

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 1924

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The SPEAKER (Hon. W. Bertram, *Maree*) took the chair at 10 a.m.

PAPERS.

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

Report upon the operations of the Sub-Departments of Aborigines, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Inebriates' Institution (Dunwich), Jubilee Sanatorium for Consumptives (Dalby), Westwood Sanatorium, Government Relief, Home for Epileptics (Willowburn), Prisons, Queensland Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Institution, and Diamantina Hospital for Chronic Diseases (South Brisbane).

Amended Gas Regulations of 1919.

Report of the Commissioner of Prices for the year ended 30th June, 1924.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Balance-sheet of the Public Curator for the year 1923.

Regulations 11 to 16 under the Cotton Industry Act of 1923.

Regulation 5 of the State Wheat Pool Election Regulations under the Wheat Pool Act of 1920.

Orders in Council under the Supreme Court Act of 1921.

QUESTIONS.

RESTRICTIONS UPON APPLICANTS UNDER WORKERS' DWELLINGS AND WORKERS' HOMES ACTS.

Mr. CORSER (*Burnett*), for Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*), asked the Secretary for Public Works—

“What restrictions have been imposed upon applicants under the Workers' Dwellings and Workers' Homes Acts, respectively, and from what date?”

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) replied—

“In view of the extensive commitments on applications already in hand and the necessity to limit expenditure for the financial year 1924-25, it was decided, on the 7th August last, not to entertain for the present (a) new applications for advances to erect workers' dwellings, and (b) new applications for workers' homes to cost more than £500. Further consideration will be given to the matter later on in the current financial year.”

FIRST AMERICAN LOAN—SINKING FUND AND INTEREST EARNED THEREON.

Mr. CORSER (*Burnett*), for Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*), asked the Treasurer—

“As his answer to my question on 27th instant did not give all the information required and such information is not disclosed in the Financial tables, will he kindly supply the following:—

1. The interest earned last financial year by the Sinking Fund of the first American loan?

2. The amount retained in America last financial year in connection with the first American loan, and the interest earned on such amount?"

The TREASURER (Hon. E. G. Theodore, *Chillagoe*) replied—

- "1. £7,995 10s. 3d.
- "2. 100,000 dollars; interest earned, £499 2s. 2d. If the information supplied to the hon. member in reply to his numerous questions in respect to the American loans is not sufficient, I suggest that he interview the Under Secretary, Treasury."

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT—COST OF MAINTENANCE AND RENEWALS: LOAN EXPENDITURE ON ROLLING-STOCK AND CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. CORSER (*Burnett*), for Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*), asked the Secretary for Railways—

- "1. What was the average cost for maintenance and renewals per mile of railway open for the year ended 30th June, 1924?"
- "2. What was the average number per mile of—(a) Men employed on lengths; (b) mechanics in flying gangs; (c) total on maintenance?"
- "3. What was the average for Southern, Central, and Northern divisions?"
- "4. What was the expenditure from Loan Funds for the years 1922-23, 1923-24, respectively, on—(a) Rolling-stock; (b) construction?"

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

- "1. £187 17s. 5d.
- "2. (a) and (b) not yet available; (c) 0.52.
- "3.—

	Average Cost per Mile.			Average No. of Men per Mile.
	£	s.	d.	
Southern Division	217	19	6	0.64
Central Division ..	165	15	0	0.50
Northern Division	162	11	7	0.39

"4. Rolling-stock—

				£
1922-1923	...	...	...	611,336
1923-1924	...	...	...	430,453
Construction—				
1922-1923	...	...	...	1,341,815
1923-1924	...	...	...	1,205,605."

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL PAPERS OF ARTICLES DEALING WITH WAR.

Mr. CORSER (*Burnett*), for Mr. Moore (*Aubigny*), asked the Secretary for Public Instruction—

- "1. Is it his intention, as published in the Press of the 27th August, to censor all school papers and exclude all articles dealing with war, and to write in their place articles on industrial heroes, health, etc.?"
- "2. Does he not consider that children would be benefited by reading of the deeds of men who sacrificed themselves so that the privileges he now enjoys might be kept intact?"

"3. Does he think his articles will have any effect on other nations and their idea of war?"

"4. Which does he consider more worthy of honour and emulation: Those heroes who faced the foe on Gallipoli and in France, or those industrial heroes who sang the Red Flag and advocated peace at any price at the Perth Conference?"

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. F. T. Brennan, *Toowoomba*) replied—

"According to the statement made, I said I would exclude from the School Papers anything likely to inflame the mind of the youth with an ambition for war, and I would rather explain the causes of war and the capitalistic influences which bring it about. In any event, 98 per cent. of the soldiers who left Australia to take part in the great war were industrial heroes.

"2. I quote the remarks of General Sir Ian Hamilton, a great British General who, when unveiling a war memorial recently at Crewe, England, said—

The tears and blood of old wars leave no trace upon our memories. The Great War itself is passing away from the minds of the new generation. Unless something entirely unprecedented enters quickly into the hearts of mankind, orphans we are now bringing up will in their turn go to war as if it were a game, and find it, as we found it, a grave. Don't listen too much, anyway, to the men who made the war, they are bound to crack it up. Just ask yourself one question when you hear these speeches. Imagine the British Cabinet of July-August, 1914, vacillating—as we know they were—had they been vouchsafed a prophetic vision of us here when they had to make up their minds—to be or not to be.

Yes, here, upon the plinth of Crewe's Memorial, inscribed with so many names that you can hardly stick a pin in between them, what would they have done? Would John Burns or John Morley have been the only two to shrink back from the suicide of a generation?"

Mr. CORSER: This is not an answer to the question.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—

"If these remarks are correct, not only myself but the people of the British Empire who suffered directly or indirectly through the war would have been saved had the British Cabinet decided not to enter the war."

Mr. MORGAN: Cut it out!

Mr. CORSER: Take it as read!

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: Take your gruel!

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—

"3. The League of Nations, together with the Cabinets of British countries should tell the workers where they stand, and advise them if there is a necessity to prepare for another war, either of offence or defence, so that the workers might be in a position to decide as to whether there is a reason or not for such preparation;

and the workers should demand to know what is really happening in the world's secret diplomacy."

Mr. CORSER: Mr. Speaker, this is not an answer to the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have no control over the answers of Ministers to questions.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—

"4. I refer the hon. gentleman to page 172 of the Royal Reader No. 6 (1895 edition)—the Queensland State School Book which prevailed in the State schools until recent years, of an article written therein by John Bright about 1854, against wars in which, *inter alia*, he says—

Well, if you go into war now, you will have more banners to decorate your cathedrals and churches. Englishmen will fight now as well as they ever did; and there is ample power to back them, if the country can be but sufficiently excited and deluded. You may raise up great generals. You may have another Wellington, another Nelson, too; for this country can grow men capable of every enterprise. Then there may be titles, and pensions, and marble monuments to eternalise the men who have thus become great—but what becomes of you and your country and your children?

Speaking here, however, to such an audience—an audience probably, for its numbers, as intelligent and as influential as ever was assembled within the walls of any hall in this kingdom—I think I may put before you higher considerations even than those of property and the institutions of your country. I may remind you of duties more solemn, and of obligations more imperative. You profess to be a Christian nation. You make it your boast even—though boasting is somewhat out of place in such questions—you make it your boast that you are a Christian people, and that you draw your rule of doctrine and practice, as from a well pure and undefiled, from the lively oracles of God and from the direct revelation of the Omnipotent. You have even conceived the magnificent project of illuminating the whole earth, even to its remotest and darkest recesses, by the dissemination of the volume of the New Testament in whose every page are written forever the words of peace. Within the limits of this island alone, every Sabbath day, 20,000, yes, far more than 20,000 temples are thrown open, in which devout men and women assemble to worship Him who is the 'Prince of Peace.'

Is this a reality? or is your Christianity a romance, and your profession a dream. No; I am sure that your Christianity is not a romance, and I am equally sure that your profession is not a dream. It is because I believe this that I appeal to you with confidence and that I have hope and faith in the future. I believe that we shall see, at no very distant time, sound economic principles spreading much more widely amongst the people; a sense of justice growing up in a soil which hitherto has been deemed unfruitful, and—which will be better than all—the churches of the United Kingdom, the churches of Britain, awaking as it were from their

slumbers, and girding up their loins to more glorious work when they shall not only accept and believe in the prophecy, but labour earnestly for its fulfilment, that there shall come a time—a blessed time; a time which shall last for ever—when 'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation—neither shall they learn war any more.'

"And Sir Philip Gibbs, who wrote a book in 1920 on the 'Realities of War,' and who, among other things, states on page 446—

And while the old war was not yet cold in its grave we prepared for a new war against Bolshevik Russia, arranging for the spending of more millions, the sacrifice of more boys of ours, not openly with the consent of the people, but on the sly, with a fine art of camouflage.

The purpose of the new war seems to many men who had fought for 'liberty' an outrage against 'self-determination of peoples' which had been the fundamental promise of the League of Nations, and a blatant hypocrisy on the part of a nation which denied self-government to Ireland. The ostensible object of our intervention in Russia was to liberate the Russian masses from 'the bloody tyranny of the Bolsheviks,' but this ardour for the liberty of Russia had not been manifest during the reign of Czarism and Grand Dukes when there were massacres of mobs in Moscow, Bloody Sundays in Petrograd, pogroms in Riga, floggings of men and girls in many prisons, and when free speech, liberal ideas, and democratic uprisings had been smashed by Cossack knout and by the torture of Siberian exile. Anyhow many people believed that it was none of our business to suppress the Russian revolution, or to punish the leaders of it, and it was suspected by British working-men that the real motive behind our action was not a noble enthusiasm for liberty, but an endeavour to establish a reactionary government in Russia in order to crush a philosophy of life more dangerous to the Old Order in Europe than high explosives, and to get back the gold that had been poured into Russia by England and France.

Thousands of British soldiers, newly come from war in France, were sullenly determined that they would not be dragged off to the new adventure. They were not alone. As Lord Rothermere pointed out, a French regiment mutinied on hearing a mere unfounded report that it was being sent to the Black Sea. The United States and Japan were withdrawing. Only a few of our men, disillusioned by the ways of peace, missing the old comradeship of the ranks, restless, purposeless, not happy at home, seeing no prospect of good employment, said, 'Hell! . . . Why not the army again, and Archangel, or any old where?' and volunteered for Mr. Winston Churchill's little war.

"And William Morris Hughes, the Arch-War-Lord of Australia, whilst the blood of Australian heroes was hardly cold on Gallipoli and Flanders, with the vote of a Cabinet still lusty for war, decided that Australia was behind England in a war against the Turks, and this whilst an Australian Parliament,

which was not consulted, was still sitting at the seat of government in Melbourne. Would members of the Opposition object to these utterances of well-known leaders of British public thought being printed in our School Readers?"

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUEENSLAND STATE DAIRY BOARD AND COMMISSIONER OF PRICES.

Mr. CLAYTON (*Wide Bay*) asked the Premier—

"In the event of the establishment of a Queensland State Dairy Board, and the Board agreeing to an arrangement with the Boards of the other States not to place butter on the local market below cost of production, such cost to be determined by the Board, will he, on behalf of his Government, give the House his assurance that he will not permit of any interference by the Queensland Price Fixing Commissioner with regard to the price decided upon?"

The PREMIER (Hon. E. G. Theodore, *Chillagoe*) replied—

"The conditions under which a Queensland Dairy Board will operate will be discussed with the Council of Agriculture when the necessity arises."

REWAN POLICE HORSE-BREEDING STATION.

Mr. DEACON (*Cunningham*) asked the Home Secretary—

"1. How many mares are there at Rewan Station?"

"2. How many yearlings were branded each year for the years 1921, 1922, and 1923?"

"3. What number of horses suitable for police work have been taken from the station during these years?"

"4. Have any been sold, and at what average price?"

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*) replied—

"1. One hundred and eighty-eight.

"2. During 1921, 77; during 1922, 82; during 1923, 79.

"3. During 1921-22, 73; during 1922-23, 112; during 1923-24, 77.

"4. No horses have been sold during the above years."

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PASSENGER FARES.
METROPOLITAN AREA.

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

"What is the percentage increase in passenger fares—(a) 2nd Class Single, (b) 2nd Class Return to Brisbane, from the following stations:—Mitchelton, Gaythorne, Enoggera, Newmarket, Wilston, Taringa, and Indooroopilly?"

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

"(a) and (b) The general increase in fares is 7½ per cent., with a minimum increase of one penny."

GOLD, LIFE, AND YEARLY FREE PASSES ISSUED BY RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. MORGAN (*Murilla*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

"1. What is the number of gold rail-

way passes at present in use held respectively by—(a) Members of the Legislative Assembly; (b) ex-Members of the Legislative Assembly; (c) ex-Members of the Legislative Council; (d) Judges?"

"2. How many gold passes were issued to others than those mentioned above; if so, the name of each holder?"

"3. What is the number of life or yearly passes, other than gold passes, now in existence, and by whom are they held?"

"4. What is the number of free railway passes issued by the Railway Department during the year ended 30th June, 1924, not mentioned in above list?"

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

	1914.	1924.
"1.—		
(a) Members Legislative Assembly	72	72
(b) Ex-Members Legislative Assembly	32	49
(c) Members Legislative Council	45	—
Ex-Members Legislative Council	1	51
(d) Judges	3	7

"2. 43, divided as follows:—

Free Gold Passes—

His Excellency the Governor—Colonel Sir Matthew Nathan, P.C., G.C.M.G.

A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor.

Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

Auditor-General.

Commissioner of Police.

Deputy Postmaster-General.

Mr. R. Joyce, Railway Inventions Board.

Lady Morgan (wife of late Lieutenant-Governor).

Mrs. W. Hamilton (wife of late President, Legislative Council).

Mrs. W. Lennon (wife of Lieutenant-Governor).

D. Ewart (ex-Director, Department of Public Instruction).

A. R. MacDonald (ex-Under Secretary, Mines Department).

Mrs. T. Petrie.

Total, 13. In 1914 the number was 44.

Gold Passes Paid For—

Under Secretary—

Chief Secretary's Office.

Treasury.

Home Secretary's Department.

Department of Public Instruction.

Department of Agriculture and Stock.

Department of Public Works.

Department of Mines.

Department of Justice.

Lands Department.

Deputy Auditor-General.

Solicitor-General.

Public Service Commissioner.

Commissioner of Trade, Brisbane.

Commissioner of Public Health.

State Insurance Commissioner.
 Commissioner of Income Tax.
 Commissioner of Irrigation.
 Public Curator.
 Government Printer.
 Member of the Land Court (Mr. P. W. Shannon).
 General Manager—
 Central Sugar Mills.
 State Smelters.
 Railway Refreshment Rooms.
 Chairman, Main Roads Board.
 Member—
 Main Roads Board.
 Main Roads Board.
 Chairman, Prickly Pear Land Commission.
 Member—
 Prickly Pear Land Commission.
 Prickly Pear Land Commission.
 Director, Council of Agriculture.
 Total, 30. In 1914 the number was 2.
 The Commissioner for Railways and 48 officers hold passes which are used in the execution of their duty.
 In 1914 the number was 77.
 Twelve retired railway officers also hold gold passes.
 In 1914 the number was 7.
 The 12 now in operation are—

Name.	Issued on.
Wm. Pagan, M.I.C.E., ex-Deputy Commissioner.	
N.D.	30-4-1919
S. Davis, ex-Chief Railway Auditor	7-1-1920
R. Dunbar, ex-General Traffic Manager	14-5-1908
A. P. Lloyd, ex-District Traffic Manager	9-9-1920
M. McGavin, ex-Traffic Manager, Maryborough	3-2-1909
W. S. Prewett, ex-Traffic Manager, Cairns	13-9-1918
G. Ross, ex-Assistant Traffic Manager, Warwick	11-8-1917
W. King, ex-Locomotive Superintendent, Brisbane	9-4-1919
A. C. Raff, ex-District Engineer, Brisbane	8-1-1919
C. B. Lethem, ex-Officer in Charge, Surveys, Brisbane	8-1-1919
F. L. Keir, ex-Assistant Engineer, Brisbane	8-1-1919
C. E. Quinlan, ex-Divisional Engineer, C.D.	11-3-1919

“ 3. Life passes—Nil.
 Other passes—5, viz. :—
 H. L. Archdall, Chief Police Magistrate and Chairman, Railway Appeal Board. (Issued 6th October, 1916.)
 F. Ryder, Official Secretary, Government House. (Issued 6th June, 1921.)
 V. G. Martin, General Manager, Stannary Hills Tramway. (Mr. Martin works in conjunction with railway officers on Cairns Railway

and thereby facilitates railway traffic on Government lines.) (Issued 18th January, 1907.)

Miss Petrie. (Issued 14th July, 1910.)

P. J. Connolly, ex-Chief Clerk, Chief Railway Auditor's Office. (Issued 22nd September, 1919.)

In 1914 the number was 25.

Four hundred and fifty-five railway employes hold passes required in the execution of their duties.

Figures for 1914 not available.

“ 4. 1,123 passes were issued to unemployed workmen, visitors, ex-railwaymen, etc.

Figures for 1914 are not available.”

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD—REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION ON ALLEGED DEFECTIVE SEWERAGE WORK.

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowong*), without notice, asked the Secretary for Public Works—

“ Will he cause to have printed for the benefit of the members of the House the report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into certain alleged defective work in connection with the reticulation sewer in the vicinity of Laidlaw parade, East Brisbane, the sewer near the Baby Clinic in Alfred street, Fortitude Valley, and such other sewers and reticulation sewers as the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board may determine? ”

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) replied—

“ The papers have already been tabled in Parliament. That is all that is necessary, in my opinion.”

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowong*): I give notice of the question for to-morrow.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: I have already given you the answer.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—SECOND ALLOTTED DAY.

(*Mr. Pollock, Gregory, in the chair.*)

CHIEF SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

Question stated—That £41,675 be granted for “ Miscellaneous Services.”

Mr. EDWARDS (*Nanango*): I am sure that hon. members will agree that advertising the State is a very important matter indeed in its early development. I would suggest to the Government that, instead of advertising the State through the Southern Press, they send to the Southern States a practical man armed with lithographs of the different holdings to be subdivided and information respecting the opportunities offering in the way of establishing secondary industries in this State. That would not entail any very great cost to the Government. A man who has had practical experience, more particularly on the land and in connection with the possibility of growing certain crops, etc., would be better able to explain the advantages that would be obtained by the people—especially those with capital—coming to assist in the development

of our State. That scheme was attempted very successfully to a certain point by past Governments. Some hon. gentlemen in this Chamber will remember that a past Government engaged a man to go to the Southern States to put Queensland's case before the prospective immigrants from those States. The method was so successful that groups of men came to the Darling Downs and other parts of Queensland with their families and brought a considerable amount of capital with them. Many of those settlers have been successful, and many of them have gone a long way towards helping us to develop the State and bring it to its present position. I admit that the Government of that day failed those settlers at a very critical time. Large estates were repurchased on the Darling Downs, and such a heavy cost was placed on the settlers as made it impossible for them to make the progress that they should have made under that scheme. The method that I have suggested is the best possible way of advertising the State and inducing people with capital to come here. That is a much better method than spending large sums of money in advertising the State in certain Southern newspapers that never reach the class of people we desire to secure as settlers.

The position of the people living within the State is the best possible advertisement that the State can get. Hundreds—I can safely say thousands—of the people living in Queensland, when writing to their friends in other parts of the world, are either giving the State a good or a bad advertisement. The nature of the advertisement is largely influenced by the policy of the Government. I am afraid that the policy of this Government from an advertising point of view is inducing undesirable immigrants to come to Queensland. That is unfortunate. We want the best people to come here so that they will settle not only on the land but assist in building up our industries. Those hon. members who visited and travelled through the Dawson Valley irrigation area and portion of the Upper Burnett lands have returned imbued with the idea that great possibilities exist in those two centres but that capital and people are necessary to develop them. I hope that the Government will consider my suggestion for advertising the State by a practical person who knows the possibilities from a productive and industrial point of view from A to Z.

Mr. CLAYTON (*Wild Bay*): I desire to say a few words in connection with the item "Advertising the State, £4,500." The amount shows an increase this year, and, if we are to secure the full benefit of the money to be expended, it is necessary that a different system than was adopted a few years ago should prevail. In 1920 £3,364 was spent in advertising the State. Out of that amount £1,473 was spent in advertising in local newspapers, and of that amount £1,304 was expended among Labour newspapers.

Mr. COLLINS: Hear, hear! They circulate amongst the most intelligent persons.

Mr. CLAYTON: The amount of £1,304 was spent with the Brisbane "Worker," the Sydney "Worker," the "Labour News," the Maryborough "Alert," and "Truth." The amount expended from the vote last

year in that direction was not so great, and I hope that the expenditure of this appropriation will be made in a different way.

Mr. BEDFORD: Spend it with the financial papers so as to get the money-lenders to come to Queensland.

Mr. CLAYTON: I recollect an amount of £400 being granted to the hon. member for Warrego to advertise Queensland in the magazines of America. That is the sort of thing hon. members on this side want to turn down. The Premier did very good work in advertising the State while he was at home. Anyone who read his address to the Empire Parliamentary Association could see by the many questions that they pestered the hon. gentleman with at the conclusion of his address that those gentlemen who were privileged to hear him—and all sections, including members of Parliament, congregated to listen to him—were thirsting for information concerning Queensland and Australia generally.

The Premier was able to reply very effectively and to give some interesting information concerning the policy of the Labour Government in Queensland. He also gave the general conditions existing in Queensland. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman misled the Association in one direction. He was asked the following question by Doctor Chappell, a Liberal member of the House of Commons—

"Has it been possible for the Arbitration Court to give awards in regard to farming industries?"

and he replied—

"Yes. Ever since the establishment of the Court it has given awards in the sugar industry for workers employed by cane farmers. Also, about a year ago, the whole of the industry was brought under the Court."

I think that creates an erroneous impression, and may be the means of preventing the right type of man coming here. Prospective farmers realise that they must find markets for their products and get sufficient return for the labour they are engaging.

I think, on the whole, that the Premier gave very good advertising information while in England. I also think that the Secretary for Mines, the hon. member for Oxley, and the hon. member for Cooroora did a lot in the way of advertising our State when they were in England. I know that the hon. member for Cooroora is at present investigating very thoroughly the matter of the butter question in England.

Mr. COSTELLO: At his own expense.

Mr. BEDFORD: And for his own benefit.

Mr. CLAYTON: It would be very interesting for those of us who are interested in the dairying industry to hear an address from the hon. member for Cooroora when he returns and to have authentic information as to what he has learnt regarding the treatment of our butter in England. The hon. member's information will be the means of helping us to move in a way that will best advertise our various exported commodities, and it should assist us greatly in dealing with the marketing problems with which we are at present confronted.

I think some of this vote could be advantageously spent on the compilation of a book dealing with the affairs of Queensland. That book should give information as to how we

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are circumstanced in regard to our land laws, our industrial laws, and our educational system. If this were accurately and attractively drawn up and illustrated, it would be of great benefit to us in England. If the work could not be undertaken by this State alone, it could be undertaken by the co-operative efforts of the combined States and the Commonwealth. The book would broadcast necessary information and would go a long way in assisting to bring desirable immigrants to Australia.

Mr. FOLEY: The Commonwealth do that now.

Mr. CLAYTON: It would go a long way towards increasing our population and bringing out the right type of settler. A similar book was published as far back as 1880, and I have a copy in my possession. It gave very extensive information regarding the affairs of Queensland. Things at that time were much more conducive to successful immigration than they are at present. I trust that the Government will give my suggestion consideration, and spend some of the money from this vote in the direction indicated.

