

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 31 AUGUST 1922

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The SPEAKER (Hon. W. Bertram, *Morac*), took the chair at 11 a.m.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY.

(*Mr. Kirwan, Brisbane, in the chair.*)

HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND GRANTS.

Question stated—

“That £90,340 be granted for ‘Charitable Institutions and Grants.’”

Mr. STOPFORD (Mount Morgan): I would like to discuss the question of the Westwood Sanatorium. Criticism has been levelled against the hon. member for Rockhampton for speaking on this matter because it was outside his electoral boundary. I think the hon. member was perfectly right in recognising that the sanatorium is not one for Central Queensland alone, but that it is one of a national character. I am gratified to see that recognition of its merits in different parts of the State is proved by the fact that in that institution there are patients who have come from long distances outside Central Queensland. Unless one is conversant with the conditions existing in relation to the inmates of the institution, one might misunderstand a portion of the speech delivered by the hon. member for Rockhampton. The hon. member stated that the number of inmates had increased and that he was gratified to see that there was a greater number of inmates this year than in the previous year.

Mr. GLEDSON: I would like to see it empty.

Mr. STOPFORD: The hon. member for Ipswich interjects that he would personally like to see the institution empty. I think that is a wish which is shared by every hon. member. But, although we may have that wish, we have the stern reality before our eyes that the fact that the beds in the institution are not fully occupied is not a guarantee that everything is right. In the early history of the institution there was something which caused a considerable amount of anxiety to everyone who had the interests of the institution at heart. We knew that the Government had expended something like £25,000 on the institution, yet many of the beds were not being availed of, although we knew that there were sufficient sufferers from the disease around Mount Morgan and Rockhampton to occupy every bed. The reason for that was that the miner, for whose special benefit the institution was erected, has always led a life free from restraint. Any man who has lived in, or even visited, a mining community must recognise that the miners are a peculiar type and very independent. They hail every stranger who appears in the town with good fellowship, and people sometimes are amazed at the familiar manner in which perfect strangers are greeted when they visit a mining town. These men, although they knew they were suffering from the complaint, could not be induced to enter the institution, because they got the idea that on entering it they would be subjected to discipline and a form of restraint which they had not been used to; and it was only after some of their mates had gone to the sanatorium and

[*Mr. Stopford.*]

reaped the benefits conferred by the institution that this fear was broken down. I will cite a case that came under my own notice. A friend of mine, who was working in the Mount Morgan mine, gradually began to fail in health, and it did not require a medical eye to see that he was entering upon the early stage of this complaint. I prevailed upon him first to leave the mine and to seek work in one of the railway construction camps; and, taking an interest in his case, I watched the development of the disease as it got a greater hold upon him. Repeatedly I asked that man to go to the Westwood Sanatorium, and he said, “No,” that he was not going to accept charity; he was not going to be bossed about, and that he had chosen his own life and intended to live it in his own way without restraint, and when the end came, he would meet it. During the last visit of the Public Works Commission to that district, the members of the Commission met him, and it was easily seen that the disease had got a strong hold on him. He had been working at the Baralaba State Coalmine. The manager did everything possible to provide him with a light job, but he had to confess that at last he had reached the end of his physical strength, and, in speaking to the hon. member for Bowen, he stated that he was getting his last dividend from the Mount Morgan Company. I prevailed upon him then to make application for the benefits provided under the Industrial Diseases Act that this House passed into law. He accepted that advice, because he believed he was taking something to which he was justly entitled; that he had given his life in carrying on an industry of a dangerous nature, and he was perfectly justified in saying that the industry should bear the burden of supporting him during the period he was incapacitated. That man wrote to me afterwards that he had gone into the “repair shop”—that was the term he used in writing of the local hospital. He could not be prevailed upon to enter the Westwood Sanatorium, and the hon. member for Rockhampton, in remarking that he was gratified to see the increasing number of patients entering Westwood, clearly desired to convey to the Committee that he was pleased to know that the people for whom the institution had been built were to-day recognising the benefits conferred by it, and were availing themselves of those benefits. (Hear, hear!) A great deal of the success of the institution is due to the matron. She is a most excellent matron, and a woman who has retained her womanly sympathies, and she has a knowledge of human nature that permits her to give satisfaction to those men who object to any restraint. Her methods of handling them, together with the treatment of the excellent doctor that the Government have been fortunate enough to secure for the institution, have broken down what threatened in the early history of the sanatorium to nullify the benefits that should come from an institution of this character. I am delighted to know that the institution is doing excellent work for those who are suffering from that dread complaint. On one occasion I sent a girl from Brisbane to Westwood, and, after remaining there for some two years, she has now returned to her parents in excellent health, and is able to earn her own living. She is a monument to the care and affection which she received while in the institution. We may all feel gratified that the institution is carrying out what we anticipated it would do, and I am

sure that we all wish it were possible by legislative enactment, not only to give assistance to those who are suffering from miners' phthisis, but to wipe it out altogether. But I know enough of the complaint and those who have suffered from it to realise that that is only a pious hope. While the mining industry is continued we shall have to look for a certain number of victims from it. I recognise that the Mount Morgan Company take every precaution that science can place at their disposal to try and save the lives and limbs of their employees. If we could abolish what is known as the contract system, under which men vie with each other for a greater amount of pay, and if we could abolish the night shift in that particular calling, we would probably be able to lessen the need for such an institution as this.

The matter of the provision made for the eradication of prickly-pear at Westwood, for which a sum of £500 appears on the Estimates this year, as well as last year also, has been referred to. The hon. member for Normanby was on the right track when he stated that it was merely a vote carried forward from the previous year. I remember that, when we went out to inspect the institution, a lease of the paddock which was reserved had been given to one of the local graziers with a condition to keep the pear down.

Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH: Is it good land?

Mr. STOPFORD: Not very good land. There are portions of the flat which are good agricultural land, but parts of the paddock are of no particular value. This gentleman, while using the paddock for grazing purposes, had not carried out his part of the contract with regard to keeping the pear down, because there was a considerable portion of pear upon it. It has been suggested that the paddock should be cut up into small areas and put to profitable use, and so relieve the institution from the expense of dealing with the pear. I would put in a plea, if that is to be done, for the men who are in the first stages of this complaint. I have always held the opinion that if we could get the men who are in the first stage of this disease out into the open air, away from the mine altogether and free from the responsibility of going round the country looking for a job, we might, in a measure, be able to save them from the last and worse form of the disease. I believe that there are many men whom the doctor would tell to-day to get out of the mine if he did not know that he would be practically sentencing them to death owing to the anxiety they would feel in regard to maintaining their families. That would be a greater injury to the men than working in the mine. If blocks of land were given to these men, they could be instructed in methods of cultivation, and this would help to bring them back to health. I sincerely trust that the institution will continue its good work, while at the same time hoping that the ravages of the disease will be lessened as science copes with the difficulties which surround the miner and the employer in relation to the dust problem in every deep mine which is operated in the State. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. PETERSON (Normanby): I spoke for a few moments last night on this important vote. I am not one of those members who take exception to another hon. member taking an interest in an institution of a public

nature. I stated last night that I believed it was the duty of hon. members, particularly the members who represent industrial centres, to take a keen interest in these institutions.

There is one matter I would like to bring under the notice of the Minister representing the Home Secretary. For a long time past we have repeatedly asked that an incinerator should be erected at the Westwood Sanatorium to destroy the sputum from the patients suffering from miners' phthisis. At the present moment the matron is badly inconvenienced in this direction. The sputum is taken out into the open and destroyed by boiling it in open pans. That is not the hygienic way and is not the best way of treating the contagious sputum which comes from the inmates. I trust that the Minister will see that a brick incinerator is installed at the earliest possible moment. The hon. member for Mount Morgan dilated upon the number of cures that have taken place at Westwood, and I can endorse what he says. I have made a number of visits to the institution in the past few years, and I can bear testimony to the fact that patients have left there perfectly cured. I know that marvellous cures have taken place there. I might mention the case of a patient named McMillan, who was not a miner, but a farmer. He went into the institution suffering from chest complaint, and after remaining for some months he left the institution. I saw him a few months ago in the Rockhampton district, and he told me he had been completely cured. I think that this House owes a great deal to the Secretary for Public Instruction, Mr. Huxham, who was Home Secretary at the time the sanatorium was instituted. That hon. gentleman always had a kindly feeling towards the sanatorium, and it is mainly through his efforts that we have an up-to-date sanatorium established at Westwood. I always admired the work of the hon. gentleman in that direction, and the residents there thought so much of the interest that the hon. gentleman took in establishing the sanatorium that they named the "iding" adjacent to the sanatorium "Huxham" in memory of the hon. gentleman. (Hear, hear!) His name will therefore be handed down to posterity as a monument to his good work in establishing the Westwood Sanatorium. (Hear, hear!)

Regarding the question of the destruction of prickly-pear, judging from the fact that it cost over £2,000 to clear the Bajool reserve of prickly-pear, it will cost as much to clear the Westwood Sanatorium reserve, and the longer it is left unattended to the more it will cost. I hope that the £500 which is placed on the Estimates will not be carried forward to next year, but will be used in the cheapest possible manner for eradicating the pear. One hon. member said there was not much pear on the reserve, but I beg to differ with him. If something is not done, the reserve will become densely covered with pear, and it will be lost to the people of Queensland, and incidentally to the Government. The hon. member for Rockhampton stated last night, by interjection, that I had neglected the Westwood Sanatorium. With the permission of the Committee, I will read a testimonial which was forwarded to me by the inmates of the institution.

Mr. FORDE: What is the date of that?

Mr. PETERSON: 15th August, 1921.

Mr. FORDE: That was before you deserted from this party.

Mr. Peterson.]

Mr. PETERSON: The testimonial I received reads—

“Sanatorium, Westwood,
15th August, 1921.

“Hon. J. C. Peterson, Brisbane.

“Dear Sir,—We wish to sincerely thank you for your untiring efforts on our behalf, which have resulted in the installation of a billiard table from Parliament House. Anything calculated to obviate the monotony of sanatorium life is eagerly looked forward to and welcomed by the inmates, consequently the arrival of the table was hailed with delight. It is a boon and a blessing, especially to those who are well enough to play, and to the rest of us, who are unfortunately confined to bed for the present, it is a beacon of hope until the time when we shall be sufficiently advanced in health to participate. Though you have many calls on your time, you never fail to attend to the institution's requirements, proving you have our interests at heart and are ever solicitous about our welfare.

“Again thanking you and assuring you of our grateful appreciation of your favours.”

Here follow about fifteen names, which it is open to hon. members to peruse.

Mr. FORDE: They don't think much of you since you deserted the Labour movement.

Mr. PETERSON: I will leave it to the inmates and the people in the electorate to judge. Reverting to the prickly-pear question, the hon. member for Fitzroy said last night that he hoped that no cochineal insects would be spread over the Westwood Sanatorium reserve because of the probable trouble that would occur afterwards. I might mention that, with other hon. members, I have been noticing with interest the propagation of the *Dactylopus tomentosus* insect. I am convinced that if these insects were distributed around the sanatorium, it would do a great deal of good and save a great deal of money to the people of Queensland, judging by the success of the experiments with the wild cochineal insect, *Coccus Indicus*, in the Gracemere and Bowen districts. I hope that every effort will be made to save the whole of that land from infestation by prickly-pear, and it can only be done by spending the vote already passed and the vote before us to-day, and employing men at the earliest possible moment for that purpose.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*): I should like, at the outset, to express regret at the illness of the Home Secretary, and to say that I am very glad to hear the hon. gentleman is improving. I hope that before long we shall see him taking his place again in this House. Unfortunately, owing to the manner in which we have to do business in this House just now, we are unable to know what is really done in the various institutions throughout the State. It is somewhat gratifying, however, to hear one or two hon. members say, as they did yesterday, that they appreciate the interest which other hon. members take in the public institutions within their particular areas. On the other hand, when some remarks were made yesterday about certain institutions, three or four members on the opposite side did anything but treat them respectfully.

I want to touch on one or two matters connected with the Toowoomba district, first

[*Mr. Peterson.*

of all with regard to the Home for Epileptics. When that home was established it was anticipated that very satisfactory results would follow. A very large expenditure of public money was incurred; but, although I have not been able to get all the information to enable me to deal with the matter as I would like, it appears from the information I have obtained that we are not getting anything like the results we might expect. I do not know the number of patients, but I am inclined to think that we have not the number we expected to treat in the manner which was intended when the institution was established. I look upon the home as a place where considerable attention and care should be given to patients with the object, if possible, of curing them. I am quite satisfied that work is being carried out along those lines. I notice that the amount required for maintenance is £1,300. You cannot feed sixty-six patients and a staff of twelve on that amount of money. If we had a report before we were called upon to discuss the Estimates, we would know what the position was. I would like to know whether any results have accrued from the work of the institution.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: You do not suggest that the inmates are underfed, do you?

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS: I do not; but you cannot feed eighty people for twelve months on £1,300. I agree with the hon. member for Rockhampton that we do well in encouraging benevolent institutions in each portion of the State. Too many of our aged people are taken to Dunwich and left there to end their days. Some of those people desire to remain in the districts where they have been for many years. In Toowoomba, through the generosity of a man who in his day did very much for the poor of that district and for the State, we have the Brodribb Home. I notice from the report that it is subsidised by the Government to the extent of £300 per annum. It is doing very good work for the Government. From the report, I find that last year they admitted 134 men, fourteen women, and ten children. People who had nowhere to go for shelter were provided for in that home, which is very efficiently managed. Under those circumstances, that home is entitled to assistance from the Government. The way in which it is managed is an object lesson to some of our State institutions. The lady in charge tries to make every shilling get its full value. I notice from their balance-sheet that they were able to sell vegetables to the extent of £24 12s. 10d. When we see a small place like the Brodribb Home able to return that amount, independently of supplying vegetables for the use of the institution itself, it indicates that Government institutions could very well do the same. We have heard about Rockhampton a good deal in connection with this vote. It appears to me that Rockhampton has a very big slice of the vote. Out of a total of £1,700, £800 goes to that city.

Mr. GREEN: Not much goes to the North.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS: I regret that a greater amount is not going to the North. We should do all we can for the poorer people in the community. I am prepared to support the Government in the action they take along those lines.

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*): We had no report last year on the Willowburn Epileptic Home, which cost a lot of money to build. It has been stated that the average number of patients

In the institution is sixty-six. I cannot understand how that number of patients can be maintained on the appropriation of £1,300, which is only equivalent to an annual expenditure of £16 per head for the number of patients and the staff in this home. I do not quite understand how the institution is conducted. I know of three cases that were refused admission to the home. I am not very conversant with two of the cases, but I know that one person was refused admission and was sent to

Dunwich. Is this place only for [11.30 a.m.] the admission of those who are curable and that those who are incurable are sent to some other place? It is an extraordinary thing that young men and women have to be sent to Dunwich when they are epileptics. It is a most unsuitable place for them, especially when we have a specially equipped home, with a staff trained for the treatment of epileptics, where the patients' position can be made very much easier. I have heard that patients have been refused admission because they have been too much trouble, and I have also heard that the home is not availed of to the extent it should be. There is an increase of £100 in the vote for "Maintenance and Incidentals" for the Willowburn Home for Epileptics. We had no report last year dealing with that institution. The reports on all charitable institutions are becoming so abbreviated that they contain no information at all. The Minister in charge of the Estimates should give all the information that is required. A few years ago we did get full reports, and we were told exactly what was going on and what was recommended by the principals of those institutions. Those principals suggested that for purposes of economy patients should be utilised to do certain work. Apparently because those recommendations offered opportunity for a great deal of criticism, the inspectors and doctors were told to cut down the reports so that there would be no room to criticise the method in which the institutions were being conducted. All the reports that we now receive contain merely a few figures which do not give any information at all. The Government should welcome suggestions from the principals in those institutions as to the different ways in which they might be improved. In institutions like the Dalby and Westwood Sanatoria, Dr. Spahlinger's cure for phthisis has created a great deal of interest. I have had three letters, one from a patient in the Diamantina Hospital and two from the Dalby Sanatorium, pointing out the hope instilled into them by reading articles in connection with that cure. Possibly the Federal or the State Government might be able to take some steps to have the cure tested. No doubt, it will probably alleviate some of the patients' sufferings.

Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH: There was a statement published quite recently to the effect that the Commonwealth authorities were investigating a cure for phthisis.

Mr. MOORE: I would like some information as to what has been done by the State Government.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): The Commonwealth Government are now investigating the matter. Hon. members opposite have endeavoured, in their criticism, to show that £1,300 is not sufficient appropriation for the Epileptic Home at Willowburn to provide for the comfort and wellbeing of the

inmates. The hon. member for East Toowoomba made a comparison of certain institutions in Toowoomba subsidised by the Government with State institutions. I can assure the hon. member and the people of Queensland that the Government are doing everything possible in the interests of the unfortunate people who are inmates of the Willowburn Epileptic Home.

Mr. MORGAN: It is a pity that there are not more private institutions.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The average number of patients at the Willowburn Epileptic Home last year was sixty-three, and the actual expenditure was £1,292 16s. 9d. There was no curtailment of any comfort on the part of patients as compared with previous years. It is not fair to make comparisons with the Westwood Sanatorium. The patients at the Westwood institution require a greater quantity of drugs and medicines and much more treatment than is required at the Epileptic Home at Willowburn. The patients at the latter institution are subject to periodical fits and illnesses, and do not require the same amount of medical treatment or the same quantity of medicines as the patients at Westwood.

Mr. MORGAN: Why is there such a discrepancy between the amount voted for "Maintenance and Incidentals" at the Dalby Sanatorium and the Westwood Sanatorium?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The leader of the Opposition raised that question late last evening. The total expenditure for 1920-1921 at the Dalby Sanatorium was £3,658, and last year the amount was £2,383, showing a decrease of £1,275 on the previous year's expenditure. The Estimates have been based on last year's expenditure, and the decrease is due to the reduction in the cost of material, meat, butter, bread, groceries, etc., which is an argument that the cost of living is being reduced in Queensland.

Mr. VOWLES: Should not the same apply to the other institution?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The total expenditure for 1920-1921 at the Westwood Sanatorium was £2,372, and the expenditure last year was £2,757, an increase of £384. The increase was due to the fact that the number of inmates had increased from thirty-two to fifty-four.

Mr. VOWLES: The staff is the same.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: One never knows in connection with an institution like the Westwood Sanatorium what the number of inmates is likely to be. Any day in the week you are likely to get half a dozen fresh patients, and the staff must be there to meet the requirements of the institution.

Mr. VOWLES: They are not there, according to the Estimates.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The expenditure at the Epileptic Home at Willowburn last year was £1,292, and the amount provided on the Estimates this year is £1,300, which we expect will be quite sufficient for the requirements of the institution. I again repeat that there will be no sparing in the matter of providing comforts or in attention to the unfortunate inmates of the institution. Apart from the amount provided, the patients grow their own vegetables and they do laundry work and needlework. Dr. Nicholls really decides whether the inmates are fit and proper persons to attend that institution.

Hon. A. J. Jones.]

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*): If I follow the Minister's remarks closely, there are about eighty people at Westwood and about seventy at Willowburn, but he wants roughly about £2,000 more to feed those at Westwood.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: You must understand that the inmates at Westwood require greater medical attention and more medicine and drugs. It is not a question of food only.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS: Do I understand that the cost of medicine is included in that amount?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Yes.

Question put and passed.

HEALTH.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): I beg to move—

“That £27,368 be granted for ‘Health.’”

It will be noticed that there is a decrease of £2,558 on the amount provided for last year. Hon. members are well aware that during last year we had an unfortunate outbreak of plague in the State, and every precaution has been taken by the Home Secretary and by the Department of Public Health and the Health Board to stamp out that dread disease as far as possible. It is the policy of the Government to prevent the spread of disease in this State, because we recognise that the health of the community should be one of the first considerations. Good work has been done by the Home Secretary in that direction, and hon. members are quite well aware of the firm stand my colleague has taken in the interests of the whole of the people to prevent any further spread of plague.

Mr. SWAYNE (*Mirani*): There is a matter in connection with this vote that is of some importance to the community. It not only concerns the health of the people in my electorate, but also, I understand, of the people in the North generally. Some five or six years ago what appears to be a new form of disease broke out in the North and was accompanied by great mortality. For some time it was regarded by the medical profession as being of either a typhoid or para-typhoid form. But for some time, amongst the sufferers themselves and those living in the vicinity, there has been considerable doubt as to whether it was that form of sickness or not, and I urged some time ago that a bacteriologist should be sent there to investigate matters and effectively diagnose the disease; and I pointed out that, unless something of that kind was done, it did not seem that any satisfactory conclusion as to its treatment or prevention could be arrived at. I am pleased to say that the department have at last acted on my advice; but there has been a most unjustifiable delay in taking this action, and I am also sorry to say that it is open to question whether valuable lives have not been sacrificed through this delay. To make the matter clear, I do not think I can do better than read the correspondence and reports in connection with this matter. In 1921, I wrote at length to the Home Secretary on the subject, but previous to that, from year to year, I had called on the department and verbally laid the matter

before the Minister. On 4th July, 1921, I put the position before the Minister in writing as follows:—

“Hon. W. McCormack,

“Home Secretary.

“Sir,—As the Minister in charge of health matters in our State, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following:—For some years past a form of fever has been prevalent in portions of my electorate, and many valuable lives have been lost in consequence. Some time ago the Health branch of your department were made cognisant of it, and the Commissioner, Dr. Moore, visited the locality, and inoculation as a preventive has now been practised for three or four years. This year, it (the fever) has been much in evidence, and I lately again discussed the subject with the health officer of the local authority. That gentleman kindly furnished me with the following data regarding the sickness which is the result of observation on the part of hims^e and other medical men in Mackay in connection with the patients they have treated for it—

(1) Men, agricultural workers, are mostly affected by it.

(2) Cases, generally those engaged in opening up new land.

(3) Locality, in elevated part of district from which the water runs through a more populated area, and it is only in the upper part that cases have occurred.

(4) Infected persons have almost all drunk only tank water.

(5) Flies are not bad.

(6) Persons who have recent inoculation T.A.B. are rarely infected.

(7) Fever is of a typhoid type.

(8) All cases have been notified as typhoid and treated as such, specimens being sent to the Government laboratories. All results have been negative.

“From the above information, which it will be noticed is principally negative, it seems the real cause is still unknown. One noteworthy point is that the specimens sent to the laboratories have afforded no information as to the cause. Does this indicate that it is a bacilli or germ, so short lived when removed from its host that it cannot survive the time now necessary for it to reach any of the centres where laboratories are available for research in such matters? It is mentioned that inoculation is a safeguard, but to be such it must be done at short intervals and at that time of the year when those treated are not likely to be already affected by the disease in process of incubation.

“In view of the little definite information we have to date and the impossibility of stamping it out until the cause is known, I strongly urge that a specialist, equipped with the necessary appliances for bacteriological investigation on the spot, be appointed to go thoroughly into the matter. Even if inoculation is of service in minimising the risks of contagion, it is most certainly not desirable as a permanent practice to be gone through by all those resident in such localities.”

[*Mr. Swayne.*

That was the middle of last year. In the middle of this year—a year afterwards—Dr. Telford and a Government bacteriologist were sent up. I may point out that it is a seasonal sickness and occurs between December and March, and, therefore, one year has been lost. During the last season there were several deaths, and several other cases affording a splendid opportunity for investigation, but a year's time has been lost. There has been other correspondence on the subject. I may say that the health authorities attributed the disease, in the first place, largely to the sanitary conditions. The local authority took the matter in hand, and, I think, satisfactorily. I have here a report by the shire clerk, Mr. J. E. Maddox. I may say that, largely owing to my representations in the first place, a system of inoculation has been practised there for some years. The shire clerk says—

“Seven (7) advertisements within the last eighteen months have appeared advising residents that inoculation would take place on certain dates and at the minimum cost (this being for the serum alone), the doctor's fee being borne by the council. Upwards of eighty residents have taken the advantage offered.”

The local health officer, Dr. Kay, writes—

“The President, Sarina Shire.

“Sir,—I have to thank you for the correspondence received regarding the West Plane Creek fever, and note with pleasure that Mr. Swayne has forced the Minister, and incidentally the State Health Department, to pay some attention to this matter. All that was recommended by the Commissioner in 1917 was done, and your council issued specific instructions in all matters of sanitation. I have recommended prosecution in cases reported by your inspector where defects were found, but he has always informed that the default was remedied on his demand. In every annual report I have drawn your attention to the need of special vigilance in sanitation. For a small community like Sarina the expense of keeping a permanent man solely for sanitary inspections has been prohibitive, but your council has at intervals supplemented your ordinary inspector by special men detailed for that purpose. In an area so far away it is not practicable for your medical officer of health to personally inspect each dwelling, but when I have made inspections, if defects have been found, the residents have been eager to conform to any regulation for the betterment of health.”

Then we come to the doubt as to whether it was typhoid—

“Still it is not a typical typhoid fever. There has always been among the residents at West Plane Creek a feeling that the disease was something more than typhoid.”

He goes on to say—

“To locate these will require, as we have always held necessary, a special Commission, with a bacteriologist at its head. This is the carrying problem which the Commissioner casually remarks will be solved when the railway runs through to Mackay.”

Speaking of the Commissioner personally, he said—

“The Commissioner is in charge of a

very large department, and, energetic and highly trained as he is, he is called upon to meet a problem such as this with little or no help. So we are told in the Health Department communication that in 1921, with reference to Sarina, the Commissioner is sorry, and we remember that four years ago, in 1917, when he met your shire council, he was even then sorry and pathetic. He knew full well that he had not the means of dealing with the situation on scientific lines, and doubtless realised better than we did that more than a sanitary lecture to a local authority was called for.”

I do not think there has been any remissness or negligence on the part of the Commissioner, but I do not think the necessary assistance has been placed at his disposal by the Government. Coming to later developments, more than a year after I laid the matter before the department in writing, and many years after I first verbally approached them about it, Dr. Telford was sent up. He addressed a meeting in the infected locality in June last. I am reading from the report of the meeting in the local Press—

“An unknown disease, resembling typhoid fever, has afflicted the West Plane Creek district for years, with fatal results to many farmers. The Sarina Shire Council, ably guided by their medical officer of health, Dr. Stuart Kay, have done their best with limited means at their disposal to discover the cause of the disease, check infection, and finally overcome it, but for want of sufficient bacteriological data they have been unable to crown their efforts with success. The Public Health Department offered the council little encouragement in their efforts, stolidly maintaining the disease was akin to, if not actually, typhoid or para-typhoid, and beyond issuing supplies of serum for inoculation purposes, did nothing.”

Then we find that Dr. Telford, the medical man sent up by the department, addressed a meeting, and said—

“With the object of investigating, as far as possible in the short time at his disposal, the sanitary conditions prevailing at West Plane Creek, with a view to the prevention of the so-called Sarina or West Plane Creek fever. The newspapers had called it Sarina or West Plane Creek fever, but he did not think that was a fair thing to apply to the township, because, first of all, there were very few cases in Sarina itself, and secondly, as far as West Plane Creek was concerned, whilst certainly the majority of cases had occurred there, it was not confined in Queensland to West Plane Creek alone. The disease was evidently fairly common in the North around, he thought, Port Douglas, where Dr. Clark, the medical officer of health, reported before the war about 1,483 cases of glandular fever. They could, therefore, say it was fairly prevalent, and probably a great many more cases had occurred since then. The cases he had so far investigated in the Plane Creek district were about fifty-three in number, but he expected there were a great many more he had not been able to get hold of, but out of that number there were about 16 per cent. of deaths.

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Of course, that was too few to secure very much information on, but it was a fairly high death rate, and higher than they expected from any fever, except plague and severe fevers."

This gentleman says that it is prevalent in the whole of the North, and not confined to my district. He goes on to say that there are probably three fevers—typhoid, paratyphoid, and this mysterious illness to which most of the mortality is attributable. In speaking about the sanitary conditions, he says that they are not everything they might be, but that they have made greater advance in that direction in that district than in many other places in Queensland. In reading through this speech one can see that there is no fault or negligence on the part of local residents in regard to sanitary conditions. The doctor says that it is very doubtful whether the disease can be attributed to sanitary conditions at all, and that it is due to some unknown cause. However,

I am glad that an investigation [12 p.m.] is to take place. The local medical officer, Dr. Kay, said that they had reached the interesting stage that they were that day really starting to investigate the West Plane Creek fever. Then he went on—

"The main point that they should take was not to attempt to say it was so and so, or that it was not so and so, but co-operate absolutely with the Health Department and find out what it was."

Although there had been a number of deaths in that locality, and in other parts of the North, it has been allowed to remain for years without anything being done. Dr. Kay also said—

"It might be a new disease. He could not say it was this disease or that disease, and the only way it could be done was by submitting specimens to the bacteriologist and helping him all they could. As far as the clinical work, that was the work at the bedside, the doctors at Mackay would be only too glad to co-operate with the bacteriologist who was acting on behalf of the department."

Dr. Kay continued on those lines. The president of the local shire council, Councillor Nicholson, was thanked, and thanks were also given to the shire clerk for assistance rendered in connection with the matter and in placing the Plane Creek Mill Laboratory at the disposal of the bacteriologist. Although steps have been taken lately to do something, I think that there has been undue delay.

I should also like to refer to an extraordinary utterance on the part of the Premier while he was at Mackay. He was there for a little time last year when the matter was brought before him, and this is what he said—

"He recognised the seriousness of the matter if there was a kind of endemic disease of which the medical fraternity knew very little that was carrying off their settlers. It was a serious situation, and a very close pathological investigation would disclose the origin. He would do what he could to assist them in solving the mystery if within the bounds of practicability. He would take the matter up with Mr. Forgan Smith and see what could be done."

I would like to know how Mr. Forgan Smith comes into the matter. It is in my electorate,

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an if the Premier wanted to talk to a member of Parliament apart from a medical man, he should talk to the member for the district, especially as I had been concerning myself very much in the matter. It is only natural that I should concern myself with it, because I live in the locality, and when I came to Brisbane, I interviewed the Health Department time after time, I also tried to see the Premier in Brisbane, but he refused to discuss the matter with me, referring me to the Home Secretary, and yet he said that he would have a talk with the hon. member for Mackay about it.

Mr. GLEDSON: He was in Mackay at the time.

Mr. SWAYNE: It is carrying politics to a very low level when a matter of urgent public importance concerning the health of a large district is brought into politics. I do not know what the Premier was afraid of, but the people there formed their own conclusions when he refused to see the member for the district, more especially as that member had interested himself in the matter and had some knowledge of it, so far as a layman is concerned. Yet he refused to see me. When I came to Brisbane I asked the Premier to see me, and he refused.

Mr. GLEDSON: You are not the member for Mackay.

Mr. SWAYNE: The Premier refused to see the member for the district, because he wanted to talk the matter over with the hon. member for Mackay. I fail to see how the hon. member for Mackay comes into the matter at all. I am satisfied now that something is to be done, but I regret the delay that has taken place and the lives that have been sacrificed. The question now arises, who is to stand the expense? Is it all to be thrown on the local authority? It has been pointed out by medical men that this disease is prevalent throughout the North as well as in this particular centre. It is really a national question; and, seeing that it affects the whole of the North and it is evidently an unknown disease, it is not a fair thing to ask a few local ratepayers to shoulder the whole of the expense. The cost should be borne by the whole community, and I ask the Minister to make some pronouncement on the subject.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): I do not propose to answer every argument as it is advanced. The hon. member for Mirani has referred to a form of fever which occurred in the district which he represents. Dr. Moore visited that district in 1917 because of a report that was made to the department, and he reported on the sanitary conditions of that locality. He said they were very unfavourable and far from adequate. The hon. member for Mirani quoted from a letter from the clerk of the local shire council. It was a long letter, and endeavoured to prove that the local authority is not guilty in any way; but Dr. Moore, after his visit there in 1917, reported that the sanitary conditions were far from satisfactory. Yet the local authority took no action for over three years. They were told what to do and were notified by the department. The doctors interested in the hookworm campaign visited the district, and they found that there was very little improvement. Therefore the local authority in that district were somewhat negligent in their duty, and were more guilty than the department.

