision clerk, office, A district, registrar, Toowoomba, an increase of £70; district registrar, Maryborough, an increase of £10; and district registrar, Rockhampton, an increase of £10. No provision was made for the district registrar at Toowoomba, which gave a decrease of £150. There was also a decrease of £100 in the item "Fees to District Registrars," and a decrease of £200, "Postage, Telegrams, and Incidentals," and an increase in connection with railway fares and printing of £100.

Question put and passed.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £6,119 be granted for "Outdoor Relief." In connection with that appropriation, hon. members would observe that there was a decrease of £1,030, which was caused by the provision vote being reduced by the sum of £1,050, owing to the number of applicants for relief having decreased. There was an increase of £10 in the salary of the principal clerk, and an increase of £10 to the storekeeper.

Question put and passed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £9,200 be granted for "Miscellaneous Services." Hon. members would observe that

an increase of £1,149 was asked for. The vote for "Fire Brigades" was increased by £800, "Incidental and Miscellaneous Expenses" were increased by £700, railway fares and printing an increase of £500. There was a decrease of £81 which last year was granted for the purchase of land and buildings at Woolloowin where an infants' home had been established.

Mr. LENNON: He was sorry that the Home Secretary did not give a little more detailed information with regard to "Incidental and Miscellaneous Expenses." There was an increase in the item of £700. It was a very convenient description, "Miscellaneous and Sundries." It was very convenient for people who did not want to give much information. "Fire Brigades" also showed an increase of £800. He did not know whether that was paid according to the importance of the brigade or if it was a percentage in proportion to the amount contributed by fire insurance companies. "Railway Fares and Freights, Printing, Stationery, etc.," also showed an increase of £500. There were three big increases, and he would like some information about them.

The HOME SECRETARY: The expenditure for "Incidental and Miscellaneous Expenses" was based on the expenditure of the previous year. It included such things as postage, petty cash, telegrams, messenger's allowance, rent, Pharmacy Board, altering statute-books, telephones, expenses for entertaining delegates to Local Authorities' Conference, furniture for Minister's room, maintenance of neglected children, dredging near Queen's Wharf, overtime, legal expenses, visiting justices' travelling expenses, local audit board, clearing debris from Macintyre Bridge, compensation for wrongful arrest, burials, typewriters, repairs, etc., office repairs, tea sampling, passages, prohibition orders, cleaning, newspapers, books, and sundries.

Mr. LENNON: What about the increase to fire brigades—on what basis was the money paid?

The HOME SECRETARY: On the amount granted by the local authorities, which had also to be granted by the fire insurance companies. It was a percentage on that amount and was fixed by statute.

Mr. McLACHLAN thought that some assistance should be given to the volunteer fire brigades out of the vote. When the Estimates were being discussed last year the Minister promised to bring in an amending Fire Brigades Bill, and to bring the volunteer brigades under it. The volunteer brigades did a lot of useful work. They attended fires without any remuneration, simply as a voluntary act, and in many instances they went outside their boundary and helped other brigades at fires. They assisted materially in saving property, and as they had a difficulty in carrying on at times, he hoped they would get some assistance out of the vote. At the present time they relied solely on local subscriptions.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: He noticed "Railway Fares and Freights," and he presumed the police were paid out of the vote. He spoke to the Home Secretary some time ago about a license granted to the Club and Royal Hotel at Roma.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not think the hon. member can bring it in here. So far as I can see, there is no money granted for licenses here.

The HOME SECRETARY: I have no objection.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: It is not a matter whether the Home Secretary has any objection, but whether it can be done orderly on this vote, and I do not think it can. The hon. member has other chances of speaking on it, such as the vote for inland revenue.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: What about the railway freights and fares to the police?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I understand that that is paid out of the travelling allowances under the police vote.

Question put and passed.

ABORIGINALS, RELIEF OF—POSTPONED VOTE.

The HOME SECRETARY moved that £13,160 be granted for "Aboriginals, Relief of." There was an increase of £3,940 over the previous year. There was an increase to the Chief Protector, Mr. Howard, of £30; increase to the chief clerk, J. Bleakley, £190 to £200; J. Niell, a new appointment, £80; increase to cadet clerk, J. T. Mulcahy, £39 to £50. Thursday Island was practically a decrease, as there was no provision made for a protector, the work being performed by the clerk of petty sessions. The assistant superintendent at Barambah received an increase of £10, and the school teacher at Barambah received an increase of £12. There was an increase of £1,700 in the provisions and incidentals at Barambah, increase for provisions and incidentals at Taroom of £600, and an increase of blankets, clothing, transport, relief rations, travelling expenses, postage, and incidentals of £1,500. The increase on the whole vote was £3,940.

Mr. MANN wanted to say a few words in regard to Yarrabah Mission Station. The reports in connection with the mission station had been circulated amongst members, and they were all familiar with what had been done there. They had the report of Mr. Grant, police magistrate at Cairns, and Mr. Howard, Chief Protector; and also what had been said in rebuttal by the church dignitaries. Although they were very indignant with the report of Mr. Grant, he noticed that the Chief Protector did not go into the matter of morals so fully and deeply as Mr. Grant, still he bore out what Mr. Grant said in every jot and tittle of his report as to the manner in which the mission was being conducted industrially. He would urge the Home Secretary not to be too tender in his

[5.30 p.m.] consideration for the feelings of these church people, but to step in and take control of the mission himself, and run it on proper lines. In fact, the Government should run all these mission stations, and not leave them to the haphazard management of people who had no idea of carrying them on in a practical and systematic manner. Both Mr. Grant and Mr. Howard maintained that the mission at Yarrabah was run in the most slipshod manner possible. Mr. Grant mentioned the case of a white woman who came from that institution and went to live with a blackfellow. Mr. Howard did not go into that matter, but he (Mr. Mann) was satisfied that if he had done so he would have borne out the statements made by Mr. Grant in every particular. Whatever else Mr. Grant might be, he was a fair-minded and sensible man, and he stated that one of the persons in charge of that station went and lay in the sun for hours at a place which the women frequented for bathing purposes. That was a scandal and a shame, and should be stopped. The Government ought to make a root-and-branch

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reformation in the conduct of the institution, and take over and run the station as a Government institution, and manage it in such a way as would make it a benefit to the aboriginals located there and the community at large. A friend of his, whose word could be relied upon, told him that a couple who were married at the mission station had run away. That was no new thing; anyone reading the newspapers would notice frequently accounts of boys and girls absconding from Yarrabah. The authorities at the mission station did not trouble about getting that woman back, but they were always anxious to get back the boy, who was expert in managing the cutter. If the Home Secretary would send a man like Police Magistrate Ranking to the mission to report upon it, he would find that every word in Mr. Grant's report would be borne out to the utmost. Archbishop Donaldson had admitted that Mr. Howard was right in his statement, and if pushed he would probably admit that Mr. Grant was right also. Nearly every mail he (Mr. Mann) received newspapers from Cairns in which there were reports of aboriginals having run away from the mission because they did not get sufficient food there. The *Cairns Post* of 6th October contained the following:—

HAULED BACK.

It was recently mentioned in the *Post* that two blacks, husband and wife, from Yarrabah, came to Cairns some days ago with the desire of working for a certain resident, having, it was said, been tired of the mission. They went to the house of this townsman and commenced work, but yesterday the police took them in charge and handed them back to the Yarrabah authorities though neither had any desire to back. The resident immediately placed the matter in the hands of his solicitors, and the taking of the blacks against their will has caused a good deal of indignation locally. It is understood that the female aboriginal made pitiable appeals to be saved from her captors, but she and her husband were hauled back.

Would the Home Secretary allow that kind of thing to continue, or would he step in and see that those people got a fair deal? According to the reports of both Mr. Grant and Mr. Howard, they had the best excuse in the world for absconding from the mission. If the mission was managed properly, there would be a lot more land put under cultivation, and the mission would be made self-supporting. The reports of Mr. Grant and Mr. Howard showed that on Fitzroy Island there was hardly any game, and hardly any means of subsistence, except a few bananas and one or two palms. If it could be proved that life at the mission station was fairly comfortable, and that the people were well fed and well looked after, one would think that the police were doing their duty in taking back run-aways, but the whole tenor of the reports was to the effect that the aboriginals were not fed as they should be. The Home Secretary should take his courage in both hands, and take over the mission, and run it in a manner befitting a country like Queensland, which spends so much on charity.

Mr. MURPHY: There is too much prayer and not enough tucker.

Mr. MANN: The mission exemplified the distinction between Churchianity and Christianity. It was run on church lines instead of on Christian lines. He should like to know the reason why a telegram was sent to Mr. Howard, asking him to wait until he was accompanied to the island by one of the church people before making his report.

The HOME SECRETARY: What telegram does the hon. member refer to?

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Mr. MANN: The telegram sent to Mr. Howard asking him not to make his report until he had been accompanied to the island by the Rev. Mr. Morrison.

The HOME SECRETARY: No, the new superintendent.

Mr. MANN: Mr. Howard should have gone to the place and made his report without waiting for anyone to accompany him there.

The HOME SECRETARY: He has gone and he has reported.

Mr. MANN: Mr. Howard should have gone into the moral as well as the industrial aspect of the question fully, and have given a full report on the state of things existing at the station, especially on the matters described in Mr. Grant's report. Whatever Mr. Grant said was the truth. He had no animus against the Yarrabah Mission; he went there, and he told just what he saw. Perhaps he made a mistake in rushing into print to reply to what had been said; but it was the indignant protest of an honest man whom the church tried to assail because he spoke the truth.

Mr. NEVITT: He had said before that our treatment of the aboriginals was one of the blackest pages in the history of the country; and every report from the Chief Protector bore out that statement. Even at the present time the cheeseparing policy of the Government was of such a nature that we contributed less per head for the aboriginals in our State than they did in any other State. Our aboriginal population was estimated at 20,000, and the Government spent on their protection only £10,584; in South Australia the number was 3,491, and the Government spent £4,175; in Victoria, where the number of aboriginals was only 253, they spent £3,968; in Western Australia they had 27,000 aboriginals, and the amount spent was £22,559; in the Northern Territory the number was 16,000, and the expenditure £15,000; and in New South Wales, where the number was 7,373, the amount spent was £24,774. With regard to the Northern Territory, it must be remembered that the aboriginals there had not been deprived of their country to the same extent as in other parts of Australia, so that there was not the same necessity to contribute towards their keep. No doubt members were aware that some time ago in his electorate a man named Bowman was speared by the blacks and eventually died. Some time after this Mr. Watham, of Rutland Plains Station, sent him a letter which Mr. Bowman had drafted, and of which this was a copy—

On behalf of myself and other residents in this vicinity, I wish to bring before you the following facts regarding the depredations of the blacks which are being trained on the Mitchell River Mission Station, and I look upon this institution as a harbour for criminal blacks, who seem to think, judging from their conduct, that they have a license to do what they like as long as they can get back to their protectors—namely, the people in charge of this hotbed of filth and corruption. These mission blacks have been schooled chiefly by one of the worst ever born in the district, "Bendigo" by name, who was deported from here about eleven years ago, but fetched back by the mission people, and sows more seeds of strife and villainy amongst the then obedient blacks. When the mission first started, the blacks about here were well-behaved, and respected a white man; now they seem to think they, as I have mentioned before, have a right to do what they like, and go unscathed. In my opinion—and I have had a life's experience amongst outside blacks—there will be floodshed here before long, as we are 170 miles away from any police protection, and it seems hard lines on the pioneers of the country that they are to have their cattle killed almost at their doors, and have little or no redress. I propose the mission station be removed about 20 miles further north, and a police station be put

at the present site; the police station could be on my country until the blacks have been subdued. At present the mission is about 1½ mile from the boundary of my country, for which I pay a rental of 14s. per mile per annum, and it seems a most unjustifiable thing that these murdering blacks should be harboured right against my stock. I being so close they know from their spies every move I make, and when I am working one end of the run these black brutes are killing or molesting my cattle at the other. I am quite satisfied, from the attitude of persons in authority at the mission station, that they are cognisant with the blacks killing cattle, and consider that the Government should hold an inquiry into the system of this mission, and feel sure that some startling truths would come to light. I could give you proof now of many cases that will bear me out in all I say; but let there be an inquiry held, and I will produce sufficient evidence to convince anyone that the conduct of the blacks is a disgrace. Rutland Plains, being the furthest settlement, it acts as a buffer to other stations, and it has been pointed out to me by the mission people that I am the only one that complains. I further propose that about twenty blacks known to be bad characters be deported, as the evil influence of these blacks incites the others to molest me.

