

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 1911

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1911.

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

NEW STANDING ORDER—BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The SPEAKER announced that he had presented the new Standing Order to His Excellency the Governor for approval, and that His Excellency had approved of the same.

At a later stage, a message was received from the Governor intimating that His Excellency had assented, on behalf of His Majesty, to the new Standing Order.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of messages from His Excellency the Governor, intimating that His Excellency had, on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the following Bills:—

- Paddington Cemeteries Bill;
- Thursday Island Water Works Bill;
- State Children Bill;
- Cairns Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill;
- Police Acts Amendment Bill;
- Land Surveyors Act Amendment Bill.

QUESTIONS.

OTAMATI VARIETY OF CANE.

Mr. FERRICKS (*Bowen*) asked the Treasurer—

"1. Who was responsible for the order issued that no more cane of the Otamati variety should be planted within the Proserpine Central Mill area?"

"2. What was the reason of that decision?"

"3. Has the Otamati variety ever been experimented with at the Sugar Experiment Station at Mackay?"

The TREASURER (Hon. W. H. Barnes, *Bulimba*) replied—

"1. Under instructions from the general manager of Central sugar-mills the Otamati variety of cane is grown on certain limited areas only.

"2. To encourage the cultivation of varieties of cane giving better results.

"3. Yes; and it is not recommended for cultivation owing to the experiments showing its poor sugar contents."

S.S. "WOY WOY" IN FITZROY RIVER.

Mr. ADAMSON (*Rockhampton*) asked the Treasurer—

"1. Has his attention been called to the complaints regarding the s.s. "Woy Woy," stationed in the Fitzroy River, by the Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce and various correspondents in the Rockhampton daily Press, as to the unseaworthy nature of that vessel, the bad accommodation for the crew, and her general unfitness for the work she has to perform?"

"2. If so, what does he intend to do in the matter?"

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The TREASURER replied—

"1. Yes. As to the presumed unseaworthy nature of the vessel and unsuitability for the work in which she is engaged. Special accommodation was made for the crew.

"2. The portmaster is perfectly satisfied as to her seagoing qualities, and is of opinion that she is quite suitable for the department's requirements at Rockhampton. Inquiries in Sydney show that she was built for and was engaged in the New South Wales coastal trade for some years, and was always proved to be a good sea boat."

RAILWAY FROM ROCKHAMPTON TO MORINISH.

Mr. ADAMSON asked the Secretary for Railways—

"1. Is it his intention to take any steps towards the construction of a railway from Rockhampton, *via* Alton Downs, to Morinish during the present session?"

"2. If not, why not?"

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS

(Hon. W. T. Paget, *Mackay*) replied—

"1. No.

"2. The route has not yet been surveyed, no officer having been available for that purpose."

PAYMENT OF BACK MONEY DUE TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

Mr. FERRICKS asked the Secretary for Railways—

"1. Is it the intention of the department to pay the railway servants the back money due from increases of salary dating from 1st July, before the Christmas holidays?"

"2. Can he give an idea of the date of payment?"

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS replied—

"1 and 2. I have already stated that the increases of salaries and wages will be paid to the railway staff immediately after the whole of the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill have been passed. I hope this will happen before Christmas."

MARSUPIAL BOARDS EXEMPTED FROM ACT.

Mr. STEVENS (*Rosewood*), on behalf of Mr. Morgan, asked the Secretary for Agriculture—

"1. How many marsupial boards, if any, have applied to be exempt from the operation of the Act?"

"2. How many boards have been so exempt, and the names of such boards?"

"3. How many boards, if any, have been exempt from paying for scalps other than dingoes, and the names of such boards?"

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE

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

"1. One—the Bowen Marsupial Board.

"2. No board has been exempted.

"3. No boards have been exempted."

SHORTAGE OF CEMENT, No. 10 TUNNEL, CAIRNS RAILWAY.

Mr. THEODORE (*Woothakata*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

"1. Is it a fact that repairs to No. 10 Tunnel on the Cairns Railway have been discontinued for want of cement?"

"2. Will he see that the repair of this tunnel is expedited, and, if possible, completed before the commencement of the wet season, so as to guard against possible collapse and the consequent inconvenience such as was experienced last wet season?"

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS replied—

"1 and 2. There is a scarcity of cement in North Queensland, but it is expected that a supply will be landed at Cairns in a few days. Work at the tunnel will then be resumed, and will be completed before the wet season."

PROPOSED NEW RAILWAYS.

PLANS, ETC., TABLED.

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS laid on the table the plans, sections, and books of reference of the following proposed railways; also the Deputy Commissioner's reports thereon:—

Mumbilla to Mount Edwards, 16 miles 27 chains;

Pialba to Urangan, 5 miles 13 chains;

Kingaroy to Tarong, 19 miles 25 chains.

Ordered that the Deputy Commissioner's reports be printed.

PROJECTED COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK.

The PREMIER (Hon. D. F. Denham, *Oxley*): Last evening I received a telegram from the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria with respect to the projected Commonwealth Savings Bank. I deem the matter of such importance that I take the first opportunity to place the House in possession of the text of the telegram. I think it will be advantageous that I should read it, and then move that the paper be printed. The telegram is as follows:—

" [Copy.]

" 29-11-11.

" Sydney—8.40 p.m.

" Premier Denham, Brisbane,—

" *Re* our telegram this afternoon following is full text our Joint protest to Commonwealth *re* their Savings Bank proposal as Bill now passing through House urge you wire Fisher immediately endorsing contents. Begins—On behalf of the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria we desire to inform you that viewing the contemplated establishment of a Commonwealth Savings Bank with the deepest anxiety we have as the result of a conference held this morning come to the conclusion that it is a matter of paramount urgency that at this stage we should press upon your Government the grave objections which present themselves to any immediate determination of this matter. It is our desire to emphasise certain features of this important proposal which in our judgment indicate that its immediate adoption will act inimically upon the depositors in Savings Bank and most seriously affect the financial interests of the Governments of the several States. 1. The existing State Savings Banks effectively meet in all respects the needs of depositors. These institutions offer every advantage which Federal control would secure. As all the States have adopted a system of reciprocity which enables depositors in any one State to operate their accounts in any other State. The Savings Banks are gradually extending their system of central banks which give the full advantages of a head office in each district and bring the post office agencies closer to their central offices saving much time in postal transactions and making money available to depositors more quickly this facility of operation will be adversely affected by a Commonwealth Savings Bank as the post offices alone cannot give the full advantage of this system. It will be enormously expensive for the Commonwealth Savings Bank to establish similar district centres to compete with the State Savings Bank.

[*Hon. D. F. Denham.*

" 2. The State Savings Banks will of necessity be obliged to open branches or agencies in every town if they are deprived of the services of post offices in order to provide the facilities that depositors have been accustomed to and the great expense which this will involve will obviously reduce the amount of profit available to pay interest to depositors.

" 3. The State Savings Banks at present gather up the small savings of the masses of the people and lend them out to the settler and to those who desire to build homes for themselves thus using the aggregation of small savings to help the people to develop the States in which they reside. The land is under the control of the Governments of the States and its development should remain with them under their closer local management. This good work we desire to continue whereas the Commonwealth Savings Bank could not localise its efforts in this way."

" 4. Large sums have been invested also by the Savings Banks with the State Governments which have been expended in reproductive works in the respective States and in assisting to redeem State debts as they mature. It would be a serious check upon the opening up of the resources of the States if the accumulated savings of the people were diverted from such investments.

" 5. The proposal to establish a Commonwealth Savings Bank seriously threatens the financial interests of all the State Governments inasmuch as such Governments are indissolubly bound up with the State Savings Bank institutions and the investment of depositors' funds in State Government debentures has been of most material assistance in the development of the resources of the States.

" 6. By having command of such local moneys the State Governments have been enabled to abstain for considerable periods from borrowing in London for necessary public works and for redemption purposes. Thereby they have been able to keep up their credit in London and to choose the most favourable times for operating on the London market when such borrowing has been necessary—interest is thus paid to the people of the country and remains in the country.

" 7. If the State Governments are deprived to any large extent of local supplies of money they must necessarily appeal to the London market more frequently and their credit must become depreciated involving the payment of higher rates of interest and consequent loss to the people of the States.

" 8. We would urge that the investment with the State Governments of the people's savings and their use in the development of the country's resources is the best purpose to which such savings can be put.

" 9. A further consideration which we desire to urge is that the successful establishment of a Federal Savings Bank must mean large withdrawals of funds from the State concerns necessitating the State institutions finding large sums wherewith to repay deposits. The loss caused by realising assets of one bank to pay another will be considerable. It may necessitate the sale of debentures or calling in of mortgage loans and realising debentures in large parcels would depreciate their value and thus cause direct loss. It would also cause loss to the State Governments by the depreciation of their credit when floating future loans. The financial stringency caused by diverting large sums from their accustomed channel may also have the effect of raising the rates charged for mortgage loans and so adversely affect the position of the credit foncier, loans to farmers and cottage loans—paragraph summarising these positions. We would urge that the establishment of a Commonwealth Savings Bank would result in the duplication of system and control in the division of capital and of profits in the reduction of the public facilities and possibly of interest to depositors in increasing expenses and possibly in adding to interest on loans. Most important of all it would lead inevitably to the embarrassment of the Govern-

ments of the States in the carrying out of their policies of internal development. So far the electors have not been consulted in the proposal to hand the Savings Bank over to Federal control. In the authorised programmes of parties in the last election the idea of a Savings Bank branch of the Commonwealth Bank was not brought forward. The failure of the States to act no doubt leaves the general field of banking open to Federal operations but as all the States have established Savings Banks with great success and apparently to the complete satisfaction alike of depositors and of the general public we urge upon you that operations in that sphere will be only an unnecessary duplication of existing State activity. In view of these weighty reasons and of the near approach of the Premiers' Conference we would urge that final action on this measure be postponed until the grave considerations here put forward may be discussed by the heads of all the Governments concerned and a course of action suitable to all and preserving the interests of all determined upon. We are assured that the Premiers of the remaining States warmly concur in the above views and that moreover they would have been present at this morning's conference but for the exigencies of time and the pressure of business at their respective centres.

"Signed. MCGOWEN AND MURRAY."

This morning I sent the following message to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth:—

"[Copy.]

"30-11-11.

"Telegram to

"Prime Minister, Commonwealth,
"Melbourne.

"Premiers McGowen and Murray wired me text of their memorandum to your Government on Savings Bank proposals in which memorandum I concur. I specially urge as reasons for your delaying action pending further investigation and conference that this State has fully met requirements by offering fullest facilities for our people's savings and considerable business has been built up to manifest advantage of Government and people. Establishment Commonwealth Savings Banks means duplication and therefore waste and as under our Act Trustees must invest two-thirds in Government securities your proposed action will embarrass if not cripple us. It will certainly mean a serious loss added to that we have already suffered through the deprivation of our note issue. As the deposits in our Savings Bank are the savings of our own people and are used for the development of our State it is hoped your Government will take no action calculated to deprive us of such deposits.

"(Signed) DENHAM."

I move that the papers be printed.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Question put and passed.

SAVINGS BANK ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

INITIATION.

The TREASURER: I move—

"That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Government Savings Bank Act of 1864 and the Savings Bank Amending Act of 1882 in certain particulars."

Mr. MULLAN: You might give us some particulars.

The TREASURER: I shall be very pleased indeed to give the particulars asked for by hon. members opposite. Briefly, the particulars are as follows:—It is proposed to make it possible for anyone to pay in 1s.

as a deposit, as against 5s. previously, the idea being to offer every facility to those who are anxious to place their savings in the keeping of the Government. The measure also proposes to raise the amount upon which interest may be paid from £200 to a larger amount.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: How much?

The TREASURER: I am receiving half a dozen questions at one go. The Bill as printed makes provision for payment of interest on an amount up to £500, but I may add that I do not think we should object to increase the amount, if the Committee desire it, provided that the matter is left to the option of the Governor in Council. The Bill as drafted provides that the amount may be raised to £500 at the option of the Governor in Council. Probably the rate of interest will be on a sliding scale. This is a theme upon which one could say a good deal, if the occasion were opportune, but I am afraid that I should be transgressing the rules of the House if I dilated on the matter now.

Mr. LENNON: We shall not object to your doing so.

The TREASURER: I imagine that I should not be allowed to go on, and I shall simply add that the whole question of our Savings Bank business has received the greatest and gravest consideration of the Government, and of the Treasury Department in particular. I was delighted to notice the other evening that members opposite shared the opinion that the Government Savings Bank is a very important factor in the development of Queensland. When a favourable opportunity presents itself I shall deal more fully with the matter, and in the meantime I shall content myself with moving the motion.

Mr. LENNON (*Herbert*): I called "Not formal" to this motion the other day, for the purpose of getting from the Minister what restriction the words "in certain particulars" imposed. These words have always met with objection from this side of the House, but my purpose in rising to-day was to ask whether the hon. gentleman, in addition to the very wise provision which he has said is made in the Bill to increase the limit upon which interest can be obtained from £200 to £500, is legislating upon the matter of unclaimed balances. The Government have not set a good example in the first instance, and then later on in bringing other banking institutions to follow suit. We know very well that there was a lot of dissatisfaction in regard to unclaimed balances which are appropriated at various institutions. The Auditor-General has called attention in times past to the unclaimed balances in the savings banks in Queensland. I think it ought to be gazetted after a lapse of seven years, for a period of three years, so that the next-of-kin or the legitimate heirs may have a chance of proving their claim to these unpaid balances, and the money may find its way to the proper owners. The Government should not hold on to these unclaimed balances. I fear the hon. gentleman does not intend to include that important particular in his proposal, and I would suggest to him that at this late stage he should bring in a clause to deal with unpaid balances.

The TREASURER: That will receive consideration.

Mr. Lennon.

Mr. LENNON: I am glad to learn that the amount bearing interest is to be increased, and I think that it might be very well increased to £1,000.

Mr. MULLAN (*Charters Towers*): I think the Treasurer might endeavour to meet the House in the direction of providing for these unpaid balances.

The TREASURER: I told the deputy leader of the Opposition that I would consider it. I cannot say more just now.

Mr. MULLAN: Seeing that the Bill is to be amended in certain particulars, and none of those particulars relate to unpaid balances, unless the scope of the Bill is enlarged at this stage, I do not see how he can very well do it. The Auditor-General has again and again drawn the attention of the Government to the matter. He wrote a fairly exhaustive memorandum on the subject, and at his instance the Government stated that they would take immediate steps—in fact, a Bill was drafted two years ago; and in his report of this year the Auditor-General again impresses upon the Government the necessity of dealing with the matter as soon as possible, and regrets that no action has been taken in connection with his memorandum of 1908-09.

The TREASURER: This is wide enough to enable us to deal with that matter.

Mr. MULLAN: Having that assurance, I will say nothing further.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER (*Maranoa*): Seeing that the Government have suddenly conceived the necessity of enlarging the usefulness of this bank, it is rather a pity that they have not enlarged the scope of the Bill so that it can be made as useful an institution as it is in other States of the Commonwealth. If the Government could see the wisdom of associating the Agricultural Bank with this, and making it just as useful a bank in Queensland as it is in the other States, as intimated to the Chief Secretary by the message received from the Premiers' Conference in New South Wales, we might have the same grounds for raising a protest against the Commonwealth Government now coming in and taking the stand that they are with regard to establishing a Commonwealth Bank.

