

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 1935

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TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER, 1935.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. G. Pollock, *Gregory*)
took the chair at 10.30 a.m.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of
a message from His Excellency the Governor,
intimating His Excellency's assent to the
following Bills:—

Stock Foods Acts Amendment Bill.
Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Acts
Amendment Bill.
Diseases in Plants Acts and Fruit and
Vegetables Act Amendment Bill.

SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES—
SIXTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.

(*Mr. Hanson, Buranda, in the chair.*)

ESTIMATES IN CHIEF, 1935-36.

HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

CHIEF OFFICE.

Question stated—

“That £8,936 be granted for ‘Home
Secretary's Department—Chief Office.’”

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [10.34 a.m.]: I
regret to notice that the honorary medical
staff at the General Hospital is continually
subject to criticism whenever a patient is

unable to obtain immediate medical attention, the suggestion being that that should be abolished. We must not overlook the fact that the service given free by the most eminent of our doctors is of incalculable benefit to the community, and that it would be extraordinarily difficult to get specialists of the same high standing to do the work if the honorary system was abolished. At the present time the leading doctors give a very large portion of their time free to the attention of patients at the General Hospital, and it would be a mistake to abolish the system in favour of one of resident specialists. A specialist acquires his knowledge and skill only after many years of practice. The hospitals receive a very valuable contribution from the very large number of medical men, not only in Brisbane but throughout the State, who give their services in an honorary capacity. There is a gain to both sides. The doctor gains from the experience he is getting and the patient because he gets the best available service, which he would not otherwise be able to get.

Mr. KING: Do you think that the patients obtain the full value of the specialist's services?

Mr. MOORE: Yes.

Mr. KING: Do you not think they would receive better service from a permanent staff?

Mr. MOORE: The hospitals would not be able to obtain men of similar calibre and experience. A specialist in the highest spheres of medicine and surgery virtually commands his own fee. There is no occasion for him to go to a hospital for experience, but he gives his services voluntarily as the result of the etiquette that has grown up in the profession to give this to public service.

Mr. KING: It would be better if we had a permanent staff there.

Mr. MOORE: I am not at all sure that the hospitals would obtain the same class of specialist. Specialists do not grow on every bush. It does not follow that because a man calls himself a specialist he possesses outstanding ability, but we know that our outstanding men in these honorary services make a very valuable contribution to public service. Instead of endeavouring to get rid of those specialists we should encourage them.

Mr. KING: It is very decent of them, and it is not their fault that another system would give better service.

Mr. MOORE: For specialists who can command huge fees it is more than decent to give a day or a day and a-half a week to our hospitals as honoraries; it is a public service worthy of recognition. We should endeavour to continue the system and encourage them in every way.

Mr. FOLEY: It would be better if we had a full-time staff.

Mr. MOORE: Of course. It is all very fine to talk of a full-time staff of specialists for hospitals, but we must not forget that there are many hospitals that could not afford full-time specialists; nor would they have work for them.

Mr. JESSON: How is their time fully occupied now?

Mr. MOORE: They draw upon the whole State for their patients. A specialist who enjoys a high reputation can pick and

choose. I do not think that hospital patients would benefit by the appointment of a full-time staff, but the specialists would be able to devote their whole time to their own patients.

Mr. KING: The hospital patients would benefit in time.

Mr. MOORE: That is a matter of opinion. I do not think they would.

I notice that on 31st December, 1925, there were 945 inmates at Dunwich. That number had decreased on 31st December, 1934, to 734. In 1925-26 there were 54 officials in attendance on those inmates, and the cost was £12,119. To-day there are 56 officials and the cost £12,584. That is an increase of two notwithstanding that the number of inmates decreased by 211. Maintenance and incidentals in 1925-26 cost £35,685, against £24,316 to-day. In 1925-26 maintenance and incidentals averaged £37 16s. 4d. an inmate, in 1931-32 the average was £33 1s. 2d., and in 1935-36 it is to be £32 2s. 8d. The inmates of Dunwich are not greatly interested in the number of officials of the institution or the salaries they receive, but they are interested in the cost of maintenance and incidentals. After all the talk there has been of the generosity of the Government, it is extraordinary that there should be a big drop in the average cost of maintenance and incidentals while the number of officials shows an increase of two in spite of a decrease of 211 patients. It seems that more attention has been given to the staffing arrangements than the inmates.

The HOME SECRETARY: There is an increase in maintenance and incidentals.

Mr. MOORE: In 1925-26 the amount was £37 16s. 4d. a head, in 1931-32 £33 1s. 2d., and in 1935-36 it is to be £32 2s. 8d.

The following table of figures affords a comparison of expenditure on maintenance and incidentals and on grants by this department—

	1931-32.	1934-35.
	£	£
Aboriginals, Relief of ..	18,988	22,962*
Industrial Institution for ..		
Blind	15,951	18,397
Dunwich	24,046	22,640
Eventide Home	4,748	5,761
Jubilee Sanatorium	1,449	1,118
Epileptic Home	1,419	1,464
Westwood Sanatorium	2,261	2,442
Charitable Institutions		
(Grants)	2,155	2,670
Baby Clinics	4,172	4,275
Diamantina	9,119	9,250
Conditional Endowments		
(Hospitals)	168,525	168,525
Grants (Hospitals)	2,475	2,475
Hospitals for Insane—		
Goodna	29,765	28,827
Ipswich	11,349	12,367
Toowoomba	23,044	23,172
Reception House	581	564
Prisons	9,495	9,594
State Children—		
Boarding Out	150,584	160,086
State Institutions	3,760	2,905
Other Institutions	9,971	10,597
Westbrook Farm Home	1,710	1,521
Industrial Schools	1,904	1,833
	503,471	513,445

*Interest Savings Bank Accounts appropriated.

Increase 1934-35 over 1931-32—£9,974, or 1.9 per cent.

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Between the same years population increased 3.3 per cent.

The figures indicate that the people receiving sustenance, maintenance, and grants have not benefited at all, bearing in mind the increase in population.

I should like the Minister to give the Assembly some information as to the difference between the costs per patient at the Dalby and Westwood sanatoria. At Westwood the average per year is £93 4s. 6d., and per day 5s.; at the Dalby sanatorium the average per year is £167 0s. 2d., and per day 9s. 1d., which is 4s. per day more than the cost at Westwood. The Dalby sanatorium is conducted as a sort of farm and garden, and it has its own poultry and milk. Nevertheless, the difference appears to be a big one.

I notice that at the Dalby sanatorium the water supply proved inadequate for the flower and vegetable gardens. Has anything been done to increase the water supply at that institution? Apparently the inmates do everything they can to produce their own vegetables and milk, and water is a vital factor in doing so. So far as my knowledge of the district goes, I believe that water can be obtained; it is just a question of the site and the depth to which one may have to go for it.

Mr. GAIR: There are only about twenty patients at Dalby.

Mr. MOORE: The number fluctuates very much. I am not cavilling at the cost, but I ask for information.

Another matter I wish to draw attention to is the subject of the following report from Toowoomba that appeared in the "Courier-Mail" of 1st November, 1935—

"Discussion took place at a meeting of the Jendaryan Shire Council on the imposition of hospital taxation and the heavy burden borne by shire council areas. Councillor F. Prentice, chairman of the Toowoomba Hospitals Board, presented a statement which showed that many shire areas paid more in precepts than the patients from their areas cost. On the other hand, the board paid £11,162 for the treatment of patients from Toowoomba, which paid in precepts only £1,670. If Toowoomba paid its proper share, according to the 'patients' days' of its residents, it would have to pay about £3,000 more than it did at present. That position arose through the Hospitals Act, and the Toowoomba Council realised that the city received far greater benefits from the hospital in proportion. The council decided to discuss the matter at the next meeting of the Darling Downs Local Authorities' Development Association in December."

I think the situation might be met if the taxation were levied by the Commissioner not only on a land value basis but also on a population basis. That would probably be more equitable. Hitherto considerable contributions have been made to hospital costs by the "group" system, but very many of the rural groups in that area have ceased to make subscriptions. Some thought that so much was being paid by way of precept that they would not contribute voluntarily more and in other cases it was believed by the hospital board that the

system was not profitable to it. Under a properly conducted group system the members do pay for their own hospital attention, and it is therefore in the best interests of the community. Some of the industrial groups have been self-supporting, but this is not so with some rural groups. When it is found, as is shown from the discussion at the Toowoomba Hospitals Board meeting, that the local authorities are paying a sum out of all proportion to the benefits received, it is obvious that an alteration should be made to a more equitable system. The people who receive the greatest benefits should contribute the greatest amount of money. No doubt the situation that has arisen in Toowoomba exists in other districts. According to the journal issued by the local authorities, there are many instances in which residents in the larger centres of population contribute much less than they should, according to the benefits they received, and on the other hand people in the outer areas are paying too much. The Rosalie Shire, in which I am particularly interested, paid a precept last year of £700. This is a very considerable sum, considering the use made of the institution by the residents of that shire. On the other hand, the cost of Toowoomba patients was £11,162, whereas the annual precept levied on the Toowoomba City Council was only £1,670. That shows that the burden on the outside areas is altogether out of proportion to the benefits they receive. It is quite unfair that the people in the outside districts should have to contribute to the extent they do.

The report of the Commissioner of Police states—

"During the year eighty-six members of the force left the service—

Resignations	...	...	...	5
Discharges	...	...	...	2
Dismissal	...	...	...	1
Deaths	...	...	...	6
Retired on pension	...	...	...	72

"During the same period twenty-five police pensioners died."

During the year ninety-eight recruits were sworn in as constables. No information is given as to whether the seventy-two members who retired on pension did so because they were medically or physically unfit or because of lack of the educational qualifications now demanded in members of the force. The suggestion has been heard that the Police Medical Board retired men that the Commissioner did not want, but did not know how to get rid of otherwise.

Mr. TAYLOR: Where did you hear that?

Mr. MOORE: I have heard all sorts of such suggestions, and no doubt the hon. member has also.

Mr. TAYLOR: I have never heard stories like that.

Mr. MOORE: All kinds of suggestions are being made. I am merely seeking information as to whether the seventy-two members who retired on pension had reached the age limit or were retired for medical reasons, or because in the reorganisation of the force men with higher educational qualifications were desired.

There has been much going on in the force. The amount appropriated in the

[Mr. Moore.]

Supplementary Estimates last year for Police was £23,657 16s. 2d., made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	6,677	3	3
Allowance in lieu of overtime	393	10	10
Allowance in lieu of quarters	565	15	3
General contingencies ...	993	4	5
Railway fares, freights, and conveyance charge	9,362	16	2
Stores, stationery, printing, etc.	1,497	1	1
Travelling allowances ...	1,451	17	9
Uniforms	1,168	6	6
Purchase of motor vehicles and bicycles...	1,548	0	10

The amount appropriated for railway fares, freights, and conveyance charges would indicate that there have been many transfers and removals; and the amount set aside for stores, stationery, and printing that a number of letters were written in connection with the reorganisation. It would be interesting to know the cause of this big increase, particularly for railway fares, freights, and conveyance charges.

Mr. TAYLOR: It may be due to the mechanisation of the Force.

Mr. MOORE: The mechanisation of the Force would not be included in railway fares, freights and conveyance charges. Twenty-three thousand pounds is a large sum, and ever so much more than was anticipated. The Government appropriated £13,620 for such fares, etc., and spent £9,362 more, and it would be interesting to know the reason for the increase.

Mr. TAYLOR: The reorganisation might have entailed a number of transfers.

Mr. MOORE: I daresay it did. I am not criticising the department, but when one sees large sums overspent, and supplementary estimates brought down, there is no harm in asking what necessitated the increase. It may be that the re-allocation of duties, and the transfer of officers, caused a great amount of this additional expenditure. I am merely asking for information.

Mr. BRAND (*Isis*) [10.55 a.m.]: Charitable Institutions form a very important part of the Home Department, and under that heading, hospitals and their management are a big factor. Since the inception of the district system, the Government play an important part in the conduct of hospitals. It is a burning question in the country districts. Why, it is asked, should Government representatives override the local authority representatives on the board?

The majority of the five hospital boards in my electorate seem to be carrying out their work fairly satisfactorily. Greater sympathy should be shown by the department to the equipment of country hospitals with the more modern appliances known to medical science, because of their distance from the base hospitals. The Home Secretary should undertake to give these hospitals the latest apparatus. Every country hospital should have an X-ray plant. Many people are not well enough off to travel to the larger towns and pay the high fees that are asked there for X-ray photographs. They should be able to have them taken in their home town.

This need is the more urgent where an X-ray photograph is needed in order that the medical officer may make his diagnosis and prescribe the proper treatment. I ask the Minister to give serious attention to the matter, especially in districts where the people are prepared to pay for the installation if a loan could be made available by the department to defray the cost in the first place. I understand that the matter is in the hands of a board presided over by Sir Raphael Cilento, but I do not know whether the methods the board proposes will be the best. I think the Minister will agree that the previous practice of the department's exercising this control has worked very satisfactorily, in that it has permitted country towns to obtain the latest medical requirements without the imposition of irksome conditions that may tend to make efforts in this direction fruitless. The Isis District Hospital Board is unanimously in favour of the installation of an X-ray plant, but although it is prepared to pay for it the controlling authority will not give it. I appeal to the Minister to make funds available to the board for an X-ray plant and other modern medical implements, so that the people in the district may enjoy the best medical service. During the past twelve months no fewer than thirty-four patients have had to travel by road up to a distance of 40 miles to be X-rayed before their troubles could be diagnosed and treated satisfactorily. I should like to remind the Minister that during the past three years the Isis District Hospital Board has materially assisted the Government by conducting the institution in such a satisfactory way that the Government's share of the deficiency in working costs has been substantially reduced. That should be sufficient to induce the Government to make available a sum of £500 to enable the board to secure the much-needed modern plant.

I and my constituents are anxious to know the means that were adopted to bring about the recent appointment to the Bundaberg Hospitals Board. For a considerable time there has been a rift in the lute on the board, and many supporters of the Labour Party and the general public believe that there is some reason for it. Recently one of the local authority representatives on the board, Alderman Cattermull, passed away. For many years he has given excellent service in an executive capacity on local authorities in Bundaberg and the surrounding district. He was regarded as a leading authority on local government matters, and the people of Bundaberg and district have suffered a very severe loss. The remaining local authority representatives on the Bundaberg Hospital Board were anxious to make a recommendation to the Minister as to who should fill the vacancy caused by the death of Alderman Cattermull, and so a conference of all the component local authorities was called. The Minister was notified of their intention to call the conference, but before it could be held the Government appointed someone to fill the vacancy. I wish it to be clearly understood that I am not suggesting that Alderman Grimwood has not the necessary qualifications for a member of the board, but I believe that the principle adopted in the past of allowing outside local authorities to offer suggestions as to who should be

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represented on the board should be continued. The local authority representatives on the board were anxious to give the Minister a lead. There is considerable feeling over the matter, the local authority representatives being of the opinion that their views were disregarded and that the opinions of some secret junta have been accepted in their stead. The Minister may be able to supply the reasons why the appointment was made in this manner. There is considerable discontent on the board. The local Press contained long reports of the discussions of their representatives. It is very hard to discover the trouble. Many consider that the chairman has taken control from the Government representatives and is carrying out a policy against the best interests of the board, but I have confidence that the present chairman would do the right thing.

The remarks of the Leader of the Opposition concerning hospital management, particularly the charges made on local authorities, should be heeded by the Minister. Local authority contributions to hospital boards have been a burning question with the ratepayers throughout the country districts, which have always contended that hospitals should not be financed by a charge upon land. The only means of overcoming the difficulty that the hospitals tax has created in country districts—it has become a very burdensome one on farmers during recent years, when many have found difficulty in making a livelihood—is to nationalise hospitals. That is the only method by which the burden of the tax on the people in the country may be eased. It has been well likened to the last straw that breaks the camel's back. Many thousands of acres of land have reverted to the Crown through the inability of selectors to pay rent and rates. Selectors who previously were able to make a competence from the land find it very difficult to meet it. I hope the Minister will indicate that he will be able to come to the aid of local authorities by relieving them of the hospitals tax, thus enabling them to fulfil their functions of local government in a more efficient way than they can to-day. My electorate is mainly composed of farming and grazing areas. The rate that is struck for the upkeep of roads is sufficiently burdensome on them.

Hon. members opposite will probably contend that the Opposition had the opportunity to give effect to its hospitals policy when it was the Government of the country. The depression prevented the Moore Government from carrying out their full programme.

The HOME SECRETARY: Thank God for that! They caused enough misery by carrying out half of their policy.

Mr. BRAND: The Minister knows full well that from 1929 to 1932 New South Wales was governed by the Labour Party, with the results we know.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. BRAND: I have no desire to deviate from my subject. With a return to a better financial position we are justified in looking forward to an easing of the burdens on the producer.

Mr. KING: This Government have improved conditions financially. Do you not give them credit for that?

[Mr. Brand.

Mr. BRAND: The financial position of this or any other State in Australia is dependent upon the policy of the Commonwealth Government. The people living in the country areas are looking for relief, and the removal of this tax would help them. Last week the Acting Premier said that hon. members could discuss the liquor question to-day as much as they wished, by those remarks probably indicating that he did not regard with favour the Home Secretary's action in pushing the Liquor Acts Amendment Bill through all its stages on Friday.