There was no delay on the part of the department. How could it be said that there was any delay when this matter was known as far back as 1917, when every effort was made by the Health Commissioner to trace the cause of that particular form of fever? Later on Dr. Telford was sent up. The hon. member for Mirani said that Dr. Telford's visit was a hurried one, but he was there a week. The senior bacteriologist, Mr. H. E. Brown, was also sent up to investigate on behalf of the department, and every person in the West Plane Creek area was examined. His report is not yet available, because there are a few further laboratory examinations to be made. I deny that there has been any delay on the part of the Home Secretary. The hon. member for Mirani was not the first to report this matter to the department. He cannot put the blame on to the department and relieve the local authority from responsibility for their inaction regarding sanitary matters.

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*): I want to bring before the Minister the unfortunate multiplicity of control of authorities in regard to health matters. There is a great nuisance in my electorate.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Where is it?

Mr. KERR: Breakfast Creek; and in conjunction with Breakfast Creek there is the woolscour and fellmongery. Owing to the division of control that has existed for a number of years, every department in turn has been approached to handle this nuisance.

Mr. GLEDSON: The local authorities are afraid to touch it.

Mr. KERR: That is just the trouble. The local authorities have certain powers, the Health Commissioner has certain powers, and the Home Secretary has certain powers, and among the lot absolutely nothing has been done.

Mr. STOPFORD: What do you suggest?

Mr. KERR: I would suggest that, in order to get out of a difficulty, it should be definitely laid down in the Health Act Amendment Bill which is coming before Parliament which authority shall handle this and kindred questions affecting the health of the community. In addition to the other authorities mentioned by me, we now have the Federal authorities entering the arena of public health. Last year an Order in Council was passed by the Federal Government taking power to establish a department dealing with the following matters of health, although from what I can make of the Commonwealth Constitution the Federal authorities are limited in matters of health to quarantine:—

- (1) Methods of preventing disease.
- (2) Collection of sanitary data and investigation of all factors affecting health.
- (3) Education of the public in health matters.
- (4) Generally to inspire and co-ordinate public health measures.
- (5) Any other functions that may be assigned to it.

We know that, with so many authorities dealing with one matter, we are bound to have overlapping. The Institute of Tropical Diseases at Townsville is a Commonwealth institution, and the Federal authorities also control the hookworm campaign, whilst the local health department controls the plague

campaign. If in matters of that kind we have one authority dealing with one section of health and another authority dealing with another section, the result will be chaos in a very short time.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: What is the remedy?

Mr. KERR: The remedy lies in keeping all health matters in the hands of the State. The State should not, under any circumstances, lose hold of the health of its own people. Queensland has the lowest infantile mortality of any State in the Commonwealth for children under one year, whilst the general death rate in Queensland is the lowest in Australia, with the exception of South Australia and Victoria, and compares favourably with that of any other country in the world. Notwithstanding the many articles written about tropical Australia, Queensland is conspicuously free from the ravages of many tropical diseases, and we find that the people of the State between sixty and ninety years of age live longer than those elsewhere; so that Queensland is one of the healthiest places in the whole of the world, and we should not permit any of our functions in respect of public health to go from us. We should hold what we have.

Now I want to deal with the complaint affecting my own district upon which I touched earlier—the Breakfast Creek nuisance. Parliament has vested certain functions in respect of health in local authorities, who may make by-laws on the matter; but there are sections in the Act giving the Commissioner for Public Health power to override the local authorities in cases of emergency. The Minister has just acknowledged that the Home Secretary in 1917 pointed out the complaint referred to by the hon. member for Mirani.

Mr. COLLINS: Why do your local authorities not do their duty?

Mr. KERR: That is what I say. Why does the Health Commissioner not compel action on the part of the local authorities in these things? He has power under the Act. Why do not the Government compel the local authorities to do what is necessary and clean up their dirty premises?

Mr. GLEDSON: Where are the dirty premises?

Mr. GREEN: Some of them are Government buildings.

Mr. KERR: They are in my own electorate, near the Breakfast Creek sewer. On turning up the "Queensland Statutes," volume iii., page 3595, I find that section 56 of the Rights in Water and Water Conservation and Utilization Act provides—

"Any person who—

(a) Throws or conveys, or causes or permits to be thrown or conveyed, any rubbish, dirt, filth, or other noisome thing, or causes the water of any sink, sewer, or drain, or other filthy water belonging to him or under his control to run or be brought into any watercourse or lake;

(b) Conveys or discharges, or causes or permits to be conveyed or discharged into any watercourse, lake, or artesian well, any sludge, mud, gravel, or other matter likely to pollute, obstruct, or interfere with the same;

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for any period not exceeding three months."

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I have mentioned four authorities who have already tackled or tried to tackle this nuisance, which is taking the paint off the houses in the neighbourhood, off the veranda railings, which is turning the silverware black, and which is—so many residents say—causing deaths in their families, and in addition to those four authorities, there is also the Harbour and Rivers Department. I have sheaves of correspondence about the matter: I have attended meetings of progress associations, but nothing is done. Section 39 of the Health Act provides—

“Any person who, after the commencement of this Act, establishes within an area, without the consent in writing of the local authority, any noxious or offensive trade, business, or manufacture, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds in respect of the establishment thereof.

“Any person carrying on such a trade, business, or manufacture, so established after the commencement of this Act, after notice by the local authority to discontinue the same, shall be liable to a daily penalty not exceeding forty shillings.”

That refers to the woolscour. People of the district put the smell I have mentioned down to that woolscour and contend that it should be dealt with as a noxious trade; but none of the authorities seem to be able to take any action. Some people say that the nuisance is caused by dead animals in the bed of the creek. The creek is not affected by the tide—it is still water. Other people put the nuisance down to the stuff from the tannery getting into the bark of the mangrove and giving off a certain acid and so causing a smell. Other people say that it is all these combined. People going in the train to Sandgate can smell it, and they hold their noses. (Laughter.) I am not exaggerating. I have smelt that obnoxious smell as far away as the Valley Corner, Newmarket, and Wilston. I have written to the Commissioner for Public Health, and others have written. I have written to the Home Secretary and tried to explain that the Government seem to be responsible because of their laxity of control. I have here a memorandum issued from the office of the Commissioner of Public Health, on 8th June, 1905, in which it is stated—

“By section 37 of the Act (the Health Act of 1900) a local authority may from time to time make by-laws with respect to the following:—

(1) Defining localities in the area within which noxious or offensive trades, businesses, or manufactures may not be established or carried on.

(2) Licensing and regulating noxious or offensive trades, businesses, or manufactures.”

Under the Health Act the Commissioner has power to deal with the matter. The trouble is that there is not a definition of “noxious trade” in any Act, and I would ask the Home Secretary, in the amending Health Bill he proposes to bring forward this session, to include a definition of the term. There will then be less trouble in dealing with this nuisance. The Home Secretary has in his possession a report submitted by Mr. Gilchrist, the City Engineer, Mr. Handing, Consulting Engineer Hamilton Town Council, Mr. Black, the Town Engineer, Ithaca, and Mr. S. Robinson (Windsor). Attending the

conference as advising officers were Mr. Henderson, Government Analyst, Dr. Moore, Commissioner of Public Health, Mr. Fison of the Harbours and Rivers Department, Mr. J. Simpson, Chief Inspector, Department of Public Health, Mr. G. Cook, Engineer to the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and Mr. A. Morry, Department of Agriculture. One of the questions considered was—“What is the cause of the pollution of the creek?” and this is the conclusion to which they came—

“The cause of the creek’s pollution is the discharge into it of sewage and trade wastes, but how much of the pollution each is relatively responsible for cannot at present be answered. Its answer would require a knowledge of the average total flow per twenty-four hours of every drain or sewer entering the creek, and also a knowledge of the average chemical composition of such drainage or sewage.

“The evidence shows, however, that much sewage now enters the creek, and that trade wastes are also responsible for part of the pollution. As ordinary sewage oxidises much more quickly than trade wastes, the latter have, relatively to amount of discharge, a greater effect in polluting the creek.

“The nuisance has been aggravated by the fact that these impurities have been emptying into a tortuous tidal creek as much as five miles from its discharge into the Brisbane River. Owing to a long series of dry seasons, there has been very little cleansing of the creek by storm waters for some considerable time. The polluted waters have thus remained in the creek simply moving up and down with the tide, but not being discharged into the river, converting a length of the creek from about Bowen Bridge to the woolscour dam into a huge septic tank.”

Something has to be done immediately; we should not have to wait for years until the sewerage system takes away the waste. It is a danger to the health of the community, and has been so for a considerable time. In this report various measures were outlined by which the Home Secretary could afford relief. I endeavoured to get the local authorities to take action. They took action in regard to some particular filth connected with the woolscour; but after having gone to a lot of trouble, all that resulted was the imposition by the court of a nominal fine of a few pounds, and the next day or so the same trouble was in existence. This action in no way dealt with the nuisance and odour. The multiplicity of authorities is acting detrimentally on the health of the community in my electorate and adjoining electorates.

As showing that the platform of the Nationalist party is a sound one in regard to this question of health, provision is made for the appointment of a Minister for Health. I do not suggest that there should be a new appointment. All the sub-departments connected with health come under the Home Department, but the professional officers connected with those sub-departments have to make their reports to a lay Under Secretary. My contention is that those reports should be made to a professional man who should be in charge of all the health matters of the

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State. In other States they have a Director of Health. This is the kind of report submitted by a professional man to the Under Secretary, Home Secretary's Department—

"Enteric fever.—On the 30th March, 1920, I found that enteric fever existed at Amity Point, and though the place was not under my jurisdiction, it constituted a danger to Dunwich, as there is almost daily communication between the two places; and, in point of fact, three cases occurred in visitors from the former to the latter place. I therefore telephoned at once to the Public Health Department for a supply of anti-typhoid vaccine, which was promptly sent down."

So it will be seen that eventually these officers have to approach the Department of Public Health. All these sub-departments should be under the Commissioner of Public Health. I was disappointed, when I read Mr. Story's report first that he had not made any recommendation after having inspected the Home Secretary's office. An excellent chance was afforded him there for effecting economy. The time is opportune for co-ordinating the work of those departments which are connected with the health of the community.

Let us look at another report made by a professional man to a layman in the Department of Public Instruction—

"The oral health education of the community is a serious public health question, and it is incumbent upon us to encourage in every way possible any well directed effort to give such knowledge wider publication, so as to bring its benefits within practical reach of the general public, and more particularly of the rising generation of school children."

I hope the Minister, when he introduces the Bill to amend the Health Act, will define what constitutes a "noxious trade." I want to see something done with regard [12.30 p.m.] to that nuisance at Breakfast Creek. There should be no further ill-health because of the inactivity of this Government. On a hot night the people have to leave their verandas and go inside and close the doors in order to get away from the smell.

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipwich*): This vote is one of the most important we have to deal with. I am very pleased to see that the amount of £6,000 is renewed this year for expenses in connection with the hookworm campaign. A lot of people in Queensland have an idea that the body carrying on that campaign is not doing the work that it should be doing, and some other people have some sort of antipathy towards doing anything to assist in that campaign. It is necessary that every assistance should be given to those engaged in the work to enable them to bring the campaign to a successful issue in Queensland. The hookworm has got a very big hold in some districts, particularly the mining districts, where 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the men working in the mines were suffering from hookworm. These men did not know until the members of the campaign committee went round, collected data, obtained analyses, and sent along their report, that they were suffering from hookworm. The treatment adopted by the people has been responsible for wiping out 50 per cent. of the cases. Hookworm is not confined to North Queensland, as was at one time supposed, but is also found in Southern Queensland.

I am surprised at the attitude adopted by hon. members opposite to-day. At one time they said that the Government interfered too much with the people, but to-day we are told by the hon. member for Mirani and the hon. member for Enoggera that the Government should interfere and tell the local authorities that they are not doing their work in connection with health matters. The hon. member for Enoggera said that one plank of the Nationalist party platform is the appointment of a Minister for Health. He also said that the local authorities should be taken from the control of the Minister controlling health matters and should be placed under the Department of Public Works. All they would then deal with would be roadmaking, and they would not deal at all with health matters.

Mr. KERR: I did not say that.

Mr. GLEDSON: I do not know what the hon. member said if he did not say that.

Mr. KERR: The hon. member has twisted himself round. He is always doing that.

Mr. GLEDSON: No. If the local authorities are placed under the Department of Public Works, how can that department deal with health matters? The local authorities would not be able to deal with health matters at all.

Mr. KERR: Does the hon. gentleman think that the prisons should be placed under the control of the Attorney-General?

Mr. GLEDSON: No. The Attorney-General deals with the administration of justice. The local authorities throughout Queensland have full power to control health matters, and have power to deal with anything that arises in their respective districts. The hon. member for Mirani said that the Government did not do its duty by allowing a certain disease to continue in his electorate. The Minister in charge of the Estimates told him that in 1917 when the Commissioner of Health visited that district he pointed out to the local authority what was required to clean up the district, but the local authority refused to carry out his advice. Why did not the hon. member report the local authority to the Government?

Mr. KERR: What is the good of reporting to this Government? I have reported the Breakfast Creek matter a dozen times.

Mr. GLEDSON: Why did not the hon. member for Mirani report that the recommendations were not carried out? The local health officer could recommend that the local authority should take certain action, and, if they did not do that, he could invoke the powers of the State, which is a rather serious matter. No Government department likes to interfere with the duties and responsibilities of another department. Each local authority has its own medical officer, and it was the duty of the medical officer of the local authority in the electorate referred to by the hon. member for Mirani to see that the local authority kept the district clean and free from disease. The hon. member for Enoggera said that the Government did not do its duty with regard to the Breakfast Creek matter. Does the hon. member want the Government to gazette the members of that local authority out of office and put in men who will carry out their duty and clean up the place? How can the Government deal with this matter if men are elected to the local authority who will not

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deal with it? The local authority had full power to deal with the matter, yet the hon. member complains about the inactivity of the Health Department. He said that the Harbours and Rivers Department was an authority on health matters. I do not know where he gets that authority from.

Mr. KERR: It is according to the Act.

Mr. KING: The hon. member for Ipswich does not know anything about it.

Mr. GLEDSON: Perhaps the hon. member for Logan can tell us something about it. Perhaps the hon. member will also tell us whether steps should be taken to gazette out of office the local authorities which fail to carry out their duty in cleaning up some of the slums in Brisbane.

Mr. KERR: I did not suggest anything of the kind. That is another twist.

Mr. GLEDSON: What else does the hon. member want the Government to do? While the hon. member for Enoggera was speaking the hon. member for Townsville interjected, "Why don't the Government clean up their own buildings?"

Mr. GREEN: Quite true, too. Don't you open that question or else I will give you something.

Mr. GLEDSON: If the hon. member for Townsville or any other member of this House knows of anything that is causing damage to the health of the people of this State, then he has a right to bring it up in this Chamber, and to point out the remedy. The hon. member for Townsville is mayor of Townsville, and, if he sees anything going wrong in any Government building in Townsville, it is his duty to see that it is cleaned up.

Mr. GREEN: That duty has been fulfilled.

Mr. GLEDSON: To try and throw the responsibility on the Government because a place is not clean is not the correct thing to do, because local authorities have full power to deal with these matters, and if they do not deal with them it is the fault of the people for electing men to the local authorities who will not attend to these duties.

Mr. TAYLOR (*Windsor*): After listening to the hon. member for Enoggera I am not sorry that there has been a redistribution of seats and that the particular area he referred to has been taken out of my electorate. There is a considerable amount of truth in what the hon. member said in regard to the nuisance at Breakfast Creek and to the divided authority in that connection. The very best legal opinion was taken by the local authorities concerned as to what powers they had, how far they could go, and what they could do. When a local authority gets the best opinion of counsel and it is advised that it cannot do a certain thing, then the local authority is bound to follow out that advice; and if it is not prepared to follow out that advice, as was pointed out in connection with the Breakfast Creek trouble, the possibilities are that it would be mulcted in costs probably running into many thousands of pounds. The scour was in one local authority area; the Harbours and Rivers Department claim to have control of Breakfast Creek; and the Enoggera Council, the Windsor Council, and the Health Department were also interested in the matter. What was done? No one did anything at all. The position is exactly the same to-day. No one knows who is the

responsible authority, and no one knows who has the power to do anything at all in connection with the nuisance. At the present time the nuisance is not as bad as it has been.

The question of dealing with noxious trades is a difficult one. We must have noxious trades, but it does not follow that, because noxious trades are carried on in a particular area, they are unhealthy to the residents in that area. They may be unpleasant, and the stench coming from some of these works may be of a very obnoxious character. You have only to go down Edward street to the hide and skin stores to ascertain that fact. Some of us would not like to remain there very long, but the men working in those stores, so long as they observe the ordinary rules of cleanliness, are just about as healthy as other members of the community. Indeed, they get fat on it. It is absolutely necessary that there should be an abundant supply of water where tanneries and wool-scours operate. You cannot find such a supply of water in every area, and our experience has been that quite a number of what are called noxious trades have been located outside the city boundaries. Take Kedron, for example. In that area, some 5 or 6 miles outside the city area, we find quite a number of tanneries and wool-scours. People have gone and built their houses in that locality, knowing at the time that these industries were operating in the district. I have in my mind one of the largest tanneries in the Kedron area, where the proprietor has the tannery on one side of his house and the cemetery on the other; yet he is one of the healthiest men I know, and the members of his family are also very healthy.

Some solution of the Breakfast Creek nuisance should be found. It is unfortunate that Breakfast Creek is in the condition it is at the present time. It should be a beautiful creek; but no one seems to have any authority or interest in it, and at the present time it is practically a sewer. The tide comes up a certain distance, which cleans it out; and, if it were not for that, there would be a lot of ill-health in that area. Evidence was supplied by the deputation that waited on the Home Secretary—of which I was a member—during the time that trouble was at its height. People brought along silverware from their houses which had turned black, and others brought along boards from newly-painted houses and fences showing that the paint had peeled off; but, owing to the divided authority and the probability of a lawsuit running into thousands of pounds, nothing was done in the matter. The chief essential to good health is cleanliness, and it is marvellous here in Queensland—I suppose we are not peculiar in that respect—what a lot of drumming and teaching the people have forced upon them in order to preserve cleanliness in connection with their backyards and surroundings. It should not be necessary to have health inspectors going round telling people to keep their premises and backyards clean. The people ought to have sufficient common sense and sufficient intelligence to keep their premises in a fit and cleanly state without being told.

For the past two or three years I have brought up the matter of the uncleanly and infernal condition of the conveniences at most of our seaside resorts during the holiday season. I do not know whether the Health Commissioner has done anything in the

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matter or not, or whether the Home Secretary has taken any steps to rectify matters. They are a disgrace; and if the local authorities are to blame the Health Department ought to make them alter the condition of affairs. There has certainly been a great improvement in recent years, but the conveniences for the people at most of our seaside resorts during the holiday season are a disgrace to the local authorities and to the Health Department as well. The Health Department should insist on decent accommodation being provided. We do not want marble lavatories provided, like we have in parliamentary buildings, where we are surrounded with all kinds of conveniences for cleanliness.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: They were not always provided.

Mr. TAYLOR: If it is necessary here, it is surely required at seaside resorts, where thousands of people congregate during the holiday season.

With regard to the conveniences at show-grounds and at public-houses in country towns, I think the conveniences at most of those places want a firestick putting to them, as they are a disgrace. These are matters which deserve the consideration of both the Health Department and the local authorities.

I do not know whether anything has been done in regard to another matter which I have brought up several times—that is with regard to bathing accommodation being provided on the wharves. Men who work on wharves, especially in summer time and when working at night, should have shower baths provided for their convenience. It is not necessary to provide towels or soap, as a man can wipe himself with a pocket handkerchief or a pair of socks—(laughter); but I think it should be made compulsory to provide the shower baths so that a man can go home in a cleanly state. We know that cleanliness is essential to good health. I do not see why local bodies, especially in large cities, should not provide free public shower baths in summer time.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The sanitary conditions at the seaside resorts are now very much improved owing to the action of the Health Department. Your remarks have borne fruit.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am very glad to hear that, and hope that the improvement will continue.

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowong*): I think that I am voicing the sentiments of hon. members on this side when I say that we very much regret the absence of our friend, the Home Secretary. (Hear, hear!) Irrespective of politics, the hon. gentleman is a man whom we all respect, and one who is enthusiastic in the work of his department. I have had about fifteen years' experience in local authority work, and my association with the Home Department has always been of a very pleasant nature. The department is to be congratulated upon having the services of such excellent officers. The Under Secretary, Mr. Gall, is a man who will go a great deal out of his way to assist everyone. Mr. Chuter—whom I desire to congratulate upon having attained the position of Assistant Under Secretary—is very enthusiastic in his work, and so also are Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mackay, the accountant, and other members of the staff. They are an excellent body of officials and do all they possibly can to facilitate the work of the department. I must

not forget to mention the Commissioner for Public Health, with whom, as a local government man, I have come into contact with a great deal.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Don't forget "Tom."

Mr. MAXWELL: I do not forget Mr. Mulcahy, who has to use a great deal of tact and diplomacy.

Mr. KING: He is like the brook.

Mr. MAXWELL: As the hon. member says, he is like the brook, and goes on for ever. There is a matter which I want to refer to which arose in my first year of mayoral work in Brisbane. I am sorry the hon. member for Ipswich did not make himself conversant with the subject he was dealing with before he started to tell hon. members on this side what the functions of local authority men are. He also suggested the desirability of cleaning up a number of slums in the Brisbane city area. I want to tell the hon. member that it is not considered that there are any greater authorities on slums than our much respected friend, the late Mr. Fitzgerald, who was Minister for Public Health in New South Wales, and Mr. Taylor, both of whom took a very prominent part in the town-planning movement. Both of these gentlemen said that, as Brisbane has been built, it is an impossibility for slums to exist in the city. The hon. member for Ipswich not only brings a charge against the Health Department, but says that the department has not done its work properly in allowing such a condition of affairs—which he said existed, but which does not exist—within the four corners of the city of Brisbane. I refer particularly to slum areas. It was my privilege—and it was a most objectionable experience—to be connected with the Breakfast Creek nuisance during my occupancy of the mayoral chair. We have been told by some hon. members that what is everybody's business is nobody's business, and that the local authorities should attend to this matter. I say that it is not the duty of the local authorities to deal with the matter; it is the work of the Government.

Mr. FOLEY: What about the question of compensation?

Mr. MAXWELL: The question of compensation surely should not take priority to the health of the people. The local authorities, not only amongst the [2 p.m.] citizens generally, but even in our council chambers, seem to be the chopping-block for everybody. My association with members of local authorities has led me to believe that they are an honourable body of men with the aim and object of doing the best they can for the community. I was associated with local authorities for fifteen years, and although I have severed my connection with them because I have taken up another sphere of activity, I must say that it was never my lot to meet a more honourable body of men, or men more sincerely desirous of doing the best they could for the community generally. (Hear, hear!) It was during my occupancy of the mayoral chair in Brisbane that the Breakfast Creek nuisance came under my observation. I have taken a fairly prominent part in connection with that trouble, and it is only fair that I should let the Committee know what attitude was taken up by the local authority with which I was associated. I can endorse everything that the hon. member for Enoggera has

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said except with reference to his remark that the paint was coming off the houses. I do not know anything about that.

Mr. KERR: I have seen it.

Mr. MAXWELL: I am not questioning the hon. member's statement. I have seen silver and electro-plated nickel silver articles which became quite black from the fumes that came from Breakfast Creek. The question was raised that the local authorities should refrain from draining their sewage into the creek. That was trying to throw the blame for the whole of the trouble on to the local authorities. The trouble never came into existence until the wool-scour appeared. The local authorities interested were naturally very much perturbed over the inconvenience and nuisance suffered by the people. I was approached by deputations, who desired to know what we were going to do as a local authority. The position that the Brisbane City Council was placed in at that time was that it had no power, because the nuisance was outside the city area, although the people interested in the Brisbane Council, and represented by them, were suffering from this nuisance. Complaints were very rife all round the area. It is only necessary for any gentleman to stand on one of the balconies of the Brisbane Hospital, and I am sure he will find that the fumes carry that far. (Hear, hear!) I know that on Bowen Hills it is almost an impossibility to stand there without noticing the fumes. I suggested that it would be better for the individual who is receiving the ill-effects of this infernal nuisance—because it is an infernal nuisance—to take action and get a local authority like the Brisbane City Council behind him. My colleagues on the council on that occasion were interested in the advocacy of better health for the community, and they were all behind me in the matter. They said that, if there was anything that the council could do to remedy the trouble, it would be done. The unfortunate part of the business is that the Ithaca Council gave a permit to these people to establish their works in that area. But notwithstanding that they may give power to any man or company to do certain things, they cannot give them any power over the water, because Part II. of the Rights in Water and Water Conservation and Utilization Act vests all rights in natural water in the Crown. Section 5 reads—

“The right to the use and flow and to the control of the water at any time in—

(a) Any watercourse; and

(b) Any lake; and

(c) Any spring, artesian well, and subterranean source of supply; shall vest in the Crown. . . .”

Now we have to find what a watercourse is. It is defined in the same Act as—

“A river, stream, or creek in which water flows in a natural channel, whether perennially or intermittently.”

So that the creek does not belong to the local authority. So long as people drain into the creek they create a nuisance, and the Crown are the people who should prosecute, because they control the stream; and the proper authority to prosecute for the Crown is the Treasurer. When I occupied the position of mayor I discussed the matter with some of the heads of the Marine Department, who were very keen upon having

the nuisance removed. I do not know what happened, but something must have happened, because those officers realised that the nuisance existed, and that they had control over the stream, and still the nuisance went on. I know that sometimes things are said about public men by way of stirring them up to reply.

Mr. W. COOPER: It has had that effect.

Mr. MAXWELL: That may be so, but I repeat that my association of fifteen years with the men I have mentioned shows me that their sole aim and object was, not to do something for themselves, but for the people they represented; and so long as I am in this House I will allow no member to cast a slur on the honour of the city council. There is something serious behind it; there is some responsibility for this matter. To whom must we look to have this nuisance removed? If, as some hon. members think, the responsibility rests with the local authorities, then by all means compel them to have it removed; but under the statutes, as I have read out, the power rests entirely with the Crown.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: You always have similar trouble where there is divided authority.

Mr. MAXWELL: I quite agree. I want to say that in this matter I received the greatest co-operation from Dr. Moore and the officers of the Home Secretary's Department. They realised the difficulty that existed. A big deputation waited upon the Home Secretary and pointed out the ill effects. Articles of silver and plated ware were taken to show him exactly the conditions obtaining. I want to impress upon the Commissioner of Public Health the desirability of making some inquiry. To hon. members I would say that it is very bad form to attempt to throw any odium upon a body of useful citizens who are called “the great unpaid,” who are doing wonderful work and are assisting the Government in advancing the best interests of this community. The remarks made in connection with inspections in a portion of the city typified as a slum are a slight on the Department of Public Health. I say that those slum conditions did not exist. If they had, the Home Department—which is quite alive to the work of the local authorities in regard to the health of the community—would have seen that the local authority were neglecting their work, and would have had the work done at the expense of that local authority.

I want to bring before the notice of the Parliamentary Buildings Committee the question of the sewerage of this building. I am led to believe that we have a water closet system in one portion connected with a septic tank; but in another portion of the building the sewage is run into the Brisbane River. My contention is that lawmakers should not be lawbreakers. If we are desirous of creating a healthy environment, we ought to be in a position to say that we have not anything with which anybody could find fault. If this condition does obtain—and I believe that it does—it is the duty of this Parliament to see that the Parliamentary Buildings Committee gets to work immediately and has the nuisance removed.

Mr. GREEN (*Townsville*): I think we all recognise that the health of the community is of national importance. I sincerely regret that we have not the report of the Commissioner of Public Health before us whilst we

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are dealing with the question of the health of the community. I desire to make it very plain that I consider the health of the community should rest, to a large extent, with the local authority, having the Department of Public Health to guide them in the carrying out of their work. As a member of a local authority, I do not wish to shirk my duty or responsibility in connection with the maintaining of the health of that portion of the community. I think it behoves every local authority to act as closely as it possibly can in co-operation with the Department of Public Health. I do not think anything is gained in criticising the Department of Public Health or the local authorities in connection with any difference that might have arisen between them.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS conversing in loud tones.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Might I again appeal to hon. members to conduct their conversations in a lower tone. It certainly is disconcerting to the speaker. I appeal again on behalf of the "Hansard" staff, who now are doing a double shift. I think that hon. members ought to assist the "Hansard" staff and the Press generally by conversing in low tones.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. GREEN: Any differences that have occurred have been due largely to want of co-operation between the various departments of the State in connection with any matter brought before them by the local authorities. We had a report made by health inspectors regarding a certain public nuisance. I do not wish to comment upon that. The Health Department acknowledged it, and, I believe, sent on the report to the Department of Public Works. We must recognise that health matters should be dealt with promptly. In connection with this matter the department concerned sent it on to the department interested, and that department submitted it to the Department of Public Works, which department sent it to their foreman of works in Townsville for report. There was a serious delay, but it was no fault of the Health Department. I think it was because the Health Department has no authority to order that the work be done, and it had to go through the various departments before finality could be reached.

Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH: The hon. gentleman is talking about certain regulations in connection with the alteration of certain conveniences to cope with the hookworm.

Mr. GREEN: I am referring to certain sanitary matters that had to be attended to.

Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH: That was done straightaway.

Mr. GREEN: There was a delay of four or five months. When it is a matter affecting the health of the community, the Health Department should have power to authorise the work to be carried out.

Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH: The Health Department has that authority. When a certain class of work has to be done, regulations are passed bearing on the matter, and the work has to be done.

Mr. GREEN: The matter has to go through various departments.

Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH: The work cannot be done by waving a magic wand.

Mr. GREEN: Some individuals expect the local authorities and the citizens to do the

work by merely waving their hands and expecting it to be done. The local authorities do not know where they stand in connection with septic tanks. Practically anyone can come along and say what he has is a septic tank.

Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH: Half of them are only glorified sumps; there is nothing septic about them at all. It would be just as well to have the old cesspit system.

Mr. GREEN: Many of them are only glorified sumps, as the Minister states, and they are a great menace to the health of the community. The Health Department should define what should constitute a septic convenience, so that the local authorities would know exactly where they stand in connection with the matter. The local authorities, particularly in the important centres, should realise their responsibilities and duties to the whole community, and should work hand in hand with the Health Department to maintain that high standard of health which should exist in Queensland, so that there will be low infantile and adult mortality. I am sorry that we have not before us the report of the Commissioner for Public Health.

One of the most dangerous diseases which this State and Australia is concerned with is venereal disease, and unfortunately there is a large amount of mock modesty in connection with it.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. GREEN: As soon as our public men and those leading us in religious thought realise their responsibilities in connection with this important matter the better it will be for the whole of the community. Although we cannot rely entirely upon figures, I am sorry that we do not know the exact position in regard to this disease in Queensland at the present time. We know that the Health Department has issued certain regulations in an endeavour to deal with the matter. I believe that the medical men and the pharmaceutical chemists of the State in the vast majority of cases have loyally co-operated with the Health Department in carrying out these regulations. I have pointed out before the absurdity of the whole position. You bind down medical men and you bind down pharmaceutical chemists, yet you allow unscrupulous persons outside this State to advertise in the local newspapers and the Federal authorities carry parcels through the post. The consequence is that any individual can get medicine for their own treatment in connection with this scourge. We have spent a lot of time in discussing the ravages of prickly-pear in the State, and we realise that that is a great curse; but here we have a greater curse—a menace to the whole community—and I feel the whole of the community will support any Government in any stringent measures that they may take to prevent the spread of venereal disease and to overcome its ravages—ravages that, unfortunately, are not only manifest in the direct sufferer at the time, but are manifested years afterwards in the children, who are afflicted by blindness, crippling, and other ill-effects. I feel sure that I am doing my duty in speaking on this matter, and I trust that the Health Department will endeavour to carry on the good work they have undertaken, and that the Home Department will not spare any expense, and that they will strive to stir up public opinion regarding this matter, so that

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we may do our best to wipe out the scourge so far as Queensland is concerned.