I happened to be present recently at a show banquet held at Kilkivan, a centre in my electorate. I heard there a very interesting speech from a successful immigrant who arrived in Queensland about two years ago. He thought that it was necessary to give more information to those in the old country—information that would bring out a desirable type of immigrant. He stated that a section of the present immigrants was not desirable. We should give greater information and endeavour to give our immigrants practical experience regarding the conditions existing in Queensland. I think we should give every encouragement to the immigrant who possesses a certain amount of capital. Such immigrants should be given practical experience by placing them on the land, and then, after gaining that experience, they should be encouraged to invest their capital in a correct way. With their small amount of capital and the practical experience gained in the State they would become successful and desirable citizens, and in return would send over to England for their friends. That would be a great way of advertising the State.

Hon. W. H. BARNES (*Wynnum*): Before the vote goes through I would like to ask the Premier how the amount of £347 for "Grant to Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing" has been spent. My reason for asking primarily is this: I have received a complaint from a fruitgrower in the Redland Bay district in connection with the marketing of his fruit. I am prepared to admit that the matter in question has been put before the proper department. Briefly the position is this: That the grower in question took to the wharf at Redland Bay sixteen cases of pineapples for export to the South, and, when he got there, he was told by a representative of the Committee of Direction that he would only be allowed to send six cases. The result was that he either had to take the surplus back to his own home or send it to some other market within the State. The writer of the letter—whose name I may say is William [10.30 a.m.] Fielding—states that he regards this as being an absolute tying up of his business. I ought to say in fairness that the matter has been put before the department that more particularly controls

these things, and the reply from the Committee of Direction is that, whilst they admit the truth of his contention as to a limit being placed on the quantity to be sent outside the State, they also say that he had other markets to send to within the State. I would like to know from the Premier for what purpose the amount of £347 has been put on the Estimates. To me it seems that there is an extraordinary state of things in Queensland when men who labour—and surely the men on the land work as hard as anybody in the community—should be absolutely tied up and not allowed to do with their own products as they think fit. Talk about freedom! It seems to me that they are tied hand and foot in every direction.

The PREMIER (Hon. E. G. Theodore, *Chillagor*): As to the reason for the formation of the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing and the policy carried out by that committee, the hon. member should raise that question when the Estimates for the Department of Agriculture are under consideration. The reason for this vote is that the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing applied for a subsidy for the pineapple industry of 6d. per case, together with an amount of £650 to be expended in advertising. The amount was to be spent in advertising Queensland pineapples. The subsidy was not approved, but it was agreed to make available to the Committee the sum of £650 to be utilised in an extensive advertising campaign, the expenditure for which was to be approved and supervised by the Commissioner for Trade on behalf of the Government. The amount on the Estimates is the balance of the amount of £650 granted for that purpose.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: Can you give us any idea of the form of that advertising?

The PREMIER: I am unaware of what is being done, but the Secretary for Agriculture is fully *au fait* with the matter, and will give the information when his Estimates are under discussion. This amount has been charged to this vote because no provision was made for it on the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture, and an extraneous charge of this kind is always charged to the Chief Secretary's Department.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: I will raise the matter again on the Estimates for the Department of Agriculture.

The PREMIER: If the hon. member will raise the question then, he will receive full information.

Question put and passed.

HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

CHIEF OFFICE.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): I beg to move—

"That £6,726 be granted for 'Home Secretary's Department—Chief Office.'"

That represents a slight increase of £53 over last year. I will give any information that hon. members desire regarding the vote.

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*): I desire on this vote to secure an explanation from the Government in regard to the tramway purchase. I previously raised this matter by way of question on 14th August last. Putting the

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matter as concisely as possible, it appears that the total expenditure on the tramway system to the date of acquisition by the Tramway Trust amounted to £1,025,303. The straight-out settlement was made for the sum of £1,400,000. There is a somewhat disquieting paragraph in the comments by this city editor of the London "Times," who has this to say—

"It is another indication that Queensland is at last improving her status on the British market by getting rid of all contentious matters."

Several persons have criticised the matter of the purchase price, and particularly a critic in our own city, Mr. McInnes, writing in the financial columns of the "Daily Mail." No one will say that Mr. McInnes is not a competent critic. Shortly, he says that the shareholders of the late Brisbane Tramway Company certainly have nothing to complain of. It appears to a layman that there is need for some explanation as to why there is such a discrepancy between the total expenditure of the late company and the amount of money which we have paid for the system. I do not want at this stage to go into the matter too deeply, as I would rather wait until we have heard an explanation of the discrepancy either from the Home Secretary or from the Premier, who recently visited London in this connection. We find that a large amount of money was expended in legal expenses before the matter was taken to England. The position seems to hinge on one point only—whether the company was entitled to be paid the commercial value as a going concern, or the present cost of construction, less depreciation, as contended by the Trust. The total expenditure which I mentioned as having been incurred on the tramway system to the date of acquisition by the Trust—£1,025,303—made no provision whatever for depreciation. If depreciation is taken into consideration, undoubtedly that sum would be considerably reduced. The Full Court of Queensland which gave the matter consideration held by a majority verdict that—

"Replacement value (less depreciation) was the basis of assessment of the purchase money."

The minority of the Court found that—

"The basis should be the value of a profit-earning commercial going concern, with all its assets and powers."

The majority decision was appealed against, and it was decided to take the matter to the Privy Council. Eminent barristers went to London with the Premier, but the matter did not come before the Privy Council. It was settled outside, and the question now is whether the Queensland Government were justified, under all the circumstances, in not permitting it to go to the Privy Council. The majority decision of the Queensland Full Court followed the decision of the House of Lords in 1894 in the Edinburgh and London Tramway cases. The Melbourne and Adelaide Tramway systems were acquired on exactly the same basis—that is, without any allowance for goodwill and on the basis of the expenditure on the undertaking. It is noteworthy in this respect that the Melbourne case went to the Privy Council and was decided adversely to the company but in favour of the Melbourne Tramway authority. As against these decisions the Brisbane Tram-

ways Company could have cited cases which took goodwill into consideration, such as the Perth Tramway case and the New Zealand gas undertaking cases. It seems, therefore, that there is authority both for and against; but we must recollect that the Full Court of Queensland decided by a majority against the company and in favour of the Trust, and, taking everything into consideration, particularly the most recent decisions in various parts of the world, there does not appear to be any justification for the claim of the company. The claim of the Brisbane Tramways Company seems to have been for the paper value of the assets—that is, £1,653,000—although, when the accountants made their report, there was a shortage in the tangible assets to the extent of £747,770. Taking half of that amount and adding it to the expenditure of the date of acquisition, we get approximately £1,400,000, which was the amount actually paid to the company. It looks as if a compromise were made halfway between the paper assets of the company and the total expenditure in order to arrive at the present value of the tramways. Under all the circumstances, according to an eminent financial critic in Brisbane, the shareholders received an exceptionally good thing. The statement was published in the London "Times" that this was a contentious matter disposed of prior to the flotation of the Queensland conversion loan, and one of the inferences which can be drawn is that it was possibly sacrificed to the larger consideration of the loan.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: If we had gone to the Privy Council, you would have said that the company did not get a fair deal.

Mr. KERR: The hon. gentleman has no foundation for saying that at all.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: I have. I will give you something from "Hansard" if you are not careful.

Mr. KERR: In these matters there is one principle which we must follow. We are on safe ground if we stick to the laws of the country. They provide for an appeal to the Full Court of Queensland and thence to the Privy Council. This case was taken to the Privy Council, but not adjudicated upon by them. It was taken out of their hands, and the London "Times" leaves room for the inference that it was taken out of their hands as it was of a contentious nature and the conversion loan had to be floated. We should have full information from the Home Secretary, who undoubtedly has given the matter thorough consideration, and know where we stand. When the Brisbane Tramway Trust Act of 1922 was before us, the Opposition rightly contended that the Government had no valuation of the tramway system. A valuation had been commenced and large sums of money were paid to experts, but their work was never completed. We stated then that the ratepayers of Brisbane were buying a pig in a poke. They did not know what they were paying, and I venture to say that the amount which was paid would never have been justified in any court in the world.

Let us look at the first annual report by the Tramway Trust and see what an obsolete system was taken over, and of which no valuation was made by the Government to protect the ratepayers. The report says—

"Much of the plant in the power house is obsolete and inefficient compared with modern machinery . . ."

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It further says—

“The Trust’s difficulties are accentuated by the bad condition of many of the cars, particularly as regards obsolete and inefficient motors, also by the bad condition of the wheels, inefficient maintenance of the insulation of electric cables underneath the cars, and leaky roofs.”

It further says—

“Before the Trust took charge the tracks and road surfaces had been allowed to fall into a serious state of disrepair

I venture to say that the capital value of the tramway system after two years’ operation will be somewhere in the vicinity of £2,000,000. I also heard it stated that because of the big purchase price paid for the tramway system there is a possibility of the Trust being very fortunate indeed if they can balance their accounts, let alone make a profit, over two years’ operations. Perhaps this is not a time to go back into ancient history, but I do not want to allow the attitude adopted by the Government at the time to pass without comment when they did not see to it that the ratepayers were fully protected by having a complete valuation of the tramway system, rather than accepting a paper valuation. I hope the Minister will be able to explain why we paid the amount mentioned for the tramway system, why it was in such a state of disrepair, why there was the discrepancy between the expenditure by the company and the amount that was paid, and why the case was not permitted to go to the Privy Council.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): Yesterday, the Premier gave the hon. member for Enoggera an undertaking that he would quote the figures of the Valuation Board that were appointed to deal with this matter. The hon. gentleman has inferred that a lot of things happened. If my memory serves me aright, the Premier had dealt with the loan matter in London before the case was taken to the Privy Council at all; it had no bearing on his mission in London. Hon. members must be aware that as far back as 1920 the Government appointed a highly qualified Board, known as the Tramways Valuation Board, to value the tramway system. They gave their valuation then on the basis of replacement value at something like £1,750,000. No settlement was reached, and when the Brisbane Tramway Trust Act was passed and it became necessary to fix a basis upon which the price of the system would be settled, those valuations were no longer of any use. The physical condition of the tramway and its stock and assets had depreciated during the period of three years which had elapsed, and the price of material for replacement had also altered during that period, so that the Tramway Valuation Board were compelled to make a further valuation.

Mr. TAYLOR: Was that the same board?

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes. They went over their work again. The Brisbane Tramways Company had a Valuation Board also, and both Valuation Boards worked fairly harmoniously together in making joint requests for the price of any machinery for valuation that any particular firm had an agency for, and in working together a considerable amount of expense was saved. On the question of the physical value of the tramway system each Board determined that for themselves, based on their expert opinion. There were three determinations made by

the Tramways Valuation Board. The first was the prime cost as at 1st January, 1923. The Board stated that to replace the existing undertaking at that date would have cost £1,773,228. Then the Board determined what they called the physical condition of the assets at the same date, allowing for depreciation of the wear and tear of the various items that constituted the assets. They reduced their valuation then to £1,282,958. The Board then took a further deduction, which they called “further depreciation on account of the expiration of the lease at Countess Street.” That is the power station of the system. Under this heading they allowed a depreciation of £144,622. The Board under the heading of “inadequacy of the rolling-stock” allowed a further sum of £29,735 for depreciation, giving a final valuation of £1,063,231. The Board did not take into account the unexpired franchise of 12½ miles of tracks, for which they could not arrive at an estimate. That brought the value of the trams to what might be called a physical condition standard, but the trouble in England was the contention by the Brisbane Tramways Company that the system had a value greater than the physical condition standard.

Mr. TAYLOR: What was their value?

The HOME SECRETARY: I do not know. The company claimed that there was a further asset in the shape of goodwill, or commercial value, and that this factor had to be taken into consideration when taking over a commercial undertaking. That was the point the Privy Council were to be called upon to decide—the basis of valuation on which the Land Court of Queensland would decide the question of compensation. As the hon. member for Enoggera has stated, the Solicitor-General, accompanied by Mr. H. D. Macrossan, went to London with a full knowledge of local conditions. In London they briefed as counsel Sir John Simon—a very eminent counsel who has had a distinguished career and has appeared in many cases of a similar character. The reason why the case did not proceed to the Privy Council was because Sir John Simon advised that, although he felt confident that the Privy Council would not recognise any claim for goodwill, it would probably determine that the basis upon which compensation should be adjusted would be the replacement value of the assets at least three years prior to the system being taken over. In other words, he was of opinion that compensation would be determined on the basis of what it would cost to enable the system to be constructed and completed probably within three years of its being taken over. The value would, therefore, have to be assessed at the prices ruling for wages and material when the Valuation Board made their determination of £1,750,000 as the then replacement value of the system. Sir John Simon and other counsel advised that, if a settlement could be reached at a reasonable figure—in the vicinity of £1,500,000—and legal and other incidental expenses saved, the Trust would be well advised to accept a settlement along those lines.

The Secretary for Public Lands, who had charge of the early negotiations in connection with the tramway business, and I met representatives of the Tramway Trust and discussed the matter from every angle. We considered that, if we had confidence enough to

[Mr. Kerr:

send legal representatives to the other side and to brief Sir John Simon, we should be guided by the legal advice of those gentlemen and settle on the lines they advocated. Our representatives were successful in settling at a sum of £1,400,000. Sir John Simon, with his considerable experience, stated that that amount was much less than the price of settlement would have been, based upon the replacement value at the period he quoted.

That is all the information I can give at this stage.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to point out that I can see no vote here for the Brisbane Tramway Trust. As I allowed the hon. member for Enoggera to make some remarks upon the subject, I thought it only fair that the Home Secretary should reply. Any debate will be in order, provided it is confined to any reference to the Tramway Trust that may appear in this vote, but I cannot allow hon. members to go further into the details of the Tramway Trust settlement.

Mr. MORGAN (*Murrilla*): I desire information from the Home Secretary regarding the practice of releasing prisoners. I know the system has been in vogue for many years, and I do not wish to suggest for one moment that the present Government are inaugurating a different system from that followed by previous Governments. In my opinion the present system is most unsatisfactory: it is unfair, and in many cases unjust.

So far as I can understand, prisoners have been allowed out of gaol upon the recommendation of the Home Secretary—I am not referring specifically to the present Home Secretary.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is not a general practice.

Mr. MORGAN: It may not be, but it has been done. The point I wish to make is that it would be much better if a board were constituted to deal with cases that were considered harsh. I feel confident that many men in the past have been able to get out of gaol because of political influence being used on their behalf.

Mr. WRIGHT: Prior to 1915, perhaps.

Mr. MORGAN: Those men are released only to be brought back again after committing another and more serious offence. Only during the last few weeks we had the example of two men who had both been sentenced to death being set at liberty. They again committed crimes and received further sentences. One committed a murder at Roma, and received a life sentence. Another man who had been sentenced to death for a brutal murder was released after serving a comparatively short sentence. He again committed a crime and has now been sentenced to three years; his offence was robbery with violence.

I think we need a better system. I also understand—and this practice has been in force for some years—that the Home Secretary, when making an official visit to St. Helena, or any other gaol, allows a remission of three weeks or so off the sentences of prisoners. It is a sort of act of clemency. It may be very nice for the Home Secretary to make himself appear a good fellow among prisoners.

The HOME SECRETARY: It is the practice on his first official visit.

Mr. MORGAN: It is the practice usually followed by the Home Secretary on his first visit to the prison after his appointment, but I do not think it is right. If it is thought that a sentence is too severe, or because of ill-health of the prisoner or some other circumstance, a remission of the sentence should take place. I am not against a remission of the sentence if it is justifiable, but what I object to is that there is no set rule applying to the remission of sentences. I would like to know from the Home Secretary whether he would favour the appointment of a board to deal with every application for the remission of a sentence. Such a board would do away with the influence that may be used by politicians to get some prisoner out of gaol. It is no use saying that that has not been done. We know it has been done times out of number, and the time is ripe when a different system should be instituted and every prisoner should have the same consideration. The present system is a bad system. It is not fair to the prisoners, and I would like the Home Secretary to give an expression of opinion based on the experience he has gained. I am sorry that the late Home Secretary, Mr. Appel, is not present, because he had many years of experience, and I suppose that he let just as many prisoners out of gaol, if not more, than have been let out by any other Home Secretary. But simply because Home Secretaries in the past have let men out of gaol without getting all the information necessary does not in any way go to show that the system should be perpetuated. I would like to have something even more than the report of a judge before a prisoner receives a remission of his sentence. I do not think a report from the judge who inflicted the sentence is at all satisfactory. I know men have been let out of gaol against the advice of the judge. A board consisting of three judges could be appointed without additional expense to the State, and the extra work involved would not be in any way embarrassing to the judges. Such a board could inquire into every case when an application is made for a remission of the sentence, and it should consider each case on its merits. No doubt circumstances will arise when a prisoner should have some clemency extended to him. That is possible, and it is only right that clemency should be extended to such a prisoner, but at the present time we have no system. Remissions of sentence are granted indiscriminately. One man may succeed in being released after serving six months or five years of his sentence, while another man who has no political pull is compelled to serve the full sentence allotted to him.

Mr. HARTLEY: Some people who should be in gaol succeed in getting out of gaol.

Mr. MORGAN: We must not attempt to deal with those who have not succeeded in getting into gaol. It is those who have succeeded in getting into gaol with whom we should deal. They deserve fair play and fair treatment, which they are not getting at the present time. Some are getting more than a fair share of leniency, and that has been shown repeatedly by the fact that men have committed further offences almost immediately after they have been released. I would like to know whether the Home Secretary has any figures available as to the number of men who have got back into gaol after

Mr. Morgan.]

having had their previous sentences reduced. It is quite true that the treatment of prisoners has been considerably altered during the last twenty or thirty years. While at one time prisoners were not treated fairly in the gaols of Australia or in the gaols of the world, we now endeavour to make them comfortable while they are in gaol. We now endeavour to reform them by kindness. The gaols are now made so comfortable with picture shows and such things that many prisoners, as soon as they get out of gaol, want to get back again. They look upon the gaol as home. They consider the world outside as being too hard, and a great number of them want to get back. Anything that can be done in the way of reform of prisoners should be done. If we can reform one prisoner and make a useful citizen of him, then we have done good so far as that individual is concerned, and anything that is done to reform a criminal and convert him into a useful citizen will always have my support. I do not think the present system is up to date, nor does it work satisfactorily, and I should like to see the Home Secretary introduce a system under which everyone will get fair play and there will be no favours to anyone.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): In reply to the hon. member, I should like to say that at the present time there is really no definite system as to the remission of sentences.

Mr. MORGAN: That is what I complain of.

The HOME SECRETARY: A large amount of the remissions given in Queensland is the result of recommendations from the Comptroller of Prisons on account of good work performed by the prisoners. I have been going into this question for some time. My personal belief is that we could reward a prisoner in a more effective way, and I am trying to obtain some method whereby by "over-task bonuses" we shall get the same result from the prisoners, and when the prisoner leaves gaol he will have a sufficient amount of money to his credit to give him a fair chance to make a start. (Hear, hear!) My short experience in the Home Secretary's office has taught me that the worst criminal is the best prisoner. The man who has had experience of gaol life soon learns that it pays him to obey orders and to do everything possible to win the favour of those in charge. A prisoner who is not a criminal in the sense that we would regard him as an habitual criminal resents the discipline, and is continually in conflict with the authorities and does not earn their goodwill.

I think that a system of that description would be better than giving remissions for good work. The cases that have happened lately are in a large measure due to the fact that remissions of a very generous nature were given in this State, but the position is not what the hon. member suggests. The remissions were not given indiscriminately, but were based on a scale according to the sentence of the prisoner, so that the individual was in no way taken into account. With regard to remissions of sentence, no remissions have been granted "off my own bat" unless recommended on account of good work by the Comptroller, or unless the prisoners were able to show that there was a reasonable prospect of their being, as first offenders, taken in charge after they left the gaol and given a fresh start in life. But in regard to any remissions of sentence I think I can safely

[*Mr. Morgan.*]

say that in cases of over three months the Cabinet have always insisted that the matter shall be remitted to the judge who sentenced the prisoner, for his comment.

Mr. TAYLOR: Do the Cabinet consider the question of remission as a Cabinet responsibility?

The HOME SECRETARY: Ministers take the responsibility, but they invariably ask for a report from the superintendent of the gaol in which the prisoner is serving his sentence.

HON. W. H. BARNES (*Wynnum*): I rise with a two-fold object. The Minister has partly dealt with the matter I wish to refer to. I do not often disagree with the hon. member for Murilla, but I do not agree with him in his statement that the hon. member for Albert, when Home Secretary, no doubt granted more remissions than any previous Minister.

Mr. MORGAN: I did not mean to say that.

HON. W. H. BARNES: I would like to say, as a member of that Cabinet, that we never thought of granting any remission of sentence to any man without first of all getting a report from the judge who gave the sentence. I might say that very frequently a judge himself, if he thinks that a man is worthy of some consideration after the sentence is imposed, will write to the Home Secretary, who invariably passes the matter on to the Cabinet and advises that something should be done in a certain direction. The Home Secretary is quite right when he says that no one administering the department "off his own bat" would take the responsibility of letting men out indiscriminately.

I am very glad that this discussion has cropped up, because in the interests of the community there are some things on this vote which want clearing up. I want to deal with some matters and ask the Home Secretary for information thereon. Recently we had information that a man who committed a murder—which the judge said was one of the worst cases that he had ever known—was released after serving some seven years of his sentence. I can hardly think that the judge who tried him for murder recommended that that man should be set free. The Home Secretary has indicated how these things are happening, and he has said that the Comptroller of Prisons has something to do with it, and that people who are often the worst prisoners know best how to behave themselves in prison. The point which strikes me is that apparently too much attention has been given to someone who is not the judge, and possibly too little attention to the judge's comments. It is a travesty of justice. Realising that every man has a right to mend his ways, surely it is the duty of the State to help a man who has fallen to lead a better life; but it seems to me an awful thing that a man who has been convicted of murder should be released after serving seven years of his sentence, and that one of the first things he does is to start on his career of crime again. I would like the Home Secretary to make some statement, as the people should know the position.

The HOME SECRETARY: I made a statement to the Press.

HON. W. H. BARNES: No man respects the Press more than I do, but this is the time to ask the Home Secretary in this Committee, because we are the Parliament of Queensland, whether these things have happened. I trust the Home Secretary will give us some information in connection with these cases.

Then there are other things which want adjustment, as the hon. member for Marilla pointed out. I do not know whether it is the law which wants amending, but to me it is an awful thing that a man can do what no parent should ever do—I speak seriously—and that he should tamper with his own daughter and then get one of the most moderate sentences in the world—a sentence of a few months. I say there is something wrong.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is not a question for the Home Department.

HON. W. H. BARNES: The Home Secretary has something to do with this indirectly; at any rate, it all hinges upon the question of punishment. I am sure the Home Secretary will realise the grave matter I am bringing before the House—I do not do it lightly—I say there is something wrong in connection with the business. I have no sympathy with the man who embezzles, but apparently an embezzler is a gentleman; but the man who would be so vile as to tamper with that which is given to him by the Almighty is indeed an astounding thing, and I thought it my duty to bring the matter up this morning. I trust the whole matter will be gone into very seriously by the Cabinet as a whole in order to find out how it is that these shameful loopholes are manifest in connection with our system of justice to-day.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is the judge's sentence.

HON. W. H. BARNES: I am not blaming the Home Secretary. It would be manifestly unfair to come along and say that he was blamable for what the judge did, but there is something wrong in our law if that is the state of the law in this particular direction.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

HON. W. H. BARNES: I will leave that subject. I am prepared to admit, Mr. Pollock, that you have allowed me a little latitude in that connection, but you have realised the importance of the matter, and that is my reason for touching on it. I am glad that the Assistant Home Secretary is in his seat on the front bench at this juncture. What I want to ask the hon. gentleman is if there have been any irregularities in connection with the "Golden Casket" lately that are unknown to the public. I am advised—rightly or wrongly—I do not say that I am correct, but the matter is of such importance that I have a right to bring it before the Committee—I am advised that there have been irregularities, and that some men have been dismissed consequent on irregularities in the direction of altering the numbers of the prize winners after they have been read out. I do not say that the statement is correct, but it has been brought before me by someone whom I regard as a reputable citizen. I want to know whether some men have been dismissed because of those irregularities—giving prize money to which those who got it were not entitled. I am conscious that when I raise the point my action may be misjudged because I am in opposition to the "Golden Casket," but that does not count with me. I ask if any men have been dismissed, and if moneys were paid to men who really had not the winning tickets. Let me say that I am as certain as I stand on my feet that everything that the Assistant Minister has done in that connection has been absolutely

straight and aboveboard. I would be very unfair if I tried to drag in the hon. gentleman, because I think that his action in connection with all matters has been irreproachable. But I ask, have any men been dismissed? Have any moneys been paid to men who tampered with the list of winning numbers, and if so, have the proper winners received prizes? If men in receipt of salaries have deliberately done such things, why were they not prosecuted? Where is the law to-day if these things can happen?