The HOME SECRETARY: I did not push it through in the one day.

Mr. BRAND: The hon. gentleman did not give the Opposition that fair play that has been generally recognised as desirable.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. BRAND: Hon. members on this side of the Chamber do not wish to discuss the liquor question to-day. The Home Secretary was also wrong in stating to the Press that the Government had not applied the gag during this session.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. BRAND: The hon. gentleman should not make mis-statements, the gag has been applied to the Opposition during this session.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. McLEAN (*Bundaberg*) [11.15 a.m.]: I desire to deal with an important matter, but I feel that before doing so I must reply to the flimsy complaint made by the hon. member for Isis that there was considerable feeling over the appointment of Alderman Grimwood to the hospitals boards at Bundaberg. The people who showed feeling over the matter have asked the hon. member for Isis to bring the matter up in this Chamber in an effort to show that the Home Secretary was actuated by political motives, and have even reached such a state of mental dizziness that they have endeavoured to make out that the appointment was not a legal one. For the information of hon. members I point out that Alderman Grimwood was one of the nominees of the local authorities' representatives, and he was the next on the list at the poll. Mr. H. S. Skyring was ahead of him, but he retired. His appointment was legitimately made by the Home Department. The cause of the opposition to his appointment is his alleged leanings towards Labour. The hon. member for Isis knows that Mr. F. Briggs was nominated—an old Country-Nationalist supporter, and a friend of the hon. member for Isis—and there has been considerable bitterness because Alderman Grimwood was appointed. The matter is so pettifogging that it should never have been introduced here.

The time has arrived when there should be a unification of local authorities. A very invidious position exists to-day at Bundaberg. Adjacent to the city are the Woongarra and Gooburrum Shire Councils, and in addition there are a fire brigade board, a joint health board and a Burnett Bridge board—the excessive number being the cause of an increase in taxation on the people. I want the Home Secretary to investigate the matter and to have these boards merged in the local authorities. It would be to the monetary benefit of the community. As

president of the respective bodies I know that they are not operating in the interests of the community and are a travesty on common sense and in conflict with the principles of democracy. These boards have the right to fix the expenditure which the local authorities have to meet by way of precept. The local authorities are the representatives of the people; the boards are merely subsidiary. In the interests of the community they should be incorporated in the councils.

Mr. GAIR (*South Brisbane*) [11.21 a.m.] : A consideration of the Estimates for the Home Secretary's Department brings before us the tragic aspect of the lives of some of our citizens and discloses to us the noble work being done by that department in the interests of those who are in need of help. The department is charged with the control of many laudable institutions concerned with the care of the aged and the physically and mentally sick, orphanages and many other services. Those who are continually complaining about taxation should remember that the Government are charged with the maintenance of these institutions, and in addition have to provide annually £1,500,000 for the education of the children of Queensland. They should recognise that it is necessary for Governments to impose taxation inasmuch as these services almost entirely absorb the receipts from taxation. And on reflection I am sure they will gladly pay the taxation and feel that there is much in their lives for which they should be thankful. These services are very necessary, and it is a very important duty of the Government to cater for the needs of our sick, aged, and infirm—and also for those who are confined to His Majesty's prisons because of their transgressions of the law. No Government can afford to relax its efforts in these matters.

The Moore Government were responsible for a policy of restriction of expenditure for our hospitals, asylums, and sanatoria, without regard to the wants and the needs of the afflicted.

Mr. MAHER: You recognise that there has to be a limit somewhere.

Mr. GAIR: I recognise, as do the Government, that there cannot be any waste of money. Generally speaking, I do not think there is any extravagance, because nothing is too good for the mental sufferer or the inmates of such institutions as the Diamantina Hospital—they are virtually sentenced to death, and it is the duty of the Government to see that their remaining days are made as happy as possible. No Christian would deny that right or—if you will—that concession to those unfortunate people.

I have mentioned the Diamantina Hospital. It is a grand institution and a credit not only to the members of the Government, but to the State. My only regret is that it is not large enough. It is sad that a hospital of this kind is not large enough to meet the needs of the people of Queensland; nevertheless, such is the fact, and it is my earnest desire that the department will expedite the work of improving or extending it. It will be seen from the annual report that 41 persons died during last year whilst awaiting admission, and that 39 persons are awaiting admission at the present time. This should not be. There should be ample room and no such thing as waiting for admission. These people are suffering from such diseases

as cancer, phthisis, and consumption, and it is their right to be admitted without any delay. I wish to pay a compliment to the superintendent of that hospital, and to Matron Francis and the excellent staff of nurses who are there carrying out a noble work in the interests of people who are afflicted with diseases from which they will never recover.

I also wish to commend the work done by the Mater Misericordiae Public Hospital, which is the public hospital of South Brisbane. That institution, although conducted by a religious community of women, is open to all, irrespective of creed or race. The service that is given by the Sisters of Mercy and the nursing staff of that hospital is of a very high standard and spoken of in the highest terms by patients and their friends and relatives. The Government should assist that institution in every way. Certainly it has been assisted to a greater extent than it was under the Moore Government, and I hope that the Government will continue to regard it as the public hospital of South Brisbane. It is relieving the pressure on the Brisbane General Hospital, and is thus easing the burden of the expenditure that would otherwise be incurred there.

The Leader of the Opposition made reference to the Dalby Sanatorium. On reading the report of that institution I find it difficult to justify its existence. The report discloses that at 30th June, 1935, the number of inmates was 20, whereas the staff numbered 24. It will be seen that a good deal of time is devoted to the cultivation of orchards and the raising of stock, including pigs and poultry. I find it difficult to understand why all this work is necessary to maintain an institution that accommodates only 20 odd people. Would it not be better to house all the consumptives who seek State assistance at the Westwood Sanatorium, close down the Dalby institution, and thereby make for economy in administration? Perhaps the Dalby building could be used for some other purpose. Perhaps the Department of Public Instruction could use it as a place for mentally deficient children.

Mr. MAHER: Persons suffering from tuberculosis are sent to Dalby on account of the favourable climate.

Mr. GAIR: The climate at Westwood must be suitable, too, because consumptives are sent to that institution. Why not transfer the Dalby inmates to the Westwood institution?

Mr. MAHER: Or vice versa?

Mr. GAIR: Yes. The number of inmates at Westwood is fifty-six to sixty, which indicates that the climate there is considered as good as that of Dalby.

Without disparaging his predecessor, I wish to congratulate the Comptroller-General of Prisons, Mr. Whitney, for the splendid improvement that he has effected in prison administration, not only in Brisbane, but also in other prisons throughout the State. I also wish to congratulate the Home Secretary and Mr. Whitney upon the establishment of the prison farm at Palen Creek. In previous years I have stressed the need for the better classification of prisoners, and contended that it was almost fatal to the reformation of young men who were first offenders sentenced to short-term imprisonment that they should be incarcerated with hardened criminals for whom there was little or no hope of redemption. That

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unsatisfactory state of affairs has now been overcome by the establishment of the prison farm at Palen Creek, and young men who are first offenders may now pay the penalty for their lapses in more appropriate surroundings, and retain the chance of taking their places again in society without any fear that the finger of scorn will be pointed at them by the underworld. I have had the privilege and pleasure of visiting the prison farm, and I was so impressed with it that I recommend every hon. member to visit it at the first opportunity. It is a credit to the department, and was long overdue. I am confident that with an extension of the scheme our prison system will be equal to, if not better than, any other in the Commonwealth. Prisons are necessary, very necessary, evils—persons who are not prepared to obey the laws of the land must be punished—yet it is our bounden duty to attempt their reform. It is useless merely to cast them into prison and put the taxpayer to great expense if we thus only make them hardened criminals. Our minds should ever be directed to the goal of reform. I am confident that many offenders—after all, we are all human and prone to err—could be put on the right track if our prison systems were conducted on the right lines. Such transgressors should be given to understand that they have not irrevocably lost their place in society, but that when released from prison they will have the opportunity of rehabilitating themselves free from molestation by the police. In this manner they would have the opportunity of doing the right thing by themselves and by the State. Prison administration in this State is now conducted along very satisfactory lines.

Mr. DANIEL (*Keppel*) [11.39 a.m.]: This is one of the most important departments of the Government. It controls social services and local governing bodies. I would draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that at least one hospital body claims the whole or part of the maternity allowance paid by the Federal Government to expectant mothers when they make application for admission to the maternity ward. Several persons have spoken to me on the matter. The complaint is that the Rockhampton Hospital seeks to obtain every penny of the £5 maternity allowance. Mr. Forde, the Federal member for Capricornia, recently instituted an inquiry into the matter, and the reply he received was thus reported in the Press—

“Mr. F. M. Forde, M.H.R., is in receipt of the following reply from the Commonwealth Commissioner of Maternity Allowances: ‘With reference to your letter of 19th September on the abovementioned subject, I have to advise you that there is no provision under the Maternity Allowance Act conferring on hospitals any right to claim the maternity allowance from the mother as contribution towards the cost of hospital treatment. Until recently there were two forms of application for maternity allowance: Form A in which the expectant mother could make application for the maternity allowance before the birth, and Form B which could be used by the mother in applying for a maternity allowance at any time within three months after the birth of the child. Following on representations that pressure was being brought

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to bear on expectant mothers to authorise the payment of the maternity allowance as payment or part payment for nursing and attention, it was recently decided to repeal Form A and only those claims made in accordance with Form B are now recognised. The effect of this is that the maternity allowance is now granted only to the mother, payment being made by means of a money order forwarded by post to the address directed by the mother in her claim. The subsequent disposal of the proceeds of the maternity allowance is a matter for the mother herself.’”

It is deplorable that any hospital committee should claim the whole or part of the maternity allowance from expectant mothers who are in poor circumstances. When I was chairman of the Rockhampton Hospitals Board many people came to me and complained that the secretary had claimed the whole of the allowance.

I investigated the matter, and in most cases half or two-thirds of the amount was returned to the mother. I consider it is wrong to take the full £5 from poor people for the maintenance of expectant mothers while in the hospital. I trust the Minister will investigate that matter, and alter an unjust system.

I agree with the remarks of the hon. member for South Brisbane in regard to the Diamantina and other hospitals. It is right that the people suffering from incurable diseases should be cared for by the State.

Some time ago a deputation approached the Minister and asked that a home be erected in Rockhampton for the old and infirm. At the present time the old people in that area have to go to Dunwich or the Eventide Home at Charters Towers, and it is only after special application is made to the Minister that an old person from the Central district is admitted to the latter. Old people who have relatives in Central Queensland find it very difficult to go to Dunwich, or even to Charters Towers, and it is only right that a home should be provided for them in Central Queensland.

The cost of dealing with infectious diseases should be paid for out of consolidated revenue, and should not be a burden on the local authority in whose area the outbreak occurs. It is essential that the local authorities should be relieved in that direction; they would then have more money to expend on roads.

Representations have been made to the Minister in regard to beach improvement at Yeppoon. Many public-spirited men have invested money at that centre with the object of developing it and not with the hope of any monetary return. An agreement was drawn up by the shire councils previous to the building activity at that centre, and Mr. Peterson, who was then Home Secretary, had a minute to put before Cabinet to validate the agreement between the council and owners of the beach improvement, but unfortunately it was not dealt with.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: Why?

Mr. DANIEL: I could not tell the hon. member. Mr. Peterson had promised that he would validate that agreement. An amount of £4,000 was expended, and to-day the people responsible are suffering financially to that extent, and the owners have

no title to the beach improvement to unable them to rent or lease it. I trust that before this session concludes the Home Secretary will have the matter investigated and bring down a Bill to validate and to enable the agreement to be signed on behalf of the council for the people who erected the building so many years ago.

Mr. HAYES (*Nundah*) [11.50 a.m.]: The Estimates of the Home Secretary's Department are a brief history of the humanitarian achievements of the Labour Party since it first occupied the Treasury benches in the Parliament of the State. It can be truly said that the Labour Party watches the interests of the people from the cradle to the grave, and the Home Secretary's Department is largely responsible for the administration of the institutions that perform that laudable work. It cares for the sick, the aged, the infirm, and the needy. It is particularly pleasing that a comparison of the 1935-36 Estimates with those of the previous year discloses that the Labour Government have been able not only to provide the financial help required for the maintenance of these institutions but also able to effect improvements during the period from 1932 to 1935.

I congratulate the Home Secretary not only on his wonderful achievement during that period but also on retaining his high office. His wonderful administration of the department is an earnest of what may be expected from him during this and subsequent years. We need have no fear that the continuation of the social services that were unfortunately reduced during the period 1929 to 1931 will be endangered. The department's activities are so varied and cover so wide an area that I am compelled to confine my attention to those that are of interest to me and the people I represent.

During the discussion of these Estimates last session I drew attention to the need for a medical service for the community at Cribb Island. A number of unfortunate people, mostly on relief work, have been attracted to Cribb Island because of the low rentals of 5s. to 7s. a week obtainable in that area. The district is far removed from any medical service, which in the event of sickness or accident has to be obtained from about 6 miles distant. Very frequently the request is met by a demand of immediate payment of £2 10s. before the medical practitioner will consent to make the journey. The Minister has given close consideration to the matter since it has been brought forward, and I am very pleased that in the Estimates for the current year £2,000 is being provided for a visiting health service. I understand that it is the intention to include Wynnum, Sandgate, and Cribb Island. That is a move in the right direction. The people in the Cribb Island community are in poor circumstances, and find it impossible to get medical attention. The present Government are not unmindful of their requirements. I understand that the visiting doctor will be accompanied by a nurse and medicine will be dispensed. That is certainly a move in the direction of alleviating suffering. In a country such as ours, there should be no such spectacle as that of a person in need of a meal or wanting medical aid, no matter what his circumstances.

I am pleased to see that the department has extended the baby clinic services during

the past three years, and that in doing so it has not neglected the outside districts such as Cribb Island. Last year I attended a prize distribution at St. Vincent's Orphanage, Nudgee. The Home Secretary was unable to attend on that occasion, but I hope that he will make it convenient to do so this year. Wonderful work is being done by the St. Vincent's Orphanage at Nudgee and the Tuffnell Home at Nundah. The treatment, care, and attention that their inmates get are all that could be demanded of the best of foster mothers, and the department sees to it that every provision is made for their health. At the prize distribution to which I have referred, it was most gratifying to see that the boys wore serviceable white uniforms and the girls blue costumes, and the fact that they have a brass band comprised of boys, the eldest of whom is no more than 8 or 10 years old, is ample proof that they are well cared for, and everything is done for them to ensure contentment. The self-sacrificing women who are managing these institutions are to be congratulated upon the Christ-like work they are doing. The attendance at St. Vincent's Orphanage is in the vicinity of 400 children, and the Government assistance rendered to this institution is 1s. per day per child or 7s. per week. The rate paid by the Home Secretary to foster parents is 10s. a week in respect of children from 2 to 4 and 12 to 14 years, and 9s. 6d. a week in respect of children from 4 to 12 years. I suggest that the Home Secretary might increase the payment to the orphanages, which take in children of all ages and do more for their welfare than the average foster mother. It would not be expensive and would prove of great benefit to the community. We should be only too happy to make an increased grant if it would mean an improvement in the dietary scale of the children. It may be argued that a large number of children may be catered for at a lesser cost per head than fewer children, but the important social service that is being given by these self-sacrificing women is deserving of a little more consideration by the Government.

I think it was the hon. member for Merthyr who pointed out that the grant of £75 per annum to the Magdalen Asylum, Lutwyche, was very small and that it should be increased. I endorse his remarks. I understand that between 1929 and 1931 the grant to this institution was very materially reduced, and I am satisfied that the wonderful women who conduct the institution would be warm in their expressions of appreciation if the Government could see their way clear to restore the grant to its original amount.

The Tuffnell Home is providing an equally praiseworthy social service, but the noble band of self-sacrificing women who conduct the institution are not helped in their efforts by any grant from the Government. They have devoted their lives to the interests of the poor and are prepared at all times to extend the utmost sympathy to unfortunate women. I hope that in the future when grants to charitable institutions are being considered the Tuffnell Home and the essential service it is giving will not be overlooked.

I am very pleased to note that the payments to the ambulance service, which were reduced during the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 have been restored and even considerably

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increased. The valuable ambulance service is deserving of the utmost help. These figures show the amounts paid by the Government to the ambulance brigades—

	£
1931-32	10,000
1932-33	14,785
1933-34	24,040
1934-35	23,981
1935-36	26,342

I should also like to pay a compliment to the present Commissioner of Police for the very efficient change that he has caused to be made in the administration of the police force. I am satisfied that the Home Secretary and the present Commissioner have considered every detail very carefully in their desire to see that the efficiency of the Queensland police shall be second to none in any other part of the world. The Government in carrying out this scheme of reorganisation were not unmindful of the conditions of the rank and file. The police are the most maligned body of men in our midst. The man in the street regards the man in blue or khaki as a menace, until, of course, he is in trouble—then he cannot get his services quickly enough.

The seventh grade educational standard required of applicants for admission to the police force is not too high, and it cannot be contended that it operates harshly or is in excess of what the standard should be. The police force does not require men with brawn and muscle only. People with criminal instincts rest during the day and are active at night. They study crime in all its aspects most minutely. In fact, they serve an apprenticeship in crime, beginning with petty larceny, until they become seasoned criminals. It is necessary, therefore, that aspirants to the police force should have certain educational equipment.