Mr. BRENNAN (*Toowoomba*): A very regrettable thing occurred to me while the hon. member for Townsville was speaking, and that is the hypocrisy of the early legislators of Queensland. Had venereal disease been attacked when first it became apparent in Australia, in a State like Queensland there would have been no trouble. Listen to this, which appears in the Indecent Advertisements Act of 1892—in 1892 there was no Labour Government in power. Section 6 of that Act reads—

“Any advertisements relating to syphilis, gonorrhoea, nervous debility, or other complaint or infirmity arising from or relating to sexual intercourse or sexual abuse shall be deemed to be printed or written matter of an indecent nature within the meaning of this Act.”

The Government were committing an offence under that Act every time they published notifications in regard to the matter. Just fancy that being on the statute-book of Queensland!

Mr. KERR: Why make it a party matter?

Mr. BRENNAN: It wants to be made a party matter. It is about time this Government, or any other Government, fearlessly took charge of such an important matter to the community as venereal disease. I appreciate the remarks of the hon. member for Townsville. A number of these alleged sanctionious people outside, who would not think of discussing the question, probably are carrying the disease about with them. It is about time we attacked this matter properly.

Mr. WINSTANLEY (*Queenton*): Some time has been devoted to a discussion of this vote, and there can be no two opinions but that it is one of the most important votes we have to deal with, for the simple reason, as someone has said, that whatever injures health injures wealth, and whatever injures wealth injures the Commonwealth, and whatever injures the Commonwealth should be put a stop to. It appears to me, after listening to the various speeches made by hon. members on the other side, that there is a desire more to score a point against the Government than to improve the health of the people. One hon. member opposite interjected a moment ago, “Why make it a party question?” It has been made a party question right from the very first speech on the vote.

Mr. MORGAN: No.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: The hon. member for Mirani distinctly made an attack on the Government, and tried to prove them guilty of neglect. The hon. member stated that the Government are neglecting their duty of looking after the health of the people. The health of the people is certainly above party politics. If my memory serves me aright, some years ago there was an epidemic in the hon. member's electorate, but the local authorities refused to take any action and the Government stepped in and did the work. Then the hon. member came to this House and condemned the Government up hill and down dale because the local authority had to pay for the work. There is the difficulty. It is all very well to say that the Health Department should have authority to say that the work must be done; but, when it says that the work has to be

done, the question arises as to who is going to pay for it. The local authorities are quite willing for the Health Department to clean up their backyards, but they do not want to pay the cost of the work themselves. It is well known that over and over again the Home Secretary has had to take the stand that a certain work had to be done. Quite recently the local authorities in the metropolitan area tried to get out of work which the Health Department and the Home Department said should be done, and they had to be forced to do it. The hon. member for Enoggera said that noxious trades ought to be clearly defined. The hon. member for Windsor took the opposite view, and contended clearly that what some people may regard as a noxious trade because it is an evil-smelling trade, or because it is disagreeable to the nasal organs, is not noxious. The hon. member for Enoggera and the hon. member for Windsor cannot agree as to the definition of “noxious” trade. There is quite a number of things which are disagreeable, yet they may not be injurious to health. I am not saying that the smell from Breakfast Creek is not objectionable or noxious; but Breakfast Creek is not the only evil-smelling creek around Brisbane, and there are no noxious trades being carried on on their banks.

Mr. KERR: Where?

Mr. WINSTANLEY: There is one on the East side of the city—Kingfisher Creek.

Mr. KERR: That was fixed up long ago.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: It has not been fixed up. The matter is not so simple as the hon. member is inclined to think. It is well known that quite a number of creeks about Brisbane need to have something done to them; but there is divided authority practically all round Brisbane. It has been shown that it is not in the power of one local authority to deal with the Breakfast Creek question; there are half a dozen authorities which have a say in the matter, and, as has been pointed out, what is everybody's business is nobody's business. The hon. member for Enoggera thinks that medical men should have complete control, and that nobody else should have any say whatever. He wants medical men practically put in the position of autocrats. I am not in favour of putting anyone in the position of an autocrat and allowing no one else to have a say. Sometimes medical men cannot agree, and who is going to decide when doctors disagree? Sometimes a layman possessed of common sense has to be brought in to decide a question when scientists cannot decide it. I remember hearing a judge on the Supreme Court bench here saying that there were two views of the question before him—one the legal view and the other the common-sense view. Sometimes people stick to the legal view to the exclusion of the common-sense side of the question, and I am inclined to think that in many instances local authorities are in the same position. While the hon. member for Enoggera may think that everything in connection with health should be concentrated in one channel, I think it would not work out as beneficially as he claims. Sometimes we find medical authorities exercise control without regard to any other point of view than their own. Here is an illustration. I went up the coast in a boat, and, when we arrived at Flat Top, the yellow flag was flying. The medical officer said that one of the stewards had

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reported that he was sick and could not do his work, and the medical officer thought it was a suspicious case of illness. That was before 7 o'clock in the morning. He left the boat and came back at mid-[2.30 p.m.] night, and when he came back he found the patient dressed, with his portmanteau packed and all ready to go ashore. He did not know what the cause of his illness was, and he did not diagnose it as plague. The man was all ready to go down the gangway when the doctor sent him back to his cabin, and made him take his clothes off and have a hot bath. He then got into his pyjamas and the ambulance bearers came and carried him off the boat on a stretcher on to the tender. The steamer was put in quarantine, and the whole of the passengers were quarantined. Some of the passengers were making hurried visits North before Christmas, but they were all put into quarantine at Townsville, where a lot of ceremony was gone through. The health authorities have complete control of the quarantine, and rightly so. Eventually the passengers were allowed out on parole.

MR. WELLINGTON: You were on that boat, were you not?

MR. WINSTANLEY: Of course, I was. (Laughter.) My wife was also on board. Sooner than take the risk of letting the patient go, when perhaps he would develop plague, the doctor quarantined the whole ship. Nobody believed the man had plague, because he did not have any of the symptoms; but it goes to show what does take place when people are placed in the position that they have unlimited authority. It goes to show that there is a limit to which power should be placed in the hands of some of these people. There is no doubt that the health of the people should be supreme. It is not such an easy matter to find out these things as the hon. member for Enoggera seems to think. In spite of his figures, it is well known to everybody that our death rate is the lowest in the world. In North Queensland, which is supposed to be a less healthy place than the South, the people, in spite of lack of all the conveniences of life, are very healthy. We know, in fact, that the health conditions there are superior to what they are down here. Some things which are generally regarded as disadvantages are really an advantage. The hot sun in North Queensland is really a disinfectant. When things are open to the sunlight and daylight they are less injurious than when they are covered up. There is such a thing as pestilence stalking in the darkness. It is a well-known fact that in many North Queensland towns the death rate is lower and the birth rate higher than in the Southern towns.

MR. KERR: My constituents have to close their doors and live in dark rooms.

MR. WINSTANLEY: It is a well-known fact that some people are too careless to study their own health and welfare, and in that case they should be made to do it. In these matters the local authorities do not use the power they have now, for the reason that it sometimes means expense. They do not like to spend an extra pound; but that is only a penny wise and pound foolish policy, and it often means that they eventually have to incur considerably more expense. If the local authorities exercised the power they have now got in the direction

of preserving the health of the people, it would be much better. We know that typhoid fever has been lurking for years in many towns, and the Health Department have had to root it out and make the sanitary conditions better. They have had to force the people to adopt a better system of sanitation. If the local authorities did that, they would supply more healthy conveniences for the people as a whole.

HON. W. H. BARNES (*Bullimba*): The hon. member for Quentou has evidently overlooked the eastern side of the city of Brisbane. It is well known to people who reside in that particular direction what has been done over there. I am surprised that the hon. member is not aware that the very serious evil which existed there during the dry season does not now exist. No doubt, there was a serious evil in Norman Creek, which had its starting point in Kingfisher Creek, and during the dry period it was most unsatisfactory. It is true that the South Brisbane Council used to flush out Kingfisher Creek, but during the dry season the insignificant quantity of water available was not sufficient to flush it properly. It was a great nuisance at the time, but it has been dealt with, and the hon. gentleman is quite wrong there. The nuisance was dealt with by three councils—the South Brisbane Council, the Stephens Shire Council, and the Coorparoo Shire Council. There was a scheme in connection with the sewerage in the city, and in that scheme provision was made for the construction of the sewer across Kingfisher Creek to take off all the sewage from that area. I was Treasurer at the time, and I know that that sewer was constructed and a pumping station erected at the mouth of Norman Creek, and all the sewage from that area was pumped into that sewer. These are common facts known to everybody, so that the hon. member is quite wrong when he says the nuisance still exists.

MR. WINSTANLEY: It exists in winter time.

HON. W. H. BARNES: I know that £23,000 was spent in connection with that sewerage work, and I think that the hon. member would fail now to discover anything of the kind he mentioned just now. All the sewage is pumped into the sewer and the trouble has disappeared. I have no right, except on public grounds, to interfere with anything that may be outside that particular area, but I am confident that the matter referred to by the hon. member for Enoggera is a very grave matter indeed, and he would have been wanting in his duty if he had not referred to it. There will always be a nuisance there so long as they allow the sewage to go into Breakfast Creek. There is only one way of remedying it, and that is to prevent it from going into the creek, otherwise there will always be a nuisance during the dry periods of the year. There is only one way of dealing with it. We have to recognise that Brisbane and the suburbs are not what they were ten years ago. The increase in population has been very great. I agree that anything that can be done in connection with public health should be done in the interests of the community. I will go further, and say that it does not matter so much as far as adults are concerned, but it is a different matter where child life is concerned. We have to consider that it is necessary for us to have a healthy, virile child life. I shall be quite frank, and say that I am sure every member

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of this Committee, quite apart from politics, is particularly anxious to see that the best shall be done to improve the health conditions because they are so vital to the community. Whatever the reasons were in the past that may have militated in individual cases against that happiness which should exist should not be allowed to stand in the way now. This afternoon the hon. member for Townsville very wisely touched upon certain matters. There are some matters that we do not like to touch upon, but it is our duty to do so. I have never hesitated in this Committee to refer to that dread disease known as venereal disease. It is a disease which unfortunately affects others than those who are in any way guilty. We know that it has been transmitted to people who have not themselves sinned. I remember that a member of the Victorian Parliament came to Queensland—I have forgotten his name for the moment—who pointed out that not only had we to fight venereal disease, but that there were conveniences of making wrongdoing in other directions easy, by which that which was vital to our life was being destroyed. I believe that if preparations are being put on the market which are having the effect of removing the visible signs of evil-doing, the practice is not in the best interests of this great State. I say that chemists—I want it to be understood that I am not referring to any individuals in particular—should not be allowed to sell such articles, because they are detrimental to the community. We talk about immigration—and I believe in immigration—but we all believe also that our population should be increased by natural and legitimate means. The hon. member for Toowoomba made reference to some Act which I think he said was passed in 1892. He misquoted that Act. The object of that Act was to prevent the publication of indecent literature, in the interests of the preservation of the morals of the community. The hon. member twisted it right round and made it appear as if quite another desire existed at that time—when neither you nor I, Mr. Kirwan, was in Parliament.

Mr. VOWLES: It dealt with quack doctors and indecent advertisements.

HON. W. H. BARNES: That is quite right, and, if I might drift to something else which suggests itself to me while I am on my feet without getting too far out of order, I would refer to the things which are now sometimes displayed at our entertainments. Anyhow, anything done at that time was done to protect the community.

The leader of the Nationalist party very properly referred to the necessity for having sufficient conveniences in public places, and I go so far as to say that at hotels and some of the seaside resorts an improvement has taken place. I want to stress very earnestly the position so far as I know it in some cases. You may possibly see twenty-five or thirty women staying at a hotel or boarding-house—I do not wish to put hotels in this category and leave out boarding-houses—with one solitary convenience. It is not decent. I want specially to submit to the department the suggestion that very often the conveniences at hotels for both sexes are tumbled-down affairs and a disgrace to the community. I take it that, if you are going to spend a holiday anywhere, it is very nice to feel that the conveniences are sufficient;

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but I have been at places where it has been impossible to use them. Should not the police, when they are making their annual inspection, see that these conveniences are satisfactory?

Other matters have been discussed, and I take it that their consideration is quite justified from the standpoint of the needs of the people. I would add that my experience of the department year in and year out has always been that they have done their very best. I am not here to condemn any member of the vigorous staff, from Mr. Gall downwards, but I am sure that the discussion will stimulate them, at any rate, in not relaxing any effort in the interests of the community generally, because we all want to have Queensland sweet politically, and sweet in every other direction.

Mr. DASH (*Mundingberra*): I think it is necessary to say something on this vote with reference to the outbreak of plague, particularly with regard to the work of those who had the duty of stamping it out. Had the Home Secretary been here this afternoon, he would have been able to give us some very valuable information in regard to it, and I am very sorry that he is not here. Townsville is more likely to be struck by such diseases than any other portion of the Commonwealth, as it is the first port at which the oversea boats from the East touch. When the outbreak took place, some members of the Opposition took the Home Secretary to task because he kept it dark for some days in order to make arrangements to cope with it—in fact, they put the whole blame upon the Home Secretary and his officers—but now that they have been able to cope with it, not a word of praise has been said in their favour during this debate. We know that the local authorities, the Health Department, and the Home Secretary were very much concerned in connection with this matter. Very active steps were taken in Townsville, and some people who could well afford it were compelled to pull down their ramshackles and harbourages for rats. The action taken resulted in Townsville coping with the situation.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Active steps are still being taken in connection with the rat campaign.

Mr. DASH: I hope that the people of Queensland will give more assistance to the health authorities than has been the case in the past in regard to carrying out the regulations which they have issued from time to time.

Up till quite recently, every now and again there has been an outbreak of some epidemic in Townsville. It used to take place when the sanitary system was under the direction of a contractor. I am pleased to say that since the council have taken over the cleansing of the city there has not been one outbreak. When the change of control took place there was a serious dispute as to whether there should be a night or a day service. I want to say a word in praise of Dr. Moore for establishing a day service. Since that has been instituted the premises have been cleaned on the days allotted. In Brisbane, where the sanitary work is done by a contractor, it is almost a disgrace. I am satisfied that, if you had the Northern men to do the sanitary work in Brisbane, there would be a serious dispute before long, because I know they would

never attempt to shift the pans that we see in some of the public places in Brisbane. I am pleased that the Townsville City Council are prepared, no matter what it costs, to carry out the system themselves by daylight. I know, from conversations I have had with men who were entrusted with the work, that the contractors' horses were so poorly fed that it took them all their time to pull the empty waggons. Having almost to pull the cart themselves, we know what the men did when the gulleys were running full stream in times of flood.

A very serious development is taking place in Brisbane in connection with the construction of the sewers. This is a matter that the Government and the local authorities who are not in any way connected with the sewers should take up. We know that it is the intention of the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board to let some of their sewers by contract. Anyone who has had any dealings with contractors, and knows their methods, will agree that they slum their work whenever possible. Sewerage is one of those works which the Government and the local authorities should see is not carried out on the contract system. If a good service is wanted, the work should be carried out by day labour. I think the men in charge of the sewerage work have stated that they can carry it out a lot cheaper than any contractor can.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member will hardly be in order in discussing the merits of the day-labour system versus contract. The hon. member can discuss the health aspect of the question.

Mr. DASH: I am connecting it up. If faulty work is put into the sewers, the health of the city will be impaired. I want to say a word in praise of Mr. Chuter, the Assistant Under Secretary. I have had a number of dealings with that gentleman. If members of Parliament and members of local authorities discussed with him matters of health and other matters connected with his department, they would obtain a good deal of knowledge which would help them in the work which is entrusted to them. I hope that the health of the city will be preserved. If another outbreak occurs, it will prove very expensive. Now that we have it under control, it is to be hoped that the future action will be as vigorous as the past action.

Mr. F. A. COOPER (*Bremor*): I have listened with interest to the discussion which has taken place with reference to the condition of conveniences in the country towns. Those conditions, unfortunately, become worse as the town becomes smaller—the smaller the town the worse the conveniences. It is an astonishing thing that the local authorities are so lax in this regard. I think that something needs to be done by the health authorities of the State to tighten their grip over the local authorities in these matters. There is an inclination to say, "We have delegated this duty to the local authorities, and we are clear of it." That is giving too wide a power to the local authorities. I think that the State must keep some control over these matters, so that it is able to step in and see that things are properly done. The very things that communicate disease we allow to go unheeded without any restriction whatever. Practically nothing is being done throughout this State to combat the mosquito evil—one of the greatest menaces that threatens this

State—or the fly evil. We all know the old story of where the fly goes to at dinner time, but we take no notice of it; we laugh at the joke, and fail to realise the seriousness of the accusation that is contained in the story. We miss that altogether, and take no steps whatever. It is high time that the health authorities were given sufficient power to come down upon the local authorities which disregard their duty in connection with these things. I do not know whether you are aware, Mr. Kirwan, that our seaside resorts are being threatened with the mosquito evil. It is now a matter of opinion whether the summer at the seaside is as enjoyable as it used to be, because of the increase in the number of mosquitoes. Some of our seaside resorts are uninhabitable for certain months in the year because of this pest. The local authorities take no action; the Government take no action; the health authorities take no action. One of our recent Governors—Sir William MacGregor—said that, if this were a Crown colony and he was the High Panjandrum, he would clear Brisbane of mosquitoes inside five years. So far as health matters are concerned, we have a High Panjandrum in this capital city, yet no action is taken to clear the city of the mosquito. No action is taken in any of the country towns to clear them of mosquitoes, except, perhaps, Toowoomba. The Mayor of Toowoomba made a little boast last year that that city was clear of mosquitoes; but I went up to Toowoomba at Easter, and I killed five in five minutes in the centre of the town. (Laughter.) I hope that the health authorities will pay some attention to this matter. If they have not the authority which they ought to have over the local authorities, I hope that they will ask for it, and see that they get it. The idea of saying "This matter is the concern of the local authorities, and is out of our hands" should not be allowed to exist. There must be one supreme authority, and he should be the Commissioner for Public Health. If he has not the authority, it is high time that we gave it to him.

HON. W. H. BARNES (*Bulimba*): There is one thing that escaped my memory while I was speaking before. Sometimes local authorities are blamed for not making ample provision for conveniences at the seaside. I want to refer to matters in connection with conveniences erected for the public [3 p.m.] at the seaside. On the jetties, bathing-boxes are erected, and they should be kept particularly clean. But we find that persons are too lazy to go to the proper places at the end of the jetty and improperly use these bathing-boxes. On the Cleveland jetty there are dressing-boxes, both for ladies and gentlemen. These boxes are cleaned overnight, but next morning they are often in such a condition that it is practically unsafe to go into them. We should deal drastically with persons who misbehave themselves; we should deal with them in the same way as cats are dealt with sometimes when they misbehave themselves. These persons are really worse than cats, which have cleanly instincts. The jetties and such places belong to the people. If the people would only think for a moment that they are damaging their own property and causing disease, they probably would hesitate. I said to the chairman of one of the local authorities in my electorate, "If you put on a man specially to try and catch these fellows, I will pay half

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the expenses." If a person is so beastly as to disregard ordinary decency he should be brought to boot, and I hope that magistrates will inflict the full penalty for such misdemeanour.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): On the whole, the criticism on this vote has been fairly generous, and I appreciate the references that have been made to the Home Secretary and to the administration of the department generally.

I do not wish to allow the vote to pass without correcting the remarks made by the hon. member for Enoggera in connection with the hookworm campaign and the nuisance in Breakfast Creek. The hon. member said that the hookworm campaign was under Commonwealth control. The estimated expenditure in connection with that campaign is £100,000 over a period of five years, made up by a contribution of £35,000 from the Commonwealth Government, £35,000 from the Queensland Government, and £30,000 from the International Health Board of the United States. The estimated expenditure for the year 1919-20 was £6,000 from the Commonwealth, £6,000 from Queensland, and £8,000 from the International Health Board of the United States.

Mr. GREEN: Are the other States doing nothing?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I believe that it is not necessary, as the disease is practically confined to Queensland. The estimated expenditure for the year 1920-21 was £6,500 from the Commonwealth, £6,500 from Queensland, and £7,000 from the International Health Board of the United States. The estimated expenditure for the year 1921-22 was £7,000 from the Commonwealth, £7,000 from Queensland, and £6,000 from the International Health Board of the United States. The expenditure for the year 1919-20 was £5,220 0s. 3d.; for 1920-21, £3,757 18s. 6d.; and for 1921-22, £4,836 7s. 11d. In order to continue the campaign a sum of £6,000 is placed on these Estimates. The hon. member for Enoggera is therefore entirely wrong when he says that this campaign is controlled solely by the Commonwealth Government.

I want to remove the impression created by the remarks of the hon. member for Enoggera in connection with the evil at Breakfast Creek being the result of establishing a wool-cour in the hon. member's electorate. I am rather pleased that Breakfast Creek does not run over the hills at Paddington. The hon. member endeavoured to place the whole blame upon the Home Department; but the Home Department is entirely free from blame. I know the powers that the department has in connection with health matters, and probably hon. members will have an opportunity very shortly of giving the Home Department greater powers when a Bill to amend the Health Act is introduced. The Home Secretary informed the local authorities that they had sufficient power to deal with the matter. There is something in the contention of the hon. member for Toowong that, when there is too much divided control, very little is done. It is a question of "too many cooks spoiling the broth." The local authorities are not blameless in connection with these matters. The Home Secretary informed the local authorities that they had sufficient power.

[Hon. W. H. Barnes.

Mr. MAXWELL: The local authorities asked the Home Secretary to point out where they had authority, and the hon. gentleman could not do it.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The local authorities have the power. If the hon. gentleman has had legal opinion on the matter, we shall probably hear it from the hon. member for Logan.

Mr. KING: I have not given counsel's opinion. It is my own opinion.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Very often the local authorities do not avail themselves of the power that they possess. It is wrong for hon. members to come into this Chamber and blame the Government for inaction when the power is rightly vested in the local authorities. I believe that the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board are constructing a sewer along Breakfast Creek, and I understand that that will overcome the present difficulty. Probably the local authorities concerned are waiting for the completion of that sewer. I do not say that the Home Secretary has been accused of inaction, but I want to show that he has not been inactive. The Kedron Shire Council, quite recently, signified their intention of granting to a company permission to erect a tannery within the city area.

Mr. SIZER: That is rather an exaggeration of it.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: It is not an exaggeration. The Kedron Shire Council signified their intention of granting a permit, and the Home Secretary prevented it. The Home Secretary informed the council that he would use his power of veto, and he did so. Therefore, the Home Secretary was aware of the existence of the nuisance, and did all he could to prevent a similar noxious trade being established in that area. Personally, I think some of these industries could well be established in the less populous areas. I do not think there is very much wrong with the tannery, so long as it is carried on in a proper place. A butter factory, for instance, is very often erected right in the middle of a city. I do not think that is a wise thing either—not that there is very much wrong with a butter factory, but a country district is the proper place for a butter factory. I know that in the city of Maryborough, which I represented previously in this Chamber, a butter factory was erected in the very heart of the city, with a brewery on one side and three or four hotels on the other side. The same thing applies to a tannery. The Government are not against the establishment of tanneries, so long as they are erected on sites where they will not interfere with the health of the community.

Mr. COLLINS (*Bowen*): I listened very attentively this morning to the debate on the Breakfast Creek nuisance, and I am rather inclined to think that some kind of bacteria has reached this Chamber, considering the long debate that took place. I want to say a word or two in reference to the hookworm campaign that has been conducted in the North and right throughout Queensland. It may be news to hon. members to know that investigations have proved that the area in and around Bowen is freer from hookworm than any other portion of North Queensland. It is very interesting to know that.

I remember reading some years ago different works on bacteria and germs, and I got awfully alarmed, and I am still alarmed, and think it would be a good thing for the Minister to get Dr. Moore to examine members of this House, because I am inclined to think that some kind of bacteria has got into the systems of certain hon. members sitting opposite. During the last session of Parliament I noticed that the hon. member for Townsville and the hon. member for Kennedy were sitting right on the back Opposition bench, and I have come to the conclusion that some form of bacteria has got into their blood, because now they sit right down at the bottom end of the Chamber. I notice also that the hon. member for Oxley and the hon. member for Port Curtis are sitting there, too, and I want to know what kind of bacteria has got into their blood.

Mr. SIZER: It is in your blood, too. It made you vote for a reduction in wages.

Mr. COLLINS: It is not in my blood. I have never shifted my seat. I have been over seven years in this House, and I have sat in the one place, and have been true to my principles all the time. There must have been another form of bacteria which got into the blood of the hon. member for Normanby, because I notice that he has shifted from this side right away over to the other side. I want to know what kind of bacteria it is that exists in this Chamber to bring about these results. We are told that some of these germs are very dangerous to health and to society if they get into the blood. All the diseases that affect mankind nowadays, we are told, are caused by bacteria. It may be that the hon. member for Townsville, who follows the profession of a chemist, can give us some information as to what has caused hon. members in this Chamber to change their opinions. The health of the community, no doubt, is all important; and, while the Health Department has done good work, I have no doubt that there is still room for improvement. I do not know whether the bacteria that have got into the blood of the hon. member for Townsville have improved him or not. I will watch developments and take precautions to see that that kind of bacteria does not get into my system. I may have to go to one of the hon. member's shops and get a dose of medicine to stop them from getting into my system. We live in an age when the people are getting alarmed. I have read different scientific works. I do not say that I always understood them, because I came to the conclusion that some of the writers themselves did not understand what they were writing about. Scientists differ from time to time. At one time we were told that the earth was flat; now we are told that it is round. We hear, too, that scientists are going to look at the sun to see whether they can find alterations. It all means improvement, and so the Health Department must progress step by step. I agree with the hon. member for Windsor, who stated a few moments ago that we have to teach the people to be clean, and my own opinion is that the teaching should commence in the schools. Teach the child to be clean! I had a rather sorry experience on one occasion when we had a very bad sanitary system in the portion of Queensland where I then lived. Floods very often occurred in a gully at the back of my place,

and, when it happened that a very heavy flood took place, all the neighbours round about thought it was the proper time to clean out their lavatories, and I used to get the benefit of the whole of it. Of course, that was in the good old days. That was how they used to get rid of their night soil, and I got it all in my backyard. We have progressed since then. I can remember the time when the people used to go to the ballot-box and vote against getting a water supply; when the sanitary service was attended to by the old contract system, and when the pans you got were not too clean. I am not sure that we are getting clean pans now. I am living in South Brisbane, and I notice on the days they change the pans that there is rather a peculiar odour from the fresh pans. I think that Brisbane is one of the most backward places in Queensland in this respect, and I have no hesitation in saying that in my electorate, since the hookworm campaign took place, they are a long way ahead of Brisbane. We have quite a modern sanitary system in Bowen owing to the hookworm campaign, while we have not an up-to-date sanitary system in Brisbane. At any rate, there is plenty of room for the health officer to have a good look round Brisbane, which, in my opinion, badly wants cleaning up.

Mr. KING (*Logan*): I have listened to the speakers on both sides with a good deal of interest. I would not have said anything now but for the fact that hon. members opposite do not seem to have a very kindly feeling in regard to the great work which local authorities are doing. I am not going to enter into a general discussion of the functions of local government representatives so far as health is concerned, as that would take far too long, but I will say that local authorities recognise what their duties are, and, taking them by and large, they are discharging those duties with great benefit to the communities which they represent. I will admit that there are some local authorities which do not recognise what their duties are, and they ought to be brought up to the scratch; but the great majority of local authority men are carrying out their duties for the great benefit of the people they represent. The hon. member for Bowen is always entertaining, and he has given us a little amusement this afternoon, although he has been talking about rather a smelly subject. He has been talking about germs and bacteria, and he seems to think that members on this side have a monopoly of those germs; but it was only the other afternoon that he had a germ or bacteria which brought him into the presence of the blue-blooded aristocracy of the old country—into the presence of the Duke of Devonshire—and he said he was glad to be in that company. (Laughter.)

Mr. COLLINS: I have never been in his company in my life. I am one of the common people, and am content to mix with them. (Laughter.)

Mr. KING: I am not blaming the hon. member for that. I am sympathising with him, because it is rather against his expressed opinions. The hon. member said he was glad to be in that company, because, if the Duke of Devonshire could patronise a lottery, he was in good company in supporting the "Golden Casket." (Laughter.) He made a quotation about it.

Mr. King.]

Mr. COLLINS (*Bowen*): I rise to a point of order. The hon. member is confused. I never quoted the Duke of Devonshire.

The CHAIRMAN: I hope that the hon. member for Logan, in accordance with the usual parliamentary practice, will accept the hon. member's denial. (Laughter.)

Mr. KING: Of course I will accept the hon. member's denial. The Secretary for Mines went into the matter of the Breakfast Creek trouble, and gave us some interesting information. He also said that the local authorities had ample power to deal with the matter. I have not given a legal opinion on the matter, and I have not had reason to look into it; but, speaking from memory, I do not think that the local authorities have power to deal with this trouble.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I should have said that they have power to deal with the cause of the trouble.

Mr. KING: There is specific power in the Rights in Water and Water Conservation and Utilization Act for the Crown to deal direct with the matter. If the trouble is there, why do the Crown not deal with it and wipe it out? We know that that Act provides for the control of the water in watercourses, and a creek is included in the definition of "watercourse." The control is vested in the Crown, which can exercise its authority. The Crown has power to prosecute for pollution of the water, and why does the Crown not take action?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The local authority has power to stop the practice which is the cause of the trouble.

Mr. KING: It would end the difficulty much sooner and would give satisfaction if the Crown would step in.

Mr. GLEDSON: The question would then arise as to whether that was a pollution of the stream.

Mr. KING: There is no doubt that there is pollution there. We have heard a good deal about local authorities not carrying out their duties in regard to health matters, such as sewers, drains, and things of that sort. In 1917 we had an amendment of the Health Act made, which converted an ordinary watertable into a sewer. This created a menace straightaway by allowing householders to drain their foul water into the ordinary street watertables. That is not right, and it created a great difficulty for the local authorities. The principal Act was far better, although I admit it was difficult to carry it out. It provided that foul water should be disposed of on the premises of the occupier of the property. That was far better than bringing the menace right out into the public thoroughfare by allowing it to come out into the watertable. Not only the concrete water channels, but I will go further—although there may be a conflict of opinion about this—and say that even an ordinary drain cut in the soil on the side of a road is a sewer according to the Act, thereby enabling householders to drain their foul water into it, which is not right. That gives householders an opportunity of creating a nuisance which the local authority cannot get rid of.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Speaking from memory, I think that will be dealt with under the Health Bill which we are introducing this session.

Mr. KING: I am very glad to get that information from the hon. gentleman, because

[*Mr. Collins.*]

it is a matter that wants serious attention. The local authorities are suffering from this definition of "sewer," and I am quite certain that they will do their very best to create a better condition of things than exists at present; but they want legislation to enable them to do so. I do not want to take up the time of the House; I simply rose to put in a word for the man who is giving his services ungrudgingly and gratuitously for the benefit of the community. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. SIZER (*Nundah*): Mr. Kirwan—

Mr. HARTLEY: You asked the hon. member for Bowen why he was stonewalling.

Mr. SIZER: If the hon. member would mind his own business, he would get on better.

Mr. HARTLEY: I am thinking of the business of the country.

Mr. SIZER: The hon. member is not competent to deal with the business of the country.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the hon. member proceed with his speech?

Mr. SIZER: I do not want to make a reflection on the Chair, but when members on the Government side wander from the point, you are inclined to allow them to do so.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I hope the hon. member did not misunderstand me. I asked him to proceed with his speech because he was replying to interjections. I hope the hon. member will take my suggestion in the spirit in which it was offered.