The TREASURER: It has been used for that purpose very largely. If I have an opportunity I will explain.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: It has not the use in the development of the industries of Queensland that the Southern savings banks have down there, and I presume that had the Government known, when the Agricultural Bank Act was being amended, that the Federal Government were taking the steps that they are taking, they might perhaps have enlarged the scope of the Agricultural Bank in the direction of associating the Savings Bank with it. But now that they have failed to do that, I would strongly urge the Treasurer to enlarge the scope of the Bill, even at this late stage, in that direction, and then the State may with some justification raise its voice against the action of the Federal Government, but at present I do not see how the Government can put a decent case against the extension of the Federal Bank to Queensland.

Mr. MANN (*Cairns*): I trust that the Government will not take action in the direction indicated by the hon. member for Maranoa, until we see more clearly what the intentions of the Federal Government

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are. If the Government enlarged the scope of our Savings Bank in order to allow of advances being made to settlers, we could only do so by competing against the Federal bank, and if the Federal bank provided $3\frac{1}{2}$ or $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., the State, to ensure getting the largest amount possible, must offer 4 per cent., and must charge the settlers a corresponding price to be able to pay depositors 4 per cent. interest.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: The bank pays 4 per cent. to the Government for the money it uses.

Mr. MANN: I hardly think that it does. There is only a certain amount of money to be invested in Queensland, and if the Federal and the State Government are both competing for the investment of savings, there will be a less amount of money in the State Savings Bank to advance.

Mr. HAMILTON: It will be a duplication of machinery.

Mr. MANN: If the Federal Government insists on starting we will have to get new offices and appoint men to look after them, because even if we employed school teachers in certain districts they could only do the work in the morning and after school hours at night—

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the hon. member deal with principles, instead of details.

Mr. MANN: It will be wise to see exactly what the temper of the Federal Parliament is before we make any move in this matter.

Mr. FOLEY (*Townsville*): I was pleased to hear the Treasurer intimate that the Government were prepared to raise the amount on which the Government Savings Bank would pay interest up to £500. I think that will prevent a large amount of money being shifted out of the Savings Bank into private banks, because if people have a pound or two they don't want to use, they like to get interest on it. I was pleased to hear the Treasurer intimate that it was the intention of the Government to reduce the amount which they would receive to deposits of the sum of 1s. I think the Treasurer could even go one better than that and accept pennies. I see the Treasurer smiles, but in the old country thirty years ago the Government hit upon a plan by which children had cards issued to them on which they could affix a dozen stamps and then deposit them in the bank. If such a scheme had been adopted here it would have been the means of bringing in many thousands of pounds that are now paid into the penny savings banks. In Townsville there is a penny savings bank run by the school of arts committee, and I have no doubt there are penny banks all over the State. The people see the necessity of encouraging children to become thrifty. I would also like to suggest the necessity of amending the Act to enable depositors in large cities to draw their money at call the same as they do in Brisbane. A depositor in Brisbane can go into the Government Savings Bank, hand his slip in, and get the money in ten minutes.

The TREASURER: Are you quite sure? I discussed the matter this morning with the Under Secretary.

Mr. FOLEY: That is quite correct. If I want to withdraw a sum of money in

Townsville, I make out a slip and hand in my book to the man in charge, and if I want it in less than a fortnight, I have to pay 1s. 6d. to send a telegram to Brisbane and get a telegraphic reply, and I can get my money within twenty-four hours.

The TREASURER: The Government intend in offices where ledger accounts are kept to make it possible for amounts up to £200 to be paid on demand.

Mr. FOLEY: That will be a great improvement and will tend to popularise the Savings Bank.

The PREMIER: That will operate in such places as Townsville.

Mr. FOLEY: I am glad to hear that it is the intention of the Government to allow people to make withdrawals on demand in any of the large offices in the State.

Question put and passed.

WAGES BOARDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE.

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

The TREASURER moved—

“That it is desirable that a Bill be introduced to amend the Wages Boards Act of 1908.”

Mr. MANN asked whether it was proposed in the Bill to alter the method of appointing a chairman? It was not wise that the Government—whether Liberal or Labour—should have the appointment of the chairman in their hands, because it gave rise to a feeling that a chairman so appointed would favour either one side or the other.

The TREASURER said that provision was not made in the Bill. As other questions might be asked, he would briefly say what were some of the provisions contained in the measure. First, there was the definition of employer and employee. He might say that some of the amendments were the result of suggestions made by members on the other side. For instance, the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, Mr. McLachlan, had introduced a deputation in regard to the furniture trade, and suggested that the board should be elected in precisely the same way as other boards. The reason for the special provision not giving them that power was the fear that certain people might swamp the board, but there was ample evidence that no such danger existed. Power was given to increase or decrease the number of members on a special board, the maximum being twelve and the minimum four. The Bill also dealt with the question of giving equal representation to the order and ready-made branches of the clothing trade. The chairman, on assuming office, would be required to take the oath of office; and witnesses, when summoned, would be required to attend. With regard to permits for aged, slow, and infirm workers, power was given to the chief inspector to issue them.

Mr. THEODORE: A very bad thing.

The TREASURER: The administration of the department showed how necessary it was that there should be some other provision. Some men had been practically forced to the verge of starvation because there was no such provision in the Act. Another pro-

vision was that service on the board should not be a reason for a person being dismissed by his employer.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed, and the resolution was agreed to.

FIRST READING.

The Bill was read a first time, and the second reading made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

STATE EDUCATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE.

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

“That it is desirable that a Bill be introduced to amend the State Education Acts, 1875 to 1910, in certain particulars.”

Mr. LENNON: Unless the Minister desired to give some explanation of the measure, he would like to take the opportunity of moving an amendment to widen the scope of the motion. A recent incident which he brought before the House rendered very necessary the amendment he desired to see introduced. When the Religious Instruction in State Schools Act was introduced an attempt was made to introduce a very practical and reasonable clause providing that only the children of those parents who expressed their desire in writing to the teacher should receive religious instruction. That amendment, however, was rejected, and the subject of religious instruction was now on the curriculum; consequently, teachers were required by the department to give this instruction unless parents objected in writing. That addition to the curriculum brought about the unpleasant occurrence at Goondi, to which he had referred on more than one occasion, and in order to prevent, if possible, the recurrence of a like incident, he moved that the question be amended by the addition of the following words:—

“one of these particulars being to provide that forms be issued to parents and guardians requesting them to state whether they desire their children to receive religious instruction or not.”

If that amendment was carried, as he hoped it would be, it would render the teaching of religious instruction in State schools less irritating to those people who did not desire to have their children roped in and compelled to receive such instruction, to which they might have conscientious objections. It was within his knowledge that prior to the introduction of this excessance on our splendid system of education, people holding certain religious tenets tried to influence children in the direction of their own particular views by handing catechisms to them and asking them to read them. Whilst he had no objection to religious zealots—indeed, he ad-

[4.30 p.m.] mired people who had religious zeal, provided that zeal was properly directed—he thought their zeal should be directed into proper channels. The reasonable amendment which he proposed, and which was only a slight modification of the amendment they endeavoured to get carried when the Bible in State Schools Bill was before the Committee, would give parents an opportunity of saying whether

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or not they desired their children to receive religious instruction, and would allay a good deal of irritation which had arisen in one district, and which might arise in any other district at any moment. Even the upholders of religious instruction in State schools must realise that if they desired to popularise that form of instruction they must make it agreeable to the whole people. Members should not view this question from a Brisbane standpoint, or from the standpoint of large cities like Rockhampton, Townsville, and Charters Towers, but should carry themselves in mind to remote parts of the State where there were small schools attended by perhaps twenty, or twenty-five, or thirty children, and where the difficulty he had referred to was very much accentuated. There might be a school in which the parents of fifteen or twenty pupils desired that their children should receive religious instruction, and where the parents of the other eight or ten were opposed to their children receiving religious instruction, but neglected to inform the teacher of their wishes in the matter. They might not think of the matter until some time after they discovered that their children had been receiving a form of instruction that they did not approve of, and then the fat was in the fire, and a row ensued. The object of this amendment was to prevent a recurrence of the unpleasant incident which had already arisen; there was no other motive behind it, and he felt confident that the Committee would accept it.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He was glad that the deputy leader of the Opposition had given him an opportunity of stating what amendments the Government desired to introduce into the Education Act. He quite agreed with the hon. member that our system of primary education had been a splendid one. But thirty-five years had elapsed since it was brought in, and it was desirable that we should get into line with other countries. The hon. member took it for granted that the incident he mentioned as having occurred at Goondi was substantially correct. He was sorry that the other papers in connection with that matter had not been circulated in time for the hon. member to peruse them before this motion came before the Committee. It was no fault of his that they had not been circulated; probably it was no fault of anybody, but was due to the pressure of work in the Government Printing Office. The papers would, however, be circulated that afternoon, and in the meantime he would read one or two extracts from them, not in a controversial manner, but merely with a view to put the facts before the Committee.

Mr. LENNON: Had we not better wait for the full report?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: He only wanted to make one or two extracts from the report. Inspector Earnshaw went up to Goondi, and the first thing he did was to see the teacher, who gave an unqualified denial of the whole matter. Then he thought it desirable to make inquiries from the parents at first hand, and the teacher gave him every assistance by furnishing him with the addresses of the parents. The inspector said—

"The teacher gave me every assistance in

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finding the parents. I saw Mrs. O'Brien and Kate O'Brien, aged thirteen years, who verified Miss Woodard's statement. The girl, in her mother's presence, said she had not been punished nor threatened with punishment, and that when she refused to read Miss Woodard excused her without making any remark. The mother said she had no complaint to make in the matter.

"Mrs. Doyle had no complaint to make. Larry had not been punished. Mr. Doyle would not send a written request, but he had since asked the teacher to excuse the boy from the lessons.

"Mrs. Davis said none of her children had been punished or threatened with punishment, and the only complaint she had to make was, she thought the teacher should have sent every parent a written notification that a written request for exemption was required. She said her daughter had told her this was necessary, but the boy had not. To-day the boy said he had told his mother, and she said she was too busy then to write one.

"Mrs. Cleary was satisfied with everything and had no complaint of any kind to make.

"Mr. Downing, the only other Roman Catholic parent, lived too far away, and as his children were not in any way brought into the matter, I did not interview him.

"This morning, on my arrival at the school at 8.15, I found Mrs. Stevens, mother of the mill manager, the chairman and the secretary of the school committee, awaiting me. All wished to express their sympathy with the teacher in this matter, which they regarded as altogether unjust. All stated that till the article appeared in the *Democrat* no idea of any dissatisfaction had been heard of at Goondi.

"Miss Woodard has acted strictly in accordance with Regulation 156A in requiring a written request, but, as I privately told her afterwards, she made an error in judgment in not putting the children on one side where opposition seemed to exist and writing a note to the parents of those children, informing them that unless they sent a written request she should take it for granted that the parents did not object to the lessons. Later, all the Roman Catholic parents, except Doyle, sent written requests. I read them all, and none of them contained any complaint about punishment or threatenings."

In another report the inspector said—

"Finally, I may state I wished not to shield the teacher in the inquiry or to exercise "kindly offices," etc. (see 6), but to find out the truth; and I took what I considered to be the best methods to do this. My former report of the inquiry is literally correct."

The *Innisfail Democrat* had a leader on the inquiry, from which it would be only necessary for him to quote this one sentence—

"We did not, for instance [1] even remotely insinuate that any child had been caned, the words used being "forced at the point of the cane," an expression which is clearly and thoroughly understood by every intelligent person as indicative of that power of corporal punishment which is always in reserve as a recognised and legitimate means of enforcing compliance with instructions and maintaining necessary discipline."

He did not think it necessary to go any further into that matter, because the parents themselves did not say that the children were caned or that they were threatened with the cane. With regard to the amendment moved by the hon. member, all he could say was that the Bill which he proposed to introduce did not deal with the Bible in State schools question at all. That question was left absolutely on one side. The people had expressed a certain desire in regard to that matter, and

whatever might be the individual opinions of hon. members, they as democrats could not go against the expressed wish of the people.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Can't we?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: All he could say was that if the Committee decided to deal with that question, there would not be time to go on with the Bill. The Bill proposed to repeal the provision in the existing Act with regard to the one-fifth contribution by local residents. He had always felt that that provision had borne very severely upon many districts—(hear, hear!)—particularly new settlements, where men had gone on the land, and for the first three or four years had to work very hard to make ends meet, without being compelled to scrape money together in order to raise one-fifth of the cost of a school so that their children might be educated. The Bill further proposed that it should be made compulsory that children should reach a prescribed standard of education. The Government also asked for authority for medical and dental inspection. Another provision proposed to raise the school age to fourteen years—(hear, hear!)—and to require that every child should attend school every day unless a valid excuse for absence was furnished, and certain valid excuses were specified. There was another clause which dealt with leaving certificates, and provided that children going to a high school should get a certificate.

Mr. MULLAN: Are you adopting a system of transfer from primary to secondary schools?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: There would be a qualifying examination—not a competitive examination, but a qualification, with a minimum percentage. This was an entirely new departure. The Committee were perfectly at liberty to have a long academical discussion on the Bible in State schools question, if members chose, but if they did they could not have this Bill. He could not accept the amendment.

Mr. LENNON wished to say a few words in reply to the remarks of the Minister on the second article which appeared in the *Innisfail Democrat*. The hon. gentleman argued that the *Democrat* backed down considerably in that article. But the fact was that they simply explained what they meant by the expression "Forced at the point of the cane." That kind of reasoning showed a sort of dialectical skill that was too keen for the Minister. Then, again, the hon. gentleman omitted to mention—he did not know whether he was aware of it or not—although he referred to the parent, Davis, who was quite satisfied to take his children away from the school, and although he said Mr. Dowling was too far away to be seen, he has also, I believe, taken his children away from the school. He was sure the hon. gentleman did not want that. But the want of common sense in handling this delicate matter would have that effect. He had moved the amendment for the purpose of allaying dissatisfaction on these important matters.

Mr. McLACHLAN (*Fortitude Valley*) thought it was a pity the Minister had signified his intention of not accepting the amendment.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The House rejected the amendment.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: No, it did not.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: This Bill does not deal with that aspect at all.

Mr. McLACHLAN: The amendment moved on the previous occasion, if he remembered rightly, was that before a child was given religious instruction the parent had to signify his desire to that effect. The object of the present amendment was to have a circular printed and sent to the parents, asking whether it was their desire that religious instruction should be given to their children or not. The Minister stated that if we desire to have an academic discussion on the Bible in State Schools Bill they should lose the amending Bill which he had introduced. He had thrown that out as a sort of threat, which was not a fair way to treat the Committee. He thought the amendments contained in the Bill were good amendments, and were necessary in our educational system.

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: Why not let them come along?

Mr. McLACHLAN: He was quite prepared to do that, if the Minister would accept this amendment. It was a pity that our State education system was blotted by the measure which was passed some time ago. He had at all times offered his protest against our educational system being interfered with in that way. As that Act was now on the statute-book, they should in fairness to persons in remote parts of the State, who might not be so conversant with the Acts and regulations as those persons who resided in the cities, see that they had an opportunity of signing this form, to signify whether they desired their children to have religious instruction or not. He was very pleased to know that the Government were not introducing the competitive system of examination, but were having the qualifying examination. He hoped the Minister would accept the amendment.