Another alteration in the force that provoked criticism but was able to stand investigation was the appointment of twenty-five cadets. These cadets are composed chiefly of lads who have passed the senior university examination. Naturally, their scholastic studies embraced languages, including Latin, German, and French. These cadets are willing to take up the study of the Italian language, which will be very helpful in police administration. On attaining the age of twenty-one years they will, if considered suitable, be drafted into the general police and be required to take up duty in any part of the State.

It was an excellent idea to divide the metropolitan area into police districts. The Valley police district incorporates a large portion of my electorate, including a portion that previously had no police protection. I refer to Cribb Island. This place has had a bad reputation at times and been regarded as a place where criminals went "into smoke" for a few months. A police station has been established at this centre for some months. A piece of land has been acquired and I hope that a new police building will be erected on it shortly.

In conjunction with several local bodies I have made representations to the Minister for further police protection in the Nundah district. For a considerable time house burglaries had occurred frequently. One person had his place of business ransacked on two occasions, and decided to live on the premises to protect his property. While he was doing so his private residence was

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visited by burglars! I consider another constable at Nundah to be necessary, although the acting sergeant and the two constables stationed there carry out their work conscientiously and efficiently. The police station at that centre is totally inadequate. It consists of a room twelve feet by twelve feet, and a little extension under a skillion roof about eight feet by six feet, and the inconvenience of working in such a cramped area is not conducive to efficiency. I believe that the men who are engaged in the prevention and detection of crime should have every facility placed at their disposal.

I trust that the erection of a building at Cribb Island for police purposes, and the building of an up-to-date police station at Nundah will be favourably considered by the Minister.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN (*Dalby*) [12.15 p.m.]: I desire to draw the attention of the Minister to the ineffectiveness of the police in regard to shop betting. No doubt the Minister knows perfectly well that as soon as the tax on bets was increased from 1d. to 3d. and from 3d. to 1s. there was a considerable growth in the number of illegal betting shops throughout the State. They have sprung up like mushrooms in every town and city, and at the present time are more numerous than at any other time in the history of the State. For some reason or other the police are not making a real genuine effort to suppress illegal betting.

Mr. POWER: Rot! They are making arrests every week.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: The hon. member should know perfectly well—if he does not, but pays attention to my remarks he will learn—that the arrests and prosecutions apply to someone who is unemployed for betting at a hotel at Goodna. The hon. member and the Minister know that shops are open for betting purposes in the city of Brisbane where hundreds of people congregate every day a race meeting is held in the metropolitan area, and a policeman is engaged regulating the traffic in front of those shops.

Mr. W. J. COBLEY: I rise to a point of order. In view of the fact that a Royal Commission on Racing and Gaming is sitting at the present time, and the terms of reference of that commission cover the matter that is being discussed by the hon. member, is he in order in raising it? Is the matter not sub judice?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member for Dalby is perfectly in order in discussing the matter on the police vote.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Why the hon. member should raise that objection I cannot understand. Nor can a number of people comprehend why matters of this nature should not be fully and freely discussed in a deliberative Assembly. At the same time as the police are arresting an odd individual thousands are betting openly in shops. People congregate in front of them and must be discernible to the uniformed constables who are regulating traffic. I am not blaming the police, because I am of opinion that the blame should be shouldered by somebody else. I am under the impression that the police have been instructed not to prosecute in certain instances and in certain cases.

The HOME SECRETARY: Do you say the police have been instructed not to prosecute?

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I said that "I am under the impression," and as I proceed I shall state my reasons. The Commissioner of Police is a member of the Royal Commission now making investigations, and during the course of my evidence before the Commission he asked me if I knew that only plain clothes policemen could institute prosecutions in regard to betting. I answered him that I did not and I thought that any constable, whether a plain clothes or uniformed member of the police, should be able to institute these prosecutions. It can be seen that some restriction must be placed upon the uniformed men, especially in the city of Brisbane. It may not be quite so in the country. The Commissioner also asked me whether I knew that the number of plain clothes policemen had been increased from six to twelve in order to get prosecutions for illegal betting. I replied that I did not know that, but added that evidently the number was not sufficient, because betting shops were carrying on their business to-day to a greater extent than ever before in the history of Queensland.

Mr. FOLEY: So is Tattersall's.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I have no brief for Tattersall's. Illegal betting should be suppressed irrespective of where it is taking place. The Minister should know from the Press that a number of men connected with racing who gave evidence before the commission have drawn attention to the fact that illegal betting shops are in existence in the city and are not being raided by the police, as they obviously should. In large black print the Brisbane "Telegraph" published the following:—

"CITY BETTING BAN.

"CLUB'S NOTICE TO ITS TENANTS.

"No 'S.P.' Transactions in Certain Hours.

"Some degree of perturbation has been caused amongst a number of well-known city bookmakers by a peremptory order from the owners—a Brisbane club—of the offices which they occupy in the club buildings to the effect that in future they must not use their offices for starting-price betting between 9 and 5 o'clock on race days."

That order was issued by Tattersall's Club to the tenants of a number of shops in Tattersall's Arcade rented from the club. Everybody knows about it, including the police. Instructions were issued that no betting must be conducted in the shops on race days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. That order was given effect to for two days. The paragraph continues:—

"When asked concerning the position, Sub-inspector Smith, who is in charge of the Traffic Branch, said that he had no comment to make."

This is sufficient proof that the matter was brought before the sub-inspector, and if he did not know prior he should have known subsequently to reading the article.

The metropolitan Press has published the betting prices quoted by these illegal shops. The shops have all the necessary appurtenances for carrying on betting. Blackboards are displayed showing the prices, and each Wednesday and Saturday morning the Press publishes the information obtained from these

shops. It is illegal betting and the Minister knows that it is being carried on, as do also the members of the police force, but no action is taken. Mr. Roy Connolly, in one of his weekly articles for the "Sunday Mail," dealt exhaustively with the subject of betting. He wrote a very instructive account of the matter, and inter alia stated—

"Every now and again the police raid little bookmakers and apparently fail to see bigger ones, although every one else can."

We see that every Wednesday and Saturday there are two or three raids outside the city area. When the culprits are brought to court they say they are unemployed, and are working for someone else on commission. The small men are arrested and the "heads" are allowed to go free!

I wish to point out the effect that this "away from the course" betting is having on racing in Queensland. Owners are taking their horses away from Queensland every day to the other States, and our best jockeys are going to other States, principally because this "away from the course" betting is keeping people away from racecourses. The figures that the Home Secretary has at his disposal show that in the last three years, since that tax has been put into effect, the Government have lost almost £50,000 in revenue. Instead of the increase in tax increasing the revenue, the Government lost almost £50,000 in three years, and are receiving nothing from the shops that conduct this illegal business.

Although the Royal Commission on Racing and Gaming is inquiring into the condition of the racing industry, it is making no inquiries with a view to ascertaining whether the law should be enforced. I have no objection to betting away from the course being legalised under certain conditions, but if that is to be done, the people who bet by this method should pay tax in the same way as the people who bet on the racecourse. Betting away from the course is illegal to-day, and why are not the police allowed to do their duty and raid these places, whether in uniform or in plain clothes? The Commissioner of Police, in attempting to make an excuse for this state of affairs, said in his annual report that he had doubled the number of plain clothes policemen to deal with illegal betting, but owing to the influx of criminals from the South they were practically withdrawn from making the raids that they would make under ordinary circumstances. That is no excuse. I am not blaming the police for not doing their duty, but I have spoken to many policemen, and they express the opinion that if they were allowed a free hand to raid these shops they could virtually wipe out "away from the course" betting within three weeks.

The HOME SECRETARY: You have the conscience of a racecourse sharper. Only a racecourse sharper would make such a statement.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: If the hon. member is looking for personalities I will give him one or two.

The HOME SECRETARY: I will give you one or two directly. Only a racecourse sharper would make such a statement.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I am telling the truth.

[Mr. Morgan.]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. gentleman is not permitted to make personal reflections on another hon. member.

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon. member for Dalby has no right to get up and say that the police are restricted in the execution of their duties by a ministerial action. I say that a man who says a thing like that has the mind of a racecourse sharper.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I have a perfect right to make that statement. The Commissioner of Police admitted it.

The HOME SECRETARY: You cannot put such stuff over here as you do over the stewards. We are not compelled to listen to that.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: And you cannot put over the people what you are attempting to do now with regard to Golden Investments.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member will proceed with his speech.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I have endeavoured to deal with this matter without being personal in any way. The Commissioner of Police admitted that nobody else in Brisbane but a plain clothes policeman could institute prosecutions.

The HOME SECRETARY: He did nothing of the kind.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: It is in evidence. Am I not right in saying that the system is wrong? Am I not right in saying that the men in uniform should be allowed to prosecute?

The HOME SECRETARY: They do.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: The hon. the Minister says that the uniformed police do prosecute, but if he cares to come with me I can show him where a uniformed policeman is walking backwards and forwards outside a row of betting shops, regulating traffic. Although that uniformed policeman knows that betting is taking place, he is not able to do his duty if he is not allowed to prosecute. What I have stated to the effect that certain policemen have told me that they could clean up the "away from the course" betting in three weeks is absolutely true. I know that if I were to give the names of those policemen they would be victimised. I do not intend to do it. The newspapers have called attention to this matter, and the Minister knows that these things exist. Will he explain some of the matters, and particularly tell us why prosecutions are not taking place? Tattersall's Club decided that certain people should vacate a room on the same floor as the club and take another room down below in the arcade, but they had not been there more than three days when they were raided by the police. That is a considerable time ago, but they have never been raided since. It shows that what I am saying is true. I have some figures supplied by the Attorney-General in answer to my question, which support my contention. In 1933 the effect of the increased betting tax became noticeable, and a considerable number of new betting shops sprang into existence. In that year there were 116 prosecutions. How does the Minister explain the fact that in 1934, when there were more betting shops than in 1933, there were only forty-two prosecutions, and how does he account for the fact that in 1935, when the number of betting shops had reached

what could be regarded as the maximum, there were only twenty-two prosecutions?

The HOME SECRETARY: Only twenty-two prosecutions?

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Yes.

The HOME SECRETARY: That is rubbish.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I am quoting the figures supplied to me by the Attorney-General, and published in the Votes and Proceedings of this Parliament. The Home Secretary does not know his subject.

The HOME SECRETARY: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I know what I am talking about. I asked the Attorney-General this question—

"In each of the years 1931 to 1935, how many fines have been imposed for infringement of the provisions of the Racecourses Act relating to illegal betting, and what was the total amount of such fines in each year?"

The HOME SECRETARY: The Racecourses Act had nothing to do with illegal betting in the city. Those offenders are prosecuted under the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: The hon. gentleman cannot put that over me. The persons who were prosecuted under that Act were those who engaged in two-up, playing with cards, dice, and similar things. A prosecution against persons for playing two-up is not taken under the Racecourses Act.

The HOME SECRETARY: There were 668 prosecutions—

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Yes, but the Minister cannot deceive the Committee. They were prosecutions in connection with two-up schools, playing with dice, and similar things. Those prosecutions had nothing whatever to do with "away from the course" betting. The question that I directed to the Attorney-General was in connection with prosecutions in respect of betting shops. I have said nothing at all about prosecutions in connection with gambling schools. I know that there have been a number of such prosecutions, but gambling schools and illegal betting in starting-price shops are two distinct things altogether. The hon. gentleman cannot put that over. The figures that I quoted related to the infringement of the Racecourses Act, which stipulates that it is legal to bet on a racecourse, but it is illegal to bet away from the racecourse.

At 12.34 p.m.,

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

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I have brought this matter forward because I am anxious to see racing, which is a business, and not a sport, flourish in the State, and provide work for thousands of people. Under existing conditions that is impossible. I desire to point out that if the Government are content to wait until the Royal Commission on Racing and Gaming submits its report, twelve months will have elapsed, and I warn the Minister in all good faith and sincerity that if he does not take steps to reduce the volume of illegal betting before

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the expiration of another twelve months, racing in Queensland will almost cease to exist. If betting shops are allowed to continue for another twelve months the racing game will be practically "settled."

I am sorry that the Minister should have suggested that I had introduced the matter purely on personal grounds. It is not a very pleasant duty to get up in this Chamber to draw attention to these matters, nor is it a very popular thing for a member of Parliament to do. If I were living in America and I spoke as I have spoken to-day my life would not be worth a moment's consideration.

Mr. CLAYTON: What is it worth now?

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: It is worth a good deal now. We all know what happens in the United States of America, where illegal gangs are protected by crooks who in turn prevent others from engaging in illegal games. If others persist in playing illegal games they are shot. We have not reached that stage in Queensland, and I hope we shall not. I draw the attention of the Minister to the statements appearing in the Press concerning evidence given by leading racing men like Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Ahern, as well as several ladies, including Mrs. Cumbræ Stewart, concerning the crowds that at one time went through the arcades but are now afraid to do so owing to the crowds of people that congregate there. Doubtless those statements have been read by the Minister, but nothing has been done. He is not making a genuine effort to put down shop betting, but is merely prosecuting two or three inoffensive men in the suburban areas.

The HOME SECRETARY: You just said we prosecuted nobody.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I just stated that every day we read of two or three men, possessing little pocket books, being caught in the suburban areas and prosecuted. The Minister is not prosecuting the big betting shops. He wants to lead the people to believe that he has not stopped prosecutions altogether. If the Minister is not going to make a determined effort in that direction by issuing definite instructions that the law shall be obeyed and every breach shall be followed by prosecution, then he should prosecute none. It is not fair to have police roaming round the outskirts of the city while the big offenders are allowed to go unmolested in the city. If the Minister has a genuine desire to try to suppress "away from the course" betting then he should appoint not twelve but twenty-four police to give attention to that particular work. Why should the Commissioner—and I am basing my remarks on his own statements in his report—be confined to twelve men for detecting breaches of "away from the course" betting? That is not right. The police should be able any time to institute a prosecution for an infraction of the law. Do you not think, Mr. Home Secretary—

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

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: If you were a policeman, Mr. King, would you not be humiliated if you were detailed to parade in a particular portion of the city where the law was being broken indiscriminately,

with people looking on and, by remarks, ridiculing the ineptitude of the force, and were not empowered to take action? Is it fair that the police should be paraded up and down the streets of the city in this manner?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member has exhausted the time allowed him under the Standing Orders.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [12.40 p.m.]: I have no objection to any hon. member's criticising the administration of the police force respecting the gambling, liquor, or any other law, but I do object to the hon. member for Dalby endeavouring to give the impression to hon. members of this Committee—and they will be published both in the Press and "Hansard"—that some embargo has been placed on the police by the Government, or myself, relating to the prosecution of persons engaged in illegal gambling. That is distinctly unfair and unnecessary. As I said by way of interjection, the hon. member seems to have the opinion that the same sort of tricks as he puts over his friends on the racecourse are acceptable to this Committee. The hon. member is talking with his tongue in his cheek when he gets up in this Chamber and moans about the operations of the illegal bookmaker. Most hon. members at some time or another have visited the racecourse, and no doubt know of the racehorse "Acquaintance," owned by the hon. member for Dalby. They probably, too, are aware that on one occasion that horse was backed in the illegal betting shops in the city down to 4 to 1, and that the hon. member nearly broke his heart when it lengthened out on the racecourse to 12 to 1.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: What about it?

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon. member is a patron of the illegal betting shops and profits by illegal betting.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Mr. King, I rise to a point of order. I had nothing to do with the racehorse named "Acquaintance." My son leased it from a Mr. Hart and races it in his own name.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The Home Secretary.

The HOME SECRETARY: These facts are known to everybody who visits the racecourse. By a recent decision of the Full Court race stewards are prevented from taking certain action with respect to racehorses run in the interests of the starting-price bookmaker, sometimes in the interests of the owner, but never in the interests of the public. The stewards are handicapped as they are compelled to accept the denials of certain people interested in racing who by their operations with illegal bookmakers are driving racing patrons away from the racecourses.

The hon. gentleman claims that the tax on betting is a big factor in driving people off the racecourse. Undoubtedly it has played a part in it, but I desire to mention the fact that the Government of which the hon. member was a member gave permission to the bookmakers to pass the tax on to the racecourse patron. Under the old betting laws the tax was paid by the bookmaker; but the Cabinet of which the hon. member was a member allowed the bookmakers to

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pass it on to the punter. Is not that a circumstance that affects the attendance on racecourses? The small punter, who makes up the great proportion of racecourse patrons has to pay 1s. in the £1 because the hon. member for Dalby and his colleagues allowed the bookmakers to pass that tax on to the punters instead of making the bookmakers pay it.

When the hon. member is speaking one may be forgiven for expecting to see pinfeathers coming up from his shoulder-blades. The hon. member posed as the innocent, pure-white upholder of the law, who would not break it or countenance any breach of it. The only instruction I can find in the police records dealing with illegal betting was an instruction the late Hon. W. H. Barnes delivered after a meeting of the Moore Cabinet and after a certain Mr. Soden had a deputation to him pointing out they could not operate dog-racing unless they were allowed to bet. That instruction was dated 14th September, 1931, and intimated that no action was to be taken regarding illegal betting at the coursing meetings, pending the introduction of further legislation. That is the only record we can find of a Government's having given an instruction to the police that they were not to take action when a breach of the law was committed.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: You cannot blame me for that.

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon. member was a member of the Cabinet that considered the matter.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Was that a Cabinet decision?

