

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 1937

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2. What was the name of the purchaser?

3. What was the purchasing price?

4. At 30th June last, what was the amount of arrears of—(a) Instalments of purchasing price; and (b) interest? and

5. Has the purchasing price been reduced? If so, when and by how much?"

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (Hon. M. P. Hynes, *Townsville*) replied—

"1 to 5. I would refer the hon. member to the Auditor-General's Report for the financial year 1935-1936, in which he will obtain all the information he desires."

PAYMENT OF "GOLDEN CASKET" PRIZES.

Mr. MAHER (*West Morceton*) asked the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs—

"What is the largest prize in the 'Golden Casket' which agents are allowed to pay to winners who are holders of share tickets?"

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) replied—

"£100. Payment of the minor share prize money by agents avoids congestion in the head office, and is of especial value to country people, as it enables them to obtain prompt payment in cash. In addition, the system saves exchange on cheques and postage. There is a continuous audit check of the metropolitan agencies and periodic checks on the country agencies."

INTEREST ON HARBOUR TRUST ACCOUNTS.

Mr. MAHER (*West Morceton*), without notice, asked the Secretary for Public Instruction—

"What rate of interest (if any) is allowed on the credit balances of the trust accounts of harbours for which no harbour boards are constituted?"

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. F. A. Cooper, *Bremer*) replied—

"Mourilyan is one of these harbours and Port Douglas is another. No interest is allowed on their credit balances. The whole of their transactions are conducted by the Treasury. They are subject to Treasury control."

WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 1937.

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

QUESTIONS.

LOGAN BRIDGE TOLLS.

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

"What is the total amount of tolls collected at the Logan Bridge—(a) In 1936-1937; (b) since collection of tolls commenced?"

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. A. Bruce, *The Tableland*) replied—

"(a) £18,074 gross, £15,502 net; (b) £80,278 gross, £71,151 net."

SALE OF BABINDA STATE HOTEL.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN (*Dalby*) asked the Secretary for Labour and Industry—

"In connection with the sale of the State Hotel at Babinda—

1. What was the date of the sale?

SUPPLY.

SEVENTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY—RECEPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. Hanson, *Buranda*) presented the resolutions, reported from Committee of Supply on Tuesday, the 12th instant.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. F. A. Copper, *Bremer*): I move—

"That the resolutions be now received."

Question put and passed.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

The resolutions having been taken as read,

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. F. A. Cooper, *Bremer*): I move—

“That the resolutions be now agreed to.”

And hon. members indicating a desire to discuss Resolutions 4, 5, 7, 15, 16, 17, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 44, 46, 52, 54, 65, 66, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75—

Resolutions 1 to 3, both inclusive, agreed to.

Resolution 4—“*Legislative Assembly*”—

Mr. T. L. WILLIAMS (*Port Curtis*) [10.41 a.m.]: I should like on this resolution to refer to the printing of “*Hansard*.” The matter has been brought up before by the hon. member for Rockhampton, who suggested that, if it was possible and the expense was not too great, the type used in “*Hansard*” might be a little larger. Hon. members who are accustomed to reading “*Hansard*” find it difficult to read the small type that is now used. If possible, something along the lines of the type used in the Federal and overseas “*Hansards*” might be introduced. It would be appreciated.

Another matter I wish to refer to is the sessions of Parliament. I am expressing my personal view only. The sessions of Parliament should be divided into two sections, an early session, say, from April to June, inclusive, and a later session, say, from September to November, inclusive. This is a matter to which some thought might be given. A long period passes between the time when the House rises and the opening of the following session. While we know that Premiers’ Conferences, meetings of the Loan Council, and various other duties at times call the Leader of the Government away from the State, still, it might be possible—and it might be in the better interests of Parliament generally—if the sessions were divided into two equal parts. I have often thought that some consideration should be given to a suggestion of that kind. A number of hon. members on this side of the House think that way also. I commend it to the Government for consideration.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. F. A. Cooper, *Bremer*) [10.43 a.m.]: The use of a larger type for “*Hansard*” has been considered from time to time. You, Mr. Speaker, brought this matter up a session or two ago, and again some time prior to the beginning of the present session. This is a matter that has been investigated from time to time, but the bar in the way is the expense. It would necessitate the introduction of a new battery of linotype machines in the Government Printing Office, and a greater expense for paper, because if a larger type is used it naturally follows that more paper is required for the printing. While this may not be an absolute bar, it happens to be so at the present time. The Government cannot see their way clear to spend a greater amount of money than at present on the printing of “*Hansard*.” After all, “*Hansard*” is a record, and in its present form it is a complete record. It is quite serviceable, as now printed, for record purposes. It might be heresy for me to say it, but I believe “*Hansard*” is read mostly when someone wants to find out what someone else has

said, and not for general information. As a record it is preserved, and I believe in its present form it is quite a serviceable record. When the Treasury can afford to buy a new battery of linotype machines and incur the extra expense that would be involved in printing in larger type I have no doubt whatever the alteration asked for by the hon. member for Port Curtis will be carried out.

Mr. BRAND: You would not want new linotypes.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: You would have to have new magazines, and the cost would run into some thousands of pounds. I cannot give the actual expenditure at the moment, but the matter has been investigated, and the cost would be considerable.

Mr. T. L. WILLIAMS: It would run into thousands.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: It would run into thousands of pounds.

Mr. BRAND: I thought you had two types of magazines there.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Probably we should have two Government printing offices. It is easy to say, “Put it in, put it in,” but there is the question of finance to be considered in all these matters. The hon. member could do these things if money were no object. In this instance money is the main reason why the alteration has not been made. The matter has not been lost sight of. It has been considered on previous occasions. When you brought it up, Mr. Speaker, the cost was considered by the Treasury to be too great.

Mr. DANIEL (*Keppel*) [10.47 a.m.]: Would it not be practicable to have a greater space between the lines? If that were done the reading of “*Hansard*” would be made easier.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: It would add to the expenditure on paper.

Mr. RUSSELL (*Hamilton*) [10.48 a.m.]: I wish to refer to the order of business in the House. I should like to see some radical alteration made in regard to the discussion of the Estimates. Sixteen days are allowed for discussion on the Estimates for the various departments, but by the adoption of stonewalling tactics by hon. members opposite we are debarred from discussing the main Estimates. I think yesterday’s stonewall was stupid in the extreme, and hon. members opposite have nothing to be proud of in their achievement. We are not children, attending here to waste time and to prevent the business of the country from being discussed. The Opposition were very anxious to get to the main Estimates, such as the Department of Labour and Industry, the Department of Railways, the Loan and Trust and Special Funds, but every year the same procedure is adopted, and the Opposition are debarred from discussing those Estimates. I think some new practice should be devised.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER interjected.

Mr. RUSSELL: You deliberately stonewalled yesterday. We were forced to listen to a lot of stupid twaddle from the hon. member for Ipswich. I think some new practice should be devised and a set time should be allowed for discussion of each set

[*Mr. T. L. Williams.*]

of Estimates. Under the present practice sixteen days are devoted to the discussion of minor Estimates. We should be allowed to fix a time in which to discuss the Estimates of each department.

Without the aid of the Auditor-General's report hon. members are much handicapped in their criticism on the Estimates. I should like to know why this report has been delayed so long this year. I do not think it is right. The Auditor-General's Department should expedite matters so that members will have the report when the Estimates are under discussion.

I think that some procedure will have to be adopted to put this business on a much more satisfactory footing than it is at the present time. Surely we are entitled to the fullest information on these various departments of State! Greater time should be allowed for discussing the Estimates, and there should be a fixed period for each department, and the Auditor-General's report should be available as each department is under discussion.

Another matter I wish to complain about are the evasive answers given by Ministers to our questions during this session. I think it is disgraceful in the extreme. Surely we are entitled to the information as the representatives of the people!

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowong*) [10.50 a.m.]: I endorse the remarks of the Leader of the United Australia Party. (Government laughter.) From the introduction of the Estimates we could see the attitude that would be adopted by hon. members opposite and that it would be impossible for us to get the required information and have the Estimates of certain departments considered by the Committee. It is nothing more nor less than a farce.

We are supposed to be representatives of the people. Hon. members on the Government benches are aware of what is being done and the amount of money that is being expended. It is certainly true that we on this side know the amount of money voted, but we get no information as to the way in which it has been expended. We certainly should. It was a well known fact that the Estimates for the Department of Labour and Industry would not be submitted to the Committee. What is the Minister afraid of? What are the Government afraid of?

THE SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: I am not afraid.

Mr. MAXWELL: It looks very much like it. The same thing has occurred on previous occasions. No opportunity is afforded us of discussing them.

I am also at one with my leader in saying that the replies to questions are evasive. Any man with ordinary intelligence can see that. A question is asked by an hon. member on this side and immediately the Minister rises and answers it in such a way as to make political capital out of it. Hon. members behind the Minister then chuckle and congratulate him on the wonderful dig he has given the Opposition.

This is the only way that we can bring this matter before the public. Members of the Government know exactly what business is taking place and the amount of money expended, because they discuss these things in caucus, but when we ask for certain information we are told to refer to the Auditor-General's report or something else,

and as has been pointed out by our leader the report of the Auditor-General is not available.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: I will lend you one.

Mr. MAXWELL: How did you come to get it? If the hon. member has got one he has no right to have it. I take this opportunity of voicing my protest. Undoubtedly, the time is ripe for a change. I take it that we are the representatives of the people and we should know what is happening. What have hon. members opposite to hide? What are they afraid of?

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: Nothing.

Mr. MAXWELL: What is the Secretary for Labour and Industry frightened of? Does he not want a searching criticism of the working of his department? Perhaps we might ask questions about the distribution of the Unemployment Relief Fund, and other things, but we are debarred from doing so. Everything should be perfectly open, decent, and straightforward in our dealings with the State. Parliament is the only place in which we can get this information, but the Government close themselves up like oysters, and on the hustings will say that if we make a certain statement it is only what has been read in the Press. The Secretary for Public Lands, with a view of gaining political kudos and a few votes—

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Do not I give you enough information?

Mr. MAXWELL: The hon. gentleman very seldom gives any, but on certain things he does. The hon. gentleman is very good at pointing out that wages had been reduced by another Government, but he told a number of unemployed relief workers in Innisfail to get married and draw £1 0s. 3d. a week.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: That is not true.

Mr. MAXWELL: That is true.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MAXWELL: I do not pay any attention to the contradiction, although I must do it here. Outside I should tell the people I would not believe it. It was in the Press and if it was not true why did he not contradict it? The Leader of the United Australia Party is perfectly justified in doing what he did this morning and bringing these matters under the public eye. After all, we are supposed to be representatives of the people, but we are not.

THE SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: You are not representing the people?

Mr. MAXWELL: How can we under existing conditions?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MAXWELL: How can we? The Minister is done up like a capitalist—like a new tramcar.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I would remind the hon. member not to persist in personal reflections.

Mr. MAXWELL: I did not intend to, but as the hon. gentleman started it he has to take what is coming to him.

I hope the next party occupying the Treasury benches will not be a Labour Party and that it will consider the desirability of discussing the workings of the various departments of the State. For instance, we have

Mr. Maxwell.]

not had the opportunity of discussing the Estimates for the Railway Department. Some hon. members opposite have said outside, "You can pull your cap down, because you will not get an opportunity of discussing the vote for the Department of Labour and Industry." Look at hon. members opposite—like innocent babes! Look at the innocence of the Secretary for Labour and Industry. Like Simon Pure, he wants to make the people believe he is prepared to open his book—"You can come to my office and see the papers there." We know all about that. With my leader I record my protest. We have a right to have the information here in this Chamber. It is time there was a change—a change in the Government.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. P. Pease, *Herbert*) [10.56 a.m.]: In reply to hon. members opposite, let me say that there is no desire on the part of any Minister to evade questions. The Secretary for Labour and Industry, in referring the hon. member for Toowong to the report of the Auditor-General, was referring to last year's report by that officer. It shows that hon. members opposite do not worry about doing their work properly, because that report should be read by all hon. members from "A" to "Z." It is one of the most elaborate and detailed reports that are tabled. Obviously the hon. member has not read the report, because there is all the information in it that he asked for.

You, Mr. Speaker, realise that when you put questions on the business-paper you censor them to a certain extent or disallow questions that are out of order. We have had a few examples of that this session. I make the statement that every Minister has given the information asked of him.

Mr. RUSSELL: That is not true.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: It is absolutely correct. Can the hon. member prove anything to the contrary? He cannot. The hon. member should refer to official reports. I said before, it is the duty of every hon. member in this Chamber to read the reports that are tabled.

Mr. RUSSELL: We do.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Hon. members do not. They have proved that by their statements this morning. In the last report of the Auditor-General there is detailed information regarding the Babinda State Hotel. As I have pointed out previously, Ministers do not prepare the replies to questions. When a question is asked the Minister concerned sends it on to his responsible officers, who frame the reply. Of course, if an irrelevant question is addressed to the Premier he has the right to say exactly what he desires.