Mr. HAMILTON (*Gregory*) was heartily in accord with the sentiments expressed in the amendment. It would have been a proper thing to have inserted it in the Bill when it was going through. The correspondence in connection with the Goondi school showed that some people did not know that it was necessary for them to write to the teacher. He thought it was a much easier way, if the parents wanted their children to receive religious instruction, for them to drop a note to the teacher. The amendment did not interfere at all with the system. He was sorry that this religious teaching ever came into our education system, as it is causing a lot of ill-feeling, judging from the accounts in the Press. However, they had to make the best of it, but they wanted to make it work as harmoniously as possible, and the amendment would tend to that object. If every parent was circularised and told that if they wanted exemption they would have to write for it, there would be no excuse for them. In country districts everybody did not read *Hansard* or see the Bill, and was not aware what they were called upon to do. As to the case at Goondi, there was some excuse for the hon. member for Herbert in coming to the conclusion that he did when he read the paragraph in the *Democrat*. The inspector said—

"Before holding the inquiry I read the *Democrat* article of 7th October, and I was satisfied that the writer wished to convey the

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impression that the teacher by punishment or threats of punishment had coerced the children to read the Bible lessons."

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The second leader of the *Democrat* goes back on that.

Mr. HAMILTON: The acceptance of the amendment would obviate any occurrence of the sort in the future.

Mr. ADAMSON (*Rockhampton*) wanted to congratulate the Minister on what he had said concerning the Bill, which he hoped would be carried through. He thought it was a good thing that the one-fifth contribution should be done away with, and that the age should be raised to fourteen. The idea of making the continuation classes more effective was also a good thing, and it was also desirable to try to make compulsory attendance more effective than it had been. He thought that the qualifying principle, instead of the competitive principle, with the passing from the State schools to the secondary schools, was an excellent idea. At the same time, he was quite at one with the deputy leader of the Opposition in seeking to clear the air in connection with the matters he had brought forward. He did not think the amendment would do any harm, and there would be no opposition to the teachers asking the parents whether they wanted their children to attend the class for religious instruction. If the parents were as anxious about the matter as they ought to be, they would not need to be asked by the department, but would send word at once. When these classes were being formed, he sent word at once to the head teacher that his boy was not to attend any classes where a minister of religion gave instruction. The method proposed by the amendment would help to prevent such things taking place as had occurred at Goondi. He would ask the Minister if it was the intention, when the Religious Instruction Bill was passed, that ministers of religion could attend on any day of the week?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: On a day when the committee decided.

Mr. ADAMSON: In some places all the ministers attend on one day, and the school was divided according to the denominations. In other cases, they only attended on certain days. Teachers had spoken to him in different places that ministers attended on different days, and the work of the school was dislocated on three or four days a week. It was far better that the school should be divided in that way on one day than that it should be dislocated and the work disarranged by ministers going there on different days.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I quite agree with you; and we try to make the stipulation. The committee have the right of deciding the day, and the Minister the hour.

Mr. ADAMSON: He wished all committees were like the Mount Morgan committee, who insisted on all religious instruction being given on one day. He would like the Minister to accept the amendment; at the same time he hoped the Bill would not be lost, as it was a very good Bill.

Mr. ALLEN (*Bulloo*) was sorry the Minister did not see his way to accept the amendment.

[*Mr. Hamilton.*

Mr. LENNON: If the Minister promises to have it done by regulation, I will withdraw the amendment.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: No; I can't do that.

Mr. ALLEN: If this provision had been contained in the Bill, the incident at Goondi would not have taken place. The inspector,

in his report on the matter, said [5 p.m.] that Miss Woodard acted strictly in accordance with Regu-

lation 156A in requiring a written request. He thought so too. The inspector went on to say, however, that she made an error of judgment in not putting the children on one side where opposition seems to exist. He thought it was too much to expect teachers to anticipate opposition, and the amendment would be a great safeguard in the interests of all concerned. He was glad this amending Bill had been introduced, but the question of hours was a matter that demanded attention. He did not see how the requirements of the syllabus could be met, seeing that one hour a week was set aside for religious instruction and two and a-half hours for drill. He could not understand how teachers would be able to keep up the ordinary school work.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: There is going to be an alteration in the syllabus.

Mr. ALLEN: He was pleased to hear it. He knew that people were discontented with the present condition of things, because too much was taken out of ordinary school time. In connection with these continuation schools, the Minister did not state whether the standard of education was to be raised, but he thought it ought to be raised. Another point for consideration was the question of mileage from State schools.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: That is also increased—2 miles under ten years and 3 miles over ten years of age.

Mr. ALLEN: He did not think that was enough. Two and a-half miles was not too much for a child eight years of age to walk to school, and from eleven years it might be made 3 miles. In country districts schools could not be kept up to the necessary attendance because families outside the radius of 2 miles did not send their children to school regularly and there was no chance of compelling the children to attend.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Would it not be better to leave that over until we get to the Committee stage?

Mr. ALLEN: Yes; as long as the question will come up then.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Oh, yes.

Mr. RYLAND hoped the amendment would be accepted. It was too much to expect parents who objected to their children receiving religious instruction to send written notice to the teacher; the proper thing to do would be to send the parents a circular containing the words "Yes" and "No," by means of which they could indicate whether they desired their children to receive religious instruction or not. Such a provision as that would meet the whole case, and do away with a lot of the heartburning at present existing.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN (*Kennedy*): The Minister would be wise in accepting the amendment, as it would tend to remove the friction in connec-

tion with giving religious instruction in State schools. Many of the parents might not care to write specifically stating that they did not wish their children to receive these lessons; but it would be a very easy matter for them to sign a "Yes" or "No" form. It would be wise for those who assisted to put this blemish on our system of education to support this amendment with the view of erasing the friction that existed. He was sure that if the question of religious instruction were again put to the popular vote, the former decision would be reversed.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: It would be a graceful act on the part of the Minister to accept the amendment.

Mr. FOLEY: The statements which had been made that afternoon exactly bore out the argument that he advanced when they were passing the Bible in State Schools Bill. He then said it was very hard that people should be required to write to the teacher informing him of their objection to their children receiving religious instruction. While parents might be willing to sign a circular, stating that they did not wish their children to receive religious instruction, they did not desire to proclaim their opinion on this matter from the housetops, because they would then be regarded as heathens by some people. The issue of a circular such as was suggested would do away with a great deal of the friction which had been referred to, and it would afford an excellent means of ascertaining the true feeling of the people with regard to the question of religious instruction in State schools. The amendment was a reasonable one, and the Minister would be wise in accepting it.

Question—That the words proposed to be added (*Mr. Lennon's amendment*) be so added—put; and the Committee divided:—

AYES, 24.

Mr. Adamson	Mr. Lesina
" Allen	" McLachlan
" Collins	" Mann
" Corser	" Maughan
" Coyne	" May
" Ferricks	" Mulcahy
" Foley	" Mullan
" Hamilton	" Murphy
" Hardacre	" O'Sullivan
" Hunter, J. M.	" Payne
" Land	" Ryland
" Lennon	" Theodore

Tellers: Mr. J. M. Hunter and Mr. O'Sullivan.

NOES, 32.

Mr. Appel	Mr. Morgan
" Barnes, G. P.	" Paget
" Barnes, W. H.	" Petrie
" Booker	" Philp
" Bouchard	" Rankin
" Brennan	" Somerset
" Bridges	" Stevens
" Crawford	" Swayne
" Denham	" Thorn
" Forsyth	" Tolmie
" Fox	" Trout
" Grant	" Vowles
" Grayson	" Walker
" Gunn	" Welsby
" Hunter, D.	" White
" Macartney	" Wienholt

Tellers: Mr. Booker and Mr. Walker.

PAIR.

Aye—Mr. Blair. No—Mr. Hodge.

Resolved in the negative.

Original question put and passed.

The House resumed. The CHAIRMAN reported the resolution, which was agreed to.

FIRST READING.

The Bill was read a first time, and its second reading made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

MACKAY HARBOUR BOARD ACT
AMENDMENT BILL.

CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL'S
AMENDMENT.

The TREASURER: The Council proposed to insert in clause 9, line 22, the words "by the board." This was only a matter of detail, and he moved that the amendment be agreed to.

Mr. MULLAN asked what would be the effect of the amendment?

The TREASURER: The intention of the framers of the Bill was that these harbour works should be carried out and completed by the board under the supervision and control of the Minister or his responsible officer. It was thought in another place that the clause did not make it quite clear who was to do the work, and so the amendment inserting the words "by the board" had been made.

Mr. LENNON: Are you accepting that?

The TREASURER: Indeed he was; he had no hesitation in accepting the amendment, because it made the intention of the clause quite clear.

Mr. LENNON: He missed the first part of the hon. gentleman's remarks, and he should like to know if he was correct in his impression that the Minister assured the Committee that, in view of the magnitude of the financial responsibility undertaken by the board, the department would see that the whole work was carried out subject to the supervision and approval of Mr. Cullen or some other responsible officer.

The TREASURER: He could assure the Committee that the Government regarded it as highly important that a work of this magnitude should be supervised by a responsible Government officer. Unless such officer approved of the work as it progressed, no payment would be made on account. The departmental officers would see that the work was properly done.

Mr. MANN was not quite clear that the amendment was in order, as it might increase the expense of the work. The Bill as it left the Assembly had provided that the work would be done under the supervision of the Minister through his officers, and no one would deny the ability of Mr. Cullen to do the work, but here the work was to be done by the board. The Minister might have read the accounts of the expense which was caused at Cairns through the board's engineer doing certain work. If they had had this Bill before the Speaker left the chair he would have raised a point of order as to whether the Council were in order in inserting the amendment, because, according to "May," they had not the right to even regulate expenditure, but by the amendment they were attempting to do so, and it might create a greater burden. He had a good mind to raise the point of order with the Speaker in the chair. This Chamber should

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be very jealous of the control of the public purse, and if they allowed the other Chamber to increase or decrease the expenditure, they were allowing them to flch away certain privileges which this Chamber had enjoyed for a very lengthy period.

Mr. LENNON: I think your point of order would be upheld.

Mr. MANN: He intended to raise it on the report stage of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

The House resumed. The CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendment.

The TREASURER: I move that the resolution be agreed to by the House.

Mr. MANN: I would ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker, as to whether this amendment is strictly in order. I have not got "May" by me at present, but I remember reading the other day where even the House of Lords have not been allowed in any shape or form to control the administration of the public purse. By putting in this amendment the other House may increase the expenditure, because the work will require to be done by the board under the supervision of the Minister through his officers. As the Bill left this place the work had to be done under the supervision of the Minister through his officers, these officers employing the men themselves. By the insertion of "by the board" we do not know what wages the board may pay or what it will cost to supervise the work which it is doing. For that reason, I ask if the amendment is in order.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is that the resolution be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

The TREASURER: I move that the Bill be returned to the Legislative Council with a message intimating that the Assembly have agreed to the amendment made by the Legislative Council.

Mr. MANN: I think we would be well advised to add to that amendment: that the House is desirous of preserving its undoubted rights and privileges as far as the control of the public purse is concerned. I will not pursue the subject further. I think if you had considered that this amendment was *ultra vires* you would not have accepted it, but I thought it possible you might have overlooked it. If you are satisfied, I am contented to let it go.

Question put and passed.

WORKERS' DWELLINGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT.

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

The SPEAKER: It is my duty to give the House my view on the question of this amendment. It appears to me, and I am of the opinion, that the Legislative Council have invaded one of the privileges of this Assembly.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: And for the guidance of the House I wish to point out that my ruling is given on the procedure as laid down in "May," 11th edition, page 574, which reads—

"That all aids and supplies, and aids to His Majesty in Parliament, are the sole gift of the Commons; and all Bills for the granting of any such aids and supplies ought to begin with

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the Commons; and that it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations, and qualifications of such grants, which ought not to be changed or altered by the House of Lords."

I have no hesitation in laying this ruling before the House.

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

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

The TREASURER moved that the Council's amendment in clause 3 be disagreed to.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The TREASURER: His reason for doing so was that it was an invasion of the privileges of the House, as pointed out in "May," page 574. He did not think it was necessary to refer to it, but he simply moved that the amendment be disagreed to.

Mr. LENNON congratulated the Minister for the action he had taken in this matter. He was quite certain he was well fortified in his action by sound reasons, and he was also certain that the action on the part of another place had been brought about by the deputation representing building societies—their object was to alter this Bill in the interests of building societies—and he was very glad that even the Government would not allow itself to be made use of. (Laughter.)

The House resumed. The CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had disagreed to the Legislative Council's amendment. The resolution was adopted.

The TREASURER: I move that the following message be sent to the Legislative Council:—

"That the Legislative Assembly having had under consideration the Legislative Council's amendment in the Workers' Dwellings Bill, beg now to intimate that they disagree to the amendment—

"Because it infringes the undoubted and sole right of the Legislative Assembly to control the expenditure and disbursement of money either by grant or loan.

"The Legislative Assembly do not think it necessary to offer any further reason, hoping that this reason may be considered sufficient."

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. LENNON: I would like to say that from the *Hansard* report it appears that the Government representative in the other House, in not standing to his guns, permitted this amendment to be introduced. He said he would not feel much grieved if the Bill was thrown out.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: I am not quite sure that I agree with the message to be sent to the other place—that the Treasurer has not been happy in the use of the word "control"—because I wished to keep the control of the expenditure in the hands of the Government in another Bill. I claim that we would not be justified in accepting the amendment in either Bill. I am glad he has done it in this case, because it at least shows the other place that we intend, in at least this instance, to preserve our rights, and I heartily support the Treasurer in the attitude he has taken up to endeavour to control the public purse.

Question put and passed.

TRADES AND LABOUR HALL MORTGAGE AND LEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

The PREMIER: In 1893 an Act was passed to enable the trustees of the Trades Hall to execute a mortgage of their property for a sum not greater than £2,500; they now desire to make considerable improvements to their property, and for that purpose seek to increase their borrowing powers to £6,000. I have made inquiries, and I have no doubt as to the solvency of the transaction. It is doubtful whether they will avail themselves of the full power of borrowing the £6,000, even if it is given to them by this Bill. The board of management are circumscribed in their operations by the section of the Act we are seeking to amend, which provides that—

“It shall be lawful for the said trustees, in such manner as may be directed by the board of management for the time being, or a majority of them, and with the consent of the mortgagee, to grant a lease or leases of the lands or any part thereof: Provided that no such lease shall be granted for any term exceeding five years, except with the approval of the Governor in Council.”

I think there is a perfect safeguard there, and the simple object of the Bill is to enable the board of management to negotiate a larger loan for the purpose of making necessary improvements. I move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. MANN: I just wish to say a word to remove an impression in the minds of some members that when I took exception to the irregular way in which the Bill was introduced I wanted to prevent it going through. My object was simply to preserve the rights of the Opposition. I think it is a bad principle for the Government to take certain private Bills and put them through as public Bills. They might put through the Bills of members on their own side in that way and do nothing to assist Opposition members in getting their Bills through.

Hon. R. PHILP: This is not a Bill of one of the Government supporters.

Mr. MANN: I am not saying that it is. I am merely pointing out that any Government may put through all the private Bills of their own supporters while the Opposition members have no chance at all. I am pleased that this Bill has been introduced; and I see no harm in increasing the borrowing powers of the trustees as long as the money will be spent judiciously, and I am sure that the trustees will spend the money in the best interests of the people concerned. I will vote for the second reading.

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

Clause 1 put and passed.

On clause 2, as follows—

“In the proviso of section three of the principal Act, the words “two thousand five hundred pounds” are repealed, and the words “six thousand pounds” are inserted in lieu thereof.”