Mr. SIZER: I apologise. I would not have risen but for the question I raised in reply to an interjection by the Minister with regard to the Home Secretary rescinding an order of the Kedron Shire Council. I do not think that was quite analogous to the case which the hon. gentleman mentioned. I believe the point he wished to make was to show by the action taken in that case that the Minister had not done wrong in dealing with those nuisances. That was a one-man concern, in which a man out of work, named Flynn, was anxious to start a single square box woolwash at the upper end of Kedron Brook. I interviewed the Home Secretary on behalf of that man after action had been taken. I also inquired if the Health Department was prepared to agree to a permit being granted, as it would not have been a menace to the public health. I do not think it was at all connected with the Breakfast Creek nuisance. I hold very strong views with regard to public health being protected; but, at the same time, we must not act in such a manner as to exclude the establishment of industries in our midst. Everyone will realise that woolwashing in Queensland should be an enormous business. We should wash the greater part of our wool, and sell it scoured instead of sending it away in the greasy state. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. HARTLEY: You do not want to bring it to the biggest city in Queensland to wash it, though.

Mr. SIZER: I do not say that we should; but, if people want it done in Brisbane, there should be provision made, and an area should be declared in which wool scouring could be established. Mr. Flynn undoubtedly suffered a great hardship. He was out of work, and was anxious not to have to apply to the Government for rations,

and he desired to establish a system of single square box woolwashing, in order that he might make a living and dye a few mats. Because this nuisance has occurred at Breakfast Creek, he has got to pay the piper, and to the best of my belief he [3.36 p.m.] is still out of work. I hope that,

when the Health Act Amendment Bill is brought forward, provision will be made to overcome those difficulties. We should protect the public health, but we should also protect industries which are useful, and which cannot be termed noxious trades. I also join with other hon. members regarding what should be done in connection with the pollution of streams. The hon. member for Enoggera is correct when he says that the Treasury Department, under the Rights in Water and Water Conservation and Utilization Act, have power to deal with it. We have the same difficulty in connection with the South Pine River, and it has never been fixed up yet. It happens in dry time that the stream is polluted from the distillery and the fish are killed. The Government have power to do something under the Act I have mentioned. I hope the amending Bill will give greater powers, and will lay down whose duty it is to control such nuisances.

Question put and passed.

HOSPITALS.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): I beg to move—

“That £242,687 be granted for ‘Hospitals.’”

The amount voted last year was £246,173, so that the amount asked for this year is £3,846 less than was appropriated last year.

Mr. MORGAN (*Murilla*): I wish to put in a plea for the people who are living in the remote parts of Queensland. I am very sorry that there is no money placed on the Estimates to establish a bush nursing scheme similar to that which is in operation in other parts of Australia. This is very necessary in Queensland.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: We are introducing the necessary legislation.

Mr. MORGAN: I hope it will be introduced this session, but there is no amount on the Estimates to carry out that legislation when it becomes law. This is a matter which has been thoroughly discussed by hon. members on both sides of the Chamber, and it is not a party matter at all. It is a matter of great importance to those people who are carrying the heat and burden of the day, who are far removed from the centres of population. They are undoubtedly the people who are making Queensland what it is to-day. They are helping to blaze the track, and are preparing the way for people who will come eventually from other parts of the world when everything is in good working order. We shall then have railways and roads, and the people who come later will reap the benefit. The pioneers are suffering the hardship, more especially the women folk; it does not matter so much about the men. Unless we make more provision, we cannot expect women to go into the country. Women, especially the mothers of families and those who are about to become mothers, naturally prefer to live in the

closely settled districts, where everything is convenient for their wants and requirements.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I have discovered that you are very clever in anticipating the actions of the Government.

Mr. MORGAN: If the Government are doing something in that direction, I am very pleased; but I have advocated it for the last nine or ten years.

Mr. HARTLEY: The only thing wrong about it is that you are on the wrong side. You could not get the crowd you are with to do anything.

Mr. MORGAN: It is true I am on the wrong side of the Chamber now, but the very moment we get on the right side we will do something. I know that members sitting in opposition can do nothing except criticise and make suggestions.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I agreed to adopt one of your suggestions last night.

Mr. MORGAN: Yes. The hon. gentleman is not the only Minister who has agreed to my suggestions in this House. I am not dealing with it from a political aspect at all, and I have no wish to anticipate the Minister.

Mr. HARTLEY: Why didn't you get Denham and Barnes to do it when you were over here?

Mr. MORGAN: I am not like hon. members opposite, who are continually crying about what happened in the past. What is the good of referring to what happened twenty or thirty years ago? Let us recognise that we have to progress now. We have to crawl before we can run. Thirty or forty years ago we could not do these things, but we should do them now. Unfortunately, the present Government are lagging behind. They are not progressing quickly enough. This is a Queen street Government, and they look after the big cities. I do not begrudge the people in Brisbane getting baby clinics; but the necessity for them is not one-hundredth part of what it is in the remote portions of Queensland. They have been established in the thickly populated parts of this city. There are baby clinics at Fortitude Valley, Spring Hill, West End, and Woolloongabba—four very thickly settled places, where doctors and nurses already exist. Anyone requiring the assistance of a doctor or nurse can get them in Brisbane at a moment's notice by ringing up on the telephone or walking a few yards. If there is not sufficient money to establish clinics everywhere, then a start should be made in the far remote portions of Queensland and not where the conveniences already exist. I could give the Minister heartrending instances that have come under my notice where unfortunate mothers have had to travel, not a few miles, but 50 or 60 or 100 miles, in order to get the necessary help from nurses and doctors. Men who represent country electorates know that what I say is an absolute fact. What have the Government done in that direction? Absolutely nothing, so far as the people who are living in the country are concerned. I am here advocating the interests of the people in the country, who have not got big financial or influential journals to help their cause. In Brisbane you have the local authorities, and you have the big newspapers, all advocating what should be done for the city; but, owing to the fact that the wants and

Mr. Morgan.]

requirements of the people in the country are not brought prominently forward like they are in the large centres of population, they are continually neglected.

At 3.40 p.m.,

Mr. DUNSTON (*Gympie*), one of the panel of Temporary Chairmen, relieved the Chairman in the chair.

Mr. MORGAN: Take, for instance, the amount of money which comes out of consolidated revenue for the General Hospital in Brisbane—£50,387. We people in the country, who do not enjoy the benefit of these institutions, have to contribute towards the relief of the sickness and distress and poverty of the city of Brisbane, although we have at the same time to provide from our own funds for our own sickness and poverty and distress. That is what happens under a Labour Government, who are supposed to treat all people alike or to look after those people who are in the worst circumstances. The present Government have rightly earned the name of a "Queen street Government." These conveniences are established first of all in the large centres of population, whilst the people in the country are neglected in the most shameful manner. I am here to advocate their case. I have opposed the vote for the Brisbane Hospital time after time. It is a shame to think that we people in the country, to keep our hospitals in a sound financial position, are compelled to contribute £1 for every £2 provided by the Government, whilst the people in the large, prosperous, influential city of Brisbane escape scot free.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: What other action could the Government take?

Mr. MORGAN: The people of Brisbane have neglected their duty, and the Government have, unfortunately, encouraged them. I am quite satisfied that if the people in my electorate failed to provide sufficient money to maintain their hospital, the Government would not come along and keep it going as a national concern. They would close it up and say to the people in the bush, "If you do not like to contribute sufficient money to maintain your hospital, we will close it up altogether," because, unfortunately, the people in the bush do not count.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Do not some of them come to the city hospitals?

Mr. MORGAN: Some in very important or serious cases do come; but generally our hospitals are so up-to-date that very few people come to Brisbane to take advantage of treatment at the Brisbane General Hospital. I have protested all along against this vote, and I protest again. The Government have no right to allow the people of Brisbane to neglect their responsibilities. The money spent on the establishment of the baby clinics could have been spent better in the interests of the people in the bush, so that the lives of the mothers and children there could have been preserved. I say that the life of a baby in the bush is just as important as the life of a baby in Spring Hill or Paddington—perhaps, more important—but, unfortunately, the Government do not think so.

I want to put in a word for the first Bush Nursing Home established in Queensland—and established, too, in spite of the fact that the Government have not got a measure for that purpose on the statute-book. I refer to the Tara Bush Nursing Home. I am pleased to say that the Home Secretary last year,

[*Mr. Morgan.*]

when I approached him, agreed to allot from the "Golden Casket" the sum of £100 to assist in its establishment, because the district is not financially strong enough to keep a doctor or establish a hospital. I trust that the Minister in charge of these Estimates will make a note of this matter, and that, when the Home Secretary is restored to health—as I hope he soon will be—the Tara Bush Nursing Home will receive at least £100 from the "Golden Casket" money or some other source—I am not particular—towards its upkeep.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Will you take it from the "Golden Casket?"

Mr. MORGAN: I will take it from anything. I say that we have as much right to a subsidy from the "Golden Casket" funds as any other locality. The Home Secretary found that he could legally devote £100 from those funds for the establishment of the home, which is doing very good work. The nurse goes from place to place, sometimes 100 miles away, and thus is enabled to save life in the bush. It is a deserving institution, and should have the assistance of the Government, and there may be more of the kind. The more the better.

Mr. FORDE (*Rockhampton*): I wish to say something on this vote, because I believe that the Government have done a great deal for the people of Central Queensland as well as for the people of Queensland generally under the items dealt with in this vote. I believe that the baby clinics referred to by the hon. member for Murilla have done great work in Brisbane. They have been given a fair trial and have proved very useful institutions. I believe that they have been responsible for saving the lives of hundreds of babies in Brisbane—and every native-born child is an asset to this State—and it is better to do that than to bring immigrants 12,000 miles from the other side of the world. I believe that these institutions should be extended, and I am fair enough to say that they should be extended to every centre in Queensland. I know that a beginning has to be made somewhere. There are four such institutions in Brisbane, where they have proved successful over a period of five years, and it is time that other centres got one at least for a start. The hon. member for Fitzroy and I have for some considerable time advocated the establishment of one in Rockhampton. I give the Home Secretary credit for having promised that a baby clinic shall be established there, and I ask that it be established without any further delay. There are suitable buildings for the purpose which are owned by the Government. I understand that the Home Secretary, replying to a certain request which was made to him recently for a Government building, said that he wanted to utilise it for the purpose of establishing a baby clinic. I find that the baby clinics in Brisbane have not cost very much—one cost £223, another £266, another £246, and another £349 per annum. At that rate of expenditure I think that a clinic could be run in Rockhampton for £350; at any rate, it would not cost more than £400 per annum. On making inquiries regarding the clinics in Brisbane, I found that on an average 500 mothers attend each clinic every month and avail themselves of the free motherly advice which is given by the excellent nurses who are in charge of those institutions. That shows the far-reaching effect of these clinics. They work in with the Registrar-General,

who advises them what babies are born. One of the nurses goes out and calls on the mother of the newly born infant, and gives her expert advice. Many a young mother does not know properly how her child should be looked after, and it is a distinct solace to her to have the kind, expert advice which is given by a trained nurse from one of the Labour Government's baby clinics.

Mr. MORGAN: Is that is so in large centres, what must it be in the bush?

Mr. FORDE: I agree with the hon. member for Murilla that it is especially necessary in the bush. While advocating their establishment in Rockhampton, I say that they should be established in other centres throughout Queensland. The Home Secretary has already indicated that he intends to establish maternity wards in connection with the different country hospitals. The nurses employed in connection with those wards will have double certificates—they will be skilled in looking after infants and in attending maternity cases, and they will be able to carry on in those country districts the good work that to-day is being carried on in the baby clinics in Brisbane. If a baby clinic were established in Rockhampton, and the local registrar of births were to notify the nurse in charge of the births which took place every month, one of the nurses could call on each mother and give her good advice as to how her child should be looked after. In Brisbane it has been arranged that one nurse shall go round the district while another remains in the clinic to meet the mothers who visit it. That is very necessary. Once a week at least an honorary medical officer calls at the institution, and, if any mother desires to seek his advice, she meets him there on that afternoon. Sometimes there are twenty or thirty mothers who have the opportunity of getting a free lecture from a suitable medical officer as to how their children should be looked after.

Mr. ELPHINSTONE: And next week you call for the vote. (Laughter.)

Mr. FORDE: It does not matter how they vote. There is no distinction. The hon. member for Oxley feared that the old Nationalists party had become so unpopular that he would not be able to get any votes, so he twisted over to the Country party. That is why the "Courier" said, "We want political honesty—not a political weathercock like the hon. member for Oxley." (Laughter.) The people know the hon. member. This is a very important subject, with which a man of his calibre has no sympathy. He does not stand for the poor people, who, I consider, should get the attention that the baby clinics give to-day. The hon. member may laugh, because he is in a position of affluence. The people for whom I am fighting are not, and I am going to advocate their interests despite what this motor-agent, would-be farmers' representative, has to say. The baby clinics are doing good work. I want the system extended to Rockhampton. I believe there is ample scope for them, because, unfortunately, we have in Rockhampton a considerable number of poor people who are not in a sufficiently good financial position to seek advice of the various medical men as to how their infants should be looked after. I know of cases of young people who have been married in Rockhampton and have come to Brisbane to live. I have met three of them during the last three or four months. Young mothers

have told me that, had it not been for the free advice which was given to them by the nurses in the baby clinics, their infants would have died. Unfortunately, their husbands were out of employment, and they were unable to consult a doctor; but they went to the baby clinic and received expert advice from good nurses, who knew how their children should be looked after. Their children were treated free of charge by the nurses, and in one instance a medical officer gave the child some treatment and told the mother how to look after it. The mother was in poor circumstances, because her husband was out of employment. One of the employers in Rockhampton thought he could make more profit by putting him off, so he was dismissed and had to come to Brisbane to see if he could get a living. He was unable to get work, and they were practically destitute. They interviewed me, because they knew that they would get from me a sympathetic hearing. They would not go to the hon. member for Oxley or any man of his ilk.

Mr. ELPHINSTONE interjected.

Mr. FORDE: The hon. member went over to the South Brisbane Technical College the other night looking for votes, and only sixty people turned up to hear him. He did not like that. This subject is too important for one to be drawn aside by the senseless interjections that are made by disappointed politicians on the other side, who twisted to another party because they could not get from the party that they left all that they wanted.

Mr. ELPHINSTONE: Get on with your baby stunt.

Mr. FORDE: Although it apparently is of no importance to callous Tories, it is of importance to my electors. The Brisbane General Hospital, referred to by the hon. member for Murilla, no doubt is a great institution. But, like other country members, I believe that the people in the metropolitan area should support their own hospital. I am fair enough to say that I recognise that the Brisbane General Hospital is a base hospital, and that the Home Secretary does not turn down any requests from country people who want expert treatment in that institution. On several occasions I have been instrumental in getting people from parts of Central Queensland into the Brisbane General Hospital for special treatment. In those cases the same expert treatment could not be obtained by them in the country centres where they resided. I know of one case in particular—a crippled person, who was brought to the Brisbane General Hospital free of charge, and treated; and, as a result, he was cured. There are other cases which have come under my notice. Probably other hon. members have had the same experience. The Brisbane General Hospital is one of the finest in Australia, being well equipped with an expert staff of honorary surgeons; and the Home Secretary has been generous in opening the doors of the institution to deserving people from the country districts of Queensland. I think that is a good policy. It stands to reason that people who are living in small places along the railway lines—places like Bororen, Miriam Vale, Rosedale, Bajool, Marmor, Many Peaks, Baffle Creek, even Gladstone, and other places—cannot say that they have hospitals which are equipped like the Brisbane General Hospital or that have the same expert doctors in attendance. Most of them have no hospitals.

Mr. Forde.]

It is right that the Home Department should make the Brisbane General Hospital a big base hospital, and give the people coming from the country an opportunity of getting care and attention from expert doctors and honorary surgeons.

[4 p.m.] who give their services gratuitously. The cost of running the Brisbane General Hospital last year was £33,023, and the estimated cost for this year is £34,337. I am glad that the Government have treated the staff of that institution much more generously than they were treated under the previous management. In 1917 the Government took over the Brisbane General Hospital because the people of Brisbane really refused to do the right thing by the sick people in the community. A great number of the Brisbane people are in a position of affluence, and many could well afford to subscribe annually towards charity. They neglected their duty and allowed the hospital to get behind in its finances. The committee had an awful ordeal. They could not balance the ledger, and the Labour party of Queensland had to go to their assistance by taking over the management, thus ensuring to the sick people of the metropolitan area and other areas that they would get expert medical attention and nursing care from a nationalised hospital. If would have been an awful thing to have allowed this institution to go along badly managed and in a state of bankruptcy.

At 4.3 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

Mr. FORDE: In the year that the Government took over the hospital it was costing £11,568, and was scandalously understaffed. Of course, some hon. members opposite think it is a good thing to run such institutions with small expenditure. There is a limit. To-day, the Rockhampton Hospital costs more to run than the Brisbane General Hospital cost in the year that the Government took it over. The expenditure in connection with the Rockhampton General Hospital last year was £13,728. That hospital is a well-equipped institution to-day. It has a good staff, who are properly paid, and the conditions generally have been improved during the last few years. When the Government took over the Brisbane General Hospital £1,768 was paid in salaries to the nurses, but this year a sum of £7,430 is to be paid to the nurses. They are not being overpaid to-day. Indeed, the nurses are underpaid. There is not a body of workers in Queensland who have to work so hard as the nurses. I notice that £1,445 is set aside for payment of salaries to the sisters and £2,627 to the matrons, assistant matrons, matron to the Convalescent Home, and the masseurs. When the Government took over the hospital the nurses were granted an eight-hour day, and they received a concession in connection with their uniforms. I understand there is a system in vogue whereby the nurses buy their uniforms, and if they remain twelve months, the cost of the uniform is refunded to them. Their salary is small enough, and it is well that the Government should come to their assistance to that extent. Many people contended that it was not a good thing to grant an award for nurses who were in training. They contended that it would not be a good thing to pay them any more than they were then receiving, and a section of the people said that they should not be paid at all. Many said that to-day they

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were no longer the true followers of Florence Nightingale.

At 4.7 p.m.,

Mr. VOWLES (*Dalby*): Mr. Kirwan, I call your attention to the state of the Committee.

Quorum formed.

Mr. FORDE: The remarkable larrikin element that one sometimes sees has put up its head on the other side. I saw an example of it just now.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member is not in order in suggesting that another hon. member is behaving in the manner of a larrikin. I hope he will withdraw the remark.

Mr. FORDE: It sometimes occurs that it is not parliamentary to say so, although it might be very true; consequently I withdraw the remark. Hon. members opposite did not like what I had to tell them. Some of them, including the hon. member for Kurilpa, the hon. member for Enoggera, and the hon. member for Oxley, like a lot of schoolboys, said, "We will organise that a number of Opposition members go outside and get someone to draw attention to the absence of a quorum."

Mr. VOWLES: There were many hon. members opposite who were outside.

Mr. FORDE: That is not so. Hon. members opposite are not going to prevent me telling the people what I want to tell them, and putting in a plea for a more generous treatment of Rockhampton by establishing baby clinics and affording other concessions to the Central district. Some hon. members, like the hon. member for Oxley, desire everything for Southern Queensland. Some people said that, because the nurses demanded an increase in wages, it was unprofessional and *infra dig.*; but we have to recognise that they are workers who are learning a very important profession, and that they are most useful members of the community. They should get proper working conditions and a reasonable rate of wages. I find that the Government medical officer, Dr. McLeon, in referring to the Brisbane General Hospital and the improved conditions, shorter hours, and the one and a-half day's holiday per week, said—

"While the new system interferes with the continuity of the pupils' work and experience, the opportunities offered for healthful recreation and the maintenance of social and family relations must more than compensate for this interruption."

Of course it does. It gives these people the opportunity of associating with their friends and of having some recreation that was denied them when the nurses had to work twelve and fourteen hours a day. Some hon. members have got up in this House and stated that the Labour Government have not treated the nurses properly. The Labour Government have improved their conditions materially, and I was one of those who said that it would be a good thing if the nurses, like other workers, formed themselves into a union and went to the Arbitration Court. They did go to the Arbitration Court and got substantial increases. Hon. members opposite said it would lower their status if they went to the Arbitration Court. But other workers in the State, including bank clerks, have gone to the Arbitration Court, and, like the nurses, they got substantial increases from the court which was estab-

lished by the Labour Government of Queensland. Hon. members opposite do not say anything about the treatment that was meted out to nurses by private institutions in Queensland. Some of them were treating their nurses disgracefully. Some of these private institutions said that they would have to close down as soon as the award was granted. That is not so. We know they can pay the wages, and they should pay them. The award now covers all hospitals.

While I believe that the "Golden Casket" is not the best way of raising money, yet it is serving a very useful purpose during the period that certain people have failed in their work towards charity. It is supplying funds for the hospitals of Queensland in this transition period, and will enable us to get our heads together and devise some better means of financing the hospitals throughout Queensland. There should be a better means evolved. I find that the Rockhampton General Hospital has received from the "Golden Casket" a sum of £7,870, and a further £2,250 will be given early in January. The Rockhampton Children's Hospital has received an amount of £3,541 13s. 3d., and another £375 is to be paid early in January. The women's hospital has received £2,204 8s. 7d., while another £500 will be paid early in January. They could not have carried on successfully without that money. Largely due to the advocacy of the hon. member for Fitzroy, the Rockhampton Children's Hospital got a special grant of £400 for the purpose of repainting and renovating the buildings. I was glad to give the hon. member a helping hand in that matter. I would like to point out that, although the Rockhampton General Hospital gets a base grant of £1,000 because it is a base hospital, its usefulness is increasing every day, and that grant might be increased. Furthermore, the Rockhampton Children's Hospital being a base hospital, also might get a grant, if not to the extent of £1,000, at least £500 for a start. The Rockhampton General Hospital, according to their balance-sheet, is being well managed. They have a good staff there from the matron down to the latest recruit, and also a very good medical officer. Useful work is being carried out, and the present Government have been generous towards these institutions. They have paid twice as much in the three years succeeding 1915 to hospitals and other public institutions as previous Tory Governments did in the last three years of their administration. I have to thank the Home Secretary, who, I regret to say, is ill, for his generous treatment of the Rockhampton hospitals in the past, and all I ask is that the Home Secretary will continue that generosity. I also have to thank the Under Secretary and the Assistant Under Secretary for what they have done, and I congratulate the Assistant Under Secretary, Mr. Chuter, on his appointment, because he has proved himself an able man and, more than that, a gentleman.

Mr. SIZER (*Nundah*): The hon. member for Rockhampton has spoken at considerable length, and has pointed out what has been done by the present Government in regard to the nurses in public institutions. He referred to the great benefits they received from the Arbitration Court, but he forgot to mention that the same hon. gentleman has recently taken the nurses to the Arbitration Court to get them a reduction in their wages. The hon. member has said nothing about that, and I conclude that the hon. member concurred in the reduction, and is as much

to blame as any other member on the Government side for the position in which the nurses find themselves owing to a reduction in their wages being granted by the court.

Mr. HARTLEY (*Fitzroy*): In order that it will not be thought that my electorate is represented by proxy as well as having voting by proxy, I should like to say a few words in regard to the hospitals, particularly as the Rockhampton hospitals are in my electorate. I think it is a matter for congratulation to the department generally that all the hospitals and charitable institutions in the State are in their present satisfactory position. The Government are to be congratulated on having splendid staffs in most of their institutions. The work done by the Diamantina Hospital for Chronic Diseases is a splendid one, and the lady in charge of that institution, Miss Chatfield, is deserving of the highest praise that can be bestowed on her. The institution is certainly a model for any State in the Commonwealth. It is hard to realise, unless one is constantly in touch with the work, the amount of good that must be done to suffering humanity in that hospital. I want to point out that the Diamantina Hospital has reached its full capacity. I do not think there is room to receive many more patients there, and the time has come when the Government must face the position and provide for a similar institution in some other part of the State. I know many patients from the Central district come to Brisbane and find a resting place in the Diamantina Hospital. At the same time, the hospitals in the Central district still have cases that should be received by a hospital such as the Diamantina. I have known very painful cases that have had to wait a very long time, and sometimes they have been unable to get admission to the Diamantina and have died in their own homes. It must be apparent to the department that a similar institution is required in another part of the State, and I hope the Government will give that aspect of the question immediate consideration and strive to found another hospital on similar lines to the Diamantina. With the perfect institution they have in the Diamantina Hospital, it should be easy to select an ideal site either in the southern part of the Northern division, or, for preference, in the Central division. All the railway lines converge there, and there are at Emu Park and Yeppoon ideal sites, with an ideal climate and an outlook of a very cheering nature suitable to people who are suffering from ill-health. I hope that matter will be kept in mind by the department in the coming year.

I was very much surprised to notice the heat that was imported into the discussion by the hon. member for Murilla in his criticism of the Government for maintaining the Brisbane General Hospital. In common with many other members, I object to the load which the Brisbane General Hospital imposes on the State, but the position is inescapable. The responsibility was thrown upon the Government by the then committee, who, thinking to put the Government in an invidious position, relinquished their management. When they had got the affair into such a financial condition that they could no longer go ahead, they left it on the hands of the Government. The Government made provision that the load should not be put on the taxpayers, but that the Brisbane people should support their own hospital. The Government, however, did not get the

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assistance which they expected, or which the protestations of the hon. member for Murilla and his colleagues led them to believe they would get. They brought in a Hospitals Bill, and passed it through this Chamber in 1916, but in the Council an amendment was carried, "That the Bill be read a second time this day three months." That is the reason why we have to-day to vote the big amount on the Estimates for the Brisbane General Hospital, and the blame rests on the hon. member for Murilla and his colleagues.

Mr. VOWLES: You wanted a second land tax.

Mr. HARTLEY: What tax would you have?

Mr. VOWLES: I told you yesterday.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: A tax on wages.

Mr. HARTLEY: A tax on wages is the only solution that the leader of the Opposition has offered on this question. That Bill provided for a tax on the rateable value of property within the boundaries of the greater Brisbane area, and provision was made for a subsidy from the State to the Brisbane General Hospital, on account of its use as a base hospital. Hon. members opposite fought against that Bill, and it is no use the hon. member for Murilla getting up and tearing a passion to tatters because the people in the backblocks—the pioneers of whom he spoke—are charged £38,000 per annum for the support of the Brisbane General Hospital. If we had had the support of the class of politics which the hon. member represents, the Brisbane General Hospital would not need to be supported by a vote from the revenue of the State, but would be supported by the people of Brisbane. Those pioneers whom the hon. member for Murilla so feelingly refers to would then have had the advantage of an extra £38,000 being expended in the bush centres to help the cases he has so ably dealt with this afternoon.

Mr. COSTELLO: When did you ask for our support?

Mr. HARTLEY: When the Hospitals Bill was going through the Chamber in 1916, and it was turned down by your party. The hon. member was not in the Chamber then.

Mr. COSTELLO: I had something better on then.

Mr. HARTLEY: The hon. member for Carnarvon said he had something better on than seeing that the community in Brisbane were made to provide for their sick and suffering. He allows the hospital to become a State charge, and the people in the bush areas to be mulct in the amount of £38,000, and then the party opposite have the cheek to call this Government a Queen street Government.

Mr. VOWLES: He was not in the House—he was away at the war.

Mr. HARTLEY: He said he had something better on then. (Opposition interruption.)

Mr. COSTELLO: I had something better on than the hon. member for Fitzroy.

Mr. HARTLEY: It is no good the hon. member quibbling that way or trying to shout me down. I have never been shouted down or frightened down in my life. I was always prepared to stand up for myself whether on a parade ground or whether it was on the fields of Flanders or the plains of South Africa. I can always hold my own with any-

[Mr. Hartley.

one within a few inches of my own stature. That is the position in regard to the objection of the hon. member for Murilla to the Government finding money to support the Brisbane General Hospital. If there is any blame, it rests upon hon. members opposite; but I hope that the Home Secretary will soon take steps to bring in the Hospitals Bill again. Now that we have done away with the excrecence in the national life of the State which was such an obstruction to anything of a progressive nature, we shall be able to pass the Hospitals Bill, which will put the duty of supporting the Brisbane General Hospital on the shoulders of those who should carry it.

I wish now to refer to the establishment of baby clinics. The experience of the department has, I think, proved that they were amply justified in starting that system, and, with the knowledge they have gained, they should be prepared to extend the system. I hope that the Government are about to redeem the promise which they made on several occasions, and that baby clinics will be established in such centres as Rockhampton, Cairns, Emerald, and other places. In the first year of the clinics the cost to the department for each infant attended to was, in round figures, 9s., but that amount has now been reduced by the better organisation of the staff to 1s. per child. Surely the State will not object to such a moderate expenditure, which means such a great saving to the State in preserving infant life. I know that the Home Secretary is alive to the needs of the position, and of redeeming his promise that a wider system of bush nursing should soon be brought about. There is not the slightest doubt that women in sparsely settled areas in the backblocks have a sense of dread when they approach the time of their motherhood. If a system is inaugurated, at little expense to themselves, whereby the bush women of Queensland can be brought to central localities and receive proper medical and nursing attention, the joy of motherhood will certainly be robbed of a great many of the terrors and privations which it has for women in the bush at the present time. I hope that that system will soon be established, and I am sure that the Home Secretary will receive the support of members of the Committee in that direction.

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*): I would like to ask the hon. member for Fitzroy whether any of his constituents in the Central District have ever been received as patients at the Brisbane General Hospital.

Mr. HARTLEY: Yes.

Mr. KERR: There are certain appliances in the Brisbane General Hospital which meet the requirements, not only of the people in this city, but throughout Queensland.

Mr. WINSTANLEY: They get £5,000 extra subsidy for that.

Mr. KERR: We find the enormous sum of £170,000 on the Estimates for subsidies to hospitals, and not one penny of that amount is going to the Brisbane General Hospital. My own opinion is that we should not discriminate between institutions such as asylums, Dumwich, and various other institutions. I think we should follow more or less what is the practice in New Zealand. They have there a hospital board, and every hospital in New Zealand is governed by that board. They have expended over £1,500,000 per annum, and payment is made by the

people who use the hospitals. When those who use them are not able to pay in the usual way the cost is defrayed by the State.

At 4.30 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN: Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, and of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on the 30th instant, I shall now leave the chair and make my report to the House.

The House resumed. The CHAIRMAN reported progress.

The resumption of the Committee was made an Order of the Day for a later hour of the sitting.

PAPER.

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Despatch respecting Permission to certain Gentlemen to Retain the Title of "Honourable."

QUESTIONS.

WHEAT INSURED WITH STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT AGAINST HAIL.

Mr. DEACON (*Cunningham*) asked the Attorney-General—

"1. How many acres of wheat were insured against damage by hail through the State Insurance Department in 1921?"

"2. What was the estimated quantity of grain on area insured?"

"3. What amount in premiums did the department receive?"

"4. At what rate per £100 was it insured?"

"5. What was the amount of damage claimed?"

"6. What was the amount actually paid?"

"7. What was the net profit, or loss, to the department for the season's transactions in this item?"

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. J. Mullan, *Flinders*) replied—

"1. 8,704 acres.

"2. 225,762 bushels.

	£ s. d.
"3. Gross	1,622 4 6
Less Reinsurance	623 9 9

Net £998 14 9

"4. Various rates, as follows, according to the period of cover:—One month, 50s. per cent. net; two months, 60s. per cent. net; three months, 70s. per cent. net; four months, 80s. per cent. net; five months, 90s. per cent. net; six months, 100s. per cent. net (minimum premium, £1).

"5. £653 2s. 3d.

	£ s. d.
"6.—	653 2 3
Less Recoveries	330 5 7

Net £322 16 8

"7. £424 18s. 1d."

AUDIT OF "GOLDEN CASSET."

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*) asked the Home Secretary—

"1. When was the audit made, and at whose suggestion? Was such audit made at a date differing from previous audits?"

"2. Will he lay on the table of the House a copy of the auditor's report?"

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*), in the absence of the Home Secretary (Hon. W. McCormack, *Cairns*), replied—

"1. The accounts are audited from time to time, approximately monthly. In practice the auditor goes in at irregular periods. An annual report is made. The auditor completed the annual audit on 24th July. The auditor in the ordinary course of his duties checked cash on 11th August. When the manager applied for sick leave, and stated that he wished to be relieved immediately, I asked the Auditor-General to have the audit brought up to date, which was done.

"2. I have already read to the House the full text of the auditor's report in connection with the examination made at my request."

RESUMPTION OF WORK AT ENGINE SHEDS, WILLOWBURN.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

"In view of the continued unemployment at Toowoomba, as shown by the report of the Inspector of Labour in his monthly report, what are the prospects of an early resumption of work at the engine-sheds, Willowburn?"

