

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 29 AUGUST 1911**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, 29 AUGUST, 1911.

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

DEATH OF MR. D. T. KEOGH.

The SPEAKER: It is with great regret that I have to announce to the House the death of Mr. Denis Thomas Keogh, late member for the electoral district of Rosewood. I have received from the Registrar-General a certified copy of the certificate of his death.

The PREMIER (Hon. D. F. Denham, *Oxley*): I beg to move—

“That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Rosewood has become and is now vacant by reason of the death of Denis Thomas Keogh, late member for the same electorate.”

Question put and passed.

*Hon. D. F. Denham.*]

The PREMIER: I desire leave of the House to move, without notice, a motion concerning the death of the late member for Rosewood.

The SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Chief Secretary be allowed to move the motion without notice?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: I think I correctly interpret the feeling of hon. members in expressing the sorrow of this House at the sudden removal from its service of a genial and warm-hearted member, the late Mr. D. T. Keogh.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: For some time he had been unwell, and had the hon. gentleman listened to his medical adviser, he would have remained in his home last week. A sense of duty, however, impelled him to come down on Thursday last; he came specially to arrange certain public business with myself. I suggested to him that he should return before nightfall, but he remained, and, as hon. members will remember, took part in a division as late as 9 o'clock. He reached the city of Ipswich, where he had so many years resided, but expired before medical aid could be summoned. Mr. Keogh represented Rosewood, with the exception of one Parliament, since 1896. (Hear, hear!) If he was somewhat unconventional, he certainly was earnest in his work. His warm-heartedness found response in friendships from all sides of the House. His passing reminds me of Bacon's words—

“He that dies in an earnest pursuit is like one that is wounded in hot blood, who for the time scarce feels the hurt, and therefore the mind, fixed and bent upon somewhat that is good, doth avert the dolours of death.”

I beg to move—

“That this House expresses its deep sympathy with the relatives of the late Denis Thomas Keogh, M.L.A. for Rosewood, and its sense of loss to this House and by his constituency in his sadly sudden decease.”

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. LENNON (*Herbert*): I rise for the purpose of seconding the motion so feelingly moved by the Chief Secretary. I am sure we all agree with his words—that we will miss the genial presence of the late D. T. Keogh. I can safely say from my own knowledge that he had no enemy in this House. (Hear, hear!) I can even go further, and say that he was everybody's friend but his own. We regret deeply that he was taken away from us so suddenly, because many of us, as well as the Chief Secretary, had the opportunity of conversing with him so late as last Thursday, the night of his death, and he then appeared to be in his usual mood of joyousness, ready for a joke, and, therefore, his being taken away from us is all the more striking. We regret very much that we have to suffer his loss. I hope that the vote of sympathy of this House will give some satisfaction to his relatives. I may say that every member on this side of the House joins very sincerely and with heartfelt feeling in the resolution moved by the Chief Secretary.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

[*Hon. D. F. Denham.*

HON. J. W. BLAIR (*Ipswich*): I am sure the House will pardon me adding one or two words on this sad occasion. A particularly dear friend of mine, and a friend of my people of long standing, has passed away, and I join with those who have preceded me in voicing the regret of this House, and I am quite sure that of friends—more particularly old friends of his outside—in what they have so admirably said. In looking back to the scene round his graveside on Saturday last, one was more than touched at the sight of hundreds of people who had ridden in many a mile to pay their last tribute of respect to one whom they mourned as lost. I say that our sympathy goes out to the members of his family, and that all in this Chamber will see mentally a vision of the warm-hearted personality who has passed away, and we will deeply regret—and none more than I—and long for—

“The touch of a vanished hand,  
And the sound of a voice that is still.”

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. R. PHILP: Just a word in support of the resolution moved by the Chief Secretary. I am sure everybody in this House regrets the death of Mr. Keogh—both sides of the House. (Hear, hear!) Personally, I can always say that he was one of the most loyal supporters that ever I had in this House. (Hear, hear!) He had no enemies that I know of in the House. Both sides were always willing to welcome poor old Denny. (Hear, hear!) Like the hon. member for Ipswich, Mr. Blair, I think one could not but feel touched at the enormous gathering of people where he lived who came to see the end of him. I think that is the greatest tribute that could be paid to anyone—for men whom he had lived with all his life to mourn his death.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. PETRIE (*Toombul*): I am sure the House will pardon me for saying a few words with regard to this sad event. I, as one of the oldest members of the House, was very intimately acquainted with the late Mr. Keogh. We were almost bosom friends, and I have many times assisted him in his little political campaigns. I endorse all that has been said on the resolution moved by the Premier, and I regret very much indeed the loss we have suffered. He was genial, he was kind-hearted—in fact, too kind-hearted so far as he himself was concerned—and I am sure that everybody in this House, with me, feels his loss very keenly. I trust that whoever may be selected to take his place will do half as much as he tried to do for his electorate. There is no doubt as the Hon. the Premier said, that he sacrificed himself. He came down here to do his duty when he ought to have been home, against the advice of his medical adviser. I feel his death myself very keenly, and it just shows to us here that we never know the day or the hour when we may be wiped out. It is with feelings of sadness that I support the resolution moved by the Premier.

The SPEAKER: I would suggest to the members of the House that this resolution might be passed with hon. members standing.

The members then rose, and the question was put and passed in silence.

PAPERS.

The following papers, laid on the table, were ordered to be printed:—

A report by the Engineer for Harbours and Rivers regarding additional accommodation for shipping in the port of Brisbane.

Report of the Inspector of Orphanages for 1910.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL TABLES.

The TREASURER (Hon. W. H. Barnes, *Bulimba*) presented the tables relating to his Financial Statement, and moved that they be printed.

Question put and passed.

QUESTIONS.

PETROL CARS ON SUBURBAN RAILWAYS.

Mr. MAY (*Flinders*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

"When does he expect to have the establishment of the petrol cars on our suburban railway system accomplished?"

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

"It will be some months before the cars arrive. They are being obtained primarily for use on branch lines in country districts, where there is at present no faster service than goods trains with passenger carriages attached; but if they are found suitable for suburban traffic, the question of running them instead of trains during the slack hours of the day will be considered."

CAST-IRON FITTINGS OF CORRIDOR CARS.

Mr. MAY asked the Secretary for Railways—

"1. Are all the cast-iron fittings of the corridor cars of the Queensland Government railways manufactured by the Hale and Kilburn Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia, U.S.A., purchased direct from the manufacturers?"

"2. Could not the same class of goods be turned out by the Government workshops?"

"3. If royalty has to be paid by the Government, would it not be cheaper for the Government to purchase the patent outright and manufacture said fittings, thus employing a large number of extra hands?"

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS replied—

"1, 2, and 3. All castings used in connection with corridor or suburban cars are made in the Ipswich shops, and have been for some years past."

STATE FARM FOR OPOSSUMS.

Mr. MAY asked the Secretary for Agriculture—

"In view of the interest of those engaged in the fur trade, has he given his attention to the feasibility of promoting or establishing a State farm for the rearing and preservation of opossums?"

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE

(Hon. J. Tolmie, *Drayton and Toowoomba*) replied—

"No."

(Laughter.)

ATTENDANCE OF STATE CHILDREN AT SCHOOLS.

Mr. COLLINS (*Burke*) asked the Secretary for Public Instruction—

"1. What number of State children attend our State schools?"

"2. How many have obtained State scholarships, district scholarships, or bursaries in connection with our grammar schools?"

"3. If no State child has obtained such scholarships or bursaries, will he inquire as to the reason?"

"4. If the reason for these children not obtaining educational advantages can be remedied, will he seek to have the remedy applied?"

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. K. M. Grant, *Rockhampton*) replied—

These questions should have been addressed to the Home Secretary, but as I have got the information I will give it. The answers are—

"1. 1,100.

"2. Nil.

"3. Yes.

"4. Yes."

UNEMPLOYED IN MACKAY DISTRICT.

Mr. COLLINS asked the Chief Secretary—

"1. Has his attention been called to the newspaper report that 1,000 men are unemployed in the Mackay district?"

"2. Will he give instructions for these men to be offered employment on railway construction or on some other Government works before further immigrants are imported?"

The PREMIER replied—

"1 and 2. The official information from Mackay this morning is that only eighty-two unemployed have applied at the local State Labour Bureau, and employment has already been found for thirty-two of them."

PRICKLY-PEAR POISON.

Mr. MORGAN (*Murilla*), asked the Secretary for Public Lands, without notice—

"Is there any foundation for the following notification, which appears in the *Chinchilla News* of the 17th August:—

"The Lands Department has, we understand, decided to take over from Messrs. Pharoah and Dansey the new prickly-pear poison 'Pharodan,' with the object of having same manufactured cheaply by the State, the inventors to have a stated amount as royalty from every pound sold."

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. E. H. Macartney, *Brisbane North*) replied—

"There is no foundation whatever for the statement that the inventors are to be assisted by the Government in any way."

SELECTIONS IN ATHERTON DISTRICT.

On the motion of Mr. MANN (*Cairns*), it was formally resolved—

"1. That there be laid on the table of the House a return showing the number of selections taken up in the Atherton district for the period of five years ending 30th June, 1911.

"2. And showing—

"(a) Number of unconditional selections taken up;

"(b) Number of agricultural farms selected;

"(c) Number of agricultural portions sold by auction;

"(d) Number of persons who forfeited their holdings;

"(e) Number of persons who were called on to show cause why their holdings should not be forfeited;

"(f) Number of holdings forfeited by the department for non-fulfilment of conditions;

"(g) Number of transfers from original selectors to other persons with the consent of the Lands Department?"

POLICE JURISDICTION AND SUMMARY  
OFFENCES BILL.

FIRST READING.

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

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. J. Tolmie, *Drayton and Toowoomba*): I move that the Bill be read a first time.

Mr. MURPHY (*Croydon*): Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MURPHY: Do new Standing Orders prevent me from speaking on this question at this stage?

The SPEAKER: It is a purely formal motion.

Question put and passed.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: I move that the Bill be printed.

Mr. MURPHY: No.

Question put and passed; and the second reading of the Bill made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF FOR 1911-12.

On the Order of the Day being called for the opening of the Committee of Supply,

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor, transmitting the Estimates of the probable Ways and Means and Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1912.

The TREASURER (Hon. W. H. Barnes, *Bulimba*): Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that you do now leave the chair. (After a pause) Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Estimates be printed.

Question put and passed.

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

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—QUESTION OF ORDER.

(*Mr. J. Stodart, Logan, in the chair.*)

The TREASURER (who was received with cheers) said: Mr. Stodart,—It is my duty to submit—

Mr. LENNON (*Herbert*): Mr. Stodart,—I rise to a point of order.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. LENNON: I think that the House is really not doing its business in a businesslike way. The hon. gentleman, who is about to deliver his Financial Statement, simply moved that the Speaker do now leave the chair. He did not ask for the further instruction from the House that we should go into Committee of the Whole to consider the Financial Statement.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. LENNON: That is only the right way to proceed. At present we have not given the Committee any authority to proceed at all with the Financial Statement.

The TREASURER: In reply to the hon. gentleman, I can only say that we are following the usual custom to-day.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: No, no!

The TREASURER: Yes. It is just the usual custom. Mr. Stodart,—It is my duty to submit—

Mr. LENNON: Excuse me just one moment again. It is all very well for the hon. gentleman to reply to me that he is just following the usual custom. I think it would be wise if he hon. gentleman got authority from the House to go into Committee to consider Supply.

Mr. MURPHY: Ask for the Chairman's ruling.

Mr. LENNON: I am under the impression that we are not adopting the usual practice at all. The usual practice is to move that the Speaker leave the chair, and that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Supply. That was not done, and I only want it rectified so as to put ourselves in order, and I ask the hon. gentleman that that be done.

Mr. LESINA (*Clermont*): I understand that a point of order has been raised by the deputy leader of the Opposition. I do not know whether you are prepared to give a ruling without the point being [4 p.m.] discussed, Mr. Stodart, but it appears to me that there is something in the contention of the hon. member. The 157th Standing Order says—

“A Committee of the Whole House is appointed by a resolution, “That this House will resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House” for a purpose specified in the resolution.”

And the following Standing Order says that when such resolution has been agreed to,

“Mr. Speaker shall put a question, “That I do now leave the chair,” which being agreed to he shall leave the chair accordingly, and the Chairman shall take the chair of the Committee at the table.”

That procedure was not adopted in this case. I do not know whether it was because there was so much moving about in connection with the distribution of papers; but I think that if we had these things put into our boxes in the morning much of this confusion might be avoided. I submit that the proper procedure has not been adopted by the Treasurer.

Mr. MANN (*Cairns*): I may point out that according to Standing Order 161—

“The Committee shall consider such matters only as have been referred to it by the House.”

The question of considering Supply has not been referred to the Committee by the House; the Treasurer simply moved that the Speaker leave the chair, after the Estimates had been submitted. The whole thing is irregular. If we have Standing Orders we should abide by them. The Speaker should be sent for, and we should go into Committee in the proper way.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. McLACHLAN (*Fortitude Valley*): It seems to me that the only way out of the difficulty, Mr. Stodart, is to move you out of the chair to report no progress, and let the Committee be properly constituted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Order of the Day having been called for the House to go into Committee, the Speaker was moved out of the chair, and I took the chair at the table.

Mr. LESINA: But you have no right in the chair. (Laughter.)

Mr. MANN: You are not legally in the chair, Mr. Stodart. You ought to be moved out of the chair in order that the Committee may be constituted in the usual form. We spent several days discussing the new Standing Orders; and we ought to abide by them.

The TREASURER: Perhaps it will be economising time, Mr. Stodart, to move you out of the chair. If it will satisfy the leader of the Opposition and other gentlemen opposite, I beg to move "That you do now leave the chair."

HON. J. W. BLAIR (*Ipswich*): I rise to a point of order, Mr. Stodart. There is no procedure provided in our Rules for a position like this. Apparently you have been put into the chair erroneously, and not in conformity with the new Standing Orders. I have looked carefully at these Standing Orders, and I can see no provision whatever that allows of your being taken from the position you illegally occupy. (Laughter.) I assure you, Sir, that this is rather a serious predicament. (Laughter.) There is no procedure by which the Treasurer can, by a simple motion, cure a matter of this kind. There is a procedure by which a mistake of this kind can be cured, but it is not the procedure that has been taken by the Minister; and I would respectfully commend to the Minister that in taking the step he now proposes he is absolutely making "confusion worse confounded." If he has no right to place you in the chair, as he has endeavoured to do by omitting a preliminary essential, he has no right to endeavour to cure the illegality by resorting to a procedure that is not provided for in the Standing Orders.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: Two wrongs do not make a right.

HON. J. W. BLAIR: In other words, you are occupying a position in which you have our sympathy. You are illegally in that chair, and the Minister is not taking the right procedure to move you out of the chair.

Mr. THEODORE (*Woothakata*): I think I can suggest a way out of the difficulty. Standing Order 168 makes provision that in certain cases the Speaker shall resume the chair; and I think a certain case has arisen here, and the Speaker should be sent for without any motion being put.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: That refers to cases of disorder. There is no disorder now.

Mr. THEODORE: There is no disorder, but there is a want of order; and the Speaker should be sent for by you, Mr. Stodart, to take the chair without a motion being put.

Mr. MURPHY (*Croydon*): Mr. Stodart,—There is another way out of the difficulty under Standing Order 168, which provides that when sudden disorder arises in Committee, or when a message from His Excellency the Governor is announced, Mr. Speaker shall resume the chair without any question being put. I do not know whether the Treasurer will try to arrange for a message to be sent by His Excellency the Governor. We are not desirous of creating sudden disorder; and I suppose we shall have to agree to the motion moved by the Treasurer to let you off for the time being.

HON. R. PHILP: The usual formal motion was put for the Speaker to leave the chair, and you are in the chair now, Mr. Stodart.

An OPPOSITION MEMBER: No.

HON. R. PHILP: I say that he is in the chair. (Laughter.) Whether you are empowered to be there under the procedure followed to-day, I do not know; but there is evidently some misunderstanding, and the Treasurer is quite right in moving you out of the chair, so long as the Committee are willing. I think we might stop this tomfoolery and get to business.

Mr. MANN: Under Standing Order 174, "a Committee of the whole House cannot adjourn its own sittings, or any debate in the Committee"; therefore this debate may go on for any length of time. I think the best course would be to allow the motion made by the Treasurer to go—(Opposition dissent)—and let the Speaker resume the chair; otherwise this debate may go on for all time, and we cannot get to business.