That was written by Mr. Bowman six or eight days before he was speared; and little did he think when he penned those lines that he was predicting his own death at the hands of those people. He complained of the blacks going on his country. In his report on the Trubanaman Mission, the superintendent made this statement—

The staff lived on cassava and other garden produce for over five weeks, as we ran out of flour, and our boat was delayed. The year's work has been much broken by want of provisions, as I have been compelled to send the people out for weeks at a time in order to husband rations.

There was a mission station to look after and protect the blacks, admitting that it had to turn them out times out of number because there was not sufficient food to keep them. That was sufficient evidence that the Government were not doing their duty in this matter. It was their duty to provide reserves and place persons in charge, so that the blacks would be properly looked after; and £10,000 was not sufficient for the purpose. This aboriginal question had an economic side as well as a humanitarian side. Some time ago he asked for a return giving certain particulars, and the following information was supplied:—

1. The number of aborigines registered in the districts of Normanton, Burketown, and Camooweal is as follows:—

Normanton (including Georgetown)	85
Burketown	30
Camooweal	161

2. The name of each station which has aborigines registered, the number of aborigines registered at each station, and the average wages paid to each aboriginal is as follows:—

District.	Station.	Number Aborigines Registered	Average Wages Paid.
Normanton	Normanton	47	1s 3d to 10s. per week and all found
	Georgetown	38	2s. to 15s. per week and all found
Burketown	Burketown	30	5s to 10s. per week and all found
	Turn-off Lagoon	35	5s. to 10s. per week and all found
Camooweal	Camooweal	161	1s. 3d. to 5s. per week and all found

They paid from a minimum of 1s. 3d. to a

maximum of 15s., which showed that there was something radically wrong. They were not getting the pay they should get; and all the money should be paid to the Protector, and not to the blacks themselves. No black could spend money on a station, because, according to the agreement, he was provided with food, clothing, and tobacco; and that was all a black required on a station. But when he came into town he was generally provided with a few shillings in his pocket, and that was practically all the wages he saw in the year. He further asked what was the amount of money held in trust by the Protector in each of these districts for the aborigines, and the reply was as follows:—Normanton, £1,776 3s. 6d.; Burketown, £1,082 19s. 4d.; and Camooweal, £129 0s. 11d. Although there were 161 blacks registered in the Camooweal district—that was more than all the other districts put together—they had only £129 to their credit. There was something radically wrong with these figures. The eighty-five blacks at Normanton and Georgetown combined had got £1,776 3s. 1d. A further question he asked was for what was this money available. The answer was—

This money is available for the benefit of the aborigines to whose credit it is placed, and is applied for the following purposes—that is to say, for clothing when such is not supplied by the employer, for sustenance when the aboriginal is not working, and for reasonable pocket money and expenses when on holiday. The protector may also at his discretion allow the aborigines to expend portion of the money to their credit in the purchase of articles of furniture or property of service or value to them, first satisfying himself that their interests are protected.

We found by the report of the Chief Protector that during the past year, in Normanton, they actually did not spend a shilling. At Burketown, the average monthly payments out of their fund to the keep of the blacks was £6 10s., and Croydon averaged £10, but there had not been a shilling spent for the protection or health of the blacks either at Normanton or Georgetown. Yet it was stated here that a good deal of money was drawn for the purpose of protecting the blacks. The report he had got further stated—

The amount of money withdrawn by the protectors at Normanton, Burketown, and Camooweal during the last five years is as follows:—Normanton, £875 17s. 11d.

And yet during the past year not a shilling was withdrawn for their keep. In the same report the Chief Protector said—

Syphilis is rampant amongst them, and other diseases.

He knew that a very large percentage of these aborigines were suffering from syphilis, and practically nothing was being done for them. The treatment we had given to these aborigines was the blackest page in our history.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN indicated that the hon. member's time had expired.

Mr. NEVITT (continuing): Something should be done to put these people on reserves, with a humanitarian protector in charge who had had some experience with blacks, so that they might be enabled to make a living. The Chief Protector recommended that a settlement should be made at Lloyd's Bay some three or four years ago, but no notice was taken by the Government of the day.

The TREASURER: Of course, they did; I went up and found the place wholly unsuitable.

Mr. NEVITT: He would say that the place was very suitable, and he had had more experience than the Treasurer. According to

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the report, a syndicate got a concession to cut sandalwood in the Lloyd's Bay district, with the result that something like 120 blacks were employed in cutting sandalwood. During the past twelve months the syndicate exported about £6,000 worth of sandalwood. This was a direct contradiction of the statement made by the Treasurer. It was a most suitable place to form a settlement.

The TREASURER: Mr. Airey and myself went up there.

Mr. NEVITT: He was only taking the report, and from his own knowledge he knew that it was a suitable place. Would it not have been better for a reserve to have been proclaimed there and allow the blacks to cut the sandalwood, and the Government to market it for them and place the money to their credit, and, when the sandalwood was cut out, settle them on another place. The Chief Protector also complained about the small salaries paid by the police to the trackers. The Government should be the last in the world to cut down wages, even to the blackfellows. This was a reflection on the Government. He had known these blacks to be used by gentlemen very high in the police service, employing them as servants in the house instead of white girls. If the money they were entitled to for the work they did was placed to their credit and then utilised—

The HOME SECRETARY: That is what is done. The whole of it has to be placed with the protector.

Mr. NEVITT: There was not sufficient provision made for what was termed the camp blacks. Of course, the protector in all the places where the blacks were numerous allowed them to get casual labour. The Act was not administered as far as employment was concerned, as if they were not allowed to get casual labour a great number would die from starvation or commit depredations. In the report the Chief Protector gave the amount of money at the credit of the aboriginals at different places. At Charters Towers there were sixty-one blacks registered, and the amount lying to their credit was £317 8s. 3d., or an average per head of £5 6s. At Ingham there were forty blacks, with a credit of £114 3s., or an average of £2 17s. At Geraldton, where there were eighty-six blacks, there was only £125 to their credit, or an average of £1 9s. At Cairns there were eighty-one blacks with £124 lying to their credit, or an average of £1 1s. 6d. He wished to call the attention of the Home Secretary to the fact that there was something radically wrong with these accounts. Either the whole amount had not been credited to these blacks, or else they were not getting the remuneration they were entitled to, because the labour in these particular districts could be better availed of than in any other part of the State, and in a good many industries was equal to white labour. Where they were doing equal work with a white man they should get equal pay.

Mr. KEOGH: Why not give them a vote?

Mr. NEVITT: He would go so far as to give them a vote if they had the intelligence to vote. He did not think that a man should be deprived of a vote because of his colour. We should give these aboriginals the same treatment that we would expect under similar circumstances, but at the present time they were not getting the treatment they were entitled to, and he hoped the Government would look into the matter.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN indicated that the hon. member's further time had expired.

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Mr. LENNON: When discussing other matters a few days ago he referred to the very unenviable reputation that [7 p.m.] the Geraldton district had in regard to the treatment the blacks received there, and the Home Secretary seemed to find it very amusing.

The HOME SECRETARY: The Chief Protector is there now making inquiries.

Mr. LENNON: He noticed that the Chief Protector promised to write the hon. gentleman a private report, which he presumed the hon. gentleman had not yet received. When he did receive it, he hoped he would give hon. members an opportunity of perusing it.

The HOME SECRETARY: Certainly.

Mr. LENNON: He would just read a few extracts from the Chief Protector's report on the subject which had seemed to amuse the hon. gentleman—

I estimate there must be at least 500 aborigines in the Geraldton district, and it is imperative some steps be taken to form a reserve, and appoint an officer whose sole duty it would be to control the natives—rigorously prosecuting those who illegally employed or interfered with them. I feel sure such a procedure would at once put a stop to the present discreditable state of affairs. Abundance of work could be found for these people on the cane farms, were they allowed to work at a reasonable rate of wages. A very suitable area of land for a reserve could be found on Banyan Creek, a tributary of the Tully River; and, as the land is of a most fertile description, it would not be necessary to have a large holding. Such a reserve would be central for Cedar Creek, Davidson, Herberton, Upper Murray, Tully River, Clump Point, Maria, and Liverpool Creek, and perhaps Atherton.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is one of the objects of the Chief Protector's visit. I have given him instructions to go into that fully.

Mr. LENNON: He went on—

The natives on Cedar Creek and the Davidson are almost in their primitive state, having had little intercourse with whites; they are a fine stamp of people, strong, healthy, intelligent, and active, and of a quiet, docile, and obedient nature. At present the position is that the Chinese are gradually killing off the natives with opium and disease.

In another part of his report he referred to the large preponderance of females over males, which went to show that they were not kept for a proper purpose. He said—

On the whole, I found the condition of the aborigines fairly good; but in one or two districts, such as Geraldton, where numbers of Chinese are congregated, it will be necessary to adopt some means by which these people will be deterred from any intercourse whatever with the natives. As matters are at present, the Chinese supply opium to and interfere with the "aboriginal women," the result being disease and speedy death. It is my intention, however, to make a separate communication to you on this subject, and to suggest some means by which the evils complained of may be put an end to.

There were other evils in that district due to the lack of proper Government supervision and a systematic police patrol. There was also an urgent need for the appointment of revenue constables or excise officers to visit the district and put down the illicit sale of grog.

The HOME SECRETARY: Hear, hear!

Mr. LENNON: It was not so much the illicit sale of grog as the vile compound that was sold that was the cause of trouble. It poisoned men there like it did in other parts of Australia. He was assured that many of

the Chinese in the Geraldton district carried on this business quite openly. Of course, if he thought a newcomer was an excise officer, the Chinaman would very probably—"no savee"—say he had no grog on the premises, but he was assured on reliable authority that any local resident could walk in and buy a bottle of grog as easily as he could buy a bottle of vinegar. That was unfair to licensed retailers; but the worst feature about it was that the illicit sale of grog seemed always to create a spirit of greed on the part of those engaged in the traffic, and induced them to sell vile stuff which did incalculable harm. He would be glad if the Home Secretary would give them some assurance that some life would be instilled into the Excise Department, if there was one, and, if there was not, that one would be created for the purpose of checking this illicit sale of liquor. This grog found its way into the blacks' camps, and was probably responsible, in the first instance, for the other evils of which he complained.

Question put and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. W. H. Barnes, *Bulimba*) moved that £18,130 be granted for the "Department of Public Works." There was an increase in the vote this year of £2,304. There was an increase of two inspectors of works, and there was a small increase in connection with junior draftsmen. There was an increase down for the Under Secretary, Government Architect, and Engineer for Bridges of £100. About the year 1901-2 the present occupant of the office, Mr. Brady, was receiving a salary of £800, and was then doing the work only of Government Architect. It was decided during the retrenchment period that he should undertake the duties of Under Secretary in addition, which he did, and he thought hon. members would admit that the work had been done very thoroughly.