Mr. CRAWFORD (*Fitzroy*): It was proposed in this Bill to hand over great powers to a great corporation. It was proposed to give them power to spend a lot of money, but no guarantee was required that the men who would be employed by the expenditure of

this money would receive a minimum wage. (Laughter.) The least the advocates of the Bill could do would be to insist on the payment of the highest minimum wage they had advocated this session—namely, 10s. a day. (Laughter.)

Mr. D. HUNTER (*Woolloongabba*): He was not going to oppose the Bill, which he thought was very necessary, but he thought it would be only right to insist that any work for which the money was to be raised should be done by day labour. The dwellings that had been erected under the Workers' Dwellings Act had all been built by contract, and it was quite possible that the board of management of the Trades Hall might call for tenders for any work they wanted done; therefore he thought there should be a stipulation that the work should be done by day labour. But there was nothing in the Bill about day labour or a minimum wage.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The question of a minimum wage or day labour does not arise under this clause. The question before the Committee is that clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. D. HUNTER: He would simply move that the clause be amended by providing that all work done out of the money raised should be done by day labour. This would put members opposite to the test as to whether they were prepared to insert that in their own Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: I rule that the hon. member's amendment is out of order.

Hon. R. PHILP said he was delighted to see this Bill introduced. It was another plank of the Labour platform gone—the plank against borrowing money. In 1893, when Mr. Reid proposed the Bill, Mr. Hoolan said the last plank of their platform was gone, and he opposed the passing of the Bill, as he considered those trustees had no right to borrow money. He (Hon. R. Philp) was glad to see that the people on the other side were becoming capitalists. At one time they had made a boast that there was more capital on that side than on the Government side. They ought to be encouraged to save their money and invest it in bricks and mortar, and then they would have the same feeling for the other fellow who possessed bricks and mortar when the Federal land tax came along. The plank of the Labour platform with regard to selling land had gone, and the plank in regard to borrowing money had also gone. He was pleased to support the Bill.

Mr. THEODORE: He was not a member of the board of management of the Trades Hall, but he might say that they proposed to raise the money amongst themselves by simply using their own funds. The Trades Hall board was a body constituted of delegates appointed by unions who were tenants of the hall.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why do they want these powers?

Mr. THEODORE: The principal Act imposed certain obligations in connection with the expenditure of money by the board, who were simply exercising the powers vested in them, and complying with the obligations imposed. There was no proposal to borrow money in the open market, or to encroach on the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Clause put and passed.

Mr. Theodore.]

The House resumed. The CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment; and the third reading was made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

BOONAH SCHOOL OF ARTS LAND MORTGAGE BILL.

SECOND READING.

Mr. WIENHOLT (*Fassifern*): This Bill is almost identical with other Bills of a similar character which have been passed through this House during the life of the present Parliament. It is, in fact, similar to the Harrisville School of Arts Bill, which I had the honour to introduce, the Longreach School of Arts Bill, and the [7 p.m.] Mackay School of Arts Bill. These small Bills may take up a good deal of the time of the House, but they are a sign of growing prosperity in the country generally. Hon. members have no doubt read the evidence taken by the Select Committee, and they will have seen that it was taken with exceptional fullness and gone into with unusual carefulness. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to speak at length on the measure, and I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

PROPOSED COMMITTAL.

Mr. WIENHOLT: I move that you do now leave the chair, and that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill in detail.

Mr. THEODORE (*Woothakata*): I should like to inquire if the Standing Orders have been suspended for the purpose of allowing this Bill to be considered in its second reading and Committee stages in one day. I thought that procedure was necessary in the case of any Bill introduced in this House.

The SPEAKER: There is no question of order. The hon. member will have noticed that the same course was followed with regard to the Trades and Labour Hall Mortgage and Leases Act Amendment Bill this day. It is within the Standing Orders to pass from the second reading to the Committee stage on the same day.

Mr. THEODORE: I should like to point out that when the Premier moved the suspension of the Standing Orders in connection with the Trades and Labour Hall Bill, he only proposed the suspension of the Standing Orders relating to the introduction of private Bills, and not—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 6, inclusive, put and passed.

On the preamble,

Mr. MAUGHAN said he noticed that in the copy of the Bill attached to the report of the Select Committee the trustees were stated to be "John Hooper, Campbell Thomas McDonald, Thomas Francis Stubbin, and Samuel Dover." In the Bill circulated among hon. members the words "John Hooper" were omitted. He should like to know which was the proper Bill, and with which Bill the Committee were dealing?

[*Mr. Wienholt.*

Mr. WIENHOLT: The Bill he had in his hand was the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, and contained the names of the whole of the trustees. He thought there must be some mistake in circulating the other Bill among hon. members.

Mr. MAUGHAN: The hon. member could get over the difficulty by recommitting the Bill for the purpose of making the necessary amendments.

Preamble put and passed.

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

RECOMMITTAL.

On the motion of Mr. WIENHOLT, the Bill was recommitted for the purpose of re-considering clause 2 and the preamble.

Clause 2 and the preamble were amended by adding the name of "John Hooper" to the trustees, and then passed as amended.

The House resumed. The CHAIRMAN reported the Bill with amendments.

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

BELMONT TRAMWAY LOANS VALIDATION BILL.

SECOND READING.

The TREASURER: The Bill, the second reading of which I desire to move, is a Bill to validate certain advances by the Treasurer by way of loans to the Belmont Shire Council for the construction of the Belmont Tramway. Briefly, the position is as follows:—During 1910, the Belmont Shire Council borrowed, under the Local Authorities Act of 1902, £12,314 for the construction of the tramway. Before embarking on the undertaking the usual course was taken. The matter was sent to the ratepayers, who endorsed the application which the local authority was making, and which limited the local authority to borrow £3,000 per mile. It was discovered after proceeding with the work that the amount which had been borrowed was not sufficient for the work. The Treasurer was then approached, and it was pointed out that, the work having advanced so far, it would simply mean the entire loss of the advance which had been made by the Government to that date for this work unless further advances were made in order to complete the work. A further advance of £5,089 was made, but before this was made the ratepayers were again appealed to, and they endorsed the action of the local authority in that direction. After they had again proceeded, it was found that even the £5,089 was not sufficient to complete the undertaking, with the result that again the Treasurer was approached. There was not time to consult the ratepayers again, otherwise, if they had done so, practically this session of Parliament would have passed by, or a further amount of £2,500 would have to be advanced by the Treasurer in order to complete the undertaking. The purposes of this Bill are to validate the action which has been taken. I think hon. members will agree with me that it would have been altogether unwise, after the undertaking had been entered into by the local authority, if they had not had the necessary money given to them to finish the work. It may be

asked: What were the reasons why the amount was so much increased? The engineer, Mr. Phillips, when the undertaking was originally embarked upon, thought that would be sufficient—and that opinion was endorsed by the late Commissioner for railways, Mr. Thallon—but subsequently some slight alterations were made in the gradients, and apparently the work, together with the increase, as I think hon. members will admit, of material and labour, could not be completed as originally undertaken. The purposes of the Bill are to seek the sanction of the House to what has been done by the Treasurer. The question may arise as to the position of this local authority, and as to the ultimate success of this particular tramline. Let me point out to the House that the position of the local authority concerned is a satisfactory one. For the information of members, I find that at present their debit balance is only £35. They owe no money to the Treasurer outside of the money in connection with this particular undertaking. Prior to this undertaking they had borrowed, but the term for which the borrowing had been made had just about expired, so they owed no other money except the amount we have just given to them. I would point out that whereas in 1910 the valuation of the properties within that shire was £49,732, in 1911 the valuations were £72,203, and there was a benefited area constituted for 1911 representing a valuation of £53,362. The rates struck in 1910 amounted to £1,189, and in 1911 the total valuation for rates was £1,600. I might further point out that whilst the local authority concerned only has a debit balance of £35, it has rates due amounting to £840. I think hon. members will see that the position of the local authority is a very satisfactory one.

Hon. R. PHILIP: What class of traffic will there be?

The TREASURER: The traffic which it is expected will pass over the line will produce about sufficient to pay the interest and redemption for the money. The hon. gentleman asks as to the class of traffic. At the terminus of the line there is the fellmongery and woollscouring establishment of Baynes Brothers, at which a very large business is carried on. Provision has been made for doing that work which at the present time is undertaken by lorries, and it is expected that a large amount will be realised from the traffic in connection with the wool from that woollscour. Then the district itself is very rich in certain classes of stone, which are required by local authorities. For instance, the Wynnum Shire Council has made a purchase of a very large area of land there, the object of the purchase being to secure that stone for works which they are carrying out at Wynnum.

Mr. FOLEY: Is it blue metal for road making?

The TREASURER: It is rather stone for facing in connection with the sea-walls, and that kind of work at Wynnum.

Mr. D. HUNTER: What kind of stone—porphyry?

The TREASURER: Yes. In addition to that the Wynnum Council have approached me, and asked if it is possible to make arrangements as speedily as possible so that they might have considerable quantities of

stone carried over the line from Belmont to Wynnum. I understand, too, that there are very large depôts of gravel and wood, and whilst the passenger traffic at its inception cannot be very heavy, still I have no doubt it will increase considerably.

Mr. MULLAN: Is it the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge?

The TREASURER: Yes. In addition to that, the people in the district are as far as possible making the new departure, which I think is very much to their credit—they are seeking, in connection with land cut up for residential purposes, to limit the areas to a quarter of an acre.

Mr. MULLAN: Very desirable.

The TREASURER: I think they are to be commended for doing that, so that when people get out there there will be ample breathing space. I may say that the district out there, from a residential point of view, cannot possibly be beaten.

Mr. MAUGHAN: It is a very fine suburb. Is it in Bulimba electorate?

The TREASURER: I regret that portion of it is about to leave my control; at any rate, the hon. member for Ipswich endorses the remark that it is a very fine suburb. I think the departure which the local authority has made will be in the interests of the district. The district has been kept back very considerably, because it wanted communication, and the desire of the local authority was that a district which was so suitable for settlement should be advanced to the front rank and get that which was needed through this tramline. It might be argued that the cost of the line is very much greater than the cost of other lines, but let me say at once that it is not so. I have information here which will show that the cost of the line is not so great. For instance, from Manly to Cleveland, 9½ miles, it cost £3,482 per mile, and the Enoggera branch, 8½ miles, cost £12,175, so that it will be seen that even with the increased cost this line is not going to be anything like as costly as some other lines have been.

Mr. D. HUNTER: What is the cost of this line?

The TREASURER: This line will cost, roughly speaking, £20,000, or about £5,000 per mile.

Hon. R. PHILIP: Was it done by contract or day labour?

The TREASURER: I understand that it was done by contract in some cases, but in the main by day labour. I further understand that in one or two of the contracts which were let, the contractors unfortunately took them at a price which did not pay them, and they threw up the sponge. I think I am correct in making that statement. I feel quite certain, that notwithstanding the initial difficulties which this local authority has had, this venture will prove an eminently useful one as far as they are concerned. There is some other information which I would like to give the Committee to show that the position is not at all an unsatisfactory one. I want to emphasise the point I previously made—namely, that the local authority in this instance borrowed under that section of the Act which limited them to £3,000 per mile, but my colleague seems to think I did not, so in case there should be a misconception, I want to make it quite clear. If they had not borrowed under that section,

Hon. W. H. Barnes.]

they would have had no difficulty in getting the extra cost of the line. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

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

Clause 1 put and passed.

On clause 2—"Loans amounting to £7,589 to Belmont Shire Council being in excess of £3,000 per mile validated"—

Mr. RYLAND said this tramway was costing about double the amount of the original estimate. According to the report of a deputation to the Treasurer, asking for more money, the hon. gentleman did not think the management in connection with the building of the tramway had been too good; and he wished to know whether the hon. gentleman was quite satisfied that more care would be taken in regard to the expenditure of this money.

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: The line is completed, and you will be invited to the opening.

Mr. RYLAND: Then, with regard to rolling-stock, the shire council purchased an engine for £1,800, and the hon. gentleman told them they could have got one from the Government for £800.

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: He was pulling them up with a round turn.

Mr. RYLAND: When they gave £1,800 for an engine, and they could have got one from the Government for £800, they wanted pulling up with a round turn. He would like the Treasurer to give the Committee some information on these matters.

The TREASURER: Before the money was advanced he had a full report furnished. The line was practically finished.

Mr. RYLAND: What about station buildings?

The TREASURER: He took it that the local authority were not going to waste much money on buildings; what they wanted to do was to provide means for the people of the district to reach the city. The hon. member for Gympie was quite right in drawing attention to certain remarks he made in connection with the engine; but he had since found that notwithstanding the strictures he then made, the engine was proving much better than was expected. All the same, he did not hesitate to say he believed they would have got in Queensland a more satisfactory locomotive at much less cost. There was no use in blinking their eyes to the actual facts. (Hear, hear!) The members of the local authority were not engineers. They had a consulting engineer, a gentleman of reputation, and he advised them along certain lines. Perhaps in justice to the engineer, Mr. Phillips, he ought to read the following letter, which he received after he met the deputation. This is what Mr. Phillips wrote on the 7th November—

"I was in Brisbane for a few days last week, when my attention was drawn to newspaper reports of an interview between the Belmont Council and yourself.

"I have already explained the causes that led to the increased cost of the tramway, and I need not repeat them, except to say that my revised estimate of February last was based on actual contract prices at that date; but several of the earthwork contractors failed, and the work had to be completed at higher rates.

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"So far as the engine is concerned, it was indented after the late Commissioner for Railways informed me personally that he had not an engine to spare for the Belmont Tramway.

"I inspected the works on Saturday last in company with the chairman and other members of the council. I found the rails laid throughout and the ballasting nearly completed. Unfortunately, some 600 sleepers, second-class, that I had purchased at a reduced rate for Messrs. Baynes Brothers' siding, had by mistake been allowed to be placed in the main line, thus causing an unfavourable opinion of the sleepers generally.

"I saw some hundreds of good ironbark sleepers stacked at various places along the line which should have gone into the road in place of the second-class sleepers provided for the purpose mentioned.

"Whilst in Brisbane I was told that there is an impression amongst Ministers that I purposely misled the Government as to the cost of the tramway. My answer to that is that I submitted the working plans and sections of the line as actually constructed to the Commissioner for Railways, and pointedly drew attention to the increased scope of the works before a pick was put in the ground. As no objection was raised, I concluded that I had done all that was necessary, and proceeded with the construction on the amended plans.

"I knew that more money would be required, but I must confess that I had no idea, even in February last, the extent to which the cost of railway work has increased in the last two or three years.

"Yours faithfully,

"GEO. PHILLIPS,
Engineer, Belmont Tramway."

He thought it was highly desirable in a matter of this kind that the fullest information should be given; and he felt sure the Committee would recognise that he had done all he could be expected to do in the matter.

Mr. WINSTANLEY (*Charters Towers*) would like to know who was going to control and run the tramway from its junction with the main line; also what were the terms of the repayment of the loan, assuming that the line only paid working expenses; also what was the value of the rateable property in the Belmont Shire.

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: £53,000 in the benefited area.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: The information contained in Mr. Phillips's letter was valuable information. There was no doubt that the use of the sleepers referred to was something disgraceful, as they were worth nothing more than firewood. That mistake ought to be rectified as soon as possible, otherwise the consequences might be serious.

The TREASURER: The question as to who was going to run the line, he was informed by the chairman of the local authority, had not been dealt with; but it was a matter that could easily be arranged with either the Railway Commissioner or himself. He might state that certain increased valuations were made to which the people of the district responded; and, in order to secure a repayment to the Government, certain moneys were ear-marked from year to year by the local authority. By the section under which they borrowed the money they would not have to commence the payment of redemption until three years after borrowing the money.