The hon. member for Toowong says that hon. members on this side of the House chuckle at answers given to questions by Ministers. During the three years when the Moore Government were in power, I say unhesitatingly, they indulged in chuckling when the Ministers answered questions addressed to them by hon. members on this side, then in opposition. During my seven-teen years as a member of this Parliament no Government were more evasive and discourteous than the Moore Government and the hon. members supporting him. It is recorded in "Hansard" that numbers of our members were ordered to resume their

seat during the discussion of the Estimates because we touched upon the susceptibilities of some of the Ministers.

Mr. MAXWELL: You were out of order.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: We were not out of order. I remember being sat down because I introduced the subject of the Loan Council. I was ruled out of order when I referred to the fact that the whole of the money we were spending was obtained from the Loan Council.

I was surprised to hear hon. members opposite complaining that they were not able to discuss all the Estimates. I remember that during the first year when we were in Opposition to the Moore Government we adopted the proper method of allocating the time for debate on the Estimates. Hon. members who were in the House at that time will remember that we then got through the whole of the Estimates before the time for their discussion had expired. It is simply a matter of arrangement, not on this side of the Chamber, but on the opposite side. If hon. members opposite desire to discuss any particular Estimate, all they need do is to arrange, as we did, to speak only on certain Estimates and to allow only a certain number to speak.

Mr. MAHER: It will not work.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: It will work. We worked it. When we were in Opposition to the Moore Government we so arranged matters that every vote, right down to the Trust and Loan Votes, was discussed. Then we went to the other extreme when we were in Opposition. We saw to it that certain Estimates were not discussed by the then Government. I have here a copy of "Hansard" for 1931, and if hon. members will refer to page 23 of the index they will see the following:—

"Supply.

"Resolutions reported from Committee—

Adoption.

Reception.

Resolutions adopted under operation of Standing Order No. 307 and Sessional Order of 22nd July.

Votes passed under operation of Standing Order 307 and Sessional Orders of 22nd July and 9th September."

Hon. members will then see a list of the Estimates that were not discussed by the Moore Government because we were a live Opposition. (Opposition laughter.) I can prove it. We were an Opposition that did its job properly. We determined, in the interests of the people of this State, that we would debate certain Estimates and we debated them with such success that the following Estimates could not be discussed by the Moore Government:—

Agriculture.

Home Secretary.

Labour and Industry—

Balance of vote.

Chief Office.

Public Instruction.

Public Lands.

Loan Fund Estimates.

Trust and Special Fund Estimates.

[Mr. Maxwell.

and then the Supplementary Estimates. We went from one extreme to the other.

Mr. MOORE: We gave you the ones you asked for.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: We went from one extreme to the other. In the first session, when we were in Opposition, we so regulated matters that every vote was discussed. In the last session of the Moore Government we so regulated the matter that even the Government were not able to discuss certain votes because we confined the debate to those votes that we desired to discuss. The Estimates of the Department of Agriculture and Stock were not discussed; those of the Home Secretary were not discussed. The Department of Public Instruction was not discussed. The Department of Public Lands was not discussed. We confined our principal discussion to the Department of Labour and Industry. All those facts prove that we were a live Opposition.

The time allowed in Queensland for the discussion of Estimates is greater than that allowed in any other State in the Commonwealth. Look at what happened to the Commonwealth Estimates only recently. The majority of them went through in a few days and they involved far greater sums of money than we are spending. You, Mr. Speaker, know, as does every other hon. member of this House, that the length of time that the Estimates shall be discussed, and the decision as to what Estimates shall be discussed and what shall not be discussed rest entirely with hon. members opposite. If the Opposition of to-day would only take a leaf from our book when we were in Opposition they would know that they could discuss the whole of the Estimates or they could prevent the Government from discussing certain Estimates and confine them to those Estimates that they desired to discuss. All that they need do is to follow our example. When we were in Opposition we so arranged the discussion of the Estimates so that only part of them could be discussed. On that occasion our members got up and made sensible speeches, as they always do on matters that count.

I want to refute the assertion that the Government have anything to hide. I have already told hon. members, and I repeat that every Minister is prepared to supply any information that hon. members require, provided they are courteous enough to ask for it. They are prepared to do what I have always been prepared to do, and that is to make all the files available, and to place the relevant officers at the disposal of hon. members so that they may exercise their right as members of Parliament to discuss the matter with them. Again I assure hon. members on both sides that the Minister in charge of the department concerned will make the relevant files available and supply to them the information that they require.

In discussing the Estimates the matter is in the hands of the Opposition. The Standing Orders or the Sessional Orders provide that the Estimates shall be discussed until a certain time of the day or night, although it is entirely in the discretion of the Leader of the Opposition to agree to adjourn at an early hour, but during the consideration of other business the Government are in supreme control. During this session the Leader of the Opposition agreed to a sensible arrangement to adjourn earlier than the time prescribed by the Sessional Orders in connection

with the Estimates. The Opposition are really in charge of the Estimates, and may discuss anything that they desire.

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*) [11.7 a.m.]: The contention by the Secretary for Public Lands that the consideration of the Estimates is virtually under the control of the Opposition is entirely wrong. How can an Opposition of only sixteen members of a House of sixty-two hope to control the debate on the Estimates? The attitude of the Government is pretty plain. If they wish to prevent the discussion of certain Estimates a whole team of Government speakers are thrown into the debate to prevent the Opposition from reaching them, and obviously, as they have a party of forty-six members the Opposition are crowded out. The control of the discussion of the Estimates is entirely in the hands of the Government. What hope have the Opposition of reaching certain Estimates when the Government deliberately decide that they shall not be reached? If the parties were fairly evenly divided it might be possible for the Opposition to assert themselves in that way, but otherwise they cannot possibly reach the Estimates that the Government have decided shall not be discussed. With the present number of members in Opposition no amount of control or regulation of speakers can help us to reach the Estimates that we desire when a great battery of Government speakers are thrown into the debate to prevent us.

We had an example of that last night. We accelerated the debate yesterday, so that we might have an opportunity of discussing the Estimates of the Department of Railways, and the Department of Labour and Industry, but when the Deputy Premier realised that we might reach the Estimates of those two departments, or at least one of them, he promptly arranged with the members of his party to stage a stonewall. (Government dissent.) Last night we had an extraordinary exhibition of that, and I have no hesitation at all in saying that the hon. member for Ipswich was absolutely clownish and his actions were entirely unworthy of the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MAHER: What I say is true.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. gentleman might say what he believes to be true, but if it is offensive to another member, he must withdraw it. Therefore, I ask the hon. member to withdraw the word "clownish."

Mr. MAHER: The hon. member for Ipswich has not objected, or demanded a withdrawal of the word. I do not think that the remark is unparliamentary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The House has appointed me to be the judge as to whether remarks are unparliamentary. I have decided that it is unparliamentary, and I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw.

Mr. MAHER: In deference to your ruling in the matter, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw. At the same time I say that anyone who attached any importance to parliamentary government would not have been impressed had he listened to the extraordinary speech delivered last night in this Chamber by the hon. member for Ipswich. If it was printed in the Ipswich "Times," which is published in the centre of his electorate, a great number of his electors would be disgusted. No hon. member who took his

Mr. Maher.]

parliamentary duties seriously could get up and make such a speech in a decorous and dignified Assembly. Such were the policy and tactics pursued last night by the Government in order to prevent the Opposition from reaching important Estimates that have some bearing on the government of the country.

In this way we were prevented from discussing the important Estimates of the Department of Railways, involving an expenditure of millions of pounds, and in respect to which the Government have felt justified in appointing a royal commission. What was wrong with allowing the Opposition to discuss those Estimates? The Minister for Transport was present in the Chamber in good faith, obviously ready to take his Estimates, but the order was given out from the Deputy Premier that the Opposition was to be prevented at all hazards from reaching and discussing the Estimates of the Department of Railways and the Department of Labour and Industry. Yet we have the Deputy Premier making the statement this morning that the Opposition control the passage of the Estimates! Last night we had an excellent example to show that the Government controlled their passage, and could prevent, and did prevent, the Opposition from getting access to the important Estimates I refer to.

Before the Premier left for North Queensland he was good enough to inform me of the order in which the Estimates would be taken. The Estimates of the Department of Public Instruction were to be taken yesterday morning, followed by the Estimates of the Department of Justice, the Department of Railways, and the Department of Labour and Industry.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: That is not right.

Mr. MAHER: It is good enough from my point to say that the Premier told me that the Estimates of the Department of Public Instruction would come up for discussion on Tuesday morning. The Minister who controls that department had sufficient courtesy to telephone me at my home to tell me he had to go to Allora on departmental business, and that the Estimates of the Department of Public Works could come up for consideration in place of his Estimate. I appreciated that courtesy very much indeed, and I was prepared to discuss the Estimates of the Department of Public Works when the House met yesterday. Imagine my surprise when, without any prior notification, the Attorney-General proceeded with his Estimates. Whether the idea was to trick me or not I do not know. I do not charge the Secretary for Public Instruction or the Premier with being a party to that, but evidently someone else thought it was a chance to catch the Leader of the Opposition on the hop and make the Opposition look cheap. (Government dissent.) When I complained in the Committee yesterday, not one single word of apology was forthcoming either from the Minister in charge of the Estimates or the Deputy Premier.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: I did not happen to be in the Chamber. I have in my hand the original roster of the votes. You can examine it. If you do you will see that the order in which the Estimates were to be taken was—Department of Public Instruction, followed by the Department of Justice, and then the Department of Public Works.

[Mr. Maher.

Mr. MAHER: I have a copy of the original roster in my office. There can be an original roster, but a Premier or a Deputy Premier can come to a fresh arrangement. I am always willing to do so.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: We stuck to the original roster.

Mr. MAHER: You stuck to the original roster? I was wrongly informed, then.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MAHER: The point is that I came to the House expecting that a certain vote should come up for discussion and an entirely different vote was proceeded with.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Your party never consulted us when we were in opposition.

Mr. MAHER: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has pointed out authoritatively—because he was the Premier of the day—that hon. members opposite got whatever Estimates they wanted to discuss. Surely hon. members opposite cannot complain when they get what they want. I do not ask for what I want—I am prepared to take what I get—but I do like to feel that an honourable agreement that is entered into with a responsible Minister will be honoured.

Some reference has been made to the matter of evasive answers to questions. I have a complaint in that respect and it supports the statement made by the hon. member for Hamilton. In many cases the tendency of Ministers is to give evasive answers, and in some respects, I might say, answers that have quite a "smart aleck" flavour. There is a certain amount of alleged cleverness in framing evasive answers that in the opinion of the Minister responsible for them are clever efforts to turn the question against those who ask them. This is an Assembly of representative men drawn from all parts of the State to represent the people, and when we frame a question we are entitled to get a fair and honest answer. There should not be anything to hide. After all, if the Government have done something that makes them feel uncomfortable it may only be a nine days' wonder and they might just as well publish it instead of trying to hide it. The more you try to hide something and the more you try to cover up something, the more curious your Opposition becomes and the more curious the public becomes. As a matter of human psychology, the Government would be well advised to give fair and honest reply to questions, which are submitted not in any "Paul-pry" attitude—but in the public interest. We prepare these questions to get information that a big section of the public are anxious to have. I do not think any Government are justified in giving evasive answers or refusing to answer honest questions on public topics.

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*) [11.18 a.m.]: The Leader of the Opposition alleged that the deputy leader of our party made arrangements for members on this side to speak on the Estimates yesterday. The deputy leader of our party made no arrangement with me in regard to speaking yesterday. It was the Leader of the Opposition who was responsible for my action. When the hon. member for Carnarvon spoke of schools in his electorate the Leader of the Opposition rose to a point of order and said that these matters should have been brought before the department. The hon.

member tried to prevent the hon. member for Carnarvon from speaking on that vote. When the hon. member for Carnarvon sat down I exercised my right as a member of this House and raised certain matters that affected my electorate; and members opposite—the few who were in this Chamber—immediately started interjecting and told me I should have brought these matters before the department. I claim the right as a member of this Assembly to bring these matters before this Assembly.

The Leader of the Opposition has challenged me to have my speech printed in the "Queensland Times." My remarks in connection with matters affecting my electorate are printed in "Hansard" and that is the only printing space I get, because I am not connected with the Tory Press.

If the hon. gentleman is responsible for the matter published in the "Queensland Times" perhaps he will ask the editor to print some of the words of wisdom that fall from the lips of the hon. member for Ipswich. If that was done the electors would know something of the contributions to the debates in Parliament made by hon. members on this side. The proof of my speech on the Budget I placed in an envelope and despatched to the "Queensland Times" at Ipswich. That is the only matter from me that has been reported in that paper. The proofs of my speeches yesterday received from "Hansard" are beside me. They have not been altered. I am prepared to have them published in the "Queensland Times" and to have the Leader of the Opposition oppose me at the next election on those speeches. If he is prepared to stand or fall by that I also am willing to do so.

I have been a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for a number of years, and during that time I have found that hon. members of the Opposition have a desire not only to ask questions in this Assembly, but to endeavour to frame the replies thereto. That is the trouble. When they ask a question they want an answer that suits them, and not receiving such a reply they complain that it has not been answered properly. Hon. members opposite know very well that the asking of questions is a privilege. No responsibility lies on anyone to reply, and it is merely courtesy that prompts a Minister or other hon. member to do so. If hon. members opposite do not receive suitable replies they then complain that they can get no answer.