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. J. Larcombe, *Kippel*) replied—

"The member for Toowoomba, Mr. F. T. Brennan, M.L.A., has frequently urged the recommencement of this work. No provision, however, has been made in the current year's Estimates to resume operations."

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY.

(*Mr. Kirwan, Brisbane, in the chair.*)

HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

HOSPITALS.

Question stated—

"That £242,687 be granted for 'Hospitals'—"

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*): Before the last sitting closed I was dealing with the method of maintaining hospitals in New Zealand. I agree with their system except in one respect. They make a levy on the local authorities, which, of course, hits the rate-payers. That is a principle that should not be supported here.

The Government have taken certain action in connection with the Brisbane General Hospital, and I cannot for the life of me see why similar action should not be taken in respect of the Brisbane Children's Hospital. I think it is deplorable to see people collecting in the streets for that institution week after week. The same people give week after week to these charitable organisations, and I think the time is opportune for doing something to gather up the disjointed threads of charity in Brisbane and having a special board to deal with the matter, in which, of course, the hospitals would be included. In New Zealand the administration of outdoor relief, on which we spend considerably over £100,000 a year, comes under the same board. I think the

Mr. Kerr.]

Government should also consider this question in all its ramifications, and in doing so they might decide whether this board should not also control the collection of all funds. When I had to sit down a short time ago I was about to point out that people with means are getting the benefit of the treatment in the Brisbane General Hospital and their children in the Children's Hospital, and in a number of instances they are not making any payment, even for maintenance. All these things require the attention of the Home Secretary. I have already said that years ago rules were laid down by previous Governments, and this Government have merely built upon them, without laying down any new and definite basis. I for one would agree to stop street collections. Some other method of raising funds should be suggested.

Another matter I want to mention bears on the question asked the other day by the hon. member for East Toowoomba in connection with a sum of £140,000 which was being utilised for subsidising hospitals in connection with this vote. Of course, the Government could establish a fair number of baby clinics for that sum—perhaps one in every local authority—and to say that they intend to do these things is mere sidetracking or camouflage. On the Waterworks road in my electorate there is what might be called a community settlement—a group settlement under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act of perhaps fifty or sixty families. On this settlement is a trained nurse, and I made a request some time ago for the provision of material for an ambulance box, of which she would be in charge. It must not be forgotten that this settlement is 6 or 7 miles from the city, and it is only recently that the Commonwealth Government have, at my request, placed a telephone there. The then Home Secretary, however, declined to entertain my request for the ambulance box.

Mr. GLEDSON: Did you ask the Ambulance Brigade?

Mr. KERR: The Home Secretary referred me to the Ambulance Brigade, who, by the way, are suffering just the same as other charitable organisations. What is the use of asking them to establish stations? In any case, I did not want that at all. What I wanted was a box containing implements and material, and the expenditure it would have involved was very small indeed in comparison with this expenditure of £140,000, and the request could easily have been granted. I ask the Secretary for Mines to turn up the correspondence and go into the particulars of the necessary requirements, and grant this very small thing. I will secure an undertaking that the material will be looked after and utilised, and that it will be appreciated very much in that district.

We did not have the opportunity last year of discussing the Estimates in the light of the Auditor-General's report. I have made accusations in this House that funds apart from revenue are being utilised for purposes for which they should not be utilised. The Auditor-General indicated that an estimate had been obtained from the various hospitals of the amount which was required, and it was put down at £205,000. Yet the Government are placing on the Estimates only £170,000, leaving a balance of £35,000. Previous Governments paid the whole of the subsidy out of revenue, but the present

Government are paying that balance of £35,000 out of the "Golden Casket" funds. Revenue should not be relieved of certain commitments by an allegedly honest Government. To make certain payments out of funds derived from gambling devices, instead of making them out of revenue, is deplorable. The mishandling of funds is not straight government. I hope that the ramifications of this particular fund will be gone into, and that gambling will be eliminated, as it has been in New South Wales.

Mr. FERRICKS (*South Brisbane*): I appreciate fully the hardships and difficulties under which people who are resident in remote parts of the State labour. I desire to express my opinion regarding the nationalisation of the Brisbane General Hospital. The hon. member for Murilla was hardly fair when he threw upon the community of the metropolis the aspersions of having shirked the responsibility of maintaining what he termed "their own hospital." The Brisbane General Hospital is not a hospital for the people resident within the metropolitan area alone. Being the premier hospital of the State, and having more highly-qualified medical services, it naturally attracts patients from almost every part of the State. That being so, it cannot be called the hospital of the people of the metropolitan area. There has been a shirking of contributing responsibility by a section of the people around Brisbane. That section, I am sorry to say, is the section which is more affluent, or better off.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS conversing in loud tones,

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not desire to interfere with hon. members conducting conversations, but I appeal to them again to do so in a lower tone. I think that we all appreciate that the "Hansard" staff are working under difficulties, and that a speaker who has not a strong voice has a difficulty in being reported.

Mr. FERRICKS: It has been the experience of hon. members—I believe it has been admitted by hon. members opposite—that in their particular districts no responsibility has been shirked in regard to the contribution to the local hospitals by the workers. In advancing an argument against receiving contributions from the "Golden Casket," or against the carrying on of the "Golden Casket," hon. members opposite have admitted that bodies of workmen in their districts have always levied on themselves a contribution for the maintenance of the hospitals. I feel sure that that has been the experience of every person who has been one of a band of workers. I have been included in several groups of workers contributing to different hospitals. I have never heard the proposal, when it has been advanced, received with one word of opposition or hesitation. Always the workers have fulfilled their obligation—far more, comparatively, than do the better-off section of the community. In the Brisbane area there has been a sad falling-off in contributions from that better-off section of the community. Not only did that section secure greater profits during the operation of the war and afterwards, but it has been forced upon us that the more wealthy people become, as a rule the more selfish they become. We observed, during the profiteering years of the war and immediately after the signing of the armistice, that a large section of the

[Mr. Kerr.

community in the metropolitan area did not know how to spend their huge profits. Instead of having one motor-car, they would have a garage with a string of cars. These people lessened their contributions generally, but more particularly to the hospital—and for a special reason. I believe that that reason was a very unworthy one, having at its root political bias or prejudice. I have heard the remark—hon. members opposite must have heard it; it has been repeated to me as having been mentioned dozens of times—“The Labour party talk about nationalisation of hospitals; let them run the hospitals now.” Keen contemptible political bias was one of the factors that resulted in a lessening of contributions to the Brisbane General Hospital from the better-off section of the community. The same thing applied in the case of the Children's Hospital in Brisbane. On the managerial side, instead of remembering the sentiment contained in that eloquent appeal, “Suffer the little children to come unto Me,” the innocent and most unfortunate section of the little children were made the unconscious victims of political bias and prejudice, so far as their occupation of the Children's Hospital was concerned.

That being so, the Government set out to put through a measure providing for the upkeep of the hospitals on a broad and effective basis, and threw upon those who had received profits from the unimproved value

[5 p.m.] of their land the responsibility of having to contribute sufficient for the upkeep of the hospitals. That measure was rejected in another place by friends of hon. members opposite, and the Government then took the straight-out course of granting a subsidy to the Brisbane General Hospital. Very often people who are stricken with illness in distant parts of the State come to the Brisbane General Hospital rather than go to a country hospital, because they realise that the largest hospital has better appliances and offers better opportunities of dealing with many of the complicated cases which come to this State hospital.

Mr. GLEDSON: Many are sent to the Brisbane General Hospital because they cannot obtain the required treatment in country hospitals.

Mr. FERRICKS: The hon. member for Murilla was unfair when he drew a comparison between what the country was doing and what he said the metropolis was not doing. I would remind him that there is a big population in the metropolitan area, and although not in such a bad state of congestion as other capitals of the Commonwealth, there are nearly 259,000 people here, who contribute very often to the consolidated revenue sums of money for services in the electoral district of Murilla, which services do not earn enough revenue for the upkeep.

Mr. MORGAN: Can the hon. gentleman name one?

Mr. FERRICKS: Off-hand, I would say an office like that of the clerk of petty sessions.

Mr. MORGAN: It is self-supporting.

Mr. FERRICKS: Is the railway line from Miles, further out, self-supporting? In every electorate in Queensland there are some services which are self-supporting and some which are not. Reference has also been made to the baby clinics which have been established in the metropolitan area. I think the hon. member for Rockhampton very forcibly

showed us the excellent work that had been achieved. It shows a very poor spirit when hon. members opposite object to the establishment of this splendid system, because it is on a small scale. The scheme cannot be made general in its application all over the State at the present time. Every institution must have a commencement.

Mr. MORGAN: Why not start where it is most needed?

Mr. FERRICKS: The place where it should be commenced is where there is greatest need for its operation. The figures quoted by the hon. member for Rockhampton prove that the congested areas are the proper places to make a commencement. If we followed out the suggestion of the hon. member for Murilla and established clinics throughout Queensland wherever one was required, it would be a huge undertaking. It would be far better to work along the lines laid down in the Home Secretary's proposals for the establishment of maternity wards in hospitals and the establishment of the bush nursing scheme.

Mr. MORGAN: Does not the hon. gentleman think that the bush nursing scheme should have been started first?

Mr. FERRICKS: The Home Secretary, prior to his illness, outlined his intentions in the columns of the daily Press. It was well known to everybody what was in the mind of the Minister and the mind of the Government in that connection. The establishment of baby clinics is on the lines of humanitarian reform.

Mr. MORGAN: No one objects to it.

Mr. FERRICKS: The hon. member cavilled at the expenditure because there is not a general application of the scheme.

Mr. MORGAN: No; I said that the Government should have started the bush nursing scheme first.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The Bill is now ready.

Mr. FERRICKS: In the “ABC of Queensland Statistics” it is shown that Queensland has the highest birth rate of any State in the Commonwealth. That is something which we can welcome, because, no matter how enthusiastically one may advocate immigration or increased population, there is no gainsaying the fact that the Australian immigrant is the best immigrant of all. The last statistical year disclosed that Queensland had 27.58 per cent. of births per 1,000 of the mean population. Is it not very desirable that we should seek to preserve the life of all those infants? When we read the almost terrifying reports in connection with the high rate of infant mortality in other large cities, is it fair that hon. members opposite should complain of the expenditure on these institutions in Brisbane?

Mr. MORGAN: The mortality is higher in the cities.

Mr. FERRICKS: That is an absolute refutation of the hon. member's own contention that baby clinics should be established in remote portions of the country. The object to be achieved is a big one. The scope for work is great, and all reform of that nature cannot be undertaken at once. If the Government are successful, as I think they will be, in consummating their scheme for the launching of the bush nursing scheme, the attachment of maternity wards to country hospitals,

Mr. Ferricks.]

and the extension of the baby clinic system, we shall be able to claim that the Government are indeed making a very strong effort to deal with sickness and the general health of the community. When the Government launch a scheme of reform on any lines, I think those who are desirous of criticising the Government very often do not make due allowance for the long distances to be travelled in this State. Queensland is a land of great distances, and if the Government cannot accomplish that which is desired in the course of one session or two sessions, the least we can expect from those who cannot see eye to eye with us politically is whole-hearted support of any proposal which aims at the welfare of the people as a whole.

Mr. G. P. BARNES (*Warwick*): It is marvellous how easy it is to attach blame to a community for doing or not doing a certain thing. The hon. member for South Brisbane has attempted to attach blame to the people of Brisbane.

Mr. FERRICKS: To one section.

Mr. G. P. BARNES: How on earth he or any other man can decide which section is to blame is beyond the ken of the ordinary mortal. The hon. member was very ready to attach blame to the people of Brisbane, and he indicated that it was simply a matter of retaliation because the Labour Government had taught nationalisation, and therefore the people have put their hands in their pockets and kept them there. There may be a good deal in that. But what is the use of just hanging your thought upon that particular aspect of the question? The only right thing to do in this case is to put your finger straight upon the people themselves. The Labour Government, immediately they came into power, talked nationalisation, and thought it was their bounden duty to educate the people in that direction, and now they are reaping the reward. We are reaping the disadvantages following their pernicious teachings in that direction. In order to prove the truth of this you have only to take the figures for the years 1914-15 and compare them with the figures for the year 1921-22. While some hon. members are very eager to applaud the extra amount which has been expended upon charities, it is necessary to search a degree further than that. We find, on looking at the figures in connection with this vote, that in 1914-15 the expenditure amounted to £179,978, as against £290,188 last year, or an increase of £110,210. The people have been educated to be indifferent, and, instead of being urged and encouraged in every possible way to do their duty towards charities, they are being discouraged, because the policy of the Government has been towards nationalisation.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: We were compelled to take over the Brisbane General Hospital.

Mr. G. P. BARNES: I have just stated why the Government were compelled to take over the Brisbane General Hospital. It was due largely, if not almost entirely, to the trend of the teaching of the party opposite. They were compelled to take over the Brisbane General Hospital because they gave it out that it was the intention of the Government to nationalise hospitals.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: If we could afford it, we would nationalise the whole of the hospitals throughout the State, and they should be nationalised.

[*Mr. Ferricks.*

Mr. G. P. BARNES: I do not think the Government can afford it. Although we have viewed the waste of money by the millions, I would very much have preferred that a large proportion of that money had been wasted as a result of the nationalisation of hospitals than in many of the directions in which it has been wasted. If you go through the Treasurer's Table C, you will find that in 1914-15 the amount spent on outdoor relief was £5,870, while last year it was £177,019. In that connection you have the same influence at work.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: We took care of the sick.

Mr. G. P. BARNES: There is no need to characterise the men I have referred to as sick men; they may be sick in the direction of not desiring work. The Government have carried out a pernicious policy, and, instead of giving these men work, they have given them doles.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. G. P. BARNES: I state emphatically that the hon. members who occupy the Government benches to-day are simply reaping what they have sown. They have discouraged at every turn the idea of men being responsive to the call of charity, and they have educated people in a different direction. I am not going to relieve the residents of Brisbane of their responsibilities in this matter. They have failed ignominiously to respond, as other towns have responded, to the calls of charity. In almost every other town in Queensland the people have provided funds to carry on their hospitals. If the hon. member for Murilla spoke about the small community in his electorate, he would tell hon. members that the hospital there has been very generously supported. In my own town there is no trouble in regard to the upkeep of the ambulance and the hospital. They are supported to the full, and there should be no trouble in Brisbane. The real trouble in Brisbane is that they have been too near the seat of Government, and, unfortunately, those who should have been responsible for carrying out organisation work have failed entirely. One has only to remember what took place in the old days in the city of Brisbane. I remember the days when Mr. William Reid was the secretary of the Brisbane Hospital, and the fine organisation that he was responsible for. There was no trouble then, and if you tell me that we are living in different days, and that people cannot now be found to do this work, then I say I cannot believe it. We have in Brisbane to-day a body of men and women who are constantly endeavouring to raise money for charitable purposes. All that is necessary is to organise the very fine service which is at your disposal.

Mr. GLEDSON: What women are you referring to?

Mr. G. P. BARNES: I do not know who they are in particular, but I am referring to those ladies who have been doing Red Cross work, and the women who only last Friday did excellent work in connection with the raising of funds for the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. They have been doing similar work nearly every week, and, if they are properly organised, the money will come in. I feel sure it will. It is no credit to Brisbane to be in the rear in responding to the calls of charity. They

may do it in the odd shilling or so, but in the bigger donations they are completely behind. They are not on a level with the fine work which is being done in the country. I could name many people in Warwick who, if they were transferred to Brisbane, would bring about such a change in the attitude of the Brisbane people, in the direction of giving to the hospitals, as would completely surprise the community. It is a matter of organisation, and the people would be organised, and be ready to respond when they were called upon. It is time the people realised their duty in this respect. We have a right to have an example set by the cities where the wealth of the country is located, instead of the lead being taken by the country districts. I hope the day is not far distant when things which have been so pernicious in their effect will be cleared away, and that the people will find the blessing of charitable giving to be once more in evidence in their midst.

Mr. STOPFORD (*Mount Morgan*): I desire to congratulate the hon. member for Warwick on his outspokenness. In quoting figures he deliberately levelled a charge against this Government for the expenditure of years previously as against the expenditure of to-day. He has had the courage to state openly what his friends on that side have been charging us with. That is in connection with the form of extravagance we hear so much about. We find from the report presented to the House in 1913-14, that the expenditure for hospitals and charitable institutions was in the vicinity of £160,821, as against an amount on the Estimates to-day of £242,687. I make no apology for the increase in the vote, or because the present Government have for years past claimed that the expenditure on the hospitals which attend to the men in large centres like Brisbane, who fall by the way in sickness, and whose remuneration for the work they do is so small that they cannot provide against sickness, should be a charge upon the funds of the State. I for one regret that we have not yet been in a position to carry out our policy.

Mr. MORGAN: There has been a large increase in the wages of the hospital staffs. That does not show that sick people are being neglected.

Mr. STOPFORD: I am coming to the time when we have said that it was not fair to sweat the workers in these institutions, and we have given them an eight-hour day. Does the hon. member think that we can give effect to these reforms without showing a large vote on the Estimates for these institutions?

Mr. G. P. BARNES: The people would have given that amount if they had been dealt with properly.

Mr. STOPFORD: The hon. member has a very short memory. I remember an appeal which was made in past years in this House by the people who told the soldiers that nothing would be too good for them if they returned, and I believe that less was subscribed to the fund for our Queensland V.C. than was given to a fund put forward by Mrs. Wienholt for sick dogs and lame horses. Those are both honourable objects; but I claim that no hon. member opposite will say that an appeal to the people of Brisbane on behalf of the industrial soldiers would be responded to when the men who went across to fight for what we were told was the main-

tenance of our British institutions have been ignored, and are to-day playing in a band in the streets and sending round the hat for contributions. I was making the point when I was interrupted that we reasonably claim as a Government that every penny of value that is added to the unimproved value of the land in Brisbane and in other centres is brought about by the industry of the community. We claim that the hon. member for Warwick, who is the representative of a large firm which started business recently in the Valley, did not set out without the knowledge that the Valley is a centre of population, and that it is the people who are living there who are going to make their business a success. We claim that every penny expended in the State must reflect itself in the prosperity of every landowner in the metropolitan area, because every penny expended on railways or on any public institution adds to the unimproved value of all the land within the State. We reasonably claim that, as the great mass of the people who are creating that value are unable to maintain single-handed their charitable institutions, and while those who are reaping the unearned increment derived from the industry of the people are not prepared to respond in a proper manner, the Government would be justified in saying that their first responsibility is to see that the hospitals are maintained upon the most modern lines, and that the question of allocating the expense must be a secondary consideration. The hon. member for Warwick asked the hon. member for South Brisbane if he had not made a charge against a certain section of this community. I claim that the hon. member for South Brisbane can support that charge from the fact that in every industrial centre in Queensland the State has never been asked to come to the assistance of their institutions. Through the long period that the Mount Morgan mine was closed down, it has never been necessary for the State either to nationalise that hospital or close its doors. All the time the Mount Morgan mine was closed down it was never necessary for the Government to assume that responsibility. I am pleased to think that an institution like the Brisbane General Hospital is of value to every individual in the State. I have myself been able to bring patients from Mount Morgan for special treatment at that institution, and they returned to Mount Morgan after having benefited from their treatment here. Those who reap the greatest benefit from the General Hospital in Brisbane are, in many instances, people who do not reside in the State at all.

Mr. MORGAN: Do you mean Jack Wren?

Mr. STOPFORD: The hon. member knows something about that. I know that there are many men such as Jack Wren and others, who have done nothing to promote the prosperity of the State beyond investing their money in gilt-edged land speculations, who are contributing nothing to the State beyond their land taxation, and who do not subscribe to the charitable institutions in the State. I contend that the policy of the Government in saying that the sick, the weak, the old, and the afflicted shall be the care of the State, and that in the large centres of population where the young mother has not got 10s. 6d. to hand to a doctor every time some symptom appears in her child which alarms her, that mother shall be able to go where she can get expert advice in her trouble, is the right policy to adopt. The hon. member

Mr. Stopford.]

for Murilla stated that baby clinics should start in the country.

Mr. MORGAN: I said bush nursing—not baby clinics.

Mr. STOPFORD: In a large centre like Brisbane you may live in the same house for six months and not know the people who are living on the floor beneath. There is not the sympathetic bond between families in the city that there is in the country. A young mother in one of our flats here may have a child on the point of convulsions, and may have no one she can appeal to, but there is not a woman in a country district who would not be at her disposal to render her advice and assistance. That is why I am of opinion that baby clinics are so good in areas like Brisbane and are such a benefit to the people. The Government have had a definite policy with regard to the hospitals, and they gave effect to that policy as far as they were able, but they were thwarted by the efforts of those who then constituted the majority in the nominee Chamber. I am one of those who believe that we have got to offer no

[5.35 p.m.] apology for having nationalised the Brisbane General Hospital. If we have to offer an apology at all, it is because we have not had luck enough to say definitely that we would nationalise every institution in the State, and demand a fair return from the unearned increment that is going into the pockets of people who are living on the industry of other people and the public money expended by the State.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. TAYLOR (*Windsor*): After listening to the speeches of the last two hon. members, I have been wondering whether it is not time to get out of Brisbane if the people here are such a hard-hearted, close-fisted lot as those two hon. members would like us to believe the residents of the metropolises are.

Mr. STOPFORD: Read the "Diggers' Appeal" in every issue of the "Courier," and that will give you your answer.

Mr. TAYLOR: So far as the "diggers" are concerned, the men who deserve support and sympathy have been getting it. I can take the hon. member to one "digger" in my own electorate. He came from the war minus a leg and minus an arm, but he is not playing a band in the street. He has a wife and two children, and he is doing all right. He has never looked back since he came back from the war. It is all very fine for hon. members to talk about "diggers" in that strain. The charges made in this Chamber against the liberality of the people of Brisbane are absolutely unfounded and untrue. Look at the number of hospitals we have in Brisbane to-day. Apart from the Brisbane General Hospital and the Children's Hospital, we have the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. We have a big hospital being built in Ann street—St. Martin's Hospital—at a cost of £200,000. We have the Lady Bowen Hospital, the Lady Musgrave Hospital, and the Lady Lamington Hospital, and we have homes innumerable all over the city. These are all maintained by the people of Brisbane, who continually and constantly contribute to the maintenance of these institutions. The same remarks apply to the different asylums. There has been a difficulty in recent years in financing these institutions, but to say that one class in the community is responsible for the present position of the hospitals is not a fair statement of the case at all. There

[*Mr. Stopford.*]

are people who have plenty of money who do not contribute to the support of the hospitals. There are wealthy people who do not contribute, just the same as there are members of the industrial class who can help but will not help. I have no sympathy with either class. (Hear, hear!) I do contend that the charges that are being levelled in this Chamber about the want of feeling on the part of the people of Brisbane towards those who are down and out are not true. When the hon. member for Mount Morgan stated that when women in Brisbane were in trouble or difficulty they could not find another woman to assist them, he is making a statement which is not true.

Mr. STOPFORD: I said that in the congested areas the woman in one flat does not know the woman in the next flat.

Mr. TAYLOR: There are thousands of women in the city of Brisbane who have been working for and assisting the hospitals in all kinds of ways. We know many women who help the hospitals in every possible direction, and they are doing it to-day.

Mr. STOPFORD: They do not live in the congested areas. That is my point.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am not saying that they live in the congested areas, but I am talking about the devoted and self-sacrificing band of women who are giving their time and labour for the assistance of the hospitals. They deserve our best thanks. Look at the Rosemount Hospital for Soldiers in my electorate. Who have been working in the interests of that hospital ever since the soldiers came back? Who have been visiting that hospital continually and doing all they possibly could to assist the men who have come back broken in health and shattered in body? Some of these men unfortunately will never be able to take their places as healthy citizens again. We have a band of women in Brisbane who are continually going out there and helping in every way and seeing that these poor men in the hospital enjoy all the comforts that it is possible for a civilised community to provide.

Mr. STOPFORD: Don't you think that should be the duty of the State, and not of charity?

Mr. TAYLOR: I think it is the duty of the State and of the people to assist all they can in this direction, so that these patients may get all the necessary attention that they deserve and which they require. Look at the number of other charitable institutions that are being maintained in Brisbane. You have only to look through the reports to see the number. Look at the Alexandra Home in South Brisbane. There are about 100 youngsters in that institution, and it is absolutely free from debt. That home gets £200 endowment from the Government, and the rest of the revenue is made up by contributions from outside. It is all voluntary contribution and labour on the part of those who assist in maintaining these institutions. Look at the Magdalen Home in my electorate carried on by the Roman Catholic Church. One can understand, when you go into these institutions, the work that is being carried on by those in charge. The little bit of endowment that these institutions get from the Government is nothing. If it were not for the self-sacrificing work and devotion of the women associated with the institutions that I have mentioned, they would not be in

the satisfactory position they are in to-day. Yet we are told in this Chamber that the people of Brisbane are hard-hearted, and that they are not prepared to contribute a fair thing to help and support these people. That is not a fair charge, and, as a resident of the city, I resent such charges being made against the people here. When we see the number of up-to-date hospitals maintained by the people of Brisbane, I think it is a credit to them. Right down to Southport and Tweed Heads there is no hospital, and all the patients from that district come to the Brisbane hospitals. For many years it was the same with the districts along the North Coast line. There was no hospital between Brisbane and Gympie, and all the patients came to Brisbane. Recently a hospital was opened at Beerburra, but prior to that all the patients went to the Brisbane and Gympie hospitals. The hon. member for Mount Morgan admitted this afternoon that patients came from his electorate to the Brisbane General Hospital to take advantage of the special treatment offering here.

Mr. STOPFORD: That is why the State should maintain the hospitals.

Mr. TAYLOR: So far as the hospitality and generosity of the Brisbane people are concerned, they are doing their fair share. It is quite true that many of the country hospitals have a credit balance, and they are to be commended for that. If you look through the reports of these institutions, you will find that the fair-minded men play the game and contribute freely to their hospitals, and you will find these contributions come more from the wealthy classes than from those who are not wealthy.

Mr. FERRICKS: Don't you think they should give a little more?

Mr. TAYLOR: I think they should, but the charge made by hon. members opposite that those men do not contribute at all is not a fair charge, and should not be made in this Chamber.

Mr. FERRICKS: You put the wealthy section on the same basis as the working class.

Mr. TAYLOR: I do not put them on the same basis at all.

Mr. STOPFORD: If everyone contributed a little, it would be easy.

Mr. TAYLOR: Quite easy. I quite realise that if everyone contributed a little, as the hon. gentleman says, there would be no trouble at all. Unfortunately, everyone will not do his bit, and other people have to make up for the deficiencies of such persons. If we can get at those who will not do their bit, I say, "Do so," every time, because the sick and the poor are a just charge on the whole of the community. That has been recognised, not only in the present time, but by all Governments. The old work-house system, cruel as it was, was an attempt to deal with the problem, and it is only by evolution and the interchange of ideas and thought that improvements have come about. Improvements will continue to come about, and I feel sure that the people in the metropolitan area are not the people to see the sick and suffering lying in the streets or wanting in any way. They are prepared at all times to do their utmost to see that they get all the care and attention they deserve.

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowoong*): I have been rather astonished to hear the remarks which have fallen from some hon. members during this debate, because I deprecate any element

of antagonism between country and city, particularly in these matters. Where the sick and suffering are to be cared for we should not cavil at anything that is done to help or alleviate. I rose more particularly to try to remove from the minds of hon. members some doubts as to the organisation of the Sick Children's Hospital in Brisbane. It is not a national institution. A noble body of women were associated with the institution and were doing a wonderfully excellent work, but, unfortunately, they were up against the tough proposition that nurses' quarters and other additions were essential to the proper conduct of such an institution, and they could not find the money which was required. At the present time another committee is in charge, and—I happen to be able to speak with authority—I have never had the good fortune to be associated with as fine a body of workers as has been my lot to associate with on that committee. It was only necessary to walk through the wards and see the poor unfortunate little ones there to realise that all that was possible was being done to relieve their sickness and necessities. To show that the efforts of that committee have not been unavailing, and that the wells of charity have not been altogether dried up in the city of Brisbane so far as the Children's Hospital is concerned, in to-day's "Brisbane Courier" there is an announcement that £5,469 17s. 2d. has been received by way of voluntary contribution, and last year more than that was taken from the pockets of the people in the city. But that is not the only institution that has to be kept by the people in the city area. As the leader of the Nationalist party pointed out, other organisations are doing wonderful work. We have the Lady Bowen, the Mater Misericordiae, the Lady Lamington hospitals, and other institutions which get a small endowment from the Government, and are practically dependent on the money received from the good people of the community, and I am not going to allow any hon. member to traduce the noble body of women who have done good work.

Mr. COLLINS: Not one word has been said against them.

Mr. MAXWELL: I was astonished at the remark of my friend the hon. member for Warwick that he wished that he could transfer the ladies of Warwick to Brisbane. (Laughter.)

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: Not the ladies.

Mr. MAXWELL: I understood the hon. member to convey that he wished the people working in Warwick in connection with the hospital could be transferred here. I say that the workers of Brisbane will not give place to the workers of any other place in Queensland.

Mr. BRENNAN: We want a few public-spirited men like the late Jacob Horwitz, who died in Germany and left a large sum to the Warwick Hospital.

Mr. MAXWELL: A great number of people have done similar things for our General Hospital. All you have to do to know the number of persons who have contributed to the upkeep of the Brisbane General Hospital is to search its archives. The statement has been made that people have got their backs up because a Labour Government control the reins of power. I have a higher opinion of the people of Brisbane than the hon. member for South Brisbane, who made the suggestion.

Mr. Maxwell.]

Mr. FERRICKS: I have a great idea of the hatred of the anti-Labourites of Brisbane.

Mr. MAXWELL: Take the assistance that has been given by various committees, for instance, during the war—the Red Triangle, the Red Cross.

Mr. COLLINS: The "Red Flag"!

Mr. MAXWELL: If I were riding down the street and saw a red flag, I would turn down another way, because where the red flag is there is danger. The amount of money raised for those organisations has been enormous. Although I am the representative of a city electorate, I am just as keen as hon. members on the other side for the proper care of our sick and suffering. I realise the truth of what was said by the hon. member for Murilla about bush-nursing and the assistance which the establishment of such homes would give to those grand women who have gone out and blazed the track in the bush.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: He merely advocated it because he knew we were going to do it.

Mr. MAXWELL: Even supposing the Government are going to do it, their hands are strengthened if they get the assistance of members on this side of the Chamber. It only goes to prove that the wells of charity are not dried up, and that members on the Government side do not possess a monopoly of kindly feelings.

Mr. FERRICKS: They are not so biased.

Mr. MAXWELL: I do not want to get into "holts" with the hon. member.

Mr. FERRICKS: I am talking about the class you represent.

Mr. MAXWELL: When I read the lists of contributions made to the various charitable organisations and associations, I see that practically the same people are giving all the time. The people who will give have to give. The Chairman, in his connection with various committees, has seen the same group of people every time working for the uplift of the community. Some say, "We are not suitable for that kind of work, but we are quite prepared to assist financially." No appeal has ever been made in vain to the people of Brisbane. The hon. member for Mount Morgan stressed a point in connection with the amount of money which was asked for to assist Victoria Cross winners. I know a number of public-spirited gentlemen who said when that appeal was made, "We have no right to discriminate in favour of men who won the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order, or the Military Medal simply because they were more fortunate than their fellows."

Mr. FERRICKS: They did not discriminate; they left them all in want.

Mr. MAXWELL: An opportunity was given those people to assist the "Diggers" themselves.

Mr. STOPFORD: Are there any distressed "Diggers"?

Mr. MAXWELL: I am sorry to say there are. I am glad to say that the wonderful band of women and girls who were associated with the comforts fund when the boys were at the front are now associated with us on committees to try and do something to make the home comforts a little bit better than they are.

I want to impress upon hon. members that we in the cities realise as much as

[Mr. Maxwell.

the men in the country that it is necessary that more comforts should be received by those in the country than the people in the city are getting, because the opportunities of receiving them are greater in the city than they are in the country. I hope that any thought which might have existed in the mind of the hon. member for South Brisbane that the wells of charity have altogether dried up so far as the Children's Hospital is concerned will now be removed.