Mr. MURPHY: We are not finding any fault with the man, but with the increase in the salary.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He thought he would be able to explain the matter to the satisfaction of hon. members. During the last few years the work of the office had increased very considerably, the increase being partly due to the increased amount of Federal work, for which the Under Secretary received no allowance, and partly to the increased amount of work which was brought about by the general advancement of Queensland. The Under Secretary now had his hands particularly full. He was a very capable officer, and when it was remembered that in Queensland they paid their professional Under Secretary very much less than was being paid to gentlemen occupying similar positions in other places—

Mr. MURPHY: So are we paying our railway men and porters less.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS maintained that it was highly important, if they were to have good officers, to pay a salary commensurate with the duties performed, and, therefore, Mr. Brady had been put down for an increase of £100. Hon. members would further notice that there had been a number of other increases. Mr. Pye, the Deputy Government Architect, received an increase of £20. Mr. Irving also received an increase of £20; and six other

officers, lower down the scale, received increases of £20 each. Thirty-four officers received increases of £10 each, and one officer received an increase of £15. It would also be noticed that, in addition to the increased amount for salaries, there was an extra amount for contingencies, which was really the result of the prosperity of Queensland; making a total increase of £2,304.

Mr. LENNON: It was his intention to move a reduction in that vote. He mentioned that fact so that there would be no surprise on the other side, but in the meantime he would like to say that increases appeared to be pretty general in that department. They were not saying anything about the capabilities of Mr. Brady at all; but throughout the whole service there was much eagerness displayed on the part of the Government, to use a colloquial phrase, to "grease the fat pig." The Government had put down the permanent head of the department for a rise of £100 a year, but other men had to be content with a £10 rise, or no rise at all, or, as he instanced on another vote, with £3 12s. 6d. He noticed that the watchman only received £130. It was quite possible that the watchman might be regarded somewhat as a life pensioner, and, being an old man, was not entitled to a very big increase of pay, yet there were five night watchmen at £108 a year. If they were strong, vigorous men that was not a very big salary for them.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The position of night watchman is usually given to men who are not physically fit for anything else.

Mr. LENNON said he put in the saving clause that they might be regarded as pensioners. In regard to the lift attendants, that description would hardly apply to them. There was an increase of £50 spread over five lift attendants. There was one at £100, one at £80, one at £60, and two at £50 a year. That was not very much, unless they were lads.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: That is so.

Mr. LENNON: If they were lads, that might explain it, but because they only got £50 a year he did not want them to stick at that. He hoped the Secretary for Public Works would see that those lads, if they deserved it, got an increase. Personally, he did not think it was the proper kind of work to put a lad to; but, unfortunately, all boys could not be choosers. Very often they were the breadwinners for their mothers, and they were driven to some kind of employment whereby they might contribute to the common fund of the family. The increase in travelling expenses and postages was no doubt brought about by the increased work of the department. As he had already stated, not for the purpose of singling out Mr. Brady any more than they had singled out the heads of other departments, it was his duty, as a protest against the system of the Government in giving increases, to which the Opposition had objected in the past and would continue to object to, unless a change be made, to move that the vote be reduced by £1.

Mr. MANN: While one might largely agree with the remarks of the deputy leader of the Opposition in what he said with regard to increases, personally he might

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not be so much against that increase if the increases had been given in the manner they advocated.

Mr. MURPHY: That is exactly what the deputy leader of the Opposition said.

Mr. MANN: He was not arguing that Mr. Brady was not worth £900 a year—he might be worth £1,000 a year. He would have been pleased to see Mr. Brady appointed chairman of the Water and Sewerage Board at £1,000 a year. There seemed to be a system of putting all the Under Secretaries on the one level, no matter what they were worth. A man like Mr. Scott should get £1,200 or £1,400 a year if the Under Secretary to the Chief Secretary got £600. The Government should pay a salary in relation to the work, and where they had good men who did a lot of work, by all means give a good salary, but he did not believe in putting all the Under Secretaries on the one level. He claimed that the Under Secretaries in the Home Department, Works Department, Treasury Department, and the Lands Department did perhaps ten times as much work as the Under Secretary in the Chief Secretary's Department. That was the attitude he took up in the matter, and he wanted it clearly understood that, while he was voting with the Opposition in that matter, he did not say for one moment that Mr. Brady was overpaid—he was protesting against the rule-of-thumb method of the Government in putting all the Under Secretaries on the one level. That was very little encouragement to men to do good work in his department. He wished to bring under the notice of the Minister, as he had last year, the miserable salaries paid to the lift attendants. One was down for £100 a year, one at £80, and one at £60. £100 a year was nothing like the salary that they should pay to a married man with a family. The man in charge of the lift was always civil and courteous, and he did his work well and, possibly, more carefully than a younger man would. The Minister would be well advised if he put down an increase on the Supplementary Estimates, and he appealed to the kindly nature of the Minister to do so.

Mr. PETRIE (*Toombul*) was opposed to the amendment to reduce the Under Secretary's salary. Some years ago he (Mr Petrie) was a member of the Royal Commission appointed in connection with works, and the recommendation he made was that the Under Secretary at the head of the Works Department should be a professional man, and that recommendation was carried out. Mr. Brady occupied that position, and it was not too much to pay him £900 a year. He was worth more than that, and if he went outside the service in carrying on his profession he would make considerably more than he was doing while in the Government service. He did not know why the reduction was proposed, except that it meant that no matter what the Government did the Opposition was going against them.

Mr. MURPHY: No. It is the policy of the Opposition.

Mr. MANN: You should pay more to the lower-paid servants first.

Mr. PETRIE: He was quite with members opposite in wishing to see bigger salaries paid to the lower-paid servants, but they had members on the other side who allowed men

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in the service to remain on £1 5s. a week. In fact, they had them in Parliament House getting that salary. While he agreed that those in the lower grades should be paid more, he considered that Mr. Brady was not being paid a bit too much.

Mr. FORSYTH: It was not too much to pay £900 to Mr. Brady. The deputy leader of the Opposition had some banking and commercial experience, and he knew that the manager in charge of those businesses got a larger increase in salary than the men working under him when the salaries were revised during the year. Mr. Brady was one of the ablest Under Secretaries they had in the State, and when they came to look at the amount of work done by the department they would see that he was not by any means overpaid. Last year there was £266,936 worth of work done by the Works Department. That included all classes of work. They received from the Commonwealth Government £2,643 10s. 11d. as commission for carrying out Commonwealth public works, and that sum was paid into the State consolidated revenue. The appropriation for the last year for the department was £15,000 odd, so that the net cost to the Government for carrying out that work was something like £13,041, which represented 5 per cent. of the total work carried out by the department during the year. Now, that was not too much for carrying on such a department as that. He did not know if the deputy leader of the Opposition had looked through the departmental report, as if he did he would see the following summary of work performed during the financial year:—

	Number.
Plans prepared	2,533
Heliographic copies of plans made...	4,142
Specifications written	646
Copies of specifications made	3,825
Preliminary sketch, plans, and estimates prepared	345
Detailed estimates prepared	477
Letters, reports, and telegrams received and despatched	26,839
Vouchers examined and certified to...	10,703
Cheques drawn	5,473
Remittances and advices despatched	4,553

That showed that there must be an enormous amount of work carried out in the department. They had also a large amount of work to carry out in the coming year. There was the building of the University and Central Technical College and other buildings, and it would be all carried out under the control of the Works Department.

Mr. LENNON: And all for the aggrandisement of Brisbane.

Mr. FORSYTH: If they looked through the report they would see the large number of schools and other buildings that had been constructed during the year, which showed that money had been spent all over Queensland. There were also many contracts carried out. Page 8 showed the enormous number of contracts carried out. Page 4 also gave the expenditure on buildings during the year. They must remember that all the Commonwealth work was carried out by the department as well. Then why move a reduction? Mr. Brady was not in the ordinary sense an Under Secretary. He was an expert engineer and architect. He agreed with the hon. member for Toombul that if Mr. Brady went outside the service he would get more than he received from the Government.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He would give the amounts paid to the officers in the other States. In New South Wales the Under Secretary for Works received £1,000, and the Government Architect £1,064, making a total of £2,064 for doing the same work that Mr. Brady did.

Mr. LENNON: You could also add Mr. Pye's salary to that, too.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: There was a saving in the department, as they received a percentage for doing the Commonwealth work, all of which was carried out by the department. In Victoria the Under Secretary received £800, and the Government Architect £1,000, making £1,800 in all.

So it would be seen that the [7.30 p.m.] salaries in Queensland were not out of the way when they considered the magnitude of the work that had to be performed. With regard to the lower-paid officers, he might say that while he was in charge of the department he would always be most careful to see that the men at the bottom of the tree received special consideration. All the officers at the bottom of the tree were getting increases on that vote.

Mr. MANN: The liftmen are not receiving increases.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: With those exceptions, they all received increases, and he might mention that one of the liftmen was occasionally absent through infirmity. The women who were employed in cleaning had received special consideration during the past year, because he felt it to be his duty, as Minister, to try to help those who were least able to help themselves, and that would be the policy of the department.

Mr. PAYNE (*Mitchell*): The hon. member for Moreton pointed out that the cost of the work done by the department did not exceed the cost of similar work outside. Nobody disputed that. The reason for moving the amendment was to express their disapproval of the treatment accorded to the men who did the bulk of the work of the department. He thought it was the duty of the department to see that every man employed got a living wage. He felt certain that a number of the lower-paid officers did a great deal of the enormous amount of work performed by the department. Why, then, were they not given a living wage? He saw men down there at £50 a year.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: What age?

Mr. PAYNE: He could not tell what their ages were.

The TREASURER: They are probationers, as a rule.

Mr. PAYNE: He had been told something similar in other cases, and on making inquiries he had found that the officers were married men.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: All the junior and all the officers, with the exception of those specially referred to to-night, are receiving increases.

Mr. PAYNE thought the head of a department should ascertain if an officer was a married man, and give him a living wage, or, if he was not worth a living wage, sack him. He might go to something else at which he would do better.

The TREASURER: Would you sack all those liftmen?

Hon. E. B. FORREST: He would send them to Dunwich.

Mr. PAYNE: No; he would not send them to Dunwich. The public service system was a rotten system. From their very infancy right up to manhood members of the public service had the notion that it was a good thing to get into the public service—that if they could get on the permanent staff they would be right for all time—and then when they came to manhood they had not the courage to strike out for themselves. There were men in the public service who would do very much better than they were doing if they only had the courage to strike out for themselves in outside employment.

Hon. R. PHILP complimented the Minister on the fact that he had given increases to all the officers in his department. The amount voted for this office last year was £15,826, and this year they were asked to vote £18,130, an increase of £2,304. It should be remembered that the junior draftsmen were learning a profession, and that if they learnt that profession in a private office they would probably have to pay a premium of £200 or £300 instead of being paid a salary. The draftsmen in the department were paid from £160 to £270 per annum, and inspectors of works from £250 to £280 per annum. The Deputy Government Architect was receiving £490, which was a much bigger salary than had been paid for years past to that officer. He agreed with the hon. member for Mitchell that it was not a good thing to put a lad into the public service, where payment was mostly dependent upon length of service, and where men were cramped in their opportunities. If he had a boy he would not put him in the public service. It was a misfortune for any lad to go into the public service, as he had not the same show there as he had in outside employment. The Government were, however, to be complimented upon the increases given in this office this year, and upon the fact that they were getting the work done so well. Outside people had to pay an architect 5 per cent. and pay an inspector as well, so that the cost of working the department was very reasonable. There was no one more keen than the Minister himself in giving officers advances in salary, if he could do it, and instead of grumbling at him they ought to commend him for his action.

Mr. LESINA did not agree with those who considered that Mr. Brady was not worth the salary put down for him.

Mr. LENNON: Nobody said anything of the sort.

Mr. LESINA: If any objection could be taken to the increase, it could only be on the ground of increases not being made lower down.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: They have been made lower down.