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Are you sure of that?

The HOME SECRETARY: Yes. I looked up the Press reports of the deputation that waited on the late Hon. W. H. Barnes, who was reported to have said that he would bring the matter up at the Cabinet meeting, and when that gentleman said he would do it it may be safely assumed that he did so. A few days afterwards an instruction was issued to the Police Department that no prosecutions were to take place.

The hon. member referred to the operation of illegal bookmakers. He patronises them. The other evening when this House was considering important legislation—legislation that one hon. member opposite said was “gagged” through the House—

AN OPPOSITION MEMBER: So it was.

The HOME SECRETARY: The “gag” was not used at all.

Hon. members opposite were given every opportunity to say anything they wished to. Although the hon. member for Dalby had framed an amendment to move when a certain clause was under discussion, the hon. member was missing when the clause came up for consideration.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: That amendment was consequential on another amendment being accepted.

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon. member was not in the Chamber. I inquired of other people where the hon. member would likely be on parliamentary business

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and they said, “What does that mean? The card is being called at Tattersall's?”

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: That is not true.

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon. member may tell those things to stewards, but they will not go down with me.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: The hon. gentleman is telling a lie.

The HOME SECRETARY: Mr. Chairman, I ask that the hon. member for Dalby be made to withdraw that remark.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: What the hon. gentleman said is a story.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the hon. member for Dalby to withdraw the remark that the Home Secretary was telling a lie.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I said that what he said was a lie.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the hon. member to withdraw the remark.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I withdraw it.

The HOME SECRETARY: On Friday afternoon when there was very important business on at Tattersall's Club, the hon. member, who indulges in the pleasant pastime of racing, was missing from his place in the Chamber; and it must be borne in mind that a betting operation in Tattersall's Club is just as illegal as an operation on the street, or any other illegal betting place. The mere fact that Tattersall's Club is patronised by members of Parliament or the more well-to-do section of the community, does not make its betting operation any more legal or moral than if some worker put a few shillings on a horse in the street. People like members of Parliament should set an example to the community on the observance and upholding of the law.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: There are more members of Tattersall's Club on the Government side of the House.

The HOME SECRETARY: I am a member of that club myself, but I never allow my membership to interfere with my duties in this Chamber.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Neither do I.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

The HOME SECRETARY: The hon. member has been a member of this Assembly sufficiently long to be acquainted with the Racecourses Acts and the sections of the various Acts under which gaming prosecutions take place. He asked the Attorney-General a question concerning the number of convictions that had been made under the Racecourses Acts. I knew what he had in mind at the time—it was the number of prosecutions that had taken place for illegal betting. The report of the Commissioner of Police shows that for the year 668 cases were brought before the courts for offences against the gambling suppression laws, and I doubt whether there would be out of this number more than twenty that were not for illegal betting.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: That included gambling of every description. You know that.

The HOME SECRETARY: In these cases the person prosecuted is usually the agent of some large operator with whom the police cannot come in contact. Prosecutions for illegal gambling are taken under the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Acts, and rarely under the Racecourses Acts. Although the hon. member has been in this Chamber for well nigh twenty years he did not know how to frame his question. The report of the Commissioner of Police gives a complete list of prosecutions.

The hon. member also knows that one of the difficulties confronting the police is that most of this form of gambling is controlled by wealthy interests. The person who is prosecuted is usually an agent, an unfortunate man who is out of work and takes on the job at a commission of 1s. 6d. in the £1, and operates in the backyard of a hotel or in the street on behalf of a big operator. One of the terms of the agreement under which he operates is usually that in the event of his being caught, prosecuted, and fined the principal will pay the fine, but following the usual tricks that are practised by some followers of the racing game, he lets the agent down and leaves him to pay the fine himself. In some cases it takes a year to do so. There is one institution operating in Queensland—within the law, as the police cannot get anything on it, but with the collusion of the Federal Government, notwithstanding that continual complaints have been made by the State Government.

Mr. BRAND: That is not true.

The HOME SECRETARY: I attended a conference in Sydney and ramifications of illegal betting and the difficulties associated with dealing with it owing to the encouragement given to it by the Federal Government through their telephone department were discussed. I know that if I desire to ring a subscriber in a country town on the afternoon of a metropolitan race meeting I have little or no chance of getting the call through. Round about the hours of racing the whole of the time is booked by an organisation that carries on these illegal betting operations throughout the State. The Commissioner of Police has informed me of one organisation that charges up to £5 a week for the services on the racecourse of illegal operators. It has over 400 betting shops engaged throughout Queensland, and the annual revenue approximates £20,000. Of this sum approximately half is paid to the Postmaster-General for telephone fees. Although 668 individuals have been prosecuted, mostly for illegal betting in a comparatively small way on the streets or in hotel backyards, we have never been able to get at the large operator who collects £20,000 annually from his clients and pays half of that sum to the Federal Postmaster-General. We have no way of getting at him. We cannot get any help from the Federal Government to get at the large operator who is causing most of the damage. The hon. member has complained of people using illegal betting shops, and he, himself—his record on the racecourse—

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: It is better than yours.

The HOME SECRETARY: It is a bigger one, certainly.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Better than you have ever had.

The HOME SECRETARY: I have never been before the court.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Neither have I.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

The HOME SECRETARY: When the hon. member makes attacks he should reflect that he is himself very much open to attack on these matters.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

The HOME SECRETARY: I do not own a horse, and I am not very interested. On the rare occasions that I do attend a race meeting I have always found it to be a very expensive afternoon's pastime. I have not had the pleasure that some hon. members opposite have had, of coming home from the races with large winnings. However, it is a pity that the hon. member has sought to bring into the discussion the personal touch and insinuated that the police are being instructed by the Government not to prosecute for illegal betting. They have a multitude of duties to perform, including traffic work and points duty and other street duty, but notwithstanding this there is a squad of men engaged in the suppression of betting. Outside of the main city streets, where these men are on special traffic duty, the uniformed police do the job. They do it in all other parts of Queensland. Last year there were between 200 and 300 prosecutions for illegal betting outside of Brisbane proper, which shows that any suggestion that the Government have tried to hinder the police in any way in their operations is ridiculous. The Commissioner of Police told me that if we give him an extra 1,000 men he will undertake to see that there is very little illegal betting in Queensland. He could see that every part of Queensland was patrolled and every backyard watched. Even then, there would be no guarantee that it would not take place while we have a Federal Government that will give every facility to these people by erecting a telephone line to a point outside the racecourse where they can erect a stand to overlook the racecourse. There is no knowing where these people will operate; consequently the job is a most difficult one. The police are making a very fair attempt to abolish the practice.

This development of "off the course betting" is taking place in every part of the world. The three main reasons for it are: first, that information is available off the course to-day that could never be obtained before; secondly, the prices for admission to the course are too high, and, thirdly, the people become heartily sick of the corrupt practices indulged in by people interested in the game. The game is now run in the interests of a few, not in the interests of the public who pay to go on to the course to bet. Consequently, the persons who like to go on to the racecourse for an afternoon's amusement are gradually being chased away to bowling clubs, golf clubs, and so on. Of course, taxation does play some part in this, but the major factors are high prices of admission, poor class of racing, and corrupt practices, together with the fact that so much information is available off the course. These factors operate not only in Queensland but also in other States of the Commonwealth, New

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Zealand, England, France, America—everywhere else in the world they are experiencing the same difficulty.

It is interesting to note, in view of the suggestion that illegal betting is keeping the people away from racecourses, that experiments have been conducted in America by passing legislation to prevent race clubs from allowing people to go on to the course free of charge. The clubs there are endeavouring to encourage the people to go on to the course to do their betting so that they can exploit them, and their method of doing so is not to make a charge for admission. While it is obvious to anybody that the law is being broken flagrantly in Queensland—as it is in other States of Australia—the fact that there were 668 prosecutions in the last twelve months shows that the police in all parts of the State are doing great work to suppress this vice.

Mr. KANE (*East Toowoomba*) [12.58 p.m.]: I did not intend to speak on this vote, but the remarks of the hon. member for Dalby were such that I felt it my duty to say something. It is an old axiom that when a man wants to divert attention from his own doubtful conduct he endeavours to place it upon another. If ever there was a man who should close his mouth upon the question of illicit betting in Queensland and its concomitant attractions, it is the hon. member for Dalby. I did not intend to say anything about this vote because betting, illegal or legal, has no attractions for me. I know nothing about it, but in view of the hon. member's suggestions, I felt it necessary to obtain figures showing a comparison of prosecutions under two Governments. These figures apply to the three years when the Moore Government were in power, and to three years under a Labour Government. The raids on starting-price bookmakers in Toowoomba during the Moore regime were—

				Raids.		Fines.	
						£	s. d.
1929-30	..	..	..	2		47	5 8
1930-31	..	..	..	6		105	0 0
1931-32	..	..	..	3		60	0 0

Eleven raids for a total of £212 in fines! The raids conducted while a Labour Government were in power over a period of three years were—

				Raids.		Fines.	
						£	
1932-33	..	..	..	1		20	
1933-34	..	..	..	24		615	
1934-35	..	..	..	19		199	

Four times the number of raids, and four times the amount of fines! The hon. member for Dalby insinuated that the Labour Government had condoned illicit practices, but the figures I have quoted convincingly prove that all the sympathy, indulgence, and indifference towards those practices took place when his party was in power. That is a convincing answer to the loose insinuation thrown across this Chamber that the Labour Government extended sympathy to starting-price bookmakers in their illicit practices.

[*Hon. E. M. Hanlon.*

At 2 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

Mr. KANE: When the Home Secretary accused the hon. member of certain action he excused himself by saying that he was not responsible because he did not occupy a certain position in the Cabinet of his Government, but we all know that he was the chief representative of the betting interests in that Cabinet. Probably he was the only member of it that had any knowledge of the technique and intricacies of starting-price bookmaking. As a matter of fact, he represented dogs of all colours, horses of all colours, and people of all colours, and he was responsible for the Government's indifference and the indulgence shown to those interests by his Cabinet. He cannot excuse his action on the ground that he did not occupy a particular office in the Government.

I want to connect the hon. member with a certain incident that occurred in Toowoomba just after he was displaced from his ministerial position. It will show where the sympathy for certain interests lay. A by-election in which I was the Labour candidate was held in East Toowoomba. Just after that by-election the hon. member for Dalby called at Toowoomba and caused to be brought about a raid and prosecution of a certain bookmaker there, presumably because he had not contributed funds to the party with which the hon. member was associated. That is a statement of fact and it shows just where his sympathy lies. Evidently this tip-slinging ex-Minister with a three years' ministerial career had more influence in instigating raids against bookmakers than the Labour Party had in suppressing them. That particular incident took place in the city of Toowoomba just after the last by-election in East Toowoomba.

I desire now to leave the question of bookmakers and betting and to discuss other aspects of the Home Department's work. It is to be congratulated on its social services, and the Minister and the officials are to be complimented on their aptitude in carrying out this very important task in the interests of the community. The State Children Department is charged with the duty of caring for helpless little children. Anyone who visits it is impressed with its wonderful organisation and with the fact that it has a complete history of all the little ones under its care. Under its beneficent hand the little children are guarded against many of the hardships that they would have to endure were it not for the wonderful guardianship exercised over them by the department.

I should like to see some alteration in the present system of administering hospitals. The board system is not altogether a failure, nor is it a complete success. The method adopted in the conduct of a mental hospital, of appointing a doctor to exercise complete control over it, is not a complete success either. The board system is better than the system that gave control to the doctor in charge of the institution, but better still would be a system that provided for the appointment of a manager of hospitals in the Home Department answerable to the Minister for their conduct and the treatment of their employees. That system would help materially in giving effect to the policy of the Government.

In certain hospitals a 48-hour week obtains for nurses. I claim that forty-eight hours a week is much too long for a young woman to work, especially at night work and the varied and arduous duties undertaken by nurses. They are often called upon to put in many more hours and much more effort than the schedule of duties will show. If these young women were compelled to stop after forty-four hours, that reduction of four hours would place at their disposal more time to study, recreation, and other pursuits that mean so much to women. Various hospital boards have taken it upon themselves to lay these hours down for nurses. If a reduction from forty-eight to forty-four hours a week would be a deterrent to the hospital, it would logically appear that a 52-hour week would be an improvement, but no one would advocate longer hours for nurses. The working hours for nurses at the Brisbane General Hospital are forty-four a week, in the Toowoomba General Hospital forty-eight. Some of these women, after going through a four-year course of training and meeting all the requirements asked of them, go out into the world into other avenues of nursing or whatever occupation is open to them. Some go to jobs other than nursing. They could work shorter hours in hospitals and have their conditions bettered to that extent. That is the most material redress we can give them. They do not get overpaid and are certainly overworked.

The psychology of a woman devoted to nursing in such that—as in war time—she is prepared to give unending service, but in normal times it should not be necessary to overwork nurses. If the policy of the Government as to their public servants and the policy of the Industrial Court as to the general worker are forty-four hours a week, and in some cases less, obviously a 48-hour week for nurses is four hours too long. I urge the Government to bring down an amendment of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to give effect to this policy in relation to hospitals in order to compel hospital boards to pursue that policy.

There is one aspect of the punishment of our wrongdoers that appears to me to be incorrect; that is, the imprisonment of a drunken man. He is not a criminal. The law permits him to drink, and if he drinks within the hours prescribed by law and becomes drunk enough in the eyes of the custodian of the law to justify his arrest for his own protection, he is placed in the lockup, and in some cases in a prison, in company at times with the petty thief who is the most despicable offender against our laws. A drunken man who temporarily loses control of his faculties is no worse than a child who wanders away from its parents and is taken in charge by the policeman until it is restored to them. Bearing in mind that opportunities to drink are afforded to men who become irresponsible by the consumption of alcoholic liquors, it is only right that they should be segregated and cared for by the police or some other authority until they regain their faculties.

MR. BRAND: Why not take them home?

MR. KANE: Exactly. At the present time they are placed in the cells, with other offenders, brought before the police court and charged with what some persons regard as a most heinous offence.

Another most important matter that comes under the control of this department is the home for uncontrollable boys called the reformatory. While the food and working conditions of most of these little boys may be good, and their control may be humane enough, I believe greater reformation can be secured if greater attention is paid to their moral and religious training. It is probably because the boy is unruly that he is placed in such an institution. His physical wellbeing is probably safe in the hands of the attendants, but he should not grow up in that haphazard way. A country that evolves a system for the physical wellbeing of these boys should pay a little attention to their spiritual and moral upbringing.

Our traffic laws may be good in theory but they are not good in practice or enforced sufficiently in country towns. The greatest offenders are the noisy motor cyclists with exhausts open who take delight in careering up and down streets and main roads merely because they have under their control vehicles capable of great speed. They make more noise than a motor car or a train carrying 100 passengers, and take more toll of the road. Motor cycles without silencers are a danger to the peace and quiet of the community. They disturb the rest of citizens and crash into animals on the good roads that are provided for their use. The motor cycle does not provide the same service for the people as the motor car, but it makes more noise and represents a greater danger to human life, and it is important that the law in regard to the provision for silencers on these vehicles should be strictly enforced. I think that speed is the cause of all accidents. Some people appear to think that they can speed along the road at top speed and there is no occasion for them to sound a warning of their approach until they are almost on top of the pedestrian.

These remarks I have made have been prompted by my experience in a town possessing many motor cars and many motor cycles. Many motorists consider that pedestrians only have a right to walk on the footpath and not on the highway, but that is a misconception, and people applying for a driver's license should be informed that a pedestrian has a right to walk wherever he chooses.

A high police official in Toowoomba informed me that the hotels in that city were the best conducted in the State, and there had been no petty starting-price bookmaking in any of them. He did not say the town was free of it, but that the hotels were. When starting-price bookmaking takes place in the back of hotels there is an added danger to the youth by the inducement to drink. My remarks in this regard have been prompted by the statement by the hon. member for Dalby regarding the looseness of the administration of the law in regard to betting. I wish the traffic law was administered as efficiently as the betting and liquor laws are administered in that city.

THE HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [2.15 p.m.]: Quite a number of matters of considerable importance have been raised by hon. members during the debate; and every endeavour will be made to meet the wishes of hon. members where it is practicable to do so. I desire to make a few remarks in reply to some of the criticism of the department.

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In the first place the Leader of the Opposition dealt with the desire of the Government to replace the honorary medical service at the Brisbane General Hospital by a full-time medical service. I believe that is entirely necessary. Sooner or later an institution of the size of the Brisbane General Hospital will have to face the matter of the provision of a full-time expert medical service. That institution represents an immense investment of public money, and also a huge service to the community. The daily average of in-patients is about 700, and the out-patients' department has grown to immense proportions. One of the difficulties in regard to the honorary medical service there—and I do not wish to disparage the work done by the honorary medical men—is that it means that much of the services of the hospital are only operating part-time; consequently there is a long waiting list of patients. Urgent cases are taken in immediately, but there is a long list of waiting cases that require attention for ear, nose, throat, and other ailments. These patients have to wait long periods before getting attention in the operating theatre.