Mr CARTER: Why do you not make a charge?

HON. W. H. BARNES: If I do not get an answer, I am going to ask a question to-morrow.

Mr. WARREN (*Murrumba*): I take it that we ought not to impose sentences on prisoners merely with the idea of punishment. I do not think that we should give a man ten years for some crime simply to punish him for that crime. I think that we put him in gaol in the first place simply so that he may not be a menace to society, and in the second place to give him an opportunity to reform. I am of opinion that many people think—and I believe that it is even in the minds of judges to-day—that it is simply a matter of meting out punishment. If we do not get away from this idea of meting out punishment, we shall never do as well with the prisoners as we should. It is a serious mistake to put men who are morally decent inside prison walls.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will not be in order in discussing the general question of imprisonment on this vote. He will be in order in dealing with the remission of sentences on this vote.

Mr. WARREN: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Pollock, and I shall deal with the remission of sentences. So far as the remission referred to by the hon. member for Wynnum is concerned, the Home Secretary is very unfortunate. A judge has made some very strong remarks about it, and I was in a barber's shop this morning with the hon. member for Rosewood when a reputable citizen of Brisbane raised the question. I think we should know something of this particular case and understand why the man concerned was allowed out of gaol and became a menace to society in a very little while. I say that the Minister is responsible rather than the Cabinet, because the Cabinet does not go into the case as the Minister does. If this man was released on the recommendation of the Minister and he became a danger to society, we are entitled as members of Parliament to ask the hon. gentleman why it happened. I do not say that there is not a little exaggeration, but we do hear constantly that this practice is becoming a greater menace under the present Government than ever before, and, if men are being released practically wholesale after a short portion of their sentence is served, it is time the Minister reviewed the matter. It is also time he reviewed the whole system of the treatment of prisoners. I want to know whether the remarks made by the judge who tried the man to whom I have alluded were correct, and whether the Minister takes the responsibility of releasing prisoners who become a danger to the community soon afterwards.

Mr. Warren.]

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): Judge Macnaughton did make some comments upon a certain case, as he had a right to do, but he was wrong in saying that he was the judge who had tried the prisoner, as the case had been tried by Mr. Justice Real. The man concerned was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. The Governor in Council decided not to carry out the sentence but imposed instead one of imprisonment for fifteen years. According to the Press report the man got a remission of thirteen years, but that was wrong. What happened was this: Under the Prison Regulations prisoners are entitled to a quarter remission of their sentences. This man got a quarter of his term off, or three years and nine months. Then he got the peace remission, based on a scale determined by the Cabinet, which gave him a further three years off, and also a remission of one year, known as the prisoners' remission. He also got six weeks' remission, upon the recommendation of the Comptroller-General, for good work performed.

Mr. TAYLOR: Do those remissions apply to all sentences?

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes. I have had a request from a deputation of chaplains of the gaols, who are visiting the prisons every day, asking me to give an additional remission on account of the Brisbane Centenary.

Mr. KELSO: What remission did this man get on your first official visit?

The HOME SECRETARY: I do not know that he was there when I made my first official visit, but whatever remission I gave it was given equally to all prisoners. The chaplains naturally thought that it was an excellent idea to give a further remission on account of the Centenary, but I told them that I was not going to give any remission on that ground. At the time peace was declared everybody felt happy and humane and desired to do something for those less fortunate than himself, and the remission was given. This man received a remission equal to that of the others, and not because he had more friends than any other prisoner.

Mr. KERR: Did he actually serve his sentence of fifteen years?

The HOME SECRETARY: He served that.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: What about the "Golden Casket" prizes?

The HOME SECRETARY: I have not got the information at present, but I am getting it.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: Do you say that my statement is not correct?

The HOME SECRETARY: I could not say. The "Golden Casket" is not under the control of the Home Secretary, but under the control of the "Golden Casket" Committee, quite apart from the Home Secretary's Department.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: Will you get the information?

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes. I hope to have it by the time we reach the vote for hospitals, and I will give it then.

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*): There is another matter I want to mention on this vote—the method of filling vacancies on local authorities by the Governor in Council. I dealt

with this matter during the municipal elections. In my electorate two vacancies occurred in one of the divisions of the Moggill Shire Council. The Government have seen fit to override the [11.30 a.m.] recommendation of the local authority concerned and make two partisan appointments. One of the appointees is notorious for his partisanship. The other appointee, I understand, was the secretary of the Workers' Political Organisation outside the shire. Neither of these gentlemen is living in the division for which they were appointed. The Government saw fit to make those appointments in face of the recommendation of the residents and the shire council that two residents agreed to by the council and the other residents be appointed to the position. They have lived in the district for many years and are capable and efficient men. I want an explanation—I am justified in asking for it—as to why these appointments have been made. The Moggill Shire Council passed this resolution—

"That this council desires to enter a most emphatic protest against the appointment made by the Government to fill the two vacancies in the No. 2 division of the shire.

"They would point out that they made it the first business of the agenda of their first meeting to nominate two eminently suitable candidates, both of whom are residents in the division of the shire in which the vacancies occurred, but that the Government paid no regard to their recommendation but appointed two members, in no way more suitable for the vacancy, and neither of whom resides in the division for which they were appointed."

Subsequently I had the pleasure of introducing a deputation to the then Assistant Home Secretary, the Hon. F. T. Brennan. At this stage I am compelled to say that during my four years' experience as a member of Parliament I have not received such discourtesy from any Minister as I received at the hands of the then Assistant Home Secretary. It is very hard for me to find words to describe the discourtesy with which he received the deputation. I am sorry to have to raise the question in this Chamber; but when I head a deputation of my constituents to deal with a fair and just matter I expect to be treated courteously by Ministers, and I expect the gentlemen whom I take there and who represent the residents of their districts to be treated with courtesy also.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: Who was discourteous?

Mr. KERR: The present Secretary for Public Instruction. I desire to have the matter placed on record in "Hansard," and I hope that such a thing will never occur again. Three residents from Moggill formed that deputation, and this is the reply that I received as a result of that deputation—

"With reference to the interview of yourself and three residents of Moggill with the Hon. the Assistant Home Secretary, on the 26th instant, regarding the appointment of Messrs. Doyle and Woodcock as Councillors for Division 3, of the Shire of Moggill, I have the honour to inform you that, in pursuance of the responsibility imposed

[Hon. J. Stopford.]

upon the Governor in Council, Messrs. Doyle and Woodcock were appointed members of the Moggill Shire Council to fill the vacancies caused by the failure to hold an election. With regard to your contention that the Governor in Council should have appointed the persons recommended by the council, I am to point out that the Governor in Council is not bound by the representations or recommendations of the council in the matter.

With regard to your objection to the appointment of Mr. Woodcock on the ground that he is not an elector of Moggill, I have to point out that any elector is qualified to be elected or appointed a member of a local authority. This is a condition which applies in parliamentary elections, and has always applied in regard to local government elections. In fact, the Moggill Shire Council has on several occasions had a chairman who was not a resident of the area."

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: Why did not those people who were so interested nominate for the election?

Mr. KERR: The hon. gentleman evidently does not understand the position. Let me explain a little further. One of the nominees unfortunately was just too late with his nomination paper, and it was not accepted by the returning officer on that account. His nomination paper was signed, but he was too late. That man was subsequently recommended to the shire council and the recommendation was agreed to by the council and forwarded to the Home Secretary's office, but in face of that another man, who is a partisan, was appointed. In the other case at the very last moment the nominee was requested not to stand, and unfortunately there was not sufficient time to complete another nomination paper. Immediately after the election his name was submitted by the residents to the local authority and was recommended and forwarded to the Home Secretary's office. In that case, as in the other, this man was turned down and a partisan was appointed. The petition presented to the Home Secretary's office contained the names of 98 per cent. of the residents of the district, but the Government have not seen fit to reverse the action they have taken. Notwithstanding my representations and the representations of the residents, the position still exists. In the early stages, when it was found that two representatives were still required on the shire council, I telephoned the Home Secretary's office to ascertain the proper course of action, and I was told that the council at its first meeting should nominate two suitable men. The chairman of the shire council was in my office when I telephoned the Home Secretary's office. The day after the council meeting the two names were forwarded to the Home Secretary's office, and I think about eight days afterwards two other names were gazetted, and the council was informed that those two gentlemen, who were not nominated by the residents, and who were not nominated by the council, were appointed. It is reprehensible to see any Government doing what we can call prostituting local government by appointing their own supporters. The time has passed for Governments to take any such action as that. I am not going to say that the men

appointed may not be as efficient in carrying out their duties, but the Government have acted contrary to the spirit of the Local Authorities Act. What is the use of placing legislation on the statute-book unless you are going to carry it out in its proper spirit? I know that the Government can make any appointments they desire.

Mr. F. A. COOPER: The Act does not permit; it authorises.

Mr. KERR: If the hon. gentleman can see any difference, then he is drawing a very fine line of demarcation. I think it has occurred only once before in Queensland where a local authority's recommendation has been overruled. We do not know when the Greater Brisbane scheme is coming into operation. There are one or two big works to be carried out in the Moggill Shire. It has been stated very freely that the Secretary for Agriculture has a selection in my electorate, and it is proposed to build main roads. There is going to be a good deal of expense in that shire on that main road. These two men, recently appointed to the Moggill Shire Council, are going to have a vote on certain matters, and I now ask the Government to do the right thing and demand the resignations of their two appointees, and have an election, if necessary, or appoint the men recommended by the council.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: Do you run the show?

Mr. KERR: The Government should do the right thing.

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

Mr. TAYLOR (*Windsor*): The matter raised by the hon. member for Enoggera should have the very serious consideration of the Government. No doubt, what they did in appointing the two men concerned was perfectly legal, but at the same time I think it was most reprehensible, especially considering that the local authority made certain recommendations and presented a petition with regard to the matter. If there is power for the Government to make appointments to positions that have not been filled at an election, then that should only be done when it is shown that a majority of the electors desire that it should be done. We were told that one candidate's nomination was not lodged in time. It should have been lodged in time, and there is no excuse for anyone not lodging his nomination in time. He could have it in days before if he chose.

Mr. MORGAN: That does not justify the appointments that have been made.

Mr. TAYLOR: That is so. It is a reprehensible practice, and one which, if allowed to continue, is going to degrade local government work. No Government should have the power to do what the Government did in this particular instance, and the hon. member for Enoggera was quite justified in drawing attention to the matter.

Mr. MORGAN (*Murilla*): The hon. member for Enoggera has performed an important public duty in calling attention to what happened in connection with the appointments to the Shire of Moggill. When an appointment has to be made to fill a vacancy in the Federal Senate both State Houses of Legislature meet—or in the case of Queensland the Legislative Assembly merely—and

Mr. Morgan.]

make an appointment. An appointment to fill a vacancy in the Senate was recently made in Victoria by both Houses of the State Legislature. If representatives of a local authority who have been returned by the ratepayers meet in the same manner and make a recommendation to the Government to fill any vacancy, that recommendation should be respected. Those members who have been elected by the democratic vote of the people are humiliated if their recommendation is turned down. No more democratic principle could be conceived than the principle of one adult one vote which prevails in the election of our local authorities to-day. Notwithstanding the fact that the members of this local authority were elected on that franchise, the Government saw fit to turn down their recommendation and appoint other persons who from a political point of view were more fitted to represent the Government than the views of the people concerned. Hon. members know that the electors have two opinions in regard to the elections for local authorities and for the State and Federal Parliaments. A great many electors who vote for socialistic candidates in the State and Federal elections vote against Labour nominees in the election of local authorities. The reason for that is probably found in the fact that they own a little bit of land.

Mr. WILSON: That has not been the case throughout Queensland.

Mr. MORGAN: Socialistic candidates have certainly succeeded in being returned in Brisbane.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: The whole of the Ithaca Town Council is composed of Labour members, who are local residents.

Mr. MORGAN: The hon. member for Fortitude Valley must realise that he secures a great many votes at the local authority elections from people who do not vote Labour, because he is looked upon as a moderate.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Order!

Mr. MORGAN: That fact shows that, whereas certain people hold one set of views for the State and Federal Parliaments, they hold another set of views in local authority elections.

Mr. WILSON: How do you account for the fact that a man can hold a seat on a local authority for sixteen years on a property qualification, but directly the adult franchise is introduced he is defeated?

Mr. MORGAN: The hon. member could fill such a position just as admirably from a capitalistic as from a socialistic point of view. The hon. member for Enoggera is to be commended in bringing forward this matter, as the action of the Government was not justified in any shape or form.

Hon. W. H. BARNES (*Wynnum*): If the hon. member for Enoggera had not raised the question on this vote, he would have been absolutely failing in his duty. The position is that the shire council elected by the people made certain recommendations, and, for some reason or other which it is not hard to guess, their recommendation was thrown to the winds.

Mr. KERR: For political reasons.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: I quite recognise that the Home Secretary has the right to appoint anybody resident in Queensland to a local authority. Does the hon. gentleman not think in connection with local authority

work that the person who lives within the area is better suited for the position of member than a person brought in from outside? The successful man in connection with local government work is the man who has interests in the local authority itself. This so-called policy of the Government is most extraordinary; it is not just. If democracy does not mean justice, then something is wrong. It has been suggested that the appointments were made for political reasons.

Mr. KELSO: "Spoils to the victors!"

Hon. W. H. BARNES: Some one has a pull, and that pull has been in the direction of not doing justice.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): I am not conversant with the facts of this case, and the Secretary for Public Instruction, who, while acting as Assistant Minister, dealt with the matter, is not present.

Mr. MORGAN: He ought to be present.

Mr. COLLINS (*Bowen*): I am surprised at the speech delivered by the hon. member for Enoggera in regard to the appointments made to the Moggill Shire Council. A similar case occurred in my electorate in the Wangaratta Shire Council. Three nominations were required for one of the subdivisions, and only two were received. Those two were returned unopposed, but a third representative was required. Quite naturally my supporters wired me to get a Labour man appointed, which was quite right.

Mr. MORGAN: Why did he not nominate?

Mr. COLLINS: The other side misfired, and my own people misfired too. What was wrong with a Labour Government, when they had the opportunity, appointing Labour supporters to those positions? (Opposition dissent.) Never since there has been responsible government in Queensland has a Labour supporter been appointed to any position at all when hon. members opposite have had control of the Government.

Mr. MORGAN: Yes—to the Upper House.

Mr. COLLINS: We have set out to look after our own interests, and we are entitled to do that by appointing on local government bodies men who are in sympathy with our ideals.

Mr. KERR: But not against the express wish of the residents.

Mr. COLLINS: We have been told by hon. members opposite that the Government have done something wrong.

Mr. KERR: So you have.

Mr. COLLINS: When I was speaking in this Chamber the other day I was told we ought to take the mote out of our own eyes, but hon. members opposite want to pull the beam—which is a very big one—out of their eyes. The Labour Government, as representing the Labour movement, would be doing wrong if, when the opportunity offered, they did not appoint to all such positions men in accord with them and the ideals of the Labour movement.

Mr. DEACON (*Cunningham*): If I understand the position and the remarks of the hon. member for Bowen, then men should be appointed to local government bodies because of their political ideas. I hope that the Home Secretary will give the Committee some explanation, as the case as outlined by the hon. member for Enoggera is a scan-

[*Mr. Morgan.*]

dalous one. We had two men recommended for the council—two men who were not wanted, but who were pushed by the Government and appointed.

Mr. KELSO: Their appointments to the Upper House were always Labour men, too.

Mr. DEACON: The others were turned down because of their political opinions. If that sort of thing is going to be carried on, the Government are certainly not going to do any better than they accuse the Tory Governments of doing. They said it was wrong for the Tory Governments to do such things, yet here we have the Labour Government appointing two men who are not wanted by the people, simply because of their political opinions. It is altogether wrong for councillors to be selected on account of their political opinions.

Mr. KELSO (*Nundah*): I hope some explanation will be given to the very serious statement made by the hon. member for Enoggera. Of course, the Assistant Home Secretary and the Home Secretary are quite right in saying that they are not responsible for the appointment. Will the Home Secretary assure us that an explanation will be given at some subsequent date?

The HOME SECRETARY: I am not the responsible Minister.

Mr. KELSO: The hon. gentleman does not expect the Assistant Minister to accept the responsibility? The Home Secretary says that he can give no explanation—

The HOME SECRETARY: I do not know what was in the late Assistant Home Secretary's mind when he made the appointments.

Mr. KELSO: Will the hon. gentleman promise us that an explanation will be made at some subsequent period?

The HOME SECRETARY: No. I say my colleague was perfectly within his rights, according to the Act, in doing what he did. I do not know what evidence the hon. gentleman had before him.

Mr. KELSO: We all know that the Local Authorities Act gives the Minister discretion, but was the step a wise one? The hon. gentleman ignored the recommendation made to him by those concerned. Does the Home Secretary justify such an action as that? I think the hon. member for Enoggera was quite right in asking for an explanation and for assuming that, unless an explanation is given, the only inference is that the Minister made a straight-out political appointment.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear! and laughter.

Mr. KELSO: The hon. member for Wynnun, when I interjected, "Spoils to the victors!" would not go so far as to say that it was a political appointment. He made his own statement in his nice, gentle way. Some of us on this side say without reservation that it was an unadulterated political appointment.

Mr. WEIR: Quite right, too.

Mr. KELSO: Yes, according to the bunch in that corner. It seems to me to be a reflection on the Home Secretary that even at short notice he is unable to give an explanation in an important matter like this. The matter certainly calls for some explanation. Is the opinion of the ratepayers and the men elected by the ratepayers in a democratic way to be overlooked?

Mr. COLLINS: You should say "elected by the people."

Mr. KELSO: The hon. member for Bowen is an awful "stickler" for the use of the word "People," with a huge "P." In this case the local authority represents the people—that will perhaps suit the ideas of the late leader of the Labour party, the hon. member for Bowen. That being so, the Minister has seen fit to override the decision of the representatives of the people. What effect is that going to have on local authority government throughout the State? The effect will be that the men appointed to local authorities will feel that in any action taken by them the Home Secretary may step in and reverse its effect. I say it is a wrong thing to introduce political influence into local government work. The hon. member for Enoggera is justified in his request, and I am only sorry that we cannot get some explanation for the most undemocratic decision at which the Minister arrived.

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowoong*): The hon. member for Bowen stated that this was a perfectly justifiable thing for the Minister to do. Their party are in power; they have the opportunity; and it is a case, as the hon. member for Nundah interjected, "Spoils to the victors." I think it is a wrong thing to introduce political influence into local government work. I have argued to that effect elsewhere. In this case the hon. member for Enoggera stated he has behind him 98 per cent. of the people of Moggill Shire and the Moggill Shire Council. Those people expressed an opinion that certain men should be appointed. Instead of that, we have people appointed by the Government. I am not going to say anything as to the functions of the Assistant Home Secretary at the time, but I contend that the introduction of political influence into local government work is going to have a detrimental effect on the State. When Labour members were in opposition they advocated in similar fashion, but they are now changing their views. Notwithstanding that, we find the "Standard" and other Labour papers on various occasions complaining that the people they represent do not get a show at all, and that the Labour Government are appointing men with Tory views.

It is a deplorable position at which we have arrived. I hold no brief for those men who were so negligent as to delay sending in their nomination papers, but I find fault with the Minister, who is supposed to have no political bias, carrying out the instructions given by a political institution. It would appear that we are introducing the system which is called "graft" in America to-day. To follow the argument of the hon. member for Bowen to a logical conclusion, as soon as the present Government vacate the Treasury benches and those benches are occupied by the present Opposition, we would be justified in clearing out the whole of the men appointed by this Government for political purposes. That is a wrong idea, and I say the hon. member for Enoggera is perfectly justified in demanding an explanation, for he is supported by 98 per cent. of the people of Moggill Shire.

The Assistant Home Secretary has no right to be silent on a question like this. He knows quite well what has been done. Why is he not man enough, like the hon. member for Bowen and other hon. members opposite, to say that this was a political appointment?

Mr. COLLINS: I said it was a Labour appointment.

Mr. Maxwell.]

Mr. MAXWELL: I know you did—not a Communistic appointment.

At 11.57 a.m.,

Mr. F. A. COOPER (*Bremer*), one of the panel of Temporary Chairmen, relieved the Chairman in the chair.

Mr. MAXWELL: Why does the hon. gentleman want to put the responsibility on to the late Assistant Home Secretary?

The HOME SECRETARY: How do I know what was in his mind when he made the appointments?

Mr. MAXWELL: I am not dealing with the Home Secretary. I am dealing with the late Assistant Home Secretary, under whom the Local Authorities Act is administered. If the hon. gentleman will only give us an assurance that before passing all the Estimates of the Home Secretary's Department he will inquire into this matter and give us the necessary information, we shall know where we are.

The HOME SECRETARY: What information can I give?

Mr. MAXWELL: It is no good the Home Secretary butting in on this, because the administration of that department is under the Hon. M. J. Kirwan, and I am asking that gentleman for information; I am not bothering about the Home Secretary. It is no good the Assistant Home Secretary trying to shirk his responsibilities. Mr. Brennan, as Assistant Minister, is the man who was responsible for doing a certain thing, and surely in the archives of his department he has the information. What is the object in carrying on business in this way? I believe that a number of the appointments that have been made have been made under instructions from the Trades Hall. (Government laughter.) We have an example of it this morning.

Mr. COLLINS: They have been pulling your leg.

Mr. MAXWELL: Hon. members always know where I am, but I am bothered if we know where to find the hon. member for Bowen, whose attitude recently may be summed up in the words—

“While I agree with the sentiments that have been expressed by certain members opposite, I am going to vote with the Government.”

That is what some members of the “Corner party” say and do. Can I possibly persuade the hon. gentleman who has only just taken office in the Home Department to give us this information? He is the individual who is responsible. It is a very serious thing so far as the Opposition are concerned. You, Mr. Cooper, are interested in local authority work, and I venture to say that, if your local authority made a recommendation to this Government as to the appointment of a certain individual, you would have something to say if they flouted your recommendation and went right outside your area and appointed two men with pronounced antagonistic political views. I am glad to be associated with the hon. member for Enoggera, and I am certainly astonished at the attitude taken up by the Assistant Minister. We were told that the Hon. M. J. Kirwan, as Minister administering the Local Authorities Act, would be a strong man. I want to see some of the strength that the hon. gentleman has got.

[*Mr. Maxwell.*]

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: You will not catch me with that stuff.

Mr. MAXWELL: No, like Samson, he has had his hair cut, and, having it cut, has lost his strength. (Laughter.)

[12 noon]

Mr. WEIR (*Maryborough*): I am glad to hear that the Opposition have got something to complain about. It is quite refreshing. The hon. member for Toowong appeals to the Assistant Minister to be strong: he appeals to his strength. The Minister has done that which we think is right—which I think is right—and the hon. member for Toowong said also that the Trades Hall dominates certain appointments. I wish to goodness it did.

Mr. KELSO: You believe in political appointments?

Mr. WEIR: I always did. I am one who believes that every council is better for having Labour men in it. I would be happy to see one or two Labour men appointed in the Tory stronghold of the hon. member for Toowong. We killed all the Tories but two in my council, and, if anything happens to the other two, I hope we shall be able to get in Labour men, and I hope that, if we go to the Minister and ask him to put in Labour men, he will follow the example of this Minister who was strong enough to do the right thing.