Mr. LESINA: So even that was not an argument against the increase to Mr. Brady. He thought there was just as much objection to sweating the man at the top as there was to sweating the man at the bottom; and he held to the opinion that a man should be paid the worth of his work. The department was doing excellent work under Mr. Brady, and as the work and responsibility were increasing, now was a good time to increase the salary. He rose to refer to another matter. The other day he asked the Premier a question in reference to the cost of additions, etc., to the temporary Government House at Fernberg, and the Premier referred him to a reply given to Mr. May on the 13th July.

Mr. Lesina.]

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: That comes under the next vote, which includes an amount for "Fernberg."

Mr. LESINA: He desired to discuss it on the first vote, on which they generally took all grievances in connection with the administration of the department; but if he could not discuss it now, he would deal with it on the vote for "Buildings."

* Mr. CORSER (*Maryborough*): The reference by the deputy leader of the Opposition to "greasing the fat pig" might convey a wrong impression as being directed against the Under Secretary.

Mr. LENNON: It was a remark applying generally to all the highly-paid officers.

Mr. CORSER: Any professional man of the same class as Mr. Brady would receive quite as much as was proposed to be given to him in any other State of Australia. If there was an objection to paying him £900 as a highly-paid officer, why was there not an objection to paying other professional men, such as the judges and members of the Land Court, high salaries? Professional men of special ability should be paid by the Government the same as they would be paid in any other department or mercantile establishment. He regretted very much to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Mitchell, because there were in the service men physically unfit to go outside and earn their living, but able to attend to a lift; and there was no good reason why they should be dismissed to make room for able-bodied men who were able to make a living outside. The members who talked about the Under Secretary in the Chief Secretary's Department not having as much to do as other Under Secretaries did not understand the position; and it would be better if they would find out a little more on the subject before making such statements.

HON. E. B. FORREST (*Brisbane North*) understood that the reduction of £1 was moved as a protest against the increase to the Under Secretary, but the deputy leader of the Opposition said it was nothing of the sort. If it was not that, what was it?

Mr. HAMILTON: A protest against men in high positions having their salaries raised while those in the lower positions were left without increases.

HON. E. B. FORREST: It had already been said by the Minister that everybody in this department had an increase.

Mr. HAMILTON: Some of them are very small.

HON. E. B. FORREST: They could not expect an officer receiving £60 or £70 a year to get an increase of £100. As far as he could judge, a very fair thing had been done, and it reflected a great deal of credit on the Minister. Coming back to Mr. Brady: first of all he was Under Secretary; in addition to that he was Government Architect.

Mr. NEVITT: He has a deputy.

HON. E. B. FORREST: Everything had to be supervised by the head, and the head was Mr. Brady. It was Mr. Brady who designed the Victoria Bridge, one of the finest structures in Australia. He also had charge of works for the Federal Government, for which Queensland was paid £2,907.

Mr. ALLEN: He is only one who does work for the Federal Government.

HON. E. B. FORREST: Naturally he could not do all the work of the department.

Several HONOURABLE MEMBERS interjecting,

[*Mr. Lesina.*

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member for Brisbane North is making a speech, and I hope he will be allowed to proceed without interruption.

HON. E. B. FORREST: They were told that Mr. Brady did not do all the work; nobody dreamed that he did all the work.

Mr. ALLEN: I did not say that.

HON. E. B. FORREST: He was the Under Secretary for Works. He had a deputy to assist him, but he was responsible for the work. In addition to that, he supervised all the work connected with the buildings in the Commonwealth Department. Surely a man occupying these three positions was worth the salary they were giving him! There were going to be a great many more public buildings here than in the past, if the State progressed as it did now, and for that reason Mr. Brady was entitled to more than he was getting. £800 was little enough as Under Secretary; and, if he had his way he would give him another £500 a year at least for doing all the architectural work. It was a popular delusion on the other side of the House that nobody could earn as much money as this.

Mr. NEVITT: That is not so. (Opposition dissent.)

HON. E. B. FORREST: If they wanted proof of it he could quote *Hansard* to that effect. He would like to see the vote passed at once.

Mr. NEVITT: The hon. member who had just resumed his seat and the hon. member for Maryborough implied that members on this side were reflecting on Mr. Brady's ability, simply because a reduction of £1 was moved in the vote, but it was nothing of the kind. They realised just as well as those members that Mr. Brady was a very capable officer, and were equally as well prepared to pay him a substantial salary; but this reduction of £1 had been moved as a protest against the policy of raising the salaries of the majority of the Under Secretaries this year by £100 and some by £50, when they got a similar increase last year, while a great many in the lower branches of the service were not getting living wages. The Minister said that every lower-paid servant in this department had got a rise, but that did not alter the fact of the general policy of the Government. Some Under Secretaries had got a £100 increase last year and £100 this year, while there were thousands of men who were only earning 6s. or 6s. 6d. a day, and that was the reason why the reduction was moved. The expenditure in connection with the chief office and staff had increased by over £2,000 for the present year, and yet they had only to supervise works of about half the value. Last year it was £166,000, to supervise which it cost £16,226. This year there was £87,376 on the Estimates, and it cost for supervision £18,130.

HON. R. PHILP: You are not including loan money. There are buildings being built out of loan money, and they have to supervise that work too.

Mr. NEVITT: There was another matter to which he referred when the Dunwich vote was going through, but he did not get satisfaction, and it was more appropriate on this vote. He had asked what was the contract price for the building of the laundry and kitchen at Dunwich? The reply was £3,671.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! That will come more appropriately on the next vote, for "Buildings."

Mr. SOMERSET (*Stanley*): One important point which seemed to have been overlooked by hon. members was that Mr. Brady was responsible for the scientific construction of bridges. Where shire councils applied for a loan from the Government to build bridges, plans and specifications had to be passed, and frequently drawn, by Mr. Brady. He knew at least of two instances in which the construction of bridges had been considerably improved by Mr. Brady, and probably if it had not been for that they would not have stood the floods as they had done.

Mr. ALLEN (*Bullo*) approved of the amendment on the ground that in the various departments of the State there was quite a number of people being sweated. While there was one individual in the service being sweated, he was going to record his vote against any increase to any officers in the service who were already receiving more than £500 a year. It had been argued that the Under Secretary under discussion did an immense amount of work, but he was not the only person who did that. Why should an Under Secretary with £800 a year get an increase, when this miserly Government would not even pay gatekeepers who kept the post offices a penny a week more? The argument used in favour of this increase was that this officer did a certain amount of work for the Federal departments for which the State received pay; but in other departments where the State got money from the Federal authorities for doing certain work they did not give a penny piece extra. He could quote the case of the wife of a lengthsman who looked after a railway station.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is quite right in bringing it in as an illustration; but I hope he is not going to enlarge upon it.

Mr. ALLEN did not intend to be more than two minutes. In this instance the wife of this lengthsman was getting a shilling or two a week looking after the [8 p.m.] station. The local storekeeper kept the post office, for which he got £24 a year. The State took it over and got the £24 a year; and they put this work on the lengthsman's wife, and she did not get a penny extra. She was kept working very long hours, but she did not get one penny of the £24 that was paid by the Federal Government to the State.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS rose to a point of order. Was the hon. member in order in dealing with that question on this vote?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I have already pointed out to the hon. member that he would be in order in bringing it in as an illustration, but that he would not be in order in enlarging on it. The question before the Committee is the reduction in the vote.

Mr. ALLEN: He had just referred to the bald facts of the case. He was showing how the Government adopted a sweating system with regard to poorly-paid officials, whilst their supporters were urging that because this officer did extra work for the Federal Government he should get extra pay.

Hon. R. PHILP: Do you really want to help this woman?

Mr. ALLEN: Yes. The Government did not know who it was.

Hon. R. PHILP: Have you seen the Commissioner for Railways about her?

Mr. ALLEN: No. He could not bring a couple of hundred cases before the Commissioner for Railways. The whole system was wrong. He was opposed to this increase on that ground alone. When the lower-paid officers of the State were paid properly, he would be prepared to vote for this increase of £100 a year, but not till then.

Mr. KEOGH: Ever since he entered Parliament he had been opposed to increases to the higher-paid officers whilst the lower-paid servants of the State did not receive adequate rises. He was not going to say that Mr. Brady was not entitled to the rise. The Labour party had been consistent in their attitude on this question all through; and he believed that, if his friends on the Government side were to state their real feelings, it would be found that they were with the Labour party in regard to large increases to the heads of departments at a time when those at the bottom of the ladder got nothing. The Government were doing very wrong in adopting the course they had done. He was decidedly opposed to these large increases to highly-paid officers, when it was the lower-paid men who did all the work. Was this gentleman any more competent to fill his position than the lower men were to fill their spheres? Not a bit. Mr. Brady was a very nice gentlemanly fellow and all that sort of thing, but he did not see why he should receive £100 a year more when the lower-paid men received nothing extra.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: That is not so. The hon. member is not correct.

Mr. KEOGH: He would like the Minister to show him where the lower-paid men received anything. They did not pay them a living wage. His contention had always been that the man who did the work received very small pay, but the "Lah-di-dah" man—the "Great I am"—the man who did not do the work—got all the money. While he had a seat in that Chamber he would always raise his voice against that kind of thing. He upheld the stand taken in the matter by the Labour party. Of course there was not the slightest possibility of the amendment being carried. It was a foregone conclusion that the Estimate must pass as it stood. Still, if he had his will, his vote would certainly be against these rises to the highly-paid men while the lower-paid men were not adequately remunerated, because he could not see that the dearer man did any more work. The lower-paid man did all the work, and the man at the top got all the kudos and all the money. He hoped his friend on the Treasury bench would see that men were paid a living wage, because, until that was done, the public service would not be what it ought to be. They were buttering the bread of the man at the top on both sides, whilst they were not giving a bit of butter at all to the man at the bottom.

HON. R. PHILP could only say that the Estimates showed that the men all through were better paid than when the Labour party were supporting the Government. When he was in office, his Government had pretty well cut the Estimates down to the bone, but when the Government which was supported by the Labour party came into power, they were not

satisfied with what had been done. They appointed a board of inquiry, and that board recommended further reductions, which were supported by the Labour party. One unfortunate typist whom his Government had paid £52 a year had £2 taken off her salary.

Mr. LESINA: We did not take that £2 (cf.

HON. R. PHILP: No; but the hon. member supported the Government that took it off.

Mr. HAMILTON: She could not pass the examination, and that was the reason for the reduction.

HON. R. PHILP: The hon. member for Bulloo cited a case, and said that he was in sympathy with the unfortunate woman, but he had not said a word to the Commissioner for Railways about it. If the hon. member wished to help the woman, he would have gone to the Commissioner, who probably knew nothing about the matter. But, no; he wants to bring it up in this House to show what an unfortunate martyr he is, and that he was doing his level best for the people outside. The action of the hon. member showed that he had no intention at all of helping that unfortunate woman. In that department the Minister had increased the salary of every officer except the five night watchmen, who had received increases last year. What fault could be found with that? The Estimates showed that more money was being paid to the public servants than had been paid during the last ten years. The Committee ought to congratulate the Secretary for Public Works on doing so well by the officers of his department.

Mr. FOLEY (*Townsville*): A good deal of exception seemed to have been taken by members on the Government side in regard to the amendment. Members of the Labour party had no fault to find with Mr. Brady, neither did they take exception to the salary he was receiving. They were quite prepared to admit that Mr. Brady might be worth all that the Minister proposed to give him, but what they did say was that other officers of the department were not getting a living wage. He wanted to know from the Minister what were the ages of those clerks who were getting £100, £90, and £70 a year.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: They are mostly cadets.