While one recognises the good services rendered by the honorary medical staff, one must bear in mind that of all the professions and callings in society the one that owes most to the poor is the medical service. Without the poor there would be no such person as a competent medical specialist, and the higher a man rises in his profession and the greater the fee he is able to extract from the people for his services the greater should be the time he should be willing to give to the community. After all, his special skill is acquired entirely from the poor people. He commences in a medical school by learning all the theory about the human body. He then proceeds to learn how to dissect it. But all his learning is obtained by the use of the body of the friendless and nameless pauper. Particular skill in performing operations and diagnosing diseases is obtained during his term at a public hospital. He tries out his skill always on the poorer class of the community. He never gets an opportunity of practising on the wealthy. It will thus be seen that the greater the height to which he rises in his profession the greater become his obligations to the sick poor of the community.

There is nothing wrong with an efficient full-time medical service in the hospitals. The real objection to it by the profession is that it might prevent the ordinary practitioners from obtaining the experience and knowledge that the specialists now obtain in their honorary service to the hospitals. Naturally, the full-time medical staff would have the opportunity of becoming expert in the profession, and the ordinary practitioner therefore would not rank so high. The latter would not have the opportunity of treating the number and variety of cases that can be found in a public hospital.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That would right itself.

THE HOME SECRETARY: It must not be forgotten that it is just as important to the community that the skill and status of the ordinary practitioner should be preserved as those of the practitioner in the hospital.

There is no reason why a proper scheme could not be arranged whereby those practitioners who wished to gain hospital experience could not do so. In the

proposed alteration a need that will have to be seriously considered is that every medical man must periodically take a refresher course in obstetrics. Over the years there have been great improvements in the science and those members of the profession who obtained their knowledge of it in the maternity hospitals of ten or twenty years ago would gain greatly if they were to return to the hospital and obtain an insight into modern practices. That is one of the admitted weaknesses of private practice in maternity cases. And something similar will have to be done in all branches of medical science. Men in private practice do not have the opportunity of treating the variety of cases that come for treatment to a public hospital. The private practitioner therefore lacks the opportunity of reaching the highest degree of skill. Opportunities would be given to the medical men in the cities of utilising the hospitals for that purpose.

It is important that there shall always be a medical man available in a hospital to treat an incoming patient—that is the important thing—and the objection we have to the present system is that a medical practitioner is not immediately available on the arrival of a patient. In a large city such as Brisbane, with the hospital services centralised, the problem has arisen of treating patients in the outside suburbs. Hon. members representing electorates such as Sandgate, Nundah, Wynnum, Enoggera, and other outlying suburbs of Brisbane have brought under the notice of the department the fact that a number of the poorer class of people, principally relief workers, have been forced to reside in these suburbs because of the cheaper rentals there. Owing to the cost involved in journeying to the Brisbane General Hospital they are precluded from obtaining medical attention thereat. The Government have attempted to meet the difficulty by establishing branch baby clinics in the outside portions of the metropolitan area, and this year have approved of the inclusion of a sum of £2,000 in the Estimates of the Brisbane General Hospital to provide a weekly medical service. One day in each week a medical officer, nurse, and dispenser will go to Cribb Island, Wynnum, Sandgate, Redcliffe, and so on and establish an out-patients' department of the hospital in that district on that day. It is experimental work, and if successful will be extended to other suburbs.

The Leader of the Opposition drew attention to the increase in salaries for officials at Dunwich during the last ten years as against the decrease for maintenance and incidentals. From that decrease he draws the conclusion that the inmates of the institution are not now as well cared for as they were previously. That conclusion is entirely wrong. In 1925-26, the year quoted by the Leader of the Opposition, there were just over 1,000 inmates in Dunwich. Since that time the Eventide Home at Charters Towers has been opened, and now has 180 inmates. The people from north of Mackay now go to that Eventide Home instead of to Dunwich. That has relieved the pressure on Dunwich, and to-day there are only 736 inmates. In addition, a number of other institutions have provided for the old people of the State. There is Nazareth House at Wynnum, and the Salvation Army has a couple of well-run institutions where the old-age pensioners are given accommodation on the

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same terms as people at Dunwich. The homes take a certain percentage of the pension and leave the same amount of pocket money as the Dunwich people have. The more active pensioner would rather be at places on the mainland, such as Nazareth House and the Salvation Army, homes where he is able to enjoy life more. That consideration has kept many able-bodied people from going to Dunwich to the same extent as previously. The decrease in the number of able-bodied pensioners at Dunwich has resulted in an increase in the staff down there. Obviously, when the more active pensioners cease to go to Dunwich it is necessary to provide paid assistants to do the work. Where the inmates of Dunwich numbered just over 1,000 in 1925-26, to-day they number 736. The actual cost of food and clothing and so on for 736 is much less than it was for 1,000.

Mention has also been made of the two "T.B." sanatoria. The sanatorium at Westwood is filled to its capacity. During the past eighteen months we have pursued a policy of gradually working all new applicants to Westwood. Westwood has proved to be a far more satisfactory institution than Dalby, where the number of inmates has fallen to about twenty. Consequently, the daily average cost at that institution is higher. Dalby is not a very suitable place for a "T.B." sanatorium. The climate is very bleak in winter time, which explodes the idea that the air there is better than nearer the city. The Government have in mind the conversion of Dalby to an institution for the care of the mentally deficient. So soon as we can finalise arrangements to transfer the remaining patients at Dalby to some other place we shall be able to provide at Dalby an institution that is sadly needed—one for the care of the mentally deficient. The farming operations at Dalby are very light—the breeding of cows, pigs, growing of vegetables and the cultivating of fruit orchards are all occupations suitable for people of that description; whereas they are too heavy for "T.B." sufferers. The water supply has been a problem there, but we have arranged for the wells to be cleaned out. There are a bore and two wells at Dalby, and the supply is being improved.

The continually reiterated complaints from hon. members opposite with regard to hospital precepts call for some comment. It must be remembered that when the Hospitals Act was introduced into Queensland, the levying of 40 per cent. of the precepts on local authorities on a land value basis was approved of. When hon. members opposite were in opposition previously they strenuously opposed this hospital tax, as they called it, and pointed out a multitude of ways of doing the job better. When they became a Government and for three years were faced with the problem of doing something they were unable to arrive at any better or more equitable method of financing hospitals than that operating to-day. The Royal Commission on Hospitals that was appointed by the Moore Government recommended a tax on wages. Unless the tax was confined to the poor people it is obvious that every one contributing to the hospital tax would demand hospital treatment and the hospital services would immediately be a much heavier charge upon the community than they are at the present time. By confining

the tax to the wage-earners—the people who can least afford to pay—in order that the poor people may be treated in hospitals, the hospital service is immediately lowered to the least efficient service that it is possible to provide. The policy of any intelligent Government would be the direct opposite—that the service must be the most efficient that the community can afford to pay for. During the three years that hon. members opposite were in government various methods of financing hospitals were suggested, and they found that if any of those suggestions had been adopted the people in the country would be worse off than they are under the present system. Taking it by and large, the present system is working very satisfactorily.

The Leader of the Opposition commented upon the increase in the total amount paid by way of police pensions and on the number of police retired. A system had grown up in the police force—quite a benevolent idea—that when a man became unfit for duty through no fault of his own, he was to be found an easier position in some other part of the department instead of being compelled to retire. That practice could be carried on only to a certain limit. If we were to commence building up a department with officers with lame legs, or weak backs, or something of the kind, there would be more telephone attendants and messengers than policemen. Something had to be done. Consequently, those men that regarded themselves as being unfit for general service were sent before the medical board, and those that were unable to continue general service were declared unfit and retired from the service. But it was found that quite a number who had convinced themselves that they were unfit for general service were fit for general service and were once more able to undertake their share of police work in the outback parts of the State.

The increase in the unforeseen expenditure is due to a number of things during the last financial year. In the first place, the establishment of four new police districts resulted in an increase in the number of commissioned and non-commissioned officers, which naturally involved additional expenditure. The decision that in every case where a station had two or more officers one had to be a non-commissioned officer resulted in the appointment of four new sub-inspectors, seven new senior sergeants, three new sergeants, and twenty-one additional acting sergeants. Those appointments involved a considerable amount of unforeseen expenditure. The visit of the Duke of Gloucester involved an increase in expenditure by the Police Department because the police were called upon to work all hours of the day and a considerable amount of travelling time was involved. The total cost to the Police Department of that visit was £3,852 8s. 8d.

During the year the following new equipment was purchased:—

- 10 motor cars,
- 7 motor cycles,
- 16 bicycles,
- 32 horses,
- 21 typewriters,
- 2 duplicating machines,
- 20 saddles,
- 7,823 gallons of petrol.

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The new system of examination has resulted in an increase in the cost of stationery. At the beginning of the year the stationery supplies of the department were nearly depleted. In common with other departments the supplies had been allowed to run down during a period when money was scarce, but the new system of examination for promotion made it essential to devise a system whereby men in the outback stations would be given exactly the same opportunities in the matter of examinations as the men at Roma Street. It would be unfair if the men at Roma Street were allowed to enjoy an advantage over their fellow officers in the country. The examination for promotion is based on lectures delivered weekly at the Roma Street barracks. The lectures cover subjects relating to ordinary police duties, and to the credit of the metropolitan men be it said that a very large proportion of them regularly attend the lectures. These lectures are typed and copies made on the duplicating machines so that every policeman throughout Queensland is able to obtain a copy. He is also supplied with a file in which to record them. The lectures also cover a knowledge of those phases of the law that must be known to every policeman. Every policeman in Queensland has copies of the lectures on his file, can study them, and be prepared for an examination at any time. This system involved increased expenditure, but hon. members will admit that it will make for contentment amongst the police.

The hon. member for Isis suggested that the various hospital boards should be assisted to purchase X-ray plants, but the Government have a very definite policy in this regard. We found that in Queensland there was a tendency for travellers for X-ray firms to wait on hospital boards with the object of inducing them to purchase X-ray plants. The boards were generally composed of laymen who were not conversant with what was actually required in the hospital, but the canvasser was often able to tell such a good story about the efficiency of his plant that orders were generally secured, although the plant was not always necessary. We also found that in many cases the medical man was placed in charge of a hospital who had never had any training in the use of an X-ray plant. That is a matter that will have to be seriously considered in the training of future medical students—that they must have a complete knowledge of their work before they are allowed to practise, which is not the case to-day. These medical men desire to fiddle about with a powerful X-ray plant so that they may become radiologists and if they can induce a board to instal a very expensive and very powerful X-ray plant for them to practise with, so much the better for them, and so much the better for the canvasser who is seeking business for his firm. We discovered that there was a considerable waste of public money in the purchase of unnecessary X-ray plant.

A board of experts has been appointed. It consists of Professor Boyd, of the Queensland University, the radiologist of the Brisbane General Hospital, and a representative of the public service, in addition to the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, Sir Raphael Cilento. Its duties will be to ascertain what equipment is required by our hospitals. A portable

X-ray plant will be suitable for most country hospitals, because in very few instances outside the major cities is there a doctor who can make use of the more powerful plant. This plant will enable the medical man to detect fractures, or foreign substance that persons may swallow. The purchase of a powerful plant outside the major cities is money entirely wasted. It is a much better proposition to bring the patient requiring X-ray examination to the larger hospitals where he can be examined by the more powerful plant and obtain specialised medical service. The great bulk of doctors in the smaller country hospitals could not make any efficient use of powerful X-ray plants. We will see to it that every hospital in the country has a plant that will enable it to do the work within the scope of the doctor.

Mr. BRAND: In the case I mentioned the hospital was prepared to pay for the more powerful plant.

The HOME SECRETARY: We must protect the public funds. To pay for it that hospital body would collect £1 from the community and then draw £1 10s. in subsidy from the Government. We are not justified in permitting public money to be wasted. Victoria has instituted a most stringent supervision of the purchase of all hospital equipment. All requests for hospital equipment must be submitted to the Charities Board, and if the purchase is not justified, no matter how much money the hospital may have in hand, permission is refused. Our desire in Queensland is to see that all necessary hospital equipment is purchased, but that no money is wasted. We have country hospitals that want to purchase plant that is quite unnecessary because they are within a few miles of city hospitals possessing powerful plants and specialised services. The Government pay a special grant to base hospitals at Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Cairns for the treatment of cases from outside districts. As the system grows all the major hospitals throughout the State will be fully equipped with the best plant obtainable.

Mr. BRAND: It would be very difficult to transfer a man with a broken leg from a country to a city hospital to discover the exact nature of his injuries.

The HOME SECRETARY: A one-valve X-ray set could diagnose that. The cheaper and much smaller set is safer to use than the powerful set. The powerful plant is a potential danger in the hands of an inexperienced operator.

The hon. member for Isis complained about the appointment made by the Government to the Bundaberg Hospitals Board. The filling of vacancies on hospital boards is entirely for the Governor in Council, and has nothing to do with the local authority. The Act lays that down very distinctly. The triennial election will be held in March next when local authorities will elect their representative, but any vacancy occurring between the date of that election and the next triennial election in 1939 is entirely a matter for the Governor in Council. The facts of the case mentioned by the hon. member for Isis are that Alderman Cattermull, the representative of the Bundaberg City Council, died, and the Government appointed the member of that local authority who was the runner-up in the election

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as his successor on the board. I did not know the man or anything about him.

Mr. BRAND: He is a good man.

The HOME SECRETARY: He seemed to be the logical successor.

The Diamantina Hospital, as mentioned by the hon. member for South Brisbane, is undoubtedly full; but plans are under way for the first section of a brick building to be erected in the grounds. At the present time the wards are single-story structures, and cover so much ground in proportion to bed space that they do not make for economy and efficiency in administration, and we propose in the future that the wards required will be provided in a brick building that will be constructed on the highest part of the ground, and will be designed to carry six stories. In the meantime the open wards can be used for "T.B." and other cases that need open-air treatment.

In regard to the maternity allowance, a hospitals board has no say whatever in the matter. Any mother that claims the maternity allowance receives the money, and not the board. The policy of the board—and so far as I know maternity cases are treated in the same manner—is that if a person is in a position to pay he is expected to do so, and if he can afford to pay part of the fee it is right that he should do so, but if he cannot pay anything he should not be asked to pay. The board cannot interfere in any way with the maternity allowance, which is paid directly to the mother.

The nurses' award, as mentioned by the hon. member for East Toowoomba, provides for a 48-hour week. This is an award of the Industrial Court, and the Government accepts the decision of the court in these matters. If the court awarded a 44-hour week for nurses the Government would abide by it; but while the award is forty-eight hours we have to accept it.

If there is any way in which the department can meet the wishes of hon. members it will do so. The officers of the Home Department are always at the service of hon. members to give any information they desire, or any help they may need. They will be only too pleased to help hon. members in every possible way in looking after the interests of their own electorate or the general services of the State.

Mr. EDWARDS (*Nanango*) [2.45 p.m.]: The Home Department is responsible for the conduct of these institutions dealing with the humanitarian side of Government and the administration of the law. I appreciate the great work that has been accomplished in the care of the sick and needy people in the State. I also desire to pay a tribute to the nurses throughout the State for their great humanitarian work, continued month after month and year after year, in caring for the afflicted members of the community.

It is regrettable that the volume of voluntary assistance for charitable institutions in our State has been declining. Many people are still working wholeheartedly for these institutions, but their numbers have grown so small that the burden placed upon them is too great. I am of opinion that the effect of Government policy in the administration of hospitals has caused many to abandon charit-

able work on behalf of them. However, in many of these centres these good people continue charitable work for institutions such as the ambulance brigade. One cannot speak too highly of their work, particularly in the country districts, for the Queensland Ambulance Brigade. The brigade has been of great help in transporting the sick and the maimed to the hospitals. In many cases it has made long and arduous journeys, and this humane work continues year after year, assisted by a band of noble workers who give of their best to maintain its services. Our words of praise must be given particularly to the women folk, who appear to be the best organisers in this work. They show great determination, and their successes are the envy of us mere males. Great credit is also due to another band of women, the nursing staff of our public hospitals.

It may not be out of place once again to draw attention to the system of control of public hospitals. The present system is the policy of the Government. Immediately a hospital is "districted" certain recommendations—perhaps not always of the best—are made and the Government thereupon make appointments. I know that owing to some of the appointments the Home Secretary has had to face difficult problems from time to time. The local authorities concerned appoint their quota of representatives and the subscribers may also elect a representative. The local residents, who are naturally contributing most towards the upkeep of the institution, should have the greatest voice in the administration. That would be in the best interests of the district. In the natural trend of events the voluntary subscribers to the hospitals dwindle and consequently have no representation. Whenever this takes place I understand that the Government nominees dominate the board, owing to their superior numbers. This principle is entirely wrong. No hospital matter should be looked at from the point of view of party politics. Yet, unfortunately, that is so at the present time. I do not think anybody can fairly argue that it is not in the best interests of the hospital and of the residents that the Government representatives should be the dominating factor. In the first place the residents, as ratepayers, contribute the 40 per cent. subscribed by the local authorities, and in addition, as taxpayers, contribute towards the 60 per cent. provided by the Government. Therefore they are entitled to the controlling power in the administration of the institution. If the present system is to prevail the Government should see that the representatives nominated to the board are men of outstanding ability, irrespective of their political opinions. This is a very important matter and demands the attention of the Home Secretary.

The HOME SECRETARY: The representation is governed by the financial responsibility. The Government provide 60 per cent. of the finance, the local authorities 40 per cent.: so the Government have five representatives and the local authority four.

Mr. EDWARDS: I have just explained that the taxation is also levied upon these people and they cannot be expected to pay twice. The result is that the subscribers' representative goes out and the Government then have control by a majority.