It was with interest that I read a few days since of the happenings in the other Parliaments of the world, especially in that of New Zealand. In that Dominion they have introduced a system of broadcasting the debates of Parliament. I suggest that such a scheme be inaugurated in this Parliament, so that our constituents shall hear the remarks of hon. members on both sides of the House. I am certain that if they heard the contributions to the debates made by hon. members opposite there would be not sixteen but only six hon. members sitting in opposition after the next election.

The rules of procedure of this Assembly lay it down that sixteen days shall be allotted for the discussion of the Estimates, and in this session Opposition hon. members spoke on every question under the sun for fifteen and three-quarter days; but because hon. members on the Government benches occupied a quarter of a day, from approxi-

mately 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., in bringing forward matters affecting their electorates, they were told by the great leader of the United Australia Party that it was only a lot of twaddle.

If it is the complaint of members of the Opposition that we on this side of the House look after the interests of our boys and girls, our sick, and the people who live in our constituencies, how can we fail to understand the reason why they are in permanent opposition in this Assembly?

Another matter I desire to raise on this resolution—I have brought it up on a previous occasion—is the provision of lockers arranged in this Chamber. We often see papers strewn all over the floor and seats, and a visitor to the Assembly must think what an untidy place it is. He must think that hon. members are all like careless married men who throw things about and whose wives have to pick them up. If little lockers could be fitted under these benches, papers frequently used by members could be stored in them, and we should have a tidy Chamber. To get the desired measure of tidiness, a small fine could be inflicted on untidy members. I suppose some members of the Opposition could not be tidy even if we had lockers. The fines collected could be given to some charitable institution.

Mr. CLAYTON: A very constructive idea.

Mr. GLEDSON: I am glad that the hon. member for Wide Bay is able to see the advantage of my suggestion. His leader and deputy leader are not always able to grasp the constructive ideas that hon. members on this side of the House are able by reason of their experience and knowledge to tender for the consideration of hon. members.

I also believe that hon. members should be provided with some means of outdoor exercise. Statistics prove that we have a very strenuous life. The sedentary nature of our work does not make for the best of health, and most members suffer before very long from complaints that are the result of insufficient exercise. If provision could be made on our spacious lawns for a putting green for those interested in golf, a bowling green for the bowlers, and, perhaps, a gymnasium where the hon. member for Enoggera could don the gloves, I think the health of members could be catered for, and each could get the exercise vitally necessary to good health. I have had the privilege of visiting the Commonwealth Houses of Parliament, and I found members of the Government and Opposition playing tennis, bowls, and golf, and so getting such exercise. You know, Mr. Speaker, a healthy body means a healthy mind—a healthy mind to bring to bear on the problems that face the country when we come inside to deal with legislation.

I hope my remarks will be noted by the powers that be, and some effort will be made to remove some of the difficulties under which members have to work.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. TAYLOR (*Enoggera*) [11.30 a.m.]: One opinion I desire to express on this resolution is that if Parliament proposes to have day sittings the session should be confined to day sittings; night sittings should not be added, as they have been under the system of double days. After all, Parliaments have

Mr. Taylor.]

not to consider the method of conducting debates so much as they have to pay due regard to the need for having Parliament so looked upon by the people that the present system of government will be continued. I have not heard any of the hon. members who have spoken this morning utter one word of condemnation or apprehension of the position, but I say in all seriousness that the Parliaments of other democratic countries have on occasions laid themselves open to ridicule by those whom they represent, and at times we have noticed that the Parliaments of Australia have been very close to doing that also. If anything is to be said in favour of the present parliamentary system and the methods of conducting parliamentary debates, every effort should be exerted to preserve that democratic system, to keep it clean and wholesome in the eyes of the people.

I do not think that it is right for Parliament to sit at night at all. If at the opening of the session Parliament carries a resolution to the effect that the session shall consist of day sittings only, that resolution should be strictly carried out. It is likely that parliamentary sessions would thus be of longer duration, but what does that matter? Surely more time can be given to the discussion of the people's business in Parliament than a mere three or four months out of twelve?

These are all matters that the Government and every other hon. member who desires the present system to be maintained should consider seriously. We are not getting any nearer the achievement of the desires of a democratic people by altering in any way, for the purposes of political expediency, anything in the parliamentary system that has operated to the benefit of the people in the past. I think, with the hon. member for Port Curtis, that we might well give consideration to the question of having two sessions in a year, but if we carry a resolution that each session shall consist of day sittings, we should carry out that resolution strictly and not have night sittings at all.

Mr. KING (*Maree*) [11.34 a.m.]: I have no desire to prolong the debate on this resolution, but I feel compelled to reply to the criticism of certain hon. members opposite. They have attempted to convey the impression that we as a Government have done something unconstitutional in debating the Estimates in the way in which we have done. We all know that we have debated them in a constitutional manner. Hon. members opposite have been allowed full and ample time to discuss every vote. They have not suffered any injustice in this direction. Because we conduct our affairs in our own way is no reason why the Opposition should criticise us or endeavour to make the point that we are not doing our duty as we should.

The subject that we are discussing at present, that of Parliament itself, is a very wide and important one. I believe in constitutional government. I believe in the parliamentary system of government as being the most democratic and in the best interests of the people. I know that throughout the world and perhaps in Australia and even in Queensland there are people who are endeavouring to force their ideas of political control upon the people. I know that Fascism is rampant throughout Europe and that Communism is to be found in certain parts of the world. I definitely disagree with these two systems

of political control. Fascism is a system of dictatorship and does not connote anything that is in the interests of democracy, and on the other hand Communism may achieve very much the same end. Under our parliamentary system of political control the people are given the right to elect their representatives every three years, and thus they have an opportunity of deciding whether the State is progressing or retrogressing.

A study of the various Constitutions presents an opportunity for considerable reflection. There is no written British Constitution. The basis of the present system of political control in that country is a collection of maxims and customs that have grown up from time immemorial, together with certain legislation. In the United States of America there is a written Constitution, as there is in Australia. There is a written Constitution for the State of Queensland. Under these Constitutions these peoples respectively are working out their own destinies in a democratic way, and are enduring no great hardship. We have our law courts, our industrial tribunals, and other instrumentalities to give effect to the Constitution.

Honourable Members conversing in loud tones.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order: There is far too much noise in the Chamber. The "Hansard" staff have complained to me that it is almost impossible at times to record the speeches of hon. members because of the noise in the Chamber.

Mr. KING: We have a unicameral system of government, but the State does not suffer because of that. Our political opponents complain that such a system does not obtain in the other countries of the world, but I should like to remind them that it is the system in all the provinces of Canada, with the exception of Quebec. In the Union of South Africa the system of government provides for unicameral provincial councils. Our democratic system, which has come down through the ages from Saxon times, step by step, is acceptable to the people, and it is a credit to the men who have built it up.

As I have already said, I have no desire to speak on this subject at length, but I do wish to place those views before the people. The business of the House is conducted in a constitutional way, and when the Opposition criticise our actions they should remember that fact. The business of the House is conducted fairly under your guidance, Mr. Speaker, and in consonance with the Standing Orders that have been framed to regulate discussion in this House.

Resolution 4 (Legislative Assembly) agreed to.

Resolution 5—"Premier and Chief Secretary's Department—Chief Office"—

Mr. McLEAN (*Bundaberg*) [11.40 a.m.]: I desire to take the opportunity this resolution offers to advance a plea on behalf of the Life Saving Association for recognition of the services of life savers in this State by the grant of a subsidy. Twelve months ago a deputation representative of the various life-saving clubs met the Premier and asked for such a subsidy, but owing to the financial position the Premier was unfortunately unable to recognise in this way the valuable services of the members of these clubs. While the Government and the community show the greatest consideration for the noble work performed by the ambulance

[Mr. Taylor.

brigade, no recognition is shown of the wonderful self-sacrificing work of the life savers. These young men who patrol our beaches endanger their lives and incur great risk in performing their duties. If they only succeeded in saving one life from loss by drowning their work would be deserving of some consideration. These young men do not merely go to the surfing beaches, get into their swimming costumes, and hold themselves in readiness for a rescue. They devote many hours to training to make themselves physically efficient as well as familiar with life-saving methods. They make tremendous sacrifices of time and money on behalf of the community. Therefore I have no hesitation in making this appeal for the Government to give the association some financial help by way of a subsidy.

It is true that appeals are made from time to time to the community, in particular the persons who assemble to witness their demonstrations, but the response is not encouraging. I was present at the championship gathering at Burleigh Heads in January, 1936, and although thousands of people witnessed the demonstration, the collection only resulted in the subscription of a few pounds. That is very discouraging to this body of noble men who devote their time to serving the interests of the community. I therefore also appeal to the people for a more liberal recognition of the work of these men.

Mr. NICKLIN (*Murrumbidgee*) [11.43 a.m.]: I support the appeal of the hon. member for Bundaberg for some recognition from the Government by way of a subsidy of the work carried out by the members of life-saving clubs in Queensland. Everyone knows the great amount of good work that these young men carry out on our surfing beaches. It may be interesting to know that statistics compiled by the life-saving associations throughout the Commonwealth, which are principally confined to New South Wales and Queensland, show that almost 35,000 lives have been saved by their members. Surely that record alone shows how deserving they are of some recognition from the Government. The Government of New South Wales recognises the work of life savers in that State by granting a subsidy approximating £700 per annum to enable them to carry out their work.

It might be said that a subsidy would not be expended in the proper channels, but it would be possible to specify that it should be spent on the purchase of equipment. The provision of gear is one of the greatest expenses of the clubs. A life-saving reel, which is one of the essentials in the equipment, costs about £20 or £30.

It should also be taken into account that a large number of these young men visit the various beaches each week-end from the metropolitan area at their own expense. For example, take the Mowbray Park-Burleigh club and the Caloundra club. It costs each man approximately 10s. to 15s. a week-end to travel down to the beaches to carry on a community service.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: They should be entitled to railway passes.

Mr. NICKLIN: The Railway Department does give them a concession.

The only means they have of obtaining the necessary funds to carry on this humanitarian work is by subsidies from local authorities, the support they get from the public by way of voluntary contributions, and the pro-

ceeds of art unions. A great work such as that carried out by these clubs should not be dependent on appeals to the public or art unions. In view of the useful public service they give, the Government should consider the question of recognising their services. The feeling of safety that is engendered in the surf bathers by reason of the presence of the life savers attracts more people to the beaches than would otherwise go, and the revenue of the Railway Department is thereby increased. In the season thousands of persons are carried by the department to our surfing beaches.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. F. A. Cooper, *Bremer*) [11.48 a.m.]: All sections of the people agree that the life-saving clubs do a very fine work indeed. In regard to grants from the Chief Secretary's Department, the difficulty is the same difficulty that arises in many other directions. If we are to make a grant to the life-saving clubs we have to get the money from somewhere. If the Government made grants to all the clubs and associations that ask for grants it would necessarily mean an increase in the taxation of the State or the cutting down of other services that are now rendered by the State. That is plain on the face of it. I remember that a gentleman who holds a most exalted position in this State and who is highly respected by all sections of the community publicly commented on the miserable response of persons who patronised the beaches of this State to the appeal for donations to the life-saving clubs. I think he drew attention to the fact that in a crowd of 4,000 or 5,000 persons at Southport who enjoyed the display by the life savers, and who, because of their presence, were able to bathe with a feeling of safety, only something like £5 or under was collected.

Mr. T. L. WILLIAMS: That is so.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: That is quite true. Hon. members are asking the Government to subsidise that selfishness—that meanness that is shown by these persons who thus enjoy the sport of sea bathing in safety, and who refuse to contribute one penny towards the cost of providing that safety. It is regrettable. I can assure hon. members that the Government have not refused a grant out of pure callousness, but they think that the people who use the beaches have some responsibility in the matter. I do not know what means of making them can be devised. You cannot put a tax on the ones who have been nearly drowned and in that way get them to contribute to the life savers.

Mr. T. L. WILLIAMS: Some of them get married.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I do not know that that is a fair recompense. I have not the slightest doubt that the fine specimens of manhood that constitute life-saving clubs would be in great demand on the marriage market, but that is robbing the beaches of the safety they give at present and probably enticing these young men into realms that are not really so safe. (Laughter.) However, that is only an opinion.

In response to the requests made by the hon. members for Bundaberg and Murrumbidgee I wish to say that the matter will be brought before the Chief Secretary again, and if anything can be done I can assure

Hon. F. A. Cooper.]

hon. members he will give it every consideration.

Mr. TAYLOR (*Enoggera*) [11.51 a.m.]: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There appears to be some misunderstanding. The practice is that the Minister in charge of each department is regarded as having moved each resolution covering expenditure by his department, and when he replies, he closes the debate. I do not propose to call such Minister while any other hon. member is on his feet and prepared to speak. That is the custom that I will continue.

Mr. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the fact that I rose on Resolution No. 4. I was on my feet before the Deputy Premier, but you called him in preference to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier had not moved the resolution.

Mr. TAYLOR: But he is the Deputy Premier.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The resolution was moved by the Secretary for Public Instruction. The hon. member would have been at liberty to speak after the Deputy Premier had spoken.

Resolution 5 (Premier and Chief Secretary's Department's—Chief Office) agreed to.