Mr. FOLEY: No. There were cadet draftsmen—one at £50 and two at £39 a year—lower down. He wished to know when this democratic Government were going to pass a law, the same as the Federal Government had done, to say that all persons who had been in the service for three years, and had attained the age of twenty-one years, should get a salary of at least £110 a year. How could a man get married if he only received a miserable £70 or £80 a year? The powers that be complained that the population was not increasing in sufficient numbers, and yet they put obstacles in the way of young men getting married by paying them a wage on which they could not keep themselves, much less a wife and family. Until those people received a living wage he would oppose any increase of £100 to men who were already getting more than a living wage. He believed in good salaries all the time, but he certainly complained about the lower-paid servants not getting a living wage. If that was understood by members on the opposite side, they would give the Labour party credit for endeavouring to see that a living wage was paid throughout the whole service, and if that £100

[*Hon. R. Philp.*

was taken off Mr. Brady and divided between the lower-paid officers, it would go a long way towards bringing their wages up to a living wage, and Mr. Brady would still have sufficient on which to live comfortably.

Mr. TOLMIE: With all due respect to members on both sides of the House, he would offer a suggestion. Hon. members had spoken of Mr. Brady in terms of praise for the work he had done, and Mr. Brady was justly entitled to the kind things that had been said of him. The deputy leader of the Opposition had moved a reduction in the vote of £1, not that he had any ill-feeling towards the permanent head of the department, but because of principle. That principle had been discussed by members on both sides of the Chamber, and under the circumstances it would be a reasonable thing to allow a vote to be taken upon it, because the protest was made through the division rather than through any speeches that might be made in Committee. There were a number of Estimates yet to be discussed. The Estimates this year could hardly be described as a roley-poley, inasmuch as in a roley-poley all the 'jam was in the centre, but in the Estimates they found the jam at both ends.

Mr. LESINA: No; the jamb will be at one end. (Laughter.)

Mr. TOLMIE: It was advisable to curtail discussion on the Estimates as much as possible, in order that hon. members would have an opportunity of discussing other departments.

Mr. HAMILTON: You want to get at the Secretary for Railways over the Drayton deviation.

Mr. TOLMIE: They had only five days in which to discuss the Estimates, and he would offer the suggestion that hon. members should allow a vote to be taken, so that there would be time for a discussion on some of the other Estimates, because he gathered from the remarks of hon. members that they took no exception to this particular vote, but that they wished to protest against increasing the salaries of the Under Secretaries by a considerable amount, and not increasing other salaries proportionately. That, he understood, was the principle at stake. There was an amendment before the Committee which would enable that objection to be taken, and he thought it was a reasonable thing that they should come to some decision on the matter.

Mr. ALLEN: In reply to the hon. member for Townsville, he quoted the case—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member cannot deal now with a matter that properly comes under the Railway Estimates. If the hon. member wants to make a personal explanation he may do so, but he must be brief and to the point.

Mr. ALLEN: He wished to make a personal explanation. The reason he mentioned the case was not to get kudos—not to attempt to score a point—but to condemn the system of the Government, and he resented the charge of insincerity made by the hon. member for Townsville against him.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has now dealt with his personal explanation. Does the hon. member wish to address himself to the question before the Committee?

Mr. ALLEN: He just had a few words to add. There was nothing in the charge of

insincerity made against him. He had a letter from a person interested in the case. It was dated 22nd of July, and said—

Mr. Allen, I would be very pleased that you should be very discreet in interviewing the railway people re that case, as she is awfully afraid of being shifted.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I think that concludes the personal explanation. The question before the Committee is the reduction of the vote.

Mr. COYNE asked the Minister what was the reason that there were night watchmen down at £108, while there were two day watchmen who received £130 and £120 respectively. It was far more dangerous to watch at night.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: One man is in charge.

Mr. COYNE: What about the second man? Was he in charge, too, as he also received more than the night watchman?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He is senior to them.

Mr. COYNE: They were always beaten by that remark of seniority. Whether the £120 man served a greater number of years or not, the men working at night should receive as much pay as those engaged in the daytime.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The hon. member for Warrego was wrong in saying that the night watchman receiving £108 had been in the service for a greater number of years than the day watchman.

Mr. COYNE: I never said any such thing. I said even if the other man were in the service longer, the night watchman should get as much as him.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He pointed out that some of the men engaged as night watchmen were aged, and not physically fit for any other work. He believed it was the hon. member for Mitchell who said that if a man was not fit for work he should make way for somebody else. As long as he was in charge of the Works Department, if a man was aged and was capable of doing that class of work, he was not going to kick him out. (Hear, hear!) It would be an exceedingly improper position to take up, as there might be some men quite capable of acting as night watchmen and lift attendants and yet not capable of doing manual work. The policy of the department, consistently with seeing the work properly performed, should be one of sympathy with the men working in the department. He would read the amounts paid by the department to show that there was no sweating, and he believed that even the leader of the Opposition would then feel compelled to withdraw his amendment. He had already referred to Mr. Brady and Mr. Pyc. The inspectors received from £240 to £280, according to length of service. The draftsmen—and hon. members should carefully note this—received £270, £250, £210, £210, £200, £170, £270, £230, £210, and £200, and there was one position to be filled at £180. Then there was one at £170, and one at £160. The hon. member for Mitchell also referred to what he called small salaries, but they were for the cadets. The cadets were paid according to a scale fixed by the Public Service Board, and afterwards they got a rise. The junior draftsmen received £90 and £80, and a lady who had just come into the department received £60.

Mr. FOLEY: Tell us the ages of the juniors.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The hon. member must know that it was a rather delicate matter to give the age of a lady. (Laughter.) There was a cadet who got £39, but who was shifted to the Workers' Dwellings Board, and now received £70 or £80. There were two other cadets at £39; the accountant received £360; chief clerk, £300. Then there were clerks at £180, £170, £150, and £100, two typists at £100, foreman of works at £200, plankeeper, £150, and messenger, £100—that was Mr. Carmody, who was known to most hon. members. The assistant messenger was down at £70, [8.30 p.m.] whom hon. members would remember was a young man, and he received a rise of £10. The lift engineer got £220, and lift attendants various sums, according to age, £80, £60, £50, and £50. They were only young people. In view of the great number of Estimates to get through, he hoped hon. members would let the vote go.

Question—That £18,129 only (*Mr. Lennon's amendment* to reduce the vote by £1) be granted, put; and the Committee divided:—

AYES, 23.

Mr. Allen	Mr. May
" Barber	" Mullin
" Breslin	" Murphy
" Coyne	" McLachlan
" Crawford	" Nevitt
" Ferricks	" O'Sullivan
" Foley	" Payne
" Hamilton	" Ryan
" Hunter, J. M.	" Ryland
" Land	" Theodore
" Lennon	" Winstanley
" Mann	

Tellers: Mr. Crawford and Mr. Nevitt.

NOES, 29.

Mr. Allan	Mr. Hodge
" Appel	" Hunter, D.
" Barnes, W. H.	" Kidston
" Bouchard	" Morgan
" Brennan	" Paget
" Bridges	" Petrie
" Curser	" Philp
" Cottell	" Roberts
" Cribb	" Somerset
" Denham	" Stodart
" Forrest	" Swayne
" Forsyth	" Tolmie
" Grayson	" Walker
" Gunn	" Wienlott
" Hawthorn	

Tellers: Mr. Hodge and Mr. Roberts.

PATRS.

Ayes—Mr. Blair, Mr. Lesina, and Mr. Douglas.
Noes—Mr. Rankin, Mr. Thorn, and Mr. Mackintosh.
Resolved in the negative.

Question—That £18,130 be granted—put and passed.

BUILDINGS.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS moved that £87,376 be granted for "Buildings." There was a decrease of £79,960 in this vote as compared with the amount voted last year. Last year the sum of £50,000 was put down for a University, and, of course, that did not appear again this year.

Mr. LENNON: Has it been expended?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: That was a question which should properly be put to the Treasurer. When the Treasurer's Estimates came on he would be able to explain all about that particular amount.

Mr. MURPHY: That is exactly what he could not do.

Hon. W. H. Barnes.]

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: There was a reduction in the item "General repairs, painting, improvements, and incidentals" from £25,000 to £12,500. There was also a reduction in the item "School Buildings and Additions, Improvements, Furniture, Repairs, and Painting" from £40,000 to £25,000. He ought to explain that some of the money voted last year had been spent during the early part of the present financial year, and the work carried out last year was very much larger than the work carried out in any previous year within his recollection.

Mr. LESINA: What did you spend on schools last year?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The work was kept within bounds last year.

Mr. LESINA: The Auditor-General says you spent £46,000 on a vote of £40,000.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Some payments were made from loan and some from revenue.

Mr. LESINA: Why build some schools from loan and some from revenue?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Sometimes it was convenient to pay for schools out of loan. There were some moneys received from the sale of school properties which were paid into revenue account. For instance, there was a property occupied by one of the leading schools. There was also a large school reserve there—he referred to Allora—but for many reasons it was an undesirable site for a school. Among other reasons, there was the fact that it was in close proximity to a hotel and right in the very heart of the town. The proceeds from the sale of that property would not go to the Education Department, but would be paid into revenue account, so that while on the one hand there was a debit against the department, on the other it was not credited with the amount received from that property. With the work of the University and a considerable amount of other work in hand, the department had found it difficult to get sufficient draftsmen, and so considered it desirable to ease down a little; but he could assure the Committee that close attention would be given to all deserving cases in connection with schools and other institutions.

Mr. LENNON: The Minister had given no information as to the £10,000 down for "Technical College Buildings (four-fifths cost)," which appeared to be new expenditure. Would the general public be called upon to contribute the other fifth?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: It was customary for the general public, where technical colleges were not put up absolutely by the Government, to fund one-fifth. The £10,000 was not a new item. If the hon. gentleman would look at the following page he would see the separate amounts that were voted for several colleges last year, but this year a lump sum was put down.

Mr. LENNON: It seemed to him that this was something like a blind. If the expenditure was in Brisbane, the whole of it would eventually be borne by the Government; but if it was in North Queensland he was satisfied they would take care that one-fifth was contributed by the public.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Quite uncalled for.

Mr. LENNON: There was a large reduction in the vote as compared with last year, but the amount of work done last year was

[Hon. W. H. Barnes.

abnormal. There was nothing in the vote on which he desired to speak. It was not part of his business to condemn anything unless his condemnation was justified.

Mr. LESINA liked to see public money expended on works necessary for carrying on the business of the country. In connection with the vote for "School Buildings and Additions, Improvements, Furniture, Repairs, and Painting," he asked whether the full vote was expended last year, and he was told that it had not been exceeded; but the Auditor-General said it had been exceeded; and the Under Secretary, on page 8 of his report, said—

During the year contracts were let for 43 new State schools, which are now either completed or in progress; considerable additions have been made to 14 State schools; and the erection of 23 playsheds in various parts of the State have been completed or commenced. The expenditure for the year on State schools amounts to £52,916 1s. 10d., which is the heaviest expenditure in any one year in the history of the State.

According to the Auditor-General, the total was £46,223 11s. 8d. Another matter on which he would like some information was the differentiation in making payments for land and payments for buildings. Take the New Farm State School, for instance. The sum of £740 was paid for additions to the school, and it was paid out of loan. The amount of £733 6s. 3d. was paid for the purchase of land, and it came out of revenue. In some cases land was paid for out of loan and buildings out of revenue. What was the reason for having no general principle? He thought schools should be paid for out of revenue and not out of loan. Another matter to which he wished to refer was the expenditure on "Fernberg." He recently asked the Premier the following questions:—

1. What is the total cost to date of additions, alterations, repairs, and painting at "Fernberg," temporary Government House?
2. The total cost of metalling, gravelling, and rolling roadways?
3. Cost of fencing?
4. Cost of the secondary battery?
5. Cost of installing the electric light?
6. Cost of constructing tennis court?
7. Cost of new carpet and linoleum?
8. Cost of removing furniture from old Government House?
9. Cost of three supplies of linen recently purchased, and quantity of electro-plate?