Mr. LESINA: It is absolutely clear, Mr. Stodart, that you have taken the chair without having been instructed to do so by a resolution of the House. (Dissent and interruption.)

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I must ask hon. members to preserve order. I cannot hear what the hon. member for Clermont is saying.

Mr. LESINA: My contention is this: I believe, with the hon. member for Ipswich and the deputy leader of the Opposition, that you are not in possession of the chair by permission of the House or by the wish of the House. Therefore, this Committee has no power to deal with the present situation—not until the Speaker resumes the chair. The Minister has moved "that you do now leave the chair" in order to economise time. You can leave the chair without this resolution being moved—the Minister overlooked that. As far as I am able to see, there is no method of getting you out of the chair. (Laughter.)

Mr. MURPHY: You will have to get a message from His Excellency.

Mr. LESINA: The matter is so serious that the Clerk is discussing the matter with the Speaker, but possibly there is a way out of the difficulty. We do not want to create a precedent if we can possibly avoid it.

Mr. MULLAN: I disagree with the hon. member for Clermont. The resolution which was carried distinctly said "That the Speaker leave the chair," but the House gave no instruction to the Committee. I hold the Chairman is legally in the chair, and the Treasurer is quite within his right in moving that the Chairman leave the chair and report no progress. The Committee is properly constituted, but we have no instructions what to do. That is all that is wrong. The Committee has no work to do, and the only thing is to move the Chairman out of the chair.

The PREMIER: I would just like to remind the Committee that on 17th August the Committee of Supply and Ways and Means was duly constituted. I then moved—

"That the House, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to His Majesty."

That was carried, so that the Committee has been set up, and, as suggested by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat, the Treasurer is quite in order in moving the Chairman out of the chair.

*Hon. D. F. Denham.]*

Mr. MURPHY: That was for a specific purpose—to pass an Appropriation Bill.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: No, no! To constitute the Committee of Supply and Ways and Means.

Mr. MURPHY: With the object of passing an Appropriation Bill. This is to consider the Estimates. It is quite a different position altogether.

Mr. THEODORE: As we are still at a deadlock, I suggest, Mr. Stodart, that you follow the suggestion made and send for Mr. Speaker to take the chair.

Mr. MURPHY: The Speaker cannot take the chair until the Chairman is out of the chair.

After a pause,

Mr. COYNE: In the absence of the Speaker, I suggest that the motion that you, Mr. Stodart, do now leave the chair should be put to the Committee now, otherwise we will have "confusion worse confounded" when the Speaker comes in, and there is no motion carried that you do leave the chair. If the motion is agreed to, it will be all right, but the Speaker cannot take the chair until you leave the chair. We cannot have two persons in the chair at the same time.

HON. J. W. BLAIR: I venture to suggest that the Speaker be sent for, and that you, Mr. Stodart, vacate the chair while the Speaker puts a motion to rescind the motion "That you do now take the chair."

After a pause,

The CHAIRMAN left the chair and the SPEAKER resumed the chair.

On the Order of the Day—"Supply; opening of Committee"—being read—

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

Mr. LENNON: Permit me, Mr. Speaker, to point out that the reason why some delay has occurred is because the motion moved now was previously moved. Members on this side of the House contended that the motion should be followed by an expressed instruction to the Committee as to what you are moved out the chair for, so that we may enter upon the discussion of Supply; but the bald motion "That you do now leave the chair" does not meet the case. It does not alter the position, and I trust the Treasurer will move the usual motion "That the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Supply."

The SPEAKER: When the order of Supply is placed upon the business-paper, it is placed there through a motion "That the House will, at its next sitting, form itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for services to the country," etc. When this is passed by the House, Supply then stands on the business-paper. In the present instance, the difficulty arose through the Minister not moving "That the Estimates be printed before the order for Supply had been called." It was manifestly absurd for this House to enter upon the question of Supply without having ordered the Estimates to be printed. The Order of the Day had been called, and when it was noticed that the Estimates had not been ordered to be printed, a motion had to be made "That the Estimates be printed." When that was made and passed, the order was not again

called upon for Supply, and that is where the difficulty arose. The order for "Supply" having been called, at present the House is in order.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!  
Question put and passed.

#### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

The TREASURER then said: Mr. Stodart—

Mr. MANN: I rise to a point of Order. Standing Order 304 says—

"The Committees of Supply and Ways and Means shall be constituted by motion without notice as soon as an Address in Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech has been agreed to by the House."

Now, I ask, has notice been given to the House in regard to the House going into Committee of Supply and Ways and Means?

The PREMIER: On 17th August it was done.

Mr. MANN: If that is so it is all right.

The CHAIRMAN: For the information of hon. members, I would point out that the Committee of Supply was formed before the present Standing Orders were passed.

The TREASURER: It is my duty to submit the annual review—

Mr. COYNE: Just a moment ago the Speaker announced that there was no motion made that the Estimates be printed. There has been no motion made now "That the Estimates be printed."

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes, yes!

#### COMMITTEE.

#### THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

(Mr. J. Stodart, Logan, in the chair.)

The TREASURER then said: Mr. Stodart, —It is my duty to submit the annual review of the financial position of the State, and it affords me pleasure to inform the Committee that the anticipations of my predecessor have been fully realised. It will be seen as I proceed that there is abundant evidence that Queensland has continued to progress in a very marked degree, the financial year just ended revealing perhaps greater prosperity and advancement than during any previous period. Revenue has increased in a most satisfactory manner, whilst notwithstanding the many demands made as a result of our progress, expenditure has been kept well in hand. It must be admitted that exceptional progress cannot be made without increasing expenditure, and in a young country such as ours true development cannot take place unless a vigorous policy is carried out. I invite the attention of the Committee to the transactions of last year. Comparisons, I am sure, will be interesting. Last year's estimates and results were as follows:—

	Esti- mated.	Actual.	
	£	£	
Revenue ...	5,046,207	5,320,008	Over the estimate, £273,801
Expenditure	5,038,523	5,314,737	Over the estimate, £276,214
Surplus ...	7,684	5,271	

Hon. members will notice that the total

[Mr. Theodore.

increase of revenue over the estimate was £273,801, whilst there was an increase in expenditure over the estimate of £276,214, the year ending with a surplus of £5,271, which has been handed to the trustees of the public debt reduction fund, who will, no doubt, in accordance with the usual practice, purchase a debenture, the proceeds of which will be placed to the credit of the loan account, and thus become available for public works. The revenue received during the year is set forth in the table below under the usual six general headings, showing at a glance the increase or decrease as compared with the estimate:—

Head of Revenue.	Estimated.	Actual.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Commonwealth	685,957	688,063	3,006	...
Taxation	6 17 500	667,196	19,696	...
Land	765,000	772,242	7,242	...
Mining	31,400	32,893	...	1,537
Railways	2,551,900	2,706,898	156,888	...
Miscellaneous	401,200	452,756	48,506	...
Totals	5,043,207	5,320,008	275,338	1,537
Net excess	£273,801		£273,801	

It will be observed that, as was the case

last year, all the items except mining have exceeded the forecast. It is much to be regretted that upon most of the fields mining continues in a depressed state. I desire, however, to express the hope that a revival may soon take place in this important industry, which during past years has meant so much to us, and I trust that the energy and confidence which is still being shown by so many may soon be amply rewarded. Land revenue, notwithstanding the large amount obtained during the year 1909-10, showed a satisfactory increase, whilst railways reveal an excess of revenue over the estimate of £156,888. The estimated receipts from the Commonwealth were exceeded by £3,005, and miscellaneous services by £48,506. Hon. members in this connection will find figures of very great interest in referring to Budget Table A. It will be noticed with regret that the Norman line continues to show a decrease, whilst all the other lines show very marked increases. It is interesting to note that our mean population for the period under review was 599,131, and our revenue £5,320,008, thus showing that the progress referred to last year still continues. The details of the expenditure compared with the appropriations are as follows:—

	Appropriation for 1910-11.	Expended, 1910-11.	Saving.	Excess.
	£	£	£	£
Schedules	112,044	120,919	...	8,875
Interest on public debt	1,635,495	1,670,772	...	35,277
Executive and Legislative	16,583	18,398	...	1,815
Chief Secretary	141,046	198,89	...	57,845
Home Secretary	564,774	574,999	...	10,185
Public Works	124,451	1,0464	...	26,013
Justice	78,170	81,573	...	3,403
Treasurer	168,145	222,427	...	54,282
Public Lands	209,601	2,8483	...	8,792
Agriculture and Stock	57,280	56,433	1,247	...
Public Instruction	399,187	393,748	5,439	...
Mines	51,785	47,116	4,669	...
Railways	1,479,72	1,535,594	...	81,122
Tot	5,038,523	5,314,737	11,345	287,550
Net excess	276,214		276,214	

It will be seen that the expenditure exceeded the estimate by £276,214. At the commencement of the financial year the closest scrutiny was given to all items of proposed expenditure, and many works were held over so that the position might be more clearly defined as the financial year advanced, and whilst a tight hand was continued upon expenditure, it was felt later in the year that pressing needs might be undertaken as the financial position for the year became quite assured. Opportunity also was taken of putting more satisfactory vessels into the pilot service at different ports, the payment for these vessels being made from revenue during the financial year. The following facts should prove of great interest: In 1902-3 the revenue was £3,526,465, the expenditure £3,717,806; in 1910-11 the revenue was £5,320,008, and the expenditure

£5,314,737, showing an increase of revenue between the periods compared of 50 per cent., and an increase of expenditure of 42 per cent. Hon. members will note that though expenditure increased it has been kept well within the amount of our revenue, resulting in the significant and pleasing fact that for the seventh year in succession our revenue fund accounts have closed with a surplus, which is a record for Queensland. In connection with the public debt of Queensland, it should be noted that the percentage charge of interest to revenue was smaller last year than during any previous period, amounting to 6.13 per cent. This is a very noteworthy achievement when it is remembered that in 1901-2 the interest charge was a burden on the revenue to the extent of 28.25 per cent. (See Budget Table K.)

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## LOAN FUND.

The loan transactions during the year were as follows:—

	Cash at Call or Short Notice	Extended Deposits.	Total Credit.
	£	£	£
Cash balance at credit, 1st July, 1910	1,115,863	591,872	1,707,735
Surplus 1909-10 used in purchase of loan debentures subsequently destroyed	5,655		
Part proceeds of £2,000,000 loan of 1910	90,000		
Repayments by local authorities, sugar-mills, railways, etc., etc.	250,218		
Receipts under the Land Sales Proceeds Act of 1902	36,426		
Proceeds of sale of debentures under 1902 loan	291,000		
Repayments of extended deposits by banks	87,754	87,754	
	1,579,914	504,118	
<b>EXPENDITURE—</b>	£		
Buildings	36,673		
Water supply	2,784		
Loans to local bodies	246,239		
Loans in aid of co-operative agricultural production	3,025		
Loans under Mining Machinery Advances Act	165		
Advances to sugar-mills	1,180		
Wire netting, Rabbit Boards Act	18,788		
Railways	1,681,451		
	1,995,301		
Cash balance at credit, 30th June, 1911	Dr. £115,307	Cr. £504,118	Cr. £388,731

The credit balance of the loan fund on the 1st July, 1910, was £1,707,735. To this was added amounts received during the year from various sources as shown in above table, making in all £2,384,033. The principal items of expenditure during the year were:—On account of buildings, £36,673; loans to local bodies, £246,239; railways, £1,686,451. These, together with other expenditure, made a total of £1,995,301, leaving a balance at the end of June of £388,731. During the year it was found necessary to obtain additional loan money, but the balance just referred to only includes £90,000 of the 1911 loan. I am pleased to be able to announce that our application to the London market met with success, as we obtained money at £97 10s. per cent., as against a percentage of £97 for a similar loan floated in the year 1909, interest in both cases being £3 10s. per cent. We were offered money by the Commonwealth, which was not availed of, for two reasons—firstly, the term was altogether too short, and consequently not of much advantage to us; and, secondly, the price at which it was offered was not as satisfactory as that at which we were assured by our advisers we could obtain money in London. As there has been some comment upon the subject, hon. members may be interested to know how the Commonwealth Government offer compares with the actual price at which we borrowed. The net return of the last loan floated was £94 19s. 6d. The Commonwealth Government offered money at par, with interest at £3 15s. per cent., which, when reduced to £3 10s., terms equals £93 6s. 8d. per cent. It will thus be seen that our borrowing on the London market was more satisfactory than if we had borrowed from the Commonwealth. Sir Thomas Robinson is expected to visit Queensland in October of this year, and opportunity will be taken of discussing with him finance generally, and we will be fortunate in having the advantage of the wide commercial experience and mature judgment possessed by our Agent-General.

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Treasury bills amounting to £1,130,000, issued under the Treasury Bills Acts of 1901 and 1902, to provide for revenue fund deficits, mature on the 1st January, 1912 and 1913. As our financial position does not permit of absolute redemption, it will therefore be necessary to take action providing for their renewal. The renewal of Treasury bills is a departure from the practice previously followed when dealing with unfunded stocks raised for revenue purposes. On several occasions obligations have been met by including the required amount in a Loan Bill, thus transferring the liability to our funded indebtedness. At the present time I do not think this would be a wise course to follow, but rather allow the holders to renew should they so desire. Applications from some holders have already been made for renewal, and you will be asked at a later period to provide for meeting the bills as indicated in this respect. The rate of interest, I am of opinion, should be fixed at £3 15s. per cent., and the issue price at par. At present prices  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cents. return investors £3 15s. on their outlay, and we should be able to renew on equal terms, assuming, of course, that in the meantime nothing occurs materially affecting market conditions.

## TRUST FUNDS.

It will be noted by hon. members that the increase in expenditure from these funds has been very considerable, and points to the fact that in the increase two of our Acts—viz., the Agricultural Bank Act and the Workers' Dwellings Act—have been largely availed of by those concerned. Applications for loans under the Workers' Dwellings Act to 30th June, 1911, totalled 465, of which no less a number than 421 were approved, while 30 were then under consideration, showing how much this Act has been valued by the man of small means who is anxious to make a home for himself and family. Hon. members will have already noticed that during the ensuing session it is proposed to extend the scope of this popular

measure. The principal items of expenditure are as follows:—Agricultural Bank advances and expenses, £79,200; for the working expenses of the Government central sugar-mills, £180,000; Workers' Dwellings Act advances, etc., £60,900; payments on account of Inkerman and Widgee Estates and interest and other charges under the Closer Settlement Acts, £273,400; on harbour improvements, £106,900; and from the public estate improvement fund, £41,400. The receipts under the trust funds during the year totalled £621,268, the principal items being—Proceeds of sale of sugar manufactured at the Government central sugar-mills, £188,067; payments for land under the Closer Settlement Acts, £116,425; harbour dues fund receipts, £84,529; and interest on and repayment of loans under the Agricultural Bank Acts, £38,426. Full details are furnished in Budget Tables D to D6.

It is my pleasing duty to report that the transactions of the Government Savings Bank totalled £7,526,750 for the year. This is striking evidence of the continued progress of the State and the prosperity of this institution.

The following return reveals its progress since 1903-4:—

Year.	Excess of With-drawals over Deposits.	Excess of Deposits over With-drawals.	Number of Depositors.	Total Amount to Credit.
	£	£		£
1903-4	131,005	...	80,959	3,741,967
1904-5	...	30,140	84,165	3,875,197
1905-6	...	162,099	83,026	4,142,791
1906-7	...	286,329	92,912	4,543,104
1907-8	...	252,901	100,324	4,921,881
1908-9	...	103,693	106,627	5,158,219
1909-10	...	323,603	114,720	5,622,986
1910-11	...	697,153	127,219	6,376,969

Hon. gentlemen will be pleased to note the rapid advance of the bank, and in order to fully realise how great it has been, let us compare the number of depositors in 1903-4, and the amount to their credit, with the number of depositors in 1910-11, and the amount to their credit. In 1903-4 the depositors numbered 80,959 persons, the amount to their credit being £3,741,967, an average amount to the credit of each depositor of £46 4s. 5d. In 1910-11 the number of depositors had increased to 127,219 persons, the amount to their credit being £6,376,969, an average of £50 2s. 6d. for each depositor; the year 1910-11 showing an increase of 57 per cent. in depositors and 70 per cent. in amount of deposits over the period of 1903-4. This can only be regarded as highly satisfactory, and discloses at the same time the great prosperity of the State. About one in every five of the residents of the State has an account at the Government Savings Bank.