Mr. MORGAN: He should be strong enough to follow the recommendation of the council.

Mr. WEIR: The Labour organisation in my district has always taken the responsibility of making Labour nominations, and they expect a Labour Government to pay attention to these nominations. What is wrong with that?

Mr. KELSO: You do not believe in an Opposition?

Mr. WEIR: I believe in domination by the people. I believe the bulk of the people are behind the Labour Government, and that is why we are here.

Mr. MAXWELL: The bulk of the people are not behind you.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. WEIR: I am assured that they are, and that is why we are over here. Fancy twenty-nine members saying they represent the bulk of the people! If they represent the people intellectually, then God help this State! This is the same old axe that they wielded which is now falling on their friends, so why the noise? We suffered this axe for donkey's years.

Mr. COLLINS: For sixty years.

Mr. WEIR: We suffered this axe for sixty years, and they did not show any sympathy. What about the gentlemen in the Upper House, which they packed with their friends? Why, some of their men were appointed in the days of Queen Victoria, and it was left to a Labour Government to kick them out. They would have been there yet but for a Labour Government; yet they squeal over appointments to a twopenny halfpenny shire council.

Mr. FARRELL: Fancy a Tory Government administering the Unemployed Workers Insurance Act?

Mr. CLAYTON: What did the “Police Journal” say about you? (Laughter.)

Mr. FARRELL: I had sufficient intelligence not to make a speech on the Police Act Amendment Bill.

Mr. CLAYTON: I would not tell lies about them, anyway.

Mr. WEIR: I have not the slightest idea who made these appointments, but I want to compliment whoever did make them on having done the decent thing towards a Labour recommendation. We have put up with this long enough. Hon. members opposite have done this sort of thing for over fifty years, and we are going to do it for a few years. We want to get up to the stage when we are "fifty fifty" with that crowd. They did it for fifty years, and let us do it for fifty years and then we shall be on a level with them. I want to remind hon. members of this fact—that the bulk of the failures in State enterprises and other industries we have tried to run has been due to the fact that the men in control are not in sympathy with Labour, showing that we want something done there similar to what has been done here. (Interruption.) We made the serious blunder of listening to the other side and not making political appointments. I blame those who were responsible for listening to them; that is what the trouble is; they should have put in charge people with intelligence.

Mr. KELSO: That is rough on the men running the State enterprises now.

Mr. WEIR: The failure of State enterprises is due to want of sympathy with Labour administration. Is that clear? I believe it is true, and I believe the failure in local government is due to want of sympathy with Labour administration. Look at the bear garden we had the other day! That was a fair sample of local government by Tories.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Where was that?

Mr. WEIR: At the last Local Authorities' Conference.

Mr. KELSO: What did His Excellency the Governor say?

Mr. WEIR: The Governor is not a politician, or should not be, and he does not see it from our point of view.

Mr. KELSO: What was wrong with that conference?

Mr. WEIR: One representative there, Mr. R. J. Webster, drew attention to the fact that for three days they had been passing a number of resolutions and had got nowhere. He called it a bear garden.

Mr. BRAND: He did not say that until he was defeated for the presidency.

Mr. WEIR: Maryborough refused to send a representative to that conference because we do not believe in sending representatives to a bear garden. That shire councils are a refuge for political dorelicts has become a standing joke, and the sooner we insist on getting intellectual Labour men on the councils to do the work, the better it will be for the State.

Mr. CORSER (*Burnett*): The hon. member who has just resumed his seat spoke of the intelligent section of the community as though Labour represented that section. As a member of Parliament representing Labour people and giving expression to their requirements, I must remind the hon. member of his own statement with regard to the

Shakespearian business in Maryborough, where the papers reported Mr. Weir, member of Parliament, as saying that he admitted that he was not one of the intelligent section of the community. (Laughter.)

Mr. WEIR: Whatever you are I am the opposite. If you are intellectual, I must be the opposite. (Laughter.)

Mr. CORSER: That is my hope, a any rate. However, we are discussing the action of the Home Department with regard to the Moggill Shire Council, and the actions of this Government are supposed to be along the lines which they advocate. They claim that they are advocating democratic ideas. We know that in our democratic shire councils, as created by the Government, we have to-day representatives elected on a popular franchise—adult suffrage. We have 98 per cent. of the residents in the Moggill Shire Council area petitioning for the appointment of two men who represent their sentiments and ideas; but the Government have turned down that petition and put their own ideas into practice. Where is the democracy in that? Is there not reason for a protest against this abuse of democratic principles? Are we not here controlled by the Trades Hall as against the wishes of the people expressed through their representatives in Parliament? The hon. member has referred to the actions of Governments for the past sixty years. I am not responsible for those actions, but I do say that for all the good things past Governments have done for democracy, which made possible a Labour Government, we have had nothing in return but unfairness. Hon. members opposite boast of having closed down the Legislative Council. Perhaps there are reasons why it should have been closed down. I am not enamoured of a nominee House, and for that reason I am going to associate it with the matter before us. I am against a nominee Upper House appointed by the Government. But why should the Government want to nominate two individuals as members of the Moggill Shire Council against the wishes of the people in the district? The party opposite were opposed to the system of nominating the members of the Legislative Council by the Executive, and why should we not protest against their action in appointing men who are nominees of the Trades Hall against the wishes of the people in the Moggill district? Not only have they repudiated the principle of the referendum, but they have substituted in place of the Legislative Council the domination of the Trades Hall over Labour in politics.

The hon. member for Rockhampton asked us to picture a Tory administrator in the State Insurance Office, but let us picture, as we have here, a Labour socialistic or communistic administrator as the head of the Council of Agriculture. We have there as chairman a man who claims that he is out for "production for use and not for profit." Whilst it is not my desire to raise the point, I must protest against the impression which the hon. member for Rockhampton wished to make when he asked what would happen if what he termed a Tory Minister was at the head of some organisation created by Labour. The unfortunate part of the business is that there is not a Minister who can explain the action of the past Assistant Minister.

An OPPOSITION MEMBER: They are not "game" to.

Mr. Corser.]

Mr. CORSER: It appears that "mum" is to be the word, and that they are not going to explain what he, as a member of the Government, has done "off his own bat" against democracy. As it is a matter which affects the franchise and the desires of the people, we should have an expression of opinion from those who are responsible for this action.

Mr. HARTLEY: What proof have you got that it is against the wishes of the people?

Mr. CORSER: Because 98 per cent. of the people in the district petitioned the Home Department for the appointment of two other gentlemen to the positions in question.

Mr. HARTLEY: How do you know there were 98 per cent.?

Mr. CORSER: Because 98 per cent. is stated as the percentage which signed the petition.

Mr. HARTLEY: Nonsense!

Mr. CORSER: The hon. member for the district has made that statement, and I believe him.

This is not the only matter of interest in this vote. We find that there is provision made for the continuance of something that we applaud—that is, for public clinics and the care of children where the parents have not private means or the possibility of doing it. I would ask why there has not been provision made for such assistance in our newly settled districts, in which we are settling hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of people, and where there is no medical attention available. Our first care should be given to extend the system of baby clinics to the country districts, in addition to the provision made in the cities and larger towns. On humanitarian grounds, we should provide what is essential for the safety of the children and mothers in our new districts where the people are without medical assistance.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: We have started maternity hospitals in the back-blocks and clinics in the cities. Do you not think that is a good policy?

Mr. CORSER: Yes, in some districts. The maternity hospital provision is all right, but I cannot give to the Minister or the Government all the credit for that. We know that it is the public of Queensland and Australia who are providing these maternity hospitals. It is the "Golden Casket" funds which are providing the money for this purpose. I do not think the appropriation could be put to a better purpose, and I congratulate the Minister on the application of these funds to hospitals and maternity hospitals. In the Mundubbera area there have been, and there are now, agitations for a maternity ward in the hospital in that locality; and it is to be hoped that the Minister will see the wisdom of establishing a maternity ward at the hospital at Mundubbera, where to-day one of the nurses has to sleep in a hessian-walled room underneath the hospital as the building is so crowded. These facts have been made known to the department by deputation, and I trust that the Minister will find it possible to afford maternity provision at a very early date. Not only is it essential in the Mundubbera district, but in the Biggenden area there is also a desire for such accommodation.

[Mr. Corser.

At 12.20 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: They have a very fine hospital.

Mr. CORSER: They have—so fine and so much used that there is not room for the proper housing of the patients without the maternity provision which has been promised by the department. Everything is in readiness for the extensions, which are urgently needed, and we hope that the Minister will soon announce that carpenters are going up to build the nurses' quarters, part of the cost of which has been provided by the local people, and to make a start on the maternity wards, which are absolutely essential. It is to the credit of the department that very fine maternity wards are just about completed at Gayndah, although that provision might not have been possible had it not been for the "Golden Casket" funds. I hope that the hospitals in the remainder of the district and throughout Queensland will receive the fullest consideration, including the earliest possible establishment of maternity wards where needed, but especially in the country districts, where in the interests of the State every facility should be given to the women and children.

Mr. CLAYTON (*Wide Bay*): I would be very pleased if the Minister would listen to the few remarks I have to make on this vote, because I think that one of my suggestions might mean an amendment of the Local Authorities Act which would be of great benefit to the people in country districts. Under the Local Authorities Act, 1902-1920, Third Schedule, Rule 5 (*d*), a person whose name has been wrongly erased from a roll must make a declaration to that effect before a justice of the peace.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: That is the principle in connection with State parliamentary elections.

Mr. CLAYTON: If a voter has become a resident in an area in which a local authority election is being held, it is necessary for him to make a declaration before his vote is recorded, and I would suggest that, instead of having to make it before a justice of the peace, it would be sufficient if he made it before a presiding officer.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: Will the hon. member send that suggestion along?

Mr. CLAYTON: I am making the suggestion now. In the Shire of Kilkivan, where recently an election was held, the presiding officer had to hold people in the booth for a considerable time until a justice of the peace came along, so that they might make declarations, whereas, according to my suggestion, the presiding officer could have witnessed them and no delay need have occurred. I hope that the Minister will look into the matter and take steps to amend the Act or the regulations, if it can be done by an amendment of the regulations, by inserting a proviso that a declaration may be made before a presiding officer and not necessarily before a justice of the peace. Furthermore, when such a person makes a declaration, I would suggest that his vote be placed on one side so that it may be scrutinised by the returning officer at a later date, instead of allowing it to be dropped into the ballot-box as has been done on many occasions. Once such a vote is dropped into the ballot-box, the returning officer has no control over it, and I would

prefer that it should be put on one side so that the returning officer may go into the matter and see that the voter exercised his vote in proper order or otherwise.

I do not intend to make a long speech on this vote, but I have something to say with regard to the recent Hospitals Act, and I would like to know whether we can discuss it on this vote.

The CHAIRMAN: There will be an opportunity to do that on the vote for "Hospitals."

Mr. CLAYTON: I suppose that I must also discuss police matters at a later stage on the "Police" vote?

The CHAIRMAN: If hon. members desire, they can raise a discussion on the whole of the Estimates for the department on the vote for the "Chief Office." At the same time, they will not be allowed to go over the same ground again on the other votes.

Mr. CLAYTON: Thank you, Mr. Pollock. I give you an assurance that I will not discuss the "Hospital" vote when it comes along, but I may not be here at that time, and as it is a matter of interest and concern to me I shall mention it now. The Maryborough Municipal Council have moved in the direction of having the Maryborough hospital, the Lady Musgrave hospital, and the Ambulance placed under the provisions of the Hospitals Act which was recently put on the statute-book. I may say that, although I cannot agree with that proposal, nevertheless, something might be done in that direction. It will impose great hardship if the Government create a district under the Act, because they will thereby call upon the ratepayers or the landowners in the various shires which will be included within it to contribute a share of the cost of upkeep of the hospital on a land valuation basis. It is absolutely unjust that a man should be victimised because he happens to be a landowner.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: What basis would you suggest?

Mr. CLAYTON: I oppose any suggestion to raise funds on that basis, although the Act makes that provision. The Government would be wise to introduce an amendment basing the contribution on income rather than on the ownership of land. A farmer may own land of the unimproved value of £800, and yet not make one quarter of the income of a professional man in town who may have an allotment worth only £50. That inflicts hardship on the settler, and is not conducive to land settlement. I think all country members—I understand that you, Mr. Pollock, represent a country district—would welcome the placing of this tax upon incomes rather than upon the man whom we call the backbone of the country. That is the man you harass under the present system, whereas the wealthy class who are in a position to keep up the hospitals are not doing it. I look forward to an early amendment in that direction. It is only right that a Labour Government, who pretend to look after the interests of the man on the land, should tax the large incomes instead of taxing the poor unfortunate settler who is harassed enough already by climatic conditions and very poor markets.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. CLAYTON: I sincerely trust that something will be done in that direction in

the near future, and I guarantee that, if the present Government refuse to tax incomes, this party, if they ever are returned to the Government benches, will see that something in that direction is done.

Mr. COLLINS: Your crowd is exempting them in the Commonwealth Parliament.

[12.30 p.m.]

Mr. CLAYTON: I am not responsible for what is done in the Commonwealth Parliament.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. CLAYTON: All I am responsible for as a taxpayer and a man who is making his living from the land is what is done in this Parliament. I appear on behalf of the farmers and those on the land in Queensland to try and get the ear of the Minister, so as to move Caucus and have the restrictions that are placed on the individuals settled on the land removed.

In connection with the "Police" vote there are some very interesting remarks contained in the "Police Journal" with reference to the hon. member for Rockhampton.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! On the Estimates the hon. gentleman can discuss the separate votes on the "Chief Office" vote, but he will not be permitted to do so when those separate votes come along if he has already dealt with them on the "Chief Office" vote. If the hon. gentleman desires to take advantage of the opportunity of discussing separate votes under this vote, he may do so on the conditions that I have stated.

Mr. CLAYTON: I do not intend to discuss the "Police" vote on the present vote, but there are some very interesting remarks in the "Police Journal" connected with the hon. member for Rockhampton, and, with your permission, Mr. Pollock, I intend to make use of them when the "Police" vote is under discussion.

Mr. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*): We are beginning to get right away from the question exercising the minds of the Committee—the action taken by the present Secretary for Public Instruction in making certain appointments when Assistant Home Secretary. We have discussed the matter for upwards of an hour and a-half; we have had the officers of the Home Department within the precincts of the Chamber; and the Home Secretary and the Assistant Home Secretary have been sitting on the front bench, yet, notwithstanding that a serious charge has been made by the hon. member for Enoggera, we have been given no explanation at all.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: The Minister replied.

Mr. ROBERTS: In the first place, there is the charge of lack of courtesy on the part of the present Secretary for Public Instruction. Secondly, the facts are totally different from the case cited by the hon. member for Bowen. He cited a case where a certain recommendation came from a Workers' Political Organisation because there had been a vacancy and no nomination had been lodged. From the facts elucidated by the hon. member for Enoggera, it is found that an election had been held, but because of certain circumstances some candidates failed to lodge their nominations in time. The hon. gentleman states that he inquired from the Home Secretary's office as to the necessary steps to be taken to fill

Mr. Roberts.]

those vacancies, and he was advised in accordance with the Act. The shire council met in the usual course of time and made certain recommendations. We must remember that the council had been elected on the basis of an adult franchise and were representing the people in that area. Surely their opinions were entitled to some respect! They made a recommendation, and on top of that I understand a petition largely signed by the electors within the area was presented to the Assistant Minister. In face of that we are entitled to some explanation, but no explanation has been given in this Chamber, and, I presume, no explanation was given to the local authority as to why certain appointments were made. It is possible that they were made on the representations of the Workers' Political Organisation within the district. If that is so, what is wrong with telling us?

Mr. KERR: There is no Workers' Political Organisation in that district. They all vote for me. (Government laughter.)

Mr. ROBERTS: Under the circumstances we are justified in knowing what caused the Minister to appoint the two men concerned. Someone must have induced him to make the appointment, and he must have had very urgent and important reasons for overriding the request made first by the local authority itself and then by the residents through their petition to the Minister. This is a matter in which we are justified in delaying the vote until we get an explanation. The Home Secretary tried to assist us by interjecting several times, but we do not seem to get any assistance from the Assistant Minister. I am inclined to the opinion that, as the Minister controlling this matter, he must have some knowledge of it. If he is desirous of administering his department in an intelligent manner, he should give an explanation, as there is sufficient justification for one.

Hon. J. G. APPEL (*Albert*): Why these tears?

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: Yes, why these tears?

Hon. J. G. APPEL: During the time that I was connected with a Government administering the affairs of the country it was invariably the practice of the Home Department in such cases to communicate with a local authority and request them to nominate any ratepayer for such a position.

Mr. KELSO: There were no "Spoils to the victors" then.

The HOME SECRETARY: Does the hon. gentleman say that the people had an opportunity of nominating and did not avail themselves of that opportunity?

Hon. J. G. APPEL: Yes. The local authority were requested to say whether they desired the appointment of any particular ratepayer. If no such nomination was received from the local authority, then, and only then, some ratepayer was nominated for the position. Since the advent of the present Administration they have pursued a different line of conduct. This is no new case, but is simply following the practice which was initiated when they came into power. When they came into power and such vacancies occurred and no nomination of a candidate or candidates had been made, the local authorities relied on the practice that had existed hitherto of nominating certain persons, but those nominations were simply overruled and turned down, and in some instances,

[*Mr. Roberts.*

since the franchise is no longer confined to ratepayers, persons were appointed who were not even residents of the local authority, and that practice has since been pursued. It is simply a practice followed by the present Administration, and invariably they have appointed their own supporters. If the electors do not agree with this, then the remedy is in their own hands. This is one of the many little straws which go eventually to make a bundle which I hope will overwhelm the present Administration for ignoring, as they consistently do, the wishes of those primarily interested.

RELIEF OF ABORIGINALS.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): I beg to move—

"That £54,906 be granted for 'Relief of Aborigines.'"

Mr. EDWARDS (*Nanango*): I am fairly well acquainted with the aboriginal settlement at Barambah, and I appreciate the keen interest that both the Home Secretary and the Assistant Home Secretary have manifested in the settlement since they have taken over their departments. I want to give either the Home Secretary or Assistant Home Secretary an opportunity of making a statement in connection with the settlement. Recently the Assistant Home Secretary visited the settlement, and a most successful sports gathering was carried out. During his visit the hon. gentleman made certain suggestions, and I hope that one particular suggestion which he made, and which struck me as being very feasible, will receive the consideration of his department. His suggestion was that every consideration should be given to further opportunities for recreation, education, and the establishment of reading-rooms on the settlement. Reading-rooms will very largely assist the young people in their education. The Assistant Home Secretary had also something to say in connection with the hospital, which is doing a very great and necessary service in promoting the success and well-being of the settlement. The nurses are doing a work which no one could possibly conceive unless they made a personal visit and secured a first-hand knowledge of it. Their work in connection with the sick and those requiring help on the settlement is most humane. The Assistant Home Secretary made it clear that a movement to build quarters for the nurses some distance from the hospital would have his support. This is essential in connection with such a hospital. I congratulate the Home Secretary on the definite steps which he took on his first visit to overcome the congested condition of the State school. When I visited the settlement recently with the Assistant Home Secretary, the new school building was well under way. The hon. gentleman will agree that the increased accommodation in the school is essential, considering the number of children in attendance. The young people on the settlement are intelligent, and educational facilities will not only be to their benefit but to the benefit of the State as a whole. I would also suggest to the Home Secretary—and I know it is in accord with his ideas—that consideration be given to the question of irrigating an area of good-quality land which abuts on the creek running through the settlement.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: They have permanent water there.

Mr. EDWARDS: It is fairly permanent. The Home Secretary should investigate this matter and see whether it is not possible for the sawmilling plant that is established on the bank of the creek to pump the water that would be necessary to irrigate this land. I make the suggestion, because I believe—and I know both the Home Secretary and Assistant Home Secretary will agree with me—that the settlement should be made self-supporting as far as possible. The irrigation of this land would probably enable the superintendent not only to supply the settlement with the whole of the fodder and vegetables necessary, but leave a surplus to forward to market. I also hope that the Home Secretary will go into the question of the advisability of developing the back country of the settlement with a view to bettering its conditions and helping to make it self-supporting. The timber has not been cleaned off the land, which could be made more productive than it is at present. The staff and nurses should have every consideration. They are isolated to some extent from the white population, and are carrying out a work of great service to the State. The officials require to have a keen interest to make the settlement a success. I would like to ask the Minister whether the appointment of an assistant superintendent is not necessary.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: The superintendent there is doing good work.

Mr. EDWARDS: I do not doubt that for one moment, but up to last year I understand that the superintendent had the services of an assistant. Does the Home Secretary not think that the work is too much for one man?

The HOME SECRETARY: I am at present waiting for suggestions from the Protector, but before a man is appointed I want to know first what he is like.

Mr. EDWARDS: I feel confident that, from the interest already shown in the settlement by the Home Secretary and the Assistant Home Secretary, steps towards making it self-supporting will have their consideration. The labour exists on the settlement for making it so. The settlement could be carried on in the nature of an experimental property, and it would then be a pleasure for people to visit it.

Mr. CLAYTON (*Wide Bay*): I would not have risen to speak on this vote but for the fact that the settlement at Barambah happens to be in my electorate, and I could not understand the lack of knowledge displayed by the Ministers who visited the settlement—that they did not extend an invitation to me to accompany them. I am quite sure that it was only an oversight. Knowing the Home Secretary and the Assistant Home Secretary as I do, I think we would have had a fairly good time together if the opportunity had offered, and no doubt the appellation "comrade" would have been used during the time we were together.

I agree with the hon. member for Nanango when he stated that the Barambah Settlement should be made more self-supporting. I think it is the duty of the Home Secretary or the Assistant Home Secretary, whichever may be controlling the settlement, to see that greater endeavours are made to make it self-supporting, and I hope to learn, from the report that is to be issued at the end

of the current financial year, that the settlement will be more self-supporting than it has been in the past.

The HOME SECRETARY: I hope it will be.

Mr. CLAYTON: I trust that that hope will materialise. Regarding educational facilities, it is pleasing to know that the Government are doing what they can in this direction. I look upon that action as a duty devolving upon the Government.

Regarding the superintendent, I think we have the right man in the right place. I think the present superintendent is doing everything that possibly can be done to run the settlement in a proper way. The hospital should be run on up-to-date lines. Although these natives are not of similar colour to our own, they are of the human race and should be cared for. I think we have hon. gentlemen in charge of this department who will see that everything possible is done for the relief of any who may be suffering in the settlement.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: Those in charge of the settlement are doing splendid work.

Mr. CLAYTON: I hope that the good work will be continued. I trust the Ministers will see that I am invited to be present at Barambah on any future occasion when that settlement may be visited for recreational or other purposes.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): I wish to apologise to the hon. member for Wide Bay in not inviting him to be present at Barambah during the Ministerial visit. The error was entirely mine. I had intended to visit Barambah settlement but was unable to do so, and I asked the Assistant Home Secretary to do so and to be sure to ask the hon. member for Nanango to attend so that there would be no trouble afterwards. I must confess that I made an error in overlooking the fact that the hon. member was the member for the district and in inviting the hon. member for Nanaago. However, I will make sure that the error will not recur in the future.

I assure the hon. member for Nanango that the present nurses' quarters were built adjacent to the hospital at the desire of the nurses; but since then a maternity ward has been added to the hospital, and the present quarters are not suitable. We are having timber prepared, and I hope that the new nurses' quarters will be available at the end of this year. We have also supplied some pure-bred cattle to the settlement, and I think the prospects are bright.

The new superintendent has made some very valuable suggestions, but, of course, we have to use caution. It would not do for us to rush into any scheme that may be suggested by the superintendent until we are sure that it is practicable. At the same time we shall render him every possible assistance and continue the progressive policy that has been carried into effect during the last few years.

I am very pleased to have heard the remarks regarding the new superintendent of Barambah. I assure hon. members that not only will assistance be given to make the settlement self-supporting, but also assistance will be given to make the natives and half-castes more self-reliant.