The hon. gentleman referred him to an answer given to Mr. May on the 13th July. That answer was in reply to a question about a motor-car for the use of the Governor, and was as follows:—

I think hon. members will agree with me that it would be more in keeping with that respect we feel for His Majesty's representative, and with the dignity of this House, if such matters of detail relating to the Governor's establishment were raised and discussed in proper form when the Estimates for Government House were under consideration.

In the British House of Commons they discussed the most trifling details in regard to furniture for the Royal family; yet they were told by this brummagem Czar that they could not discuss Government House. Of course they could. (Hear, hear!) They voted the money, and he proposed to do it. The information he could not get then he discovered since in Mr. Brady's report, where he found that there was £2,576 3s. for additions, alteration, and painting; £280 for metalling, gravelling, and rolling roadways; £142 1s. for secondary battery; £125 10s. for removal of furniture from Government House. There

was £124 17s. 6d. installing electric light, £80 establishing tennis court, £72 for carpet and linoleum, £51 for fencing, £90, £81, and £66 for linen, and £62 for electro-plate. Yet when they asked them for money to be paid to mothers for caring for their own children they had not got it. Members got up on the other side with flaming cheeks, and asked where the money was coming from. Where was it coming from to build tennis courts at "Fernberg," and supply money for electro-plate and £128 for linen? The Minister had declined to give the information, but it was supplied in the report, and he hoped the information would be made as public as possible. He only mentioned it now because the Premier took up the high-and-mighty stand that we had no right to discuss these matters. If they discussed small details in connection with the civil list of His Majesty the King in the House of Commons, a much more august assembly than this, surely they could discuss the cost of the tennis court out at "Fernberg." It was just as well that members should take a determined stand on this matter, otherwise the time would come when they would be guilty of treason if they mentioned the Governor's name in this Assembly.

* Mr. CORSER: There was an item of £5,500 for "Hospital Buildings," or three-fifths of the cost. He would like to ask the Minister whether, in cases like they had had in Maryborough, where they had to put additional buildings up so as to give more accommodation for patients and on Crown lands, what amount of money would be paid towards this expenditure?

Mr. THEODORE drew the attention of the Minister to the delay that often took place in the erection of buildings. Investigation showed that this arose in many cases because no satisfactory tenders were forthcoming. He would have no complaint to make if there was no way out of the difficulty, but the Minister could remedy this evil by authorising the construction of such buildings by day labour. At the annual dinner of the master builders in Brisbane on 26th September, the Minister spoke in a way which would lead one to think he was inclined to favour contract labour. He said—

Reference had been made to contract labour *versus* day labour. In that connection it would be remembered that the Government had called for tenders for the building in the Gardens, which the Works Department estimated would cost £70. The lowest tender received was £120. That indicated either that the estimate was too low or the contractors were trying to get a little more out of the contract than they should.

£1,200 as against £700! Was that more satisfactory? Did this lead the hon. gentleman to come to the conclusion that contract labour was more satisfactory than day labour, or the experience of the department in the country where the building of schools had to be postponed for lengthy periods? Did he not think he could inaugurate a system of day labour under the supervision of the department? The officials of the department were quite competent to supervise the construction of these buildings by day labour. They might require an additional supervising staff in the different parts of the State for that purpose, but it would be more satisfactory if the buildings could be erected when they were required, instead of waiting until contractors were ready to send in a tender. The officials of the department were afraid that they could not get competent men, but there was any amount of labour available if the department would proceed on the lines he had indicated, and the

difficulty in obtaining material would be overcome. He hoped the Minister would give consideration to this matter.

Mr. D. HUNTER was not against day labour, and the present Minister had done more to bring about a system of day labour than any other Minister. At the present time there was a great difficulty to find men for the buildings which were going up in Brisbane. The works foreman had asked him where he could get good carpenters, and contractors had often asked him where they could get good carpenters. He knew that some members on the front Opposition bench had the same difficulty when they were doing their own work; they could not find good men to do it—not the men that they would put on Government work.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: Why raise the question of day labour *versus* contract labour?

Mr. D. HUNTER: Why did the other side raise the question? If they had not raised it, he would not have replied. He thought he knew more about the building trade than any man on the other side of the House.

Mr. FOLEY: I question that.

Mr. D. HUNTER: The hon. member might know something of masonry.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. D. HUNTER: It seemed to him that members on the other side did not like their statements to be controverted. He maintained that if the Government

[9 p.m.] found it convenient to do work by day labour they should do so; and, as a matter of fact, they had made the alterations at "Fernberg" by day labour.

Mr. THEODORE: Why did the Minister threaten to go back to the contract system?

Mr. D. HUNTER: He did not threaten to do anything of the kind, but was well advised, if he found that day labour was costing more than contract labour, to go back. If day labour could not be made to pay, he (Mr. Hunter) would be the last to defend it, but he knew that day labour could be made to pay. Hon. members on the other side voted for a reduction in the salary of the man who was doing his best to encourage the day-labour system.

Mr. MURPHY: You were running round your own side condemning all these big increases.

Mr. D. HUNTER: He might condemn the increases, but he did not condemn them for what they were doing now. They had tried to encourage day labour wherever it had been proved to be a good thing. They called for tenders for some work not long ago. It was going to cost something like £1,200, and they had it done by day labour, but it had not cost £700. Hon. members opposite knew that wages had risen since the advent of wages boards, although they did not like to admit it, and the departmental Estimates probably required revision. He wanted to draw attention to the buildings being put up at the present time. He thought the Government were making a serious mistake in regard to State schools. Two or three years ago he said that the Government would be well advised if in those long schools they put in dormer lights in the roof so as to light the interiors sufficiently. Where a school had a double veranda, everyone who had been in one of them knew that the lighting was very defective. He noticed that the Manly school had a double veranda, and there was no light

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in the whole of the roof, and the only light the children got was through the lights on the verandas and in the end. That had been found insufficient in a good many schools, and the department had found it necessary in the Kangaroo Point school to put in dormer windows. If the department were going to put in those windows, they should put them in when the building was being erected, because it added to the cost if they had to be put in afterwards. He had fitted up some of those windows, and he knew what a great improvement they made. Once they were put in the teachers claimed that they were a great improvement. He was told that the health officer objected to them because he thought they were going to affect the eyes of the children in some way.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: His opinion should be considered.

Mr. D. HUNTER: Of course his opinion should be considered, but he thought the children's eyes should be considered too.

Mr. NEVITT: He is trying to protect them.

Mr. D. HUNTER: Of course he was. He believed the health officer suggested a saw-tooth roof. He believed that that sort of roof would prove more detrimental to the children, because the light would be thrown right down on their heads. In the case of dormer windows the windows stood perpendicular, and, as the glass was frosted, it was impossible for the light to strike the children's heads at all. He hoped the department would seriously consider the question in regard to future schools, and would not continue a blunder which would cost a great deal of money to alter.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: With regard to the lighting of schools, hon. members would agree with him that the modern type of building which was now being put up was a vast improvement on the old type. (Hear, hear!) He did not mean to argue that that was a reason for not trying to make still further improvements. In the interests of the children, who were the most important asset the State had, it was highly important that every attention should be paid to the question of lighting the schools, and they should most certainly be guided by those who had experience in the matter. The suggestions of the hon. member for Woolloongabba would receive the careful consideration of the department. The hon. member for Woothakata referred to some remarks that he (Mr. Barnes) made at a builders' dinner. Well, those remarks had not met with the approval of the builders. In the conduct of an important department like the Works Department it was the duty of the Minister and the officers in charge to adopt common-sense, business lines. He would hark back for a moment to the particular work to which the hon. member had referred. It was the invariable practice of the officers of the department to prepare an estimate of the cost of every work. In connection with the building in the Gardens, the lowest tender was very much in excess of the departmental estimate. Now, he would ask hon. members if he would have been doing a fair thing to the country if, in the face of that fact, he had ordered the work to be proceeded with? He would pursue the same policy in every case. In that case he thought it was his duty to test the matter by putting up the building by day labour. Surely the hon. member would not find fault with him for doing that!

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Mr. MURPHY: How did the cost compare with the tenders?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The work was not yet completed, so he could not supply the information. The hon. member for Woolloongabba made reference to another matter which proved conclusively that the department were exceedingly anxious to enable the men who worked by day labour to do their work under the very best conditions. When he went into the department he found—it was not the fault of any previous Minister, but was simply due to the want of money—that their day workers were housed in a place that was certainly a disgrace to the department. And hon. members could see they had put up for them buildings which were most suitable, and they would see that at least the question of day labour had not been overlooked.

Mr. THEODORE: Will you extend the system?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The hon. member referred to what he had said in regard to contracts. He had nothing to retract in that connection.

Mr. LENNON: You will be more careful next time.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: There seemed to be a little bit of the Scotchman in him, as he was always careful. The hon. member had said it was a question as to whether the Government should not always go in for day labour, and he asked, Would it not be possible in remote districts to do that kind of thing? He (Mr. Barnes) would point out that the supervision would be so very great that he did not think the time was ripe for that kind of thing. The duty of the Government was to exercise the closest possible supervision, and if they thought a tender was too high, then it was their duty to construct them in the other way. The hon. member for Woothakata referred particularly to the delay in connection with a work for which tenders were invited, but the tender was found to be too high and very much above the estimate. Hon. members would admit that the Works Department and the Education Department had, in connection with schools and school buildings, been fairly active, and he claimed they had been particularly prompt in dealing with matters pertaining to the departments. The hon. member was quite right in what he said. He referred, no doubt, to a school in his own electorate, but the tender was so very much above the estimate that there was nothing else for the department to do but to turn it down.

Mr. THEODORE: I say you could have inaugurated another system and gone on with it by day labour.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: That was easy enough in the abstract, but it was not so easy in the working out. If a tender had been accepted that was excessive, the hon. member would—and very properly so—have been one of the first to complain, and might say the Government were in league with the contractor. In regard to the remarks of the hon. member for Clermont in connection with "Fernberg," he (Mr. Barnes) was not aware that he had ever refused to answer the hon. member any question.

Mr. LESINA: I asked your boss.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Some of the expenditure at "Fernberg" was, after all, only apparent. Might he remind hon. members that a number of buildings were removed from old Government House, and although the Government had only taken a lease, with the right to purchase, of "Fernberg," they had the right to take those buildings away.

Mr. THEODORE: The hon. member referred to the furniture.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The hon. member knew quite well that the furnishing was no easy matter, and he did not think the tenderer made very much out of it.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member for Woolloongabba made the remark that there was a scarcity of carpenters in Brisbane. He admitted that was so, but if the hon. member cared to cast his mind back a few years he would remember that in Brisbane lower wages were paid to carpenters than anywhere in Queensland, and most of the carpenters left. Even to-day there were carpenters working in Brisbane for 8s. or 9s. a day.

Mr. D. HUNTER: Where?

Mr. MANN: He did not wish to advertise any builder, but he knew of a man who was doing work not 3 miles away who was paying his carpenters only 9s. a day. Things were very brisk in Brisbane just now, and they must not take any notice of a phenomenal state of things. Brisbane, like every other city, had its ups and downs, and possibly in a couple of years there might be many carpenters out of work. He claimed that in spite of the scarcity of carpenters in Brisbane their wages were not phenomenal. He did not think any man was getting more than 11s. a day, and many of them were only getting 8s. or 9s. a day.

Mr. D. HUNTER: You do not understand it.

Mr. MANN: If the hon. member did his duty and went round Brisbane he would find there were a number of men getting only 8s. a day.