#### COMMONWEALTH AND STATE.

Hon. members are aware that when the last Financial Statement was prepared it was anticipated that an amount of £685,057 would be received for that year, as against an amount of £1,071,261 for the previous year, the difference being accounted for by the expiration of what was known as the "Brad-don Clause," and the reduction by the Com-

monwealth Parliament of the payment to the State to a sum equal to nominally £1 5s. per head of our population. But, owing to Queensland being charged with a share of the Commonwealth's revenue deficit for the year 1909-10, together with our proportion of the special payment to Western Australia, the actual return only amounted to £1 3s. 3d. per capita. In addition, we lost a considerable sum—about £12,000—on account of the Australian note issue gradually superseding our own Treasury notes; the total loss for a full year will amount to about £29,000. During the year Treasury notes have been cancelled in considerable numbers. The notes in circulation at the end of June only represented an amount of £263,817, as against £1,681,087 at the beginning of the year. The circulation has been still further reduced since June last. I am pleased to state that our notes have been redeemed without any inconvenience to the Treasury or to the public. It is now opportune to refer to the amount of £1,521,868 owing to us by the Commonwealth Government on account of the transferred properties. (Hear, hear!) Hon. members will have noticed that a proposal was made by the Commonwealth Government to compensate us for these properties by paying interest from the 1st July, 1910, at the rate of 3 per cent. only on their agreed on value until it liquidates its capital indebtedness by means of a sinking fund of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., which as it accumulates is to be invested in our securities for subsequent cancellation. This may be a very satisfactory way for the Commonwealth in which to pay its debts, but I venture to think is most unsatisfactory to us, as  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum invested at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. requires a period of sixty years to amount to £100. And I think we certainly should not waive our claim for interest at less than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., for even at this figure we do not receive value for our money.

MR. MURPHY: I suppose Queensland is paying about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.?

THE TREASURER: A little more than that. It is difficult to see how the Commonwealth can persist in making the proposal when viewed in the light of their own actions to the various States to which they loaned, or offered to loan, money at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Something might be said in favour of the proposal if it could be shown that the Commonwealth Government were in a position to borrow money at 3 per cent. I consider that the Commonwealth proposal should be rejected as being neither just nor equitable, and that the State should receive at least  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the amount of its claim free from any deductions. The Government are of opinion that this vexed question can be effectively and equitably settled if the following method be adopted:—

Capital.—That, to compensate the State for the value of the transferred properties, the Commonwealth take over £1,521,868 of our  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. public debt.

Interest.—That, from the date of the properties becoming vested in the Commonwealth to the date of the assumption by the Commonwealth of the capital value indebtedness as above proposed, interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum be paid by the Commonwealth to the State.

## IMMIGRATION.

The past year has been an exceedingly active one, and the steady flow of immigrants to the State has continued, the number from oversea being 7,647 souls, and all adult newcomers found no difficulty in obtaining employment.

Mr. COLLINS: What about the local ones?

The TREASURER: In addition, a number of workers have come out from Great Britain during the present year to assist in the construction of some of the railway lines authorised last session. There still continues to arrive from the Southern States and New Zealand a large number of persons who, because of the facilities which are given them to acquire land, and the quality of the land, have decided to make their homes in Queensland, thus undertaking to assist us in our national development. For these and others there is always a hearty welcome. The total amount spent on immigration for the year 1910-11 was £119,282, the whole of which was drawn from revenue, establishing a record of expenditure from this fund for this purpose. The contributions by immigrants or their relatives or friends on account of passage money and nomination fees during this period amounted to £28,713.

## RAILWAYS.

The revenue for the past year increased upon that of the former year by £388,265, and it may be confidently expected that with a continuation of good seasons and general development, it will continue to increase. It is a source of gratification that the actual receipts from railways for the year ending 1910-11 were no less a sum than £2,706,888. A vigorous policy of construction has been carried out, and during the year the additions to the open lines have been 207 miles generally distributed over the whole of the State. Particulars of the lines constructed and purchased are—

	Miles.
Benholme to Kirkup (purchased from Pioneer Shire Council) ...	7
Pinnacle to Finch Hatton ...	6
Boyne Valley Junction to Many Peaks ...	53
Yungaburra to Malanda (Johnstone River) ...	8
Atherton to Herberton ...	15
Kannangur to Benarkin (Blackbutt) ...	28
Friesland to Selwyn (Mount Elliott) ...	18
Kingshorpe to Wahoon (Main Range) ...	21
Stewart's Creek to Ayr (purchased from Tramway Board) ...	44
Laidley to Mulgowie ...	7
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>207</b>

In addition to the lines mentioned above, the extension from Herberton to Evelyn, and from Finch Hatton to the Eungella, covering a distance of 24 miles in all, have been completed since the end of June this year.

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The following table shows a number of lines, covering a distance of 211 miles, which are nearly completed:—

	Miles.
Dalby to Tara ...	52
Talwood to Thallon (Bullamon) ...	39
Pittsworth to Millmerran ...	27
Warwick to Maryvale ...	19
Port Alma Branch ...	17
Kingaroy to Nanango ...	16
Rosewood to Marburg ...	9
Cordalba to Dallarnil ...	31
McGregor Creek Branch Extension ...	1
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>211</b>

Other lines under construction, totalling 772 miles, are as follows:—

	Miles.
Mount Morgan to the Dawson River ...	69
Oakey to Cooyar ...	39
Gayndah to Mundubbera ...	23
Allora to Goomburra ...	9
Keefton to Imbil ...	24
Blackbutt (Benarkin) to Yarraman ...	15
Great Western Railway—	
Section A, from Wallal ...	245
Section B, from Blackall ...	348
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>772</b>

Those now under construction or completed last year make a grand total of 1,190 miles, whilst further sections, as hereunder, totalling 1,244 miles, have been approved by Parliament:—

	Miles.
Woodford to Kilcoy ...	17
Miles to Taroom (1st Section) ...	44
Bullamon (Thallon) to Dirranbandi ...	40
Great Western Railway—	
Section C, from Winton westward ...	361
Section D, from Malbon to a point near Camooweal ...	328
North Coast Railway—	
Section A, from Rockhampton to St. Lawrence ...	123
Section B, from St. Lawrence northward to Midge Point ...	122
Section C, from Midge Point to the Burdekin River ...	30
Section D, from the Burdekin River to Cardwell ...	91
Section E, from Cardwell to connect with the Mulgrave Tramway ...	88
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,244</b>

It will thus be seen that Queensland is pursuing a most vigorous railway policy, which means much to those engaged in the industries of the State, and cannot but have its effect upon the true prosperity of the people. I am pleased also to note that the net return on capital invested gives the excellent result of £5 18s. 10d. per cent., and by doing so has established a record return for Queensland, this splendid result producing an actual credit to the consolidated revenue fund for the year of no less a sum than £76,279. (See Budget Table N.)

## LAND SETTLEMENT.

The prospect of land settlement being continued at a high rate, which was antici-

pated last year, has been well realised. To make available for settlement nearly 7,000,000 acres, about half of the area being for settlement in its smaller forms, is no mean accomplishment, even if the area is not so great as in an earlier period. The area selected during the past financial year, although quite satisfactorily large, shows a decrease of a little more than 5 per cent. on that of the previous year, being 5,630,820 acres as against 5,933,063 acres, but the latter figures exceed by more than 1,000,000 acres anything previously recorded. The small decrease of 5 per cent. on such an area is amply compensated by an increase of 14 per cent. in the number of selections and the consequently lower average area, the number of selections being 3,323 as compared with 2,910 for the previous year. If the operations of the two years are compared on the basis of selections made under conditions that admit of freehold being obtained, the result is still more favourable to the year just closed, the number of selections being 2,951 as against 2,462, an increase of 469, or 19 per cent., and the gross area 1,800,123 acres as against 1,711,375 acres, an increase of 88,748 acres, or more than 5 per cent. These results, of course, point to a decrease in area under another mode, and that is discovered in grazing selection, the figures for which are 3,828,410 acres as against 4,221,028 acres, a decrease of 392,618 acres, or 9 per cent. The greater number of selectors is an eminently satisfactory feature of the year's operations, for it must be recognised that it is more important that there should be an increase in the number of settlers than in the area settled. It is of interest to note that, pursuant to the undertaking given by the Government last session that perpetual lease should be given a fair trial on equal terms with other modes of selection, there were made available for perpetual lease selection during the year 73,868 acres of land of good quality. As might perhaps be expected when the different modes of selection were offered to applicants in terms of exact equality, the cases where preference for perpetual lease was exhibited were few, only seven selections being taken under that mode, of a gross area of 2,287 acres.

The sources of land revenue are well defined, and, since the passing of the Land Sales Proceeds Act no opportunities are offered for abnormal inflation. The increase for the past year must therefore be regarded as quite satisfactory, and in the light of it the estimate for the current year should not be regarded as over sanguine.

The Widgee Estate was purchased during the year, and was taken over to the extent of 26,849 acres. Of this, 17,777 acres have already been selected. The total area purchased under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Acts and the Closer Settlement Act to the end of the year is 644,386 acres, for which a total price of £1,674,329 has been paid. The area disposed of by the Government is 494,645 acres, at prices aggregating £1,575,685. The instalments of purchase money have been well paid up, the arrears being practically confined to the Gowrie Estate. The vicissitudes of the settlers on this estate were referred to in previous years. While the arrears are considerable, they are confined to a few settlers, and it is to be hoped that better fortune will attend them in the coming season.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

#### MINING INDUSTRY.

The TREASURER: The mining industry, if to some extent obscured by other industries, more directly influenced by a series of favourable seasons, continues to be an important factor in the progress and prosperity of the State. The value of last year's mineral production was £3,710,000, being an increase, when compared with that of the former year of £53,600, and although the gold yield in this State, in common with all the States of the Commonwealth, has latterly declined, the interest now being manifested in some of our neglected fields, where modern methods and appliances are rendering profitable much that hitherto has been regarded as valueless, encourages the hope of a substantial improvement in the near future. Meantime, the deficiency in gold is being largely compensated by the increase in production of the industrial metals. The completion of the Hampden-Mount Elliott Railway has already been followed by a notable contribution to our output of copper, and with the extension of transport facilities other portions of the wide Cloncurry Field will assuredly prove to be equally productive. The high prices of tin and wolfram have led to discoveries that will largely augment the output of these minerals during the current year, and the opening of the remarkable Blair Athol seam—in places 60 feet wide—is evidence of the illimitable nature of our coal resources. It is interesting to note that the output of the useful metals and minerals has within the last decade increased from £572,000 to £1,835,000, and it is probably in this direction that expansion may be most readily discovered. A consummation that will assuredly be hastened by a railway policy which, by cheapening transport and opening new and connecting old centres of settlement, will benefit mining not less than the other industries of the State.

#### PASTORAL.

The steady development of the pastoral industry which has taken place during the past few years has been well maintained during the year 1910, as the following figures will show:—Year 1909, cattle in the State, 4,711,782; year 1910, cattle in the State, 5,131,699; year 1909, sheep in the State, 19,593,791; year 1910, sheep in the State, 20,351,838—being an increase during 1910 compared with the previous year of 419,917 cattle, equal to 8.91 per cent., and 738,047 sheep, equal to an increase of 3.77 per cent. The production of greasy wool was 139,250,802 lb. As showing the important bearing that this industry has upon the railway traffic of the State, I might mention that these increases meant an amount in railway revenue of £33,306 from live stock, equal to 16.57 per cent., and £15,428 from wool, equal to 7.19 per cent. The number of cattle at the end of 1910 was 5,131,699 as compared with 2,481,717 in 1903—a drought year—an increase of 106 per cent. It is gratifying to note that a greater number of sheep are now depastured in Queensland than at any period during the last eighteen years. By reference to Budget Table P, it will be seen that in the year 1902—a drought year—sheep totalled 7,213,985, whilst in 1910 they totalled 20,351,838, an increase between the two periods of 181 per cent. It is to be hoped that the weather conditions may continue favourable for still greater increases in

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numbers of stock, and that the present satisfactory prices ruling for all classes of stock may be maintained. The pastoral industry is, and will be for many years to come, the principal item of our export trade.

The price of cattle and sheep still continues satisfactory, and horses generally sell at figures bringing profit to the breeder. The meatworks, of which there are thirteen in the State, have been fully occupied. The value of meat and its products totalled in 1910 £6,578,115, figures that are very different from those of the year 1880, when the value of similar exports was £1,948,465.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The past year in the agricultural world of this State has been one of good crops, good demand, and fair prices. The area under cultivation indicates a normal increase, except in the case of wheat and barley for grain, the cause of which can in some degree be attributed to the intense cold weather in October last, which induced many farmers who had sown for grain to reap for hay instead. Taking the area under cultivation as a whole, an advance has been made from 738,447 acres in 1909 to 794,826 acres in 1910; the value of the crop from the latter, on the producers' own valuation, amounted to £3,862,665, in comparison with £3,485,415 in 1909. There were 33,852 persons, male and female, engaged in agriculture proper for profit during the year, but if dairying be added the number can be increased to 58,163 persons.

The cessation by the Commonwealth of recording the trade with the other States, and confining the statistics to oversea imports and exports only, makes a true record of the commercial side of the agricultural and pastoral business quite out of the question, and for some years, unless a means of ascertaining the statistics is evolved, explanation will be needed for the reasons why the volume of the trade of Queensland has so suddenly dropped. A considerable portion of our export goods, owing to the connection financially with Southern houses, still goes to Sydney or Melbourne, and for statistical purposes when shipped oversea is credited to the exporting State. Each year, however, lessens this anomaly, as is shown by the action taken by Southern firms in establishing branch business houses in this State; but the evil still exists, and the direct interstate trade in many commodities (the fruit trade alone being responsible for a sum approaching half a million sterling annually) will be statistically lost.

The past season has generally been successful so far as the sugar industry is concerned. It is hoped that notwithstanding the unsatisfactory start which the mills have made this year as a result of the general strike (which happily has now terminated), floods in the North, and heavy frosts in the South, the loss will not be as great as at one time seemed likely. The industry, which represents nearly £2,250,000 in value to the State, is one that should receive every consideration, as it is so closely bound up with the success of the North of Queensland and its general development. The production of sugar during the past year amounted to 210,756 tons, and as the present consumption of this commodity in the

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Commonwealth amounts to about 240,000 tons annually, this State, with the help of the small quantity raised in New South Wales, has nearly supplied the wants of Australia.

The banana industry has been threatened in its market in the South by competition with Fiji, and if the Southern States continue to give preference to trade from that source, it will be but a matter of time before there will be competition in citrus fruits, pineapples, and other tropical and semi-tropical fruits. The fruit export trade with the remainder of the Commonwealth is now equal to £400,000 a year, and at that figure is much less than it used to be but a few years ago.

#### DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

The value of the dairying industry continues to increase. The demand is practically an unlimited one, and the result is shown by the steady increase in our production. The following figures speak eloquently:—In 1909 the butter production was 24,592,711 lb.; in 1910, 31,258,333 lb., an increase in one year of 6,665,622 lb. The other branches of dairying are in a similar healthy condition, the output of cheese having advanced by nearly 500,000 lb. weight—from 3,662,497 lb. in 1909 to 4,146,661 lb. in 1910, and if the figures for the first half-year of 1911 were now available, it would be seen that this portion of the industry is further advancing in favour with our producers. The condensed milk industry, which began in a small way some ten years ago, is now becoming an important item in our products, the quantity now being produced amounting to 7,843,670 lb. Taking the dairying industry as a whole, it may be reasonably estimated that whereas in 1893 the value of it was but £93,300, it is now £1,700,000—(hear, hear!)—with no sign that the limit has nearly been reached; indeed, during last year three large factories came into existence to swell the output of this industry.

#### TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Generally speaking, it may be said that trade and commerce are satisfactory, and, as already pointed out, our primary industries are upon a sound footing. For our principal products, such as wool, cattle, sheep, butter, timber, coal, etc., there is an excellent demand, and fortunately the prices now obtaining for these are satisfactory. With regard to the future of our leading products, such as wool, opinions differ as to the comparatively high prices which have ruled for a number of years continuing to quite the same extent; but little need, I think, be feared in this direction. Given good seasons, Queensland must, I think, continue to progress, and the forward policy of the Government will largely assist her as she advances to what must soon be the premier position of the States of the Commonwealth. Her resources still attract attention, capital continues to come in, and settlement is advancing in a marked degree.