Mr. MORGAN (*Murilla*): I notice that the superintendent of the Taroom Settlement is

Mr. Morgan.]

down to receive £275. I do not think that is a fair salary for a man acting in the capacity of superintendent of such a settlement. I have had experience with the Taroom Settlement on various occasions, and I think the Home Secretary will bear me out when I say that there have been more improvements and more work done since the appointment of the present superintendent than during any other comparative period in the history of the settlement. The present superintendent is most capable, and has endeavoured to better the conditions of the natives by encouraging them to build their own homes and to live under the conditions enjoyed by white folk rather than those of the black folk which were previously existent at the Taroom Settlement.

I cannot understand for a moment why the superintendent's salary is only £275. He is a man vested with considerable authority; he has done an enormous amount of work, and takes a considerable interest in his work. If the department will only give him more latitude, it will not be long before the Taroom Settlement is self-supporting. Each year the conditions are becoming better and better.

I understand that, if the Nathan Gorge scheme is brought to completion, there is a probability of part of the Taroom Settlement being under water. If that occurs, the department will have to consider the advisability of removing the settlement to another area. Of course that is a matter for future consideration. If it is going to occur, it is no use spending much more money on the present settlement. If the department do not intend to go on with the Nathan Gorge scheme, improvements should certainly be added to the Taroom Settlement.

I hope the Minister will recognise the good work performed by the superintendent and, if possible, give him more remuneration than he is at present receiving. The health of the blacks at Taroom is better now than it ever was, and the settlement has increased during the past few years. The excellent work accomplished there could be accomplished elsewhere. I would like the Home Secretary to indicate his intentions regarding the future of the settlement—what portion is likely to be under water, and the future location of the settlement.

HON. J. G. APPEL (*Albert*): The officers of the Home Department unquestionably come more in contact with the people than do the officers of any other Government department, and more particularly with those who are in poor and distressed circumstances; and naturally the reports of the department must be of interest to us. The reports of the various sub-departments controlled by the Home Office submitted yearly furnish very interesting reading. This particular sub-department, "Relief of Aborigines," is one which has always been of particular interest to me, probably for the reason that my grandfather was one of the first band of missionaries who came to what was then termed Moreton Bay for the purpose of civilising and Christianising the aborigines. From my earliest youth I had opportunities of going amongst the aborigines and I gained some understanding of what they were and what their desires were. It is said by some who have no knowledge that the Australian aboriginal is one of the most ignorant and most dense of uncivilised races.

[*Mr. Morgan.*]

I can assure you that that is not so. I have come across aboriginals with [2 p.m.] very great intelligence indeed, and they are capable of learning. It is marvellous to see the way in which they appreciate and are able to take advantage of education when they have the opportunity, and more particularly is that so when they are young. The Chief Protector is a man who has striven to learn what the aboriginal is and to think as the aboriginal thinks. Although I do not meet many aboriginals now, I meet a large number of half-castes who have all the instincts of the aboriginals, and I can say that they have complete confidence in the Chief Protector and, having that complete confidence in the Chief Protector, he is able to administer this department in the sympathetic way which he does. I congratulate him upon his own efforts and those of the officers who work under him with one aim and object. I am glad to see that there is a slight increase in the vote. The whole amount we are spending in connection with the education and care of the aboriginals is £54,906. That is all that we are doing for the original owners of this great territory, and after all it is very little. I miss not having the departmental reports in reference to matters such as the happiness and health of the aboriginals. I would like to know what is being done in connection with venereal disease. This is one of the afflictions which has been communicated to the aboriginals, and it was proposed by means of isolation and the establishment of an isolation hospital to endeavour to cope with this terrible disease, which in some parts—especially in Cape York Peninsula—has almost wiped out the aboriginal tribes. I would be very glad if the Minister would give us some information in regard to what is being done in that particular matter. One of the recommendations made was that a hospital should be established in some isolated position where all those suffering from this disease might receive the most advanced treatment possible. I hope that that recommendation is being carried out, because it is the duty of the State to do everything possible to preserve the aboriginal race. I do not know—and you, Mr. Pollock, as representative of the Gregory electorate know what the conditions are—what many people in the far Western and Northern portions of our territory would do if it were not for the assistance of our Queensland blacks, as it is impossible there to obtain white labour.

MR. COLLINS: They are exploiting it to the full.

HON. J. G. APPEL: The aboriginals have as much right to be employed as white men. This is their own country.

MR. COLLINS: We are here to protect them.

HON. J. G. APPEL: I am opposed to the proposition that, because an aboriginal native of Queensland is black, his colour is against him. It is the duty of the State to see that he is not exploited. I am quite satisfied that the Chief Protector and the officers of the department will see that these boys are not exploited, and that they receive the full value of their services. The departmental report would have been interesting, because as a rule it shows how these boys are employed and how many are gathered together in the different settlements. I am

rather interested in the question as to how our venture at Mornington Island is proceeding. There we had virgin ground to work upon, and the aboriginals were reported to be treacherous. It will be interesting to learn from the Minister whether the mission on that island has been successful and has resulted in the amelioration of the conditions of the natives. I should also like some information about the settlement at Cape Bedford. It has been shown there what it is possible for our Queensland aboriginals to do under intelligent supervision. The same remarks apply to the Mapoon mission, where a slightly different scheme is being carried out with good results. The aboriginals are being encouraged to go on to their little plots and occupy their little houses, and they are cultivating their land in a way which is a credit to them. Prosperity is more or less apparent, and they have arrived at that stage where the mission appears to be of a successful nature. These are matters in which I think every member in the Committee is interested, but more particularly those who, like myself, are natives of Queensland or of Australia.

Then there is the mission at Yarrabah, which is a fairly large one. Great development has taken place there under the control of the Anglican Church. I am particularly anxious to learn, as I am sure every member of the House must be, as well as a large section of the public, what has been the result of the improved management which was decided upon by the church which has charge of that particular mission.

Barambah has already been spoken of. At Barambah we have a collection of aboriginals from all parts of Queensland. Some of the boys there were taken from stations in the Gulf country, and were supposed to be great criminals and a terror and danger to the neighbourhood from which they came, but when they got to Barambah they turned out to be the most docile boys there. I am very glad to see by the report of the Assistant Minister, who visited there recently, that everything is progressing favourably.

One cannot help being astonished at the mechanical skill of some of these boys. I have seen a house being constructed by an aboriginal on one of the mission stations, on which the work was equal to that of any first-class carpenter that I have ever seen. You also find that they adapt themselves to mechanical occupations. I have known boys who were able to take charge of machinery in a way which would be an object lesson to a number of white boys. They took a pride in the machinery under their charge.

I am glad to see that provision has been made for hospitals at these establishments. I would like to get some information from the Minister with regard to the Palm Island settlement. It is a comparatively recently established settlement, but, as the vote is £2,000 this year, I take it that considerable development has taken place. The settlement at the Pascoe River is also a comparatively new station, and I am sure the Committee would appreciate some information about it from the Minister.

There is an increase of £1,450 in the item "Repairs, stores, and incidentals, 'Melbidir.'" The "Melbidir" is an auxiliary ketch which is employed by the department in connection with aboriginal work. To my mind, she is not sufficiently large or powerful to undertake the duties that are now cast upon

her. Take, for instance, the duty of paying regular visits to Mornington Island. Although the Gulf over a greater proportion of its area can be navigated with safety by small vessels, it frequently happens that very suddenly gales arise, and the "Melbidir" is not a vessel of sufficient power to undertake the voyage under such circumstances. I suggest to the Minister that when funds are available—I am not urging that it should be done at once—the Government should take into consideration the question of providing a larger and more powerful vessel.

The HOME SECRETARY: We have a larger vessel up there now.

HON. J. G. APPEL: I am glad to hear that. There is a big field of work to be undertaken by the department in the Cape York Peninsula. There is a considerable number of aboriginals there who up to the present have not come under the control of the department. I want to say just one word in reply to the interjection of the hon. member for Bowen relative to the exploitation of aboriginals. The only way to prevent the exploitation of aboriginals by "mean whites"—I call them "mean whites"—

Mr. COLLINS: Hear, hear!

HON. J. G. APPEL: If we were to analyse the position to ascertain who the "mean whites" are, we would be surprised.

Mr. COLLINS: That is so.

HON. J. G. APPEL: They comprise all sections of the community.

Mr. COLLINS: Especially the squatter section.

HON. J. G. APPEL: The only way to prevent the exploitation of aboriginals is by increased Government control. That may mean increased expenditure, but, when we realise that all we are doing for the original owners of this great territory of Queensland is an expenditure of £54,906, it will be agreed that this is a vote which might very well be increased.

Mr. COLLINS (*Bowen*): Like the hon. member for Albert, I notice that this vote is increased from £51,992 to £54,906. I have no objection to the increase, because I recognise that we have a duty to do all we possibly can for the remnant of a dying race. The hon. member for Albert made reference to the fact that his grandfather was one of the pioneer missionaries who came to this State with the object of civilising and Christianising the aboriginals. I am not reflecting on the good work done by those men, which was counteracted by outside influences.

Hon. J. G. APPEL: Hear, hear!

Mr. COLLINS: What has always puzzled me is that, in reading the history of Java, which has been under the control of the Dutch for a considerable period, we find that the population, instead of decreasing, has increased enormously. Since Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace was in those parts in 1857, the population of Java has more than doubled itself, whilst in Australia and Queensland, where the force that has been operating as a civilising influence has been that of the Anglo-Saxon race, to which we all pretty well belong, our native race has in some of the States practically gone out of existence. There must be some cause for that.

Hon. J. G. APPEL: Disease and "grog."

Mr. Collins.]

Mr. COLLINS: No doubt that has been a very important factor. I am one of those who believe that, like the prickly-pear, this is a legacy that has been left to us by the squatters. From my reading of the history of the early days of this State, the squatters were the true exploiters of aboriginal labour, and we can to some extent also trace the disease to that particular quarter. That, to some extent, also accounts for the race dying out. I understand from the speeches which have been delivered that there are a number of half-castes on our aboriginal settlements. I would like to know if that is true.

Hon. J. G. APPEL: That is so. They have all the instincts of the aboriginal.

Mr. COLLINS: I take it that these half-castes, while possessing some of the worst traits in the character of the Anglo-Saxon race, must also possess some of the best, and I hope that every effort will be made to train these people in the right direction. I regret that under our civilising influences, and under what the hon. member for Albert terms Christianising influences, we must admit that we as an Anglo-Saxon race have failed in our efforts to civilise and Christianise the aboriginals of the State. I notice that the vote for the Palm Island Settlement is increased. I have not had the pleasure of visiting this settlement, because since the hon. member for Albert has ceased to be Home Secretary we have ceased to get invitations to visit those settlements. I do not remember any Home Secretary since the hon. member for Albert vacated that office—especially a Labour Home Secretary—giving hon. members an invitation to visit and see for themselves how the aboriginals are being treated on the settlements in the North. I expect that we shall have to wait until the hon. member for Albert becomes Home Secretary again before we shall receive such an invitation. We are looking after the interests of the aboriginals, and considering the large amount of money that is expended in this direction annually, it would not be money badly spent if hon. members were permitted to visit and inspect the settlements, just as they were enabled to visit the Castle Creek Irrigation Works. By the way, I have not received, nor have I heard of any other hon. member on this side doing so, an invitation to visit Barambah. Hon. members should have opportunities of seeing the conditions under which the aboriginals live and how they are being treated on the settlements.

I want to endorse the remark made during the debate by the hon. member for Nanango with reference to installing a small irrigation plant on the Barambah settlement. I understand that this settlement comprises about 7,000 acres, and there ought to be some fairly good plots of land in that area. The hon. member for Nanango knows the district better than I do, although I passed through it in 1902 before the settlement had been established. An effort should be made to irrigate the land and try and make the settlement self-supporting. We should not rear even the aboriginals of the State in idleness. (Hear, hear!) If the labour on the settlements can be utilised, it should be organised, and methods of cultivation taught so as to make the place as self-supporting as possible. What is true of Barambah is also true of the other settlements. I hope that the sympathy of the Home Secretary in these matters will inspire those interested to assist to make these places self-supporting.

[Mr. Collins.

Mr. RIORDAN (*Burke*): Like other hon. members, I am very pleased to see the increase in this vote. What the increase might be for I do not know just at present. Travelling through my own electorate, through the Gulf country and around the Peninsula, I notice that disease is spreading amongst the blacks, and not only amongst the blacks. Unless the Chief Protector takes some action, disease will wipe out not only the blacks, but it will have a tendency to wipe out the white race in the Gulf country, too.

In visiting little towns and settlements in the Gulf, one notices that the blacks are practically falling to pieces; they are in an advanced state of disease. The hair is falling off their dogs. Some twelve months or so ago, I submitted to the Home Secretary's Department a report from Dr. Patterson, of Burketown, but I do not know what action has been taken regarding that report. During one of my visits to Normanton I called at the hospital, and found there two or three aboriginals who were practically falling to pieces through disease. I think the matter should be taken in hand by the Home Secretary's Department, and that the increase in the vote should be spent in collecting and isolating the blacks infected by disease.

A certain class of beneficial work is performed by the mission. At Delta station, owned by the Delta Pastoral Company, a place which is run by a manager, head stockman, and forty or fifty blacks, one notices how the blankets have been disposed. The vote covering "Blankets, Clothing, Transport, Relief Rations, Postage and Incidentals, Travelling Expenses" has been increased from £8,830 to £9,610. I am sorry to say that the blankets distributed amongst the unfortunate aboriginals in many cases do not remain with the aboriginals. They are traded to the Chinese for opium and "grog," and are resold. One may go into these stations and see that the blankets are not with those to whom they rightly belong. The blankets are in the possession of the whites. In most cases the Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts is administered by the police, but they have many other duties to attend to, and cannot give the necessary attention to the blacks.

I think the banking account at Normanton to the credit of aboriginals was somewhere about £10,000 when I last visited that town. Aboriginals are hired out to stations; others are exploited by stations. No one objects to the aboriginal having the right to work, but, while he has that right to work, it is the duty of the State to protect him from the employer and to see that he gets a fair return from his employer. Otherwise the State might just as well retain the aboriginal in his own country, in places like the Gilbert River, establish a settlement there, and put the aboriginal to some economic use, so getting some return for the expenditure. No place offers greater possibilities than the country along the Gilbert and Norman Rivers, where the aboriginal could almost become self-supporting if this money were spent as it should be.

I do not know whether it is the Chief Protector, or who is responsible, but I think more supervision is wanted. I do not think anyone has an objection to a visit being made by a parliamentary party, as suggested by the hon. member for Bowen; but I do think that before any parliamentary party visits a mission station—and those stations are supposed to be in very capable hands—it is up to the

Government to see that some of this increased expenditure is better supervised. I advocate that it should be employed to round up diseased aboriginals, to take smears and make tests, and to prevent these aboriginals from coming into contact with our white children and the white race generally. Their dogs are

allowed to run about the town. [2.30 p.m.] and the aboriginals camp around the town. Flies are very prevalent in North Queensland in the summer months and they carry the disease into the schools, causing a lot of the blindness and sore eyes that take place in the Gulf country. It is up to the Home Secretary to see that the Chief Protector puts the Aboriginal Department under better supervision during the next twelve months, and to see that the whole of the £5,000 extra voted is spent in medical relief, and in rounding up those who are affected by disease, and isolate them from the white race. If we do not exterminate those who are suffering from that disease, then they are going to exterminate us.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): The debate which has taken place has certainly been very interesting, and I want to assure the Committee that I am entirely sympathetic towards the suggestions that have been brought forward, particularly the suggestions in regard to the stamping out of venereal disease. Plans have been in existence for some time for an isolation hospital, but up to the present time the scheme has only developed so far that in each settlement an isolation ward has been erected. The stamping out of venereal disease is a big problem, but it is a problem we should not be afraid to tackle, because venereal disease is not only a menace to the aboriginals themselves but also a menace to the white population. I can assure the Committee that it is my desire to cope with the problem in a manner that will stamp out the disease, if possible. I quite realise that it appears an impossible task.

The hon. member for Albert has asked for information regarding Mornington Island. That is a Presbyterian Mission established under the previous Government, and I am pleased to say that the results have been very satisfactory. They are carrying on dairying and gardening, and are in every way giving satisfaction. The Palm Island settlement is making very good progress. The Yarrabah Mission, which is conducted by the Anglican Church, is also making very good progress. Some time ago they asked the Home Office to give them a special grant, and I did not object to that, because I realised that they were performing a service which rightly should be performed by the State. The other settlements, both mission and State, are giving every satisfaction.

The problem before the Home Department to-day is that of dealing with venereal disease. Those hon. members who have visited different settlements will find that progress has been made in regard to the class of hospital erected. Not only are we dealing with venereal disease, but the Government are also providing maternity wards. Such wards have not yet been provided at every settlement, but it is part of the Government scheme to provide maternity wards at the different aboriginal settlements, as we believe that a female, although she may be black, should have every assistance in her hour of need. We have already made

arrangements with the district officers for isolation wards to be erected.

Mr. RIORDAN: Instructions should be issued to the Chief Protector that the blacks should be inspected when they come in for their blankets.

HON. J. G. APPEL (*Albert*): I would like to get some information from the Minister as to the condition of the aboriginals on the islands in Torres Strait. The natives there were provided with boats, in order that they might get pearl-shell, which would be disposed of by the Chief Protector for their benefit. Of course they are quite a different type of aboriginal from those on the mainland. They are physically superior, being intermixed with the Papuan and Malay races—their civilisation, such as it is, being of a superior nature to that of the aboriginals on the continent. I would like the Minister to give us information as to how these natives are progressing, the conditions obtaining with regard to the boats supplied to them to enable them to obtain pearl-shells, and what the financial result has been.

The HOME SECRETARY: The Chief Protector informs me that the working of the boats has been very successful.

Question put and passed.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND GRANTS.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): I beg to move—
“That £90,897 be granted for ‘Charitable Institutions and Grants.’”

There is a slight increase in the vote of last year, the amount in regard to which is largely due to increased salaries.

HON. J. G. APPEL (*Albert*): I would like to ask the Minister to let us know the position in connection with the Westwood Sanatorium, which was established more particularly to deal with those who are afflicted with miners' phthisis. It is an experiment more or less, and I am sure that every member of the Committee will be glad to learn what the result of the treatment has been in this locality, which was recommended as a suitable one in which to deal with this form of disease which afflicts members of the mining community.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): In the early history of the Westwood Sanatorium there was a difficulty in inducing miners to go to the institution, as they did not like being cooped up; but after the institution had been in operation for a while the men who availed themselves of it benefited thereby, and we have not had any difficulty since. The institution has been used also for treatment of females. The results have been very gratifying, and I can safely say that everyone who has been treated there for phthisis thinks that it is a very worthy institution. It has fulfilled expectations and more than compensated for the expenditure involved. The report was tabled this morning.

HON. J. G. APPEL (*Albert*): I intended to ask the Minister to let us know the position in regard to the lazaret on Peel Island. Have the leper patients increased in number? How many have been cured of that disease? I understand that some of the inmates have been actually cured and

Hon. J. G. Appel.]

that some of them are out on probation. I am sure that members of the Committee will be glad to learn—or rather sorry to learn—whether there has been an increase or not in the number of patients, what the effect of the treatment has been with the Chaulmoogra oil, and also how many patients who were confined in the institution have been liberated cured or in such a condition that, subject to report, they are no longer inmates of the unfortunate institution.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): The figures asked for by the hon. member for Albert are as follow:—

	White Males.	White Females.	Coloured Males.	Coloured Females.	Totals.
On the Island, 30th June, 1923	24	10	18	3	55
Since admitted	5	1	3	1	10
Readmitted	1	1	2	Nil	4
Discharged	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Died	1	Nil	1	1	3
Remaining, 30th June, 1924	27	12	22	3	64

Regarding the Chaulmoogra oil, the Commissioner of Public Health considers that the treatment has been very successful. Of course, difficulty has been experienced in getting the patients to take it. Not only is that difficulty experienced with the patients on the island, but also after they have been released, in getting them to continue with it for their own protection. I understand that new regulations are now in force under which a supply of oil is given to those patients who are discharged temporarily. A certain amount of difficulty was experienced during the war, and afterwards, in getting a supply of oil, and at one stage it was necessary to bring the oil across the Channel by aeroplane, but we realised that, if it conferred great benefits upon these unfortunate people, it was our duty to endeavour to obtain a supply.

Mr. F. A. COOPER (*Brewer*): I would like to ask the Minister whether the department has been able to procure any of the extract of Chaulmoogra oil, which is said to have been obtained by some physician, and whether it is true that this extract contains the essential feature of the oil without any of the obnoxious features which appertain to its use. I believe that in its raw state the oil is so obnoxious that very few people can approach it, and a much smaller number are able to retain it on their stomachs. I understand that Dr. Moore said two years ago that he hoped to be able to obtain a sufficient quantity of the extract to meet the increased demand. If it can be secured, I hope that the treatment of the unfortunate people will be much more successful than it has been in the past.

I would like to thank the Home Department for the little attention they gave to patients in the matter of eye treatment. The great difficulty with patients at the lazaret—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I would ask the hon. member to defer his remarks on that question until that vote is reached.

Mr. F. A. COOPER: I shall have great pleasure in doing so.

[Hon. J. G. Appel.

Mr. HARTLEY (*Fitzroy*): I would like to know whether the accommodation at the Westwood Sanatorium is becoming overtaxed. I know that from time to time there seems to be some difficulty in getting patients to those institutions. I do not know whether it is because the sanatorium is overtaxed, or whether it is that they do not care to take patients in an advanced stage of consumption. I think it is a mistake to decline to take patients for that reason—I know of cases where patients have been refused admittance on those grounds—for nobody can say when the hopeless stage of consumption is reached. I understand that there is a good deal of trouble because of the accommodation being fully taxed, and it that is so it means that the Government must very soon provide a sanatorium elsewhere. So far as I can see, consumption is on the increase, and with the increase in population has overtaken the public institutions that have been sufficient up to now to cater for these various complaints.

There is another matter that I wish to have the Home Secretary's opinion on: that is in connection with the item "Benevolent Asylum, Rockhampton, £600." That is a benevolent asylum conducted by a benevolent society, consisting of a number of ladies, of whom Mrs. Woolcock is the president. Mrs. Woolcock gives a great deal of time and attention to the asylum, and in addition the society takes care of the needy cases outside of the asylum by way of providing relief to families who are destitute and providing clothing where necessary. The building has fallen into a state of disrepair, and certain alterations and repairs are necessary. Although the Home Secretary has informed me that at present there is no fund from which this money can be made available, I want to ask him to see whether some arrangement cannot be made to get the funds from somewhere, even if it means earmarking a certain proportion of the "Golden Casket" receipts. At the present time the staff is suffering a great deal of inconvenience in running the institution. Alterations are particularly required to the dining-room and the dining-room floor. Not long ago I paid a visit to the institution, and saw what was required. The work of the committee is very creditable indeed. All they ask for is an expenditure of about £100. I am quite satisfied that if the Home Secretary would visit that institution—

The HOME SECRETARY: I gave you a promise I would visit Rockhampton.

Mr. HARTLEY: Is there any chance of the money being made available from some fund? I think the hon. gentleman gave me that promise some time ago, but so far it has not been carried out. I want to impress upon the Home Secretary the fact that these ladies are working under very disadvantageous conditions in carrying out this work, which they are doing very well.

Mr. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*): I regret that hon. members have not been able to receive the report upon the operations of the sub-departments earlier than they have done. There is some interesting information in the report with respect to the old people at Dunwich. I notice that twelve pages of the report are devoted to this institution, in which are so many old people who have been most unfortunate in their life in the State. I notice on page 18 a table showing the

receipts and expenditure to 31st December, 1925. The expenditure column sets out—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	8,815	13	4
Maintenance	32,463	4	7
Total	£41,278	17	11

The receipts for the same period were—

	£	s.	d.
Sale of pigs	29	15	0
Collected by Public Curator	15,753	9	10
Net expenditure	25,405	7	3
Sale of sand	2	0	0
Postmaster	38	5	10
Total	£41,278	17	11

I would like the Home Secretary to explain how the amount collected by the Public Curator is made up.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is the pensions.