Hon. E. B. FORREST: I do not think you would find a dozen, or anything like that number.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member for Woolloongabba, in speaking about the lights in school buildings, spoke in a very sensible manner. The Cairns school, which was attended by over 500 pupils, had been erected in patches—a bit put on here and a bit put on there—and to-day it was a standing disgrace to the town. As he had said earlier in the evening, every public building in Cairns was behind requirements. The people in Cairns were desirous of getting an infants and girls' school established, but, unfortunately, they could not raise their quota, and they desired that the building should be erected in sections, because it would be a very heavy tax on the town to raise the money necessary, as there had been collections for hospitals, and there was a limit to what the people were able to subscribe towards buildings. He would like the Minister to take into consideration that fact, and erect the proposed girls' and infants' school in sections. He would like the Minister, on his next visit to Cairns, to have

a look at the present school and see if he could not get a decent up-to-date building erected.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: I shall be very glad to do so.

Mr. MANN: With regard to the question of "Fernberg," that was dealt with by the member for Clermont, but the Premier himself, in his wild days, when he claimed to be a democrat, was very fond of asking questions about Government House. In fact, he moved for a return on one occasion, but now hon. members must only mention the Governor with bated breath, while the hon. member himself at one time said if it had not been for Lady Chelmsford there would have been no dissolution.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The action of the Government at that time does not really come in this vote at all.

Mr. MANN: But there might be a ballroom included in the vote, and he was pointing out that if they had built a ballroom at Government House and allowed the Governor a country seat, there would not have been an election before—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The matter the hon. member refers to comes under another vote. There are other places for referring to the question he mentions, but it is not on this vote.

Mr. MANN: But in this item of £12,500 for general repairs and incidentals it might include a ballroom for "Fernberg."

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the hon. member will see that he is out of order.

Mr. MANN: He would not have touched on the matter if the Premier had given a civil answer to a civil question. He trusted that, in the matter of buildings, the Minister would get a decent schoolhouse and a decent courthouse erected at Cairns, and when the Minister came to Cairns he hoped he would accede to the requests to be laid before him.

Mr. NEVITT: Some time ago he asked the following questions and received the replies mentioned:—

What was the contract price for building the laundry and kitchen at Dunwich? £3,671.

What date was same taken over from contractor? 24th September, 1909.

When was contract called for machinery and fitting up of same? 19th November, 1909.

The contract for the building was taken over on the 24th September, 1909, and yet the contract for the machinery was not called until 19th of November, 1909, exactly twelve months ago. During that time the building, which cost £4,000, was lying idle, and at 4 per cent. interest that meant a loss for the year of £160. The excuse given as to why the machinery was not ordered was that there was an ironmoulders' strike on in Queensland, but the strike did not commence until August of this year. The tenders for the machinery should have been called for at the same time as the tenders for the building, and then it would have been ready to go into the building, and the money would not have been lying idle locked up in that building, which was not being used. The Government knew they were going to put in Babcock boilers, and that they would have to send to England for them, and yet they did not call for tenders for machinery until after the building was finished. There were some structural alterations which took place in the

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building and which cost £10. The architect should have left openings in the building so that the machinery would have been able to go in without making alterations in the building. He was down there last week, and he saw two openings which had to be made, including one 3 feet by 2 feet in a 9-inch wall. That sort of thing cost a good deal of money, and provision should have been made in the original plans of the building. The Minister said that they used common sense in the department, but that did not look as if they used common sense. The common-sense way would have been to call for tenders for the machinery, and the machinery would be on the ground ready to be installed as soon as the building was finished. There was room for complaint there, but he did not know whether the blame rested with the Government for not providing the money or with the department itself.

Mr. D. HUNTER: In his twenty-five years of experience in Queensland he had never seen a building put up that there was not some alteration made in the plan before it was finished. The owner of the building would generally ask the architect to make some alteration in the plan. The architect could not draw a plan to suit the machinery until he knew what machinery was going to be put into it. The money for the machinery was not put down on the Estimates that year, because a general election had been forced on the Government, so that members opposite were really to blame for it for forcing them into the throes of a general election. It was ridiculous for members to waste time by talking about such trivial matters. He had seen men put up a partition in a room where there was a piano, and they did not know how they were going to get the piano out. These things happened in every-day life, and to make a noise about it was too trivial altogether.

Mr. MULLAN: He understood that they had a three years' lease of "Fernberg"?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Yes.

Mr. MULLAN: He would like to know if they had the right to purchase "Fernberg" at a fixed price?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: In reply to the hon. member for Maryborough, Mr. Corser, about the additions to hospitals, the department had never been known to refuse any money for any hospitals in the State. There was a fixed sum on the Estimates for that purpose, and if the applications for expenditure exceeded that sum there might be some difficulty. The [9.30 p.m.] amount put down was based on the demands made. With regard to the question asked by the hon. member for Carpentaria concerning the buildings at Dunwich, he might explain that the money for the buildings was authorised one year, and the money for the necessary machinery the following year, and there had been a variety of causes for the delay in the installation of the machinery. He had in his hand a letter from the contractors for the machinery, Messrs. Harvey and Son, dated 18th November, in which they said—

Re our contract for cooking pans. You are aware of the trouble which we have been labouring under since 15th July last, and, in fact, during the past year—viz., scarcity of labour and moulders' strike, that being the reason that we did not apply earlier for an extension of time. It has been the object of

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the Ironmasters' Association to make as little fuss over the matter as possible in regard to complaints, with a view to settlement of our troubles.

He thought that was a very fair explanation of the delay. With reference to the question asked by the hon. member for Charters Towers, Mr. Mullan, the price which the owners were asking for "Fernberg" was £10,000.

Mr. MULLAN asked was it not a fact that the right to purchase at that figure was not obtained until after the Government had spent a considerable amount in improving the grounds at "Fernberg"?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: We had scarcely done any work there before we obtained the right to purchase.

Mr. MULLAN: You did some, though.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Practically none.

Mr. NEVITT wished to point out that the buildings he referred to were taken over on the 24th September last year; and, according to the letter read by the Minister, it was not till July last—nine months after—that the contractor for the machinery asked for an extension of time.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The amount was not voted till late in the year. The hon. member forgets that we did not meet till late that year.

Mr. NEVITT: Well, it appeared that it was the fault of the Government in not putting the necessary money on the Estimates, and that it was not the fault of the departmental officials.

Mr. LESINA: The reason he had referred to the matter of a residence for the Governor and the Agent-General's Offices was that he considered that now we had realised federation, the expenditure of large sums of money on these subordinate offices was so much money wasted. In South Africa federation had not been established twenty-four hours before General Botha, by one stroke of the pen, wiped out all their Agents-General in London. But here we had whole-hog advocates of State rights, like the Premier, increasing the expenditure in connection with the Agent-General's establishment. Why should we spend large sums of money on the Agent-General's Office in London and on the gubernatorial establishment now that federation had been consummated? He contended that the Government had no mandate from the electors for increasing the expenditure in connection with Government House. We had had a referendum on the Bible in State Schools question. Let the Government, then, give us a referendum on the question as to whether the office of State Governor should be continued. He maintained that the office was entirely unnecessary, and altogether too expensive.

Mr. FORSYTH: The hon. member for Clermont objected to continuing the office of State Governor, and he had a perfect right to object if he thought fit, but while we had a Governor we should provide him with a proper house to live in. With regard to "Fernberg," he thought the Government would do well to purchase that property, as it comprised a large area of land, which in the course of a few years would become a great deal more valuable. He thought there were about 40 acres of land; there was a tram service quite near it; and he believed it might not be a bad investment.

At twenty minutes to 10 o'clock,

The ACTING CHAIRMAN said: Under Standing Order No. 171, I call upon the hon. member for Cairns to relieve me in the chair.

Mr. MANN took the chair accordingly.

Mr. FORSYTH (continuing) said: He thought the building could be used for a college, and it might be a good thing to purchase the property. With regard to the question of day labour and contract labour, the hon. member for Woothakata seemed to think that all work should be done by day labour; but if he went to the officer in charge of the Works Department he would find, taking it all round, the opinion of the department was that for new buildings the contract system was more satisfactory than day labour, but that it was better to have day labour for additions and repairs.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said that in his electorate there was a lot of little schools that needed an extra veranda to guard from the intense heat of the sun, and in several places playsheds were very much needed. If the Government could find money for a Government House, a University, and technical colleges in the big centres, they should look after the little far-out places, where people went out, sometimes with their lives in their hands, to fill up the vacant places in the State. They should certainly have the first consideration. With regard to contract labour *versus* day labour, if they wanted honest work done they would employ day labour. They knew how contract work was scamped. The Mount Morgan Company knew what was a good thing, and they built all their works by day labour. They built one dam on contract, but it was not a great success, and all they built since were built by day labour. They also made their bricks and built their furnaces by day labour; and the man in charge often told him they got better work in that way. Another advantage in having work done by day labour was that if any alteration was required it could be made without breaking a contract. It was well known that when work was done by contract there was often a good deal of trouble and expense in connection with alterations; and contractors knew that if they could only get extras they could make a good thing. He might mention that the Federal departments employed the State departments to supervise their work. Therefore, the expense of supervision would not be so great, and the work would be done more cheaply and effectively. He hoped that next session this "Buildings" vote would not be cut down. We should need more buildings in the outlying parts of the State as our educational requirements kept on increasing, and this vote should not have been cut down. We should not spend so much money on palatial residences in Brisbane, and neglect the outlying places.

Mr. LESINA pointed out that the improvements at "Fernberg" were carried out by day labour, and he could not understand why the department did not paint this Chamber by day labour. The public trustees office in the city of Auckland, in New Zealand, which was several stories high and a beautiful example of architectural work, was built entirely by day labour, and a big saving effected on the contract price. The department should go in a great deal more for day labour than they did. We had saved money by day labour on railway construction, which had been a magnificent success.

Mr. D. HUNTER: Will you ask the Federal Government to adopt day labour?

Mr. LESINA thought the Federal Government should do it too, and one of the complaints he had against the Federal Government was that since they had been in office they had made no attempt to carry out the principle of day labour.

Mr. RYLAND: They are doing all the telegraphs and telephones by day labour.

Mr. LESINA: Our Government had carried out for the Federal Government last year £30,000 worth of work, which Mr. Brady supervised without any compensation whatever.

Mr. D. HUNTER: Some of it by day labour.

Mr. LESINA: Nearly all that work was done by contract, and Mr. Brady could not do otherwise, except the Commonwealth Government determined to do it by day labour. The Commonwealth Government and the State Governments should both give day labour more extensive trial than they had done. The principle had been proved to be good in practice, and even in connection with this vote it had been applied to the improvements at "Fernberg."

Mr. D. HUNTER: The State has done a great deal more in that direction than the Federal Government has.

Mr. LESINA: The State had done more work by day labour than the Federal Government, and he thought the State should go further, and the Federal Government would imitate the example. The present Speaker in the Federal Parliament had moved a resolution here in favour of work being done by day labour, and the Federal Government should imitate the State Government in constructing public works by day labour. In day labour they understood what the work was going to cost. Under the contract system they never knew where the extras were going to end. He did not see why the schools in Queensland should not be constructed by day labour, wherever possible—it could be done in all thickly-populated centres. The additions and rebuildings should be done by day labour, and a Government like this, which was a notorious democratic Government, and included the hon. member for Bulimba, should do its best to have the principle applied to the department.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: Seeing that there were so many bricks needed in the construction of Government buildings in Brisbane, would the Minister use his best endeavours to establish a State brickyard? (Government laughter.) He had seen a prospectus issued in New South Wales in connection with a brickyard, and on the directorate there was an architect, a contractor, and a builder. It was stated that they could make bricks at 18s. 6d. per thousand, and put them on the market and get £2 2s. a thousand. That was where the "fat-man's" profits came in. That was a material saving, and if the Government would go in for a scheme like this we should then be able to get a few thousand pounds expended in the outside districts which were saved from the middleman's profits. He hoped the Minister would consider this matter very earnestly, and give his assurance, when replying, that he would see if he could get a brickyard in Brisbane. It would undoubtedly be a success. He could then do the same in the Central and Northern districts. It was time we went in for brick buildings for our schools, as there would not be the deterioration which went on in wood buildings through white ants or

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other causes. The buildings were charged to loan fund, but what was the use of building schools out of loan money and handing it down to posterity? Posterity would have enough of its own burden to carry, and it seemed to him a sign of weakness on the part of the Government to keep to the old stereotyped system.