The subjoined table of statistics, relating chiefly to our productive powers during recent years, shows that on all the items included, except mineral production, there

have been very gratifying increases when compared with the year 1906:—

	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Railway earnings ... .. £	1,663,336	1,949,240	1,985,048	2,218,194	2,562,643
Tonnage of shipping inwards tons	1,309,984	1,446,635	1,601,107	1,640,344	1,842,497
Tonnage of shipping outwards tons	1,313,001	1,402,331	1,563,911	1,628,413	1,861,720
Quantity of sugar produced tons	* 184,377	* 198,307	* 151,098	* 134,584	* 210,766
Value of raw sugar produced £	1,988,278	2,075,539	1,510,472	1,461,033	2,248,419
Quantity of butter produced lb.	22,746,593	22,789,158	23,838,357	24,592,711	31,258,333
Value of butter produced ... £	909,864	919,548	1,067,760	1,092,094	1,364,853
Quantity of wool produced lb.	† 66,938,101	99,461,711	110,545,577	129,688,298	139,250,802
Value of wool produced ... £	† 3,388,929	4,153,000	4,193,000	5,453,000	5,908,000
Value of minerals ... .. £	4,198,647	4,132,163	3,844,487	3,656,564	3,710,222
Number of cattle ... ..	3,413,919	3,892,232	4,321,600	4,711,782	5,131,699
Number of sheep ... ..	14,886,438	16,738,047	18,348,851	19,593,791	20,331,838
Savings Bank deposits ... £	1,974,755	2,379,091	2,459,839	2,776,677	3,317,061
Savings Bank withdrawals £	1,774,631	1,987,968	2,394,353	2,580,563	2,813,833
Area of land selected under the Land Act, 1897 ... acres	3,190,257	4,711,812	4,902,314	5,910,728	5,859,633
Excess of arrivals over departures (recorded) ... .. white	2,610	7,659	‡ 3,276	‡ 10,099	‡ 10,206

\* 94 per cent. net titre.

† Wool exported.

‡ Total excess of arrivals. Figures relating to arrivals and departures of coloured aliens not supplied by Commonwealth authorities.

#### SHIPPING.

This continues to grow, the number and character of vessels, as already shown, having considerably increased. Steamship companies are adding Brisbane to their ports of call, and at the same time are being attracted to other ports in Queensland. The number of wharves just completed and under construction on the foreshores of the Brisbane River shows what is being done to meet the increasing traffic, and leading firms from the Southern States and elsewhere appear to be vying one with the other to secure a share of the trade. The fullest confidence in the future of Queensland is entertained by keen business men, who, above all others, are capable of forming a sound judgment of our stability and prospects. Whilst in addition to new wool stores being erected, considerable sums of money are being spent in the construction of works on the Brisbane River for the treatment of stock, and such works cannot but tend to increase the number of vessels coming here.

#### HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.

The improvements in the navigable channels of the Brisbane River still continue, and advantage has been taken thereof by an increased number of a fine class of shipping constantly arriving here. During the year ended 30th June last, the number of oversea vessels that entered the port and were attended by pilots was 464, with a gross tonnage of 2,133,954, as against 409 ships, with a gross tonnage of 1,893,676, for the year ended 30th June, 1910, being an increase of 55 ships and 235,278 tons. To meet the requirements of the new cutting across the bar which is now in progress of construction, the removal of the Pile Light and other navigation marks will be necessary, and steps are now being taken to have the new lights

and other marks ready by the time the cutting is opened for navigation. It is expected that the new cutting will be ready by the middle of next year. This cutting, which is a work of considerable magnitude, will be the permanent entrance to the river, and will be of great benefit to shipping from its width and absence of turns. With the growth of the port the want of more wharfage accommodation is becoming apparent. It is pleasing to see what is being done generally—at Bulimba, South Brisbane, and elsewhere. It is evident, however, that the vigorous railway policy now being carried out demands a river and harbour policy in keeping with requirements which will be the outcome of that policy, and it is my pleasing duty to announce that the Government have been looking ahead and preparing for what they believe will be required in the future. A scheme has been prepared by Mr. Cullen providing for the utilising of both sides of the present river wall as well as for the land frontage within the basin to be used when the requirements of the port make it necessary. The provision thus made should be ample for many years to come, and will give very extensive accommodation for vessels. With a view of carrying out this proposal, a large quantity of land abutting on to the foreshores has already been purchased by the Government, and steps are being taken to secure the balance required. Hon. members will notice that there is attached to the paper laid upon the table a plan showing what the intention of the Government is in this respect. In looking closely into the plan they will find that the lands below the Hamilton, and which extend from the Hamilton Wharf baywards on the northern side, are to be reserved for wharfage and railage purposes.

To provide for maintenance dredging to enable the upper town reaches to be dealt

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with economically, it was decided last year to obtain a dredger of special type, and the Engineer for Harbours and Rivers visited Europe in that connection. Seven tenders were received on that officer's specifications, and upon his recommendation a dredge was ordered for delivery here in May, 1912. Information from the supervising official is to the effect that good progress is now being made with its construction, and that the vessel should be completed up to time. She will be a twin screw, grab and trailing suction, self-discharging hopper dredger, 214 feet long, with hopper capacity of 27,000 cubic feet. A dredger also, of a smaller type, has been designed for work in shallow waters, tenders for which will be called locally shortly. This dredger is required for the Upper Brisbane River and other rivers of Moreton Bay, where the larger type of dredgers is unable to work. When completed, it will do the work at a much less cost than now paid for dredging in these waters. The dredging operations at Mourilyan Harbour are proceeding satisfactorily, but progress is slow owing to the abnormal rapidity of the tides and the exposed position of the entrance. Considerable harbour improvements have been promised at Bowen, and certain dredging is to be undertaken there shortly, and the work, when completed, will be of great service to this splendid port, and will materially assist in its rapid development.

Some difficulty has been found in getting responses to tenders in Queensland. In June, 1908, the Cairns Harbour Board advertised for tenders for plant to the value of about £13,000, and received one tender only, which was from New South Wales. During this year the Townsville Harbour Board advertised for tenders for barges, and received two only, also from New South Wales. Thus during the past three years about £36,000 worth of plant has been advertised for without obtaining a single bid in the State. As local firms, both in Brisbane and Maryborough, have tendered and constructed plant previously, the reason for refraining from tendering in the instances quoted cannot be inability to do the work.

During the year two new steamers have been purchased for the pilot service, and a motor launch has been supplied for the harbour purposes at Gladstone, all of which are proving most satisfactory. The "Fitzroy" at Rockhampton, owing to her age, will soon be unfit for further use as a pilot boat, and will shortly be replaced by another vessel. It is intended eventually to transfer a suitable vessel to that port as soon as the new pilot steamer for Moreton Bay, which it is intended to build, is constructed. It has been decided to replace the "Teal" at Townsville by transferring the steamer "Champion" to that port, the latter vessel being a great improvement on the former in point of size, speed, comfort, and sea-going qualities. The pilot cutter at Port Douglas, which was wrecked by the cyclone in March last, has been replaced by an auxiliary launch, thus greatly facilitating pilotage and lighthouse duties at that port.

#### BANKING.

The banking returns are an evidence of our general prosperity, and form interesting

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reading. (See Budget Table Q.) The following table will be perused with interest:—

—	Average Deposits.	Average Loans, &c.	Deposits per Capita.	Loans, &c. per Capita.
Year ended	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s.
31-12-1890	10,365,960	17,384,998	26 6 3	44 2
31-12-1900	13,653,775	12,599,305	27 8 1	25 5
31-12-1910	19,280,847	15,054,330	32 3 0	25 2

It will be seen that during the year ended 1910 the deposits per head of population amounted to £32 3s., whilst loans and discounts amounted to £25 2s. 6d. per head, and that the position of the public with regard to banks generally continues to improve, thus indicating that the progress mentioned last year continues. I may direct hon. members' attention to the fact that in 1890 loans, etc., exceeded deposits by £17 16s. 4d., while in 1910 deposits exceeded loans, etc., by £7 0s. 6d., or a total improvement in the financial position of our people since 1890 of £24 16s. 10d. per capita.

#### REVENUE, 1911-12.

My estimate of revenue for the coming year is as follows:—

	£
Amount from Commonwealth ...	754,888
Taxation—	£
Income tax ... ..	360,000
Stamp duty ... ..	250,000
Licenses ... ..	62,000
Totalisator tax ... ..	16,000
	683,000
Land revenue ... ..	814,000
Mining receipts ... ..	35,500
Railways ... ..	3,048,000
Other receipts ... ..	433,200
Total ... ..	£5,773,528

This estimate represents an increase of £453,580 on the actual revenue received last year. It is not difficult to forecast the amount to be received from the Commonwealth, as our population is known, as well as the amount per capita to which we are entitled. The revenue from income tax may fairly be expected to be realised, as it is only slightly over the amount received last year, the amount then received being £348,512, the estimate this year being £360,000. The amount of £3,048,000 is set down for railways, showing an anticipated increase of £341,112. This should be a safe forecast of what should be received when we take into consideration the large increase in mileage in our railways and the general development of the State. The other items mentioned and included in the estimate—namely, lands—amounting to £814,000, shows an increase of £41,757, and other receipts amounting to £433,200, which shows a decrease of £19,556 on last year, should be a fairly accurate forecast.

## EXPENDITURE, 1911-12.

The following is an estimate of expenditure for the year 1911-12:—

	£
Schedules ... ..	129,385
Executive and Legislative ...	17,603
Chief Secretary ... ..	133,496
Home Secretary ... ..	669,132
Department of Works ... ..	177,231
Department of Justice ... ..	80,675
The Treasurer ... ..	217,736
Department of Public Lands ...	231,718
Department of Agriculture and Stock ... ..	70,250
Department of Public Instruction ... ..	442,355
Department of Mines ... ..	55,036
Department of Railways ... ..	1,791,718
	<hr/>
	£4,017,045
Interest on public debt ... ..	1,751,588
	<hr/>
Total ... ..	£5,768,633

Hon. members will find it interesting to compare the proposed expenditure for this year with the actual expenditure last year. It will be noticed that in the department of the Chief Secretary the expenditure proposed is considerably lower than that of last year, provision having been made for payment for some of the services from other votes. There is a considerable increase in the proposed expenditure of the department of the Home Secretary. That has been brought about as a result of the increased wages to the officers and men of the Police Force, the increases in wages to the servants of the Government engaged in the asylums, also on account of the increased provision made necessary to pay the extra subsidy to the hospitals of the State and the raising of the allowance to mothers in connection with their own infants who are retained by them as State children.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. FOLEY: It should be the same as the foster-mother receives.

The TREASURER: Considerable provision is also made in connection with a determined effort to cope with the dreaded prickly-pear pest. The increased expenditure in the department of Public Works is due to the development of the State, and the demands which generally are being made for buildings and repairs by the various departments. The department of Justice shows a decrease of £893, which calls for no special comment. The department of the Treasurer shows a net decrease of £4,641, and this is brought about through reductions in the anticipated expenditure connected with the head office and the Government Printing Office. Last year a large amount of necessary machinery was added to the Printing Office, making it in every sense an up-to-date concern.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The TREASURER: It will not be necessary to spend such large amounts this year. There is an increase set down for the department of Public Lands of £13,236. That has been found necessary so as to provide payment for the resumption of Taabinga holding, and also to make provision for the destruction of prickly pear. It will be readily agreed that money to make provision for settlement is most desirable, and that

the efforts now being made to find a method to deal effectively with the destruction of pear are such as justify this expenditure. Department of Agriculture and Stock: Hon. members will notice that the vote is increased by £14,217. This has been found necessary so as to make the department of still greater service to the man on the land. Owing to the promised repeal of the so-called "cow tax," an additional charge of £7,280 has been added to revenue expenditure, and the trust funds have been relieved of a like amount. The department of Public Instruction shows an increase of £43,607. Additional provision has been made for medical and dental inspection of the children, which is a new branch of the department's work, and I think it will be admitted is an exceedingly necessary one. The examinations made by the medical and dental inspectors disclose the fact that the work is one of national importance. Continuing its policy of improving the position of the lower-paid officers in this department, the Government has determined to fix the salary paid to adult teachers in charge of small schools at £110 per annum for males and £90 per annum for females. The salary paid at present is £90 to men and £70 to women. These increases will absorb £10,000 per annum, and will be a welcome addition to the salaries of deserving men and women who are doing good work under conditions which are often exceedingly difficult and uncongenial.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The TREASURER: The Technical Instruction Act, which was passed by the Government in 1908, has given a great impetus to this very important branch of our education system. Under that Act the Government grants four-fifths of the cost of buildings and equipment, and many centres are now availing themselves of the Government's liberality. The Mines Department shows an increase of £7,910. This is made up as follows: By a larger amount being provided in aid of deep sinking and expenditure for roads, bridges, and water supply, together with other small items. The department of Railways shows an increase of £230,724, this being brought about by the continued increase in the length of lines, which require additional officers and men, the present most active railway programme making it imperative that departmental officers should be increased, and also the advances in pay which have to be given to the railway men employed in the lower grades of the service, amounting to over £100,000.

A summary of the estimates and expenditure for the current year gives the following results:—

Estimated revenue for the year 1911-12 ... ..	£5,773,588
Estimated expenditure for the year 1911-12 ... ..	5,768,633
Estimated surplus ... ..	4,955

In conclusion, Mr. Stodart, let me say that the Estimates have been prepared with the greatest care and with a desire to specially assist the lower-paid members of the public service. With the marked growth of the State it has been impossible to keep expenditure down to the limit of last year. The State is like a big business—the greater

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its prosperity the larger the demands for increased expenditure in order to develop it. I believe, however, that with the continued blessing of Providence resting upon us, giving to us fair seasons, the estimate made will be fully realised, and that the year upon which we have already entered will be one of continued progress.

I move that there be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year 1911-12 the sum of £300 to defray the salary of the aide-de-camp to his Excellency the Governor.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. LENNON (*Herbert*): I presume the hon. gentleman does not intend to proceed with the debate this afternoon.

The TREASURER: No; it would certainly be unfair to go on with the debate to-day, and to meet the wish of the hon. member, I move that the Chairman leave the chair, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Question put and passed.

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

#### HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

##### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

##### Clause 77—"Evidence"—

Question stated—That the clause be amended by inserting after the word "used," on line 41, the words "for gain."

Mr. MURPHY wished to know if the amendment would really effect what hon. members desired?

The HOME SECRETARY: It might facilitate matters if he mentioned that two amendments which were to be proposed by the hon. member for Murilla would completely cover the whole matter that had been raised by hon. members. The first of those amendments was a new clause to follow clause 79. This new clause provided that only in districts which had been proclaimed by the Governor in Council should the provisions of this part of the Bill operate. The second amendment was a provision which it was proposed to insert in new clause 83. It was as follows:—

"Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, the Minister may dispense with such of the certificates, examinations, or other conditions for the registration of nurses under this Act as to him may seem just in favour of any person who, during the three years immediately preceding the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, has been nurse in charge of, or has performed other responsible duties in connection with, a private hospital which has been recognised by medical practitioners as a suitable place for the treatment of their patients."

The two amending clauses, taken in conjunction with the amendment now [5.30 p.m.] under consideration, would prevent an injustice being done to the women carrying on the profession of midwifery, to whom reference had been made last week by hon. members.

Mr. RYLAND said that the amendment would practically exempt the places referred to from inspection.

The HOME SECRETARY: From registration.

Mr. RYLAND: And inspection.

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The HOME SECRETARY: When a hospital was registered the nurse in charge, and all the nurses assisting at that hospital, must be registered under the Act. It was stated that a number of nurses in the country had one or two beds where they took in women for confinement and no charge was made.

Mr. RYLAND: Some charge is made.

The HOME SECRETARY: Frequently no charge was made. The effect of his amendment would be that places would only be regarded as hospitals when they carried on their operations for gain. Then they would have the amendment to be proposed by the hon. member for Murilla, under which the Governor in Council—that was practically the Commissioner—would advise that the Act should be brought into operation in certain districts, which would exclude districts in the sparsely settled portions of the State. Then there would be a further amendment providing that after three years' experience nurses should be registered.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: Will they be registered after examination?

The HOME SECRETARY: Registration will be granted on the ground of practical experience.

Mr. RYLAND: Registration would not be insisted upon in cases where there were only two beds, but the more inspection there was in such a matter the better.

Mr. MURPHY: You cannot deal with it in the bush.

Mr. RYLAND: They could in the cities. There should be inspection even when there were only two beds.

The HOME SECRETARY: I have already explained that it will apply only in the districts that are proclaimed.

Mr. MURPHY thought the Home Secretary had tried to meet them. If they were going to have the places referred to by the hon. member for Gympie examined, they might as well have all the provisions of the Act applied. When in Croydon he had introduced the Commissioner to a man who had ridden 80 miles to get the doctor to draw a tooth from which he was suffering intense pain.