Mr. ROBERTS: I would like some information as to the amount the Government received from the Commonwealth during this period of twelve months, and how many people are represented in this contribution for services rendered. Dealing with the Lubricates Institution the report states—

“ METHYLATED SPIRITS.

“ From accounts received, when other spirits were unobtainable or on account of lack of funds, the drinking of methylated spirits seems to be on the increase. This is also alluded to by the Medical Superintendent, Dalrymple House. He makes the suggestion that some material could be added to the methylated spirit sold to the public which will effectively stop its use. This suggestion seems worthy of general adoption, as drinking this liquor is certainly very disastrous to those who take it, as experience of cases here has shown.

“ It would be a decided benefit to Queensland if some method could be adopted to prevent the drinking of methylated spirit.”

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): I have not got the figures either of the number or of the amount received from the Commonwealth, but the Commonwealth Government contribute 10s. 6d. per week for each old-age pensioner in Dunwich. That makes up the amount shown in the report as collected by the Public Curator.

Mr. KERR: Did the Commonwealth Government increase the contribution when the pension was increased to 17s. 6d.?

The HOME SECRETARY: They did not increase the amount paid to the Queensland Government.

Mr. WRIGHT (*Bulimba*): I desire to say a few words on the vote in connection with the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum. During the recess I paid quite a number of visits to that institution, and I noticed that quite a number of improvements had taken place tending to make the inmates more comfortable. I would like to see some other institution provided for imbeciles, also for a certain type of female, particularly young girls, who are at present being admitted. I think there should be some other institution for this type of person. Such a provision

would make for greater comfort for the inmates of Dunwich. That applies particularly to female cases. We have at Dunwich many of our old lady pioneers, and it is not right to place among them these female imbeciles. Everything possible should be done to provide a comfortable time for the aged inhabitants.

Taking Dunwich generally, I am satisfied that it is in advance of many institutions of a similar kind in other parts of the world. If something were done on the lines I have suggested, it would tend to improve considerably the present conditions.

Mr. VOWLES (*Dalby*): I wish to deal briefly with the Jubilee Sanatorium at Dalby for Consumptives. I am pleased to see that the salary of the visiting medical officer has been raised. It is very proper that should have been done. I wish to deal with a portion of a report from this institution. When the institution was established, I understood that it was only for persons in the first stage of the disease.

Hon. J. G. APPEL: That is so.

Mr. VOWLES: I think that arrangement has not been adhered to, and that incurable cases may be found amongst the cases admitted. That is not what was intended. The report contains this statement—

“ Our statistics are less satisfactory than usual owing to the large number of advanced and unsuitable cases which have been sent in during the year. The matter was brought before the notice of the Home Secretary some months ago, and has to some extent been rectified.”

If the institution was established for persons in the first stages of the disease, it is not a fair thing to admit incurables, particularly if they are uncleanly in their habits. I sincerely trust that the suggestion from the institution will be accepted by the Home Secretary's Department.

There is another matter which seems to me to require attention. An opinion seems to be prevalent in Government departments that these institutions do not need painting or preserving. This applies not only to hospitals but to other buildings. I think that country institutions are particularly in need of preservation by painting, more so than city institutions. I suggest that so far as this institution is concerned a little paint would not be out of place.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): Regarding the admission of incurable patients, the majority of the patients, of course, are subject to rigid examination before they are admitted to the Jubilee Sanatorium at Dalby, but the hon. member must recognise that the Home

Department is placed in a very [3 p.m.] serious difficulty. There is a large number of patients asking for admission to some hospital, and the only institution available is at Dalby, and we have to send them there, or else leave them to look after themselves. With regard to painting the sanatorium, I have had that minuted for some considerable time, and when the money is available it will be attended to.

Mr. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*): We are providing a sum in this vote for the Epileptic Home, Willowburn, and there is a statement in the report in regard to the

Mr. Roberts.]

admission of patients. I visited the institution, and was struck with the large number of inmates in the home who, in my opinion, were not suitable patients for that institution, which was established for the purpose of providing a home for those whose mental condition might be improved; and it seems to me rather unfortunate that these people should be surrounded by persons who are certainly incurable, and who ought to be placed in another institution provided by the State. This is what the report says—

“Of the admissions a large proportion were imbecile or mentally defective, notwithstanding the precautions taken to exclude this class of cases. It is not reasonable to expect inmates of normal mentality, for whom especially the institution is designed, to associate with unfortunate sufferers whose admission in many cases has been sought only as a last resource, when they have become intolerable to those belonging to them.”

It is a rather a sad paragraph, and we have to consider the people with whom they are associated. This report is worthy of consideration, and the institution should be really used for the purpose for which it was erected.

Mr. HANSON (*Buranda*): I would like to know from the Minister why there is a reduced vote for “Commission payable to travellers” in connection with the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution. Last year a sum of £500 was voted for “Commission payable to travellers,” and for the current financial year a sum of £425 only is set down. I would like to know whether that reduction is due to an increase of business which renders a lesser number of travellers necessary. I also desire to call attention to the displays at the Brisbane Exhibition. For some years past it has been the custom for what I might term “Working displays” to be exhibited at the Brisbane Exhibition, and the practice of taking employees of the Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Institution to the Exhibition is objectionable to those people, and I hope their wishes will be respected in the future.

Mr. GLENSON: They were not there last year.

Mr. HANSON: I do not know whether they were there, but they were asked to go. I do not think they should be placed in that position. Their wishes in that connection are well known—they object to being placed on show. A very large proportion of the employees in the institution are members of the Blind Workers' Union, and the union is opposed to their being placed on show before the general public, as it were, at the Exhibition. I think that the wishes of that organisation should be respected by the department. It may be very interesting and instructive to the public, but I do not think it is a very nice thing for the employees of the institution to be made the means of entertainment to the public when they do not desire to be in that position.

Mr. KERR: Have they not got a shop where they exhibit their goods for sale?

Mr. HANSON: There is no harm in making an exhibition of their goods. What I object to is the employees themselves being exhibited. I hope that the objection which the employees feel to being placed on show will be respected by the department.

[*Mr. Roberts.*]

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): There has been an exhibition by blind workers at the Exhibition for five years past. Personally, I do not hold the view that a blind worker exhibiting his skill is an object that can be described as something on view.

Mr. HANSON: They think so.

The HOME SECRETARY: I know that the greatest possible difficulty confronts the manager of the institution in making an advertisement of the goods which is necessary. The conditions under which the blind work to-day are certainly much better than they worked under previously. (Hear, hear!) In order to make the conditions of the blind workers as good as we can, we wish to let the public not only of Brisbane, but of the whole State, know what excellent work that institution is doing.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MORGAN: They would sell more goods in the country if the people knew about it.

The HOME SECRETARY: There has never been any question of compelling blind workers to go to the Exhibition at all. Certain blind workers volunteered to give their services during the present Exhibition, but the Blind Workers' Union objected to their going there, and they were not forced to go. During my term of office we have never attempted to force them to go. We thought—and the blind workers themselves thought—that it would be interesting to the country people at the Exhibition to see them there. There is no compulsion used to make a blind worker go there and display his skill. We desire to develop the institution so that at no period a pieceworker will be on short time there.

Mr. HANSON: Hear, hear! That is very sensible.

The HOME SECRETARY: I want to add that no blind worker has been sent to the Exhibition to work at the Exhibition for the last five years; I do not agree with the idea that it is invidious to send them there.

Question put and passed.

HEALTH.

HON. M. J. KIRWAN (*Brisbane*): I beg to move—

“That £26,275 be granted for ‘Health.’”

As hon. members will observe, the vote shows a net decrease of £1,769. The usual increases are provided for members of the staff. I do not know that there is anything further I need explain, but I shall be glad to furnish any necessary information to the Committee.

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*): I notice that there has been a reduction in this vote from £28,044 to £26,275, which the Minister might explain. In the meantime I desire to touch upon one or two matters in regard to health generally. First of all, I want the Minister, if possible, to amplify the statement which he made recently in regard to the milk supply of the metropolitan area. Everybody will admit the worthiness of the spirit which prompted the recent deputation to the Assistant Home Secretary with the object of safeguarding the milk supply. Dr. Turner then said that he had been watching the position for thirty years, and that it is getting worse. The Labour Government have been in power for over nine years, yet

after that time a professional gentleman such as Dr. Turner publicly states that the position is getting worse. It is obvious that the time is ripe for us to tackle this question in a more thorough manner than it has been tackled hitherto. The Government have delayed a long while before taking any steps, and to-day we do not know where we stand. We cannot find out whether the proposed action is going to take the form of a producers' pool for the distribution of milk, whether the supply is to be a municipal affair, or whether it is to be controlled by the Commissioner of Public Health. At any rate, I hope there will not be that conflict of authority with which the Commissioner has had to put up for many years. We have only to consider the position in regard to the Joint Health Board to get an instance. A surplusage of inspectors has resulted from the abolition of the Board, and three of them are now out of work. Some of the local authorities have done their duty and appointed inspectors, but some have not. Enoggera has appointed its inspector and is doing its job, but some others are not doing so, and to cope with the position the Commissioner has had to place his own men in the various districts. I hope that a similar position will not arise in regard to the milk supply, which is of so much importance to the health of the community, particularly children and invalids. The statements in the report of the Government Analyst for last year in regard to milk are astounding. I take this opportunity of informing the Committee that 253 samples taken for analysis contained cigarettes, tobacco, leather, sputum, cyanide—

Mr. CLAYTON: Nonsense!

Mr. KERR: Let the hon. member get the report of the Government Analyst. He would not tell an untruth.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: Did you say cyanide?

Mr. KERR: The report says so, and I will go further and tell the Committee that these samples are said to have included urine and such like substances. If hon. members want proof, let them turn to page 2 of the report of the Government Analyst for the year ended 30th June, 1923. If they say that I am telling an untruth, the charge must also apply to the Government Analyst, who says—

"The 253 miscellaneous samples included cream of tartar, egg noodles, cigarettes, tobacco, leather, vermin destroyers, larvicides, wine, sputum, gelatine, cloudy ammonia, cyanide, urine, hydrometers, butter preservatives, borax, boric acid, citric and tartaric acids, solar eclipse sets, and beer piping."

The Government have been in power over nine years, but they have never yet tackled this question. It has been said that milk is responsible for carrying a number of diseases. What are the Government doing at the present time? The time is opportune for the Minister to make a statement in this Chamber in that connection. Brisbane alone consumes 4,000,000 gallons of milk per year. That amount is adulterated by 47,600 gallons of water, and the public of Brisbane are paying £7,140 per annum for water instead of milk at 8d. or 9d. per quart. This question is of paramount importance. The Government

should have tackled the milk supply problem long ere this. They are not yet in a position to say that the problem is being tackled. I am not going to blame the Commissioner of Public Health, for the reason that he has not had the power to deal with the matter. Year after year he has pointed out the problem in his report to the Government, but they have not taken the necessary action. The other day a body of persons interested submitted a scheme to the Assistant Home Secretary, but he was not able to tell them anything beyond the fact that their scheme would be looked into. Dr. Turner points out that this state of affairs has existed for the last thirty years, but that it was getting worse, and it is time that some action was taken.

Mr. HARTLEY: We shall be all right when we get a municipal supply.

Mr. KERR: Time and again, after thumping by the Opposition, we have been able to get some results. I am going to take the opportunity of thumping every time until something is done. Judging from the statistical returns dealing with the birth rate and the death rate in Queensland, the people of the State generally speaking are in a healthy condition. Queensland has the third highest birth rate, compared with the other States of Australia, New Zealand, and the British Isles. That is an indication that the health of the people of Queensland has always been good, possibly due to outdoor life and excellent natural conditions.

I want to now deal with the venereal hospitals. It is gratifying to learn that a special medical officer has been appointed to take charge of the venereal clinics and the venereal isolated hospitals. I hope that the Government will give this matter very close and continuous attention. It will be found from the statistics that there are a number of children under ten years of age who are infected with venereal disease. At every age a certain number are infected, and close action and close attention are absolutely necessary. The figures show that in Queensland to-day for every one male infected there are five females infected. The Government are responsible for the removal of a great number of restrictions dealing with the prevention of the spread of this disease. The establishment of irrigation stations is necessary to combat this disease. There are some 40,000 irrigations performed every year, and that indicates that this question is one of considerable importance. We should have more irrigation stations established, not in out-of-the-way places, but in centrally situated parts. This particular disease is not being restricted. We find that in 1920 some 698 females, mostly following a certain profession, were examined in William street. I venture to say that very few are examined to-day because the compulsion that existed in previous years is not now present. This disease is not confined to the principal cities. We have it stated in the report that people are receiving attention for it at Cairns, Townsville, Longreach, and Rockhampton, while small outside towns, such as Mitchell, treat their quota of cases. That shows that people with the disease have gone from the cities to towns like Mitchell. It is therefore evident that a good deal of the disease emanates from the cities; it is only logical to draw that conclusion. That being so, we should tackle this question firmly in the cities. The Commonwealth Government previously granted a subsidy of £15,000 in order to combat this disease. I would like the

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Home Secretary to state whether that subsidy or part of it is still available to the State, and whether, if so, it is being availed of by the State, or if it has been withdrawn by the Commonwealth Government. Personally, I have had some experience in the large cities of the world, and I am glad to say that, comparatively speaking, Brisbane, considering the population, can more than hold its own with them. We have not in Brisbane the byways and alleys of the lowest quarters imaginable that exist in other cities. There have been established clinics in Cairo, Marseilles, and other large cities of the world, and not hidden in out-of-the-way corners, facilities which are not looked upon by the people as something to be passed by quickly, but as something essential to the community. So long as that position exists—and it does exist—we ought to be manly enough to face this question. This question is a very important one indeed, and the authorities in Queensland should see if they cannot tackle it. Those are two matters which, in my opinion, should occupy a good deal of attention from the health authorities.

Mr. HARTLEY (*Kittroy*): The vote is a fairly large one for the services we get, and for the information we get as to how the money is spent. I regret that the reports of the Home Department and the Commissioner of Public Health are not available. They are certainly a great aid in discussing this vote. I do not see that either the Health Commissioner or the Government should take the matter of a pure milk supply for Brisbane in hand. It is not their business. The people of Brisbane have the matter in their own hands, just as the people of Charters Towers and Rockhampton have. If they are not getting a pure milk supply, it is the fault of the people distributing the milk. The tirade of the hon. member for Enoggera is only another admission of the dishonesty of the individualist commercial system, and the breakdown of that system. Until hon. members opposite recognise that fact, milk will continue to be adulterated for profit to the detriment of the infant life in the State.

Mr. KERR: A lot of it must be done on the farm.

Mr. HARTLEY: It does not matter where it is done, it is done because of the evils of the system under which we are living. That is what the hon. member for Enoggera cannot see. We are living under a system that allows people to supply milk of any sort merely for profit, without respect for the health of the community. That system is bound to cause the suppliers to disregard what the effect will be on the infant life of the State. It simply shows that the big milk-distributing companies do not care two-pence whether they are selling poison or not so long as they sell it.

The remedy is not through any Government scheme of inspection, but must be achieved by the municipality taking the matter in hand, and seeing that a proper milk supply is provided, also that a better system of distribution is provided. I hope that when the Greater Brisbane scheme is consummated it will bring about in Brisbane—and that similar schemes will be found in other big cities of the State—a municipal milk supply, municipal abattoirs, and other requisites necessary for the welfare of the people in a great State like Queensland. That is the remedy, and it is no good asking the Government for relief or blaming them

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for present conditions. It results simply from the cheating practices of milk-sellers and distributing companies.

Another thing that makes the milk supply poor, and puts it in the hands of unscrupulous persons, is the self-same regulations that the hon. member speaks of. Brisbane and other centres are so mollicodded with regulations that soon we shall not be able to move about without having half a dozen doctors at our elbows to see that we do not come in contact with some flying microbe. The Lord only knows how I and other men have got out of some of the places that we have found ourselves in. I suppose half the doctors of Brisbane would throw fits if they saw some of the water that some hon. members on this side of the House have had to drink from time to time.

Mr. EDWARDS: There are some on this side, too.

Mr. HARTLEY: Yet we did not get any of the horrible things that the hon. member for Enoggera has been talking about. I quite admit that stupidity will run a person into any kind of sickness. I notice that it is generally the fat and lazy man who gets all these fevers. (Laughter.) One of the effects of all these regulations is the attempt to beat Nature by eradicating the mosquito. The authorities compel all water receptacles to be covered, and prosecute people who do not cover them. It may happen that a lot of people have kept a couple of very finely bred cows, but when these regulations began to be enforced they would not bother any further with their cows. The same remark applies to the health regulations as to the disposal of manure. Unless a person is prepared to go around after the cow with a garbage pan in one hand and a brush in the other he is liable to be prosecuted by a health inspector. No one would bother about that. There is reasonableness in all things, and I admit that cleanliness is necessary; at the same time I think that a lot of these health regulations are stupid and too drastic and too expensive to working people.

Mr. KERR: The hon. member would not tackle the milk supply at all.

Mr. HARTLEY: I advise my young friend—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the hon. member to address the Chair.

Mr. HARTLEY: I advise the hon. member for Enoggera, through the Chair—(laughter)—that I would tackle the question of the milk supply through the city council. I hope that when the Greater Brisbane scheme is consummated, and an advanced council of progressive Labour men is elected, they will deal not only with the milk problem but with all other important problems.

There is one matter I seriously [3.30 p.m.] need some information about, because the reports are not here, and I am absolutely in the dark. I do not like being in the dark on such an important matter.

Mr. FRY: You are mostly in the dark.

Mr. HARTLEY: If I am in the dark, I can always find the hon. member, because you can always find a donkey by the noise he makes. (Laughter.) I look upon this question of mosquito eradication as a pretty big waste of time, and, what is more to the point, some of the regulations, compelling people to cut down beautiful shade trees

around their homes, because leaves from the trees get into the spouting where mosquitoes might breed, are absolutely silly. I saw that a gentleman the other day at Toowoomba gave a lecture on the ubiquitous mosquito, and he said he did not think water was at all necessary for them to breed in, and he gave it as his experience that he had found them in dry places. I have found them in some of the dry spots of the West in the middle of the big drought when there was no rain at all, and I have found them in big clouds too.

Hon. W. H. BARNES: There must be some tetotal mosquitoes. (Laughter.)

Mr. HARTLEY: According to the Health Department, they are nearly all tetotal, because they say that if you mix anything with the water it settles them, and it generally settles a tetotaller as well as the mosquito. It depends on how much you mix with the water. I want to know what has been the result of the expenditure, how much it has been, what number of mosquitoes to the million have been destroyed, and what is the cost per head of destroying them—(laughter)—and I hope the hon. gentleman will supply that information.

Mr. CLAYTON (*Wide Bay*): I should not have spoken on this vote but for the report which was stated to be signed by the Government Analyst and the remarks of the hon. member for Enoggera. That hon. member made a most alarming statement.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: My word, he did!

Mr. CLAYTON: If I find the statement has been authorised as correct by the Government Analyst, Mr. Henderson, then the position is serious. But for that report I could not have believed it possible.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: What did Mr. Henderson say?

Mr. CLAYTON: The hon. member for Enoggera informs me that in his report he states that in the milk supply of Brisbane cigarette dumpers, leather, sputum, larvacides, and urine have been found. If you find the milk supply of Brisbane containing such substances as that, then it is time the Health Department made a thorough investigation and dealt stringently with any vendor selling milk containing such substances. With regard to the supply of milk generally to the cities—I restrict my remarks to the cold milk supply—something should be done to provide for a purer supply of milk to the city, as milk is one of our most important foods, especially as regards the younger generation. As one who is supplying a retailer in the town of Maryborough, I know something about the subject. At the present time our dairy premises are subject to inspection by the officers of the Department of Agriculture; then your cows are subject to inspection by a veterinary surgeon who is also an officer of the Department of Agriculture; and then your milk supply comes under the Health Department. If we could place the whole of the milk supply question—that is as to the health of the cattle and all—under the one department, it would be in the interests of the consumers of milk in the city, and that suggestion should be taken up.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: You suggest that, in the case of dairies supplying milk for consumption?

Mr. CLAYTON: Yes. I advocate that, and I think it would be a move in the right direction. I have had a few years' practical experience in this matter, and my opinion is that you get a more wholesome article by the use of milking machines than you do with hand-milking and going round to see that every cow is in a proper milking state. But whether milking is done by machine or by hand, there is a filter used in many dairies—those in which great care is exercised—by means of which all the milk is filtered through cotton wool. I have always insisted on this cotton-wool filter being used in connection with my business, and it would surprise hon. members if they could see what is contained in that cotton-wool filter after the milk goes through. Seeing the trouble we have in connection with our milk supply, and that the butter we put on the market is not of the same standard as that of other countries, it would be a step in the right direction to see that these filters are used to take away the impurities which exist in milk which is not strained in a proper manner. I trust that something will be done to alleviate the mortality and suffering which take place amongst the younger children in many of our cities.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN (*Brisbane*): The decrease in the vote is largely due to the fact that £2,000 less will be spent this year in connection with the hookworm campaign, which has been conducted throughout the State for some time with the assistance of the Commonwealth. The campaign is practically now completed, and that accounts for the decrease in the vote.

The hon. member for Enoggera made a rather remarkable statement, which is quite characteristic of him, by reading an extract from the Government Analyst's report purporting to state what was found in milk analysed by that gentleman in the city of Brisbane. The hon. member did not understand the statement, because it does not apply to milk at all. On page 690, vol. 1, of the "Parliamentary Papers" for last year the Government Analyst gives a table in which he mentions the food and drugs which were dealt with by him in his official capacity. In that list he mentions milk and a large number of other articles. Under the title of "Miscellaneous" he says there were 253 miscellaneous articles or samples submitted to him for analysis. He says—

"The 253 miscellaneous samples included cream of tartar, 'egg noodles,' cigarettes, tobacco, leather, vermin destroyers, larvacides, wine, sputum, gelatine, cloudy ammonia, cyanide, urine, hydrometers, butter preservatives, borax, boric acid, citric and tartaric acids, solar eclipse sets, and beer piping."

(Laughter.) That is what the Government Analyst had submitted to him for examination. Those things were not found in the milk at all. (Renewed laughter.)

The hon. member certainly raised a very important question when he made reference to the necessity for dealing with the milk supply. It is quite true that a very representative deputation waited on me the other day and made certain recommendations on this very important question; but the hon. member should not complain that I did not straight away say that I was going to do this or that. This is a matter which requires consideration and investigation, because various methods are employed in different parts of

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the world. In Melbourne there is one system; in Wellington, New Zealand, there is a different system entirely; whereas in other quarters of the globe it is dealt with in another manner altogether. Therefore we have to consider the position as we find it in Brisbane to-day, and I can assure the hon. member and the Committee that the department is quite alive to the necessity of dealing with this particular question. I must say that I am inclined to agree with the suggestion of the hon. member for Fitzroy that it is really a local authority matter. To my way of thinking—and the more I consider the question the more inclined am I to the conclusion—the Consolidated Revenue should not be called upon to bear the expense of maintaining the health of the people, but the cost should be borne by the local authorities whose duty it is. It is quite possible that the Government should have officers to whom reference might be made in a matter of this sort, just as they employ engineers and other highly qualified men to advise local authorities in other spheres. The hon. member for Enoggera also said that he hoped the councils would be compelled to keep their areas clean. I make the statement that wherever the Commissioner thinks it necessary to compel local authorities in the metropolitan area or anywhere else in Queensland to carry out their bounden duty of keeping their areas clean and healthy, he will have my support so long as I remain in charge of the department.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: It should be a very simple matter to compel every resident in a local authority area to keep his own yard clean. If that were done, the question of the general cleanliness of the area would not be very difficult. If there are people who refuse to recognise their clear duty in this respect, the local authority concerned should have no hesitation in prosecuting them. It is not fair to expect the community to spend money cleaning up dirty yards, and I see no reason why the Consolidated Revenue should be used for the purpose to which it has been put quite recently of cleaning up local authority areas and doing work, the cost of which the councils should bear themselves.