Mr. MAUGHAN: Is the line under Government inspection?

The TREASURER: The line has been gone over by Government railway officials.

Mr. MAUGHAN: Have they given their certificate?

The TREASURER: Yes.

Mr. MAUGHAN: On those sleepers?

The TREASURER: They said that, generally speaking, the work had been well carried out; and he felt sure that the line would prove satisfactory.

Mr. WIENHOLT asked if the Government had security for the loan on the rateable property in the benefited area.

The TREASURER: Yes; that is so.

Clause put and passed.

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

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

LEASES TO ALIENS RESTRICTION BILL.

SECOND READING.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. E. H. Macartney, *Toowong*): The Bill, the second reading of which I am about to move, is a very short one, and almost explains itself. The subject with which it deals is one that has been discussed very frequently in this Chamber during recent years, and which has been very much discussed in the country, and I think all parties have pledged themselves to introduce such a measure. The subject of the Bill is dealt with in the Land Act of 1910, under which an alien is unable to select land unless he obtains a certificate in the prescribed manner that he has passed a language test. If an alien should obtain a selection, and he fails to obtain naturalisation within five years, the selection is forfeited. Special provision is made in that Act to prevent the subleasing by a selector of any portion of his selection to an alien unless he obtains the certificate I have before referred to. The matter is dealt with somewhat comprehensively in the Land Act of 1910, and the effect of this Bill is practically to carry along the same provisions to freehold land and land of other tenure. It is understood that abuses have arisen, particularly, I think, in the Atherton district, and it is the existence of those abuses which has given rise to the demand so frequently repeated for a measure of this nature. It will be admitted, I think, that if this Bill is adopted the abuses complained of are not likely to be repeated, at any rate not to any great extent. The Bill shortly provides that the term lease—

"includes any contract, agreement, scheme, or device—

"(a) By which any estate or interest in land less than fee-simple is created, or is agreed or is intended to be created; or

"(b) Relating to the leasing of land on the share system."

that hereafter no lease shall be granted to aliens. An exception is made in the case of a small area of 5 acres. It is further provided that—

"For the purposes of this Act, any two or more parcels of land the nearest boundaries whereof are within half a mile from each other, and which are comprised in any lease or pro-

posed lease, shall be deemed to be one and the same parcel of land."

The object of that provision is to prevent anything in the nature of the aggregation of the small areas which are excepted in the Bill.

Mr. RYLAND: Are not 5 acres too much?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Five acres seem to be a reasonable area. These people are people who have been admitted to the State under the laws of the country. Unfortunately, a larger number are now congregating in Queensland than heretofore, as the result of federation, but they are with us, and we are called upon to treat them reasonably. Hon. members who know anything about the Chinese gardens to be found in and around Brisbane and around other centres of population, will know that the areas of those gardens are small, and supply a want of the community. It would be an extreme hardship to so legislate as to prevent leases or agreements for leases of those comparatively small areas. At any rate, it seems to me that they do not come within the abuse which has been so much complained of, and which has resulted in the introduction of this measure. However, the matter of the area can be discussed in Committee. It will be noticed that by clause 4 a very stiff penalty is attached to the commission of any breach of the Act. It will also be noticed that proceedings for any offence under the Act can only be instituted by the direction of the Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, or Minister for Justice for the time being. We cannot legislate for a particular set of aliens. If we attempt to do so, assent to the Bill will probably be withheld. We have therefore to deal comprehensively with the subject of aliens, making no distinction against any particular race. There are persons in the community who come under the description, persons of European descent who have not obtained letters of naturalisation, and until they do obtain letters of naturalisation they remain aliens. It would not be suggested that it would be an improper thing to grant a lease or enter into an agreement for a lease with those particular aliens. We have, I am sorry to say, in dealing with a matter of this sort, to deal with it in an indirect fashion—that is, if we want to do it effectively. The other portions of the Bill simply deal with the power of the Governor in Council to make regulations. I do not think I could say anything more to make the provisions of the Bill clearer than I have already done. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. HAMILTON: This is a measure which has been dangled before us every session for a good many years. We have often been promised a Bill to deal with the question of the leasing of land to aliens. The leasing of land to aliens has been carried out to a great extent in the North, and I am glad to see that this measure will impose certain restrictions on that kind of thing. I notice that the Bill only applies to aliens who are allowed to come in under the Commonwealth law from this out. I should like to know whether those aliens who are of European extraction will come under the provisions of this Bill.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: They come within the prohibition provisions of the Bill.

Mr. Hamilton.]

Mr. HAMILTON: What I want to bring out is the manner in which our land laws have been contravened, especially in the Gayndah district. I am in favour of giving people of European extraction every facility to settle on the land, but at the same time I contend that the Government should not have acted as they did some years ago when they settled a number of Europeans on land in the Gayndah district. I am speaking now of the German settlers on the Binjour Plateau. They were brought out to Queensland and were settled on the land under the group system, but that land was vested in one individual, a clergyman, and, when I was there two or three years ago, I was informed that if any of those settlers had a quarrel with him this man had power to turn them off the land. There is no Act of Parliament under which twenty or thirty agricultural farms can be vested in one individual as was done in that case. I say that the law was contravened in order to meet that special case, and that such should not have been done. I hope that no more settlement of that sort will take place in this State. If people of European extraction come out to Queensland they should be allowed to go on the land straight-away, and the land should not be vested in one individual, but each man should have his own land in his own name. I have heard it rumoured, though I don't know whether it is true or not, that those settlers have to pay church tithes, and that any man who refuses to pay the tithes has to go. I believe that one or two had to go away from the settlement. I am very pleased that this measure is brought in, as it will do away to a large extent with an abuse which has existed for some time, especially in the North. There are large areas of land leased to Chinese in the North. Some of that land was got from the Crown at 2s. 6d. an acre, and was afterwards leased to Chinese on clearing terms, with the result that a large area of fertile country on which we ought to have settled a white population is in the hands of Chinese. No doubt this measure will go some way towards preventing that sort of thing in future.

Mr. WIENHOLT: I am just a little bit afraid that a Bill of this sort may cut both ways. It will no doubt stop a good deal of abuse, but it may also act somewhat harshly. I do not believe at all in aliens, undesirable aliens, being allowed to come into the country, not because I think they are inferior, but because a white man cannot work and live on the same wages as these aliens can. But it seems to me that there is just a possibility that a German may come out here and get a lease of a small area, do a lot of cultivation on it, and then when the lessor dies and the new owner comes into possession, that man may be told to clear out, because, according to this measure, the agreement is null and void. It seems to me there is a distinct danger about it.

Mr. HAMILTON: It does not seem to meet the case of European aliens who may want to take up land.

Mr. WIENHOLT: I understand the matter fully, as the Minister pointed out the provisions of the Bill very clearly, but I do not want to see any danger in regard to desirable aliens.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: It has never been put to the test.

[Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. WIENHOLT: That is all right so far as the Minister is concerned. He is not going to prosecute anyone who is a desirable alien.

Mr. THEODORE: I do not think this stage of the Bill calls for any lengthy discourse on the subject of restricting the leasing of land to aliens. The leasing of

land to aliens in North Queensland [8 p.m.] land has been a very great evil, particularly in the Atherton district, and I have no doubt the Minister in charge of the Bill has some experience in that matter. It amounted almost to a public scandal—the number of Chinese who occupied land in that district to the exclusion of white people; and I am glad the Bill will absolutely exclude the granting of these leases of land of over a certain area to Chinese. I understand the object of the Bill is to include small areas which are leased to Chinese for market gardening in some of the remote districts.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Not only in remote districts; in all districts.

Mr. THEODORE: That is the only possible justification the hon. member could have for exempting any area at all, and even in that case there is no very great justification for continuing to encourage Chinese gardeners or Chinese agriculturists of any sort. I realise it might be a hardship on the Chinese who may have been here for a number of years.

Mr. FORSYTH: You do not understand the conditions of the far North.

Mr. THEODORE: Once before the hon. member made a similar interjection. I might tell him that probably I know quite as much about the North as he does, and as much about the conditions of the people of the North, in spite of his insulting interjections.

Mr. CORSER: He has been longer in the North.

Mr. THEODORE: He may have been in the North. I lived half my life in Northern Australia, and have been for some time in North Queensland.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. THEODORE: I wish, Mr. Speaker, you would call hon. members to order for interjecting, as I shall certainly reply to them.

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are disorderly, and the hon. member is not in order in taking notice of them.

Mr. THEODORE: I say this is not a justification for Chinamen who have lived in the country for some time, but I would not advocate the immediate exclusion of these men without some consideration. I am quite sure where a Chinese gardener can carry on a profitable business, a white man can.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: They will die out in time.

Mr. THEODORE: They will die out in time, but we must not encourage them and allow them to occupy some of the best plots in the country. Speaking of my own district—I know they occupy small areas, but they are some of the most fertile spots in the countryside. White men also carry on the same business, and carry it on profitably and to a very much greater advan-

tage to the general community. Therefore, I hope the Bill will not stop at this, and that the Government will make some provision later to encourage white market gardening. White market gardeners have no possible hope of competing with Chinese gardeners, because the Chinese have a lower standard of living, and are satisfied with a smaller profit. There is one very effective method of stamping out the evil, but, unfortunately, we cannot get the community to take united action, and if a white gardener starts in competition with the Chinese he has a very uphill battle. I should like to suggest to the Minister that he should make some condition in reference to the leases now in operation. I understand it will be unfair that the principle of restricting the leasing of land to aliens shall apply to all land and all persons on the land.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: That is provided for.

Mr. THEODORE: I understand the obligations will prevail until the term of the lease expires.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: All leases made after to-morrow will come under the provisions of the Bill.

Mr. THEODORE: I am glad they have no time to get in and give extended leases. There are some extended leases in existence at the present time, and we will have to wait till they expire by effluxion of time.

Mr. FORSYTH: The hon. gentleman who has just sat down professes to know a great deal about North Queensland. I wonder if he has ever lived in the backblocks, such as Bouliá, Urandangie, and Normanton. What on earth would the people living in those places do without the Chinese gardeners? Any man who talks as the hon. gentleman talks is talking utter rot and nonsense. I prefer the hon. member for Gregory, a man whose opinion I would take on a question of this sort, as he knows the condition in the far West. I know also in connection with a great many stations out West that if it was not for the fact that they have Chinese gardeners, they would have no vegetables at all. I have lived in those far Northern districts, and know the conditions there, and so does the hon. gentleman who has charge of this Bill, and it would be a very bad thing in some places if there were no Chinese gardeners. I am not arguing in favour of the Chinese. This Bill is not brought in to deal with the Chinese gardeners, but to deal with the leasing of large blocks of land to Chinese, particularly in connection with the sugar. In that respect the Government are perfectly justified in bringing in the Bill. From that point of view it is a good Bill, but I think the provision not allowing any alien to have more than 5 acres is quite little enough. The hon. member for Woothakata, when he talks about doing away with the Chinese in the far Northern and Western districts, has not the slightest conception of the conditions of life in those districts. The hon. member might have lived in Chillagoe and near the coast, but he should go into the backblocks and see what the conditions are there. As the hon. member for Gregory said, white men, in many instances, have leased land to Chinamen at £1 an acre. The Chinamen has to do all the work, and the owners of the land reap all the benefit. That sort of thing should be stopped, because if a Chinaman can do it, a white man can do it, too. We have thousands of white farmers

in Queensland who are growing sugar now, and they can grow sugar as well as any Chinaman. I think it would be a very great mistake to reduce the area below 5 acres. I think the provisions of the Bill are fair with regard to the larger areas, and more especially with regard to blocks joined together. It might happen that a Chinaman would have 5 acres and another Chinaman 5 acres alongside, and it is a wise thing to block that. I do not think there is very much in the matter that was raised by the hon. member for Fassifern. If there is anything in that matter I think it should be remedied. It would be a very great hardship for men coming from European countries, who are not aliens in the general acceptance of the term, if they were not allowed to take up land. I hope if such a thing is likely to happen it will be remedied so that no Europeans who might come out here could be placed in a position mentioned by the hon. member. As far as the Bill is concerned, I have very much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

Mr. COLLINS: When I read in the Government programme there was to be a Bill to restrict the leasing of land to aliens, I thought it would go the whole hog and restrict them from occupying lands in any shape or form. The argument of the hon. member for Moreton, that the people of Queensland are dependent upon Chinese gardeners—

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Moreton answered certain statements made by the hon. member for Woothakata. I cannot allow the hon. member to dilate on that matter, which is not a principle, but is a detail of a principle, and I hope he will confine himself to discussing the principles of the Bill.

Mr. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker,—We can easily get over that difficulty. The argument has been used that the people in the backblocks would not get vegetables—

The SPEAKER: Order! That is not the question.

Mr. MULLAN: The question is the restricting the leasing of the land to aliens.

The SPEAKER: Order! I must call the hon. member for Charters Towers, Mr. Mullan, to order. I am the judge of what is contained within the four corners of this Bill, and I need no direction from him. I called the hon. member for Burke to order, and ask him to confine his remarks to the question before the House.

Mr. COLLINS: One of the clauses in the Bill is the restriction of leases to certain aliens.

The SPEAKER: Will the hon. member discuss the principles of the Bill?

Mr. COLLINS: I am pointing out that certain aliens hold leases from different persons, and they are growing vegetables in the far backblocks. It is not necessary that we should have them growing vegetables at all.

The SPEAKER: That is not the question.

Mr. RYLAND: I think that the restriction as regards 5 acres is too much. These aliens can get round it. What is to prevent them having 5 acres in one place and 5 acres at a certain distance?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: That is absurd.

Mr. Ryland.]

Mr. RYLAND: It is not absurd. We are dealing with a "no savee" gentleman who can get round the corners, although he is not in the legal profession.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Wait till we get into Committee, and make it a mile.

Mr. RYLAND: What we are suffering most from now is land that is leased to aliens by those who hold freehold land. I do not think they should rent this land to aliens. The banana industry is suffering in North Queensland. We have had deputations to the Federal Government on the subject, but they cannot do anything, because the banana industry is in the hands of the Chinamen, and they are not going to give high protection to any of the aliens to grow bananas. Unless something is done, the banana industry in the North of Queensland, and the South also, will be destroyed. We grow bananas even in the hon. member for Moreton's electorate.

Mr. FORSYTH: The white men grow them.

Mr. RYLAND: Still we cannot get the protection which is necessary simply because the areas are leased to Chinamen.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RYLAND: That is practically the object of the Bill—that the aliens won't be allowed to lease these farms. I don't see any difficulty in regard to the language test as regards Germans, Norwegians, or people from Central Europe, as the Act only applies to Asiatics. I hope the Bill will be amended in Committee.

Mr. FOLEY: I do not think this Bill will carry out the wishes of a majority of this House, because it allows too much land in these 5-acre blocks—that is a sufficient area for aliens to make an enormous living on, particularly in localities where the soil is good. I do not know whether hon. members have lived near a Chinaman's garden or not—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. FOLEY: If they had and saw how they raised their vegetables—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. FOLEY: I want to point out that the gardener who has been referred to is an undesirable gardener, and one who should be got rid of as quickly as possible.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will not be in order in pursuing that line of argument. The principle of the Bill is the leasing of land to aliens—the actual use to which the land is put is not a subject for debate.