Mr. LESINA: I knew a man who walked 80 miles in a pair of new boots to vote for me. (Laughter.)

Mr. MURPHY: The safeguard in all those matters was that the districts had to be proclaimed, and the Governor in Council was not likely to proclaim the Act in operation in districts such as had been referred to.

Mr. MANN did not believe in registering a woman who said she had three years' experience unless a medical man certified that she had the necessary knowledge.

Mr. MORGAN: My amendment provides for that.

Mr. MANN: A grave injustice might be done if women were required to pass severe examinations; but, if a doctor gave a certificate that a woman had been practising as a nurse for three years and that she was thoroughly capable of performing her duties, she should be allowed to practise.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is provided for.

Mr. MANN: If that was done, then he was satisfied.

Mr. LESINA: The amendments to be moved by the hon. member for Murilla would meet the difficulty pointed out on Thursday last. It was impossible, in a sparsely populated country like Queensland, to apply the rigorous conditions which might be applied in a country like Great Britain, where people were in close touch with medical assistance. In Queensland, where people had to do pioneering work, necessarily a great deal of nursing had to be done by amateurs, and some of the most successful nurses in the back country were women who could barely write their names. (Hear, hear!) So long as the Act was only applied in certain proclaimed districts, the difficulties that had been foreseen would be so many shadows. If the Minister administering the Act had discretionary power, the difficulties anticipated by the hon. member for Gympie were not likely to occur, though he thoroughly agreed with the hon. member that it was necessary to exercise supervision over nursing homes. If, as was suggested, it was hardly worth while registering places with only two beds, injustice was not likely to be done in country districts.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN was not quite sure that the amendment foreshadowed by the hon. member for Murilla would meet the case. There were scores of women who were well versed in midwifery who had never been in a private hospital, and yet the amendment provided that they must have been nurse in charge of, or had performed other responsible duties in connection with, a private hospital during the three years immediately preceding the first day of January, 1912. In his own district the amendment would not do at all. There were women there who were as capable nurses as any to be found in the city of Brisbane. In fact, not long ago a case came under his notice where a certificated nurse did not give the satisfaction that one would expect, whereas they knew that these women in the bush, who had got no diplomas, did far better work than the qualified nurse did here.

The HOME SECRETARY: The Act does not prevent a woman going round and carrying out that provision still.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: He wanted to make sure of that.

The HOME SECRETARY: But it does not—only in the case of private hospitals.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: What was the amendment here for? The words were there distinctly—"Unless she had had experience in a private hospital." As he had said, scarcely any women had had experience in a private hospital.

The HOME SECRETARY: It does not affect them.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: The words, if they were put in, would make it distinct.

The HOME SECRETARY: If the hon. member would permit him, he might explain that the Bill, when it became law, would only affect nurses who were in charge of what might be termed a private lying-in hospital, or a lying-in hospital; it would in no wise affect those women who went round and attended in private houses to the different women whom they assisted in giving birth to children. It did not affect them in the least, but if they had a private lying-in hospital, the Bill provided that the matron

or nurse in charge must be registered, and that any nurse assisting in that private hospital must be registered.

Mr. MURPHY: The Bill really provides for preference to unionists. (Laughter.)

The HOME SECRETARY: That was so. The amendment of the hon. member for Murilla provided that such a nurse might be registered for service in a private lying-in hospital.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That is not before the Committee.

The HOME SECRETARY: It was simply by way of explanation.

Amendment agreed to; and clause 77, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 78 put and passed.

On clause 79—"Charges for infectious cases removed from private to public hospital for treatment"—

Mr. BOUCHARD (*Brisbane South*) had an amendment to move in this clause. The amendment had been circulated, and he wished to say this: As the clause at present stood, it provided that where a person in a private hospital was found to be suffering from an infectious disease, all the costs and expenses of his treatment in a consumptive hospital to which he had been removed should be borne by the owner of the private hospital, the owner of the private hospital having the right to recover, if he could, from the patient. In clause 59, subclause (2), the Committee had decided that it was not a fair thing to a patient who was removed to an infectious diseases hospital provided by the general community, to ask him to bear the expense, and that subclause was eliminated from the Bill. That principle was embodied in the amendment which he proposed to move to this clause, which was to the effect that where a person in a private hospital was found to be suffering from an infectious disease on being removed to a hospital which was situated outside the area from which he came or ordinarily resided, the local authority of the district in which the patient ordinarily resided became liable for the costs and expenses.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: Supposing he is a nomad?

Mr. BOUCHARD: In that case, the local authority in which he ordinarily resided would be called upon to bear the expense.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: It would be difficult to ascertain.

Mr. BOUCHARD: It might be difficult to ascertain.

The HOME SECRETARY: If he was a nomad, he would not be taken into a private hospital.

Mr. MANN: I have seen some nomads with a couple of thousand pounds to their credit.

The HOME SECRETARY: They are not nomads then; they are travelling gentlemen.

Mr. BOUCHARD: Of course, such cases might arise, but it was doubtful whether they would be taken into a private hospital. It was quite clear that it would not be fair to ask the proprietor of the private hospital to bear the expense of such a case. If a patient were brought in from the country to a private hospital, and was subsequently found to be suffering from some infectious disease, and it was necessary in the public interests that he should be removed to a public hospital, it

*Mr. Bouchard.]*

would not be fair to call on the private hospital to bear the expense of his removal for treatment. He moved, on line 4, after "diseases," the insertion of "which is situated outside the area in which such inmate resides."

The HOME SECRETARY: He was prepared to accept the amendment. (Hear, hear!) The reason he did so was that the whole design of the clause as it stood was that a charge should not be placed upon a local authority within whose area the inmate, who was removed to an infectious diseases hospital, happened to be in at the particular time. Under the present law the local authorities were liable for maintenance and charge and treatment of all persons within their area who were found to be suffering from infectious diseases, and they must either establish an infectious diseases hospital within the area, or a number of local authorities could combine together for the establishment of such a hospital. In various parts of the State different local authorities had so established a hospital. In the metropolis a number of the local authorities had united together and combined to establish what was known as the Wattlebrae Hospital. A private hospital, as he had already mentioned, was a purely private business concern, establishing itself within the area of the local authority. A patient came to that private hospital from outside the local authority, and that local authority was, according to the present law, liable for the maintenance of that person if he was suffering from infectious disease. It was considered by local authorities to be neither fair nor just that they should pay for a person whom they were not liable for, but under the ambiguous conditions that existed to-day, they would have to pay for him. In the first instance, he decided that the onus should be thrown upon the holder of the certificate of the private hospital, but on representations being made, more especially by the hon. the junior member for South Brisbane, Mr. Bouchard, he agreed to accept the amendment, which now simply cast the onus for the maintenance of the patient upon the local authority in which he resided.

Mr. LESINA: What constitutes "residence"?

The HOME SECRETARY: The same residence that constituted a claim to be put on the electoral roll—the ordinary domicile or residence. The present Act provided that every person within the area must be maintained by that particular area, whether ratepayer or not. They were now making it clear that the local authority within whose area a patient ordinarily resided would be still liable for his maintenance, although for a short period of time he may have been an inmate of a private hospital in another area. There would be no difficulty in the matter, because a clause of the Act provided for the full names and descriptions of persons in hospitals being given, so that there would be no difficulty in ascertaining his residence or in carrying out the clause.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER (*Maranoa*) thought the amendment was on sound lines, as it would have been distinctly unfair to make the private hospital bear the expense of such cases, but he would like the residence qualification to be made more definite. What constituted a residence? It was quite possible that a number of people would come

[*Mr. Bouchard.*

from Great Britain, and others come from the South, and considerable expense might be put on a municipality if an outbreak of infectious disease occurred, and they were called upon to bear the whole expense. That would not be quite fair.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is the law at present.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: The amendment would have his support, although he would like to see a better definition of "residence."

Mr. RYLAND: A person might only be a week or fortnight in the country, and a local authority would have to pay.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: He might come from Cobar, in New South Wales.

Mr. RYLAND: The local authorities had to administer the Act and find ways and means by striking a rate, and it was only fair that they should be responsible for their own sick. Suppose that a Gympie man came to Brisbane and caught the plague, and was put in a hospital in Brisbane, it was only right that the Gympie local authorities should pay for his maintenance. But suppose a man came from New South Wales. He might have been shearing in the western districts of New South Wales and he would be in Brisbane a month and away six months. He would have no "residence," as recognised by the local authorities, and how would they meet that case?

Mr. LESINA: A man like that would never go into a private hospital.

Mr. RYLAND: The State should contribute in some way to the support of that man.

The HOME SECRETARY: What roll would he be on if he is moving about from place to place?

Mr. RYLAND: He might not be on any State roll. Who would be responsible for him then? Would it be the local authority where he happened to get sick?

The HOME SECRETARY: That is so.

Mr. NEVITT (*Carpentaria*) was very pleased that the Home Secretary had accepted the amendment. He spoke about the matter on the second reading, as he regarded the clause, as originally drafted, did not give a fair deal to the owners of private hospitals. Some hon. members had suggested that the local authority where a person contracted the disease should be saddled with the responsibility of keeping him. But that would be a difficult matter to define where he actually contracted it. The clause would rarely be brought into execution, and he thought the amendment was a fair and reasonable solution, and therefore he supported it.

Amendment (*Mr. Bouchard's*) agreed to.

On clause 79, as amended—

Mr. BOUCHARD moved that after the word "shall," on line 6, all the words be omitted to the end of the clause, with the view of inserting the following:—

"be payable by and recoverable from the local authority of the area in which such inmate resides."

As he had already explained in moving his other amendment, these words were not necessary.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause [7 p.m.] —put and negatived.

Mr. RYLAND would like to have something more definite than the word "resides." Would the hon. member give some definition of what a resident might be?

Mr. BOUCHARD said the word "resides" meant "is domiciled;" and they all knew that the domicile of an individual was the place where he usually resided.

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

Mr. MORGAN moved the following new clause to follow clause 79:—

"The foregoing provisions of this part relating to lying-in hospitals shall apply in such localities, being an area or division thereof or areas or divisions of areas, as the Governor in Council may declare by Order in Council."

This clause, if carried, would make the provisions relating to lying-in hospitals inapplicable to districts not proclaimed by the Governor in Council; and that would to a great extent meet the objection he pointed out on the second reading of the Bill. He thought it might very well be left to the Governor in Council not to proclaim districts in places where people who were not registered nurses were compelled to carry out these duties.

Mr. MURPHY: You could not get registered nurses to go to those places.

Mr. MORGAN: Quite so. And they had the assurance of the Minister that as far as individual women were concerned, where a woman assisted half a dozen of her neighbours, she would not be interfered with.

Mr. MURPHY: We want more than an assurance; we want it in the Bill.

Mr. MORGAN: The new clause practically meant that certain areas would not come under the provisions of the Bill in regard to lying-in hospitals, and the women to whom he referred would not be interfered with in the very good work they were performing.

New clause put and passed.

On clause 80—"Registration of nurses"—

Mr. FORSYTH moved the omission of the first paragraph of the clause, which provided that the Queensland Medical Board should be a board for the registration of duly qualified nurses, with the view of inserting the following—

"[154.] (1.) There shall be established a board for the registration of duly qualified nurses. The board shall consist of five members, and shall be constituted as follows:—

"(a) Two members shall be medical practitioners, and shall be nominated by the Medical Board constituted under the Medical Act of 1867 or any Act amending or in substitution of that Act;

"(b) Two members shall be medical practitioners or qualified nurses, and shall be nominated by the Queensland Branch of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association in accordance with rules to be approved by the Minister in that behalf;

"(c) One member shall be a medical practitioner employed by the State in connection with an asylum for the insane.

"The members shall be appointed by the Governor in Council, and shall hold office for three years, but shall be eligible for reappointment.

"Extraordinary vacancies shall be filled in like manner, but a member appointed to fill such vacancy shall go out of office at the same time as all other members.

"The first appointments shall be made as soon as may be after the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, and shall take effect as from the first day of March following. Thereafter the members shall be appointed on or before the first day of March in every third year.

"The business and procedure of the board shall be conducted and carried out in manner prescribed by the regulations."

There were 500 odd nurses belonging to the Queensland branch of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association.

Mr. MURPHY: They want to make it a close union, with preference to unionists.

Mr. FORSYTH: For some time the association had been training and examining nurses all over Australasia; and the matron of the Ipswich Asylum for the Insane was qualifying for the examination by undergoing a two years' course in the Toowoomba Hospital.

Mr. MANN: It seemed to him that under this amendment it was possible that the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association would boss the whole show. The Committee should be very careful in that matter, and he would make it necessary to have more training if it were possible. Take the general nurses; he suggested that before becoming qualified they should have three months' training in a children's hospital.

Mr. MURPHY: Where will they get it?

Mr. MANN: A nurse after being trained in a general hospital had to serve six months in a maternity hospital before she was allowed to act as a midwife. He also suggested that a general nurse should serve three months in an infectious diseases hospital. He wished as far as possible that a general nurse should be a good all-round nurse, and she could not be that unless she had had some experience in a children's hospital and in a hospital for infectious diseases. He pointed out that the nurses trained in the Brisbane General Hospital were sent round to the different wards, and thereby got a good general training, but even nurses trained there had to serve a six months' course in the Lady Bowen or some other maternity hospital before they could act as a midwife. If, while being trained, any nurse was unable to pay her way, she should be allowed a certain amount; instead of having to pay very heavy premiums, as some of them had to do, they ought to receive a small salary while giving their services.

The HOME SECRETARY: The amendment had been submitted to and carefully considered by the Commissioner of Public Health, who furthermore had the assistance of Dr. McLean, resident surgeon of the Brisbane General Hospital, of Dr. Turner, surgeon in charge of the Diamantina State Hospital for Incurables, and Dr. Halford, who represented the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association. All the necessary provisions were contained in the rules of that association, and he (Mr. Appel) proposed, at a later period, to move an amendment which set forth the necessary training which a

*Hon. J. G. Appel.]*

nurse engaged in a lying-in hospital must have. Every precaution had been taken to make the test effective. He could not say whether a general nurse in the course of her training had to attend an infectious diseases hospital. He hardly thought that was necessary, because infectious diseases, typhoid being one, were treated in the general hospital.

Mr. MANN: A girl might serve her three years in a general hospital without having seen a case of typhoid.

The HOME SECRETARY: If that epidemic did not break out in three years, were they to keep those nurses back until an epidemic did break out?

Mr. MANN: Give them three months in the general hospital here.

The HOME SECRETARY: They had to undergo a course in the general hospital. He intended to move an amendment in which he proposed that nurses of lying-in hospitals would have twelve months' training in a general hospital and six months' training in a lying-in hospital, which was considered all that was necessary to qualify a person for that profession. Every precaution was being taken to insure that the nurses had every qualification for their particular duties.

Mr. MURPHY was not sure that the amendment was absolutely necessary, but as the Home Secretary and the Commissioner had agreed to it, it was no use trying to block it. It seemed to him that all those Acts were tending to make close corporations or close unions, and preference to unionists. The Government said they did not believe in preference to unionists. How many medical men believed in preference to the ordinary unionist, but they wanted close unions when it suited themselves. He wanted to know from the representative of the Trained Nurses' Association whether they would send any of their nurses out to the back blocks to attend the hospitals. The hospitals in the back country had the greatest difficulty in getting trained nurses.

The HOME SECRETARY: Because there is too much employment in the centres of population.

Mr. MURPHY: They were making it as difficult as they could for those outside institutions to get nurses. He recollected an epidemic of dengue at Normanton, and the hon. member for Carpentaria had to do all the work. The doctor was down, the chemist was down, and the matron of the hospital was sick, and the hon. member was the whole medical staff. He believed in unionism, and he believed it was a good thing that the nurses had an association, and he believed it would be a better thing later on if they applied for a wages board.

The HOME SECRETARY: They fix their own wages.

Mr. MURPHY: At the same time, when passing this Bill they should take into consideration the extent of Queensland, and in those outside centres where they could not get trained nurses the doctor had to take any woman he could get and train her. Not so very long ago a nurse was wanted for the Croydon hospital, but the secretary of the Brisbane General Hospital, who had always provided nurses for that institution previously, could not get one to go to Croydon. Also, the hospital in the Etheridge

district had the greatest difficulty in getting a nurse. It was not a question of wages, because the nurses were well treated in those outside places, and he knew in Croydon, after the nurse had been there some time, the hospital committee gave them three months' leave on full pay. The committee let them come to Brisbane and have an enjoyable time, paid their passage down, paid them while they were here, and paid their passage back. But members were now passing a law which would prevent outside places like that getting nurses at all, and the Trained Nurses' Association would not bother about the matter.