Mr. RYLAND thought the Government had not given enough attention to this very important question. With the experience we had had of day labour in connection with railways, we should go in for more of it. He entirely agreed with the hon. member for Kennedy as regarded the establishment of Government brickyards. He also thought the State should also have their own timber yards, and utilise our own timber, instead of handing it over to syndicates. The hon. member for Clermont seemed to give the impression that the Federal Government was not moving in the direction of constructing [10 p.m.] public works by day labour, but they were doing all the work in connection with the telephones by day labour, and, not only that, they were going in for manufacturing a lot of raw material in connection with the iron industry. The Government should make their own bricks and saw their own timber, instead of handing over their forests to trusts.

Question put and passed.

INSPECTION OF MACHINERY.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS moved that £9,810 be granted for "Inspection of Machinery." The Estimate made provision for the appointment of three extra inspectors. Attention had been drawn on a previous occasion to the necessity for more inspectors. The department intended to station one at Mackay, for instance, the work there at present being done by the officer at Townsville. The growth of the work made the additional appointments necessary, and provision was made accordingly. Most of the officers were down for increases. Mr. Howitt, the Chief Inspector, was getting £30, Mr. Henderson £20, and there were several increases of £10 each.

Mr. MAY was glad to notice that there were to be three more inspectors appointed. Recently an inspector had been stationed at Hughenden, and he had travelled 2,000 miles and then had not covered the whole of his district. The area should be subdivided, and another inspector appointed, with his headquarters at Cloncurry, as a vast amount of mining machinery was being erected in that district. The present officer had not had time to inspect all the shearing machinery, some of which was very defective. According to the report of the Chief Inspector there were even blackfellows and gins driving engines in that district, and other people working under them, and that was not paying proper attention to the protection of human life. Again, boilers were very badly scaled in some cases, and there was a pressing need for more inspection. He hoped that it would not be long before there was an inspector appointed at Cloncurry.

Mr. THEODORE noticed that the Chief Inspector recommended that the inspector who was stationed at Cairns should have his headquarters at Herberton, as that was a more convenient centre. A recommendation was also made that the Etheridge and Einasleigh

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districts should be included in the Cairns district. If that were done, Chillagoe would be a much more convenient centre than Herberton. Another reason why the inspector should be stationed at Chillagoe was that there was more machinery in the vicinity of Chillagoe than near to Herberton. He had received complaints from his electorate that permission was too readily granted by the department for persons to have charge of machinery who did not possess the necessary qualifications, and that there was no reason given for the issue of permits. He would suggest that the Minister should instruct his officers to use more discretion in the matter of granting permits.

Mr. RYLAND was very pleased to know that there were to be more inspectors appointed, as there was a great deal of inspection required, especially in connection with mining machinery. Although a good deal of work was being done, still more inspection was necessary. He would like to ask the Minister with regard to a recent fatal accident at Gympie—

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: I am not Secretary for Mines.

Mr. RYLAND: An inquiry had been held under the Inspection of Machinery and Scaffolding Act, and he understood that the board of inquiry had reported to the Minister that the accident was caused by the faulty design of the clutch gear on the winding engine. It was strange, if such a report had been made, that the Government took no action to inflict some penalty on those responsible for the accident. If the Act did not give power to impose a penalty when an accident was caused through negligence on the part of the employers, some power should be given to impose a penalty.

Mr. WALKER: Was it through a fault in the machinery?

Mr. RYLAND: A special board held an inquiry, and in his report the Chief Inspector of Scaffolding said "Accident caused through the faulty design of the clutch gear on the winding engine."

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Every member of the House would admit that the first duty cast upon every officer of the department was to do all they possibly could to ensure the safety of those who were working in dangerous places. When an accident occurred there was a properly constituted board which always made inquiries, and after inquiry had been made, if they thought anything was wrong or any lack of care, they recommended that action be taken. In that particular case no action was recommended by the board.

Mr. RYLAND: Have they power to take action?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: They had power to advise the Minister to take action.

Mr. FOLEY: That is where it stops.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: He wished to inform the Committee that there had never been any recommendation from any inspector with regard to any transaction in the department that had not been carried out. If any recommendation had been made by the responsible officers for any prosecution, he had always endorsed the recommendation, and he thought hon. members would agree that that was a very proper position to

take up if the Minister was satisfied, as he had been, that the recommendation was a proper one. The hon. member for Gympie would agree that, in the absence of any recommendation, it was not the place of the Minister to unduly harass any company. The hon. member was quite right in saying the cause of the accident was through the faulty design of the clutch gear. Having given the information, he hoped the Committee would allow the vote to go through.

Mr. RYLAND: When the board pointed out there was a fault in the machinery, some action should be taken, if there was power to take action; and, if not, then the Act should be altered to give the necessary power.

Question put and passed.

LABOUR AND FACTORIES.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS moved that £9,135 be granted for "Labour and Factories." Hon. members would notice that in connection with that department there was an increase of £736, also that there were two extra inspectors, one of whom was stationed at Toowoomba. Toowoomba was an important district, and it was found necessary to have an inspector stationed at that place to more thoroughly carry out the work of the department. Hon. members would further notice that an additional inspector had been appointed for Brisbane. In addition to that, increases from £10 to £20 had been given to fourteen officers.

Mr. LENNON called attention to the want of proper supervision in regard to shops and factories. Some little while ago he had placed a letter in the hands of the Minister dealing with glaring instances of breaches of the Act in Townsville.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: We have issued summonses there against quite a number of Chinamen—about thirteen or fourteen.

Mr. LENNON: The same thing also applied to Cairns.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: We have also issued a number of summonses at Cairns.

Mr. LENNON: Also at Ingham, where there were a number of Chinese storekeepers, and it was really very hard that those people should be allowed to break the law whilst the European traders were kept under close surveillance, and had to obey the law. The whole thing arose from the system of mixed businesses, where one part of the shop was exempted and the other part brought under the scope of the Act. He was quite satisfied there would never be a satisfactory solution of the trouble until that system was done away with and exempted shops were not allowed to be conducted under the same roof as the ordinary shops. He would also point out that in Townsville something like twenty or more licenses were issued to those Chinese, and while there were nearly as many, or a large number of Chinese in Geraldton, Ingham, Rockhampton, and Brisbane, it had not been considered right for the Chinese to take out licenses in those places.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: No licenses have been issued except a few at Cunnamulla for bakers.

Mr. LENNON: The matter was specially called attention to in the Auditor-General's report. He was speaking from memory, but he understood particular prominence was given to the matter by the Auditor-General. If he was wrong, he would be very glad to

hear it. Unfortunately, he had not a copy of the report, but he was satisfied that the Auditor-General drew attention to the fact that whilst in Townsville a large number of licenses were issued, no licenses were issued in the other places.

At 10.20 p.m.,

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Grant) resumed the chair.

Mr. RYLAND asked that the whole of the Factories and Shops Act should be extended to Gympie. Only Part VIII. of the Act was in force in Gympie, and there were other towns that were not of as much importance as Gympie that had the whole Act extended to them, such as Toowoomba, Ipswich, Rockhampton, Mount Morgan, Dalby, Townsville, Mackay, Maryborough, Bundaberg, and other towns. Why should not Gympie be brought in also?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: I will give it consideration.

* Mr. McLACHLAN: In connection with the matter of the factories and shops, he noticed on page 17 of the Chief Inspector's report the following paragraph—

An occasional prosecution appears to have a very salutary effect, and, although I refrain from taking extreme measures where possible, in cases where offenders have been previously cautioned and have disregarded warnings no other course can be adopted.

The prosecutions had a salutary effect on persons who might otherwise be likely to create fresh breaches of the Act. A similar course could have been adopted in connection with the administration of the Wages Boards Act. One or two prosecutions in connection with cases of intimidation of employees would also have a salutary effect on persons who at the present time were using coercive methods on their employees in the matters of determinations of wages boards and the action taken by employees with the view of getting wages boards established in connection with certain industries. (Hear, hear!) He thought that when the Minister was speaking he would have had something to say on the question of wages boards, seeing that this was a new departure and that this was the first Estimate the Committee had had to pass since wages boards had been brought into operation.

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: The wages boards cost £2,400 last year.

Mr. McLACHLAN thought that was a reason why the Minister might have dilated on the question of wages boards, but, instead of that, he merely referred to the increases given to various officers of the department, and did not even mention the fact that he was administering the Wages Boards Act. They had been promised an amendment of that Act, but, judging by the inspired paragraphs in the newspapers, they were not going to get the legislation they expected.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: It might help it if you get through the Estimates.

The TREASURER: It is still on the paper.

Mr. McLACHLAN: The few words he had to say on the matter would not make any difference, as under the Sessional Orders adopted by hon. gentlemen opposite they would have to close at half-past 10 o'clock. There was room for great improvement in the Act, and the Minister had admitted that, not only on the floor of the House but also at the different functions that he had attended.

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As they could not get an amendment of the Act, they ought at least to carry it out as it was at the present time.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: You will give me credit for giving it the closest attention.

Mr. McLACHLAN: He gave the Minister credit for doing what he thought was best in the matter, but what the Minister thought was the correct thing was not what he (Mr. McLachlan) thought was the correct thing to do, and he was quite justified in criticising the department because of that. In looking through the report he noticed that there were between forty-three and forty-five wages boards established in Queensland up to the 30th June last. The Chief Inspector in his report said—

Generally, I think, it may be said that the determinations throughout have been very well observed, and they appear to have given satisfaction to both employers and employees.

He remembered deputations that had waited on the Minister, and they let it be known that the satisfaction was not universal in connection with some wages boards. He admitted that probably there was some improvement in some instances, but the Minister must admit that in view of the facts brought under his notice by deputations that waited on him, the actual result in many cases showed that the determinations had not been what the Minister himself thought they ought to be. If an amendment was introduced, there should be greater improvements in the methods under which determinations would be arrived at in connection with wages boards. In turning to the award in connection with the printing trade, he found that there was one award which read—

That the lowest prices or rates payable to the following classes of persons shall be—

Letterpress machinists or persons in charge of double-demy or larger cylinder machines (including payment for time occupied in feeding machines), £2 12s. per week of 48 ordinary working hours.

The word "cylinder" was included there by the wages board. Then there was the next award, which read—

Letterpress machinists or persons in charge of smaller cylinder machines than double-demy cylinder machines (including payment for time occupied in feeding machines), etc.

The word "cylinder," which was mentioned here twice, was inserted by the Chief Inspector himself and not by the wages board, and that altogether spoiled the effect of that portion of the award. That prevented men employed on platen machines being included, and platen machines were not now provided for at all, and that portion of the award would, therefore, become null and void. That was a matter in which the Chief Inspector had taken on himself to alter an award, and he had no right to do it. There were other cases where the Chief Inspector decided that certain awards were *ultra vires*. The Chief Inspector had no right to interfere with an award at all in that way.

[10.30 p.m.]

The House resumed. The ACTING CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had come to certain resolutions.

Ordered that the resolutions be received on Tuesday next.

The Committee obtained leave to sit again on Tuesday next.

The House adjourned at twenty-seven minutes to 11 o'clock.

[Mr. McLachlan.]