Mr. FERRICKS: The wells of political prejudice are brimming over.

Mr. EDWARDS (*Nanango*): I regret that party feeling has been brought into the discussion, as we could well discuss a question like this without introducing party feeling. I am absolutely satisfied that amongst the workers, the rich people, or any class, when it comes to charity, there are good and bad. We should be proud of the band of women workers who are connected with the charitable institutions throughout this and the other States. My sisters, having taken up nursing, give me full knowledge of the great sacrifice made by nurses throughout the length and breadth of Australia. Any man in public life should assist the hands of workers—particularly the nurses—who go out and give practically their lives for the purposes of assisting the sick and those who are in need. It is not our duty to introduce class distinctions. Let us try to bring the people together as one body in the interest, not alone of the charitable institutions, but of those who are in need—those who are suffering, those unfortunates who were maimed and wounded at the war. Class distinctions should not be brought into the matter.

Mr. COLLINS: You admit that there are class distinctions?

Mr. EDWARDS: Yes, unfortunately. The hon. member for Bowen and men like him are responsible largely for it. That has had a lot to do with the falling off of contributions to the different public institutions. It is the duty of every public man to try and kill that, and see that the people work together as one body. Our nurses and those women connected with the Red Cross and other such movements during the time of plague went into the danger zone with their lives in their hands and gave their services free—workers' wives and daughters, rich men's wives and daughters, working side by side in the interests of the sick.

I hope that bush nursing will be carried on wherever opportunity offers. I hope that the system will be extended to every country district. I think that, when it comes to charitable matters, we are all one in this Chamber, no matter on which side we sit.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: Your electors got £3,000 out of the "Golden Casket."

Mr. EDWARDS: I am very proud of the hospitals and the nurses in my electorate.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: Do you object to that form of assistance?

Mr. EDWARDS: Yes; I think that we could have a very much better method of assisting the hospitals. My suggestion is to bring the people together in one body, not continually divide them by the introduction of party feeling. On the one hand

we hear that the workers pay the whole of the money. It is time that that sort of talk was dropped. We would then get over the difficulty, and would not require to have a "Golden Casket" to raise funds.

Mr. WARREN (*Murrumbidgee*): We have good hospitals in the country. In the electorate which I represent there is a hospital very much harder to maintain than a hospital in any other part of the country. I am referring to the Beerburum Hospital. Last year the Home Secretary was good

[7 p.m.] enough to advance £300 from the "Golden Casket" funds for the

benefit of that hospital. I desire to bring the matter before the Home Secretary again, so that he may come to the assistance of that institution. The hospital is situated in the returned soldiers' settlement, and the largest portion of the contributions will come from that settlement. Most of these settlers are in a small way, and therefore are not in a position to contribute in a way that older settlers are able to do. The hospital is well manned and is everything that a country hospital should be. It has a splendid doctor and has a good staff, and is doing really good work.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I do not want to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but I would point out that £350 will be advanced from the "Golden Casket" funds this year for the benefit of that institution.

Mr. WARREN: On behalf of the returned soldiers in that settlement, I must thank the hon. gentleman for the advance that is proposed to be made. I am not making any complaints. I agree with the hon. member for Nanango that we can drop party politics and party business when dealing with our sick and afflicted. I hope that the hospitals throughout Queensland will also benefit, and that they will continue their good work.

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*): I am not satisfied with the representation on most of the hospital committees. A number of hon. members have mentioned that employees in the different districts contributed to the upkeep of the hospitals. That system obtains in the Ipswich district. Our hospital has always been in a good position because of the support of the residents and because of the continued support by employees, who contribute on the basis of one penny in the £1 from their wages. That system has resulted in a continual supply of funds coming into the hospital. Although the employees from the mines, from the railways, from the butter factories, and other industries in the district contribute to the funds, there is not one representative of the employees on that hospital committee. The whole of the members of the committee are appointed by subscribers of £1 and upwards. An endeavour was made to get some representative of the workers on the committee, but it was pointed out that the Act would not allow it, and that only subscribers of £1 and upwards could have a vote for the election of the committee. The same thing was pointed out in connection with the ambulance brigade; but the ambulance brigade is in a different position, as there are representatives of the railway employees and miners on the committee, and they are doing good work in connection with it. The Ipswich Hospital has always been in a fairly good position, but, like other hospitals, it was hit very hard by the increased cost of living and increased maintenance fees since the

commencement of the war, and their expenses went up enormously. They were compelled to engage two medical practitioners instead of one as previously, and on account of the better conditions that were given to the nurses—and rightly so—an increased number of nurses was necessary, and the maintenance costs went up considerably, and the whole expenditure of the hospital increased out of bounds. I do not hold with the method of financing the hospitals through the "Golden Casket," yet the treasurer of the hospital told me that the money that was received from the "Golden Casket" was very acceptable, and that it kept them out of debt.

I would like to know from the Secretary for Mines whether there is to be any provision for the establishment of maternity wards at the different hospitals. I want to see something done in that connection. The Ipswich Hospital provides for the sick, and the committee also have control of epidemics in conjunction with the local authorities around the district; but they have not so far been able to do anything in the way of establishing a maternity ward. In Ipswich, as in other towns and cities in Queensland where the maternity cases are treated in private hospitals, the fees are so heavy that these hospitals cannot be taken advantage of by the workers, and we would like to see some special consideration given to the Ipswich and other hospitals which are wishful of establishing maternity wards. It was found necessary at the Ipswich Hospital to obtain an up-to-date X-ray plant, so that it would be possible to get the X-ray photographs taken at the hospital, and the cost of that plant was something like £1,500. Although the miners contribute at the rate of one penny in the £1 of their salaries, they gave a direct donation of £25 for the purpose of obtaining the X-ray plant.

The people there subscribed over and above their ordinary contributions something like £1,400 or £1,500 last year, by means of which they were enabled to get the X-ray plant installed free of debt. That shows that in that district the people are doing their best to keep up their hospital without any assistance from the Government, and without the Government having to take over the hospital like they had to do in Brisbane. I am not objecting to the Government taking over the Brisbane General Hospital, as I think they have done the right thing in doing so, not only because of the people in the metropolitan district who require to use that hospital, but on account of the number of people from outside districts who use it. Although Ipswich is not too far away from Brisbane, and we have there two of the best medical men you can get, and who are looked up to for their ability, and who have a good nursing staff and are able to take care of ordinary patients, yet it has been necessary for the Ipswich Hospital to send patients to the Brisbane General Hospital for treatment by specialists. Those patients have been able to get special treatment at the Brisbane General Hospital which they would not have been able to get if that hospital had been closed through lack of funds. I am not objecting to anything that we have to contribute towards the upkeep of the Brisbane General Hospital.

I would like to draw the attention of the Home Secretary to the ambulance brigades, who are doing excellent work in Queensland.

Mr. Gledson.]

Where the hospitals are not available the ambulance brigade are sometimes able to do exceptionally good work. The ambulance brigades are not treated as liberally as the hospitals. They only get half the subsidy which the hospitals get. The subsidy for hospitals is £2 for £1, and only £1 for £1 is allotted to the ambulance brigades. Some of the ambulance brigades have been built up by special effort, by running concerts and balls, and in other ways, which take up a certain amount of time in organisation. The brigades have not always been able to get special organisers for the purpose, and they have in a great number of cases had to put on special collectors to go round and raise money. They have not been able to get sufficient money to purchase the appliances they require. I hold a certificate for first-aid in connection with ambulance work, and I have taken a great interest in the work of the ambulance brigades. The ambulance men are often called up in the middle of the night to attend cases when doctors cannot go. I myself have had to get up many times in the middle of the night—and I was glad to do it—and ring up the ambulance to get them to attend patients to stop hemorrhage and attend to other urgent cases. That applies to all centres where they have formed ambulance brigades. I had an opportunity of going through the ambulance brigade station in Rockhampton not long ago, when I saw reports of the work they have done there. They have gone out 200 miles from Rockhampton to bring in patients. In some cases they have gone out to maternity cases, to places 60 or 70 miles away, taking nurses with them from Rockhampton.

Mr. VOWLES: That is a daily occurrence in Dalby.

Mr. GLEDSON: I suppose it is a frequent occurrence in most places where there are ambulance brigades. I would ask the Government to take into consideration the necessity of helping the ambulance brigades to obtain the necessary equipment to carry out their work properly. Some brigades have been able to do it by special subscriptions, but there are other brigades which are not able to do that. The time of the old waggon with the old grey horse has gone, and it should not be necessary for them to depend on that equipment. When people are able to get motor-cars to ride about for their own pleasure, the ambulance brigades should be provided with them, so that they can bring in patients with the utmost despatch and comfort. I know of one ambulance brigade in Redbank which is struggling along with a horse and waggon, and it is the same at Yarraman, Laidley, and other outside places. I hope that the Home Secretary will be able to give some assistance to the ambulance brigades in this direction. I do not think that there are any other institutions doing more valuable work than the ambulance brigades.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*): The discussion this afternoon has largely centred round the Brisbane General Hospital and the question of the nationalisation of hospitals. The complaint I have had to make against the Government ever since 1917 is that when they took over the Brisbane General Hospital they did not make provision for financing it outside of the general revenue of the State. I quite admit that in 1917 the people of Brisbane were not doing

the fair thing by their hospital. I recognise that the committee had made several attempts to carry on the institution. The public did not respond, and as a result they had to tender their resignation. I have read the statement of the Auditor-General in connection with the Brisbane General Hospital. I find that in 1917 the total income for the Brisbane General Hospital was £7,133, and the income for 1921 amounted to £6,523. The position to-day is that the Government are responsible for about £36,000, while in 1917 they were responsible for some £20,000 only. That is a very large sum of money. I recognise that the increase has been caused in various ways. There is an increase in the cost of the staff, and probably there is a considerably larger number of patients now than was the case in 1917. There is also an increase in the nursing staff. When we look at the figures, even from the Government point of view, they are not satisfactory. We must have a certain responsibility for control in connection with the Brisbane General Hospital and other hospitals. If the rest of the hospitals are going to be run on similar lines to those on which the Brisbane General Hospital has been run since 1917, then we are going to be in a very sorry position financially. I have here the balance-sheet of the Toowoomba Hospital, and I have been comparing the figures with those for the Brisbane General Hospital. These figures are quite interesting. The subscriptions and donations received by the Toowoomba Hospital last year amounted to £978, as compared with £755 received by the Brisbane General Hospital. In regard to donations from employees, the Toowoomba figures also compare more than favourably with the Brisbane figures. Several hon. members have referred to the donations made by employees in their respective districts. I want to say that in Toowoomba—I have referred to this on previous occasions—we have received donations from the workers in the Railway Department, in the foundries and sawmills, and also from the employees of the general merchants and city retailers. They have all certainly responded well in the matter of contributions towards the upkeep of the Toowoomba Hospital. We can see from these figures that the workers of the State are not opposed to a tax in connection with our hospitals.

I do not think they would object to a tax for one moment; they are paying voluntarily now. They are not doing it in Brisbane, because, in my opinion, not enough energy has been displayed by the Government. If the workers in Toowoomba, Ipswich, or Charters Towers can be asked to make a contribution to their hospitals, why cannot the same request be made to workers in Brisbane? In Toowoomba voluntary contributions from wage-earners amounted to £1,161. Even school collections are represented by £57, and benefits and collections by £2,053. That is very creditable, and, if we can do it in Toowoomba and other cities where they have general hospitals, why can it not be done in Brisbane? It is said that there are other hospitals in Brisbane, but we have two private hospitals in Toowoomba, and just lately we have opened a hospital which I believe will be larger than our General Hospital, and it will be maintained by voluntary effort. Then, again, I find that Brisbane got £7,363 from the "Golden Casket" funds and Toowoomba £3,079.

[Mr. Gledson.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Toowoomba got £9,000.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS: The Minister has later figures than I have. Toowoomba got from paying patients £2,719 and Brisbane £2,400. The payment from infectious cases, which are made by the local authorities, amounted to £2,400 at Brisbane and £633 at Toowoomba. I want to say that it is only a fair thing, if the Brisbane General Hospital is to continue as a nationalised hospital, that the metropolitan area should shoulder these responsibilities.

The hon. member for Rockhampton this afternoon complimented the Government upon what he considered to be some special consideration which he had obtained for persons in his district. If I understood the matter aright, it lies in the discretion of the police. People who require special medical treatment which they cannot get in their own district are entitled to free passes to the Brisbane General Hospital. I think that is the general policy, and, if the hon. member for Rockhampton does not know, it is just as well that he should learn.

I do not know what the intentions of the Government are with reference to the bush nursing and maternity home proposals—whether, for instance, they intend to add maternity wards to the general hospitals or not; but I think they should give some consideration to the Mothers' Hospital in Toowoomba. It is maintained by private subscriptions and by support from this Government, and has an honorary staff. Before going to the expense of putting up buildings at the General Hospital, consideration might be given to the question of whether the scheme could be worked in conjunction with that hospital.

Mr. WELLINGTON (*Charters Towers*): I think that Charters Towers is fortunate in having one of the most up-to-date hospitals in Queensland. They have there an operating theatre which is equal to any in Queensland, and an excellent X-ray plant. The doctor is very popular. People from all parts of North Queensland, and some from Southern Queensland, go to Charters Towers to be operated upon. Dr. O'Neill and the nursing staff have a very fine record. The X-ray plant is necessary and useful in diagnosing miner's phthisis. The poor unfortunates to whom medical men will not grant certificates are compelled to come from Cloncurry and outside districts to undergo an X-ray examination. The general population of Charters Towers, no matter what their political beliefs, regard it as their duty to support the hospital financially, and we have no trouble whatever in that regard. The hospital has a credit balance. People from other places go to that hospital, receive treatment, and perhaps make a donation of £20 for an operation which outside would cost £50. I do not agree with that. I think that Charters Towers should receive some consideration as a base hospital.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. WELLINGTON: The hon. member for Kennedy will bear me out in saying that in Charters Towers we have an ambulance which is quite up to date in regard to its plant. They frequently travel as much as 100 miles over rough country. There was a case of a poor unfortunate woman who had to be taken from Ewan, in the Herbert electorate, to Hillgrove; and a doctor had

to go out from Charters Towers to Hillgrove to attend to her. The matter was brought before the Federal authorities, who agreed to the establishment of a telephone service to Ewan.

Mr. FRY (*Kurilpa*): When I entered this House in 1918 I forecast a set of ideas, in which was included the question of bush nursing. That is linked up with the development of the State. Bush nursing naturally implies that the services are to be rendered to those people who are pioneering and transforming the uncultivated lands into cultivated lands. I advocated that, and it has since met with general approval. I also laid it down that a scheme somewhat similar to that which I propose to put before the Committee on the present occasion should be followed out. I think we should have a base training hospital in Brisbane. Centres such as Townsville, Rockhampton, and Roma should be controlling bases from which the nurses would be moved round in a circuit from what we might term advanced medical posts. These posts would not be big enough to support a medical practitioner; but nursing sisters could be stationed there, and facilities made available to assist those living on the outstations. By this method we would have one big system operating throughout the length and breadth of the State. The nurses would be trained at the same medical base, and before they set out it would be known that they had the necessary qualifications, and were competent to do their work. It is preferable to have one training base, because the instruction imparted to those nurses would then be uniform.

At 7.30 p.m.,

Mr. F. A. COOPER (*Brewer*), one of the panel of temporary chairmen, relieved the Chairman in the chair.

Mr. FRY: A standard would be reached, and the nurses in all parts of the State would have equal training. After they leave the Brisbane training base they would be sent to the various controlling bases, such as Townsville, Rockhampton, and probably Roma, and the medical officer would then arrange

for those nursing sisters to be [7.30 p.m.] supervised and become advanced medical posts. You would have a scheme efficiently staffed and properly controlled to operate throughout the State. Where necessary, fresh advance posts can be established. Medical service would follow as these pioneering posts went forward. The adoption of a scheme like this is vital to the prosperity of the State, because many pioneers who have taken up land have been made to think, first of how they were going to get on in case of sickness or accident. From being associated with the settlement of returned men, I know that the greatest difficulty in getting these men to take up holdings is because of the lack of facilities with respect to medical service being available to their wives and families. I think the scheme I have outlined can form the foundation of a big nursing scheme which will help to develop the State. We want men to go out and take up land, clear it, develop it, and go in for production.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: What does the hon. gentleman's party know about land?

Mr. FRY: The Nationalist party think a good deal and do not "gas" all the time.

Mr. Fry.]

We get down to the basis of the thing. I venture to say that there is not one man in the Nationalist party who does not know as much as, if not more than, the Secretary for Agriculture about land. The scheme I have expounded would enable the system of bush nursing to be carried on. Health matters concern every man, woman, and child, and are matters into which party politics should not enter. It was stated by way of interjection to the hon. member for Murilla that he was dealing with this matter because the Government proposed to introduce a Bill. I fought my election on this question, and after one of my meetings one of the strongest Labour supporters came to me and asked me to explain the scheme to him, which I did, and he said, "I think it is a very good scheme. I wish our party would take it up."

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: Who was he?

Mr. FRY: I do not believe in bringing names into this Chamber. (Government laughter.)

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: The Government scheme will provide for bush mothers first. They are most in need of assistance.

Mr. FRY: My scheme amounts to the same thing—it includes maternity nursing for bush mothers.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: The hon. gentleman's scheme would not extend beyond the city.

Mr. FRY: My scheme provides that nursing sisters will be sent out as advanced medical posts. Does the Minister say that that would not extend beyond the cities? Some day we hope that they will be cities, but that can only be brought about by the encouragement of settlement. This scheme will be a big factor in the development of the State, in the building up of inland cities, and the encouragement of inland industrial centres. It is a big scheme which is part of the Nationalist party's platform. We can never hope to get any recognition from the Government, because everything that is said in this Chamber has the party caste put upon it by the Government or their supporters. Some hon. members have stated that party politics were being introduced, and the Government were being criticised. The Government are the managers and controllers for the time being of the affairs of the State. Opposition members represent the people just as much as Government members do. As the Government are the managers of the State's affairs, are they not open to criticism from all parts of the Chamber? There are many directions in which the health laws can be improved. In the scheme I have outlined there is provision for assistance to the bush mother and for establishment of baby clinics.

Mr. KIRWAN (*Brisbane*): It is not my intention to contribute at any length to the discussion of this vote. It has been fully and freely discussed by hon. members on both sides. Reference has been made to the condition of the Brisbane General Hospital, and a suggestion has been made that it is time that the Government made some definite attempt to bring in some Bill for the special purpose of dealing with the support of the hospitals. The question of dealing with hospitals and providing sufficient finance is not only a question for the big city of Brisbane or the State of Queensland. One of the aftermaths of the great war which was

brought home, particularly to the ladies and gentlemen connected with our various hospitals, was the large increase in expenses generally, due largely to the war, the high price of drugs, and, in addition, the extra cost due to the better conditions and increased salaries that have been granted to our nurses. I do not think any member of any hospital committee, or any member of this Committee, or any taxpayer of the State, no matter how humble his position may be, will have any objection to the best possible conditions being provided for our nurses; and we as a community owe a debt of gratitude to the nursing sisterhood of this State and of the world generally, and no conditions that we can give will be too good for that band of angels—they are nothing short of it—who devote their lives to nursing the sick, and who must have practically an inexhaustible supply of patience and kindness in order to carry out their noble mission. No member of this Chamber, I am sure, will begrudge the conditions which the nurses may get in this State or in any other State.

I would like to call attention to the condition of hospitals so far as Victoria is concerned. I make particular reference to that in reply to the statements made by the hon. member for Warwick, who proceeded to moralise when he rose to address this Committee, and said that the Government of this State were reaping the aftermath of the teaching of certain principles which he alleged this party were associated with. That is to say, that, as a result of the spread of Labour principles, the people of Brisbane were not supporting their hospitals—in other words, that the well-springs of charity were drying up. What is the position so far as Victoria is concerned, where they have a good Nationalist Government in power, and where the Labour party have never had the opportunity of taking the reins of power except for twenty-four hours on one occasion? I find in the Melbourne "Age" an article headed—

"Overcrowded hospitals.

"Sufferers turned away to die.

"Problem of providing accommodation."

That is the position in Victoria, and the Victorian Government were faced with appeals from hospitals throughout that State to find additional revenue in order to deal with the question of providing additional accommodation. The Melbourne "Age," in dealing with the matter, stated that on the corner of every veranda and in every ward where additional beds could be put up beds were so put up, and in some instances as many as 400 patients were waiting for admission. This is what the Melbourne "Age" said—

"At the Melbourne Hospital the normal number of beds is 320—which is only equal to the daily average of in-patients ten years ago. By putting extra beds in some of the wards—wards designed to hold fourteen now accommodate as many as twenty-one—the capacity of the hospital has been increased to 350, and even then the authorities declare that ten serious cases are refused admission every day, whilst there is a 'waiting' list numbering 400. At St. Vincent's from fifteen to twenty persons are turned away every day, and the hospital has now 139 in-patients, although it was designed for

[Mr. Fry.

only 100. The 'waiting' list totals about 300. The women's hospital should have 201 patients, but it has many more, and several urgent cases are refused admission daily. The Alfred Hospital has a 'waiting' list of 400 adults and sixty children, and numerous refusals are a daily occurrence."

That is in a State where they have not had the alleged effects of six years of Labour Government. It is in a State where everything is supposed to be prosperous, and where you have a good Nationalist Government in power. What happened? As a student of the daily Press, you will possibly recollect, Mr. Cooper, reading about an all-night sitting that took place in the Victorian Assembly about four or five days before the last Melbourne Cup was run. What for? To pass through the House an amendment of the Act to provide from gambling another £80,000 so that the Treasurer of Victoria would be able to deal with the urgent and insistent requests that were coming from all quarters—from members of the House on both sides—in regard to additional hospital accommodation. The good Nationalists in Victoria had no objection to raise £80,000 from gambling to provide for their hospitals, yet we have hon. members opposite holding up their hands in holy horror because the hospitals of this State are financed from the "Golden Casket." I quite agree with the hon. member for Bowen when he said, "Let us have less of this cant and humbug." If it is right to finance the hospitals in Victoria from the proceeds of gambling, then it is right to do it here, and I hope we shall hear less about what this Government are doing in Queensland in this respect.

Reference has been made to the necessity of initiating a bush nursing scheme and of providing maternity wards in connection with our various hospitals. I agree with the attitude taken up on this very important question by hon. members on both sides of the Chamber. We all realise the necessity of dealing with this question; and, while I agree with the hon. member for Murilla that he is entitled to advocate the needs and requirements of the women who are doing pioneering work throughout the distant West and far North, and that these women should have everything, so far as it is possible to provide it, in the shape of proper accommodation when they are performing the noble duty of motherhood, we know that there are fewer deaths in the broad areas of the West and on the mining fields of North Queensland in connection with women performing that duty than there are here in the city, with all their lying-in homes and with their specially trained doctors and highly efficient nursing staffs. Anybody who has a knowledge of the conditions in the bush, as I have, knows perfectly well that what I say is correct, and that the vast majority of mothers have no other attendant at that critical period of their lives than some kindly neighbour who comes along and looks after their welfare, and everything goes well with them, possibly due to the fact that they live nearer to nature than the city mothers, and to the conditions that surround them with plenty of sunshine and fresh air, and also to the fact that they have plenty of exercise in attending to their little families and the requirements of their husbands, and in many instances, so far as selections and farms are

concerned, they do a good deal of the work in connection with the farm. So far as the bush nursing scheme is concerned, this Government or any other Government should be prepared to do everything that is possible to assist those women who go out into the distant parts and to guarantee to them in that important period of their lives that everything in reason will be provided for them. I want to conclude my remarks by pointing out that this is not the only Government who derive money from gambling for the purpose of financing the hospitals. I find that in New South Wales recently there was an attack on the Government in connection with gambling—what Lord Macaulay, one of the greatest writers of his time, referred to as a spasmodic attack on morality. The Attorney-General of that State is bringing in a Bill to suppress lotteries, and stop advertisements in the Sydney Press giving the results of the "Golden Casket," and, when he has done that, he will probably qualify for a halo in another place. As the hon. member for Toowoomba remarks, he will get a halo as big as a cart wheel, and, if he does, somebody will be kept very busy polishing it up now and again. In New South Wales the revenue produced from gambling amounts to £501,095, made up as follows:—Racing clubs and association, £67,122; bookmakers, £41,941; totalisator tax, £274,215; racecourse admission tax, £117,819.

This is the Government who are horrified at reading an advertisement before their breakfast about the results of the "Golden Casket!"

Mr. G. P. BARNES interjected.

Mr. KIRWAN: I think the hon. member would keenly appreciate the emotion which was displayed by Mr. Bavin the other night when he brought in the Bill to wipe out any reference in the public Press to either "Tattersall" or the "Golden Casket."

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Even publishing the results.

Mr. KIRWAN: I trust that on this vote, as well as on the educational vote, hon. members will be prepared to discuss matters without the introduction of party feeling. I am certain that the Home Secretary—who I hope will be able to resume his Ministerial duties at an early date—will have to his credit the launching of the bush nursing scheme. If it is launched during the term of the present Home Secretary, that gentleman will want no other memorial erected to him when he passes out of this life. He will have established throughout the length and breadth of the State—by the erection of the maternity wards and by the extension of the bush nursing scheme—something which will confer a great benefit on humanity, and which will enable the women in the outside portions of this great State to have guaranteed to them on such important occasions all that medical skill and careful nursing can supply, in order that they may provide for the best immigrant of all—the Queensland-born. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. POLLOCK (*Gregory*): I agree with the remarks of the hon. member for Brisbane on the question of bush nursing. I desire to thank the Home Secretary for the good work he has already done in this regard. The bush nursing scheme has been launched, and the Boulia Hospital committee have received a guarantee from the Home Secretary that, if they undertake the construction

Mr. Pollock.]

of a women's maternity ward, the Government will defray the cost. That, of course, is not the only place which requires a ward of this kind; but I think that my electorate is more urgently in need of accommodation of this kind than that of any other hon. member, because of the vast distance of the various settlements from the main centres of population. In this connection I might mention that the Presbyterian Church has already decided to establish a hospital at Birdsville under the auspices of the Australian Inland Mission. These people are already doing good work right from Herzog Springs up to the Marranboy tinfield in the Northern Territory and across into Western Australia. It stands to the credit of most of the nurses in city centres that they are able to get good nurses to go out to these places and stay for a couple of years. We find that a percentage of the girls who go out to these places under this scheme are not there very long before they get husbands, and, naturally, one does not blame them for that. (Laughter.) The type of nurses who have been sent out so far has been exceptionally good. If this scheme is extended to Birdsville and later on to Urandangie, about 260 miles from Cloncurry, I believe much good will result. A big phase of this question is that £600 was subscribed by the people of Birdsville, and the Australian Inland Mission—which is practically a Presbyterian Church mission—has decided that they will accept the £600, but they do not care to accept "Golden Casket" money to subsidise this hospital when it is erected. Perhaps, as a member of that church, I may be permitted, without any slur being cast at me, to criticise my own people. I must say that a proportion of the £600 which was raised and given to the church in the first place was raised by race meetings, and other gambling devices; but, although they do not mind accepting that money, they are apparently drawing the line at taking "Golden Casket" money. That difficulty seems to have been overcome, as the Home Secretary will give them a grant each year out of the consolidated revenue to enable them to carry on, because the Minister recognises that it is primarily the duty of the Government to provide hospitals; and, if other people are willing to take on that work, the Government realises that they ought to help them as far as possible. These hospitals may later on be handed over to the Government or to the people in the various centres, provided they will reimburse the Australian Inland Mission for the money expended for them. In many parts of Western Queensland maternity wards are urgently needed. The people there do not seem to hold the same "wowserristic" views as the people in the cities.

At 7.55 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Kirwan, *Brisbane*) resumed the chair.

Mr. POLLOCK: To the women in West and North Queensland it does not matter much how the money comes by which they can get these conveniences. The majority of them find that it is a very difficult time when a child is coming along, and, unless they can get some sort of accommodation, they have, perhaps, to travel 500 or 600 miles to the nearest railway station, and then 300 or 400 miles in the train, before they can get to where there is a good doctor

[*Mr. Pollock.*

who is able to look after them. These women do not mind where the money comes from, or what gamble is responsible for the raising of it, so long as they can get the necessary conveniences. Birdsville has, so far, no hospital. Any woman in that district, or elsewhere in the South-western corner of Queensland, who has to be confined has to go into the nearest hospital, which is at Jundah, 260 miles away. There are very few motor-cars which can travel that road, which practically consists wholly of sandhills, and after travelling that distance there is not very much accommodation to be got. So far, there is not a maternity ward at Jundah, although I am hoping that early in the coming year a maternity ward will be established there. From Jundah to Longreach, the nearest railway station, it is another 210 miles. These women have to go these distances, when, with this "Golden Casket" money, a decent maternity ward could easily be established in their own district. The Home Secretary is to be commended for his action in inaugurating such a scheme. There are many other centres in those remote districts. Boulia is 240 miles away from Winton, and 90 miles from the terminus of the Northern Railway line at Selwyn. The women in that district have to go to the railway line, and

[3 p.m.] then go right into town before they can secure the services of a doctor or a nurse. In my electorate I have Middleton, 110 miles from Winton; Urandangie, 200 miles from Cloncurry; Kynuna, 119 miles from Winton; Birdsville, 500 miles from Longreach; and Bedourie, 140 miles from Boulia. If we could only secure a maternity ward in those places, with a fully qualified nurse in charge, it would be a great boon to the people in those centres. In my opinion, the Government will have to consider a scheme sooner or later of enabling a doctor to visit the far western places by aeroplane. The Australian Inland Mission have already discussed this question of having what they term a "flying doctor" to visit these distant places. There are at least six or seven towns in my electorate which could be served by a doctor by means of an aeroplane, and perhaps a pilot. The scheme is worth considering. Mr. Kirwan, I had the opportunity of listening to the excellent speech delivered by you to-night. I do not want to make you blush, but I really think it was a fine effort on your part. (Hear, hear!) I am sure it will bear fruit. In addition to having a maternity ward in Boulia, where it has already been sanctioned, I hope there will be another ward in Jundah, and, if possible, one in Birdsville, and one in Bedourie. It will be money well spent, and I am sure that no city resident will object to money spent in that direction.

Mr. BRENNAN (*Toowoomba*): As I am interested in hospital matters in Toowoomba, I am pleased to take part in the discussion on these Estimates. I may say that Toowoomba has one of the most up-to-date hospitals in Australia, and I suppose that St. Vincent's Hospital can be looked on as one of the finest hospitals in the world. I received a letter from San Francisco, from a gentleman who asked me to give him full particulars of the latest designs of St. Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba. I am sure that there is no hospital like it outside Toowoomba. With regard to the Brisbane General Hospital, I think that what is

wanted is something in connection with the internal management. We cannot get anywhere in connection with a hospital if we rely solely on the doctors and matrons, because they have no practical experience in the administration of outside affairs. We want all our hospitals run by committees like that which runs the Toowoomba hospital, and on which the industrial side is represented. On the Toowoomba hospital committee we have practical men. The previous committee at Toowoomba consisted of a body of men who certainly were actuated by the best of intentions, but they knew nothing whatever about hospital work. All they were concerned about was getting a report from the doctor and a report from the matron. They made it a sort of social club, and, as soon as they passed the accounts for payment and inquired about each other's welfare, the meeting would be adjourned. To-day you will find that the Toowoomba hospital is run by a committee of practical men, including men who are engineers and who have a knowledge of the construction of buildings, and so they supervise these things, and know exactly what is required. The result is that the Toowoomba hospital is on a better footing to-day than ever it has been in the history of Toowoomba. That is all owing to the fact that they have practical men on the committee. They are all energetic men, and they all do good work in connection with the administration of the institution. That is what we want in connection with the Brisbane General Hospital. We want a committee of practical men to look after the internal administration.

Mr. ELPHINSTONE: That is what this Government want.

Mr. BRENNAN: If we have industrial men on the committee, they will know what is required in connection with building construction and that sort of thing. We want a change in the present administration so far as the Brisbane General Hospital is concerned.