Mr. FOLEY: The Bill provides that an area not exceeding 5 acres shall be leased to any alien, and that area is too much, in my opinion, because it would enable an alien to earn a good living, which is undesirable. We want to get rid of the alien as quickly as possible, and one means of doing that is to restrict his chances of earning a living in this country, and not to allow them to make what are considered by them enormous fortunes. They were undesirable citizens, and we want to get rid of them as quickly as possible. When the Bill comes into Committee I shall endeavour to reduce the area at least to 2 acres, so that the Chinese gardener will not be able to make more than a fair living out of it.

Mr. WHITE: Can you make a fair living on 2 acres?

[Mr. Ryland.

Mr. FOLEY: Their means of raising vegetables are such that I would not advise a white man to eat them. Wherever a white gardener or producer of vegetables has ever come within my reach, I have always had my vegetables from him. There are times, as the hon. member for Moreton says, when nobody but these people will supply vegetables.

The SPEAKER: Order! I shall be sorry to have to ask the hon. member to resume his seat, but if he persists in refusing my direction I shall have to do so.

Mr. FOLEY: I will not proceed with that argument any further, but it seemed to me that other hon. members have touched upon this question, and this is really the gist of the Bill. I know that there have been complaints about land being leased to aliens in the Northern Rivers by what I call "mean white men," who have taken up land at from 2s. 6d. to 10s. an acre, which they will lease to aliens for five years with the view of getting the land cleared and made ready for sugar-cane—the alien to make what he can out of it in growing vegetables or anything else, and in the meantime clearing the land and stumping it. I know land has been leased to aliens in large areas in order to get it cleared, so that the white men can use it for growing sugar-cane. The work can be done by white men, and if this land was refused to aliens, the white man might be able to get a chance to make a living. When the Bill goes into Committee I have no doubt some amendments will be introduced to make it a better Bill than it is at present.

Mr. MURPHY: I regret that the hon. member for Cairns, who has taken a deep interest in this subject, is at a Scotch gathering to-night, and therefore is not here to express his opinions on this question. I congratulate the Government on having introduced this Bill. This is part of the old Rockhampton programme, as I recollect the late Premier, Mr. Kidston, said that one of the measures that would be introduced at an early date after the election would be a Bill to restrict the renting of land to aliens. He pointed out at that memorable gathering that he had been converted to the belief which had been so often expressed in Parliament by the hon. member for Cairns that it was undesirable to continue renting lands to coloured aliens, in consequence of the condition of affairs in North Queensland. He pointed out that in the Cairns and Atherton district most of the land devoted to the banana industry was in the hands of coloured aliens, much to the detriment of the white race, and he promised the people of Queensland, that, if they were to again return him to power, this Bill would be one of the first measures which he would introduce into Parliament. I recollect that the hon. member for Toowoomba dealt specifically with this question. Mr. Roberts had paid a visit to North Queensland with a Ministerial party, and he assured the electors of Toowoomba that one of the inducements he had for supporting the progressive democratic Government was that they proposed to introduce legislation which would effectively preclude coloured aliens from taking up land in those districts. A casual perusal of the Bill has convinced me that the Government are exceedingly anxious to make an alteration in the bad state of things which has been unfortunately allowed to exist so long. I think the hon. member for Gregory is also deserving

of praise, because a trip through the Cairns district showed him what damage has been done to the white race by the land being leased to aliens. I think if we pass this Bill this session, with some amendments which may come from this side, or from members sitting behind the Government—because I believe we are all anxious to make the Bill as effective as we possibly can—if we pass the Bill this session Parliament will have done really good work, and will have earned the gratitude of the white race in North Queensland. I regret to see that nothing that we can introduce into this Bill, so far as I can see, will preclude the engagement of coloured aliens to work these lands. While we propose to guard against the renting or selling of land to coloured aliens, we are unfortunately not in a position, as far as I can see, to legislate against their employment in working these lands. I recollect that at one time, in Toowoomba, there was a lagoon near which there was a garden owned by the Toowoomba Municipal Council, and the council decided that it was undesirable to allow the land to be utilised by aliens, and a member of the council succeeded in carrying a motion that the council should no longer rent this land to coloured aliens. But, unfortunately, as soon as this was carried the gentleman who had succeeded in getting the motion through the council leased all his land to coloured aliens, and the council lost something like £20 a year in rent. (Laughter.)

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: I think you are mistaken there.

Mr. MURPHY: I remember reading it. This is a small Bill; but if we pass it, I think we shall have reason to congratulate ourselves, and it will stand to the credit of the Government. It has been promised for something like five years, but "better late than never"; and we will try to make it a very effective law.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

Clause 1 put and passed.

On clause 2—"Interpretation"—

Mr. RYLAND said he desired to move an amendment. The latter part of the clause read in this way—

"For the purposes of this Act, any two or more parcels of land the nearest boundaries whereof are within half a mile from each other, and which are comprised in any lease or proposed lease, shall be deemed to be one and the same parcel of land."

If they were over half a mile apart this would not apply; and they could have alternate 5-acre blocks leased to aliens. Where would the Act of Parliament be then? What they wanted to do was to give the white man a show; and he moved the omission of the words "half a mile," in lines 16 and 17, with a view of inserting "five miles."

Mr. MURPHY: It seemed to him that the half a mile was inserted with the object of doing away with what the hon. member for Gympie feared might take place—that was, to stop the aggregation of land. He did not know whether, if they inserted "five miles," they would not be making it worse. He would like to hear the Minister on the point.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS thought the amendment was hardly neces-

sary, as the clause gave sufficient protection. He did not see there would be very much in making the distance 1, 2, 3, or 5 miles, as it was very unlikely that any man, whether alien or not, would be likely to bother about blocks of land far removed from one another.

Mr. WINSTANLEY wished to know how the Government would stand in regard to the leasing of land to aliens—would the Bill have the same effect on the Government as on private individuals? He knew an instance where the Government cancelled about a dozen market-garden areas held by aliens on the ground that they were a menace to the public health. Those individuals were holding areas from 5 to 10 acres. It was common for these people to get hold of pockets on a river or creek, and sometimes a syndicate held a string of those pockets.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The hon. member must know that the Government could only lease or sell land under the provisions of the Land Act, which provided that it should be a disqualification for an applicant to be an alien unless the prescribed test was carried out. This clause made it unlawful to enter into an agreement for a lease with an alien. The Government were bound by the terms of the Land Act, and also by the terms of the general law; and there need be no apprehension that the Government were going to enter into any wild scheme of leasing land to aliens while legislating against them.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: Under the Mining Act aliens could apply for market-garden areas, and could get them up to 40 acres.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: It will not be lawful after this. This covers everything.

Mr. HAMILTON was not certain as to the position of European aliens, such as Germans and Scandinavians, who had not had time to become naturalised. Under this provision they would not be able to go on the land.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: They can if they comply with the test.

Mr. HAMILTON: He did not want to see a lot of immigrants brought out and forced on the labour market; but if they wanted to go on the land and make homes for themselves, he would like to see them go on the land straight away.

Mr. MURPHY: They can have a test given to them in their own language.

Mr. FOX (*Normanby*) said that it was quite right to legislate against Asiatic aliens, but once they were in the country they should be treated as human beings. He remembered on one occasion reading about the way they treated the aliens in America. They passed a law under which they had to go off the land, and the consequence was that they went into the towns and, by carrying on laundries, deprived poor old washerwomen of the means of earning their living. It must be remembered that two-thirds of the population of the world consisted of Asiatics, and it would be remembered against us if we came into conflict with them. In this country there was a large territory with a small population, and we should treat these aliens as we would wish to be treated ourselves under similar circumstances.

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

On clause 3—"Restriction of leases to certain aliens"—

Mr. Fox.]

Mr. HAMILTON said he should like to amend this clause by reducing the area which might be leased to aliens from 5 to 3 acres. He had never seen a Chinese garden anywhere which was more than a couple of acres in extent. What the Committee should do by this clause was to so amend it that it would have the effect of driving the Chinese out of the banana industry, and making it a white man's industry. A Chinaman could make a reasonable living from 5 acres of bananas, so that if the clause was allowed to remain as it stood, the Chinese were likely to continue in that industry. The Commonwealth Government would not impose duty on imported bananas in order to bolster up a Chinese industry in North Queensland. He held that a couple of acres were enough for any Chinese garden. While he did not like the Chinese, and would drive them out of the country, if possible, he recognised that in many places in the far West there was no one growing vegetables but Chinese.

Mr. THEODORE: Do you say that white men cannot grow them?

Mr. HAMILTON: No. He remembered that when he was staying at an hotel at the Duchess some time ago he saw some splendid vegetables, which he was told had been grown on the Wills River by a man who had recently arrived from England. That showed that white men could grow vegetables in those places, but, as a matter of fact, they seldom went in for it. He moved that the word "five," on line 22, be omitted with the view of inserting the word "three."

Mr. MURPHY thought the Minister might very well accept this amendment, because it was moved for the purpose of trying to make the Queensland banana industry a white man's industry. He remembered that in the early days of Croydon there was a market garden company formed for the purpose of growing vegetables at a place called The Springs, and that a fair amount of money was expended by the company. He thought the hon. member for Moreton was a shareholder in that company.

Mr. FORSYTH: Not I.

Mr. MURPHY: At any rate, the company was a failure, and Chinamen had been running that garden ever since. Mr. Green, of Georgetown, also did a lot of work in the way of market gardening with a view to supplying the people of the locality with vegetables, and wrote at one time to the *Sydney Bulletin* an account of the difficulties he met with in his enterprise. He stated that he carted his vegetables round regularly, and one morning he went to a place and said, "Mrs., do you want any vegetables to-day?" She replied, "No; the other Chinaman has been here before you." (Laughter.) Mr. Green then thought it was time to go out of the vegetable line. He (Mr. Murphy) thought that 3 acres were sufficient for a market garden, and that by adopting the amendment they would prevent the Chinese continuing in the banana industry.

Mr. WHITE (*Musgrave*) looked upon the hon. member for Gregory as a very humane man, but could hardly regard his amendment as a humane proposition. The Chinaman was here; he had to pay a large amount of money to the State when he came in. There were very few of them here at the present time, and it was only reasonable that they should be allowed to earn a fair living. There was no white man in the

[*Mr. Hamilton.*

House or out of it who could make an honest living on 3 acres of land, as it was necessary to rest the land a little and to go in for rotation of crops. There was in his electorate a farmer who brought vegetables in to Bundaberg for a long time. Some time ago he went into the town with potatoes, which he sold at 2s. 6d. a quarter. He went to the house of a leading Labour man in Bundaberg, and was told by him that he need not go there any more, as he could get his potatoes from a Chinaman for 2s. a quarter. He (Mr. White) thought they might very well allow the Chinamen who were here 5 acres of land. In many parts of Queensland there would be very few vegetables obtainable if it were not for the Chinese.

Mr. HAMILTON: Have you ever seen a Chinaman's garden of 5 acres in extent?

Mr. WHITE: Yes; there was one in his electorate, and the Chinaman who cultivated that garden took all the prizes for vegetables at the local show, and gave all the prizes he gained, as well as the vegetables exhibited, to the hospital.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: How many Chinamen does he employ on those 5 acres?

Mr. WHITE: He did not know. When he was in Sydney recently, inquiring into the furniture trade, he found there were Chinamen there who had fairly large furniture factories and who were employing a good many white men. That was an unfortunate thing, and he would rather see those Chinamen growing vegetables than competing with the white man in the furniture industry. We were not the natives of this country; we had come out here and dispossessed the original holders of the soil, and we ought not to refuse to allow a Chinaman who was in the State to hold 5 acres of land for the purpose of making a living. He sincerely hoped that the hon. member for Gregory would not press the amendment.

Mr. MORGAN did not intend to vote for the amendment, because he considered 5 acres of land was little enough to allow for a Chinese garden, unless we were prepared to abolish Chinese gardens altogether. If that was the object, then we should be fair and square in the matter, and let it be known throughout Queensland that we did not intend to allow Chinese to have any land at all. In the country districts, Chinese who engaged in gardening had to grow, not only cabbages, turnips, and so forth, but a certain amount of fodder for their horses; and if they were restricted to 3 acres they would practically be unable to carry on. When he was in St. George recently he was driven 3 or 4 miles out of the town to a place where he saw one of the finest gardens he had seen in any part of Queensland. The gardens were irrigated with water pumped from the Balonne River. The Chinaman who cultivated that garden was growing vegetables of all descriptions and very good potatoes. He had 3 or 4 acres under potatoes.

Mr. G. P. BARNES: Eight acres.

Mr. MORGAN: About 4 acres, he thought, and the yield was from 2½ to 3 tons per acre. That Chinaman supplied the whole locality with beautiful potatoes, for which he got the current market price in St. George, which at that time was £18 per ton. He also grew wheat to a certain

extent, and had little stacks of fodder for his horses. It would be a very great hardship to people in country districts if Chinese gardens were done away with altogether. The people of Queensland depended upon Chinese for their supply of vegetables more than did the people of any other part of Australia.

Mr. MURPHY: You have missed clause 5; look at that provision.

Mr. MORGAN: He understood that it did not apply to leases already in existence. He was not referring to that particular industry in St. George; he was referring to new districts that were being settled, and

[9 p.m.] the Chinaman came along and was willing to live on much less than a white man. He came along when there was very little trade, and supplied vegetables to the pioneers, when a white man would not think of starting. A white man might come along when a big town was formed, and there was any amount of trade, as he would be able to do fairly well then. So far as bananas were concerned, if white men could grow bananas profitably, then by all means conserve that industry for white men; but in the far country districts of Queensland it was necessary to have Chinamen to grow vegetables, and he hoped the Minister would not agree to a reduction of the area.

Mr. CORSER did not think that 5 acres was too much if the Chinaman could be restricted from the banana field. He was up at Cairns this year, and it appealed to him very strongly that there was a great want of wisdom in allowing the banana industry to get almost entirely into the hands of Chinese and Japanese, and it seemed to him they were not improving the condition of the land in the slightest degree. At Freshwater there was a large area of land lying fallow that had, in years past, been under bananas. The owners acquired that land some years ago and leased it to Chinese at £1 per acre per annum. Those Chinese took all they could out of the land, and at that rent they could not afford to enrich it; consequently, as soon as the land became too poor to grow bananas, they threw it up and leased some other land. The banana industry is not confined to the North. It is a good white man's industry in the Wide Bay and other districts, and these men have been penalised by the fact that while this is a yellow or black man's industry in the North, the Federal Government will not come to the assistance of the growers of bananas. They distinctly stated so, and a bounty or bonus was given on the introduction of Fijian bananas into Sydney and Melbourne which enabled the Fijian bananas, which were entirely grown by black labour, to come into competition with white-grown bananas in parts of Queensland. If this leasing of land in the Northern districts to Chinamen was to debar white men growing bananas in other parts of Queensland from having a fair deal, then under a Bill like this they should restrict Chinamen from growing bananas, and confine them to 5 acres for vegetable growing alone. If that was done, the banana industry of the North would very soon be in the hands of the white men. It was a profitable industry, and if there was no bonus given to introduce bananas from Fiji at a cheaper rate than they could be brought from Cairns, white men could make a very good thing out of it. If hon. members on the other side were sin-

cere and wished to make it a white man's industry, they should do all they possibly could to secure it for white men. If the hon. member for Gregory would only alter his amendment so that it would restrict the working of the 5 acres to vegetable growing and stop them growing bananas, it would be a very good thing.