The HOME SECRETARY: This amendment will enlarge the opportunities for getting nurses; and it will provide a board to examine nurses.

Mr. MURPHY: He knew that the members of the Trained Nurses' Association were just putting themselves in the same position as members of other unions, and he did not blame them, but they wanted to make it as difficult as possible for other persons to become trained nurses. When Bills were being drafted the Government said to the draftsman, "We want to stop this, that, and the other," and the draftsman got down his legal books, and prepared a Bill applicable to Brisbane. The draftsman saw no other part of the State but Brisbane, and drafted his Bill accordingly. Hon. members who knew anything about the outside districts must recognise that it was impossible to apply the particular clause under discussion to sparsely populated centres. While he believed in unionism, he thought that clause 80 as it stood did a fair thing in leaving this matter to the Medical Board.

The HOME SECRETARY: This amendment widens the scope.

Mr. MURPHY: It did widen the scope, and he supposed that that was what the hon. gentleman called progressive democracy.

The HOME SECRETARY: Hear, hear!

Mr. MURPHY: Well, they might have an opportunity later on, when some other Bills were introduced, of trying to get the principle of preference to unionists adopted, and he hoped they would then find the Home Secretary favouring preference to unionists as far as wharf labourers and other workers were concerned, thus showing his progressive democracy.

The HOME SECRETARY: Why, I used to be described as a socialistic demagogue.

HON. R. PHILP: As the original clause stood, it provided that the board should consist of five medical men. The amendment provided that two women should take the place of two men on that board as representatives of the nurses. Surely the nurses had a right to be represented on the board, and to examine members of their own sex. The more nurses we had examined in Brisbane, the better chance there would be of getting nurses for places like Croydon. He remembered a time when even doctors were scarce in North Queensland. On one occasion, during an epidemic, one doctor at Townsville died and the other cleared out, the only persons left to attend to the sick being an old Congregational parson, and a chemist who sold coloured water at 7s. 6d. a bottle.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Were there no nurses?

[Hon. J. G. Appell.]

HON. R. PHILP: There were some male nurses, but there were no women nurses. Nurses could be trained in the hospitals at Brisbane, Rockhampton, and Townsville, and the more nurses those institutions trained the more there would be for outside places, because nurses spent only a certain time in the hospital, and then left to better themselves, going to Clermont, Longreach, Barcardine, and other places. He thought the amendment was an improvement.

Mr. RYLAND thought that the hon. member who had moved the amendment should give the Committee a little more information as to the difference between the board as he proposed it should be constituted and the board provided for in the Bill.

HON. R. PHILP: There is no satisfying you.

Mr. RYLAND: According to the proposal in the Bill, the board was to consist of five doctors, all the members of which were to be nominated by the medical profession. By the amendment it was proposed that two members of the board should be nominated by medical men and two by the Trained Nurses' Association, and that the fifth should be a Government medical officer. He presumed that the Government representative would be the Commissioner of Public Health.

The HOME SECRETARY: No; the Inspector of Asylums or one of his officers.

Mr. RYLAND: With regard to there being two ladies on the board, he would point out that such might not be the case, as the Trained Nurses' Association might nominate two medical men to represent them.

Mr. HAMILTON had no objection to nurses being represented on the board, but he wished to point out that as there would be only one board for the whole of Queensland, it would be necessary for nurses from all parts of the State to come down to Brisbane to be examined. The Charters Towers Hospital was a large enough institution to train all the nurses required in North Queensland, and at present nurses were sent from that place out to Winton, Cloncurry, and other places, and he saw no reason why those nurses should come down to Brisbane to be examined in order to get a certificate.

Mr. FORSYTH: They won't; they can be examined anywhere.

Mr. WHITE: The addition of qualified nurses to the board would be a distinct improvement. When he had been [7.30 p.m.] in the hospital recently he had seen the doctors conducting an examination of nurses. They were examined both theoretically and practically, and the papers were very carefully examined. Nursing had a great deal more to do with people getting well than the services of the medical men themselves. He understood that the doctors at the different hospitals would examine the nurses and their papers would be sent to Brisbane, and then the nurses would be registered here.

Mr. MURPHY: When he spoke recently his only desire was to point out how difficult it would be for probationers in the outside hospitals to be registered by this board. There might be a tendency, if nurses were on the board, for it to be made difficult for others to get registration.

Mr. FORSYTH: I do not think so.

Mr. MURPHY: He thought that would be the case. It was better to be sure about

the matter before they passed the clause. His own opinion was that the board provided in the Bill would be likely to give a fairer deal than the board proposed by the amendment.

The HOME SECRETARY: The nurses will only have two representatives on a board of five members. How can the minority rule the board?

Mr. MURPHY: The girls working in the outside hospitals were entitled to as much consideration as the nurses. In many outside places the doctors found it difficult to get nurses, and they had to get girls who were born in the places to do the work, sometimes for very small pay; and in passing a Bill of this nature they should see that those girls were given a fair deal. If hon. members were satisfied that the proposed board would do a fair thing, he had no more to say.

Mr. FORSYTH was very glad that the hon. member for Gregory had raised the question, because he (Mr. Forsyth) understood from the Home Secretary that the examinations could be held in any centre. They could be held in Croydon or Normanton or anywhere.

Mr. MURPHY: Theoretical examinations?

Mr. FORSYTH: No; practical examinations. The candidates would be examined by a duly qualified medical practitioner, and as soon as he sent in his report to the board, no board would dream of refusing registration.

Mr. MURPHY: None of the clauses in the Bill say that.

The HOME SECRETARY: No; but it is a matter of administration.

Mr. FORSYTH: After the assurance of the Home Secretary, he had not the slightest doubt that justice would be done in every case.

Mr. WINSTANLEY thought the amendment was a decided improvement on the original clause. At the same time, the assurance they had received might or might not be correct. It certainly was not stated anywhere in the Bill that the examinations would be conducted locally.

The HOME SECRETARY: It is always done.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: It had always been done before, because the certificates were issued by the local hospitals; but when this Bill came into force they would not be able to do that.

The HOME SECRETARY: How does the board act under the Mines Regulation Act? There is no provision in that Act either, and yet the examinations are conducted locally.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: It was distinctly provided for in the Mines Regulation Act. In this Bill it was provided that a candidate for registration must prove certain things to the satisfaction of the board, but how was she to prove those things to the satisfaction of the board? There was nothing in the Bill to show that what the Home Secretary said would be the case. The board might direct the examinations to be held in Brisbane for anything they knew. Up to the present the Charters Towers Hospital, for instance, had conducted examinations for its nurses, and nurses trained there were to be found at the present time in the general hospitals in Sydney and Melbourne. He was not at all satisfied that adequate provision was made in the Bill.

Mr. FORSYTH: Look at clause 82.

*Mr. Winstanley.]*

Mr. WINSTANLEY: That clause dealt with those who were practically qualified at the present time, but not with those who came afterwards.

The HOME SECRETARY: Read the clause and you will find that provision is also made for those who come afterwards.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: In that respect it should be made much more specific than it appeared to be at present.

Mr. MANN: If the Home Secretary gave them a list of the hospitals that would be recognised as training hospitals they would know where they were. Clause 82 required that hospitals had to be approved by the board, and that was a necessary precaution. It was certainly advisable that every hospital which was in charge of a properly qualified nurse should be recognised as a training hospital. If girls who had served three years in one of those training hospitals could obtain a certificate, then the fears expressed by the hon. member for Croydon would be removed. Clause 83 had been referred to as specifying what hospitals should be recognised as training schools for nurses, but it only provided for the recognition of hospitals approved of by the board, and he claimed that every girl trained in any hospital in charge of a duly qualified nurse should be entitled to get a certificate after three years' nursing there.

The HOME SECRETARY: It would be almost impossible at the present time to indicate what hospitals in the State would be regarded as hospitals with a sufficient number of patients passing through them to enable them to qualify nurses engaged therein, but any general hospital having a fair average number of patients passing through, under a medical officer, would be considered as a sufficient training school for nurses for the practical experience they required before they could submit themselves for theoretical examination.

Mr. MANN: They must have thirty beds, under clause 82.

The HOME SECRETARY: He proposed to ask the Committee to accept some amendments in connection with that. The hon. member a few moments ago spoke of the necessity of nurses having a very extended training in infectious diseases hospitals.

Mr. MANN: Before she became a general nurse.

The HOME SECRETARY: Quite so. Those provisions were for that purpose. That would be a matter of regulation, and undoubtedly would be made as extended as possible, because the whole object of the Bill was to register as many candidates for nurses as possible.

Mr. MANN: Would you not make another class of nurse?

The HOME SECRETARY: There was only one training for general nurses, and he was proposing amendments in connection with nurses for lying-in hospitals who were only required to have twelve months' experience in a general hospital, and six months' experience in a lying-in hospital. Then he would also propose an amendment dealing with nurses in our mental hospitals; so that they had three classes of nurse—the nurse at the lying-in hospital, the midwifery nurse, and the mental hospital nurse. Before they had attained to the qualification of nurses in medical and surgical work they were proba-

Mr. Winstanley.

tioners. It would be unwise to allow a probationer—and the medical association themselves were opposed to it—to go out and take full charge of a case which required qualifications and experience on the part of the nurse attending the case.

Mr. MORGAN: The clause he intended to move later on distinctly allowed the Minister to appoint nurses.

Mr. MURPHY: That is in connection with private hospitals.

Mr. MORGAN: That was so far as the three years' period in the first portion of this clause was concerned. If it only dealt with private hospitals, they could, perhaps, amend it to deal with other hospitals.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is extending the scope so that training in private hospitals may be accepted as qualifications.

Mr. MURPHY: We only want to give the outside hospitals a chance.

Mr. NEVITT had, unfortunately, had to leave the Chamber during a portion of the discussion on this clause, but he understood from the Minister that in future a nurse who was trained in a country hospital, although it was not recognised as a training institution for nurses, would have an opportunity after two or three years' service there of coming down here to go through an examination locally to be qualified as a nurse.

The HOME SECRETARY: Quite so.

Mr. NEVITT: That would be a distinct advancement on the conditions which existed at the present time.

Mr. MANN: But the hospital must be recognised by a board.

Mr. NEVITT: They must have a certain number of patients, but a nurse in a country hospital got as good a training as in the larger hospitals.

The HOME SECRETARY: They get a more general training.

Mr. MURPHY: At the same time, they do not get as much theoretical training.

Mr. NEVITT: There was something in that, but that was the fault of the committee. They were required to remain on duty for a greater length of time than they should be, but that was not the fault of the hospital itself. The suggestion of the hon. member for Cairns, that every nurse should get a certain training in a children's hospital, was not possible, as we had only one children's hospital in the State. To a very large extent the same thing applied to infectious hospitals—it was also suggested that they should have training in infectious hospitals.

Mr. MANN: It was a doctor who gave me the suggestion; I would rather take his advice than yours.

Mr. NEVITT: He was simply giving his opinion on the matter—he thought it was impracticable. A nurse who had had a fair training in a general hospital was qualified to take on infectious cases. If a nurse had had a thorough grounding in the practical, she was quite able to go as an assistant in an infectious diseases hospital, and was equally as qualified for the duties as one who had had a training in an infectious diseases hospital.

Mr. MANN: Hon. members would recognise that he had asked for more qualification for the nurses—that a general nurse should

have training in a children's hospital for three months, and in an infectious hospital for three months.

Mr. NEVITT: It is impracticable.

Mr. MANN: He had received the suggestion from a doctor of repute and standing.

Mr. MURPHY: Doctors were not always right.

Mr. MANN would sooner take a doctor's verdict on the matter than that of a man who had been only a dresser or warder in the hospital.

Mr. MURPHY: Some doctors are faddists.

Mr. MANN: This was a doctor who was practising in the country as well as the city, and he claimed that general nurses should have a chance of gaining experience, so that if nurses were sent into the bush, they should be able to carry on general nursing—attend to children's ailments, the ailments of adults, and midwifery. Such nurses would also be so well qualified that if the doctor of an institution were to get sick the nurse would be able to act as doctor for a time during the inability of the doctor to attend to his duties.

Amendment (*Mr. Forsyth's*) agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. FORSYTH, consequential amendments were inserted in lines 17 and 21, the word "two" being omitted and "three" substituted in each case.

Mr. FORSYTH moved the insertion of the words "(c) Mental nurses" after line 19.

Mr. MANN asked what qualifications the hon. member expected nurses to have? Did it mean that an ordinary nurse in a general hospital would be required to put in some time in an asylum?

Mr. FORSYTH: If a nurse wanted to get the qualification of being a mental nurse, she would have to put in some time in an asylum.

Amendment agreed to; and clause 80, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 81 put and passed.

On clause 82—"Who may be registered as general nurses"—

Mr. FORSYTH moved the omission of the word "consecutive" in line 28. The clause as it stood made it necessary for the nurse to hold a certificate of three consecutive years' training, but it might happen that after serving two and a-half years she might become sick and might have to go away. If she returned for six months, it was only right that that six months should count as part of her three years, without making it "consecutive." That was only fair to the nurse.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MANN asked if the Home Secretary would accept an amendment to reduce the registration fee for nurses from 10s. to 5s.? He thought 10s. was rather stiff for nurses to have to pay.

The HOME SECRETARY: The fee of 10s. was considered to be fairly moderate, and it was necessary if they wished the board to be self-supporting. The nurses would be put in the position of being able to demand a standard wage which had been set by the association, which was £2 2s. with board and lodging, and washing for non-infectious cases, and £3 3s. or £4 4s. for other cases, with these additions.

Mr. MANN: They are paying nurses 15s. a week at the Brisbane General Hospital.

The HOME SECRETARY: But as soon as the nurses at the Brisbane General Hospital attained their standard, they were proficient and they left the hospital. Those who were on permanently at the hospital received the standard wage, but the others were simply passing through their course, and when they got their certificates they would be paid the standard wage. He did not consider the fee too high, as there were certain expenses that had to be undertaken by the board.

Mr. RYLAND: It is too high.

The HOME SECRETARY: It was not too high when they considered that they could demand higher wages when they were registered.

Mr. MANN: To listen to the Home Secretary, one would think that these girls were fairly well to do; but many of [8 p.m.] them, after spending three years at the hospital, were not overburdened with cash, and took situations at 15s. a week, which was less than a housemaid received in many cases.

The HOME SECRETARY: A housemaid after getting her certificate does not get as much as £3 3s. or £4 4s. a week.

Mr. MANN: Nurses were fairly plentiful, and they did not receive the high wages the hon. gentleman suggested. In many instances they were working for 15s. a week at the hospitals.

Hon. R. PHILP: As probationers.

Mr. MANN: Even after putting in their three years' training, some of them had not 10s., perhaps, to bless themselves with. He moved the omission of "ten" in line 34 with the view of inserting "five." He would like the Minister to accept the amendment, but he did not wish to go to a division.

HON. R. PHILP said he thought the fee of 10s. was a very reasonable one.

Mr. LESINA was going to vote against the proposition to reduce the fee. It appeared to be a cheap form of democracy to demand a concession of this kind. The casual labourer had to pay a fee to join his union, and it was hardly in consonance with democracy that a person wishing to qualify to practise a profession of this nature should not be able to afford a fee of 10s. He did not suppose the women themselves objected to paying the fee. If they could be registered without payment, they would probably not value it so highly as if they had to pay. To take an analogous case, there were members of that Chamber probably getting their children instructed in music; and there were scores of people outside—labourers, storekeepers, and others—whose daughters were also being instructed in music. They might or they might not turn out good players, or be able to get their living by music later on; but to pass an examination under the Trinity College examiner they had to pay a fee of £2 2s., and lodge it before the examination took place. This fee of 10s. went to pay expenses connected with the board, and why should the man in the street be asked to dip into his pocket for his particular fraction of that 10s. in order that some person qualified as a nurse might be allowed to carry on a more or less highly-paid profession?

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: Why did the Government abolish the cow tax?

*Mr. Lesina.]*



Mr. LESINA: He did not know, unless it was to placate their supporters. If nurses were not to be asked to pay this fee of 10s., why not abolish all fees? Why not have everything free. (Hear, hear!) In his opinion the suggestion was impracticable. An hon. member might say, "Why quarrel about 5s.?" Another member might go one better and move that the fee be 2s. 6d.; and then some member might move that the fee be struck out altogether. He thought it would be better to stick to the fee of 10s. as provided in the clause.

Mr. MANN remembered on one occasion the hon. member for Clermont tearing a passion to tatters about the lengthsmen having to pay an examination fee of 5s.