The hon. member also made reference to venereal disease. I quite agree that this is a very serious problem and one which has claimed the attention of medical authorities throughout Australia. Only quite recently I saw in the public Press a startling statement made by a medical man regarding the condition of things in Melbourne, but I think that under this Government and under the previous Government the administration in Queensland in this matter has been much more effective than in any of the other States of the Commonwealth. We have made an honest attempt to grapple with the position. We have now a medical officer devoting his whole time and attention to dealing with the problem, and giving professional advice to the unfortunate sufferers who attend the various clinics. It was suggested that we should have a clinic in a central portion of the city. I think that the hon. member for Enoggera should realise that it is not advisable to put it plainly, to have it in a place where its character will be generally known. If we are to encourage the unfortunate sufferers to come along and submit to treatment, we

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do not want to have a place such that a passer-by who sees a person going in will know what he is going in for. We keep it as private as possible in order to encourage such persons to come and get treatment and be restored to health. The Commonwealth grant amounts to something in the vicinity of £3,000, which is our share of approximately £15,000, and I can assure the hon. member and the Committee that good work is being done so far as this State is concerned.

The hon. member for Fitzroy asked what was being done in connection with the mosquito campaign. That is largely a matter for the local authorities. While the hon. gentleman is quite entitled to his opinion, might I respectfully suggest to him that he consider the problem from this aspect: It is one that has recently been made a great deal more important by virtue of the fact that the Panama Canal is open, and it is possible that diseases of a serious nature may be introduced and spread in Queensland. Therefore the Commissioner of Public Health is alive to the necessity for preventing the introduction into Queensland of a certain type of yellow fever as far as possible, through human knowledge, skill, and general administration.

Mr. HARTLEY: How does the Panama Canal affect that?

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: Might I ask the hon. gentleman how we got bubonic plague and other diseases into Queensland?

Mr. HARTLEY: Would we get it from Panama?

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: We can get small-pox and other diseases from the East, and, generally speaking, those diseases are brought here by vessels. So long as we have trade and commerce with other countries, then the particular diseases which are prevalent in those countries can be introduced into Australia. The men who went to New Guinea in the early days of the gold rush there came back with malaria.

HON. J. G. APPEL: They get it still.

Mr. HARTLEY: They do not get that from the mosquito.

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: I do not pretend to be an authority on this matter, but I have to take the advice of the Commissioner of Public Health on these matters, and I will endeavour to administer my department in a common-sense manner. If I am satisfied that the advice of the Commissioner of Public Health is sound—and I have no reason to question his advice on this and other matters—I will endeavour to back him up. I can assure the hon. member for Enoggera and other hon. members that I recognise the importance of the Department of Public Health, and I am not inclined to restrict its operations in any way. I will certainly see that the local authorities carry out their bounden duty to the ratepayers.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: If the Government, the Minister, or the Commissioner of Public Health take action, I hope I am not going to be rushed by hon. members asking me to hold my hand.

HON. J. G. APPEL: "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof."

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: If a local authority carries out its duty and keeps its area clean,

and another local authority refuses or neglects to do its duty, it is not fair to spend money from the Consolidated Revenue in cleaning up that local authority's area. If a local authority fails to recognise its duty and the Commissioner of Public Health takes a certain action to compel it to do the right thing, then he will be backed up by me. I can assure hon. members that in the metropolitan area, owing to the operation of the Joint Health Board, the city, generally speaking, is clean, and we intend to keep it in that state. The work of ratproofing the wharves will act, I am sure, in the direction of preventing an outbreak of bubonic plague in the future. The shipping companies have co-operated, and the work has been successfully carried out. We are hopeful now that such effective work has been carried out that it will prevent the repetition of such an outbreak as we had a few years ago.

Mr. F. A. COOPER (*Bremer*): I would like to make a few remarks while the hon. member for Enoggera is getting suitable words to frame an apology to the Assistant Minister for his misstatements. In the meantime, I would like to congratulate the Assistant Minister on his attitude towards the local authorities in the matter of the supervision of health regulations. I trust that he is not going to cut out all the good officers of the State who are working in the interests of the public health. I believe that the local authorities need some supervising authority to see that they do their work properly. We know that difficulties do arise between local authorities in the matter of boundary roads and boundary bridges, and the Home Department has to step in to see that the parties concerned bear their fair share. It does sometimes occur that there is a difference between local authorities—one local authority doing its best to preserve the public health, and the other local authority doing nothing. Consequently, much of the good work done by the good local authority is undone by the bad work of the bad local authority.

I regret that I cannot agree with my colleague, the hon. member for Fitzroy, in his attitude towards the mosquito. I regard the mosquito as one of the greatest pests that we have. Anyone who can sleep without contemplating the ravages of the mosquito has a very poor imagination, and, in my opinion, is prepared to put up with a lot of things which the average citizen would not submit to. In speaking of the fly and mosquito, I do not know which is the worse pest. At any rate, while we have people who are content to allow these pests to have their full fling we are likely to have disease rampant amongst us. It is the duty of the Department of Public Health to see that the local authorities perform their duties efficiently and well. I cannot understand for the life of me how any authority can be negligent in the extermination of the mosquito or the fly. I will invite anyone who has not studied the question to come along with me to a restaurant. I will there supply him with two dinners, one over which the flies and cockroaches have been running, and another over which they have not, and I will leave it to the man's own judgment which dinner he will choose. If I have a correct idea of him, he will choose the dinner which he supposes to be a clean dinner. It is high time that we took a stand on this matter and expressed ourselves very definitely in rela-

tion to these pests which are carrying disease. I would ask hon. members to bear with me for a moment and look at the common house-fly. It follows man and stays with him wherever he goes. The common house-fly has 10,000,000 eyes, so that it misses nothing that comes its way. It has more hair on its back and more whiskers than the most unshaven resident of "Woop-woop"—hairs capable of carrying germs giving the most disastrous results. It is difficult to see whether it has a nose or not, yet it does not miss one smell. It has a proboscis that the greatest "sticky-beak" in the world would envy. It goes into every habitation and stays there. I cannot comprehend for one moment anyone taking the house-fly to his bosom as a friend. It lives everywhere. It lives wherever man goes, and in some places stays longer than he does with disastrous results. Although the fly is always with us, it is not such a faithful companion as a dog; but "it sticketh closer than a brother." If we do not take steps to wipe it out, it will ultimately wipe us out. I trust that the Department of Public Health will keep the local authorities, not here and there but everywhere, alive to their responsibilities, so that we may have some peace in the hours of the day from the fly and in the hours in which we sleep from the mosquito. I understand that the local emporiums at Ipswich sell something like £5,000 or £6,000 worth of mosquito-nets a year, yet the local authority there does not spend £5,000 or £6,000 on exterminating the mosquito. A much greater amount is spent in Brisbane on mosquito nets, while very little is expended in a campaign to wipe out the mosquito. We allow the children to sleep in stuffy rooms, made more stuffy by the use of mosquito nets, so that they will not suffer from the filaria and other contaminations of the mosquito. Why we should be foolish enough to go on in the old, old ways I cannot understand. I hope that the Home Secretary will not be affected in any way by the remarks of the hon. member for Fitzroy, but will call on his officers to institute a campaign against the mosquito and the fly.

Mr. KERR (*Enoggera*): I have here the report of the Government Analyst for the year ended 30th June, 1923. In one paragraph it says that 476,000 gallons of adulterated milk were sold, and I tried to get from the table in the report exactly how that quantity came to be adulterated. If any hon. member had the report in front of him, he would notice that the report is set out in paragraphs. One paragraph is the paragraph I have quoted to this Chamber and which reads—

" . . . In the case of fresh milk, however, where no preliminary testing is possible and where samples are taken indiscriminately, the proportion which fails is probably a fairly correct indication of the proportion of inferior milk supplied to the public. The 253 miscellaneous samples included—"

and then follows the quotation I previously read. It does not say that these miscellaneous samples are milk, but it refers to those samples in the same paragraph where milk is dealt with, and the average person would naturally assume that the samples referred to were samples of milk.

I frankly acknowledge that the Minister

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has now cleared the situation, and I hope that in future those responsible for preparing these reports will make their meaning clearer. If milk is dealt with in one paragraph, that paragraph should be confined to milk. No person could readily determine what these 253 miscellaneous samples represented. It would appear that they were milk, but it turns out they are something entirely different. Miscellaneous might easily mean samples taken in the dairy, railway stations, when being delivered, etc. The situation now appears to be cleared up, but it does not get away from the fact that 476,000 gallons out of the 4,000,000 gallons of milk consumed in Brisbane are being adulterated to-day, and £7,140 is the price—in the money sense—that is being paid for—of Brisbane for 47,600 gallons of what was sold as milk but which was only water.

Mr. WEIR: According to you, we are getting cigarettes for nothing.

Mr. KERR: I am still of the opinion that the Government are very lax in handling this all-important question of milk. A good deal can be done to improve the position. Hon. members opposite have mentioned that the Government should take control. I say that it is a government function to initiate control. The suppliers themselves have tried to get control of the supply of milk, and they have not received the consideration they should from the Government. The time must come when we must chill and pasteurise the milk supply. That is the only safe way that it may be passed on to children and the infirm.

I notice in an American paper that cows over there could practically be kept in a drawing-room, they are so scrupulously clean. The milk is bottled there much the same as beer. There is no question of the consumer contaminating the supply by the use of unclean jugs. Some similar system must be initiated by the Commissioner of Public Health, but the suppliers must have control. We must get a pure milk supply.

Mr. HARTLEY (*Fitzroy*): I would not have risen to speak again had it not been for the remarks of the hon. member for Bremer. There is a difference between cleanliness and attempting to dodge every fly and every mosquito you see, as though they were devils with two horns and a tail. The parallel the hon. member brought forward was absolutely stupid. No one would attempt to deal with food that had been infected with insects.

[4 p.m.] If he had any sense at all, whether he was camping in a tent in the bush or living in a first-class residence in town, he would take good care to keep his food clean. But with regard to the expenditure on the extermination of the mosquito, from the experience we have had in Queensland of the mosquito, I regard it as an expenditure of thousands of pounds on a fad. Take the explanation given by the Minister that the Panama Canal is now open and brings the steamer traffic so much closer to Brisbane that we are in danger of an outbreak of "Yellow Jack." Why, when the Panama Canal was being constructed, the death rate amongst the men working on the canal from yellow fever was something tremendous.

Hon. J. G. APPEL: Until they exterminated the mosquito.

Mr. HARTLEY: It was stated that in order to preserve the health of the camp they must

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eradicate the mosquito, and they covered the pools, ponds, and swamps with kerosene, and to some extent they exterminated the mosquito, and they said subsequently that they had eradicated "Yellow Jack." Now, if they eradicated "Yellow Jack" in Panama, I take it they were smart enough to keep the old mosquito down once they got him down—so where can be the danger of yellow fever from Panama? You either have not exterminated the mosquito in Panama, or there is no danger of "Yellow Jack" being introduced here. So far as malaria goes, I may say that I have lived at certain times in some of the worst malaria spots that can be found in Queensland, and the same applies to some parts of Africa; and in my opinion the mosquito has very little to do with inoculating people with malaria, although it may be a carrier afterwards. The expenditure in and around Brisbane on mosquito destruction has been stupid, and the destruction of the beautiful ornamental trees surrounding the houses has been stupid, too. What is the good of draining a few holes here and there and putting a number of dollars extra into the pockets of the plumber, because as soon as these silly regulations were gazetted, up went the price of wire gauze to keep mosquitoes in the tanks. A few tanks were covered, and I am prepared to bet that you cannot walk very far in any one direction after you get down to Eagle Junction or out at Whinstanes where I live without going up to your knees for hundreds of yards in a swamp. Why does the Health Department not start and drain this swamp first, if it is a breeding-ground for mosquitoes? I say it is not, and I have just as much right to give an opinion, as I have had practical experience, as a lot of these scientific chaps who are always monkeying round with a microscope. When you walk up to the top of a mountain and there is no water within five miles of you, and you find the mosquitoes worse than they are down on the flat adjacent to water, you do not put much credence in the yarn that mosquitoes are bred in swamps. I do not believe they are.

I will give the Commissioner of Public Health a test, if need be. At the mouth of the Fitzroy River there is a pretty big delta, with several streams branching off. It is very flat there, and there is a big expanse of salt pans. On one occasion I was riding there, and when I got to the wharf opposite Casuarina Island my friends came down in answer to my "cooee" to bring me across the passage. They yelled, "Have everything ready and get off as quick as you can." When I got down to the pontoon I found the reason for that. Casuarina Passage was so thick with mosquitoes that while one man was rowing another man had to fan him with his hat and fan himself at the same time. (Laughter.) This may sound like a Munchausen yarn, but it was an actual occurrence. When we got ashore and threw everything out, we were quicker in getting out of that boat than if she had been loaded with hot pitch. It took two of us going turn and turn about to tie her up on account of the mosquitoes. When we got up on to the bank where there was some wind, our hands were covered with blood. That passage is filled with clouds of mosquitoes, and those salt pans are covered with mosquitoes as thick as you can get them. It is a pretty time we are going to have, putting kerosene on the tail of every one of those mosquitoes. (Laughter.)

HON. J. G. APPEL (*Albert*): It is satisfactory to hear from the Minister that there has been such a clearance of nuisances in the city, and that provision has been made that no waste food shall be allowed to remain about and thus attract rats. Apparently from the report there is a very small percentage of rats now in Brisbane compared to what there were before. I would like the Minister to go a little further afield. While he has cleared the rats out of the city proper he has driven them into the suburbs. I want to know if his attention has been directed to the fowl runs in congested suburban areas where food is flung into small enclosures for the fowls. That certainly attracts the rats. My attention has been drawn to that matter while I have been living in Brisbane during the present session, and I would suggest to the Minister that he should not only exterminate rats in the city, but should extend his campaign into the suburbs, and see that no waste food is allowed to lie about in these little fowl enclosures, as it attracts the rats, which can be seen running about in the enclosures.

Mr. WARREN (*Murrumba*): I cannot agree with the suggestion of the hon. member for Fitzroy with regard to mosquitoes. The fact that there are great numbers of mosquitoes in many parts of the country does not justify the Department of Public Health slackening its efforts as far as the cities are concerned. The department should strike at the rats wherever it can do so. It is a good thing to know that something is being done to stop the breeding of these wretched pests.

I would like to touch particularly on the milk business. As hon. members are aware, it is proposed to form a pool of producers of milk for the Brisbane market. The idea is that the Commissioner of Public Health should become a supplier of milk. There is nothing whatever to be said in favour of the Brisbane milk supply at the present time. It is not only a question of getting pure milk from the producer. The milk has to be kept free from adulteration and contamination after it is received at the different depôts, and I think that the Health Department would be wise to take steps to see that that is carried out. It is only right that the producer of an article that is not fit for human consumption or is adulterated should be punished, but it is far more important that those who sell milk should distribute to the people in the cities a good unadulterated article.

At 4.10 p.m.,

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

Mr. WARREN: I was struck recently by the very fine supply of milk in Sydney. A little while ago I spent two or three weeks there inquiring into the milk supply. It is no use crying "stinking fish" about one's own State unless one can show some way of improving conditions, and my object is to show a method of doing so. The reason why the milk supply is so good in Sydney is because the great co-operative company which handles the milk puts a high value on a pure article. It will receive nothing from any of its suppliers unless it is an absolutely good article. The milk is pas-

teurised, and is made as fit for food as human ingenuity can make it before being handed over to the consumer. We have a great number of dairies round Brisbane to-day, and the general idea is that people prefer hot milk. I would point out that, although hot milk is fresh, it may nevertheless be impure, and only requires time to develop the impurities. I would like to see the suppliers made responsible for the article they sell. It is all very well to talk about the city council taking over the supply. As a matter of fact, the council are not anxious to do so. Although I am a supplier, I do not care whether they do or do not; in fact, I think I would sooner they did take it over than not, but it is not going to be easy. If you take the city of Wellington, which the Assistant Minister mentioned, you will find that the people pay an enormous percentage more now than before the city council took over the supply.

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: How does the supply in Wellington compare in price with the supply in Sydney?

Mr. WARREN: It is dearer in Wellington. In Brisbane the price of milk is fixed by the Commissioner of Prices, and has recently been increased, but the producer has reaped no benefit from that system. He is getting only 1s. and less a gallon for his milk, and he is living on an absolutely starvation wage. I made up the accounts of one man who is growing his feed for his cows, and I found that, if he were to sell that feed in Brisbane at current prices, he would be better off than he is by feeding it to his cows and selling their milk.

Mr. CLAYTON: That is only for a short period of the year.

Mr. WARREN: Different conditions exist in my electorate. The people I refer to feed all the year round.

Mr. CLAYTON: Nothing of the sort. (Government laughter.)

Mr. WARREN: I want to tell the hon. member for Wide Bay that they do feed all the year round—he may not know it.

Mr. CLAYTON: I thought the hon. gentleman said that the people of Maryborough fed their cows all the year round.

Mr. WARREN: No, the hon. member misunderstood me. These people keep their cows in the very best of health and supply a very good commodity; still with milk at 1s. per gallon they cannot make anything for themselves. The only time they make anything is when the price goes above 1s. per gallon. If the City Council took control and paid 1s. 4d. or 1s. 4½d. per gallon—that is only a reasonable price—it would not mean any more to the consumer than at present. The milk producers adopt the viewpoint that milk is an absolute food essential, and as a food essential it must be a pure commodity. They want to be absolutely responsible for the supply of the commodity from the cow to the consumer, and the only way they can have that control is through what is really a co-operative method of control. In connection with the Sydney supply they have five what we would call vendors. Here we have two or three fairly large vendors and the rest are small vendors. Under our system there is no possibility of properly controlling this easily contaminated

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food from a health point of view and from the point of view of distribution. The only way to deal with the matter is for the producers to come to some agreement with the Government or the council. We are prepared to act either with the Government or the council with a view to instituting some suitable scheme. I am of the opinion that the council should be responsible for the health of the ratepayers and should have control of the distribution of milk. The council should make all the arrangements with the producers and should have power to see that the very best commodity is handed over to the consumers. I do not think it is a proper thing to allow cows producing milk for human consumption to run everywhere and drink all sorts of dirty water. I believe that we should have proper healthy runs for those cows and they should have absolutely pure water to drink. It is just as important to have pure water for the cows as it is to have pure milk for the baby. I do not think that the health authorities to-day are paying sufficient attention to the health of the herds.

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: That is a matter dealt with by the Department of Agriculture.

MR. WARREN: It should not be. The Home Department registers the dairies, but has no control over the herds. It is time that undivided control is established. The Brisbane City Council should be responsible for the whole of the milk supply, including control over the health of the herds and the suitability of the pastures.

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: I think the hon. gentleman's suggestion would be practical so far as it applies to milk for human consumption, but not in connection with every dairy in the State.

MR. WARREN: I am alluding only to the supply of milk for human consumption. Generally speaking, the product supplied to the dairy factories is very good. The percentage of first-grade butter proves conclusively that it must be fairly good. I maintain that the milk supplied for human consumption is not up to the same health standard as the product supplied to the butter factories. It is not as good, and the standard is not as high. It is a serious charge to make, but there has been too much laxity in the supervision. There is only one way of effectively dealing with this matter, and I have referred to that method previously. I hope that the Government will see that samples of milk are got from both the producers and vendors and that, if any of these persons offend a second time, they shall not have the option of a fine, but will be prevented from continuing in the business for the future. (Hear, hear!)

HON. W. H. BARNES (*Wynnum*): I was glad to hear the Assistant Home Secretary say that certain efforts are being made in the direction of preventing and, as far as possible, eradicating venereal disease. We have been discussing quite a number of important matters including the one that was discussed by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat; but the question of venereal disease in its relation to the community and the health of the State is one of the most vital that has been discussed to-day. The fact remains that, notwithstanding what has been and is being done,

[*Mr. Warren.*

venereal disease in Australia, if reports are correct, is on the increase.

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: That was stated in Melbourne the other day.

HON. W. H. BARNES: I am afraid it is so. If the punishment that came with the disease only affected the adult, probably one would not feel very sorry for that individual; but an hon. member with whom I discussed the matter this afternoon mentioned to me—and I want to give him credit for the report which he has given me—that it has a complete aspect so far as nation building is concerned. (Hear, hear!) He drew my attention to the fact that in some places he has visited there were evident signs that the people were actually declining as a result of the effects of this dread disease. Whilst we are making every attempt to prevent any disease from being introduced into this country, and rightly so, we have something in our very midst which is insidiously working to the detriment of young life. To be hampered by poverty is a fairly difficult matter; but when one is hampered by broken health right from the very beginning of life it is a very serious menace to the community. I rose to urge the Assistant Home Secretary to see that not only the efforts which have been already made are continued, but that increased vigilance will be adopted in connection with this dread disease. I hope that the Minister will prosecute his efforts to the fullest extent in order that everything humanly possible may be done to assist to eradicate this terrible disease.

MR. BARBER (*Bundaberg*): During all the years I have been a member of this Chamber practically all the three points that have been discussed here this afternoon have received considerable attention from session to session. That applies particularly to the troublesome fly and to the mosquito problem. Opinions were expressed here this afternoon, and I do not know whether we are to take those as expert or otherwise; at any rate, I do not propose to express any expert opinion. At the same time, one must admit that flies are not only a nuisance in the home, but they are a menace to health. My friend, the hon. member for Bremer, gave us a detailed account of the various characteristics of the fly. I was studying some of the movements of the fly only last night. I recently had the electric light installed in my home at Toowoong. I had to keep progress with the times, especially as we had advocated the installation of the electric light for about twenty years, and recently our town council installed the electric light. I thought that the fly would keep religiously away from the heat generated by a 70-candle power light. To my surprise I found that the flies walked all over the electric light shade and even on the bottom of the bulb—

HON. W. H. BARNES: They came for the celebration.

MR. BARBER: It may be that, but I always celebrate in water. (Laughter.) To be serious, the fly menace is a very serious one, and it has been discussed here for the last twenty years.

I am pleased to recognise that considerable efforts have been made to abolish the menace. As time goes on, no doubt the application of scientific and chemical methods will overcome

the difficulty. As one past middle age, I have often had cause to wonder on this subject, and the hon. member for Wynnum will appreciate this point. Being a good Sunday school boy in my young days, it is a wonder to me why the community have allowed our parsons and Sunday school teachers to exist. In those early days, if a boy put a pin through a fly, he was told that God would punish him and send him to "Fiddler's Green," or Hell, or elsewhere. (Laughter.) I am inclined to believe that the fly menace is due not entirely to the laxity of Governments, but to this threat that the Deity would punish us if we harmed the fly. That gave the fly a great start, and it is now such a menace that we have difficulty in catching up to it. (Renewed laughter.) Probably present-day methods will show better results than the attempts of children in previous years, when they had the fear of God put into their hearts should they harm the fly.

Another question is that of the eradication of the mosquito. That is a serious problem. I do not agree with the hon. member for Fitzroy in this regard. I know that during the construction of the Panama [4.30 p.m.] Canal, an eminent scientific man, Colonel Goethals, attempted to exterminate the mosquito, and there is no doubt that his success in that direction was simply marvellous. There may not be the same danger to-day of "Yellow Jack" being carried from different countries to Queensland as there was in my early days at sea, when one was always living in fear of "Yellow Jack," particularly if you were visiting an Eastern or a South American port. While the same thing may not apply to Panama to-day, I am satisfied that we have to take every precaution possible through our Health Department to see that we do not introduce from other countries the mosquito that carries the yellow fever germ. From an article which I read recently I find that this mosquito trouble and the introduction of malaria into Great Britain has caused very great concern to the Health Department there and the Imperial authorities during the last couple of years. Anyone who knows the conditions of the old land at all knows very well that, practically speaking, there are no mosquitoes there, yet quite a number of cases of malaria have developed during the last few years. When a ship is lying at an Eastern port day after day, particularly when shipping sugar, such as brown sugar from Java, the mosquitoes swarm into the ship's hold, and they remain in the damp, dark hold until the ship gets into port, and when the hatches are taken off they swarm out, and in this way have caused a great deal of trouble and concern to the Imperial authorities. Any man who visits the ports of North or South America will find mosquitoes. They are found in Vancouver.