Resolution 6—"Agent-General for the State"—agreed to.

Resolution 7—"Immigration"—

Mr. T. L. WILLIAMS (*Port Curtis*) [11.54 a.m.]: I intimated my wish to speak to this resolution with no desire to cover the ground that I had already covered when the vote was under discussion in the Committee, but with the desire to endeavour, if possible, to clear up some misapprehension that appears to exist as to the real meaning of my remarks on that occasion. A provincial newspaper took umbrage at them or purposely misread into them an interpretation I did not intend. Probably my remarks conflicted with the view expressed by the Prime Minister the day before on immigration.

I said in effect that whereas it was admitted there was no necessity to return to a discussion on immigration in this Chamber, I felt that in our own boys and girls we had our best immigrants. I proceeded to say that it has been suggested that youths from England be brought here and given employment in country centres. I then referred to our own subsidy scheme to induce our own boys to go out into these country centres and be apprenticed to farmers, and that that scheme had not met with quite the success we had hoped it would. I there repeated myself by pointing out again that our own youth should be our first consideration. I particularly desire to refer to my reference to overseas immigrants. I pointed out that if we are to have immigration at all, my opinion was that Northern Europeans would be the best immigrants to bring here. I stated that that was my own view only, but I felt the Commonwealth Government could consider the expenditure of a sum, probably £10,000,000, towards the development of the Northern Territory by constructing a port at Darwin and building roads and railways, and that would encourage Northern Euro-

peans to come here, who had proved in bygone years to be amongst our best immigrants.

I pointed out what Mr. Curtin had to say in respect of immigration. I was twitted with bringing the matter up because it had some political significance. I did not do so with that object in mind, and I am not bringing it forward now for that purpose. I referred to Mr. Curtin's remarks at Perth when he delivered his policy speech. He said—

"The most rapid and effective way to increase population is to make the conditions in Australia better than in any other country. Population moves from where conditions are bad to where they are reported to be better. The hope of larger freedom or of material gain such as new goldfields, new lands, higher standards of existence, has shifted more people than all the known forms of assisted migration. Before any new form of migration is attempted, work and higher standards of existence should be provided for the idle man power within Australia now.

"By making the conditions and rewards of toil superior to those of other countries, additional man power for this Commonwealth would flow in as a matter of course.

"Australia's power to increase population is not to be found in overseas loans or in parrot cries about confidence. It is to be found by ensuring work for those idle, and also by ensuring security for the youths entering or endeavouring to enter industry.

"It is very desirable to have a better spread of population in Australia. This end is best achieved by providing occupational opportunity in States of the Commonwealth which relatively have not made the same progress in secondary industries as the two great manufacturing States."

I said those were wise words coming from a man of the calibre and ability of Mr. Curtin and they should be taken notice of.

Mr. NIMMO: Did he say anything about Queensland taxation?

Mr. T. L. WILLIAMS: No, he was dealing with immigration. I leave the other matter to the hon. member for Oxley. My real reason for speaking on this resolution was that I wanted to clear up any misunderstanding that might have existed regarding my attitude towards immigration and the remarks I made concerning the Northern European as being a superior type of immigrant for any country to the Southern European.

Resolution 7 (Immigration) agreed to.

Resolutions 8 to 15, both inclusive, agreed to.

Resolution 16—"The Treasurer—Chief Office."

Mr. WATERS (*Kelvin Grove*) [11.59 a.m.]: I should like to refer to the position of racing generally throughout the metropolitan area at the present time. Last year the Government passed amending legislation prohibiting S.P. betting and gave racing clubs the opportunity to rehabilitate themselves and the sport generally. What is the position at the present time so far as the general public are concerned? The

[Hon. F. A. Cooper.]

Brisbane Amateur Turf Club have taken almost twelve months to instal a flat at Albion Park.

At 12 noon,

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. Hanson, *Buranda*) relieved Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Mr. WATERS: The club proceeded in a lethargic manner to instal a flat at Doomben. Although the Queensland Turf Club has provided a flat at Ascot, and although the Ipswich club has attempted to make better facilities available to the persons who attend its racecourse, the racing clubs in general have not provided the facilities for the public that they should have done. As these clubs are experiencing increased prosperity as a result of the larger attendances following upon a rigid policing of S.P. betting in this State, they should do the right thing by the public.

One of the first things they should do is to reduce the fee for admission to the paddock, leger, and flat.

Mr. GAIR: The Queensland Turf Club reduced them.

Mr. WATERS: The hon. member for South Brisbane has reminded me that they have been reduced by the enormous sum of 3d. as far as the paddock and leger are concerned. The Government should legislate to ensure that the racing clubs give the public a quid pro quo for the benefits they are deriving from the strict enforcement of the laws prohibiting S.P. betting. While it is true that the Queensland Turf Club is spending a good deal of money for the benefit of the sport, it cannot be said that the Brisbane Amateur Turf Club is doing the fair thing by any means. Most of the money that is received by that club is being paid to Southern interests, who are not giving the public a fair deal.

I believe that the "battling" trainers should be given more encouragement by the Brisbane Amateur Turf Club by way of increased prize money. The Brisbane Amateur Turf Club should be more concerned to look after men who have done so much for racing in Queensland than to see that proprietary interests in the South receive their pound of flesh.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN interjected.

Mr. WATERS: I go further and say that the number of reversals is appalling. The stewards should investigate these matters more thoroughly than they are doing. Members of the public are being defrauded daily by the jokes that are being worked at the various racecourses. The Government should see that some quid pro quo is given to the general public in return for the legislation that has been passed compelling them to attend racecourses if they want to bet. It cannot be denied that S.P. betting has been almost stamped out. It may be operating in a small way, but it has been stamped out in general, and the racing clubs are benefiting thereby. The Government should call upon the clubs to reduce the fees charged for admission.

Another matter directly concerning the public is the exorbitant charges that are made for tea and other refreshments. Prohibitive charges are made for very small returns. The charges made for cups of afternoon tea at the racecourses and for refreshments at the bar are almost scandalous. This is brought about by one of

two things. Either the racing clubs are charging exorbitant fees to the lessees of the refreshment-rooms or those lessees are making tremendous profits.

The race clubs should give service to the public. They should have regard for the comfort of their patrons, and in view of the benefits that they have received they should reduce their charges of admission. I also believe that the "battling" trainer should be given a better deal than he receives to-day. The number of mid-week meetings should be increased, and the Brisbane Amateur Turf Club and the Ipswich Club—the Brisbane Amateur Turf Club in particular—should be more concerned to cater for Queensland citizens than to send large sums of money to the South to pay off the indebtedness to proprietary interests.

The racing game generally needs cleaning up, and more effective control should be exercised over the startling reversals of form. The public are the basis of the success of the racing game in the final analysis, and they are certainly deserving of better treatment.

Mr. POWER (*Baroona*) [12.6 p.m.]: The hon. member for Kelvin Grove has done a public service in raising the question of racing and race clubs generally. The clubs are enjoying considerable benefit from the action of the Government in passing legislation to stamp out S.P. betting. All the newspapers disclose increased attendances, and therefore at least some of their increased profits should be handed over to the trainers or distributed amongst the public. The public are entitled to a better deal.

The cost of food and drinks on racecourses is absolutely astounding. The working man is not in a position to pay the charges made. I also protest against the action of the booth proprietors in reducing the size of the glass and yet charging the same price as is charged by the hotelkeeper. The clubs have benefited considerably by the increased attendances, and I see no reason why the booth proprietors should be allowed to charge the same price for a smaller drink as is charged by hotelkeepers for bigger glasses.

There is room for improvement in the control that is exercised over the reversals of form and the conduct of inquiries into the performances of horses and jockeys. These inquiries should not be held behind closed doors, but should be open to the public. It is high time that the public were given a better deal, especially in view of the benefits conferred on the racing clubs by legislation.

I should also like to point out that no consideration is given to the patrons on the flat, who have to put up with very unpleasant conditions in wet weather or when it is very hot. The balance-sheets of the clubs show considerable credit balances, and it is time that they erected some covering for patrons of the flat to protect them from the weather.

I know that as the result of the elimination of S.P. betting some of the clubs have reduced their charges for admission. Many others have not. It is high time that action was taken to compel them to do so. Many followers of the racing game who have a few spare shillings like a little flutter, and in order to do so attend the various race meetings on Saturday and Wednesday afternoons. These patrons of the clubs are entitled to much better consideration than

Mr. Power.]

they receive. The owners and trainers do not receive the consideration they should, especially in racing inquiries, which should be open to the Press.

Mr. McLEAN (*Bundaberg*) [12.11 p.m.]: I desire to bring under the notice of the Minister a matter that causes a great deal of anxiety to followers of racing living in the country. I refer to the published starting prices. We have had instances where the "Truth" on Sunday morning has reported that a certain horse started at 8 to 1, while the "Telegraph" records the starting price as 7 to 1, and the "Courier-Mail" as 6 to 1. The bettor is paid on the "Courier-Mail" quotation. There is no fairness in the system. It means that the bettor who placed £20 on a winning horse makes a compulsory sacrifice of £40 to the bookmaker. The Minister might very well bring this matter under the notice of the body controlling racing and see if the stipendiary stewards could not furnish the actual starting prices of the horses. This is a matter of vital interest to racing patrons in the country, who must rely entirely on the published quotations.

Mr. TAYLOR (*Enoggera*) [12.13 p.m.]: Some thought should be given by the Government to the establishment of a Racing Appeal Board to which owners, trainers, and jockeys can appeal against the decisions of the stipendiary stewards. Fairly warm "ramps" have been pulled off on the courses in Brisbane. During the past twelve months most glaring reversals of form have been witnessed. It would be difficult to find in any part of the world where horse-racing is regarded as the "Sport of Kings" more glaring reversals. For instance, about a month ago "Spear Prince" won at Ascot with 9 stone 2 pounds up. He cantered in front of the field, notwithstanding that he ran last on the previous Saturday. If one could have a more glaring reversal of form I should like to hear of it.

This is an opportunity for the Government to take some steps to control racing. The Queensland Turf Club was able to handle the position fairly well up to the depression, but the abolition of the Kedron Park Racing Club threw into the ranks of registered betting all the "toughs" and hard-headed men and "squib" horses in the racing game. These facts left their mark on racing under the control of the registered body in Brisbane, and no doubt brought into the arena of registered racing a number of persons who are past-masters at the art of doping or loading a horse, or working shrewd "ramps."

During the depression years there was only a limited supply of money available to keep the racing game going, and the competition was accentuated.

The stewards have a very hard row to hoe. I have heard them referred to as the "Three blind mice." The stewards are appointed by the Queensland Turf Club, by men who race horses and punt. It is quite obvious that men who race horses and punt on those horses and who are members of the committee of the Queensland Turf Club have to deal with other persons who own and control racehorses. I do not think under these circumstances the operations of the stewards can be wholly free from the influence of the overlordship of the executive of the Queensland Turf Club, who race horses. I think the Govern-

ment would be well advised to consider taking the appointment of stewards out of the hands of racing clubs by appointing a board of control and allowing it to be untrammelled and not subject to the dictates of executive members of racing clubs who race horses and who are more or less professional punters. That would have the effect of cleaning up the racing game.

The incidence of S.P. betting has been largely reduced, although not entirely eliminated. The co-operation of the Commonwealth Government is essential before it can be completely stopped. Up to the present the Commonwealth has refused to co-operate with the State. It installs a silent telephone for anyone who pays for them and does not bother about the purpose for which they may be used. The lack of co-operation by the Commonwealth with the State makes it extremely difficult for the police to eliminate S.P. betting; but although they have laboured under great handicaps they have succeeded in reducing it to a minimum.

I think that there are only two racing clubs in Brisbane who give their patrons service and accommodation commensurate with the entrance fee they pay, the Queensland Turf Club and the Doomben club. I do not think the Albion Park Club gives service and accommodation to patrons commensurate with the entrance fee it charges. According to the totalisator turnover of the last twelve months, the attendance at racecourses must have doubled. That increase in attendance must result in increasing the revenue of the clubs, and so they must be able to do the right thing by the patrons of racing.

I understand the clubs are making a move to increase the stakes. That will be very welcome to the men in the racing business, which can be regarded almost as an industry. If a man invests £2,000 or £3,000 in racehorses he, like all other investors, wants to get some return for his money. That return he can get only by the prize money and in the facilities for punting, if he is a professional punter. These are matters to which the Government should give consideration.

An attempt has been made to institute a system of flats on certain racecourses, areas where the working class people can obtain accommodation on the racecourse for the entrance fee of 1s., but the racecourse at Albion Park is too small to allow of that and it may not be possible to do so there.

The Government should watch the services given to the public for the entrance fees charged and those clubs that do not comply with the Government's requests should have their charges overhauled and, if necessary, reduced.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN (*Dalby*) [12.22 p.m.]: I think there is some justification for some of the remarks that have been made as to the happenings on racecourses. The legislation passed by the Government last year had the object of reducing the cost of racing to the public, but up to the present there has been no cheapening, with the exception that one of the clubs has decided to put in a free flat. I do not object to that, but the general public who attend racecourses do not want a flat free of charge. When free flats were in operation there was no control over them, and on one occasion a man was kicked to death. It was then

[Mr. Power.

decided to make an entrance charge of 1s. and provided the club gives services and provides a certain amount of protection from the weather, no person could object to paying this charge.