Mr. VOWLES (*Dalby*): To his mind it did not matter whether the area under this Bill was limited to 5 acres or 3 acres. What was to prevent Chinamen acquiring any number of acres of contiguous land, as long as they could pass the test? They could have 100 acres if they liked, so long as they could pass the test, and unless some amendment was brought in in that respect, the whole thing would be useless.

Mr. MULLAN: Do you think the average Chow could pass the test?

Mr. VOWLES: If one could pass, fifty could pass, and if two men could hold 6 acres—what was the difference between two men holding 6 acres and one man holding 5 acres? He did not know anything about canegrowing, but he did know something about market gardening, and he knew it was not a one-man show.

At ten minutes past 9 o'clock,

The CHAIRMAN: Under Standing Order No. 11, I call upon the hon. member for Croydon to relieve me in the chair.

Mr. MURPHY took the chair accordingly.

Mr. COLLINS said he would support the amendment, but it did not go far enough. He would be in favour of wiping out the area altogether. The hon. member for Maryborough said that 5 acres was little enough for a market garden, but he wanted to keep the alien out of the banana industry. He (Mr. Collins) had had a little experience of gardening, and he knew there were other crops which were much superior to the banana crop. Take, for instance, tomato growing. Did the hon. member wish the growing of tomatoes to be in the hands of the Chinese? because if the hon. member knew anything at all about gardening, he would know that 5 acres under tomatoes were worth a great deal more than 5 acres under bananas.

Mr. MORGAN: Why don't we get more people to grow tomatoes?

Mr. COLLINS: The hon. member might know something about the Western portion of Queensland, but he did not know the whole of Queensland. There were a great many people growing tomatoes at the present time. The hon. member for Murilla sung the praises of the Chinaman, and argued that if there were no Chinamen in the country they would have no vegetables. He (Mr. Collins) was inclined to think they would have just as many vegetables even if there were no Chinamen here. According to the hon. member, the Chinaman was a superior person, and could teach them how to grow vegetables. He (Mr. Collins) claimed that the white race was superior to any Chinaman in the matter of growing vegetables, and they could grow clean vegetables as well. He considered that 3 acres was quite sufficient for one man to cultivate, if he was going in for intense cultivation. How much could he really cultivate with a spade and fork? With intense cultivation, in Belgium thousands of people were living on less than 3 acres each,

Mr. Collins.]

and recently he read a report that in France over 500 people were living on less than half an acre each.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What do they grow?

MR. COLLINS: They grow a variety of crops—mushrooms in most instances. He had seen a good many Chinese gardens in Queensland, and he did not recollect seeing one where one man cultivated more than 3 acres. He had also been in Victoria, and the biggest market garden he saw in Victoria was 11 acres, and there were twenty-five Chinese working in it, or one Chinaman to less than half an acre. He would not be afraid to compete against a Chinaman at any time; not even a dozen Chinamen. If he had his way he would restrict them in such a way that they would have to get out of the country altogether; but, seeing he could not have his way, he would support the amendment.

MR. ADAMSON: There had been a good deal said about white men not being able to grow vegetables in this country, but he had lived in the back blocks perhaps as much as the hon. member for Moreton, and some of the finest vegetables that he ever saw were grown on the Alice River Settlement, out from Barcardine. The same thing was done in different places, but he was convinced that the white man could not grow vegetables in competition with Chinamen. He believed if we had not the Chinese here, the vegetables would be grown by white people. He supported the amendment because he would like to see the Chinaman go to his own country, and leave this country to the race that was dominant in it at the present time. Some people said that that was not humanitarian, but he believed that it was the highest humanitarianism. In relation to what had been said by the hon. member for Moreton, why did the station-owners get Chinese? Because they were cheap.

MR. FORSYTH: Nothing of the kind.

MR. ADAMSON: Because they were cheap, and because they were servile, and had not the spirit of the white man in them.

MR. FORSYTH: That is not correct.

MR. ADAMSON: He also supported the amendment because the leasing of this land was not a fair thing for the Chinese. He rode through the Atherton Scrub in 1889 and saw land taken up by men at half a crown an acre, and leased to Chinamen for £1 an acre. Those men were "mean whites," that the country could do very well without. The low standard of living and the low ideas of the Chinese did not tend to the good of the white race. They had adopted the motto of "Australia for the Australians" and of having racial purity. The hon. member talked about being in the backblocks; he wondered if he had been to Gayndah and looked upon the motley colours that were to be seen there. There was a very striking illustration of what the Chinese could do as far as racial purity was concerned.

THE SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: That is racial impurity.

MR. ADAMSON: Yes; if the hon. member put it that way. He knew a great deal about racial impurity so far as Mackay was concerned.

THE SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: You are mistaken.

MR. ADAMSON: It was desirable to make the banana industry a white man's in-

[*Mr. Collins.*

dustry, and to get the Federal Government to make it possible for white men to grow bananas. The restriction of the area to 3 acres was one way of getting them out of the country, and on the ground of the highest patriotism it was better for them to be in China, and give us the chance to develop the country on the lines of "Australia for the Australians."

MR. G. P. BARNES (*Warwick*) hoped the Committee would not carry the amendment. As far as his judgment went, the area was altogether too limited. In the greater part of the community there would be practically no vegetables if the Chinaman did not engage in the work. In his district there was no general attempt made by the ordinary whites to supply vegetables. He did not say that in isolated instances they could not be grown by white men. If Chinamen were not growing vegetables in and around Brisbane, there would not be sufficient to meet the ordinary demands.

MR. BRIDGES: That is not right.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. G. P. BARNES: He knew that the market at the present time was not oversupplied with vegetables, and he had noticed Chinamen coming in from Kelvin Grove and also from Coorparoo.

MR. O'SULLIVAN: Do you want to continue that?

MR. G. P. BARNES: No. Vegetables were not grown by white men, simply because they could not compete with the Chinaman. He knew that there were white men who had nothing else to devote their time to but the growth of vegetables, and they were making a handsome thing out of it. It was not that white men could not grow vegetables, but because they did not, as a rule, take to it. They would be doing an unkindness to various districts if they restricted the area to 3 acres. They all knew that, periodically, vegetables in large quantities came from the other States. He also saw in St. George, the other day, the 20-acre farm referred to by the hon. member for Murilla. There would be no vegetables in that town, except the Chinaman supplied them, and it was the same with other communities. It seemed to him that, whilst they might make a very fair living out of 3 acres under bananas, it was another matter as to whether they could make a living out of 3 acres under vegetables.

MR. O'SULLIVAN: The arguments used against the amendment by the hon. member for Murilla and members on the other side appeared to him to prove that 3 acres was too much. What those hon. members said led him to believe that there must be half a dozen Chinamen working on 5 acres of land. As the hon. member for Burke showed, it was really less than that—one man to every half-acre. His experience was that they would generally find half a dozen Chinamen on a garden of 5 acres. If anything, he would rather see the area reduced to 2 acres. Take the tobacco industry: Everyone knew that a man could not cultivate 5 acres in that industry, and that was a white industry; and if they allowed 5 acres to be used by these undesirable aliens, they could go into the tobacco industry and be protected by statute law. He thought the chief reason why white men did not grow vegetables was because they could not conform to the low standard of living of the

Chinese. Then, again, those who had gone into the industry were looked upon as foolish in trying to compete with the Chinese gardener.

Mr. G. P. BARNES: Nonsense!

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: He was very pleased, when visiting a farming district in Southern Queensland, in company with the junior member for Charters Towers—that was at Goombungee—to see that there was not a Chinaman there at all, and they could get any amount of vegetables.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: The farmers there grow their own vegetables.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: There were a good many districts where there were plenty of Chinamen. There was a good white community at Goombungee. Someone said that the farmers were comprised of Germans and Irishmen, and that where those two classes were there was no room for a Chinaman. (Laughter.) He was going to support the amendment. He only wished that it was 2 acres, as there were a lot of alluvial flats on the rivers and creeks in his electorate that could be well occupied by

[9.30 p.m.] white men if they could only compete with the Chinese. At one orchard there, owned and worked by coloured aliens, they supplied Charters Towers and Townsville with oranges and such fruits that might and could be supplied by white men. They knew that if the local people could get their production to the market earlier than the imported produce, they would get better prices. At the present time fruit was coming from Lismore and by the time the Stanthorpe fruit would have reached Brisbane, prices would have fallen. The arguments which had been raised against the amendment of the hon. member for Gregory were something like the arguments which were raised in connection with the work in the cane-field, when they were told that white men could not work in the tropics. The Labour party had proved, however, that white men could work in the tropics. White men could grow vegetables as well as Chinamen.

Mr. FORSYTH: Of course, they can.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: Then why give the industry up to Chinamen? Why give the Chinaman 5 acres to compete with white people who had to raise families and compete with the Asiatic style of living. The white man got very little status in Japan. They were not as liberal to the white race in Japan as the Australians were to the Japanese. They ought to take a lesson from what they saw was taking place in California in connection with the Japanese and Asiatics, and guard against such a thing as that happening in Queensland. If they made the Bill a good one, it would be appreciated by the people outside. He tried to get an amendment into the Land Bill to debar people from leasing land to aliens, but he was told that the Government would bring in a Bill and do what he wished to have done. This Bill did not do what he wished to have done, because it gave too many acres to the Chinaman. He hoped the Committee would see the wisdom of restricting the area. They should do something to enable the white aliens from Northern Europe to become full citizens and have the full rights of taking up land. In the United States of America

they could take the first initial step as soon as they landed and they could become naturalised in three or four years.

The HOME SECRETARY: We cannot deal with that in this State.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: He saw that, and the unfortunate part of it would be that they would drive these men on to the labour market. These men would make splendid citizens, and he welcomed them to Queensland.

Mr. FORSYTH: Hon. members forgot that when members were speaking they were not referring to the Chinamen all the time. The junior member for Rockhampton said that the stations employed Chinamen because they were cheap, but that was not so, as it was impossible to get white men for stations. He knew that Chinamen were getting £2 10s. per week and their keep because white men could not be got at stations now. Hon. members opposite shook their heads, but if they could get him a gardener he would get him a job. At the station he was interested in they had a white man as cook, and gave him £2 10s. a week. He was a very good man, too. But he knew other stations where they had to give £2 10s. a week to Chinamen, so it was not because Chinamen were cheap that they were employed, but because they could not get white men. No one said that white men could not grow vegetables, but they knew that a white man would not grow them. It was not that they could not, but they would not. There was a white gardener near Camooweal who supplied vegetables to Camooweal, but they could not get white gardeners at Burketown, Normanston, Urandangie, Gregory Downs, and many of those places. They were told that white men looked on the occupation of growing vegetables as an inferior occupation. Why was it inferior? It was an honest occupation. What was the difference between growing vegetables and growing corn or maize? It was all nonsense to talk that way.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN: Canecutting used to be looked upon as absolutely fitted only for black men.

Mr. FORSYTH: He was not discussing canecutting. He would like very much to see white men undertake market gardening. His remarks did not apply to large centres of population, where it was possible to get vegetables grown by white men. He was talking of places hundreds of miles inland, where there was no possible chance of taking vegetables, and where the rate of carriage was prohibitory. In such places it was surely better to have vegetables grown by Chinamen than to have none at all.

Mr. FOLEY: Three acres is quite enough for a market garden, anyhow.

Mr. FORSYTH: In some places 3 acres might be sufficient, but where the soil was not good, it was not enough, and, as the hon. member for Murilla said, it was necessary to have some land lying fallow. There was a market garden in Toowong, where he lived, of a large area, and he thought there were three or four Chinamen working there. He got his vegetables from a white man, but he did not know whom the white man got them from, though he supposed he got them in the market. The Government were quite right in proposing this restriction, and he supposed the principal reason for introducing

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the Bill was to prevent coloured aliens having 50 or 100 acres under cane.

Mr. COLLINS: What about banana growing?

Mr. FORSYTH: There was a large number of banana growers in his electorate, but they were all white men, and he did not think one of them employed anybody but a white man. He was glad to say they were all doing fairly well, though Fiji bananas might affect them very soon, as large quantities of Fiji bananas were coming in. The Federal Government could render great assistance in connection with the banana industry by granting a bonus only to white growers, as they did in connection with sugar. They could refuse to grant a bonus to Chinese banana growers, and that would materially help in solving the difficulty so far as bananas were concerned. He hoped the amendment would not be accepted.

Mr. ALLEN would not have spoken but that he wished to reply to some of the silly assertions that had been made by members on the other side in connection with market gardening. He intended to support the amendment. If he had his way, he would not have the slightest compunction in wiping out the Chinese market gardeners altogether, and he would cheerfully be prepared to give a vote which would have that result. The hon. member for Warwick and the hon. member for Murilla referred to the Chinese gardens at St. George, and the inference was that, were it not for those gardens, the people of St. George would not have any vegetables at all. He (Mr. Allen) lived in a town in a similar district to St. George—that was Mitchell—and there the Chinese market garden was simply a blind for opium selling, and all the vegetables used in the place were grown by a white man, who had practically run the Chinese out. The special pleading for the towns in the West was not appreciated in those towns. In his own electorate, in the town of Thargomindah—which was a strong centre for the party opposite—the people relied upon Chinamen for their supply of vegetables, but in Eulo and Widorah—both of which were strong Labour centres—the market gardens were carried on entirely by white men, and he might mention that in Eulo the market gardener paid an exorbitant rent to the Crown for a special lease of 3 acres. If he had his way, there would not be a Chinese gardener in Queensland. He had a strong fancy—of course it could not be proved—that the presence of leprosy in such a beautiful climate as Queensland had, might be traced to the fact that people obtained a large portion of their vegetable supply from Chinese gardeners, as it was well known that leprosy was prevalent among Chinese. He took up the attitude that the less they had to with the Chinese the better. If there were no Chinese market gardeners in the State, it might cause a little inconvenience in some places for a while, but after a little not only would they have a cleaner supply, but a better supply. Hon. members on the other side were always crying out about a great need for population. Well, if they had the market gardening of Queensland in the hands of white men, who would be able to rear families under white men's conditions, they would be helping to overcome that need for population. He supposed he had travelled as much in Southern Queensland as the average member, and he

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knew the agricultural districts fairly well, and he knew that in many of those districts market gardening was carried on to a very respectable extent by white men. Members were paying a poor compliment to the white race when they said that only for the Chinese people in many parts of Queensland would be without vegetables. He was going to support the amendment, and he hoped the good sense of the Committee would put another nail in the coffin of alien labour.

Mr. WINSTANLEY thought the amendment of the hon. member for Gregory was in the right direction, but even with the amendment he was not sure that the Bill would be effective, because it was likely enough that these aliens would find some way of getting through it. As Bret Harte said—“For ways that are dark, and tricks that are

vain,
The heathen Chinese is peculiar.”

It had been said on the other side that if there were no Chinamen there would be no vegetables; but in a great many instances, where the Chinese had a monopoly, it would be better for people to do without vegetables than to get them from the Chinamen. One of the health officers had stated that what the Chinaman termed “soup,” and applied to his vegetables, was composed of blood, urine, nightsoil, and water. Anyone who had lived near a Chinaman's garden—which he had done—would know that the perfume after sunset was such as to give a person no relish for Chinese-grown vegetables. He believed that white men could grow vegetables as well as the Chinese, and that they would do so if the Chinese were not there. He knew a man not far from Brisbane who owned 10 acres, of which he cultivated 5 acres; and even that area was more than he could cultivate as it ought to be cultivated. On Charters Towers the man who cultivated 1 acre under intense cultivation was an exceptionally smart man; and he thought 3 acres was quite enough to allow under this clause. Even if it edged out the Chinese, it would give an opportunity to white men to take their place; and that would be a good thing in the interests of the community, and probably in the interests of the Chinese themselves, because it took them a long time to come up to our standard of living. The finest orangeries, vineyards, and mango groves were in the hands of white men; but the Chinese were a menace to the banana trade, and there was no opportunity for the white man to buy bananas unless it was through the Chinese. If the banana industry was to be a white man's industry as far as the North was concerned, the area would have to be reduced.