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The HOME SECRETARY: The Government take responsibility for the greater part of the finance.

Mr. EDWARDS: I do not think the Home Secretary really means that, because in many cases he accepts certain recommendations that are not always in the best interests of the running of the hospital. However, I think that he has done his utmost to solve what, in many cases, has been a very difficult problem. Anyone who tries to do something for those who need help in sickness is doing a very great service for the State, and the Home Secretary is giving a great deal of attention to that question. I hope that he will continue that policy and that he will consider the point I am endeavouring to make—that appointments to the hospital board should be made in consonance with the wishes of the people in the district concerned. Although a great deal of work has been done in the interests of our people by the hospitals, ambulance, and other bodies, there is still a great deal more to do. Those hospitals that have been conducted on the voluntary system up to the present time have done wonderful work, and it must be admitted that this system is gradually breaking down, largely owing to the Government's policy. The Kingaroy Hospital has been carried on under the voluntary system for twenty-five years. A hospitals board has recently been constituted in that district and the Home Secretary has been invited to inspect the hospital, as it is felt that a new building must be erected to provide sufficient accommodation for the growing needs of the district. I hope that the Minister will pay it a visit immediately the House rises.

The Nanango Hospital Committee—another voluntary committee—has been trying to obtain financial help to erect certain additions and improvements. I am afraid that in the mass of agitation some portions of the country are overlooked for too long. It is natural that people who have easy access to the Government are likely to get more concessions than those in the country districts. I ask the Home Secretary to take a broad-minded view of the whole position and do everything he can for those people in the country districts who are in need of better hospital facilities. As I have said before, it is necessary that we should do everything to encourage the people to stay in the country, and by offering good hospital facilities we shall be doing something towards achieving that object.

Whilst I do not desire to rake up the argument that took place before lunch, I think that if there is anything in the suggestions put forward by the hon. member for Dalby regarding betting shops this morning—and according to rumours outside there is—the Government should take steps as soon as they can to eliminate the evil. These nuisances grow until they become so great that it is impossible for the Government to suppress them. Whilst I think that youths who have just reached manhood should be able to look after themselves, I know that many boys are being dragged into these betting shops, and the practice will detrimentally affect our country and our coming generation. The subject calls for very serious thought. One lad who enters a betting shop may encourage his friends to frequent the place and thus, all becoming members of the betting fraternity, the

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evil may develop to such an extent as to get beyond the control of any Government.

I desire to refer once again to the work of the police in collecting agricultural statistics. Very often the police have to devote days and weeks to locating various people in their homes, in the towns and on the farms, and I think that they could be relieved of a considerable amount of this work if the stock or other returns contained a few simple questions relating to the statistical information that is now collected. I believe that when these Estimates were considered last year, the Home Secretary promised to look into this matter to see what could be done along those lines.

Mr. BRAND (*Isis*) [3.3 p.m.]: I desire to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for the explanation he gave concerning matters affecting my electorate. I referred to the appointment to the Bundaberg District Hospitals Board as a matter that concerned my electorate, and I regret that the hon. member for Bundaberg should have suggested that I was raising it on personal grounds. He described my action as a mean one, but I would remind him that the people in the shires of Perry, Kolan, Gooburrum, and Woongarra are never likely to do a mean thing. The matter that I raised concerned them vitally, and I thank the Home Secretary for his frank explanation.

Dealing with the desire of the Isis Hospital to purchase an X-ray plant, I wish to point out that whilst I regard the explanation by the Minister as a very sound one, this hospital desires to purchase a small plant to assist patients who cannot be moved to another centre to be X-rayed. If patients can be moved then they have, of course, every opportunity of being X-rayed in the larger centres, but the medical officers are at a disadvantage in trying to diagnose and cure the ailments of patients who are physically unfit to be moved. I think the Home Secretary will admit that the Isis Hospital Board has managed the affairs of its hospital so efficiently that the Government's share of the precept has been reduced.

Item (Chief Office) agreed to.

RELIEF OF ABORIGINALS.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [3.4 p.m.]: I move—

“That £46,545 be granted for ‘Relief of Aborigines.’”

The appropriation this year is £1,487 in excess of the appropriation for last year. There has been an increase of £556 incurred in the reorganisation of the staff, involving the appointment of three additional clerks. That was necessary when it was decided that the whole of the Savings Bank accounts of the natives should be removed from the control of country protectors and placed under a centralised control in Brisbane. The grants to missions remain the same. It has been suggested that they should be increased. The missions are doing very fine work, but any additional money made available by the Government to them should be for the improvement of their equipment, to enable them to make better provision for their support. The mere handing out of public money for the maintenance of an institution will not get us anywhere, and as the

policy of the Government is that the aboriginal inmates of these stations must be made useful members of society we must insist that any additional funds voted must be spent for the purchase of better equipment. We have given a considerable amount of equipment to the aboriginal mission stations. We have given a new boat to the Yarraba Station. Last year we gave this station horses and wire netting, in addition to a harvesting machine, and other church mission stations were provided with equipment such as sawmills. We are now endeavouring to secure an oil engine for one of the Gulf mission stations. Some one stuck a pin in the old boiler, and it blew out. We have given wire, pigs, cattle, and iron to cover their barns. In fact, we are doing everything to help them to get their land into production and grow as much as possible of their own food. The grants are being kept stationary.

Mr. FOLEY (*Normanby*) [3.6 p.m.]: This sub-department is fairly well administered. Every attempt is being made to enable those in charge of mission stations to organise in such a way that all necessary foodstuffs can be grown, particularly vegetables, for the inmates. I have in mind the Woorabinda settlement, which is in a dry area. Occasionally it experiences a good season when it is able to grow a considerable quantity of vegetables, but in unfavourable seasons it is under a great disability. The Minister realised that on the occasion of his visit to the settlement a few years ago. I should like to know from him whether anything has yet been done to provide a small, not a costly, irrigation plant to enable the men in charge to take advantage of the available water supply.

I also ask the Minister what advance has been made in training aboriginal boys to give them some knowledge of the occupations that will be useful in helping to carry out the work on the settlements. At one time it was in the mind of the Minister to do something in the way of selecting the brightest lads and sending them to the nearest technical colleges where they could obtain an elementary knowledge of such trades as carpentering, plumbing, and saddlery. These trades would be useful to them, and they could pass on their knowledge to others. I have been out of touch with the settlement because I have not been able to visit it as often as I should like.

The low prices of cattle, due to the depression, have compelled pastoral stations to dispense with their aboriginal hands. This has caused an influx to the settlement. The duties of the teacher of aboriginal children has so increased that I understand he has about 120 aboriginal children to teach, whereas under the regulations of the Department of Public Instruction the maximum number of pupils is forty. We must bear in mind, too, that black children are not so bright as white children. I do not know whether anything can be done, but every facility should be given to those children to obtain the best education possible to fit them for the battle of life.

Another matter I desire to bring under the notice of the Minister is the medical attention that is required on the settlement. Previously Dr. Blackburn, who was stationed at Duaringa, catered for the medical needs of the people at the settlement. Now that he has been appointed superintendent of the

Westwood Sanatorium will he still give attention to the people on the settlement? It is important that some arrangement of that nature should be made.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [3.14 p.m.]: The matters mentioned by the hon. member for Normanby are important. The Woorabinda settlement shows indications of being a complete success. It is well situated and the natives show a better disposition than those at Cherbourg. The situation has a great deal to do with that. The natives appear to be doing excellent work there and the settlement is in the process of development. Areas of land are being ringbarked and fenced with a view to enlarging the very fine herd of Hereford cattle.

The irrigation plant has not yet been installed, but arrangements will be made as soon as possible in order that the settlement may be able to grow all the vegetables it requires.

Some of the boys are attending the rural school at Murgon and are doing excellent work. One boy is doing leather work and another tin-smithing and plumbing. Cabinet-making and carpentering are being taught at Palm Island, and six boys on Thursday Island have been apprenticed to the Kennedy Engineering Company for the purpose of learning engine driving. We are making full use of our very limited opportunities. It is difficult to place these boys where they can be taught; but as we get the scheme under way no doubt it will run much more smoothly.

We are making provision for qualified rural school teachers to go to the Government settlements in order that better instruction in those subjects will be afforded at those places than in the past. Judging by the growth of Woorabinda, the teacher there will need a white assistant. At the present time he has a couple of coloured assistants, but the man who was recently appointed will go into this matter, and if the number of pupils justifies it another white teacher will be appointed.

Dr. Blackburn, who has been appointed Superintendent of Westwood, will continue to act as medical officer at Woorabinda. He is living just as close to that settlement as prior to his appointment to Westwood. At that time he was Acting Government Medical Officer for Westwood and Woorabinda and was carrying on his private practice; he has now been appointed as a full-time Government medical officer for Westwood and Woorabinda, but the bulk of his duty will be at the sanatorium.

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [3.17 p.m.]: At page 24 of the report it says—

“Mapoon.—The cattle herd now totals approximately 500. In addition there are 40 horses.”

Last year's report stated that the mission stock numbered 550 head of cattle and 80 horses. It seems rather extraordinary that there should be a decline of forty in the number of horses and fifty in the number of cattle. The report does not give any indication as to the cause of the decrease in numbers.

A more serious position arises according to the twenty-fourth annual report of the Association for the Protection of Native

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Races presented on 8th July, 1935. On page 9 of that report the following appears—

"In Queensland the rate of wages is much higher, amounting in the case of drovers to £2 per week, but all wages from the lowest to the highest are subject to deductions of, in the case of single men, 75 per cent., married men 50 per cent., and boys under eighteen years of age, 80 per cent. Such deductions to be paid to the local Protector, to be forwarded to the Trust Fund. It will be remembered that in our last annual report it was shown that in a statement issued by the Queensland Home Secretary, and published in the 'Townsville Bulletin' that the Government held in trust £270,000 of natives' earnings, of which £212,000 was invested in Government Inscribed Stock. It was also admitted that the interest accruing to aborigines' Savings Bank accounts is not credited to them, but taken to meet cost of native benefits, such as industrial and social developments at aboriginal settlements, medical and food relief, medical survey, etc., and that in four years from 1929 to 1933 the sum of £55,455 had been so transferred from natives' Savings Bank accounts.

"The committee has addressed repeated enquiries as to these extraordinary statements concerning the administration of natives' wages, on three separate occasions to the Home Secretary, without receiving any reply, and on two occasions to the Premier, the Hon. Fergus Smith, but no reply on the subject matter has been received. In the absence of any explanation, it appears that the amount of £212,000 invested in Commonwealth Inscribed Stocks will never be possessed by the aborigines, whose labour earned the money.

"Enquiries addressed to the Queensland Government on some specific details have also failed to elicit reply, or even acknowledgment of letter. These are—(1) As to the procedure by which the natives can withdraw money from their Trust Account; (2) Whether complaints have been made of incorrect information being given to natives who have enquired as to the amount of their earnings lying in the Trust Fund; (3) Whether there is opportunity for misappropriation of aborigines' money on its way from the employer to the Trust Fund.

"Probably the only satisfactory solution of the matter will be in the application to Australia of the 'Forced Labour Convention,' 1930, of the League of Nations. Article 14 provides, 'The wages shall be paid to each worker individually, and not to his tribal chief, or to any other authority.' Unfortunately, whilst the ratification of the convention was made on 2nd November, 1931, by the Commonwealth Government on behalf of Australia, and the Territories, the application of it was limited to the Territories of Papua and Norfolk Island, and the Mandated Territories of New Guinea and Nauru."

I am not objecting to the use of the money, but it seems to me that suspicion is raised if when inquiries are made—it would appear from the report of this association that they were—and no reply is forthcoming. The

use of this money for a particular purpose can be justified, but the fact that no reply is received from either the Home Secretary or the Premier is apt to lead to a wrong impression. I am not concerned with the reasons for making use of the money, as I understand it is being employed for the relief of aborigines generally. The association is apparently of some importance, and when it makes inquiries it seems to me only fair and reasonable that the information should not be withheld. It is only for this purpose that I quote from the report; it is not a question as to whether the use of the money is justified or otherwise.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [3.23 p.m.]: The information I have supplied to hon. members has been given to the organisation, but apparently it is not satisfied. The Chief Protector of Aborigines assures me that quite a number of inquiries have been made. Apparently the association thrives on limelight. From what I can gather it has been the source of much agitation in its own State, and now appears to have a special mission in life to tell the Queensland Government how to look after the aborigines in Queensland. The members of the association appear to view the taking of a proportion of the aborigines' wages as wrong, although something is being done for them. From our point of view it is distinctly right.

Mr. MOORE: Not wages, interest.

The HOME SECRETARY: In the first place they speak of deductions from wages and endeavour to create the impression that the deductions are credited to a fund and that the coloured people cannot make use of the money. The deductions made from the wages of natives go to their credit. Naturally, as their earnings grow with the increased employment that they now have, that trust fund is rising, but for the previous two years it was falling very rapidly because the natives were drawing much more than they were earning. The native operates on his Savings Bank account quite freely, provided the protector is satisfied that he wants the money for legitimate purposes. He does not allow the aboriginal to waste his money on such things as motor cars, aeroplanes, or even grog. The natives that have been working for a number of years have quite good banking accounts. One aboriginal has about £1,000 to his credit, and that money, if he leaves a will will go to whomever he leaves it to on his death. If he does not make a will but has relatives the money will be administered in the same way as the ordinary person's estate, and goes to his relatives. When there are no relatives it goes into the aborigines' account for the benefit of aborigines generally. There is not much unclaimed money. I can assure hon. members that most aborigines have many relatives and the bulk of the money is always claimed.

These societies for the protection of aborigines continually make statements to the Press and write letters in an endeavour to convey the impression that that money is taken from the aborigines. On the contrary, it is being safeguarded for them, and hon. members will agree that we are doing right in pursuing that policy. If an aboriginal is given a pocketful of money to-day he will not have a penny to-morrow, nor anything to show for it. The world is full of people who feel sure they can make good

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use of an aboriginal's money if they can get it out of him. There is no secret about what is being done with the fund. The report shows the amounts to its credit. We have little trouble in Queensland in administering it. Persons in the North of Queensland who were exploiting the aboriginal and have been prevented, have growled about our policy, but 90 per cent. of the complaints about our treatment of the aboriginals come from people who have never seen them. Queensland is doing something for the aboriginals, and we have no reason to fear criticism from any of the Southern States.

Item (Relief of Aborigines) agreed to.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND GRANTS.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [3.27 p.m.]: I move—

“That £93,330 be granted for ‘Charitable Institutions and Grants.’”

There is an increase of £6,000 in this vote this year. The cost of maintenance and incidentals in Dunwich is increased by £2,066. The contingencies for the Eventide Home at Charters Towers are estimated at £1,082 more than last year, and the increase in the estimate of £2,188 for the Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind is largely due to an increased provision for wages. We hope this year to increase the sales of the materials produced from this institution. There is very little other alteration in the vote.

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*) [3.28 p.m.]: This is one of the most important votes under the Home Secretary. Most hon. members will have a copy of the pamphlet issued by the Charity Organisation Society of Brisbane, in which it is stated that this organisation is doing a certain amount of work in connection with the distribution of charity in the State of Queensland. The point that concerns me is the expenditure shown in its balance-sheet. On the expenditure side the figure of £948 9s. 3d. is shown, while, in direct distribution through its own efforts it shows only £296 19s. 5d. That figure is made up of £47 17s. 1d. for special cases, and £249 2s. 4d. for temporary aid. In addition, there is a distribution of £368 6s. from the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust Fund. I should like to have some idea from the Home Secretary as to what work this society is doing and whether it has justified itself and its expenditure. Perhaps the Home Secretary will be able to say whether this organisation was justified in spending £948 in distributing such a small amount of its own funds. The circular further states—

“In addition to the above expenditure, the sum of £1,024 9s. 6d. was spent on eviction, rent, and housing cases from a trust fund held by the Government. This is referred to in the report.”

It distributed a considerable sum of money from Government funds, and that is the matter that concerns me most. However, I shall await the explanation by the Minister.

Quite a lot of prominence is given in the Press to the wonderful work that is carried out by the Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind. I have had an opportunity of enjoying the concerts and other entertainments given by the blind people

associated with this institution, and I am satisfied that the very fine artists that take part in them merit every help and encouragement from all sections of the community. Their work is a credit to them. Many of them were not only doing excellent work in the interests of the State but also engaging in handicraft that helps them very materially in breaking the monotony of life. The institution has benefited them very considerably by enabling them to engage in this very interesting work. It will be readily admitted by everybody that the life of a blind person would be extremely monotonous if he were not able to engage in interesting work of this nature, and the department is to be congratulated upon its endeavours in the interests of these unfortunate people. Some of the work that they do is wonderful. Many of the blind workers who are not actually attached to the institution—members of the community who through blindness are unable to follow their ordinary vocations—have devoted a considerable amount of time and money to endeavouring to further the objects of the institution and their own interests under very adverse circumstances. They have been able to make life a little more pleasant not only for themselves but also for the blind workers attached to the institution. I am sure that hon. members will not begrudge the small increase in the appropriation that is to be made for this very commendable institution.