The entrance fee of 2s. 6d. to the leger is all right, provided there is suitable accommodation. There has been no reduction in the entrance fee to the paddock.

An hon. member referred to privileges. The price of liquor supplied on a racecourse should be the same as at a hotel. The public should be protected and the holders of the liquor licenses on racecourses should not be allowed to bring the bottom of the glass up near the top and the top down to the bottom in order to defraud the public.

Mr. TAYLOR: That is known as a glass with a high waist and a low neck.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I should like to have a glass to exhibit to hon. members to show really what I mean. It is pure deception. The public are not getting value for their money and in such matters the Government should protect them in some way from exploitation.

I am the President of the Trainers, Owners, and Breeders' Association, and although the racing clubs are doing their best to increase the prize money—the metropolitan clubs are doing so—we say that we should be better satisfied if they adopted the following suggestion: If a racing club is able to increase its prize money by £5,000 it should increase it by only £2,500 and reduce nomination and acceptance money. The owners and trainers are the persons who provide the sport, and from what I know of them I can say that their financial position is worse to-day than it was years ago. Only about 6 per cent. of those who race horses to-day actually own the horses. The remaining 94 per cent. of the horses are owned and trained by what is known as the owner-trainer. At one time a man was able to own and race a horse, but that class of man has almost disappeared and his place has been taken by the owner-trainer. These men are battling for a livelihood, and to increase prize money from £500 to £1,000 means an advantage to only one owner-trainer, the one who wins. These men would prefer a reduction in nomination and acceptance money to such a heavy increase. Of course, it would mean that they would get less prize money, but they are prepared to forfeit that.

Take the illustration I have referred to. A club proposed to increase its prize money by £5,000 a year. The owner-trainers held a meeting and decided that a letter be written to the club asking it not to increase the prize money to that extent, but to reduce the nomination and acceptance money to equal the £2,500. Although that request was made no effect has yet been given to it. As I said before, trainers are battling for an existence and the cost of racing is heavy and indefinite. The average man who goes to a race meeting knows what it will cost him, but the man who trains horses does not know what training costs will mean to him exactly. I am satisfied that if the Government would do something along the lines I have suggested much satisfaction would result.

The Government could also help racing men and stop betting at S.P. betting shops if they reduced the totalisator percentages. At the present time it is 14 per

cent. It is really 13 per cent. and a fraction, but for practical purposes we take away 14 per cent. from the people of this State. The totalisator percentage is higher in Queensland than in the other States. Some of the other States only take 10 per cent. I think if a reduction in the percentage was made racing clubs would not lose, because there would be a still greater investment on the machines, and the Government would not lose a great deal. The deduction of this 14 per cent. is driving a number of persons away from the course and encouraging off-the-course betting.

I have an illustration to put before the House. Supposing a number of persons go to a race meeting with £100. They place that sum on the totalisator for the first race of the day. It pays only £86. Following that up we find this position. £86 on the second race returns £72; £72 on the third race returns £58; £58 on the fourth race returns £44; £44 on the fifth race returns £30; £30 on the sixth race returns £16, and £16 on the seventh race means only £2 return. It will be seen from that illustration that with seven races in a day £98 out of the £100 goes to the totalisator. The persons who walked on to that course with £100 leave it with only £2.

At 12.30 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the chair.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Would he not lose all his money if he did not pick a winner?

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I am endeavouring to show that a group of persons, if they paid £100 into the totalisator, would take out only £2 by the end of the seventh race. Even if the amount paid in is £500 or £1,000, the result is the same. Fourteen per cent. is deducted by the totalisator officials after each race. Therefore, at the end of the seventh race £98 will be deducted out of every £100 invested during the course of the afternoon. One man out of the group contributing the £100 might walk off winning £10 or £20, while another might walk off losing £10 or £20, but the fact remains that of every £100 invested on the totalisator £98 is deducted by the end of the seventh race.

Mr. MANN: It is good enough for any fool who goes to the races.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: I am pointing out what actually happens, and surely the hon. member realises that it is the duty of the Government to protect the people. The totalisator is there for the poor man to make a bet. People will bet. If adequate facilities are not provided for them they will bet in spite of the Government. The evil is there, and the best thing we can do is to endeavour to reduce that evil to a minimum. If we are to make the evil as small as is possible, we must protect those persons who are foolish enough to bet. I agree with the hon. member that persons who bet are fools. I admit that after having had forty to fifty years' experience. The point is that so many of us are fools, and do bet. Human nature cannot be changed. If the Government desire to do something really worthwhile for the protection of those who attend race meetings, and to help them to enjoy a day's amusement as cheaply as possible, the only way in which they can do so is to reduce the

Mr. Morgan.]

percentage deducted by the totalisator. It should be reduced from 14 per cent. to 10 per cent.

In Melbourne the deduction is 10 per cent. and in some of the other States it is 11 per cent. I believe that in England the amount deducted is less than 10 per cent. Ten per cent., however, would be more reasonable. Four per cent. could go to the Government, 4 per cent. to the racing club, and 2 per cent. to the company controlling the totalisator. Under the present system I understand that 5 per cent. goes to the Government, 5 per cent. to the racing club, and about 3½ per cent. to the controllers of the machines. By reducing the amount to 10 per cent. the Government would find that the revenue derived from this source would be equal to that derived at present by deducting 13½ per cent. The racing clubs would find that they would not lose because the number of bets on the totalisator would be increased. I make that suggestion to the Assistant Treasurer for his consideration. I trust that he will endeavour to do something along the lines I have suggested.

Hon. members must realise that betting on the totalisator is the fairest means of betting. It does not matter to the totalisator which horse wins. It is no concern of the totalisator to endeavour to stop a horse. With the bookmaker, however, the position is different. He may stand to lose several hundreds of pounds if a certain horse wins. He may want a certain horse not to do its best, and if he cannot induce the owner to agree to his suggestion he will approach the jockey. If he cannot achieve his object through the jockey, he will arrange for somebody in the race either to give the horse a bump or to pocket it or to do something else to prevent it from winning. It can be seen, therefore, that it is better in every respect to bet on the totalisator if the percentage that is deducted is fair and reasonable.

Mr. CONROY (*Maranoa*) [12.35 p.m.]: The hon. member for Kelvin Grove has made a very helpful contribution to the debate, especially in his comments on the expense that have to be borne by the people who go to race meetings. After a race meeting is held we read in the paper of the great profits that have been made, but the hon. member complains that no attempt has yet been made to reduce the charges of admission to the course. I think that consideration should be given to this matter by the clubs, because after all it is the public who keep racing going. If they remained away from the racecourses there would be no races.

The hon. member for Dalby has referred to the totalisator charges. I take it that he has worked out the figures and that his statement is correct so far as it goes. I have not worked out the figures, but if his statement is correct then racing must be worse than "bingo," because I suppose 80 per cent. of the people who attend race meetings put their few shillings on the totalisator. According to the hon. member for Dalby their money is wiped out by totalisator charges.

The hon. member for Enoggera expressed the opinion that a board should be set up to control racing, but I emphatically differ from him. No matter what racing may be to-day, I think it should be controlled by a registered club. We have one of the finest clubs

in Queensland in the Queensland Turf Club. It has done everything possible for the comfort of its patrons. The grounds are beautiful, and many persons attend the races not with the object of betting but to put in a pleasant afternoon. That being so, I do not agree that the control of racing should be taken away from a club like the Queensland Turf Club.

The Minister may be able to help to remedy some of the difficulties that have been described, but I cannot see what he can do about some of them. Racing is recognised as the king of sports, and it has become a very fine art indeed, so fine that we hear all sorts of stories about horses that do not try and horses that are doped. It is generally well known that some non-tries are starters solely for the purpose of having a gallop that will help in their preparation for a win later on. I am very fond of racing. I have been interested in it all my life. I have never owned a racehorse and I have no wish to do so, but I think racing is a very fine form of entertainment.

I have also come to this conclusion—and it is a very true saying, especially under present conditions—that a mug is born every minute. My experience is that hundreds of mugs are born every minute, and many of them find their way to the racecourse. This will continue to be so, and I do not see how we are going to prevent it. The only thing we can do is to exercise as strict a supervision as possible over our race meetings. I am quite satisfied that whatever the Minister in charge of racing can do he will be only too pleased to do.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. F. A. Cooper, *Bremer*) [12.41 p.m.]: I have not an intimate knowledge of racing, but I presume it is like most sports. In my youth I had acquaintance with foot running, cycling, and coursing, as well as all good sports properly conducted. I know of no better sport than cycling, foot running, and coursing, but I do know that all these sports gradually died away and became non-existent in some places. That was due to the fact that certain elements entered into those sports which eventually killed public interest. Not that the people were not interested in good clean sport. If horse racing is the same kind of sport, I am certain that if ill-practices creep in it will also become non-existent.

Horse racing is not supported from any trust fund, but by the racing public. I presume, as one hon. member said, that a mug was born every minute, so far as cycling and foot running were concerned, and if the public are prepared to support the things that some hon. members say go on then they have only themselves to blame. I have not an intimate knowledge of racing, but I do not believe that the racing game is just a game of illegal practices, or what one might call snide or sharp practices. One hon. member instanced the wrong running of a horse. He said it ran a particularly bad horse on the Saturday, and on Monday it cantered home and won. I do not know much about a horse, but I do know that a horse is not a machine, which if given a certain amount of oil and power will give you the same performance every day. The hon. member who complained that this horse did not give the same results every day is not a consistent runner himself in this Chamber. I have heard him

[*Mr. Morgan.*

make some very fine speeches, and on the next afternoon I have heard him make a speech that was not true to the form he previously displayed. That is true of all hon. members. I have heard some hon. members say to another after he resumed his seat, "By jove, you were in good form this afternoon. You were right on the top of your form," while the following afternoon the same hon. member made a speech not worth listening to. Men, like horses, display all sorts of form.

Mr. TAYLOR: You are not apologising for the racing game?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I am not apologising for the racing game. I do not know that the hon. member has devoted much time to it, or has lavished much cash on it.

Consequently, I doubt the soundness of the hon. member's opinion. I am not apologising for the racing game, but am looking at it from the vantage point of an outsider, for I know that horses, like men, run in all manner of form.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: And punters, too.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: That is so.

Mr. MOORE: If you go home in the tram with him he will let you know what a good sport he is.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: That is true. I venture to say that those who go to race meetings are not like elephants. They say the elephant never forgets, but the people who go to racecourses forget.

I do not believe the public are being taken down as has been said to-day. If that were so racing would die—very quickly indeed. I believe accidents happen on racecourses. I believe that jockeys at times develop a marvellous muscular activity and they are able to retard the progress of a horse. We have the story of a gentleman who was a great racing enthusiast and owned horses and met the jockey as he came in to get off. He said to him, "What has delayed you?" (Laughter.) That appears to me to be something that happens on racecourses sometimes.

What I do not understand is this: That notwithstanding all that is said everybody seems to be anxious to get the right oil.

Mr. T. L. WILLIAMS: The dinkum oil.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The dinkum oil. If there is real oil—dinkum oil—on the racecourse, probably that is the place to go for it; and people who like to get the dinkum oil—or who like to believe they are getting the dinkum oil—go to that place for an afternoon's amusement, and they say, "I did two quid, but I had a good day's sport. I was beaten by a head and had a good run for my money."

Mr. MOORE: They never say that; they always say, "The cow pulled him."

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I believe that in the racing game, as in other games, there are apologists who say, "I had a good time. I'll fix him next time." I am not interested in that phase of it. I do not believe that it is the job of a Government to take control of racing to the extent of endeavouring to see that every race is run fairly and squarely.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Surely, that is the job of the racing clubs. Would anyone say it is the Government's job to go to the cricket ground and ask Bradman, "Why did you get a duck? Last week in Adelaide you got 421." (Laughter.) It is not the job of the Government to do that sort of thing, or to ask a footballer to explain why he could not hook a ball this Saturday when he hooked it last Saturday. We run in all sorts of form. Sometimes we are in good shape, sometimes not. We do the same things differently at different times. I do not believe it is the duty of the Government to take control of racing any more than it is their job to take control of football or cricket. At the same time, we have taken certain measures, and I think those measures are being carried out for the benefit of racing generally.

Mr. TAYLOR: You will have Archbishop Wand wanting you to preach a sermon on the Ascot racecourse next Saturday.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I am prepared to believe this: If Archbishop Wand were to preach a sermon on the Ascot racecourse we should get a greater amount of truth from him than we should from the hon. member even if he had lived on the Ascot racecourse—sometimes we are too near the wood to see it.

In reference to the three racecourses in Brisbane, Ascot, Doomben, and Albion Park, one hon. member said that the amendment of the Racecourses Act has been in force for twelve months. It has not. The Act was not assented to till last December. It has been in force about nine months. It took the Government some time to appreciate the real position, and it has really been carried out for six or seven months. Since then flats were made on the three courses. I have seen the photographs of the building on the Doomben course, but I have not seen the building. A building is being put up at Albion Park, and a great improvement has been made in the flat at Ascot. I am assured by persons who have an intimate knowledge of racing that the flat accommodation at Doomben and Ascot beats the accommodation at Randwick and Flemington, the biggest racecourses in Australia.