Mr. RYLAND said that the Bill would do very little towards preventing the leasing of land to aliens, even with the limit of 5 acres or 3 acres. If it was desired to make it effective, the clause should be made to read—

“It shall not be lawful to grant any lease or enter into any agreement, whether oral or in writing, for any lease of any parcel of land to or with any alien.”

Without such a provision as that, it would be possible for individual members of the family of an alien to take up separate blocks, and in that way get possession of a large area. If the door was left open at all, they could not expect the Bill to be effective. The banana industry in North Queensland was practically in the hands of Chinese at the present time, and this clause would not

have the effect of driving them out of the industry, even if it was amended [10 p.m.] as proposed, because there was nothing to prevent a Chinaman aggregating several areas of 3 acres, and thus securing a considerable holding. He thought the clause should be redrafted, and submitted in such a form as would make aggregations impossible, but failing that he should support the amendment.

Mr. FERRICKS was of opinion that this Bill would not achieve what the Government hoped it would. He did not think it would stop the settlement of Chinese on our lands, particularly on our coastal lands. The amendment would be an improvement to the clause, but it did not go as far as he would wish. Even an area of 3 acres was too much to allow to be leased to a Chinaman. If 5 acres were allowed, then the clause would be inoperative as far as restriction of leasing land to aliens was concerned, and would have no effect on the banana industry, because a Chinaman could make a very good living at banana cultivation on 5 acres of coastal land in North Queensland. Such an area would return what would be to him a princely income. At the present time, when the method of cultivation was by no means advanced, the average area held per Chinese employed growing bananas was not more than 5 acres, and with improved methods of cultivation a Chinaman would be quite satisfied with 5 acres. Something had been said about the necessity for the Federal Government affording reasonable protection to the banana industry. He thought they should afford protection to the industry; but there was no inducement for the Federal Government to do so while Chinese were permitted to take such a large part in the industry as they were at the present time in North Queensland, and as he was afraid they would be able to do even after the passing of this Bill. The hon. member for Moreton asked why did not the Federal Government impose bounty and excise conditions? He did not think they would do that, because it would be unconstitutional. It had been decided by the highest authorities that the bounty as applied to the sugar industry was unconstitutional, and if the Federal Government exercised their powers any further in that direction they would soon be pulled up by the High Court of Australia. This clause had a very special application to the Bowen district, where great quantities of tomatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables were grown. The Premier, the Secretary for Agriculture, and other Ministers who had visited Bowen, wondered at the past stagnation of the place, and did not hesitate to express their feelings in the matter. The cause was apparent. There were huge estates held by land monopolists, who would not subdivide them and put them on the market. It suited them better to lease those lands for the production of tomatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables, and some of the rents charged were exorbitant. If a Chinaman undertook to cultivate 5 acres of that land, that would be about the extent to which he would go, so that if the clause was passed as drafted the same conditions as now prevailed would continue. The clause would have no effect in the Bowen district as far as restricting the leasing of land to Chinese was concerned, because huge estates which had been locked up for the last thirty years would continue to be leased to Chinamen in areas of 5 acres each, and the Chinese would be satisfied with holdings of that area. Repeatedly he had seen those Chinese, after working a few years on those lands, retire

and go home to China, and presumably had afterwards lived as gentlemen, and probably had subscribed to the patriotic needs of their country. The question of the subsidy paid to the boats which were bringing in black grown bananas from Fiji had also been raised. That was not a Federal matter. It was purely a State matter. The Fijian Government subsidised the boats carrying bananas to Melbourne, and he was very sorry to say the New South Wales Government also subsidised that shipping company, and he would remind hon. members opposite that they could not very well complain at what the New South Wales Government had done against the State of Queensland, because they were only carrying out that glorious system of State rights which hon. members opposite preached. If they had a Commonwealth principle, they would not have the spectacle of one State operating against another State, such as they had at the present time. As had been very properly mentioned by the hon. member for Kennedy, the tobacco industry loomed very largely in this connection, because it was a well-known fact that 2 or 3 acres was the very most one man could cultivate for the growing of tobacco; and if Chinese were allowed 5 acres they would be at liberty to lease land till further orders, and go in for the cultivation of tobacco, which, in the Bowen district, had a great future. In that district they grew cigar leaf superior to anything produced in Australia. It commanded the highest price obtainable from the Tobacco Trust, which, he was sorry to say, was not saying much, because in the tobacco industry there was only one buyer—the States Manufacturing Company, Limited, Melbourne—and if any other buyer sprang up it was not very long before the Tobacco Trust gobbled him up. The Chinese would be quite prepared to accept 1s. 3d. a lb. for the leaf, whereas the white grower would demand 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per lb. Something has been said about the production of vegetables—that if the amendment were accepted the supply of vegetables would fall off—that the various communities in Queensland would run short of their vegetable supplies. He thought it was the hon. member for Warwick who said, in effect, that the city of Brisbane was almost entirely dependent on the Chinese for their supply of vegetables. He mentioned the Chinese vegetable gardens at Coorparoo and at Nundah, but he did not mention the gardens at Toowong, and those gardens were notorious for the fact that the best vegetables were grown there. There were other small Chinese gardens in the outskirts of Brisbane, but it was altogether unreasonable to say that the people of the State were dependent upon Chinese for the supply of vegetables. Hon. members opposite said white men could grow vegetables, but they would not. They could, and they would, if they got encouragement. The very same arguments were used in regard to the growing of sugar by white men. It had been amply demonstrated since that white men could and would do the work if they got sufficient encouragement. If he were starting life over again he would not go out as a gardener or cook, because those professions were the safe preserves of the Chinese and Japanese. He was at one with the hon. member for Moreton that aliens were not always the cheapest. There was one great value about them in the eyes of some people. They were servile, and they would put up with bullying, which a white man would not do.

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

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Mr. FERRICKS: He would take a further five minutes. That was the great charm about them that hon. members opposite and their friends had a particular love for Chinese, not because he was cheap, but because he was servile and would bow down and touch the cap, and when he was kicked he would say, "Yes, master." It was his firm belief if the amendment were not accepted, the whole Bill would be ineffectual. The Bill had a wider application than the coastal North or even than the West. The hon. member for Moreton referred to the Chinese gardeners on the distant stations. He would remind the hon. member that the comparatively few Chinese who were employed on stations out West in vegetable-growing did not represent the vegetable-growing or gardening industry of Queensland. The pastoral stations were very important in their way, and so were the pastoral towns, but the conditions there might be more irksome than in the coastal districts, and if the Chinese made a success of vegetable-growing in the West, it did not say the white men could not make a success of it in other parts of Queensland, and why should hon. members opposite say the future production of vegetables in Queensland depended on the retention of the aliens, particularly the Chinese? Personally, he would sooner go without vegetables than eat one he knew to have been grown by a Chinaman. The remarks passed by the junior member for Charters Towers were only too true. He had seen filth and other unmentionables poured on cabbage, lettuce, turnips, and carrots in the morning which attracted the blowflies, and the stench for 100 yards was unbearable. He had seen those vegetables rushed by people who loved the Chinese, not for himself, but because he could be beaten down 3d. or 1d. for a choice head of cabbage. If a Chinaman wanted 4d. for a head of cabbage, he always asked 6d. for it. The prudent housewife tried to beat him down to 5d., and eventually he would come down to 5d. She would then ask for 4½d., and, after a lot of hesitation, the generous Chinaman would perhaps sell that cabbage at 4½d., which in the first instance he only hoped to obtain 4d. for, and at that price would have made a profit of hundreds per cent. That was the thing which attracted people who flocked round the Chinese' baskets when he dropped them at the back door of Brisbane suburbia. It was a standing disgrace to Queensland to say that if white men were given the opportunity they could not compete against those gentry in the production of fruit or vegetables. He asked the Secretary for Lands once more to accept this amendment, otherwise he might as well throw the Bill into the waste-paper basket. It would be no good for the banana industry. Chinese were all brothers or cousins. You might get fifty or sixty of them with different names holding different estates, and yet they would be working in one concern. There were evils which existed at the present time, where they had men who were prominent in business circles in North Queensland holding large areas of scrub land, and drawing pounds per day from the exertions of the Chinese in the production of bananas. How, then, were they to expect the banana industry to be brought up to such a state as to compete with the Fiji bananas?

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Mr. WIENHOLT: No one believed in keeping out undesirable aliens more than he did, for one reason because our own people needed a higher standard of living. He had seen the trouble caused in Natal and the United States of America to-day on the same question; but he thought there was one point that had been missed, and that was, what were these undesirable aliens going to do when we prevented them from gardening? Would they not go into other professions, such as cabinet making, and so on? Perhaps they would do more harm in those callings than when growing vegetables and supplying some of the outside towns. Hon. members should be logical in this matter, and if they were going to prevent the leasing of land even in these small areas, they would have to prevent them from being employed as cooks or laundrymen, and, in fact, make it impossible for them to live, so that they would have to leave the country. Surely the hon. member did not demand that. If they realised that position, then the only thing they could do was to pay them some compensation, and take the bull by the horns and get them out straight away. He did not think it would be right to make it impossible for them to live in any trade whatever. Now that they were here, and the evil existed, it would be better to see them growing vegetables than to have them in other things. The hon. member for Bowen talked about the Japanese being servile, and that was a statement which would do harm to Australia, because he was quite sure that there was nothing servile about the men who stormed Port Arthur.

Mr. FERRICKS: They are servile for a reason out here.

Mr. WIENHOLT: If the hon. member read the descriptions of the late war with Russia carefully, and knew anything about fighting at all, he would realise that it was a very dangerous thing to instil into Australian minds that there was anything despicable about the Japanese, or the Chinese either. He noticed the other day in an illustrated paper some excellent photographs of the new reorganised Chinese army, and there did not seem to be anything particularly despicable or servile about them. Let us by all means keep them out. They had to realise that a white man had to keep his family and himself, and needed bigger wages and better conditions than the alien. Keep the alien out by all means, but do not let us lull ourselves into false security that there was anything despicable or servile about them.

Mr. CORSER: As there seemed to be a difficulty in discriminating what kind of produce a Chinaman should grow upon his acreage, he thought there ought to be a reduction from 5 acres to 3 acres. In travelling through the North of Queensland he had found many tens of thousands of acres suitable for banana-growing, and also for canegrowing, but they knew that they could only produce a certain amount of cane before they reached the demand in Australia. It appeared to him that the only thing left that could profitably be grown in North Queensland by white men in large quantities was bananas, if they could possibly keep the Fiji bananas out of Australia. They talked about settling the people in the North of Queensland, but there must be some occupation that they could make a living in. As to the different things that could be produced in the North.

there were sugar and bananas, and then they came to cotton. He did not find more than one instance where cotton was grown profitably except by native black labour, at half-a-crown a week and rations. Persons in the North told him that they could not make coffee-growing pay unless they had native black labour at half-a-crown a week. That being so, there was not going to be any expansion in those directions, and it left the good fertile lands only for the banana-grower. But while the Federal Government would not give assistance, and while the Fijian Government were anxious that their bananas grown by black labour should come into Australia, nothing could be done. He thought the New South Wales or Victorian Government were subsidising steamers to bring Fijian bananas into New South Wales.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: It is the Victorian Government.

Mr. CORSER: By doing that they were practically landing the black-grown banana into Australia free from duty. In Melbourne and Sydney practically the whole of the banana trade was in the hands of the Chinese, and while it remained in their hands he did not think they would get much assistance from the Federal Government. They had now an opportunity of legislating so that the Chinamen would be prevented from leasing land of sufficient area to make a living from bananas. The people would be grateful to Parliament for doing this. He hoped that, if they could not restrict the aliens from utilising 5 acres for banana-growing, the Committee would reduce the area of land to be leased down to at most 3 acres.

Mr. FERRICKS: The hon. member for Fassifern mentioned that if they restricted the area they would drive the Chinamen into some other avenues of employment, but the fact that Chinamen were able to settle on the land was held out to them [10.30 p.m.] as an attraction to come to Queensland. Chinamen were frequently coming to North Queensland. God knows where they came from—they must have come from the Northern Territory—they could not speak a word of English, but they were bound to other Chinamen, and in time took up land for themselves. If they restricted the area that they could take up it would be a hardship on a few Chinamen; but the attraction to newcomers would be stopped, and that would be something gained. The senior member for Maryborough put forward an excellent point by mentioning that this was a splendid opportunity for Queensland to show its genuineness to foster a Queensland industry. They had an opportunity of furthering the industry and opening up untold possibilities with regard to land settlement. They had land in the North that would grow sugar and other tropical fruits till further orders, but the facilities were restricted, and there was a good opportunity to open up areas of land for banana-growing. There were rivers which were navigable for vessels of light draught, launches, and flat-bottomed punts, and the facilities for getting away bananas were very good. The hon. member for Dalby thought that it would be easy for a Chinaman to pass the education test and take up land, but the test that could be submitted by the Minister was one that no member of Parliament could pass, so that the provisions in that respect were all right.

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

AYES, 25.

Mr. Appel	Mr. Macartney
" Barnes, G. P.	" Morgan
" Barnes, W. H.	" Paget
" Booker	" Petrie
" Bouchard	" Rankin
" Bridges	" Somerset
" Cribb	" Stevens
" Denham	" Swayne
" Forsyth	" Thorn
" Fox	" Tolmie
" Grant	" Welsby
" Grayson	" Wienholt
" Gunn	

Tellers: Mr. Welsby and Mr. Wienholt.

NOES, 23.

Mr. Adamson	Mr. McLachlan
" Allen	" May
" Collins	" Mulcahy
" Corser	" Mullan
" Coyne	" O'Sullivan
" Ferricks	" Payne
" Foley	" Ryland
" Hamilton	" Theodore
" Hardacre	" Vowles
" Hunter, D.	" Walker
" Hunter, J. M.	" Winstanley
" Land	

Tellers: Mr. Coyne and Mr. Ryland.

PAIRS.

Ayes—Mr. Hodge and Mr. Philp.
Noes—Mr. Blair and Mr. Mann.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. HARDACRE: If the clause was going to be effective it would require another amendment. Clause 3 provided that it should not be lawful to lease any area of land exceeding 5 acres to aliens. If the clause remained in that form, any number of aliens could take up an area of land. Ten Chinamen could occupy 50 acres, and nine Chinamen would really be the employees of one Chinaman, who, in fact, although not in form, would lease the whole area. There would practically be a form of dummying going on. There was another side to it also. Not only might one owner lease the whole of his land to different aliens, but one alien might lease 4 acres from one owner, some more from another owner, and some more from still another owner. With a view to preventing such evasions of the purpose of the Bill, he moved the insertion, after the word "direct," in line 26, of the words—

" Provided that it shall not be lawful for one owner of land to grant or lease parcels of land exceeding in the aggregate five acres to different aliens who have not received such certificate. Nor shall it be lawful for any one alien who has not received such certificate to lease parcels of land exceeding in the aggregate five acres from different owners."

He suggested that the Minister might move the Chairman out of the chair to give him time to consider the amendment.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn. The business to-morrow will be Supply.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at fifteen minutes to 11 o'clock.

Hon. D. F. Denham.]