Mr. LESINA: They did not get £3 3s. or £4 4s. a week after passing their examination.

Mr. MANN: They got 8s. a day after passing the examination; and there was no guarantee that nurses would even get employment after passing their examination. As the Committee seemed to be against the proposed reduction, he would withdraw the amendment unless the Home Secretary was willing to accept it.

Mr. RYLAND objected to the withdrawal of the amendment, which he thought the Minister ought to accept. He wanted the examinations in connection with the University free also.

The HOME SECRETARY: Question! This has nothing to do with the University.

Mr. RYLAND not only wanted the University free, but education free all round. A person passing those examinations would not earn any money for months, and they should have an opportunity of earning money before making a charge. He was sorry the hon. member for Cairns was not pushing his amendment, as it was a good amendment, and he was quite satisfied the Committee would back him up if it went to a division.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted (*Mr. Mann's amendment*) stand part of the clause—put; and the Committee divided:—

AYES, 36.	
Mr. Allan	Mr. Hodge
" Appel	" Lesina
" Barnes, G. P.	" Macartney
" Barnes, W. H.	" Mackintosh
" Booker	" Morgan
" Bouchard	" Murphy
" Brennan	" Nevitt
" Bridges	" Paget
" Corser	" Petrie
" Crawford	" Philp
" Cribb	" Somerset
" Denham	" Swayne
" Forrest	" Thorn
" Forsyth	" Tolmie
" Fox	" Trout
" Grant	" Vowles
" Grayson	" White
" Gunn	" Wienholt

Tellers: Mr. Gunn and Mr. Wienholt.

NOES, 24.	
Mr. Adamson	Mr. Land
" Allen	" Lennon
" Barber	" Mann
" Breslin	" May
" Collins	" Mulcahy
" Coyne	" Mullan
" Douglas	" O'Sullivan
" Ferricks	" Payne
" Foley	" Ryan
" Hamilton	" Ryland
" Hardacre	" Theodore
" Hunter, D.	" Winstanley

Tellers: Mr. Collins and Mr. Ryland.

Resolved in the affirmative.

[*Mr. Lesina.*

Mr. FORSYTH moved, as a consequential amendment, the omission of the words "four consecutive" on lines 38 and 39, with a view of inserting the word "three."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. RYLAND: Subsection (2) read—

"Every person who, on the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, has had four consecutive years' training as a general nurse in such hospital, and passes the prescribed examination, shall be entitled to such registration on payment of a fee of one pound towards the cost of examination."

He thought the Home Secretary should make the registration fee 10s., as in the previous instance. Why should they discriminate in that matter? It made it very confusing to have 10s. in one case and £1 in another. He therefore moved that the words "one pound" be omitted with the view of inserting the words "ten shillings." That would make it uniform.

The HOME SECRETARY said he could not accept the amendment. It was very kind and considerate of the hon. member to suggest that there should be a reduction in the fee, but the fact was that the Trained Nurses' Association itself suggested the fees specified in the clause. Those fees were charged for the purpose of raising funds to pay the necessary expenses of the board, and as the Trained Nurses' Association had suggested that the fees should be 10s. and £1—unless members were to regard them as persons who wished to take as much as they could from those who were being trained for the same profession—which he ventured to say would be a most unjust imputation—he thought the Committee were justified in adopting their suggestion, and that he was justified in refusing to accept the amendment.

Mr. FOLEY pointed out that the fee specified in paragraph (1) was 10s. for nurses who had had three years' training, while the fee in paragraph (2) for nurses who had had four years' training was £1.

Mr. FORSYTH: That has been altered, and made three years.

Mr. FOLEY: Then the fee should be altered also and made 10s., so that there might be a uniform fee in all cases. He did not see why there should be any difference, and thought the Minister might accept the amendment.

Mr. MANN asked what particular nurses recommended fees of 10s. and £1.

The HOME SECRETARY: They were suggested by the committee of the association.

Mr. MANN: Did they consult the nurses before they made the suggestion?

Mr. COYNE failed to see why there should be a discrimination made in the amount of the fees to be paid by different nurses—why one fee should be twice as much as the other—and would like the Minister to explain the matter.

The HOME SECRETARY: Sitting there and piloting a Bill through the Committee, and endeavouring to make it as plain as possible, one often marvelled at questions which were asked by hon. members. If the hon. member for Warrego read the first section he would find that a nurse, upon proving certain things, was entitled to a certificate, for which she paid a fee of 10s. The second part provided that if a nurse had had three years' training in a hospital and passed an examination, which was not required in the former case, she was entitled to a certificate, and she was required to pay £1 towards the expense

of that examination. Surely to goodness that was clear enough for anybody, and, as he had already said, the nurses themselves had suggested those fees.

Mr. LESINA: The point that appealed to him was that the nurses, who knew more about their own circumstances and their own needs than hon. members, had asked for those particular fees.

Mr. COYNE: What about prospective candidates?

Mr. LESINA: He did not know that the fees would interfere with prospective candidates. If the association had recommended those fees, he did not see any reason why hon. members should interfere in the matter. The nurses were intelligent women, they did not desire to impose on the general public, and he very much questioned whether any of the nurses now qualified would care to sit for examination in order to get a certificate. Nurses did not desire to qualify and then receive a certificate as paupers; they did not ask for the certificate for nothing, they were too self-respecting for that, and he did not see why the Committee should reduce the fee. If it was such a good thing that nurses should be examined and granted certificates of efficiency for nothing, why not apply the same principle to chemists and lawyers and doctors? Personally, he failed to understand the reason for urging a reduction in the fee of £1. If those ladies thought that was the fee that should be charged, he was prepared to accept their recommendation, as the framers of the Bill had done, and he did not think anything was to be gained

[8.30 p.m.] by fighting the proposition. They could be sure that the ladies who qualified for entrance to the nursing profession would feel better pleased if the fee were taken than if the certificates were granted for nothing. It was as easy a way of paying for the administration of the Act as anything that had been suggested, unless hon. members were prepared to suggest an increase in the income tax or a reduction in their own remuneration. (Laughter.) The cost must be met in some way, unless they were going to shove it on to the shoulders of the suffering taxpayers once more.

Mr. MURPHY: You used to advocate a land tax once.

Mr. LESINA: There was no reason why a land tax should not be imposed, but it was a rather big principle to adopt for the sake of meeting such a small expense. Apparently the fees suggested would meet the cost as well as anything else, and he would vote for the retention of the fee.

Mr. COYNE thought that the hon. member for Clermont and the Home Secretary had entirely failed to give any reason why the two fees should be different. If the amount was not to be the same in both cases, it should be lower in the case of the candidate for registration who had to undergo an examination. In both cases a course of training was required, but in the case of the nurse who was to be called upon to undergo an examination and run the risk of failure the fee was to be twice as large as in the case of the nurse who was to be registered without examination. The hon. member for Clermont had made allusion to lawyers' fees, but there was no analogy between a lawyer's fee and the examination fee for a nurse. The lawyer was paid a fee

for services rendered, but in this case the nurses were not rendering any services at all. They would have to pay a fee for running the risk of failing in an examination.

Hon. R. PHILIP: If they do not pass they do not pay.

Mr. COYNE: He hoped the Committee would not forget that they were having to take the risk of failing, whereas in the case of the other class of nurses there was no such risk of failure.

Mr. MULLAN: This was really a pettifoggling way of collecting the cost of administering the Act. The Act was being passed for the public good, and should be administered by the Government for the public. Why should nurses be called upon more than any other class of people to bear the whole cost of administering an Act which was intended for the public good? Every tax was considered as a nuisance, and certainly a tax upon nurses was highly undesirable, because the more qualified nurses there were the better for the community.

The HOME SECRETARY: What about the fees the engine-drivers have to pay? The hon. member never objected to them.

Mr. MULLAN: Surely the hon. gentleman did not wish him to deal with the fees payable by engine-drivers in this Bill! The principle of charging an examination fee was always a vicious one. They should offer every incentive to people to qualify themselves for these positions, and the imposition of an examination fee was likely to have the effect of restricting the number of qualified nurses. It was all very well for the Home Secretary to say that the nurses themselves wanted these fees imposed. Those who would not have to pay wanted them.

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon. member is taking a very narrow view of the matter.

Mr. LENNON: They are already within the charmed circle.

Mr. MULLAN: As the deputy leader of the Opposition said, it was those who were already within the charmed circle who wanted the fees imposed. They did not object to prospective nurses paying them, and hon. members were pleading on behalf of the prospective nurses.

Mr. RYLAND: It was in the interest of the community that they should have as many qualified nurses as possible, seeing that in many cases they carried death in their hands. If they were paid five times as much as they got at the present time they would not be overpaid. There was no class of people who did more good than nurses and who were actuated by such philanthropic motives, and for a more miserable wage. He did not believe that the nurses considered it a fair thing that these fees should be imposed. They might be approved of by those who had already been admitted into the preserves and would not be called upon to pass the examination. The tendency would be to keep others out of the profession. He was also opposed to the principle enunciated by the Home Secretary and supported by the hon. member for Clermont, that the expense of administering the Act should be borne by the persons who had to pass the examination. That was against common sense, and it was also against the provisions of the Local Authorities Act. Section 217 of that Act provided the way in

*Mr. Ryland.]*

which the Health Act was to be administered, the duty of looking after the public health being imposed upon local authorities by section 216. Section 217 stated how this charge was to be met. One of the first principles laid down in the Act was that the basis should be in proportion to the rateable value of the land. But when they raised wheel taxes, goat taxes, dog taxes, and other small taxes—which was all vexatious taxation—they were getting away from the one principle laid down in the Local Government Act by Sir Samuel Griffith. The question before them now was the health of the community, and it should be met by the community generally, not by the individual who had to get a certificate of competency before taking up the duties of nursing.

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

Mr. COLLINS would support the amendment of the hon. member for Gympie, as he thought that his remarks, that we seemed to be trying to raise money by small taxes instead of getting to bedrock, were sound. Having voted to reduce the amount to 5s. in the previous portion of the clause, to be consistent he must also support the amendment to reduce this amount. He quite agreed with the hon. member for Gympie that the nurses had to serve for three years at a very low rate of pay, and he did not see why we should charge a fee of £1 for registration as a nurse. He would make the amount as low as possible. There had been a lot said in reference to unionism, but they were on safe ground in reducing the fee.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted (*Mr. Ryland's amendment*) stand part of the clause—put; and the Committee divided:—

AYES, 35.

Mr. Allan	Mr. Lesina
" Appel	" Macartney
" Barnes, G. P.	" Mackintosh
" Barnes, W. H.	" Morgan
" Booker	" Murphy
" Bouchard	" Nevitt
" Brennan	" Paget
" Bridges	" Petrie
" Corser	" Philp
" Crawford	" Somerset
" Cribb	" Swayne
" Denham	" Thorn
" Forrest	" Tolmie
" Forsyth	" Trout
" Grant	" Vowles
" Grayson	" White
" Gunn	" Wienholt
" Hodge	

Tellers: Mr. G. P. Barnes and Mr. Cribb.

NOES, 24.

Mr. Adamson	Mr. Land
" Allen	" Lennon
" Barber	" Mann
" Breslin	" May
" Collins	" Mulcahy
" Coyne	" Mullan
" Douglas	" O'Sullivan
" Ferricks	" Payne
" Foley	" Ryan
" Hamilton	" Ryland
" Hardacre	" Theodore
" Hunter, D.	" Winstanley

Tellers: Mr. O'Sullivan and Mr. Winstanley.

Resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of Mr. FORSYTH, a consequential amendment on line 55, omitting "four" and inserting "three," was agreed to.

Clause 82, as amended, put and passed.

[*Mr. Ryland.*

On clause 83—"Who may be registered as midwifery nurses"—

Mr. O'SULLIVAN had an amendment to insert in line 15. There were many qualified women carrying on the profession of nursing who should have some opportunity given them of carrying on the profession of nursing, and of being registered simply through length of service. There were women in the far North and West of Queensland who had been carrying on nursing for half a lifetime, and in order to give them an opportunity to continue to do so he moved the insertion of the words "or has followed the profession of midwifery for the preceding two years" after the word "institution" on line 15. If women could be registered through length of service, it would be a great improvement to the Bill. The Minister said that he had fixed that up, but he did not feel satisfied with the way the Minister had laid that out. He would sooner have it distinctly stated in the Act, so that anyone who applied for registration could do so at the specified time mentioned in the clause. He hoped the members who represented far outback places would help him to get the amendment inserted, because by doing so they would be able to retain the services of those women who had done great work in the past in the pioneering places in Queensland. He knew a lot of women who had taken on this work. The maternal instinct in them was so strong that they at first went to the assistance of their neighbours, and then afterwards qualified to become midwives, and these women were just as good midwives as could be found anywhere else, even in the cities.

Mr. MURPHY endorsed the remarks of the hon. member for Kennedy, and supported the amendment. Those who lived in the backblocks for a number of years must realise how necessary it was, especially in sparsely populated places, that the motherly women should be allowed to act as midwives. They did not want any women of the "Sairey Gamp" variety, but there were plenty of women who carried on nursing in the far out places who were just as competent to do that work as those who receive their training in a lying-in hospital. A great injustice would be done to the wives of the fossickers at the Oaks Rush and Chillagoe and such places if the amendment were not accepted. He could see that the Minister was going to accept the amendment.

Mr. NEVITT questioned very much whether the amendment moved by the hon. member for Kennedy was a good one. If

the words suggested by the hon. [9 p.m.] member were inserted the result would be that a person who had attended only two or three cases might be registered. He (Mr. Nevitt) suggested that it would be better to say that the midwife should have been present at a certain number of cases of confinement, say twenty-five or thirty, and that she should get a certificate from a doctor saying she was competent to undertake such work.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: He had been assured by the Minister that he would incorporate the principle of his amendment in the amendment of the hon. member for Murilla later on; and that being so, he would withdraw the amendment now before the Committee.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The HOME SECRETARY moved the omission of lines 28 to 38, with the view of inserting—

“(a) If registered as a general nurse, of having attended for not less than six months, and, in all other cases, of having attended for not less than twelve months, the practice of a lying-in hospital recognised by the board; and

“(b) Of having received systematic instruction in theoretical and practical nursing, as prescribed by the regulations.

“For the purposes of enabling nurses who, previous to the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, have obtained certificates issued by any such hospital, or who have had not less than three years' experience as midwifery nurses, and who do not come within the foregoing provisions, to be registered under this Act, the regulations may prescribe the qualifications or form of examination required and the fee to be paid for the issue of a certificate, which shall entitle the holder to such registration under this Act;

“Provided that no such certificate shall be issued after the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twelve.”

The amendment was really consequent on amendments already made in connection with the addition of mental hospitals; and its provisions had been suggested by the Trained Nurses' Association, the committee of the Lady Bowen Lying-in Hospital, Dr McLean, Dr. Turner, Dr. Halford, Dr. Ellerton, and the Commissioner of Public Health.

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

The HOME SECRETARY moved the following new clause to follow clause 83:—

“[154D.] (1.) Every person who, on the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, holds a certificate of three years' training as a mental nurse in a hospital recognised by the board under this Act, and proves to the satisfaction of the board that during her training she received systematic instruction in theoretical and practical nursing from the medical officer and matron, shall be entitled to registration as a mental nurse on payment of a fee of ten shillings, and on making application on or before the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twelve.

“(2.) After the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, every person who has attained the age of twenty-one years and holds the certificates of training and hospital experience prescribed for qualification as a mental nurse, and who passes the prescribed examination, shall be entitled to registration as a mental nurse on payment of the fee of one pound.

“(3.) For the purpose of enabling nurses who, previous to the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, have obtained certificates issued by any such hospital, or who have had not less than three years' experience as mental nurses, and who do not come within the foregoing provisions, to be registered under this Act, the regulations may prescribe the qualifications or form of examination required and the fee to be paid for the issue of a certificate which shall entitle the holder to such registration under this Act:

“Provided that no such certificate shall be issued after the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twelve.”

The clause simply dealt with who might be registered as mental nurses, and made the necessary provisions as to their qualifications.

New clause put and passed.

Mr. MORGAN moved the insertion of the following new clause:—

“[154E.] Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, the Minister may dispense with such of the certificates, examinations, or other conditions for the registration of nurses under this Act as to him may seem just in favour of any person who, during the three years immediately preceding the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve, has been employed in the calling of a nurse.”

The amendment, as printed, had been altered to meet the views of members of the Committee. The scope of the new clause had been widened, and would include women who, in country districts, had done good service. The Committee would agree that the new clause was a very necessary one, and it should meet with the approval of every member of the Committee.