Complaint has been made about the situation of the flat at Doomben. I point out that the flat at Doomben is closer to the winning post than the lever at Randwick. When I was given the distance from the winning post to the flat at Doomben I wired Randwick and got the measurement from the winning post at that course to the nearest point of the lever, and the farthestmost point of the flat at Doomben is closer to the winning post than the nearest point of the lever is at Randwick.

Mr. PLUNKETT: You could expect that, too.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Yes. As a matter of fact, it is a small racecourse and it would be closer. I am also assured that Albion Park is a good racecourse in that there one can watch a race from start to finish from the flat or any other part of it. One can see very little of a race from the flat at Randwick.

Mr. MAHER: The flats cannot see from the flats.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: That is the unfortunate part

Hon. F. A. Cooper,]

of it, the flats do not always see from the flats. There are some flats so flat that they cannot see. (Laughter.) That is the difficulty in the racing game.

Mr. KANE: Some flats do not even see their ledgers! (Laughter.)

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: As to public shelters, I can assure hon. members that better shelters have now been provided than previously. A suggestion has been made that a shelter should be capable of covering every man who goes on to the racecourse. In this respect also I made inquiries from the South and placed such a suggestion before the racing authorities, but it so astounded them that I could not shut my mouth quickly enough to prevent their falling into it. (Laughter.) I find that at Randwick there is shelter from the wet for 8 per cent. only of the attendance on the course, and at Flemington the percentage does not reach even 8. In Brisbane there is cover for a greater percentage of the attendance. As a matter of fact, the public are better catered for in Brisbane than at either Flemington or Randwick. I noticed that a namesake of mine announced that he had done with racing at Randwick. I felt very much inclined to despatch him a telegram asking him to come to Brisbane and pursue his enterprise here, as he would get a very much better spin.

For the past six or seven months, since the amendment in the Act has been in force, prize-money has increased approximately 12 per cent. That is a fairly substantial increase.

The hon. member for Dalby has asked that we do something to decrease the percentages taken by the racing clubs from the totalisator. I remind him that investors may bet on the totalisator or with book-makers. There is a choice. If we took 4 per cent., as he suggests, on the figures for 1935, the latest available, there would be coming to the Queensland Turf Club, approximately £574. Surely to goodness, that is not an amount of money that would make for the greater encouragement of racing! Those who attend races would not get a better deal by cutting down the totalisator percentage figures.

This is the Treasury Estimate, and I congratulate the hon. member for Dalby on the very fine lesson on finance he gave to this Committee. He quoted the instance of a group of men with £100 amongst them attending a racecourse and investing the sum on the totalisator, race after race, until they left the course with £2 at the end of the day, although they had won back all their money.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: How could they win it all back?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: They had won on every race and got back the maximum amount they were entitled to.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: It is not every person that wins on every race.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The hon. member took a group of men, who he said invested £100 and got back £86. To do that they would have to win all their money back, less the percentage.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: £14 left every time.

[Hon. F. A. Cooper.]

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: There is £14 left every time. The £100 that these people started with showed a turnover on the day of nearly £500. Somebody stated that £500 went through the tote. Only £100 was taken down. That is a little lesson in circulation.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: You do not know what you are talking about.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I know what I am talking about and I know what the hon. member was trying to talk about, but I am afraid he does not understand his own talking.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: You do not understand.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I say that if a group of men, and only that group of men, attended a racecourse with £100 and invested that £100 only on the tote, the dividends should be £86, because 14 per cent. is deducted.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: That is exactly what I said.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: If £86 was invested on the second race, the turnover would be £186.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: And another £14 would be deducted.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: If the hon. member will listen—

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall have to enter a protest. (Laughter.)

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: And the protest is upheld. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. member for Dalby to restrain himself.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: £100 is all that is invested to win £86. If the £86 is invested on the second race the turnover of the totalisator is £186—if there was only £100 on the course in the first instance. That is the little lesson in finance I was endeavouring to teach the hon. member for Dalby.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: That does not alter my opinion.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Nothing can alter the opinion of the hon. member.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that every care is exercised to see that the Act is properly administered. We have received messages of appreciation from clubs and the public for having done something to put racing back where it belongs. The racecourse is the place for racing, and everything connected with it. We have received the thanks of racing clubs for what we have done. I was in Rockhampton on Saturday week, and the president and secretary of the club there, together with the committee of the club, personally thanked me for building up racing in Rockhampton. I told them that it was not my work, but it was brought about by a small amendment of the Act. The Ipswich Amateur Turf Club has assured me that racing has been put on a better footing in that area because the Act has given it the opportunity. If the Act gives racing clubs the opportunity to improve, it must in the long run give the same

opportunity to owners, trainers, and jockeys. I cannot imagine racing clubs so blind to their own interests that they will destroy the livelihood of the men who are the basis of the game. To-day racing is a business, it is not a sport. At one time racing was the sport of kings, but it is no longer a sport in this country. A racing man recently told me that if he could win a £200 race with each horse in a year it would enable him to keep race horses. All he had to do was to win one race each year with each horse and he was secure, so far as expenses were concerned.

The hon. member for Dalby has not been generous enough to supply me with any information. He has not come along and said, "Such and such is a good thing for next Saturday." I think he is a bit scared as to what is a good thing for next Saturday. We have enough confidence in the clubs to believe that much more will be done by them. It is all very well talking about the toughness of the sandwich and the weakness of the tea, but I think those are matters for the racing clubs themselves to look after.

MR. GAIR: What about admission charges?

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Yes, charges for admission to the leger and flat have been reduced, but not to the paddock. Where there was no flat before, people can now get on a race-course for 1s., whereas they could not get on it for that amount before. The paddock, I believe, is where persons go who can afford to spend £2 or £3 in an afternoon on horse racing. I am concerned about the people who go to the leger and the flat. On each of two courses where no flat existed before, there is one to-day.

MR. RIORDAN: What about the size of the glass?

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: I know nothing about that. That is a matter for racing clubs themselves to look after.

The only other matter that I desire to mention is that of the starting prices as published in the newspapers. At times there were discrepancies or differences of opinion amongst the newspapers as to what the starting price of a horse was, but I understand that there is now an agreement amongst the betting fraternity and bettors in general that the prices as stated in the "Courier-Mail" shall be the recognised starting prices on all racecourses. I believe that the quotations are usually obtained from the ring, and it is understood that those are the average starting prices of the various horses.

Resolution 16 (The Treasurer—Chief Office) agreed to.

Resolution 17—"Bureau of Industry"—

MR. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*) [2.2 p.m.]: This resolution deals with the Bureau of Industry, a department that furnishes statistics in connection with our businesses, our employment, and unemployment. Some very interesting statistics in connection with Queensland are to be found in the latest issue of "Economic News," the journal published by this department. Figures that concern most hon. members to a great extent are the business index in this publication. The average is set out for each year up to August last. The index figure for August, 1937, is given as 96.9. Although that is

not back to normal, it is well on the way to that point. The "Economic News" points out—

"The index is a composite of the nine individual indexes given in the next column, being a weighted average, adjusted for increasing population and for price movements. The last three unadjusted averages for periods of three months have been 102.3, 103.9 (revised), and 106.3. For the last three individual months the figures have been 104.5, 108.8 (revised), and 108.5.

"All the indexes are relative to normal seasonal fluctuations."

The activities of this department are numerous, and the addendum attached to the "Economic News" contains heartening news about the season in Queensland. Some of our primary industries have been very hard hit during recent months by drought conditions. The heartening news to which I have referred to—

"Fairly good storm rains have partially relieved the situation in most parts of the south-eastern districts."

I am sure that everyone is pleased to know that all districts from Central Queensland to the southern border have had good rains during the last week-end, and I know that we are all hopeful that those rains will be the means of re-establishing the industry in the south-eastern parts of Queensland. In particular do I hope that the dairying industry will be rehabilitated. I know that throughout the whole of the south-eastern districts, including Ipswich, dairy farmers have been hard hit by the drought. The rain has also relieved the water-supply difficulty for Brisbane and Ipswich. The Bureau is endeavouring to conserve further supplies, and only this morning we read the exceptionally good news in the paper that after the recent rains the water is now about 18 inches over the weir at Mount Crosby, and that the council has begun again to pump water from the Brisbane River into Lake Manchester. I do not want hon. members to think that there is enough water at the present time to fill Lake Manchester, because pumping operations would have to be continued for probably six months to fill the dam. However, the pumping operations will relieve the acute position that existed prior to the rain.

All the talk by hon. members opposite that the Bureau of Industry started the works at the Somerset Dam on the Stanley River fifty years before their time is so much nonsense, as events during the past twelve months have proved. It is absolutely necessary that further water should be conserved for the people of Brisbane and Ipswich. It is interesting to review the work that is being done at the Stanley River Dam. Last year the Bureau furnished very interesting information in its annual report, but so far we have not received the report for the last financial year. I took the opportunity of visiting the dam, with others, to see the work that is being done. Although the report supplies detailed information of the work, it is very helpful, too, to see the work actually in progress.

MR. NIMMO: When is it likely to be finished?

MR. GLEDSON: According to the Bureau of Industry the project will take five years from the time that the first concrete is laid.

Mr. Gledson.]

No concrete has yet been placed in position, but the board expects to start that work within the next few weeks. I do not know the exact date, but according to the last report on the works, issued after my visit, all the preliminary work is almost complete. This is an enormous undertaking, the vastness of which cannot be appreciated unless one actually visits the site to see what has been accomplished by the Bureau. Nearly all the work that has been carried out at the dam site during the past two years has been preliminary work.

About 350 men have been employed there for the past two years. The Bureau has assembled the necessary machinery on the job for carrying out the work. Its stupendous nature can be realised by the fact that the actual building of the dam has not yet begun.

The whole of the work to date has been preliminary work. The retaining wall to divert the river water from its natural course has been completed, and workmen are now engaged in digging the foundations inside that wall for the dam itself. That will be an enormous undertaking. Thousands of tons of rock have to be blasted from the river bed and removed before work on the foundations can be started. One of the most up-to-date mechanical steam shovels is operating on this work. The way in which it removes the rock and over-burden is certainly an eye-opener. The power lines, which were erected by the Brisbane City Council, have also been completed. These have enabled the whole township to be electrified, and consequently great use is being made of electric current. There is a steep mountain on each side of the Stanley River, and it has been necessary to build large concrete abutments in order to erect two flying foxes to carry concrete and machinery from one side of the river to the other. In addition, thousands of tons of metal have been crushed ready for the laying of concrete. Large quantities of sand have also been obtained. The work of getting ready for the major job is an enormous undertaking in itself. Practically two years have been spent in this manner. The Minister might let the House know when it is proposed to begin the actual work of building the wall. Reports say that things are almost ready, but the actual starting time is of interest to all concerned.

It has also been necessary to build a new township. On most pioneering works the job was started, and the township built up gradually. In this case the township was built before the work was begun. The township consists of houses for married officers and married workmen, with mess rooms for single men and those men who have not brought their wives to the township. The township is practically self-contained. Provision has been made for medical and ambulance services.

Mr. NIMMO: Haven't they got golf links and a bowling green?

Mr. GLEDSON: The latest reports I have show that golf links have been made. I do not think a bowling green has been laid. That has to be done by the men concerned. The men pay into a certain fund, which they control. It has nothing to do with, nor is it controlled by the Bureau of Industry. The magnitude of the undertaking is apparent when we remember that two years have been spent on preliminary work.

[Mr. Gledson.]

I draw attention to the diagram on the back of the "Economic News" for October this year. It should be of the greatest use to members on both sides of the House because it informs us of the position in regard to employment and of the number of persons who are likely to be looking for employment till 1957. It sets out the number who will reach the age of twenty-one in each year. In explanation of the diagram it says—

"The present age of the persons in each group, the year in which they will reach twenty-one, and the probable number surviving to that age, are printed on the diagram. The lower numbers in the earlier years are from children born during the war. No account is taken of migration since 1933. The figures are estimated from the number of persons of each age living in 1933 (the last census), specific mortality rates in 1934, and actual births since 1933. Apart from migration, the only influence that can affect the figures would be future variations in death rates. No increase in births or in birth rates can affect the numbers already born."

According to the diagram the number of children who will reach the age of twenty-one this year is 18,070. In 1938, it is estimated, 17,740 of those now aged twenty will reach the age of twenty-one. 17,480 of those now aged nineteen will reach twenty-one in 1939, and 17,440 of those now aged eighteen will reach twenty-one in 1940. It is part of the work of the Bureau of Industry to have a record of the number of those who are likely to reach certain ages and will probably be in need of employment, and at the same time to stimulate industry and foster new industries in order that employment may be found for the youths who are reaching maturity.

The last report provides much interesting information about certain industries that have been assisted. I am sorry the report for this year is not available, because it would be interesting to compare the activities of this year with those of last year. It would be interesting to learn if the industries that have been assisted are still in a flourishing condition. The Dinmore pottery received help, and it is pleasing to note they have been able to turn out a product that compares favourably with a similar product imported from the other States and other parts of the world, and it is encouraging to the Bureau of Industry to know that the aid rendered to this industry has been so fruitful.