Hon. J. G. APPEL: You will find them in Alaska.

Mr. BARBER: Yes, even in Alaska. We are told over and over again that the mosquito must have fresh water to breed in. I visit a certain farming district here occasionally, and I find that, although there are no waterholes or gullies in the district, during the last two summers the mosquitoes have been there in millions, although up to a few years ago the mosquito was almost

unknown in that district. I used to camp on the veranda, but I cannot do that now without a mosquito net. That is one of the points in our mosquito campaign that puzzles me. You find them right up in the hills where there are no waterholes. We are told by the experts that the mosquitoes will not radiate from water more than about 300 yards, yet in some cases you find them from half a mile to three-quarters of a mile away, and in millions.

The hon. member for Enoggera brought forward the question of something more being done by the State in connection with the venereal menace. If anyone takes the trouble to look through "Hansard," he will find that right away back in 1903 and 1904 a very interesting discussion took place here, yet the hon. member for Enoggera apparently considers that this venereal disease trouble is a very recent happening. The hon. member, and I am sure all the medical experts, will agree in this. There are tons of literature which has been procurable on this matter, not only within the last few years, but for many years previously, and I would ask the hon. member to peruse that literature if he has not done so. As I said when speaking on this subject ten and fifteen years ago, the great difficulty in handling this disease arises because it is a dirty one, and there are very few public men and politicians who will deal with the matter, although I have always stated my opinion and told what I have seen about it. My remarks at different times on this subject will be found recorded in "Hansard." I pointed out some eight years ago that the great difficulty in connection with this matter was that even the religious bodies of the State refuse to handle it. They seem to use the same argument as they did about killing the fly. They say that it is dirty, and that it is a punishment of God on the individual for his sin. I argue that tuberculosis and the various epidemics and menaces to humanity which we suffer from are just as much the effect of human stupidity and ignorance as venereal disease. Man has been steadily emerging from his ignorance, and, as James Russell Lowell said, he is always gradually moving upward. I would like to urge hon. members to make themselves more conversant with the world's literature and scientific reports on this question. A mere five minutes' discussion on this subject in Parliament while this particular Estimate is going through year after year is more or less futile. The State should handle this thing in the way that it should be handled. It has been kept in the dark too long. The hon. member for Enoggera says that something should be done. What does he suggest? Does the hon. member desire to go back to the old condition of things when we had the Contagious Diseases Act, which was a low contemptible insult to every respectable woman in the community, and which enabled a policeman to arrest a woman in the street if they suspected her? There are men who have never travelled beyond the apron-strings of their mothers who argue in favour of the Contagious Diseases Act, because they do not know any better. If hon. members will read the three interim reports and the final report of the Royal Commission which was appointed in New South Wales some years ago, and which is to be found in our Parliamentary Library, they will have their eyes opened. I want to emphasise this

point: If hon. members think that by going back to the old method and reinstating the Contagious Diseases Act, they will solve the difficulty, they are totally blind, morally, physically, and individually in regard to the matter. The Labour party was practically the first party in Australia who took the matter up seriously and wiped out the Contagious Diseases Act, and I believe that it has been for the good of the community.

If anybody wants to find scientific or medical evidence in favour of the abolition of the contagious diseases provisions of the Health Act, let him turn up "Hansard" and read the debates in another place, where Dr. Espie Dods appeared at the bar—one of the most eminent authorities on this question of that time. Hon. members will also find the speech of the Hon. Dr. Taylor, who pointed out the utter futility of what was known as the C.D. Act. If they will read the report to which I refer, which is probably to be found in the library, they will find that with one exception every authority, every medical superintendent of a prison or asylum or hospital or other public institution in New South Wales, where the investigation was carried on for perhaps two to two and a-half years under the chairmanship of Dr. Arthur, was absolutely opposed to similar provisions. They can also take up the volume—which I presume is also in the library—I have one at home—which contains the report of the Royal Commission presided over by Lord Esher, which made investigations in England during about three years. The results are appalling. As was pointed out quite recently by Sir James Barrett in Victoria, the number of poor dying and blind children and the number of deaths, the thousand and one hardships and the suffering which follow in the train of this dread disease are stupendous. In my opinion, probably more has been done in Queensland than in any other State, and I am sure that our health officers are quite convinced of the necessity of abolishing it. I know very well by observation and by reading reports such as those of the surgeon-general of the German army and of Dr. Fournier, who with his son spent years in studying this matter in France, and by studying the report of the conference in Italy, and other documents, that there is sufficient evidence to convince any hon. member who wishes to go into this matter seriously that we did right. But I said years ago, and I emphasise it now, that most politicians, most members of churches and church councils, treat this matter too gingerly. At one time I was the only one in this House who was game to stand up against what was known as the C.D. Act, and I did so in the old days as a result of my reading and my observations in other parts of the world. All our mothers and wives and daughters, all the respectable classes in the community, are far safer now than when that Act was in operation—I mean safer so far as liability to arrest by the police is concerned.

Hon. J. G. APPEL: We have got something to our credit then? We abolished it.

Mr. BARBER: We have, and I say that in my opinion Queensland stands far ahead of the other States in its efforts to deal with this matter. I want to emphasise that it has got to be dragged out into public life and not treated like a sore toe. It is

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something that you would have to treat roughly. I know that some hon. members opposite have had a flying trip through Europe and have come back to this country and talk on these matters as though they were experts on everything. They have a lot to learn about this disease. I would advise the hon. member for Enoggera who, I presume, is interested in this matter, to take up all the literature in the library and devote the whole of the next recess to studying that literature.

Mr. KERR: I have read back over a period of four years.

Mr. BARBER: I have been reading on the matter covering a period of forty years.

Mr. KERR: The hon. gentleman is out of date.

Mr. BARBER: I was in the advance guard. (Laughter.) The findings of the different commissions have, to a very large extent, been followed by the Health Departments in Australia, and as a result of the observations and inquiries held in other parts of the world, considerable benefit has resulted to the other States and to Queensland. I do impress upon hon. members that, if we expect to get any results out of the legislation affecting this menace, we must not act too gingerly in handling it. I know that some persons read "Hansard," and I remember some years ago, when we were going into this matter very seriously here, I met a late constituent of mine in the street in Bundaberg and she asked me a question. She said, she had been reading "Hansard," and she would like to ask me a question. I requested her to proceed. She said, "When you were discussing a certain serious question in Parliament you said that for several years you knew certain things. How did you know?" (Laughter.) I had to find an answer to that question, and the answer was a truthful one. I pointed out they were some of the things that a young lad who goes to sea hears discussed and that he obtains literature on those subjects in different parts of the world. I am very pleased to say that the lady was not hurt with the reply. I appreciate the efforts that have been made by the Commissioner of Public Health to deal with the matter. If anything more can be done by Parliament—and more power should be given to the Commissioner—then action should be taken immediately.

Mr. BRUCE (*Kennedy*): There seems to be a tendency on the part of hon. members to treat this matter with some levity. Venereal disease is one of the worst menaces to our social life. Some hon. members perhaps are of the opinion that, because of the manner in which the disease is being treated, it is not possible for them, under the circumstances, to acquire the venereal complaint, but the purest of our men and the purest of our women may acquire the venereal complaint without any fault of their own. Some people are under the belief that it is acquired merely by sexual intercourse with unclean persons. That is not so. I can quite understand the plea by the hon. member for Burke to the Home Secretary to control all these aborigines who are not already in a mission station. I have seen aborigines camped on waterholes that were being used for the water supply of white families. Children have been play-

ing round those waterholes and aboriginals in the last stage of the venereal complaint have been camped on those waterholes.

At 4.50 p.m..

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

Mr. BRUCE: There is not the slightest doubt that throughout the North and West of Queensland the ravages of this complaint can be seen by those who know its symptoms. It is a question that hits right at the root of our social life, and every effort on the part of the Government to combat it should be encouraged. The maximum effort should be exercised by the Government. We hear much talk about efficiency. It is known that a majority of the men in the navy are suffering from venereal complaints, and they were also common during the last great war amongst the soldiers. I suggest to the Home Secretary that the question of physical culture might well be gone into as one of the greatest preventives of this particular disease. If the young men of the State could be persuaded to go in for athletics and a proper course of physical culture, they would be preparing their bodies to resist these complaints, and would be less likely to come in contact with those who would contaminate them. The question of diet is also an important consideration in the cure of this disease. The method of treatment by our recognised medical men, perhaps, is not all that is to be desired. There have been people who have shown tremendous results by dieting. It is the business of those in charge of the Department of Public Health to make inquiries into every form of treatment, so that everything possible can be done to eradicate venereal complaints from our midst. There is not the slightest doubt that same methods of prevention would save thousands of pounds which the community are spending to-day in an endeavour to find a cure, and the result would improve the whole of the people of the State both mentally and physically. We know quite well that it is the young men and women who lack knowledge, and who know nothing about these things, who are first contaminated and strike right at the taproot of the family. We should, therefore, create a desire on the part of the whole of the people to eradicate the disease. I trust that this question will be taken seriously, and that no effort will be spared to eradicate, stamp out, and prevent the spread of this disease.

Question put and passed.

HOSPITALS.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN (*Brisbane*): I beg to move—

“That £207,310 be granted for ‘Hospitals.’”

Hon. members will see that there is a reduction in this vote as compared with last year of £37,960. This is due to the new system of hospital districts which the Government are seeking to carry into effect, under which it is hoped that each particular district will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of its own hospital.

I know the matter has aroused some discussion, but I would ask hon. members to have patience in order that the system may have a thorough trial. Those hon. members who have gone into the question will, I think, recognise this essential fact. Although there may be a difference of opinion regarding the method of financing hospitals, there is a

uniform acceptance of the principle of district hospitals. Some hon. members may think that it is not fair to expect local authorities to advance 40 per cent. of the upkeep of hospitals while the Government contribute the remaining 60 per cent. Some hon. members may think some other method of finance should be adopted. Personally, I am inclined to believe that it is the best method, and I think, if it is given a fair trial, it will be generally accepted throughout Queensland.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): At an earlier stage of the debate on these Estimates the hon. member for Wynnum brought up a question referring to the “Golden Casket,” on which he was seeking information, and I promised that I would make inquiries. The hon. gentleman stated that a certain incident had occurred resulting in the dismissal of some of the “Golden Casket” staff. From the information received by the hon. gentleman he inferred that something had gone wrong and had led to these dismissals. I stated that I would bring the matter up on this vote. I do not wish to imply that dishonesty has taken place. Since the matter was brought before me I have interviewed the members of the “Golden Casket” Committee, and they acknowledge that two members of the staff have been dismissed. They state that errors occurred—not in the drawing of the “Casket”—everything in connection with the drawing of the “Casket” was quite in order—

Mr. ROBERTS: That is what he said.

The HOME SECRETARY: And the newspapers had published correct results of the drawing. It was discovered that the true reason of the dismissal was carelessness. It may have been through lack of checking. Mistakes were made in copying certain prizes from the official sheet of the drawing to the published results. This was discovered early, and could not possibly continue. The newspapers immediately published the correct results—

Mr. ROBERTS: That would hardly be sufficient cause for the dismissal of the two men.

Mr. KELSO: Did these men take advantage of that mistake to their own advantage?

The HOME SECRETARY: Oh, no. Naturally the committee made the fullest investigations, and, while they could find nothing to indicate dishonesty on the part of the employees, they still considered that such carelessness should not be allowed to continue; consequently those employees were dismissed.

[5 p.m.]

Mr. FARRELL: That was pretty severe on them, was it not?

Mr. ROBERTS: That is a very severe penalty to inflict on a man for making a mistake.

The HOME SECRETARY: The committee had not sufficient evidence to show that there was dishonesty, but they dismissed the officials. They have a system now whereby they say that such an occurrence cannot happen again.

In introducing this vote the Assistant Home Secretary made the statement that the decreased vote was due to the passing of the Hospitals Act. The reduction is really due to the fact that previous to this year the

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upkeep of the Brisbane Hospital was a charge on the whole of the State of Queensland.

Mr. ROBERTS: It is a good thing that that is altered.

The HOME SECRETARY: Under the present system the metropolitan people will be compelled to shoulder a portion of the cost of looking after the sick in this district. Another contributing factor to the lowering of the vote is that under the Hospitals Act hospital officials are compelled to give an estimate of their expenditure for the year, before the year starts, based upon the expenditure of the previous year and on their requirements for the coming year. This gives the Home Office an opportunity of checking extravagance, and, while it does not in any way limit the efficiency of the services rendered, it keeps the vote within reasonable bounds of what should be required. Every item of expenditure is anticipated and submitted for approval, and the result is that we are asking for a lesser sum than was previously necessary to carry on this important service. The Brisbane Hospital last year cost somewhere in the vicinity of £30,000 more than the State will be asked to provide this year.

Mr. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*): The hon. member for Wynnum was very anxious to get a statement from the Home Secretary with regard to the dismissal of two officials connected with the "Golden Casket." He sat here for a couple of hours waiting to hear the statement of the Home Secretary, but then he was forced to leave. The statement furnished by the hon. member for Wynnum does not altogether agree with the statement of the Minister. If the statement made by the Minister is correct, then I take this opportunity of saying that the persons responsible dealt somewhat harshly with those two clerks, if they merely made a mistake.

The HOME SECRETARY: I said there was no evidence of dishonesty.

Mr. ROBERTS: If it was that there was merely a mistake in the transmission of figures from the sheet of foolscap to the official record, then it was harsh treatment to mete out to those two men, to deprive them of the means of earning their livelihood. The information given to the hon. member for Wynnum was this: Because of the published list, persons possessed of certain tickets made application for the prize money, and were told that they were not entitled to any, and it was on production of the official list, when an inquiry was being made, that this statement was made. That appears to me to be something different to what the Home Secretary has just said. If the men were dismissed for making a clerical error, then it is not right.

The HOME SECRETARY: I did not say that.

Mr. ROBERTS: Is there any truth in the statement that the persons purchasing the tickets made application for the prize money as revealed in the published numbers, and they were told that there was no money coming to them, as the numbers were not correct?

The HOME SECRETARY: That is correct. If you will allow me, I will just explain.

Mr. ROBERTS: Thank you.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. Stopford, *Mount Morgan*): That is how the error was discovered. A person went

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to the "Casket" office and stated that his ticket had drawn a certain prize. He was told that his was not a winning number; but later on it was found that the holder of that ticket was entitled to a prize. The committee then investigated the matter and discovered that there had been an error in checking the numbers—not in the drawing, but in conveying the numbers from the official list which was made when the drawing took place to the published result of the drawing. There was not sufficient evidence available to level any charge of dishonesty against the officers. The Committee would have been unwise to take any other course than to prosecute officers who are found to be guilty of dishonesty, and they assured me that, if any attempt at dishonesty is detected, the offender will be prosecuted, but they cannot continue to employ men who are guilty of such carelessness.

Mr. ROBERTS (*East Toowoomba*): I want to say, in the absence of the hon. member for Wynnum, that, if the statement made by the Home Secretary is correct, these two individuals have been harshly dealt with.

The HOME SECRETARY: Not so far as the working of the "Golden Casket" is concerned. They were sacked for carelessness, let me tell you.

Mr. ROBERTS: Errors similar to those mentioned by the Home Secretary frequently occur in connection with business. It was just a mistake in a figure apparently, where there are hundreds of figures involved. I do not know what the percentage is in this case.

Hon. M. J. KIRWAN: There are 813 prizes.

Mr. ROBERTS: If there are 813 sets of figures to be copied, one error made in them would not, in my opinion, justify the action that has been taken. I do not want to bolster up these persons; I am only putting this forward in the absence of the hon. member for Wynnum, who made the statement. I cannot imagine that, under the circumstances, there is not something behind. If there is no other complaint against these two men, I am of opinion that the Government have dealt very harshly with them.

I am very pleased to hear the statement made by the Home Secretary in reference to the £50,000 odd that was provided last year for the Brisbane Hospital. What I want to know is from what source the amount of money that is being provided for hospitals under the Hospitals Act is to be derived? Am I right in assuming that it is intended in the item of £184,100 which is set down in this vote? Last year there was £174,100 provided. Do I understand that that is the amount from which the contributions under the Hospitals Act are paid?

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS: If that is so, we can see that the Government, by the passage of the Hospitals Act, have made a very good deal so far as the reduction of expenditure is concerned.

The HOME SECRETARY: That does not affect the position. The £2 to £1 endowment still goes on.

Mr. ROBERTS: I admit that, but that is only in cases where the Hospitals Act does not apply.

The HOME SECRETARY: Under the Hospitals Act the endowment is £60 to £40.

Mr. ROBERTS: I see what you mean. The local authorities provide the £40, and on the total vote the Government are being relieved to that extent?

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS: Whilst I do not agree with the Minister as to the manner in which the money is raised, I have no doubt that the hospital management will be conducted satisfactorily. I think they have already found money to do necessary work, which otherwise they would not have had, so that in some respects it is satisfactory. At the same time, I want it to be understood that I totally disagree with the method by which this taxation is raised.

HON. J. G. APPEL (*Albert*): Whilst I do not propose to deal with the question raised by the Minister, yet I have no hesitation in saying that the method of raising this taxation is absolutely unjust, because the amount which is being contributed by the people is being levied upon one section of the community, and one section only. The Minister said that he trusted that every district, by the means now afforded under the Hospitals Act, would be able to have its own hospital; but we find that that is not the case. A district which has made certain provision to maintain its own hospital is not going to be allowed to have it.

The HOME SECRETARY: You are referring to Southport?

HON. J. G. APPEL: Yes. The whole of their contributions, raised by local taxation, will apparently be centralised in Brisbane.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is so.

HON. J. G. APPEL: Southport is the centre suggested by the whole of that south-east area as the most suitable place for a hospital. They raised the necessary funds, and they were in a position to make application to the Government, and did make such application, for endowment to enable them to carry out the scheme; but the matter was simply held back further and postponed until the present Hospitals Act became law, and now, after all the money has been collected by the people of the district in which the hospital was to be situated—after they have provided the funds and the ground site, which was approved of by the Government health officer—they are told that they are not to have a hospital at all. When the Hospitals Bill was before the House I pointed out what the possible effects would be, and exactly as I prophesied, so it is. It is simply more centralisation. Why was Southport selected as the centre of the south-east district? Probably some of the members know that the south-eastern corner of Queensland is mountainous and hilly, and that numerous small settlements have taken place here and there. As I pointed out when the Bill was being considered, a patient might have to travel 10 or 15 miles and then be carried 4 or 5 miles by carriers to the ambulance. What will happen now? These unfortunate people—small settlers who have gone away up into the mountainous parts of the State—will have to be carried by vehicle and then by ambulance to Southport railway station or Nerang railway station or some other station, and then, instead of being taken to an up-to-date hospital in Southport, they will be transported by rail 50 or 60 miles to Brisbane. They will be taken out of the train, put in

the ambulance, and taken 4 or 5 miles from the Melbourne-street station to the Bowen Bridge Hospital. What will be the effect of that upon a patient? The small selectors who go into our mountainous districts and settle there have to suffer all this inconvenience because the Hospital Board say, "We believe in the policy of centralisation, and all the funds that you collect in your South Coast district are not to be spent where they should be spent for the benefit of the sufferers, but your patients are going to be carted away to the central hospital in Brisbane." Any medical man will tell you, Mr. Pollock, and I dare say you know yourself, what will be the effect of this transhipment on an unfortunate patient who may be in a very serious condition indeed, or who is suffering from some serious accident. When the legislation was introduced I protested on behalf of the small selectors—not alone in my own electorate but of the State of Queensland—who have to contribute to the funds of this great central hospital in the city of Brisbane, and who are to be deprived of their local institution; and in a certain percentage of cases lives, which might be saved if the hospital was established in the centre decided upon, will be lost. I protest again on behalf of those men, especially after they contributed and did all that was required of them to put them in a position to get their own hospital. I know that the Home Secretary is not responsible for the position, and I am not in any way criticising him in that connection, but I want to point out to the Committee and the electors of the State what this policy of centralisation means. The Assistant Minister stated that the effect of the legislation would be that every district would be able to have a decent hospital. I want to point out that that is not so.

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: It will enable them to have the necessary hospital accommodation that is required. That is the point.

HON. J. G. APPEL: The point is that I protest against the centralising of everything in Brisbane.

HON. M. J. KIRWAN: Why did they not build a hospital at Southport years ago?

HON. J. G. APPEL: So far as I can see, everything is centralised in Brisbane, and if there was ever a Queen-street Government, it is the present Government. (Government laughter.) I object to this centralisation, more especially when the people showed their willingness to subscribe the necessary funds to have a hospital where it would suit them and where it would be of some benefit to them. No! Their health is to be disregarded because of the policy of centralisation, which is to build up a great central hospital in the City of Brisbane. Their sufferings are to be put on one side! They have done all that was required of them. I call upon hon. members opposite to protest with me against a policy which is going to endanger the lives of the small selectors and settlers who go into the country districts of our State and assist so materially in its development. Again I repeat, they put their hands in their pockets and provided the necessary funds for a hospital. They bought the necessary ground, which was approved. They decided in that district where the hospital should be. The whole matter was postponed month after month, month after month, until the Hospitals Act became law and then they were simply told, "You are not going to have a hospital. By-

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and-by you may have a receiving ward." We wanted a hospital and we wanted it for the reasons I have given.

Mr. HARTLEY: Why can't you get one now?

HON. J. G. APPEL: Because the Hospital Board say they will not give us one. The money which is raised from a small section of the community is to be expended in Brisbane. That is what I protest against. The residents of Southport and district have done everything on their part that was necessary.

Mr. F. A. COOPER: Where were your patients previously treated?

HON. J. G. APPEL: They were treated in private hospitals at Southport, or were taken to the General Hospital in Brisbane.

Mr. F. A. COOPER: They will still have to be dragged over those rough roads.

HON. J. G. APPEL: Yes. The movement to provide funds for the erection of a hospital at Southport was brought about because so many persons passed away in consequence of the delay and shaking about that they received in being transported to the railway and then to the General Hospital. Sometimes a delay of seven, eight, and nine hours took place before a patient received effective treatment. The sick are to continue to be penalised under the new system.

Mr. HARTLEY: Why cannot Southport be declared an area for a hospital?

HON. J. G. APPEL: Because Southport is included in the South Coast hospital district.

The HOME SECRETARY: The first application that the South Coast Hospital Board received for the erection of a hospital at Southport arrived to-day.

HON. J. G. APPEL: An application was lodged in the Home Office two years ago for the necessary endowment to proceed with the erection of the hospital. It is no good the hon. gentleman trying to side-track it. The hon. gentleman knows that officers of the Home Department have said that it was owing to the application for the erection of a hospital at Southport that the Hospitals Bill was introduced into this House last session.

The HOME SECRETARY: I have not the slightest doubt but that sufficient facilities will be provided to meet the requirements of your district.

HON. J. G. APPEL: This policy of centralisation has been the means of lives being lost, and will deprive settlers of the mountainous country in the south-east corner of Queensland of that prompt attention in the case of sickness which they would receive if a hospital was established at Southport. I would like to know from the Home Secretary what is to be done with the fund that has been collected at Southport?

The HOME SECRETARY: When you were in the Home Office you charged the Department of Public Works with the delay. The Home Department has done everything that is necessary.

At 5.25 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN left the chair, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

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

The House adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

[*Hon. J. G. Appel.*]