Mr. MULLAN pointed out that the proposed new clause would not meet the contention of the hon. member for Kennedy. The new clause said, “The Minister may dispense with certificates in the case of certain nurses.” Clause 77 provided that a lying-in hospital might be a place where one confinement had taken place for the purpose of gain, and it was only a certificated nurse that could have charge of a hospital. Would that clause give those women a right to continue in that calling? They were not giving them a certificate and they had not a right to continue in that calling, and they did not get at the point raised by the hon. member for Kennedy.

The HOME SECRETARY was of opinion, after consultation with the draftsman, that the clause in question was full and ample for the purpose, and would effect the object desired. The clause provided that all those qualifications which must precede in certain cases as specified, might be dispensed with by the Minister.

Mr. MULLAN: It was all very well to have the assurance of the Minister, but the present Minister might not administer the Act, and it was laid down in clause 77 that a lying-in hospital must be presided over by a certificated nurse. While the Minister was going to permit those ladies to ply their calling, he did not say he was going to give them certificates. What was wanted was a certificate, the same as in the case of other nurses. If the Minister would agree to give a certificate to a nurse who had had three years' experience of her calling, there would be no difficulty.

The HOME SECRETARY: It must be obvious that the whole object of the qualification of nurses was to obtain registration. If the hon. member would carefully follow the wording of the new clause, he would see that it was ample. It read—

“Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, the Minister may dispense with such of the certificates, examinations, or other conditions for the registration of nurses under this Act.”

Mr. MULLAN: We are dealing with certificates, not registration.

The HOME SECRETARY: The position would be thus: A nurse made application that she had had certain service. The Minister might dispense with all those preceding conditions and might register her. If hon. members would read the preceding sections they would find that a nurse must have a certificate from a hospital that she had undergone a certain course, and that might be dispensed

*Hon. J. G. Appel.]*

with. The Minister might dispense with that and register her without the precaution of those precedent qualifications.

Mr. LESINA perceived in this amendment a very great danger indeed. It practically gave the Minister power to over-ride all that had so far been done. As a matter of fact, it opened the door to influence. He did not suppose any Minister would so far forget his high office as to dispense with the certificate of examination or other conditions of registration, but it was quite conceivable that a case might arise, and such a Minister might occupy that position that would do that sort of thing. No great harm would be done in an individual case, but the power and possibility of it being done was a thing they should legislate against.

Mr. MORGAN: How are you going to deal with these women in the country?

Mr. LESINA: They had already provided for them. The hon. member for Croydon initiated a debate on that aspect of the case, and they advised the Government to exempt certain districts, and that exemption was provided for. Under what conceivable condition of things could one imagine it necessary for the Government to dispense with the certificate of examination or other conditions governing the employment of nurses; and, if the Minister could dispense with it in one case, he could dispense with it in two or more cases. He would not give the Minister discretion in that matter at all. They had quite enough government by Cabinet already, and government by regulation and proclamation. He thought it was a very dangerous principle to introduce into the Bill. In what conceivable case would it be necessary for the Minister to exercise his discretion?

Mr. MULLAN: In many cases.

Mr. LESINA: He should like the hon. member to mention just one, because he could not conceive of any case in which it would be necessary for the Minister to dispense with the examination and certificate of a person in charge of a lying-in hospital. He did not believe in protecting old ladies in settled districts who engaged, without qualification, in this historic business, when there were available well qualified and capable young women who had gone through the school of experience and obtained their degree. He could only conceive of cases in the Gulf country, or in the wild, woolly West, or in remote districts like that represented by the hon. member for Flinders, where it would be difficult to procure a qualified nurse. That would justify the Minister exercising such a discretion as that conferred upon him by the new clause. It was quite possible that in certain circumstances, when the fate of the Government was trembling in the balance, and depended upon one vote, that a Minister might be influenced in his decision to grant or refuse a permit to a person in an electorate represented by a member whose vote was doubtful. However, he would not press the matter any further.

New clause put and passed.

Mr. D. HUNTER moved that the following new clause be inserted after the clause last passed:—

"[154r.] Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, the Commissioner may prohibit for any specified period the practising by any midwifery nurse, whether registered or not, of her calling in any case where he is satisfied

that danger exists of her communicating any transmissible disease to any patient, and any nurse who disobeys any such prohibition shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds."

The amendment was proposed to meet the case of a nurse who had been attending a case of puerperal fever, and who went to other cases and transmitted the disease to her patients—a course of procedure which had caused the death of a good many women. As hon. members would observe, the amendment provided that the prohibition should be for a "specified period" only.

The HOME SECRETARY: The proposed new clause had been submitted to him, and it seemed to him that it contained a very necessary precaution for the prevention of the spread of certain diseases which often had a fatal effect.

Mr. RYLAND: Haven't the authorities that power now?

The HOME SECRETARY: No, they had not complete power; and as it was very necessary that such power should be given to the Commissioner, he proposed to accept the amendment.

New clause put and passed.

On clause 84—"Certificate and badge of registration"—

Mr. LESINA asked was the design of the badge to be left to the Commissioner?

The HOME SECRETARY: I anticipate that it is, or to the Trained Nurses' Association.

Mr. LESINA: Would the nurses have to pay for them?

The HOME SECRETARY: Undoubtedly.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 85 and 86—"Fraudulent registration," and "Registration may be cancelled for misconduct"—put and passed.

On clause 87—"Preference to be given to registered nurses"—

The HOME SECRETARY: Mental hospitals having been included within the scope of the measure, a consequential amendment was necessary in this clause. He moved that after the word "preference" on line 56 there be inserted the words "and in asylums for the insane."

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 88—"Application of fees, etc."—

Mr. WINSTANLEY asked why fees and penalties paid in respect of private hospitals were to be paid into the [9.30 p.m.] local fund, whilst fees from nurses were to be paid into the consolidated revenue fund.

The HOME SECRETARY: The reason for the differentiation was that the administration of the Act in respect of private hospitals was placed in the hands of the local authorities, whilst the administration of the Act in respect of nurses was being placed in the hands of the board provided for the purpose, and their fees naturally went into the consolidated revenue fund.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 89—"Regulations"—put and passed.

[Hon. J. G. Appel.

On clause 90—"Power to proceed against local authority for nuisance"—

The HOME SECRETARY: Hon. members would recollect that he had stated that the powers which would be exercised by the Commissioner of Public Health in connection with compelling local authorities and other persons to carry out the duties imposed upon them by the Act were provided in clause 90. A very careful scrutiny of the clause gave him the impression that there was a certain ambiguity about the matter, and to remove all doubt and to make the clause absolutely clear, he moved the omission of the words "the Commissioner" in line 16, with the view of afterwards moving the omission of all the words from "may" in line 21 to the word "proceedings" in line 30, and inserting in lieu thereof certain words which he would mention when the amendment he had just moved was agreed to.

Mr. COYNE thought that it would be fair of the Minister to say why he wished those words to be omitted before they were asked to agree to the amendment.

The HOME SECRETARY said that he wished to amend the clause to read—

"[174A.] Without prejudice to the powers contained in sections nineteen and twenty of this Act, and notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, in any case where a nuisance or a condition injurious to health is caused by any act, default, sufferance, or neglect of a local authority or any of its officers or employees, or on any land or premises owned or occupied by a local authority, and also in any case where any local authority fails to exercise or perform wholly or in part any power, authority, or jurisdiction which by this Act is conferred upon or vested in it, the Commissioner may abate or remedy such nuisance or injurious condition, or may exercise or perform such power, authority, or jurisdiction, or may institute and carry on any legal or other proceeding as fully and completely as if he were the local authority concerned, including any proceedings against the local authority or its officer or employee; and any costs, charges, or expenses incurred by the Commissioner under this section shall be a debt due from the local authority to the Crown, and shall be recoverable with full costs by the Commissioner in any court of competent jurisdiction.

"Section one hundred and sixty of this Act shall not apply to any proceedings taken by the Commissioner under this section."

Hon. members would see that it was necessary to omit the words "the Commissioner" in order to insert them in their proper context in the sentence.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MANN said that clause 36 gave the Commissioner power to require any local authority to submit samples of articles of food or drugs for analysis, and he thought that provision should now be knocked out.

Mr. WHITE: It should be knocked out. It can be done at the report stage.

Mr. MANN: If the Minister would agree to knock it out at the report stage, it would be all right.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN did not think the Home Secretary's amendment would deal with a matter to which he wished to refer. The Commissioner for Railways provided no sanitary conveniences in guards' vans, and as the guards had to act as station-masters, shunters, porters, and everything else at small stations, there was no way of availing themselves of the sanitary conveniences there. The hon. member for Flinders and

he had waited on the late Commissioner for Railways and made certain suggestions to him on the matter. Those suggestions did not meet with the approval of the men or the Commissioner, but he and the hon. member for Flinders were led to believe that provision would be made in vans constructed in future. It was time that something was done, and he would like to know whether it could be done under the Bill? He understood provision was made for guards in Victoria, and he did not see why it should not also be made here. They were giving the Commissioner of Public Health drastic powers in regard to local authorities, and why should the Commissioner for Railways be exempt from those provisions? If the Minister could see his way clear to take this matter in hand, it would meet with the approval of many men who were now placed in a very awkward position. In the cities, when the guards came to a large station, they could take advantage of the conveniences provided, but in the country they were kept going all the time. This matter had been brought under his observation in his own electorate, and when he had been going on long journeys on the north-western lines. He hoped the Commissioner for Railways would make provision in all the guards' vans to be built in the future.

Amendment (*Mr. Appel's*) agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 91 put and passed.

Mr. LESINA: Now that they had passed the last clause, he would like to ask the Home Secretary whether provision was made in this Bill for the detention of diphtheria carriers? He had heard of a case in New South Wales a few days ago of a diphtheria carrier being arrested.

The HOME SECRETARY: In answer to the hon. member, he was of the opinion that power was vested in the Commissioner in connection with diphtheria patients. He moved that the Chairman do now leave the chair, and report the Bill with amendments to the House.

Mr. LESINA: Before the Chairman left the chair, he would like to ask whether this Bill now provided finally for the arrest and detention of typhoid carriers, who might be subject to bacteriological examination, and, if proven to be carriers, they could be detained. There was no clearly expressed clause or subclause with respect to diphtheria carriers or any others, and finally—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member is not in order. The question before the Committee is that I do now leave the chair.

Mr. LESINA objected to the Chairman leaving the chair till he got information on this point, because once the Chairman got out of the chair he would have no chance. He asked the Home Secretary if it was true the Bill provided for diphtheria carriers? He would put this question: Why should they make provision in the Bill for the detention of diphtheria carriers and typhoid carriers, and let syphilis carriers roam at large throughout the city? Why should they restrain persons who poisoned the community with typhoid and diphtheria, and yet let persons who poisoned the community with syphilis go free, as proposed by the suspension of the Contagious Diseases Act in Brisbane? That was a point he wanted settled.

*Mr. Lesina.]*

Perhaps later on they would have an opportunity of discussing this in a more extensive way; he hoped they would as soon as they got more information which they were waiting for. Why should the Government pass a Bill like this, which provided for the arrest of persons carrying typhoid or diphtheria germs throughout the community, poisoning the community, and yet persons could carry syphilitic germs throughout the community, and be permitted to ply their trade without any restraint? Was it not just as dangerous for a carrier of syphilis to be at large as a typhoid carrier?

Mr. COLLINS: Worse.

Mr. LESINA: This Bill restrained the one and allowed the other absolutely free circulation.

The HOME SECRETARY: If the hon. member would turn to page 27 of the Bill in connection with the different matters concerning which regulations might be made, he would find in subclause (7) power to make regulations for requiring persons to submit themselves to medical examination at specified times and places, or otherwise, and for the safe and proper isolation of the infected sick, and for prescribing the measures to be employed in respect of the dealings with faecal or other discharges from infected persons, and with articles or things liable to carry infection from them.

Mr. LESINA: Does that cover all?

The HOME SECRETARY: It covered everything.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: That is if they are put into the regulations, but not otherwise.

The HOME SECRETARY: Those were subject-matters respecting which regulations could be made, and he was quite sure that if the hon. member would bring any particular matter—he did not propose to discuss the matter he had mentioned in the latter part of his speech—if he would bring it before the Health Commissioner, he was satisfied that the Commissioner would be prepared to do all that was necessary to carry out the particular portion of the powers conferred on him by the measure which has just passed through the Committee stage.

Question—That the Chairman do now leave the chair, and report the Bill with amendments—put and passed.

The House resumed.

The HOME SECRETARY: I move that the Bill, as amended, be now taken into consideration.

Mr. WHITE (*Musgrave*): When the Bill was in Committee a good deal of discussion took place on clause 36, with regard to local authorities being compelled to submit samples for analysis. It was admitted on both sides of the House that the Commissioner had ample powers in other directions. I move that clause 36 be deleted from the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Mr. RYLAND: I move that on line 35 of clause 72 the word "two" be omitted with the view of inserting the word "one." It will then read "the annual fee for a lying-in hospital shall be one pound." When the clause was before the Committee it went through without much attention being paid to it. When we remember that there might

[*Mr. Lesina.*

be only one or two cases in the year, I think that an annual fee of £2 is too high altogether.

The HOME SECRETARY: If there are only one or two cases it will not come under this clause.

Mr. RYLAND: But the clause says this is the fee to be charged.

The HOME SECRETARY: In special districts, as may be proclaimed.

Mr. RYLAND: I presume that the districts to be proclaimed will be pretty well all over the State except in thinly populated districts, I do not want to debate the clause, but I think that £1 a year is plenty to charge.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: I second the motion.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted (*Mr. Ryland's amendment*)—put; and the House divided:—

AYES, 34.	
Mr. Allan	Mr. Hodge
" Appel	" Hunter, D.
" Barnes, G. P.	" Macartney
" Barnes, W. H.	" Mackintosh
" Booker	" Morgan
" Bouchard	" Paget
" Brennan	" Petrie
" Bridges	" Philp
" Corser	" Roberts
" Crawford	" Somerset
" Cribb	" Swayne
" Denham	" Thorn
" Forsyth	" Tolmie
" Fox	" Trout
" Grant	" Vowles
" Grayson	" White
" Gunn	" Wienholt

Tellers: Mr. D. Hunter and Mr. Wienholt.

NOES, 25.	
Mr. Adamson	Mr. Lennon
" Allen	" Lesina
" Barber	" Mann
" Breslin	" Mulcahy
" Collins	" Mullan
" Coyne	" Murphy
" Douglas	" Nevitt
" Ferricks	" O'Sullivan
" Foley	" Payne
" Hamilton	" Ryland
" Hardacre	" Theodore
" Hunter, J. M.	" Winstanley
" Land	

Tellers: Mr. Adamson and Mr. Douglas.

Resolved in the affirmative.

[10 p.m.]

Question—That the Bill be now taken into consideration—put and passed.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER: I move that this House do now adjourn. The first business to-morrow will be the Supply Bill; and after that the State Children Bill in Committee.

Mr. LENNON: I would like to ask the Treasurer if he can give us any idea when we will receive the Auditor-General's report? The Financial Statement delivered to-day is practically the balance-sheet of the country, and we should like to have the Auditor-General's comments on it. It is most undesirable to enter on a discussion of this character without having the Auditor-General's report before us; and I would be glad if the hon. gentleman could inform us when we may expect it.

The TREASURER: In reply to the hon. gentleman, I think I ought to point out that the Auditor-General is not an officer of the Treasury Department; he is an officer of Parliament. I may say that I sought to ascertain to-day when his report would be ready—not from the Auditor-General himself—and the information I received was that probably it would be two or three weeks before the report was ready.

Mr. MURPHY: Tell him Parliament wants him to hurry up.

The TREASURER: The hon. gentleman who interjects has evidently forgotten that the Auditor-General is not an officer of the Treasury Department, but an officer of this House.

Mr. MURPHY: We will carry a resolution if necessary.

The TREASURER: I can only say that no doubt the Auditor-General will probably notice this discussion; and I am sure from what I know of the Auditor-General that he will as far as possible hasten the production of the report. (Hear, hear !)

HON. R. PHILP: There is no State in Australia that gets the report of the Auditor-General sooner than Queensland. In New South Wales they have to wait about twelve months. The Auditor-General cannot get all the information for his report till he gets the Treasury tables; and he only gets them when we get them. It always takes some time after the Treasury tables are published before the Auditor-General's report can be completed: but, as I said before, we always get our Auditor-General's report quicker than they do in any other State in Australia.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at six minutes past 10 o'clock.

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