Mr. BRAND: That is from the loan fund, isn't it?

Mr. GLEDSON: It is under the Bureau of Industry. There was some trouble in connection with this industry six months ago, inasmuch as the factories in other States exported their surplus products to Queensland to compete unfairly with the Queensland article, but this has been so with many of Queensland's industries. The Bureau of Industry had to investigate the dumping of certain goods in this State. I refer particularly to boots and shoes. The Bureau of Industry ran the risk of losing the money it advanced to the Dinmore potteries and Queensland workers would have been thrown out of employment. The

Bureau should very closely watch imports from other States of goods that compete unfairly with those of Queensland manufacture. No objection can be taken to fair competition, but when Southern factories can dump their surplus product on the Queensland market at prices less than cost the Bureau should make every endeavour to prevent it.

The Bureau of Industry is a very important department of this State. It supplies valuable statistics among which are those that show the trend of employment.

Mr. POWER (*Baroona*) [2.23 p.m.]: The Bureau of Industry should give consideration to the speeding up of the construction of the Stanley River Dam. A few months since we had a water shortage in the metropolitan area, and from day to day the citizens do not know when they will be faced with a similar situation. A larger number of men could be employed and the work expedited.

I am not at all satisfied with the way in which labour has been selected. There have been many calls made at the Labour Bureau for workmen but the calls have been for men capable of working jack-hammers. Surely every working man on the Stanley River Dam is not operating a jack-hammer? The method of selection has been very unfair, and it is necessary that an overhaul should be made.

Nor is the treatment accorded to the men selected at all satisfactory. A man living in my own electorate was selected, and after working there for a short time was told to bring up his furniture. This man had his furniture transported to Somerset, and within a few days of its arrival was told there was no further work available for him and he was dismissed. I took up the case of this individual, together with those of two others, but the only information I received was a stereotyped note stating that the services of the men had been terminated as they were not suitable. If these men were not suitable to work on the construction of that dam why were they advised to arrange to have their furniture brought up? One went so far as paying for the transportation of his effects, but, as I have said, within a few days his services were terminated.

In the selection of men for work at the Stanley River Dam only those with a knowledge of jack-hammer work were called for. Many men were selected for work there who had no knowledge of the jack-hammer and some had never seen one. I think a form of trickery was played on many unfortunate men who had long terms of unemployment registration. That matter should receive proper and thorough investigation.

I also know that the selecting officer chose men at the Labour Bureau irrespective of the date of their registration, just on the ground that he wanted jack-hammer men. I know that there must be work there for other men besides jack-hammer men. I do not attach any blame to officers of the department in Brisbane for anything that has taken place in this direction. I appreciate the good work done by Mr. Bridgen and his staff—work of national importance. The position of many industries has been investigated by his staff, and in some instances Government aid has been granted to them. The money advanced by the Government with

this object in view has been the means of doing work of national importance. I am sorry that the report of the bureau for last year is not on the table, but I know many persons have been placed in employment.

Mr. BELL (*Fassifern*) [2.28 p.m.]: I can speak with some knowledge of the work at the Somerset Dam. Whether or not we approve of the expenditure in that direction, I think we must congratulate the board on the work it has done up to the present. It is being carried out efficiently and the men employed work under excellent conditions. The hon. member for Baroona complained about the way in which the men were selected, but it must be understood that there are always men who are not quite competent. I do not think there is any justification for complaint as to the method of selection or treatment. I trust the Government will leave the whole matter in the hands of the board and will not meddle with its operations or try to force it to accept labour not competent to do the job. If they attempt to do that they will be disappointed in years to come in the way in which the work has been carried out as to both cost and efficiency.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Hon. F. A. Cooper, *Bremser*) [2.29 p.m.]: I thank the hon. member for Ipswich for the complete resume he gave us of the activities of the Bureau of Industry. The Government appreciate his eulogy of the work done by that body. The Dinmore pottery, to which he referred, is doing very well at the moment, although some time ago the management was not altogether satisfactory. I can say that it is now satisfactory and the articles being turned out are of a high order.

The price is lower than the price of any article that comes from either the South or overseas, and I believe that the local article is a better one. An examination of a broken imported article and a broken local product will disclose that the material that is used in the Dinmore article is of better quality than that used in the one imported from the Southern States in particular.

One factor that operates against the wider use of the local product is prejudice. Some builders in Queensland, for some reason or other, prefer the article from overseas or that produced in the South. Notwithstanding any evidence that can be placed before them as to the highly satisfactory nature of the product that is turned out at Dinmore, they still prefer the basin, or whatever it might be, that their mothers used. The only thing that is now standing in the way of the continued success of this institution is the prejudice against the local article.

With reference to the suggestion of the hon. member for Baroona as to the employment of labour at the Stanley River Dam, I assure the hon. member that the matter certainly will be inquired into, and any unfairness or injustice that is being done will be corrected. As the hon. member will know, a job can carry so many men, and I believe that the Stanley River job is carrying all the men that can be conveniently carried by it if one considers the best interest of the work.

Another consideration that the hon. member for Baroona will also understand is that only so much money is available for the

Hon. F. A. Cooper.]

various jobs of the State, and if we could employ more men at the Stanley River Dam we should have to transfer them from somewhere else. We cannot employ more men than the money that we have at our disposal will allow us to pay. Desirable as it may be to employ more men on the Stanley River Dam, we can employ only the number needed for carrying out the work efficiently and effectively, and I believe that is being done at present.

In reply to the inquiry made by the hon. member for Ipswich, I may say that the work that he mentions will be commenced, in all probability about the end of this month or early in November, unless floods or anything of that nature intervenes to prevent the natural progress of the job within a day or two.

Resolution 17 (Bureau of Industry) agreed to.

Resolutions 18 to 32, both inclusive, agreed to.

Resolution 33—"Forestry"—

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*) [2.33 p.m.]: Immediately prior to the week during which the House was in recess, I had the opportunity of visiting North Queensland, of traversing the main highway between Innisfail and Ravenshoe, and of seeing some of the work that this sub-department is doing there. I can assure hon. members that it was certainly an eye-opener to me. Roads are being constructed preparatory to carting timber to market. The construction of access roads to the standing timber has been the means of providing employment for large numbers of men, and of opening up new country. The road is a splendid one from Innisfail right through to Ravenshoe, and this district is now being visited by tourists from all over the world. While I was there I met a party of visitors from New Zealand who were loud in their praises of the Queensland forests and their scenic beauties, and freely admitted that they had nothing to compare with them in New Zealand.

There are a large number of sawmills in the district, including a particularly big one at Ravenshoe, all busily engaged in milling timber. I was told that at the present time there was a ready market for walnut and maple, but that although they were cutting millions of feet of silky oak there was no market for it, and it was virtually going to waste. We can all remember that not so very long ago, before the Labour Government embarked upon a policy of reforestation, millions of feet of our most beautiful timber were cut and destroyed in the clearing of land for agricultural purposes. That wasteful policy has been stopped, but although there is now no attractive market for silky oak trees are again being destroyed.

Mr. NIMMO: The trouble is that the Sub-Department of Forestry charges too much royalty on the timber.

Mr. GLEDSON: That is not the reason. The hon. member may be able to tell us much about timber royalties, but I am endeavouring at the moment to save these trees for the people. Perhaps the Minister has heard the same report, that a considerable number of silky oak trees are being destroyed to make room for agriculture. I do not know whether anything can be done to prevent this wasteful practice, but at least something should be done to save the

trees. I think it will be admitted that the timber from young trees has not the strength or the resistance that one can confidently expect from matured trees hundreds of years old. That is borne out by our experience with matured ironbark, red gum, and other hardwood trees in close proximity to Brisbane. The timber from the old trees has withstood the elements for years, but the younger timber is not very long in use before it shows signs of deterioration, such as dry rot, and generally does not endure like the older trees. That fact should be kept forcibly in mind in connection with a policy of reforestation. Perhaps the Sub-Department of Forestry may be able to take steps to preserve the old silky oak trees to meet future requirements and prevent them from being ruthlessly cut down to make way for agriculture.

Once again I commend the department for its reforestation work in North Queensland. Tourists from all over Australia were full of praise for the work the department has done and is doing in those areas.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. P. Pease, *Herbert*) [2.40 p.m.]: The action of the hon. member for Ipswich in directing attention to the situation that has arisen in the marketing of silky oak is to be commended. He saw the position as he travelled through the plantations, particularly in North Queensland. For months past the Sub-Department of Forestry had been fully seized of the situation. We have begun a very intensive advertising campaign in the interests of our silky oak. As I mentioned in a previous debate, we had a most distinguished visitor in Brisbane in the person of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, who, when selecting panels for his study in London, chose silky oak from the timbers submitted to him. We were offered an order from America for all the walnut we could produce in Queensland for the next five years. I told the inquirer that we could not sell walnut but we could sell silky oak. In our intensive advertising campaign for silky oak we have had many articles, such as cigarette cases, powder boxes, and pen handles made of it, hoping that by the distribution of these articles almost all over the world the people would be arrested by their beauty and thus demand silky oak.

One of the features of silky oak that is not generally recognised is the fact that it can be stained in so many different colours. Experiments were made quite recently when it was found that silky oak is adapted to the application of almost every colour. This adds to its beauty and uses. Quite recently we conducted other experiments. In consequence we are having samples of silky oak panels in eight or ten different colours despatched to various schools in the State, schools in other States, and places overseas, with the object of displaying its beautiful grain.

I am pleased to report that as a result of this campaign we have been receiving an increasing number of orders for silky oak. During Exhibition week eighteen land commissioners visited Brisbane and heard a lecture by an officer of the Sub-Department of Forestry on our timbers, particularly silky oak. We printed some thousands of leaflets on the quality of this timber, and these officers had been asked to distribute them in their districts. I can assure the hon.

[Hon. F. A. Cooper.]

member for Ipswich that we shall overcome the present difficulty of disposing of our silky oak supplies.

Before I sit down I wish to direct the attention of the House to the reforestation programme of the Sub-Department of Forestry. During the discussion of the Estimates of the Department of Public Lands we were criticised for not expending the whole of the revenue derived by the Sub-Department of Forestry on reforestation. I will give the House the exact expenditure on reforestation for the purpose of showing that the present Administration have not been lacking in the discharge of their duty. The following expenditure discloses that the Government are trying to make up the lag in this direction:—

	£
1929-30	29,833
1930-31	40,736
1931-32	44,347
1932-33	52,545
1933-34	70,000
1934-35	85,064
1935-36	114,311
1936-37	123,983

It will be seen that the total expenditure on reforestation from 1929-30 to 1931-32 was £114,916, against £445,904 for the five-year period from 1932-33 to 1936-37.

I want to show the House how the Government have dealt with the reforestation problem since they took office. More than half of the total acreage of plantation in this State has been established during the period the present Government have been in office, and 157,577 acres were treated for natural regeneration, of which 142,495 acres were treated for the first time, as against a total area of 82,518 acres which were treated up to 30th June, 1932.

I want to drive home those figures because only yesterday I received a letter from the Timber Merchants' Association of Queensland asking the Government to increase reforestation, and drawing attention to the fact that it was with alarm that they read the debate in the Chamber on the Estimates of the department, in which I pointed out it was impossible for the Government to overtake the lag caused by the many years during which there had been no reforestation. What I wished to point out was that it is impossible for this Government to grow trees in a few years that would have a marketable value when it takes twenty-five to thirty years for these trees to attain maturity. We are doing more than any Government in Queensland ever did in reforestation. I want to drive that home—that whatever else happens the Sub-Department of Forestry is doing more in reforestation than was done before in the history of Queensland.

Mr. NIMMO: Out of loan money.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: No, out of its own money. We are using loan money for reforestation. I am glad the hon. member mentioned that. Again I mention that in the letter I received from the Timber Merchants' Association only two days ago they took up the cry of the Opposition that we should spend more of the revenue from royalties in reforestation. As I said before, we are spending more of the moneys derived from royalties, before those royalties reach the Treasury, than was ever spent before in the history of Queensland.

Last year we spent over £300,000 that was received from royalties in the timber industry, and it was only the balance that was left after that amount was expended that went to the Treasury. In addition, the Treasury is spending a considerable amount.

I had a very interesting talk with the Director of Forests the day after the debate in this Chamber. The Director is quite satisfied that with his policy of regeneration we are doing everything that it is possible to do. Only to-day the Director handed me the estimates of what he considered necessary for the purposes of reforestation in this State in the coming year, and the amount exceeded the amount we had appropriated in the various sections of the Estimates by about £26,000. In view of his remarks and after consulting with the Land Administration Board in connection with the provision of the money, I authorised the finding of that £26,000 in order that the full programme laid down by the Director of Forests and which he considers necessary for this year will be carried out.

In that work over 150 youths are provided with employment. Those youths have been working for the Sub-Department of Forestry during the last two years. I wish to make it clear there is no sweating of these boys. They have an award, by the consideration of the Sub-Department of Forestry. During 1936-37, 133 youths were employed in reforestation, and the amount they drew in wages was £13,875. If you work that out you will see these youths are paid a fair wage. We are not using youths with the idea of sweating them and having them do work that should be done by men at higher rates of wages. These youths are being trained in the service and they have an award, and when they attain the age of twenty-one they automatically enter the forestry service at the basic wage of the day.