I never fail to avail myself of the opportunity to comment on the beneficial services that are made available for the old people at various homes. I have taken the opportunity to visit Dunwich on a number of occasions to observe the important work that is being carried out in that institution, and I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the officials and the appreciation of my people of the wonderful improvements that have been carried out under the administration of the present medical superintendent and manager. The Home Secretary is to be congratulated on his splendid endeavours to brighten the lot of these old folk in the autumn of their lives. I am sure that hon. members will not begrudge the increased appropriation this year for such a worthy institution. The hon. member for Charters Towers, Mr. Wellington, is very interested in the Eventide Home at Charters Towers, and never fails to convey appreciation from the old inmates of that institution to the Home Secretary for his splendid efforts on their behalf. It is gratifying to know that this important institution is adequately catering for the old folk in North Queensland.

The hon. member for South Brisbane referred to the Jubilee Sanatorium for Consumptives at Dalby and the Westwood Sanatorium. It was pointed out when the Dalby Sanatorium was established that the rarified air of the district would give considerable relief to patients from the South Coast districts. That is still the case. Quite a number of persons in my electorate suffering from lung trouble have obtained considerable relief from their residence and treatment in the Dalby Sanatorium. In fact, some patients who returned to the Ipswich district some years ago have had no recurrence of their trouble. The sanatorium at Westwood was established to provide residents in the Central districts suffering from lung troubles with an institution in their own district

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where they could not only receive treatment, but live under conditions as near as possible to those they were accustomed to, and thus give them a better opportunity to recover their health. I hope the Home Secretary will give us some information as to the nature of the work carried out there, and whether the objective of the Government has been achieved.

Another matter that interests me as well as other hon. members is the epileptic home at Willowburn. I had the opportunity, with other hon. members, of being present at the opening of that institution. We were taken there by the then Home Secretary and saw the conditions provided for the treatment of epileptics, of whom quite a number of patients were taken from Goodna and Sandy Gallop. Every convenience is afforded epileptic patients who are confined in a special ward, apart from mental patients, and every care taken to protect them against injury. The provision of medical services for such patients is one thing; to give them the necessary protection from injury is another, and in the hospitals for the insane at Goodna and Sandy Gallop it was found impossible to give it, for what was sufficient protection for a mental patient was not sufficient for an epileptic. Therefore, the construction of a new ward for epileptics at Willowburn was a step in the right direction, and those hon. members who visited the institution were satisfied that everything possible was being done to enable the patients to get the comfort and attention that are necessary if they are to have a chance of recovery.

The Home Secretary might inform the Committee what steps are being taken to establish a home for the mentally defective, which has been discussed for a long time. The Government may have in mind the construction of such a home in each of the three chief centres of the State. It is essential that homes for mental defectives should be provided in the Northern, Central, and Southern divisions of the State in order that these afflicted people may obtain treatment under the conditions they have been used to living in. The removal of these people from the environment they are used to would lessen their chances of recovery.

The vote for charitable institutions provides for certain grants to benevolent societies throughout the State, and although these grants are small I can say from experience that every penny is used for the legitimate purpose of helping those who are in need. In most of these institutions the work is performed gratuitously by honorary officers who have an altruistic outlook. The Benevolent Asylum at Rockhampton is getting a grant of £300, and the Boys' Home at Brisbane is being granted £160. That institution is doing splendid work and that grant will greatly help to maintain it.

At 3.46 p.m.,

Mr. O'KEEFE (*Cairns*), one of the panel of Temporary Chairmen, relieved the Chairman in the chair.

Mr. GLEDSON: The grant to the Brodribb Home, Toowoomba, amounts to £100, that to Sunsetholme £75, to the Hospice at East Brisbane £100, to the Magdalene Asylum at Lutwyche £75, and to the Alexandra Home at Coorparoo £200. I have had an opportunity of visiting the Alexandra Home, which is maintained by small subscriptions from boys and girls,

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throughout Queensland, who put their pennies and threepences to a fund that helps to maintain this very worthy home. The Margaret Marr Memorial Home is also doing a splendid work.

The creches and kindergartens are of great assistance to mothers who have to go out to work. Their little children are left in capable hands and they are thus able to pursue their vocations without fear for their children. A body of very fine women devote themselves to this exceptionally good work, particularly in Brisbane. The amount of £850 appearing on the Estimates under this heading is certainly being used in a very good cause.

The William Powell Home for discharged prisoners is another institution worthy of the £200 granted by the Government. The home was founded by the late Reverend William Powell, a superannuated Methodist minister. He first of all devoted his time to acting as a chaplain to the prisons, and in this work was seized of the necessity of providing an institution where discharged prisoners could live for a period and rehabilitate themselves before once more facing society. He saw that numbers of prisoners only required the opportunity of making good. He lived to see his vision become an accomplished fact, and the institution that now bears his name is a worthy memorial to his exceptionally fine unselfish work. Those of us who have had the opportunity of inspecting the home have been struck by the opportunities provided to prisoners to re-establish themselves in society. Reports have been received from all over the world from one-time inmates of the home, thanking the manager and manageress for the kindly and helpful interest taken in them, which has been of great help to them in their reformation. The Salvation Army also does very good work in connection with discharged prisoners. The work is a labour of love and no remuneration is looked for or expected. The object is well worth the grant of £350. Through the efforts of the William Powell Home for discharged prisoners and the Salvation Army, men on their discharge from prison have been able to re-enter their trade or calling. In this respect both organisations are doing splendid work. We all know how easy it is for an individual who has made a slip and been in prison to continue on the downward path, and consequently it is necessary that any organisation that has for its objective the rehabilitation of discharged prisoners merits generous help.

No hon. member should begrudge the amounts appearing under these headings in this vote.

Mr. LARCOMBE (*Rockhampton*) [3.53 p.m.]: I desire to bring under the notice of the Home Secretary the necessity for establishing a home for the aged infirm in the Central division of Queensland. With my colleagues from the Central portion of the State I have previously made this request, and I hope that the establishment of the home is nearer fruition now than when the matter was first raised. The Home Secretary is in sympathy with the request, but it is a matter of funds, and as the Central Division has been receiving a fair share of loan funds it has been suggested that the establishment of this institution should remain in abeyance

for a while. However, the need for it is becoming increasingly apparent.

As hon. members know, the Central district embraces a very large area of country, much larger than many of the countries of Europe. It is, indeed, a huge State in itself. We know of the agitation that took place in the early days for the division of Queensland into three States. Undoubtedly, Central Queensland is destined to become a State in itself. It has an enormous area. It is noted for its beauty, for its fertility, and for its productivity. But contrasted with those wonderful advantages of plenty, there are need and affliction—which we might call the shallow side of life. There are those who are stricken with old age and ill health. These have been compelled to seek shelter in State homes. Fortunately, the Benevolent Asylum is doing good work in the Rockhampton district, but it is not sufficient for the needs of the district. That being so, many cases occur in which the old are sent to the shelter of Dunwich in their declining years. That is a long distance to ask them to go—in many cases taking them from all their lifetime associations, and—because of the cost of travelling—making it practically impossible for their relatives to visit them. It is a journey that I do not think the relatives or the inmates themselves should be called upon to undertake.

We know that the population of the Central district is large. It is growing, and the demand that I and other hon. members representing it make is based upon common sense and true economy, not upon any exaggerated desire that the Government should spend loan money in the Central district. I hope that the Home Secretary will carefully bear in mind the request that I make when the preliminary consideration and final consideration are being given to the Estimates for next financial year. I raised this matter with the Home Secretary, the Premier, and the Cabinet before the Estimates were arranged for the current financial year, but unfortunately it was not possible for the Treasurer and the Home Secretary to include in the Estimates any money for the proposal for this financial year.

In concluding my remarks, I desire to join with the hon. member for Ipswich in paying a compliment to the Home Department on the work it is doing to alleviate the burden of the sick and the afflicted in the State. It is doing work of a humane nature, work that brings satisfaction to the heart of every well wisher of the State and every true Queensland. Of course, it means taxation, and that reminds one of the petty requests that are made from time to time for a reduction of taxation in this State. We know that in days gone by taxation was kept low at the expense of what one may term the Christian and civilised standard in Queensland. We could reduce taxation again if we were prepared to degrade the State and human nature to the level to which some of the enemies of Labour degraded it, but the Labour Government, the Labour Party and the Labour movement stand for lifting the standard of humanity, stand for the basing of their policy upon the Biblical injunction, "Bear ye one another's burden." That is the basis and foundation of Labour's philosophy and Labour's policy, and the work that is being done in Queensland to-day indicates

the wonderful revolution in the conception of our responsibility to the infirm, the aged and the decrepit. If it means a little additional taxation, surely no reasonable or Christian member of the Committee, no Christian citizen of the State, will object to it if it is necessary to defray the cost of the magnificent work that is being done.

In conclusion, I desire first of all to stress again the need for a home in the Central district for the aged for that district, and secondly, to emphasise my appreciation of the fine work that is being done by the Home Secretary for the aged and infirm in all parts of this State.

Mr. TAYLOR (*Enoggera*) [3.59 p.m.]: I desire to congratulate the department upon the good work it is doing in helping charitable institutions. There is no doubt that policy of the Labour Party supplies that measure of charity that is incidental to our modern society. After all, the Government, through the Home Department, are living up to the principles and the objective of the party to which Government members belong.

During the past few years it has been my privilege to take an interest in the Brisbane Boys' Home in my electorate. I have watched the careers of some of the inmates from the time that they were first able to attend school, and I have in mind one lad in particular who started at the age of four years, attended the local State school, won a scholarship, was successful in his Junior University examination, and is now studying for a degree in the faculty of engineering at the University. Other scholars have gone to the country and have firmly established themselves in the rural life of the community, all of which goes to show that the home is efficiently managed, that the standard of education is high, and that the care and guidance exercised by the superintendent and his wife are equal to anything given to the children in private homes. This institution has to depend, more or less, on voluntary subscriptions, augmented by a grant of £160 by the Government, and it is to the credit of the committee that conducts the home that it is able to show such excellent results with such a meagre income.

I should also like to draw attention to the wonderful service that is being given by the Salvation Army and to congratulate the Minister upon deciding to increase the grant to the organisation this year. There is no doubt that it does a very fine work in helping prisoners, especially women and girls, who are so unfortunate as to have to be taken up by the police. In many cases these unfortunate individuals would not be succoured in any way if it were not for the timely aid offered by the Army. I hope that the Government will continue to give greater financial assistance to all the organisations carrying out splendid social services in the interests of the downtrodden members of society.

The Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind is also to be commended for the very fine work that it is doing. Last Christmas it was my privilege to witness a demonstration by the pupils. I was particularly impressed with the capabilities of the younger members, and astonished to witness the brightness that had been introduced into their lives by the superintendent and his staff. I was pleased to notice that the institution was able—with the help of the

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ladies' committee—to provide a Christmas tree that enabled these unfortunate children to join in the festivities of the season. The Government are to be commended upon deciding to increase the appropriation for the institution this year, and I hope that they will continue to increase the appropriations required by these very important organisations.

Mr. KING (*Maree*) [4.4 p.m.]: I am very pleased that a sum of £93,330 is to be appropriated for charitable institutions and grants.

Mr. RUSSELL: Why stonewall the Estimates?

Mr. KING: The hon. member for Hamilton is an adept at stonewalling in this Chamber, but he must admit that an appropriation for charitable institutions and grants offers scope for a very wide discussion. It ill becomes the hon. member for Hamilton to become facetious. He should appreciate their importance. I am not going to be dictated to by any hon. member opposite as to what I should discuss in this Chamber. I have been sent here as the representative of an intelligent section of the community in a real live electorate, and I intend to discuss this vote from that point of view.

The hon. member for Rockhampton asked the Home Secretary to consider the establishment of a home for the aged and infirm in Central Queensland. He based his request on location and distance from Southern Queensland. On those two points alone it would be advantageous to establish a home in Rockhampton, or some other central town. I am sure the Home Secretary will take that request into consideration when finances permit, for such a home would be a permanent asset and rank as one of the greatest social services Labour has accomplished.

The first vote under this heading concerns the Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind. Everybody recognises that the care of the blind is one of the first duties of the State. People afflicted with blindness, who have not the means to live under circumstances suitable to their disability, have a right to expect the Government to come to their aid, and the Government, through the Home Secretary, is discharging that duty to the full. I pay a tribute in this matter to Mr. H. E. Twamley, a commercial traveller, who has been connected with the institution for quite a long time. He has been responsible for great progress in the institution. The £22,692 here set aside for the blind will be spent in a good cause.

Naturally, the Government have to look after the aged also. For the most part these people have played their part in building up this great State. They are good citizens and have done a national work. They are entitled, therefore, to look to the Government to care for them in their old age. Many of them are sheltered at Dunwich, and anybody who has had an opportunity of inspecting that very fine institution and its many activities will acknowledge that it is a hive of industry. The Government in expending £30,366 on that work are doing very well indeed. This is not a question of party politics. Both the Government and Opposition sing in the same strain—that the establishment of Dunwich was justified and should be retained.

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The hon. member for Ipswich has dealt with the various activities covered by this vote, including the work of institutions such as the Eventide Home at Charters Towers, that carry out a great work in a very efficient manner. In the evening of their lives people are more prone to become afflicted with the ills that humanity is heir to than the younger or middle aged. By creating other institutions like the Jubilee Sanatorium at Dalby the Government have carried out an important work, because it is essential that the afflicted in the community of whatever age should also have that degree of care and attention that is necessary. The Westwood Sanatorium provides care of a similar nature.

Reference has been made to the Epileptic Home at Willowburn. I consider it is highly important that epileptics should be segregated from other inmates of mental hospitals, and it is pleasing to know that principle is now established at Willowburn. I do not know whether it is in operation at Goodna; if it is not, I trust it soon will be, because it is very undesirable to have epileptics associating with other inmates of such institutions.

I desire to pay a tribute to the Salvation Army Home for discharged prisoners. I had the opportunity of seeing the work of that home. It is very commendable. The Salvation Army has always shown its readiness to help those who are in need, and in this respect is carrying out a great work in the reformation of people with anti-social instincts.

In general I consider the sum of £93,330 in this item is being usefully expended. I should like to hear constructive criticism from hon. members opposite as to how an improvement could be made in it. Any such proposals they might offer could be considered when the Minister was considering the Estimates for the year 1936-37.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [4.17 p.m.]: One or two matters that were raised in this debate are of considerable importance. This vote shows that an immense amount of charitable work is being carried out in Queensland, and that is cogent evidence of the falsity of the statement that the Government method of financing hospitals has destroyed the charitable instinct. The existence of these institutions receiving Government subsidy demonstrate that there are many charitably-minded citizens who carry out charitable work; and our thanks are due to those unselfish men and women of the community who devote a great portion of their time to looking after the interests of their less fortunate fellow citizens.

It is a very real pleasure to see the very fine way in which the inmates of the various institutions are cared for. I make a practice of unexpected visits to them. This enables me to ascertain exactly how they are administered. There is no window-dressing; no preparations are made. One is struck with the excellence of the work of the staff and the very fine characters of individual members of it.

The Charity Organisation Society mentioned by the hon. member for Ipswich is not subsidised by this department.

The Industrial Institution for the Blind is one of the most important institutions we have in our community. There are ninety-four workers and thirteen ex-workers now

at this institution. Those who are unable to work remain on the pay roll as pensioners, receiving wages as formerly. Although the cost is high and the annual trading loss is in the vicinity of £10,000, it must be remembered that one of the most important features of work in connection with the blind in our society is to give them an occupation that will prevent their affliction from becoming an obsession.

The institution at Dalby has been previously referred to, and I have mentioned that it would eventually become a home for mental defectives, which is a necessary institution in the community. There are people who need care and attention but are not fit subjects for admission to our ordinary mental hospitals. There are a number of mentally deficient women and girls who, if they were at large, would be the prey of unscrupulous men. At the present time numbers of them are cared for by private institutions, such as the Convent of the Good Shepherd at Mitchelton. In the course of time hon. members can rest assured that adequate provision will be made for a State home for them.

In the development of our hospital services in the metropolitan area tuberculosis will be attacked properly. The present system of homes has developed really into provision for the more advanced stages of the disease, and, to my mind, if we are going to obtain value for the money expended, we must endeavour to deal with tuberculosis in the early stages and thus prevent sufferers from becoming eventually a charge on the State. With that end in view we hope at a later date to establish a tuberculosis clinic in association with the Brisbane General Hospital and any medical practitioner who discovers a patient, especially a child with a weak spot on the lungs, will be able to send it to the clinic for proper diagnosis. If necessary the patients will be sent to an institution to build up their health. Such an institution can be established with equal effect in the vicinity of Brisbane as at Dalby, and relatives and friends will not be put to such great inconvenience in visiting patients.

The hon. member for Rockhampton raised the question of the establishment of a home for the aged in the Central District. I assure him that that matter will not be lost sight of. The last institution of this description was established in North Queensland, and the Central Division of the State will receive attention in due course. At the present time ample accommodation is provided in the existing institutions, but as the population of the State increases there will be need for expansion, and Central Queensland will eventually have its own home for the aged.

I thank hon. members for the kind things they have said of the staff, and I can assure them that the general standard of work in all our institutions is very high. The staff do not regard their work as merely a means of earning a livelihood. They take a real personal interest in the welfare of the men, women, and children under their care.