In regard to drugs, I think the Government should establish some central depot and purchase drugs wholesale for the use of all the hospitals in Queensland. The wholesale druggists can charge their own prices for drugs. It is no use saying that they do not make a huge profit on their turnover. The Government can easily appoint some practical men to purchase all the drugs required for Queensland hospitals, and by that means save the hospitals many thousands of pounds annually. It is the purchase of drugs and lint and that sort of thing that is responsible for expenditure in connection with hospitals. I might draw attention to a fifteen-page report which has just been issued by the Toowoomba Hospital committee. That report can be seen in the Home Secretary's office to-day. I have no hesitation in saying that that report should be reprinted and sent out to every hospital in Queensland. It took us two months to draw up that report, and we employed the best experts we could get to do it. It gives a lot of information about hospital administration, particularly regarding the checking of material and that sort of thing. There is a great deal of waste in connection with the purchase of blankets, sheets, linen, and drugs. The nurses sometimes become indifferent. They are only human after all, and they waste a good deal of material belonging to the hospital. We have a septic tank at the Toowoomba Hospital, and we found towels down the sewer

and that kind of thing. If there is a proper check kept on all these things, and no new material supplied until the old articles are returned to show that they are unfit for further use, a lot of money could be saved by the various hospitals. We will not have any saving in connection with the Brisbane General Hospital until they adopt these methods. It is the little things that matter in connection with hospitals, and they all mount up in the course of a year. I quite approve of the Government proposal in connection with the bush nursing scheme. We have been promised a baby clinic in Toowoomba, and I think that in a city of that size we should have two baby clinics. Toowoomba has a population of 26,000, and it is time more consideration was given to it. We have a lot of useful homes and institutions in Toowoomba. We have the Mothers' Hospital, which is one of the finest institutions of its kind in Queensland. I hope that the Minister will be able to see his way to establish a baby clinic in Toowoomba. I hope the Government will see that a committee is appointed to look after the Brisbane General Hospital, and they will find that it is a step in the right direction. We have another fine institution in Brisbane in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, and we are going to have St. Martin's Hospital. These institutions are doing good work and should be encouraged in every possible way. It does not matter under what banner hospitals are conducted, they are always doing good humanitarian work, and should be encouraged. In Toowoomba we do not get the support for the hospital from the people who should support it. These people say that they never use the hospital and they should not be asked to support it. They say, "Why should we give money to a hospital which is run by the present committee?" Some of the wealthy people in Toowoomba are quite reasonable and will subscribe, so we cannot include all the wealthy in the same category. The majority of them contribute to the hospital, but we have wealthy people in Toowoomba who will not give anything at all to the hospital. We have a lot of young ladies in Toowoomba whom I might call the snobs of society who refuse to take round the hospital collection-boxes because there are certain Labour representatives on the committee and it is not now run as a social club. They will not contribute because the old committee was disbanded by compulsion. They should not take up that attitude. They should recognise that they have got their wealth, and are able to take things easy because their employees were ground down by hard work. The wealthy people get their profits out of the work of the industrialists. That is what enables them to create wealth and live in comfort. Their capital increases, not by their energy or physical power, but by the energy of the men who do the hard work. These people should be grateful to the working classes for putting them in a position in which they are able to live in ease and comfort. They should subscribe something for the benefit of the unfortunate people who are in the hospital from time to time. We know that it is the industrial class who contribute most of the inmates of the hospitals. In Toowoomba the wage-earners have to maintain themselves in the hospital. The employees contribute very well to the funds of the Toowoomba Hospital, but I do not think that the workers should be asked to pay anything at all towards the upkeep of the hospital.

Mr. Brennan.]

It is a pity to ask any worker to subscribe, because he has to pay a high fee for his maintenance when in the hospital.

I think it is time something was done to enable any person receiving less than a certain income to get free treatment at a hospital. We know, also, what has been done by the doctors in Toowoomba. We have in Toowoomba, I suppose, some of the finest doctors in Australia, and we have a nursing staff who have been proved to be most efficient. I think that the committee made a great mistake in retaining four years as the period of training for a nurse. I worked hard to get a period of three years and three months—three years with a holiday of one month in each year. Why should a nurse in the first six months of her training be doing menial work, such as scrubbing? The wardsmen can do that. Girls generally go to nursing at a most important age—between eighteen and twenty-one—and they should not be asked to do hard work of that nature. That is the reason why many girls break down in the early days of their nursing. If a girl has any aptitude for nursing, she will show it quickly, but if she has no aptitude she will stay there all her life and never be a nurse. I hope that the hospital committee will see their way to revert to the term of three years, because the hospital is well equipped and well staffed, and one of the most up to date in Queensland.

In Toowoomba, something like £5,000 has been raised for building a soldiers' memorial hall. It is a great pity that that money is going to be spent on another hall for Toowoomba, because there will be a great rush on the opening day, and a fortnight or a month afterwards it will be a "white elephant." We have already sufficient halls in Toowoomba for entertainments and meetings, and in the majority of cases the soldiers themselves do not want it. It would be better to put the money into the hospital and give the soldiers and their wives and children free treatment for all time. A ward for maternity cases could probably be erected. In any case, we have a decent memorial of the brave boys who went to the war and did not return.

I hope the matters I have referred to will all receive attention, because I am sure that the result would be for the benefit of the Brisbane General Hospital as well as of the country hospitals.

Mr. F. A. COOPER (*Bremner*): It is astonishing to note what a remarkable change has come about in the opinions of some people with reference to the policy of controlling hospitals. We hear commonly advocated opinions which some little time ago would have been regarded as nothing more nor less than pure Bolshevism. In this connection I would like to quote the opinion of the Sydney "Bulletin," which is not an organ which generally supports the policy of the Labour party. In the issue of 3rd August it says—

"There are many signs and symptoms that that strange anomaly, the general hospital, is doomed in its existing form. It never possessed any justification from the standpoint which matters most—the nation's physical well-being. What influences, then, have brought about the perpetuation of this system, which causes all the public hospitals in every State but one (Queensland) to be chronically bankrupt?"

[*Mr. Brennan.*

That is most significant from a leading organ such as the "Bulletin." It shows that something is wrong with the system whereby these hospitals are supported, and that the method of maintaining hospitals generally is out of date. The idea of doing something for a hospital, not because it is a hospital or because a hospital happens to do good, but because there is some social distinction in doing it—is something with which we are all acquainted, and it is time a stand was taken against that form of charity, which is no charity at all. Let me here quote further from the same article—

"Public hospitals are peculiarly suited to act as excuses for magnificent balls, pageants, matinees, and the like. They are perennially what the disabled fighting man was till soldiering went out of fashion. The matron who organises a big dinner-dance for a hospital feels the aura of the 'Lady of the Lamp' hovering over her tiara as the jazz band strikes up; her daughter, who sells sweets in the stalls of a big theatre in a similar cause, whilst some of the family's friends perform on the stage and the rest applaud from the auditorium, realises that she is behaving very like a sister of mercy."

One cannot fail to realise that such things take up a tremendous amount of energy and a tremendous amount of time in raising very little money. The public institutions for which the money is raised get very little out of it, but the people who do the raising get a tremendous amount of publicity. We have not to go very far in the same article to find the following striking sentence:—

"People got O.B.E.'s during the war for spending less energy in the interests of those rather disappointing creatures, the diggers; but, anyhow, they got no better opportunities to flirt, dress up, dance, and have a good time generally in the holy names of patriotism and pity."

I think it is time that we resolutely set our faces towards the goal of State control of all hospitals. In times gone by the opportunity did not present itself in the way in which it might have presented itself, but now many obstacles are out of the way, and we should aim at having all our public institutions owned and controlled wholly by the State. The time has gone by when the Sydney "Daily Mail" should be able to point out that philanthropists spent £2,948 to raise £3,902 for hospitals. When asked to explain where all that money went, of course, they could not say. The great bulk of it was raised by public subscriptions. The philanthropists had the joy and the "jazz," and the patients in the hospitals got what little was left. I sincerely trust that the result of this debate will be in the direction of making the hospitals of Queensland State-owned, nationalised institutions.

Mr. BRAND (*Burrum*): I think that the quotations which have been read by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat are beside the point. Naturally, I am pleased to see that Queensland is giving such a large amount for charity, but at the same time I think that in discussing this matter we should not boast about what we may do in charity. I always think that contributions to charity should be hallowed by silence. Charity in Queensland should not be used to try to get political capital out of it. I would like to offer a few observations on the

vote, more particularly as the Minister who is acting for the Home Secretary may have charge of the department for some time. Most of us who have been connected with hospital committees know that there is quite a large number of people who cannot pay the hospital charges. Generally, they are people who are receiving small incomes, more particularly the workers and small farmers. When those people have to send their loved ones into the hospitals and cannot afford to pay the charges the Government should lend them assistance if it is shown that they are prepared to help themselves. The Isis District Hospital recently had an application from the friendly societies of that district, asking if they were prepared to treat their members free of charge, should it become necessary for them to enter the hospital, if they made a levy of so much per week and placed it to the credit of the funds of the hospital. I quite recognise that the department is not in a position to grant that request, although I think the Minister might give his sanction to the hospital entering into an undertaking with the friendly societies, whereby the hospital would get a subsidy of £2 for every £1 raised in the direction I have mentioned. Generally speaking, members of friendly societies are poor men, because it is impossible for anyone who is earning a fair salary to become a member of a friendly society and receive medical attention free of charge. I think that the department will be doing a good service to the country hospitals if they grant this request, and I think it is only right that they should. After all, our hospitals in Queensland are two-thirds nationalised, in that they receive £2 for every £1 which is subscribed during the year. I would also like to urge that the hospitals in Maryborough and Bundaberg should be regarded as base hospitals. Although they are not in my electorate, a large number of my constituents have to go into those hospitals in times of sickness. Both Bundaberg and Maryborough are towns in which large numbers of men from other districts in Queensland and other parts of Australia congregate during certain months of the year, and if the hospital in any town in Queensland should receive a grant as a base hospital it should be the hospitals in such towns as those. Outside Brisbane there are only two towns in Queensland which are regarded as base hospital centres and receive a grant—Townsville and Rockhampton. If Rockhampton is entitled to a grant of £1,000, Bundaberg and Maryborough are each entitled to £500.

Mention has been made of the "Golden Casket" funds. The Government have been condemned by certain members for running the "Golden Casket." I believe that, if the money which is being spent by the people in the purchase of "Golden Casket" tickets were not so invested, it would be used in purchasing tickets in "Tattersall's," and the moneys thus invested would be retained in Tasmania. I may be wrong, but that is my opinion.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: It is a correct opinion.

MR. BRAND: If we can retain that money in Queensland for the benefit of our hospitals, I consider that we should do so. My district will accept whatever contribution may be given from the "Golden Casket" on every occasion. I trust that the hospital grant will be used in the best interests of suffering humanity.

MR. WEIR (Maryborough): I may look at the "Golden Casket" from a peculiar angle. I am not very much married to "Golden Caskets"; neither am I married to speculations in wheat and other such speculations. Still, I realise the good work which the "Caskets" are doing; they have saved the hospitals throughout Queensland from being in a very precarious financial position. But I also hope that the goal of the Labour movement will some day be realised. By the Labour platform we are given a definite duty to perform, and that is to nationalise these institutions. Our platform is very definite on that proposition. This is its wording—

"Nationalisation of hospitals and ambulances, medical, chemical, dental, optical, and nursing professions."

I mention that because the hon. member for Kurilpa outlined that wonderful scheme under which a mother out in the far south-west would be given the security she is entitled to because there was a nursing home in Charters Towers. Imagine a man trying to tell bush mothers, "You are all right in producing your little Australian; there is a nurse in Charters Towers"! He might as well tell a woman in Wallangarra that she could feel quite secure because there was a nurse at Thursday Island. I would not like the women of this State to rely for their security on a scheme which begins at Roma and ends at Charters Towers.

MR. G. P. BARNES: The hon. member for Kurilpa suggested that the nurses should be trained here and sent out.

MR. WEIR: Quite so—to Roma, and those places in the West. The hon. member for Gregory has told us about places which we probably would not hear of were it not for the fact that a Labour member is interested in the women folk in that district—places such as Boulia and Birdsville. The hon. member for Kurilpa gets up and says, "I will give you a scheme." The Labour party have been giving you a scheme for thirty-five years—to nationalise these institutions. People in the outposts know that, when Labour tackles the question of what is right and just for the Australian "kiddie," they have something better in their mind than schemes. I do not wish to see these institutions depending on the support they obtain from "Liberty Fairs," "Golden Caskets," or anything of the kind. I appreciate the good work that they have done. But we must get past that and realise the fact that these institutions are nothing more or less than repair shops for industry. When you break down a locomotive you send it into a repair shop, and the State repairs it. When you break down engines at sea you send them to the dock and the State repairs them. When you break your industrial worker you send your women out into the street to beg whatever anybody will give you to enable you to repair him. Go to the Lady Bowen Hospital; go any day in the week into the city, and you will find representatives of some institution or other in the street seeking financial aid who ought to be inside following their profession. We are draining our women folk of the last drop of blood in their veins, begging in the streets for money to enable them to keep others alive. The hon. member for Windsor told us the other night that he had ideas regarding the management of these institutions. If he has in his brain anything that is at all worth

developing, his duty as a citizen of this State is to report himself to the Children's Hospital committee, so that they can see what he can do for them. I have an idea that they want all the brains that he can give them. If he can do anything along those lines, he should not talk about it in this Chamber, but should go along and do some good for those people who want his assistance. I see further than the "Golden Casket," yet I appreciate what that fund is doing. I trust that before long the institutions will be nationalised, and that the people will have to pay for their hospitals by a tax on unimproved land values.

Mr. BARBER (*Bundaberg*): On every occasion this vote is being discussed a great deal of time is always taken up in discussing the position of the Brisbane General Hospital. I recognise that that hospital, in common with other hospitals in this big State, warrants the sympathetic assistance of every resident of the community. The people in the outside areas, who really comprise only a handful of the population in comparison with the city population, contribute a much

larger amount of money in proportion to their population than is contributed by the people of Brisbane. In Bundaberg, which is the centre of a large sugar area, there are three hospitals—the General Hospital, the Lady Chelmsford Lying-in Hospital, and the Ambulance Brigade. I am egotistical enough to believe that there are few centres in Queensland in which the people come to the assistance of the hospitals better than they do in Bundaberg. The Bundaberg Hospital last year showed a considerable credit balance. I do not say that they do not want further sums of "Golden Casket" money. The Bundaberg hospitals require their share of that money. Last year the amount granted was £995 10s. 11d.—I do not know why the other penny was not forthcoming. I will probably put in a claim for it later on. The Bundaberg people have very large projects later on in connection with the General Hospital. Hon. members who have visited the Bundaberg Hospital must candidly admit that it is one of the most up-to-date institutions of the kind in Queensland to-day, and the staff is one of the best. The leader of the Opposition this year delivered his perennial oration on this vote. He said that the Brisbane people should do something to help the hospitals. I have not heard of one concrete or one "asphalt" idea from the hon. member in the way of bettering the institutions.

Mr. VOWLES: They should do the same as is done in my district.

Mr. BARBER: I do not know that the hon. member's electorate is any more successful in providing funds than we are in Bundaberg.

Mr. VOWLES: We have spent £12,000 in improvements during the last five years.

Mr. BARBER: We have spent more than that. The Bundaberg Hospital cost at least £15,000 some years ago, and practically the whole of that money was collected in a short time from the Bundaberg community. In the Lady Chelmsford Lying-in Hospital an average of about twenty-nine young Queenslanders per month see the light of day. Most of the work at that hospital is carried out by the committee of ladies. I only wish that other public institu-

tions had a committee as good. Many of the Australian Workers' Union workers in Bundaberg have subscribed a certain percentage from their wages per week, which is paid into a fund. I presume that is a common thing in most parts of the State. It is shown quite clearly that Queensland is not the only State that is to some extent dependent upon the gambling instincts of the community to raise funds to keep their institutions going. The question of financing the institutions in Victoria has been a serious one for many years. Before I came from Victoria to this State, thirty years ago, it was always a serious matter. It was reported in the Press that the Treasurer of one of the Melbourne hospitals pointed out that they were £70,000 to £80,000 short of what was actually required, and they had not got the money.

Mr. MORGAN: The hospitals in Victoria are not subsidised like they are in Queensland.

Mr. BARBER: I know what is done in Victoria. Another hospital was £14,000 short. A considerable amount of criticism has been launched against the methods adopted for raising funds to help our hospitals, but no hon. member opposite has suggested or formulated a superior scheme, and I am quite prepared to support the "Golden Casket" method of raising funds for that particular purpose. Hon. members opposite have bombarded the "Golden Casket," but in their inner conscience they know that, if it was not for the work carried out by the "Golden Casket" Committee to raise funds for the hospitals, they would be stranded very often. The number of patients in the Bundaberg General Hospital last year was 1,764, of whom 1,194 represented indoor patients and 570 outdoor patients.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS: What is the average number of patients in the Bundaberg Hospital?

Mr. BARBER: I have not got the figures just now. There certainly was an increase on the previous year. As the community grows and the population increases, unless something extraordinary happens, the number of indoor patients will increase every year. There are people who come 100 miles or more to enter our Bundaberg hospitals. The Bundaberg General Hospital, the Lady Chelmsford Lying-in Hospital, and the Ambulance Brigade all solicit assistance from organisations and sporting bodies in Bundaberg, and the assistance received from those bodies helped materially last year. There are some of the organisations from which assistance has been received—the Bundaberg Racing Club—we are even prepared to accept money from a race club—Bingera plantation, the Bundaberg Football League, and various dances and balls held in connection with the hospital. Then they run two or three what is known as "Paddy's Markets," from which they received £432, and the collections by the Australian Workers' Union amounted to £135. Then the various shows have run benefits and have given 50 per cent. of the gross takings towards the hospitals. Although we may differ on many matters here, it can be truthfully said that all Governments have always been prepared to assist the hospitals to the greatest extent possible. I do not know that I have ever heard of any opposition being shown towards the various sums placed on the Estimates for the hospitals.

[Mr. Weir.

I am pleased to know that a scheme will be put before the House shortly for the erection of maternity wards, particularly in the outside districts, and I have contended that these wards should have been arranged for long ago. There is no doubt that they will be a great boon to the women folk outside. The scheme, I am sure, is one that every member of the Committee will appreciate and support.

Mr. COLLINS (*Bowen*): I endorse the remarks made by the hon. member for Maryborough. The plank of our platform reads—

“Nationalisation of hospitals and ambulances, medical, chemical, dental, optical, and nursing professions and allied services, and charitable institutions.”

I am satisfied that, if the Government remain in power, they will have to evolve a system of financing our hospitals different to that which obtains to-day. The hon. member for Toowoong pointed out that, so far as his experience went in connection with charitable institutions, it was generally the same people who contributed time after time. That goes to prove that you are appealing all the time to the charitably-inclined person, but you are not getting at the person who is not charitably inclined. I have two hospitals in my electorate in full swing—one at Bowen and one at Proserpine—and quite recently the people of Home Hill raised nearly £1,500 for a new hospital. I am one of those who believe that this party must endeavour to carry out the plank of their platform in connection with the nationalisation of hospitals.

Mr. MORGAN: You are a long time about it.

Mr. COLLINS: We can only go one step at a time. If the hon. member will look at this little book which I hold in my hand, giving a list of the Queensland Labour party's planks which have been made into law during the last seven years, he will be astonished to find the number of planks which have been placed on the statute-book by this party. Hon. members opposite complain about the hospitals receiving support from the “Golden Casket.” I say we, as a Government and as a party, will have to evolve a better system of financing our hospitals. They are two-thirds nationalised at the present time. The State contributes £2 for every £1 contributed voluntarily by the people, and we shall have to find the other £1 later on. It should be done by a tax on land values or a hospital tax. That is the proper method; and, if hon. members do not favour that, I would favour a special hospital tax on incomes over £1,500 a year, because I quite agree with the hon. member for Maryborough that, as a rule, it is the industrial soldier—who is more important than the military soldier—who suffers. The industrial soldier works in the different industries, and he has made the State what it is to-day. He generally gets hurt through overwork in most cases, and not through the underwork which hon. members opposite talk so much about. When they get injured they have to go to our hospitals, and in many cases they are compelled to go to the hospitals owing to their poverty. Of course, it is not the well-to-do who go to the hospitals—they do not require hospitals. The well-to-do man to-day under present conditions can often be kept alive, while the

man who has not got wealth cannot call in specialists, who in some cases cost £40 or £50. He can perish or go over the border to “Kingdom Come.” We know that at times these specialists have pumped oxygen into some of the well-to-do in order to keep them alive, while the workers, who are of far more importance, are not treated as they should be. They do not all go to the hospitals. Many of them are not in a position to go to the hospitals. We can only go one step at a time. We have taken many steps, and the next step that we shall have to take, if we remain in power, is to go on with our platform providing for the nationalisation of hospitals. Why be influenced by what may appear in the daily Press in Brisbane or in other parts of the State? Go straight on with our platform, and if it is right to put on a tax on land values to support our hospitals we should do it. I do not mind what criticism we may receive. We have had to stand all sorts of abuse about confiscation and repudiation. Personally, I do not care what they say about us so long as we carry out what we were sent to Parliament to carry out. I am one of those who came to this Parliament in 1915 to make history. I have assisted to make history, and if I remain here much longer, I will help to make more history. If we continue to be a fighting force, whether it is in connection with the nationalisation of our hospitals or in connection with any other big question, the people will stand solidly behind us. To stand still means death to this party. We cannot afford to stand still. So long as we do the right thing so far as our platform is concerned, the votes will follow.

Mr. BRAND: Why don't you tell that to the Premier?

Mr. COLLINS: I am not afraid of the Premier, and I am not afraid of you either. I court no man's favour and I fear no man's frown. I endeavour always to do the right thing. As I said last night, I am a good soldier. I have been disciplined in the Labour movement, and I am not going to help destroy the only progressive force in this State—to see, may be, the most reactionary force the world has ever seen placed on these Treasury benches by hon. members opposite. If they got upon these benches they would be the most reactionary force which has ever been in occupation of any Treasury bench in the Commonwealth. It is the duty of the people to look after the sick and wounded, and those who are maimed in the carrying on of industry. I want it to be clearly understood what the Labour movement stands for. We shall see the ideas in this platform carried out just the same as we brought about the abolition of the Legislative Council, and I hope to live to see the day when the hospitals will be nationalised.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): I do not propose to follow all the arguments advanced by speakers on both sides of the Chamber. The criticism, in the main, has not been hostile. The only criticism levelled against the Government on this vote is with regard to the distribution of the “Golden Casket” funds, with which I will deal before I sit down.

I want to make reference to the baby clinics provided for in this vote. It may interest hon. members to know that the total attendances at the baby clinics in the year 1918 was 13,114; in 1919 it was 31,238; in

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1920 it was 41,528; and in 1921 it was 42,012. Hon. members will note the marked increase in the attendances. Of course, as hon. members understand, the medical attendance is honorary, and the State owes a debt of gratitude to some of the members of the medical profession. This achievement has been gained by the small expenditure last year of about £1,000. It shows what a great opportunity there is for expansion in this direction; but it must be remembered that our Government were the first to venture out on schemes to assist the sick and needy in an extensive way. Reference has also been made to the proposed legislation for the establishment of maternity wards. I agree with hon. members who have made reference to the present Home Secretary and said that this scheme is rightly his. He has launched the scheme which is now being crystallised into legislation, and, unless the hon. gentleman is well enough, I shall have the privilege of introducing that legislation on his behalf. While I am not here to set out the policy of the Government in detail in this direction, as reference has been made to this scheme of the Home Secretary, I want to say that in my opinion and in the opinion of the Government, first consideration should be shown to the mothers in the West. We should start in outlying places to give the women in the North and West these facilities in such a trying time.

Mr. MORGAN: Hear, hear! That is where it should start.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Reference has also been made to the ambulance brigade subsidy, which I am well aware is not as great as the subsidy to the hospitals. I agree with the hon. member who has just resumed his seat that the Government to-day carry a greater obligation for the maintenance and upkeep of our hospitals. We pay a subsidy of £2 for £1 to the hospitals, while the subsidy to the ambulance brigades is only £1 for £1. I do not know that there has been any great agitation for an increase in the subsidy to ambulance brigades. I recently visited the Baralaba State Coalmine, and I think that the workers who helped to develop our natural resources inland deserve some consideration. If the "Golden Casket" funds increase, and we have more money for hospital purposes, I would not be averse to giving some consideration to ambulance brigades to be established in outlying places. I know of cases in the mines where men have to be brought in on an ordinary railway trolley to the hospital. We have a scheme in view to establish railway ambulances so that the men may be brought into the hospitals for treatment.

The hon. member for Enoggera made some reference to the distribution of the "Golden Casket" funds, and, whilst I do not mean to stonewall my own Estimates, nor do I desire to invite further discussion on them, I cannot let the statement go without reply. The hon. member for East Toowoomba also made some reference to the distribution of the "Golden Casket" funds. It is true that the Auditor-General, in his report last year, made reference to a certain sum of money which had been used for Government subsidies. I do not desire to hide that fact, but it is not difficult to give the reason for it. Hon. members should know that the Government were compelled to take over and nationalise the principal hospital in the State. The

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nationalisation of all the hospitals in the State could not be carried out without heavy taxation. There is no way of contributing any of the "Golden Casket" funds to the Brisbane General Hospital unless it is done in the manner referred to in the Auditor-General's report. The hon. member for East Toowoomba criticised the control of the "Golden Casket" by the committee appointed by the Government.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS: I have not criticised the management; I have criticised having the "Golden Casket" at all.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I would like to ask the hon. member what is his particular form of gambling. I do not know whether it is bridge or billiards. (Laughter.) The fact remains—and I want to emphasise this, not only for the benefit of hon. members, but incidentally for the people of Queensland—that not one penny of "Golden Casket" money has been misappropriated or spent in any other way than as indicated in my answers to questions; that is, in grants to hospitals and in connection with the Mount Mulligan disaster. I would like to quote from a rather good article in this morning's "Daily Mail" on the question of the "Golden Casket"—

"A very interesting question is suggested by the answer given by the Acting Home Secretary in relation to the 'Golden Casket.' The main argument for the continuance of these lotteries has been that they benefit the hospitals and other deserving institutions."

The whole article is well worth reading. It concludes—

"We are not now dealing with the principle of the 'Golden Casket' lottery."

I quote that part in fairness to the "Daily Mail." Then it goes on—

"We are concerned with the moment merely to suggest that both opponents and champions of the lottery should face the facts, which are that the 'Casket' is conducted as much in the interest of the State finances as of the hospitals, and that if the system were abolished the Government would be compelled to find immediately, by way of taxation, large additional sums to keep the hospital doors open."

When the people of Brisbane could not afford, or did not rise to the occasion, to provide sufficient to keep the Brisbane General Hospital open, the Government did the only thing that was possible. They

[9 p.m.] took immediate action. I remember it was when the late Hon.

T. J. Ryan was Premier, and he said, "We will not turn the sick away." The doors of the hospital were not allowed to close. The Government did the only thing they could do, and that was to take over the hospital and nationalise it. The whole of the cost in connection with that hospital is borne by the Government at the present time.

Mr. MORGAN: The Toowoomba Hospital was in a similar position.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Hon. gentlemen opposite have criticised the "Golden Casket," but there has been a good deal of cant, humbug, and hypocrisy on this question. That phrase is not of my making.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: Do not forget that it has very unpleasant associations.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The phrase was used by the late Lord Robert. I do not want to be hypocritical in this matter. The leader of the Nationalist party said that he was surprised that I justified the continuance of the "Golden Casket." Well, I do justify it.

Mr. MOORE: You do not justify it; you only excuse it.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I am expressing my own individual opinion, and I have as much right to express my own individual opinion as hon. members on the other side of the Chamber.

At 9.5 p.m.,

Mr. DUNSTAN (*Gympie*), one of the panel of Temporary Chairmen, relieved the Chairman in the chair.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Some years ago, when I was a member of this House, I sat in Opposition, and we had a sweep on the Melbourne Cup. There were seventy members taking part in that sweep.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: I was not in it. I was never in a sweep in my life. (Laughter.)

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I can tell the hon. member who were in the sweep, because I remember it so well. There were seventy-two members in the House, and on the very day that we drew it the hon. member for Gregory, the late Mr. Hamilton, introduced a motion into this Assembly in favour of recognising gambling. I think sixteen of us voted in favour of it on that occasion. There were seventy members out of the seventy-two who took part in that sweep on the Melbourne Cup, and one hon. member who condemned gambling the most when speaking on Mr. Hamilton's motion drew the first prize. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. BRAND: Who was that?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The hon. member for Bulimba. (Loud laughter.)

Hon. W. H. BARNES: No; that is not correct.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: This is a new sentence. (Renewed laughter.) The hon. member for Bulimba was in the House at the time, and he and the late Mr. John Adamson were the only two members who would not take a ticket in the sweep.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I do not want to do any injustice to the hon. member, and I will not try to do an injustice to any member of the House while I am here. The hon. member probably has his own peculiar form of gambling. He does not believe in the "Golden Casket." There are other people who do not believe in the "Golden Casket," but they go down to the races. The rich go to the racecourse and put their money on racehorses, and then they come back here and take exception to the "Golden Casket." The "Golden Casket" is conducted fairly and quite honourably by a committee. The funds are all right and have been audited up to date, and I am sure they will be all right in the future because of the system of control. While that may not be the form of gambling that the hon. member for Bulimba believes in, probably he has some other form. Personally, I take a ticket in the "Golden Casket." I do not go to Ascot, but I object to hon. members who do condemning the "Golden

Casket." We know you cannot keep people sober by legislation, and it is difficult to suppress any form of gambling by legislation. The hon. member for Warwick condemns the "Golden Casket," but he gambles in produce. Others gamble in shares on the Stock Exchange, while the gamble in business and trade to-day is a gigantic gamble. The person who is in business and who receives more than a reasonable interest on the capital he has invested does more gambling than do those who buy a ticket in the "Casket." The hon. member for Bulimba will not take a ticket in the "Golden Casket" or in a sweep in Parliament House, but he has his business.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: My business is carried on absolutely honourably.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I do not say that the hon. gentleman does not run his business honourably, but, like all business people, he runs his business with his eye on the profits all the time.

Mr. EDWARDS: It was a gamble when you wanted to get into this House. It was a game of chance.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I took that risk.

Mr. MORGAN: You are gambling with Government money in your mines.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I am making a profit. I hope the hon. gentleman will not draw me off the track. (Laughter.) I invite the fullest discussion on the Mines Estimates. I advise hon. members opposite not to take up too much time on this vote, but let us get to the Mines Estimates. I am not ashamed of any action of mine since I have been in the Mines Department. The criticism, on the whole, has not been very hostile to the Government, with the exception of the reference to the distribution of the "Golden Casket" money. I would pay a tribute to the committee of the "Golden Casket," which is deserved, but for the fact that my wife is on the committee and the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Kirwan, is also a member of that committee. I might emphasise this point that, while the Government are in power, the "Golden Casket" funds will be distributed in the interests of the hospitals.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: If I might make a definite statement, I would not be averse to some of the accumulated funds being used to provide maternity wards or homes for people in outlying districts, as has been indicated by my colleague, the Home Secretary.

Hon. W. H. BARNES (*Bulimba*): The hon. member has made a very lame excuse in trying to justify the Government in doing something which is sapping the very life of the best in this community.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Hon. W. H. BARNES: I have no hesitation in saying that private giving has been very largely stifled as a result of the policy of the Government. I am amazed that a Minister of the Crown should get up and defend this practice; I am also amazed that members sitting behind the Government who do not believe in this thing should yet not open their mouths. It is a cancer.

Mr. GLEDSON: Yes, they do.

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HON. W. H. BARNES: They do not do so in this House. It is breeding a class of man—and, if it were breeding a class of man only, I would say nothing at all about it—and a class of children who are seeking to get something for nothing. The hon. member referred to business people as gamblers. He is altogether wrong in that statement. If he goes to any place of business, if he comes to my place of business, he gets something in return for what he spends.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: You get the profit.