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [4.23 p.m.]: On page 30 of the report it is shown that the diet scale of the inmates of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum is one gallon of milk, fresh or condensed, per individual per day. That is a fairly high allowance, and does not tally with the amount of milk produced

at the institution which, on page 33, is given as 26,139 gallons of milk. On the number of inmates that works out in the vicinity of an allowance of half a pint a day, which is quite reasonable. I do not think anybody uses a gallon of milk a day, whether he is an inmate of Dunwich or not. It says, of course, "fresh or condensed." A gallon of condensed milk would be a pretty solid ration! I draw attention to that because it is obviously a mistake and might lead to misunderstanding.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [4.25 p.m.]: That is a misprint. It should be one gill. As a matter of fact, the milk production in Dunwich has not been quite satisfactory. The standard of the cows there has not been good, and the difficulty of sending feed there has not helped to improve the milk supply.

Mr. MOORE: Do they not grow it?

The HOME SECRETARY: Very little. The soil there is not suitable. We are now building up the herd. The superintendent of Westwood, Mr. Jones, is an expert in cattle breeding, and has been put in charge of the herds of all our institutions in the Southern districts. Arrangements have now been made to get a better type of cattle so that the milk supply at Dunwich may be built up. The present supply has to be augmented by condensed milk, and that is not satisfactory.

Mr. HEALY (*Warwick*) [4.27 p.m.]: The provision of £2,670 for grants to the several institutions mentioned in this vote is evidence that the Government recognise the usefulness of these institutions, and the great service they are rendering to the community. No doubt other institutions throughout the State are performing similar work to those provided for in this vote that might reasonably be included in the list. In view of the representations made by my predecessor in this Assembly, and the remarks on this vote last year by the Minister, I am disappointed to find that no provision has been made this year for help, even though slight, to the Warwick Benevolent Society, which for a number of years has maintained a home for the old-aged in the town of Warwick. The home is ideally conducted, and the members of the society are rendering very useful and noble service to the community in caring for those people who have reached an age at which they require some attention. The inclusion of a small amount in this vote would have been indicative of the Government's appreciation of that work and an incentive to the society to increase the scope of its operations. I sincerely trust that when the Estimates for this department are being discussed next year it will not be necessary for me to remind the Home Secretary of his omission.

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [4.29 p.m.]: I notice in the Auditor-General's Report on the Home Department that £300 is provided for the Mothers' Union District Nursing Association. That association does wonderful work throughout Brisbane—it goes out to the furthest suburb—and its objective is to give nursing to mothers who do not wish to leave their homes. It is of tremendous benefit to the community, yet it receives only a very small amount. I know that it gets help from the Brisbane City Council and from private contribution, but

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it is usually in a rather difficult financial position. A little while ago it was able to purchase a car to enable the nurses to attend to their duties, otherwise they have to travel by trams and trains. Sometimes they go as far as Wynnum, where they may have to remain overnight or even two or three days. I believe that the association does a greater volume of charitable work in and around the city of Brisbane than any other organisation, and it certainly brings comfort to the homes of a number of people who otherwise would not be able to obtain it. About eight or ten months ago it conducted a fete in Brisbane for the purpose of raising funds, and I think it was successful in raising about £1,200. The association has seven or eight nurses, it has to maintain a nurses' home, and it provides a service that extends over a very wide area. I am satisfied that it is deserving of greater help from the proceeds of "Golden Caskets" than it is receiving. The Government makes grants to the Creche and Kindergarten, the Home for Crippled Children, the Nazareth Home, the Boys' Home at Enoggera, and several institutions, but they are really subsidiary to the Mothers' Union District Nursing Association. The latter association provides comfort for the family when the mother is ill, and in that way tends to prevent many other social difficulties that would have to be catered for by other organisations assisted by the Government. If additional funds are available from the proceeds of "Golden Caskets," then I suggest that the grant to this organisation should be increased. It receives a measure of help from a younger set interested in its work who provide cars to take the nurses on their daily round, and in other directions, but it is very often hard put to it to carry out its services in the way that it would like. Its services are very much appreciated.

The PREMIER: It does very good work.

Mr. MOORE: Yes. The one car that it owns is used to its utmost limit. Many places of call are conveniently situated, but in many other cases long distances have to be travelled, and that means that the nurses must return home late at night. In some cases they remain away over-night and return next morning.

At 4.33 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

Mr. MOORE: A sum of £300 does not seem to be a very great amount for a deserving institution like this that does an enormous amount of good. I hope that the Government will see their way clear to increase it. I am satisfied that the Government will be amply repaid in that less money will be required for other charitable institutions, because if a greater amount is granted to the Mothers' Union District Nursing Association many other social difficulties will be obviated.

Mr. KANE: Have they got a clinic?

Mr. MOORE: No. The nurses attend people in their homes and work many hours during the day.

The PREMIER: They do work for families that cannot afford to provide other assistance.

Mr. MOORE: Yes. Their services are rendered in cases where it is inconvenient for the mother to enter a hospital. I have

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taken the nurses on one or two occasions to places where their services were required and I was able to observe the very wide area of country that they cover. I again urge the Government to increase this grant, because I know that they will be amply repaid in that the services rendered by the association will make it unnecessary for the Government to continue to make the same grants for social services in other directions.

Mr. POWER (*Barona*) [4.35 p.m.]: For once I find myself in agreement with the Leader of the Opposition. The headquarters of the Mothers' Union District Nursing Association, which has been in existence for a number of years, are situated in the Barona electorate—on the tram line opposite the Petrie Terrace Girls' State School—and the services of the nurses are available at any time of the day, not only to women but also to children. It also receives a subsidy of £500 a year from the Brisbane City Council. If the Home Secretary can see his way clear to do so, he should give further financial help to this association. It is doing wonderful work in and around Brisbane. It has a very fine and capable staff of nurses. Recently a motor car was purchased from the proceeds of a fete organised by wellwishers. This enables the nurses to be transported expeditiously to attend patients. Some little time ago the Home Secretary gave the association additional help to build a garage for the car, while I was also responsible for inducing the Brisbane City Council to carry out certain work to the grounds. Many hon. members realise the amount of valuable work carried out by these nurses. Recently I received a telephone message in the middle of the night from a resident in the district who was unable to secure the services of a doctor to attend his sick child. I took the matter up with the association and a nurse was sent immediately. On another occasion one of these nurses laid out the body of a coloured man who had died in the district and ministered to his relatives in their hour of distress. The association is one of the finest organisations we have in Queensland. Hon. members who read its report can see how invaluable is the work it does.

Mr. TAYLOR (*Enoggera*) [4.38 p.m.]: The Convent of the Good Shepherd, Mitchelton, is a charitable institution that is doing a very fine communal work, yet there is no grant on the Estimates for it. Last year I was successful in inducing the Home Secretary to make a grant from the "Golden Casket" fund. The building was constructed four or five years ago. It is one of the most thoroughly equipped places of its kind I have had the pleasure of inspecting. The accommodation provided for the girl inmates is superior to the accommodation provided for hon. members in the lodge adjacent to Parliament House.

I have inspected the institution on more than one occasion. In fact, I made it a practice of visiting it twice a year. On the occasion of my last visit there were forty-three girl inmates. Unfortunately, in many cases these girls were picked up by the police, and were it not for this institution a large number of them would probably have gone to prison. There is no institution in Brisbane that is more capable of handling these girls. It is an institution that is worthy of the consideration of the Government, of which it relieves a certain

number of these girls. I trust the Home Secretary will make a special grant available again this year. Money is very difficult to obtain under present conditions, but when one realises the good work this institution is doing a grant of a few hundred pounds would not only be money well spent, but an expenditure that the taxpayers would not cavil at.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [4.40 p.m.]: The institutions referred to by the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. members for Baroona and Enoggera have received grants from the "Golden Casket" funds, notwithstanding that no provision is made for them on the Estimates. The Mothers' Union District Nursing Association is one of the best institutions in Brisbane and is doing a very noble work. Formerly it was in receipt of a subsidy of £150 a year, an amount that has now been raised to £300. Recently when a motor car was purchased there was nowhere to put it. As usual, when any laudable institution approaches the Home Office, we were able to provide the garage and do some repair work to the fence at a cost of £57. The money was well spent. The association should be made better use of. There is no reason why its activities could not be co-ordinated with the Brisbane General Hospital services so that when people are discharged from the hospital—not being bad enough to be retained as inmates—could receive skilled attention from these nurses. Every case of that kind which we have brought under the notice of the association has been promptly attended to.

The Convent of the Good Shepherd, Mitchelton, is another institution that does not appear among those receiving grants from consolidated revenue, but it receives a grant from the "Golden Casket" funds, and that grant will be continued. The Creche and Kindergarten Association also gets a grant from that source. The Government always endeavour to assist any institution or organisation that does something for the welfare of the community.

Item (Charitable Institutions and Grants) agreed to.

HEALTH.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [4.43 p.m.]: I move—

"That £29,536 be granted for 'Health.'"

The vote shows an increase of £4,340 over that for last year. Last year there was no provision for the salary of the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, but this year his salary is included and provision is also made for the additional staff that will be required at headquarters. The Laboratory of Microbiology Section will require an increase of £863, and Hookworm Campaign an increase of £26. The increase of £970 in the contingencies vote is needed to purchase apparatus for the laboratory.

Mr. POWER (*Baroona*) [4.45 p.m.]: The appointment of a Director-General of Health and Medical Services for Queensland has supplied a long-felt want.

I urge the Home Secretary to instruct the officers of his department to scrutinise the health work that is being carried out by local authorities throughout Queensland, and

particularly those local authorities whose areas adjoin the city of Brisbane. For some time an agreement had been in operation between the local authorities and the Government for the employment of rodent control gangs, and when the Greater Brisbane area was created those employees were taken over by the Greater Brisbane City Council. The campaign for the destruction of rats is being pursued by that council, but the councils adjoining are doing almost nothing in that direction. It is important that the Home Department should compel these councils to carry out the work for which they were constituted. The health of the community is of paramount importance, and some local authorities should not be permitted to escape their responsibilities whilst others are meticulous in carrying out the health regulations.

The mosquito is a menace to the health of the people, especially that type that carries malaria fever. In the Greater Brisbane area an extensive campaign is being pursued with the object of eradicating that pest. Various swamps are being drained and house patrol men are going round advising the people how to eliminate the breeding grounds of this pest; but adjoining local authorities are doing nothing.

The sanitary system that is provided by certain local authorities is not conducive to good health. At different periods when large numbers of people congregate at various centres the lavatory conveniences are inadequate, and the health inspectors should compel the local authorities to remedy this state of affairs.

Although the Department of Public Health has done much valuable work there is still much to be accomplished. It is the duty of the Director-General of Health and Medical Services or his medical officers and assistants to instruct health inspectors to visit the various centres to see that adequate sanitary arrangements are made. Now that the holidays will soon be with us I trust that some action will be taken. The health of the community is a very important matter.

The Government have done a great deal of work in the improvement of hospitals, as the result of money obtained from the "Golden Caskets." Hon. members are aware of the conditions that existed at the Brisbane General Hospital in years gone by when, owing to lack of finance, the hospital committee was unable to provide the facilities that were required. I understand the new Women's Hospital in Brisbane will be the finest institution of its class in Australia. I commend the Government for the work they are doing.

Mr. TAYLOR (*Enoggera*) [4.50 p.m.]: The Government, and the Home Secretary's Department in particular, are to be congratulated for their excellent work in connection with the health of the community. The construction of hospitals and laboratories for the scientific treatment of disease out of funds provided by the "Golden Caskets" should confound the critics of this form of raising money for such purposes. There are numbers who from time to time have urged the Government to discard this form of raising funds, which they consider is inculcating the spirit of gambling in our citizens, but the same effective work could not possibly be done in the interests of the health of the community had that work to rely on public subscriptions.

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Baby clinics have been established in the various centres in Queensland. Mothers and infants may attend regularly and receive advice. Such a clinic has been established during the past six months in the Memorial School of Arts at Enoggera, and to-day there is a weekly attendance of twenty-three infants. These institutions could not have been equipped were it not for the operations of the "Golden Casket."

The Elizabeth Kenny Clinic is doing a wonderful work for the cripples of our State. In my own electorate there is a living monument to the work of Sister Kenny. I trust the day is not far distant when Elizabeth Kenny clinics will be established in Rockhampton, Cairns, and other centres throughout Queensland. There is no doubt that the Brisbane clinic is over-crowded, and there are cases that cannot be treated at the Townsville clinic. A friend of mine from Mount Isa has great praise for the work of Sister Kenny. She informs me that in that district there are patients who are prepared to wait, perhaps two years, to get into one of these clinics. The "Golden Casket" has made all this possible, and I trust that the Minister will establish further clinics by the use of such funds.

The Women's Hospital in Brisbane is becoming an accomplished fact, and on completion will be the finest institution of its kind in the southern hemisphere. That hospital, too, would never have been erected had its construction to rely on public subscriptions. I hope that in the full plans for the Brisbane General Hospital there will be included a clinic for the treatment of infantile paralysis, and the Sister Kenny clinic will be removed to it.

Mr. GLEDSON (*Upswich*) [4.54 p.m.]: I should like to quote an article that appeared in the "Courier-Mail" of the 15th September, 1935, dealing with the statements made by Dr. H. Guy Dain, when addressing the recent British Medical Association Conference in Melbourne. The article is as follows:—

"AUSTRALIAN SCALE FOUR TIMES
ABOVE ENGLISH

"B.M.A. DELEGATE OUTSPOKEN.

"Melbourne, Saturday.

"An emphatic declaration that medical charges in Australia are too high—as much as four times greater than they are in England—and that the Australian medical men were 'driving people to the herbalists and the hospitals because of their exorbitant fees, was made to-day by Dr. H. Guy Dain, of England, in the last and most outspoken address of the British Medical Association meeting.

"An almost apologetic reply to Dr. Dain was made on behalf of the Victorian branch council of the B.M.A. by Dr. J. Newman Morris, of Melbourne, who said the scale of fees had been drawn up before the depression and had not been revised since.

"Dr. Dain did not come to to-day's meeting without sufficient data to back up his denunciation of our high medical fees. He had spent practically the whole of his visit interviewing doctors and leaders in the community to obtain his facts.

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"NATIONAL INSURANCE.

"'I came here,' he said, 'with the belief that a scheme of national medical insurance for Australia was unnecessary. Now that I have gone into the question of comparative costs, your contracts with lodges, and the scale of fees operating. I find that you are in an anomalous position, and I have altered my opinion.

"'Private practitioners' fees here are such that the workers usually cannot afford to pay them for a prolonged illness.

"'The medical charges here are up to four times greater than they are in England, and there is every need for a national medical insurance scheme when 83 per cent. of your population receives less than £300 a year.

"'Your Federal Attorney-General (Mr. Menzies) told me there was no need for the scheme, but I say there is. The basic wage here is under £4 a week, about double the basic wage in England, and the worker here pays double the amount of rent, yet your medical charges are up to four times greater than in England.

"14s. HERE; 3s. 6d. IN ENGLAND.

"'For instance, a woman who takes a child to a doctor here for treatment for diarrhoea pays the doctor 10s. 6d. for consultation, and a prescription will cost her 3s. 6d., a total of 14s. In England about 3s. 6d. would cover the whole service.

"'I hear that doctors in Australia find it very difficult to get the fees they charge, and frequently have to take less. Your minimum working fee, 10s. 6d., is not economic. You are driving people to the herbalists and the hospitals.

"'A proper level of fees should be fixed. Your scale suggests that either you are grossly underpaid by the lodges (about £1 a year for a family) or your fees are too high for the workers. The increasing cost of medical treatment has made it possible for less and less of the people to pay for it. This has resulted in more and more countries adopting national insurance.

"'TERRIBLE SYSTEM.

"'I found in the United States that any such scheme was subject to some form of political control, and here you are not altogether free from the same thing. There is a terrible system in New Zealand, where every two years hospital boards can be changed because of some outside political influence. Anything more dreadful in the way of hospital administration I have never met.

"'It is the duty of the State to provide all services to protect the public health. The State should also survey the present medical services and arrange for the treatment of all citizens, whatever their financial status.

"'A major difficulty would be to establish the scheme without disturbing the present relationship between doctor and patient.'

"Three eminent visiting doctors, the medical secretary of the B.M.A., London (Dr. G. C. Anderson), the chairman of the B.M.A. Council (Dr. E. Kaye le Fleming), and the treasurer of the B.M.A. (Dr. N. Bishop Harman) also urged that an equitable scale of fees should be instituted in Australia, and that a national medical insurance scheme should be established."

VOTES PASSED UNDER OPERATION OF STANDING ORDER 307 AND SESSIONAL ORDERS.

At 5 p.m., under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307 and the Sessional Orders agreed to by the House on the 28th August and 16th October last, the questions for the following votes were put by the Chairman and agreed to:—

	£	s.	d.
Home Secretary's Department—			
Health	29,536	0	0
Balance of Vote	1,272,993	0	0
Department of Labour and Industry	101,796	0	0
Department of Justice	182,244	0	0
Department of Mines	62,380	0	0
Trust and Special Funds	6,977,356	0	0
Loan Fund Account	4,100,000	0	0
Supplementary Estimates, 1934-35—			
Revenue	520,797	12	3
Trust Funds	667,686	5	10
Loan Fund Account	578,001	6	0
Vote of Credit, on Account, 1936-37	3,750,000	0	0

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had come to certain resolutions, and asked leave to sit again.

Resumption of Committee made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

RECEPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

The TREASURER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*): I move—

"That the resolutions be received to-morrow."

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 5.6 p.m.