HON. W. H. BARNES: I have occasionally passed when the "Golden Casket" distribution was about to be made, and I have seen men, women, and children—all classes of the community—who had left their work to see this thing which is not in the interests of the State. No State is going to be truly prosperous that does not lay down the rule that people shall get on, not by gambling, but by legitimate and honest work. By laying down the rule that people can get something belonging to someone else—for that is what it means—without doing anything for it, you are breaking down the morality of the community. If the hon. member has read history, he knows that there have been countries—and not countries called "wowscrish" in any way—which have had to abandon these things because they struck at the very foundations of their national life. The hon. gentleman will agree that I have never been afraid to express my opinions in this Chamber, and I would be recalcitrant to the views I hold, and which a very large majority of the best of the people of the State hold, if I did not say that the gambling which is fostered by the Government in this direction, by "Golden Caskets," "Liberty Fairs," and other means, helps to make Queensland stink. I am amazed at the Government having the audacity, through their representative, the Acting Home Secretary, to justify something which is an evil in the community and a curse to the community, and which some day will have to be cast out neck and crop from the community.

At 9.15 p.m.,

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES resumed the chair.

MR. KERR (*Enoggera*): I should like to have a word or two in reply to the Minister. In 1916, the first "Golden Casket" was organised by outsiders for the special purpose of assisting soldiers' widows to build Anzac homes and so on. That was before there was any Repatriation Department, and these persons were unprovided for otherwise.

MR. W. COOPER: Did you object to that?

MR. KERR: I was not here to object. After five or six "Golden Caskets" had been held, the Government saw how remunerative it was, and how the people were becoming educated to it. The first "Casket" took something like six months to fill; numbers two and three about eight months; and No. 4 seven or eight months; but the Government educated the people to gamble, and the result—which nobody can deny—is that working men, instead of taking home various little parcels for their children, invest their earnings in "Golden Casket" tickets in order to try and win a prize. We know what the percentage of prizes is, and I say that hundreds of families are losing the small luxuries of life because of the facilities for gambling which are provided by the Govern-

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ment. It is said that this money is going to the hospitals. That is mere camouflage; it is only sidetracking. I admit that some of this money is going to the hospitals, but it is generally said that the whole of it is going to hospitals. Nothing of the kind! A good deal is going into the revenue of this State. Will the Minister tell me that none is going to the revenue?

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: No.

MR. KERR: Of course it is, and the quicker the Government acknowledge that they are doing wrong by providing facilities for this gambling the better. One of the first actions of the new Government in New South Wales was to wipe it out from their State.

MR. DASH: Tories.

MR. KERR: It is not a question of Tories. If the hon. member was told to crawl all over the world on his hands and knees for his party, he would do so. I am not casting any reflection on the committee except to say that they should be ashamed of themselves to stay on it.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: Which Government introduced the Totalisator Act and received money from it?

MR. KERR: That is an entirely different thing. (Government laughter.) This Government are known as the "Gambling Government." We know what happened to the Bill to control proprietary racing. We know how unregistered racing goes on. The Government are not game to take action and do the right thing, for the simple reason that they think that a certain amount of support will leave them. They believe that many of the people who have won a paltry £5 because of that fact are going to vote for them at election time. Like State trading, this is a wrong principle. The Government are not here to administer gambling devices. The holding of "Liberty Fair" was approved of by the Attorney-General.

THE CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member will not be in order in discussing "Liberty Fair" on this vote.

MR. KERR: I hope that the rising generation will not be given by a new Government the same facility for gambling that is being given by the present Government.

MR. T. R. ROBERTS (*East Tooroomba*): I was desirous of saying a few words in connection with the Brisbane General Hospital before the Minister spoke. I very much regretted hearing the remarks of the hon. gentleman in defence of the "Golden Casket." I hold a different opinion. We have heard several members opposite speak, and, almost with their tongues in their cheeks, they have told us that they are not sympathetic to it. They came into power in 1915, and they have since taken over the Brisbane General Hospital. Instead of asking us what we would do if we got on the Treasury benches, let them show the people of Queensland that they are prepared to put into effect the clause in their platform providing for the nationalisation of the hospitals, and find the necessary taxation.

I am tempted to say something in connection with the Brisbane General Hospital by the remarks which were made by the hon. member for Brisbane in reference to Victoria. Discussing another vote this morning, I regretted the position in which we find ourselves in connection with departmental reports. According to the way in which the

business of this House is being conducted, we will not get this year's reports until we are discussing next year's Estimates. The only report I can get in connection with the Brisbane General Hospital—which is a nationalised institution—is the 1920 report. I want to know what progress the Government have made in the interests of the sick poor of this community. On page 575 of Queensland "Parliamentary Papers, Session of 1921," we find the report of the medical superintendent. I challenge any member to say that that does not damn the position, in comparison with what was quoted from Victoria. This is what the report says—

"OVERCROWDING.

"The increasing demand on the resources of the hospital has rendered necessary the use of the verandas, and stretchers are placed there and in the wards. The lavatory accommodation is insufficient to meet the extra strain. Brisbane is growing, and no provision is made to meet such conditions. It is necessary to discharge patients before they are really fit, to make room for those much worse than themselves.

"In one department there is a list of operations booked ahead for many months, and the time has arrived for the establishment of an eye, ear, nose, and throat hospital, as in other States.

"The eye, ear, nose, and throat department is unsuitable and overtaxed."

Here is a paragraph with reference to another institution. Time and again we have made application to the Home Department for admission to this institution of men from the country districts. I dare say that every man in this House has made application, and has been told that he would have to wait two, three, four, and five months. It says—

"The Diamantina Hospital is in a similar condition, and only at infrequent intervals can we be relieved of patients whose condition is much more suitable for that institution.

"The patients themselves realised the state of affairs, but there are complaints brought about by the lack of accommodation and the overcrowding."

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES: We were certainly overtaxed as the result of the influenza epidemic.

Mr. T. R. ROBERTS: I support the remarks made by the hon. member for Toowoomba in connection with the purchase of drugs and other requirements. Two or three sessions ago, and again last session, when this vote was under discussion, I referred to what was being done in the sister State in this connection. Just prior to the advent of the Labour party in New South Wales—I think it was three years ago—I mentioned that the Friendly Societies' Association of Brisbane had got into communication with the department in New South Wales and asked if the Government of that State would allow them to purchase drugs for the Friendly Society's Dispensary in this city from the Government of New South Wales. As I have pointed out time and again, the New South Wales Government not only indent their own requirements for the hospitals of New South Wales, but they also take in hand the supplying of the various friendly societies of the State. Twice to-night the question has been asked why certain friendly societies are trying to make

arrangements with the local hospitals for the giving of medical attention. It is because of the heavy expenditure. This Government believe in nationalisation and State enterprises. Here is an opportunity where they can do something for the sick poor. I ask, "How far are they prepared to assist in this direction?"

Mr. RIORDAN (*Burke*): There are a few hospitals in the Burke electorate, and at times we have great difficulty in getting medical officers. Discussing this vote last year, I proposed to the Home Secretary that some motor transport should be provided in connection with the hospitals in country districts. We know the difficulty of getting patients into the hospitals who are brought on some occasions many miles to receive medical attention. Particularly in the case of the Brisbane General Hospital is use made of the hospital by patients who have exhausted their funds in private hospitals and have no further funds with which to pay for private medical attention. It would be a good move if the Government reintroduced the Bill which they introduced in 1916, which was thrown out by the Upper House. The reasons given by the Upper House for throwing out the Bill on that occasion will be found in "Hansard" for 1916-17, page 3450. They said, practically, that, as the working classes were not forced by that Bill to contribute towards the upkeep of the hospitals, the Bill should be read that day three months. That was only a quibble. I am very sorry to see that, now the Legislative Council has gone, the Government do not see their way to reintroduce that Bill. I have no scruples, as hon. members opposite have, about the "Golden Casket." I am sure that the people in the country districts appreciate the assistance which they get from the "Golden Casket." Until such time as the Government are in a position to take over the hospitals and run them on a proper basis, I think that they should raise money by a tax on race-courses as well as by the "Golden Casket."

We see daily appeals poorly responded to in connection with the Children's Hospital. If the people cannot be made to subscribe voluntarily, the Government should take over the hospitals and run them by means of revenue received from direct taxation. If there were some means of transporting the unfortunate people in the far North to the little hospital provided by the community up there, assisted by the "Golden Casket" funds, it would be a great relief to the people. In time the aeroplane will be of great assistance, though it [9.30 p.m.] will be long before we can convince some people in the North to take the risk of being transported by that means. There is one instance of where a doctor proceeded by aeroplane for a couple of hundred miles and returned with his woman patient to the Winton Hospital in a couple of hours. I hope the Government will be able to take these hospitals over and control them.

Mr. WEIR (*Maryborough*): We have had a lecture from hon. members opposite on morals in connection with the running of the "Golden Casket" to raise money for the hospitals. I do not think that it is a good thing to raise money in that way. I am not afraid to discuss this form of morals. We have consciences, some of them are strained and some twisted—in many cases

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twisted like the figure 8 and unable to be untwisted. I do not believe in "Golden Caskets" for hospitals. I am one of those good kind Christians who have never taken a ticket in the "Golden Casket," and I join issue with the hon. member for Bulimba. He also has got a conscience. I wish to quote from "Hansard" and, if ever my family read the quotation, I hope they will never regard the hon. member for Bulimba as a good clean Christian with an elastic conscience. The hon. member for Bulimba in "Hansard" for 1905, stated—

"His own firm, on the other hand, had received on 14th September 225 bags of chaff from Ailora. The railway weight was 169 cwt. 0 qr. 7 lb., the actual weight received being 184 cwt. 0 qr. 14 lb. Perhaps someone might ask if they had reported the fact to the Commissioner for Railways. Well, they had not, for the simple reason that they had repeatedly had to pay on shortages, and they thought this was only a fair set-off."

What objection can there be, if I am out of work and lose a week's wages and I find myself in work for 20 minutes and I go down the street and spend 5s. 3d. as a set-off in the "Golden Casket"? Surely I cannot be hung, drawn and quartered even by my Christian friends. I hope that I shall not be contaminated by such a standard of morals as that set up by the hon. member for Bulimba.

The hon. member for Enoggera has also made some reference to "Golden Caskets." I remember distinctly being told by a friend that the hon. member was actually falling over some other friends on a street corner in order to get something in a paper bag from a "Cheap Jack." He said, "I will have that one," he got it, and it was a blank. (Laughter.) I think the "Golden Casket" is better than the system adopted by the hon. member for Bulimba of pinching out of the coffers of the State and by thieving from the Railway Department.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the hon. member to withdraw the statement that another hon. member had thieved from the Railway Department.

Mr. WEIR: I did not mean to imply it in that sense. I withdraw the statement. A system which tolerates that sort of thing is wrong. I am a good Christian who does not believe in any form of gambling. I do not see any difference in taking it by that means than taking it out of a man's pocket. In morals and ethics it is wrong. It is wrong for any person to take a few cwt. of loading which really belongs to the people, just as it is wrong to "jump the rattler" and evade paying a railway fare. I do not say that the hon. member is wrong—I have never lived by that standard—but the system is wrong which tolerates it. If it is wrong to gamble in the "Golden Casket" it is equally wrong to gamble in that particular way. The hon. member for Enoggera and the hon. member for Bulimba do not believe in gambling, and neither do I.

Mr. DUNSTAN (*Gympie*): I am greatly amused at the spurious indignation raised by the political moralists opposite, who try to make some political capital out of the notes in other people's eyes while hiding the beams in their own. The "Golden Casket" is one of the most innocuous and harmless forms of gambling in Australia

[Mr. Weir.

Hon. members opposite fail to attack the other widespread and more dangerous and prevalent forms of gambling in this State. Why they do not attack the other form of gambling is because it is largely carried on by their own supporters. The attack on the "Golden Casket" is largely a political attack, and in making it the Opposition are not even representing their own political supporters. The Gympie Hospital Committee comprises men who are not supporters of this Government, and they are pleased indeed to receive monthly or quarterly the amounts distributed from the "Golden Casket" fund, and it seems to me political hypocrisy to confine the attack to the "Golden Casket." We find that there is gambling on stock exchanges, in commercial and industrial futures, in private homes, and on the racecourse, and there is no vigorous public protest against that by hon. members opposite or their friends outside. The reason the "Golden Casket" is attacked is because it was inaugurated by this Government for the benefit of the hospitals of the State. I say straight out that I take tickets in the "Golden Casket," and I think I am quite justified in doing so, as I look upon it as one of the most innocuous forms of gambling I know of. It never induces anyone to rob his employer's till, and it ruins no lives; it is not associated with evil influences like other forms of gambling; while, on the other hand, hon. members opposite know as well as I do that you have not to go very far abroad to find these evil influences operating in many spheres in which gambling is being carried on to-day. An additional piece of hypocrisy is demonstrated by the fact that the gentlemen who have made this vigorous and apparently righteous attack on the "Golden Casket" are the supporters of the party and the Government which took toll from one of the biggest forms of gambling in this State through the operations of the totalisator on the racecourse. If we are going to institute a crusade against gambling, then we shall have to get right down to bedrock, and make our campaign very widespread. If gambling cannot be eradicated from human nature altogether, I hope that at least a well-regulated form of lottery like the "Golden Casket" Art Union, which has the advantage of assisting the hospitals of our State, will continue to be carried on, so long as other forms of gambling are tolerated by members on the other side.

Mr. W. COOPER (*Rosewood*): Hon. members opposite have been stonewalling this vote throughout the afternoon, and it appears to me that those hon. members want to have all the say, and that members on this side of the House are not to be permitted to express their opinions. I have been watching hon. members opposite very closely, and if they carry on that "good-goody" spirit that they have exhibited here to-night, next session we may expect to see them turn into angels with budding wings. They claim that the "Golden Casket" has a detrimental effect on the people of Queensland, and yet we find those hon. members attending racecourses and betting on every race. I would ten times rather trust a man who invested in "Golden Casket" tickets, than the man who bets on racecourses. In the past hon. members opposite who are opposing the "Golden Casket" have tolerated the totalisator, tolerated races, and tolerated almost every other form of gambling that it is possible for the people to

indulge in. In the past the Legislative Council threw out a Bill which this Government introduced imposing a tax in order to provide the funds necessary to nationalise the hospitals, because they claimed that they would be the only people who would have to contribute towards the upkeep of the hospitals. I happened to belong to an organisation of workers who had deducted from their wages under a previous Government 6d. per week as a contribution to the hospital funds, and if one of those workers happened to become ill, he was entitled to be treated free of charge at the hospital. I know, too, that the people who complained most bitterly about the system providing for voluntary contributions towards the upkeep of the hospitals are the business people of the various cities; and rightly so, because when a collector came round they were compelled, for business reasons, to contribute towards the upkeep of the hospital. I say definitely there is only one system by which we can finance the hospitals in a proper manner, so that we can give to the needy people of Queensland proper treatment, and that is by a direct tax upon those who are best able to bear it. I say, without fear of contradiction, that not one of those gentlemen who invest in the "Golden Casket" ticket would refuse to take the prize money if they happened to win, and judging by what I know of those gentlemen, if anybody gave them a ticket, they would be only too glad to accept it. I would not be the one to offer them a ticket. The Government would be well advised if they were to carry out the recommendation of the hon. member for Burke, and reintroduce the Bill to impose direct taxation upon those best able to bear it, in order to obtain funds for our hospitals. The sooner the Government and the people of Queensland realise their responsibilities so far as the sick of the community are concerned the better it will be for the State.

Mr. VOWLES (*Dalby*): I was speaking yesterday about the curtailment of our right of speech, and I anticipated that there was going to be a desperate stonewall put up to prevent members on this side discussing very important votes. Members on the Government side are deliberately wasting time on this vote, and carrying out the tactics I expected they would indulge in. Their whole desire now is to waste time. We have been listening, under the pretence of discussing a vote for the hospitals, to a discussion on the subject of angels, and we have been subjected to lectures on morals and ethics.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I thought the discussion would end with my speech.

Mr. VOWLES: I thought so, too; but, unfortunately, the hon. gentleman is not able to control his team.

Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH: Three members on your side spoke after the Minister.

Mr. VOWLES: When the hon. member for East Toowoomba got up to speak he said the Minister had replied before he had had the opportunity of referring to one particular matter. Since then we have had a dissertation on "Golden Caskets." So far as members on this side are concerned, we say that, according to the little "Red Book," the Labour party's platform in respect to hospitals is nationalisation, and how on earth they can justify the running of "Golden Caskets" under the head of "nationalisation" I do not know.

The PREMIER: You are starting the debate again.

Mr. VOWLES: I do not propose to waste much time, but I have not spoken on the vote so far. I got up to express the hope that the debate on this vote will conclude very quickly.

Mr. F. A. COOPER (*Bremer*): We have had a good deal of flapdoodle talk about the immorality of gambling. It is a very difficult matter to prove that there is anything wrong with gambling. The hon. member for Maryborough advised certain people to read the Bible, when they would find out that gambling is roundly condemned. He has read the Bible with wrong spectacles. I cannot find where the practice is condemned in the Bible. I buy tickets in the "Golden Casket" for 5s. 3d., and this is how the money is disbursed: 8d. goes to the Commonwealth Government, 4d. to the State, 1s. 8d. to the hospitals, and 1s. 10d. to the people who are lucky enough to win a prize.

Mr. VOWLES: It is an honest gamble.

Mr. F. A. COOPER: It is an honest gamble, and I would much rather put my 5s. 3d. into that channel than put it on a horse. The "Golden Casket" cannot be drugged; it never runs stiff—(laughter)—it is never left at the post, and I always get a run for my money. (Laughter.) I want to remind the Committee that we have many records of where gambling has taken place. I am only going to refer to one. It was in a time of great storm and stress; the death of many people was involved, and there was only one way in which it was suggested that those lives could be saved. They were directed to draw lots, and the lot fell on Jonah, who was heaved overboard, and the trouble ceased. (Laughter.) I would remind the hon. member for Maryborough that that is in the Bible, and it is good enough for me.

Question put and passed.

INSANITY.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): I beg to move—

"That £123,617 be granted for 'Insanity.'"

Hon. members will notice that there is a decrease of £10,253 in this vote compared with last year's appropriation.

Question put and passed.

LAZARET.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): I beg to move—

"That £8,506 be granted for 'Lazaret.'"

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*): There is an increase of something like £1,000 in connection with this vote, and that increase is very much needed. I am sorry it is not more than that. During the past few years a great advance has been made in connection with the treatment of leprosy, which is practically being got under control throughout the world. All that could be done is not being done for the inmates on Peel Island. Some ten months ago I took the opportunity, with other hon. members, of going to Peel Island to see the conditions under which the people were living there. We found that they had quite a number of grievances, which we endeavoured to get remedied, but with less success than we should have had. I have a cutting here from the "Telegraph" of 25th February last, giving a report by Thomas J.

Mr. Gledson.]

McMahon in connection with the leper stations in the South Sea Islands. Most of us have read about the leper stations there in the works of Jack London and other writers who visited the islands and saw the conditions under which the lepers were being housed and treated. The lepers in the South Sea Islands have been taken charge of by the British Government and provided with doctors and nurses. We have photographs shown in this issue of the "Telegraph," showing that everything is provided for the comfort of the lepers. The article states—

"Cheerfulness is the prime essential towards cure. To this objective infinite care has been taken to make all surroundings of the lepers as beautiful as possible. Every settlement is laid out in a series of pretty gardens, beautiful walks, and well-tended sward, with lovely rain trees ever offering their refreshing shade, and under which the lepers may throw their mats and rest. Considerable trouble has been taken to give a picturesque touch to everything. The buildings are brightly painted inside and out, and kept scrupulously neat and clean, the gardens show only the brightest coloured flowers, the walks and sward are decidedly pleasant in their neatness. The lepers, men and women, are dressed in white and pink striped uniforms and dresses, easy and loose, and seeing them moving about from a distance the whole effect is anything but a reminder that one is gazing upon a little world of lepers. Cleanliness is another essential to cure, the nurses keeping a never-ceasing vigilance over the lepers so that they may not become neglectful in their habits. The doctor, nurses, and staff are ever examples of neatness; all are prim and smart in well-ironed white suits and robes. The doctor goes his daily rounds in immaculate white duck overalls, the nurses in plain linen dresses or loose robes and neat crimped bonnets, and the general staff in white suits. With the most consistent care cleanliness is insisted upon in everybody and in everything. The great kitchens of the asylum simply shine with cleanliness. Food is served in a faultless manner, and the liberal and varied diet is of the best quality."

That shows what has been done in the South Sea Islands in regard to coloured lepers. There are fifty-two patients in the lazaret at Peel Island, and the bulk of them are white men and women. What is the treatment they receive there? Take the medical attention first. We claim that lepers ought to be the first care of the Government, and that no expense should be spared to treat those men and women who are segregated there with every possible care and attention. We find that all the medical attention they have on the island is a visit from the doctor once a week. The doctor goes down to the island and goes round the bulk of the patients. He gets reports from the superintendent and nurse, and I suppose he is there about five or six hours at the most every week. How is it possible for him to care properly for those patients? What is wanted is a resident doctor so that they can be attended to daily. One of the requirements there is for the patients to have intramuscular and intravenous injections. This is known as Dr. Deane's treatment. I understand that Dr. Moore has inquired into this treat-

[Mr. Gledson.

ment, and found from an analysis that it is a preparation from chaulmoogra oil. However, they do not take the chaulmoogra oil in sufficient quantities to do them any good, so that provision has been made for the intramuscular and intravenous injections. We find that there is no one to go down there and attend to the patients.

They would also like a dentist [10 p.m.] to go down there occasionally and attend to their teeth. In connection with drugs, we find that, when anyone is sick and they have a visit from the doctor, it takes a considerable time before they get their drugs or medicine there. They look to the medicine to cure them, but whether it does cure them or not we cannot say. When anyone is sick they always have faith in the medicine to cure them, and sometimes a cure is effected by faith more than the medicine—I hope the hon. member for Townsville will excuse me for saying that. Cheerfulness and faith often effect a cure where medicine alone would be totally unable to do it. These patients want to get the medicine as speedily as possible. Under the present system they get in such a state waiting for the medicine that it does not do them any good. I understand a nurse has gone down there to look after these people. We cannot help giving a word of praise to anyone who will go down there and give their time to the patients. The nurse is a sister of the Church of England Mission who came out here with the Archbishop of Brisbane. She has left her associations in Brisbane and has gone down there to devote her services to these people. She was there when we visited the lazaret. When a nurse is devoting her life to patients like that, everything should be done by the Government to try and make everything as comfortable as possible down there. (Hear, hear!) In addition to attending the patients, this nurse has also to do her own cleaning and washing and look after her own house. That is not right. It must take all her time to look after the fifty-two patients on the island. After scrubbing and washing her own house, she has to attend to the patients, and she should be able to do that with absolutely clean hands. She should be able to give full attention to the patients.

Mr. FRY: She should have an assistant there.

Mr. GLEDSON: Yes. I pointed this matter out ten months ago, and so far I have not received a reply from the Health Department. I bring this matter before the Committee now so that I may get an assurance that something is being done. We know that the present Home Secretary and his department have done a good deal in connection with the buildings down there. Little huts have been given to the patients and they live in them separately, and many of them are model homes. Especially was this the case in the huts kept by the women. They were spick and span, and the Home Secretary had provided a certain amount of furniture which enabled them to make them comfortable. Around the huts some of them had little gardens of flowers and other things which made them quite attractive; others again were quite neglected. The Home Secretary is to be congratulated on the erection of a nice hall and also a room for dressings. There is, however, no verandah around that building, and since only one person can go into it at a time—and

on Peel Island, as at many coastal places, there is often continual rain—in fact, I think it rained from the time we went there till the time we left—the people have to wait a considerable time for their dressings. We asked that a verandah should be put around the building, so that they could wait out of the wet. I would like to know what has been done. A hospital orderly should be appointed to assist the nurse. Fifty-two patients are too many for one nurse to deal with, and a hospital orderly could assist with the dressings—getting the bandages ready and probably doing the binding up. The nurse has to visit patients, the coloured people in particular, who are unable to leave their huts—the white people are in one part of the settlement and the coloured people in another—and the orderly could assist her by carrying the bandages and dressings, the drugs and liniments, and so on.

The patients were very keen upon getting this new treatment. I think that, on the 24th of this month, the "Telegraph" contained a report that further research has been made by the British Government scientists, and they have now found certain seeds and are able to grow chaulmoogra trees and supply a greater quantity of chaulmoogra oil. That report also states that fully 50 per cent. of the patients in the station had been cured and released as a result of this treatment, intramuscular or intravenous, whichever is adopted, and we hold that no effort should be spared to see that the best treatment is given to our own people who are segregated from their wives and families in the interests of the people.

Something should also be done at Peel Island along the lines which this article in the "Telegraph" says has been done at Makongai, in the South Sea Islands. Peel Island lends itself to it. One gets out of the boat at the wharf and travels through a mile and a-half of bush country to the settlement. A splendid place could be made there by the planting of trees and the forming of avenues, and the growing of plants. The surroundings could be made cheerful and better than they are. The buildings could be improved, and some paint put on them, and other things done to brighten up the place and the lives of the people there. Cheerfulness of surroundings and brightness in their lives will do as much as anything to cure these people and bring about the time when they will be restored to their friends and families. It will be a very good thing if, as has been suggested in connection with some of the aboriginal settlements, certain agricultural work was done. They could grow sufficient vegetables for themselves, keep fowls, and have a certain number of cattle to supply them with milk and other things. I understand that some turkeys were running loose there for a while, and now and again somebody would go down and shoot one or two of them and bring them away. I do not know whether that is correct. With a little organisation the surroundings could be made better. I think the old biblical idea of a leper having to sit in an outback place, seen by none, and have his bit of "tucker" put on a post, has gone out of date. We do not think there is any danger in going down and helping them. Every precaution, of course, should be taken to see that the disease does not spread. People have a wrong idea about this matter. You might meet these persons in Queen street and not know there was anything the

matter with them. I do not think anyone need be afraid to go there. If the Home Secretary adopted the idea of having garden plots in which the inmates could grow vegetables, those vegetables could be bought for the institution, and the men get a few shillings to send to their wives and families. It would not cost any more, because they have to buy a lot now, and it would give the inmates an incentive to keep the place bright, and would help them along. Mr. Eddy, who was in Brisbane not very long ago, formed a committee in Brisbane. I understand that the hon. member for Bulimba is a member of that committee. Perhaps he has been down there, and will be able to tell us something about what he has seen.

Another improvement which we think might be made is to send a few pictures down to be placed in the concert room, which would thus be brightened up and made cheerful, instead of being a place with bare walls, into which nobody wants to go.

These are some of the things we have pointed out. We hope that the matter will be attended to, and that some reply will be given, so that we can let the people know whether they have been forgotten by us, or whether these matters are being attended to, and their lot made a little brighter. The Government should do whatever they can to improve their chances of recovery. I am glad to see that another £1,000 is being provided. I hope that greater medical attention will be given, as that is one of the main things they want to enable them to recover.

Question put and passed.

MEDICAL.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. A. J. Jones, *Paddington*): I beg to move—
"That £2,465 be granted for 'Medical Officers.'"

Question put and passed.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: I beg to move—

"That £52,072 be granted for 'Outdoor Relief.'"

There is a decrease in the amount asked for this year. As I do not anticipate very much discussion on this vote I will content myself with simply moving it. (Laughter.)

Mr. EDWARDS (*Nanango*): I would like to ask the Minister what was the full amount expended last year on outdoor relief. Was it in excess of the estimate? I am very pleased to see that there is a decrease in the vote this year. The result of decreasing the vote must only point to the fact that there is increased prosperity in the State.

Mr. BRENNAN: Under a Labour Government.

Mr. EDWARDS: It is to be hoped that there will be increased prosperity. It is a very dangerous thing to have able-bodied men knocking about the country going from place to place obtaining rations.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: The hon. member would let them starve.

Mr. EDWARDS: No. Hundreds of men throughout Queensland who have been drawing rations could have got work if they would only take it.

Mr. Edwards.]

Mr. PEASE: The hon. member is saying what is not correct.

Mr. EDWARDS: I know men who have absolutely refused to accept 14s. a day. They have gone to the police station and drawn rations.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: That is an isolated case.

Mr. EDWARDS: No.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Does the hon. member know that we have just passed through a war period, and that we have been living in abnormal times?

Mr. EDWARDS: I quite admit that. Any one who has knocked about with men will know that there is always a percentage who are prepared to take everything and give nothing in return.

Mr. WEIR: Under 2 per cent.

Mr. EDWARDS: We should not be called upon to give rations to healthy able-bodied men in this State. Under no consideration should that be tolerated by any Government. We should be in a position to give a man a ticket and say to him, "Here is work for you," and, if he is not prepared to work, then he should not be fed by the State. Every able-bodied man who is obtaining rations from the State when he can get work and is not prepared to accept it is really living on the charity of those who are working. It does not matter two straws whether they be labourers or whether they be farmers, they are living on the people who are working, and that sort of thing should not be encouraged under any consideration. The Government should take steps to see that every able-bodied man in the State is provided with work. I know that the Home Secretary has given this matter a great deal of study. We had in my district, from the starting of the railways, able-bodied men walking there with their swags on their backs and they collected rations all the way.

Mr. WEIR: Were they loafers?

Mr. EDWARDS: Whether they were loafers or whether they were not, when they got there they could not get work. We have no right to bring immigrants to this State while we have able-bodied men out of employment. While we require capital to develop this State and make it what it should be, the biggest necessity of all is work and to see that no man is unemployed. I hope the Government will take this matter into serious consideration, and that soon no able-bodied man will be in a position to say that he is unable to obtain work.

Mr. TAYLOR (*Windsor*): I take it that every member of the Committee is gratified to see a very substantial reduction in this vote for outdoor relief. Any one would think from the remarks of hon. members on the Government side that it is a degradation to ask an able-bodied man to work for the rations that the State provides for him. The complaint we have regarding the distribution of outdoor relief is not that men who are out of employment are provided with the necessities of life, but that work should be performed for the rations which are distributed. That is a fair and reasonable request. I am not in a position to say how many men get rations who are not deserving of them.

{*Mr. Edwards.*

On several occasions the department has taken action against people who have been getting rations when they were not entitled to receive them, and fines have been inflicted.

Mr. W. COOPER: They are not the only ones who did wrong. Bank clerks have embezzled money.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am not saying that they are the only ones. Considering that such a large amount of public money is expended in relief rations, surely some arrangement might have been come to by which the local authorities would have had some control of the money spent in the area concerned, so that a suitable return might have been made to the State for the money expended. The great majority of men are not loafers or parasites and do not want charity; but, if you commence a system like we have had in operation for the last year or two of giving charity, we shall destroy the manhood of men, and bring them to the condition that they will try to do without working. In regard to the distribution of relief during the current year, I trust that a scheme will be devised under which men who are fit to work will have work found for them to do. Perhaps the local authorities may be given power to carry this out. It is not right that in a State like Queensland, where we have so much land which might be profitably used if labour were utilised, to have to distribute so much money in charity doles. Surely hon. members do not stand for a system which is practically pauperising so many people in the community!

Mr. FORDE: Would you cut out all relief?

Mr. TAYLOR: The hon. member knows that I am not so stupid as to want to cut out all relief. He should not think that I am such a fossil as that. (Laughter.) When a man needs relief, the Government should see that he gets it. There are many women and children who have to be maintained by the State. I am saying that able-bodied men who can do a day's work should do that work before they get any relief. We should not make the mistake we made last year of turning this into a philanthropic institution. We do not say that those who are unable to work should not receive relief.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: The vote is reduced.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am pleased to see that it is reduced, and I hope that by the end of next year the department will be able to reduce it considerably more. There is no doubt that conditions are improving in the State. In the agricultural industry, especially with regard to cotton cultivation, there is likely to be a considerable improvement, and more labour will be required to carry on the work required to be done. If conditions continue to improve, I would like to see the vote cut down next year to £15,000 or £20,000.

At 10.30 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN said: Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, I shall now leave the chair and make my report to the House.

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported progress.

The resumption of the Committee was made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

The House adjourned at 10.31 p.m.