Mr. NIMMO: That is the Commonwealth grant.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The Commonwealth grant has "gone pop." It is only a three-year grant, and we are using about ten times the amount in building the road into Kirrama to exploit the timber there. The grant from the Commonwealth for forestry this year is £7,500. Hon. members will see that that is almost less than half the amount these youths received in wages last year for their reforestation work. The number is increased annually. The Director of Forest points out in his report that the number employed this year is 150 as against 133 previously, which number received £13,875 in wages. The increased number will require a sum of over £15,000 to meet the increased wages bill, and that amount is twice that which the Commonwealth Government granted us.

Mr. NIMMO: That grant was only for forestry.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: That grant was entirely for forestry, and the Prime Minister has warned us that this is the last year we shall get it. I am hoping that after next Saturday week we shall have as Prime Minister of the Commonwealth a man who will do his duty by the youths of the Commonwealth.

The hon. member for Oxley said the amount paid in royalties was too high. That is not correct. As a matter of fact, the

Hon. P. Pease.]

Sub-Department of Forestry is open to consider royalties with any section of the industry. Generally the industry is quite satisfied with the royalties.

In the discussion on the Estimates for the Department of Public Lands a complaint was voiced that the Government were subsidising the shipping of timber to other States. But how has that been accomplished? Royalties have been reduced. On the one hand, hon. members opposite complain that we are doing something we should not do because royalties are too high, and on the other that we are reducing royalties in an endeavour to encourage trade with the other States. They cannot have it both ways. They must be consistent. They cannot complain to-day that the royalties are too high when previously they were concerned because they said we were granting too much by way of concessions to get trade in the other States. The royalties are not too high, and those in the industry who should know their business are quite satisfied with them.

Last evening the hon. member for Dalby, in discussing another vote, made some comment as to timber combines. There is no combine in the timber industry whatsoever. The only pool in it is the plywood pool. Every man of the plywood industry in Queensland is in that pool, and I can assure hon. members that no one concerned in that industry would to-day abolish that pool.

MR. BRAND: Everybody has to pay royalties.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Yes. We consider our millers and others in connection with royalties. A member of the Timber Advisory Committee is also a member of the pool board. He attends the weekly meetings of the board, and whenever questions relating to royalties are debated they are brought to the notice of the Director of Forestry, and the department is concerned to see that forestry charges are not too high. We are in complete accord with every section of the industry. I do not know of any field in which there is greater agreement between the Government and the members of the industry than there is between the Government of to-day, the Sub-Department of Forestry, and the timber industry generally.

MR. CLAYTON: Have you made any grant of timber to millers?

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: We do not make grants of timber to millers. The Sawmills Licensing Act, so strenuously opposed by hon. members of the Opposition, was one of the finest things ever done by the Sub-Department of Forestry. There were some who cavilled at it and said that it might injure the mills of smaller capacity, but these are now satisfied it is the best thing that ever happened. Very shortly I am meeting in conference the whole of the industry—representatives of the North, Central, and South—to investigate what more can be done as between the industry and the department for further rehabilitation. There is complete accord between the Government, the Sub-Department of Forestry, and the timber industry of Queensland.

Every one is satisfied that one of the best things that was done was the licensing of sawmills. We have a complete record of all the sawmills in this State. If time would permit, I would read a list of them. There has been no infringement of the rights

of country people. The Leader of the Opposition can be assured that whatever else happens through the licensing of sawmills country mills have every protection. In number of units they are stronger than other interests, and if it came to a question of units having votes, country sawmills would have a greater preponderance of power because they would have two-thirds as against one-third in the metropolitan area. We are bringing about complete organisation in the industry, and next year when debating the forestry vote, members of the Opposition who have been condemning the licensing of sawmills will be converted and probably think they initiated the matter.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: You will not be here.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: I shall be here all right when the hon. member is not here. I represent a true country constituency, and there are many sawmills in my area. Each and every one of those mills will see that I am returned because they are satisfied this Government are the best Government for all units of the industry.

I want to place on record an extract from the "Australian Timber Journal" for July, 1937. This journal is the recognised organ of the timber industry in Australia. Quite recently, when an interstate forestry conference was held in Queensland, the management of this journal sent a special representative to attend. He travelled right through Queensland when the conference delegates made a survey of our forest position. This is how the editor of that publication sums up the position—

"Of one thing I feel certain—that the whole party leaves Queensland firmly convinced that for scientific forestry management—the Queensland service leads Australia."

I am quite satisfied to conclude on that note. I appreciate the fact that I have been able to inform the House that this Government have done more for the timber industry than any other Government in Australia.

Resolution 33 (Forestry) agreed to.

Resolutions 34 to 36, both inclusive, agreed to.

Resolution 37—"Department of Mines—Chief Office"—

MR. T. L. WILLIAMS (*Port Curtis*) [2.59 p.m.]: As I happened to be ill when the mining vote was before the Committee I thought I should do well to intimate my desire to speak on this resolution and so get an opportunity of dealing with the industry.

Persons interested in mining who read the Press this morning will have noted the returns for the whole of the Commonwealth of gold output, and observed the considerable rise that has taken place in the gold yield during the past twelve months. It is pleasing to note that Queensland has played its part in this important matter. As a matter of fact, Queensland has made an abnormal advance in the production not only of gold but of other minerals as well. In 1936 Queensland produced 121,174 fine ounces of gold, valued at £514,717 standard, as compared with only 102,990 fine ounces of gold, valued at £437,473 standard during the previous year. Minerals other than gold

[*Hon. P. Pease.*]

realised quite a big sum during the year. The figures for 1936 for minerals other than gold disclose that they realised £2,625,373, as against £2,050,192 in 1935. The value of the return to Queensland is considerable, and if time permits I shall deal with the value of this industry to the State in other directions, principally that of relieving unemployment.

The direct value of the return to Queensland of the mineral production, including gold, was £3,140,000 for 1936, as compared with £2,486,000 in 1935, an increase in value of approximately £654,000. And this means more to Queensland than the mere pounds, shillings, and pence in which we are apt to measure them. They mean increased employment in almost every industry, because mining is the mother of most of our secondary industries. There is a definite impetus to wealth production, and in this respect the State and the Minister have much of which to feel proud.

We as a Government have adopted a bold and sanguine mining policy. Results have proved that policy to be worth while. In fact, twice as many men are now employed in the mining industry as were employed in it during the years 1931-32 and 1932-33. The extent to which this policy has been the means of relieving unemployment is ample proof that the Government are alive to their responsibility of helping every department to relieve unemployment and stress resulting therefrom as far as possible. Encouragement is given to prospectors in particular in almost every part of the State. The phenomenal increase in gold and other mineral production can be attributed to a very great extent to the increased employment in this industry as a result of the Government policy. Press reports of what the Government have done and the way in which the Minister has used the funds at his disposal go to show that the expenditure has been worth while. The financial help given to prospectors is one of the Government's best activities from the point of view of a direct return to the State.

A number of significant comments concerning this improvement in the industry and in connection with the employment of labour have been published from time to time. The "Courier-Mail" stated—

"Prospecting is being encouraged in Queensland and that is good policy."

The Brisbane "Telegraph" of the same date says—

"Generous assistance and encouragement has been given to mining by the Queensland Government."

Mr. J. P. Blaikie-Webster, when chairman of Mount Isa Limited, had this to say—

"The increase in mining activity throughout the whole of Queensland is of great benefit to employment and the State generally. The efforts of the Queensland Government to foster the mining industry are being watched overseas with a friendly and appreciative eye."

It is always wise to give credit where credit is due, and one must give credit to the Minister and the Government for their activity in this connection. It is pleasing to know that the Press in the city of Bris-

bane, and perhaps the provincial Press, too—I shall not quote extracts from the provincial Press, because that would take too long—are satisfied that the Government have met their obligations in this connection. The Government do not claim credit for the increased value of gold, but they do—and rightly—take some credit for the increased amount produced and for the extra employment that their policy has created. These figures showing the number of men employed in metaliferous mining are an indication of the important bearing that the policy of the Government has had on the problem of unemployment—

1930	...	...	...	...	2,594
1931	...	...	...	...	4,322
1932	...	...	...	...	5,299
1933	...	...	...	...	6,047
1934	...	...	...	...	6,199
1935	...	...	...	...	6,064
1936	...	...	...	...	6,371

In addition, approximately 2,000 men are employed in the treatment of ore at smelters and various mills, compared with 1,204 in 1930; and upwards of 2,500 men are employed in coalmines of the State.

Much has been said, perhaps not of recent times but some time back, about the wisdom of the Government in helping Mount Isa Limited. The help has been considerable, but it has been worth while, and in a report issued by the Minister some time ago, he said—

"Naturally the activities of such a gigantic concern as Mount Isa overshadows all else. There, the immense sum of, roughly, £4,000,000 has been expended to bring the world's greatest silver-lead field to its present stage of production, and when it is realised that the lead production of Queensland last year was valued at £629,253, as compared with £4,169 for 1930 (the year immediately preceding the establishment of Mount Isa as a producing concern), the influence this important enterprise will exert on any impending trade revival can be visualised. In addition, Mount Isa in 1936 produced zinc valued at £453,356, whereas no zinc was produced in this State in 1930."

That the success is due in no small measure to the administration by the Government is proved by the eulogistic remarks by the late Mr. Leslie Urquhart. He was chairman of directors of Mount Isa Limited for a while, and he attributes the successful start of that company to the helpful attitude of the Labour Government that held office prior to 1929. Speaking on that subject, Mr. Urquhart said—

"I should like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the constructive and helpful attitude of the Queensland Labour Government towards Mount Isa. The Government realises how much the success of the Mount Isa enterprise means to the State in helping to re-establish the credit of Queensland in the eyes of the financial world."

The help given to the Mount Isa Company has been worth while, and the effort of the company itself should be appreciated.

The Department of Mines has successfully adopted a bold and sanguine policy right through the piece, and has given an impetus

Mr. T. L. Williams.]

to the development of mining generally and to prospecting in particular. The efforts of the Government to develop the mining industry must be apparent to everybody.

We can claim credit for much of the recent development and revival that have taken place in the mining industry in Queensland. We have endeavoured, too, through the goodness of the Minister, to help the small man as much as, if not more than, the bigger man. Our chief concern at the present moment is the encouragement of the prospector who is prepared to go out and work, not loaf on the job and just take his £1 or £2 allowance for a single and a married man respectively.

It is doubtful if any enterprise has fostered employment in the North more than the smelting works at Chillagoe. I have figures that tell their own story of this undertaking, and it might be just as well if I used them. They show the number of producers supplying ore, and the number of producers supplying fluxes. They are—

	1937.	1936.	1935.
Ore:	626	502	297
Fluxes	20	22	11
Totals	646	524	308

The number of persons directly and indirectly affected by the operations of the Chillagoe smelters has increased in the same period from approximately 4,000 to 5,000.

I wish to pay a tribute to the Minister because I know that his heart and soul are in his job. Of course, we expect him to have them there. He has been successfully carrying out the duties of his important office in succession to the late Mr. Stopford. He has been, and always will be, the champion of the miner, whether he be a humble prospector, or the big man connected with the big mining concern. On his elevation to office the "Courier-Mail" had this to say of him—

"He has the advantage of having had practical experience, and in the Mines Department it is unquestionably an asset to have a political chief with experience of mines and minerals. He will bring to his work that fresh and vigorous outlook and may be depended on to leaven his administration with tact and judgment."

So far the predictions of that article have proved to be correct.

The interest of the Minister in mining is shown conclusively by the exhibit that was arranged by his department at the last Brisbane Exhibition. It was not only an exhibit from the department but a medium of education also. Some time ago the Minister received a letter of appreciation from the Secretary of the Department of Mines in Victoria. It is worth reading—

"Mines Department, Melbourne, 2nd October, 1937.

"Your 'Queensland Government Mining Journal' for September, 1937, contains, as usual, much excellent matter, including a very fine account (with photographs) of the Mines Court at the Brisbane Exhibition. I shall be obliged if you can kindly arrange for three additional copies to be forwarded addressed to me, marked 'personal.' May I take this opportunity of complimenting you

[Mr. T. L. Williams.

upon the general excellence of this journal, which is circulated regularly to the officers of this department. Yours, etc., G. Brown, Secretary."

That goes to show that the Minister, by taking a personal interest in an educational display of that character, is carrying out his duties as expected of him. It also shows that he has begun his administrative work on the right track, because he has successfully grappled with the problems associated with his department.

I am very pleased that the "Queensland Government Mining Journal" receives such recognition, although I am afraid it is not read as closely as it should be. I do not wish to say anything unpleasant, but in this building one often sees a number in the waste paper basket or discarded on the floor or on a table. If hon. members were to scan its pages they would be seized of the great work that is being done by the Minister, the Under Secretary, and the various officers of the department, and they would become more acquainted with the department than, unfortunately, is the case to-day.

I am glad an aerial survey was conducted; and in this respect we have to thank the Commonwealth Government for its contribution of £75,000. Hon. members are no doubt aware that Queensland and Western Australia contributed an equal amount, and that a total of £150,000 thus was used for this purpose.

I dealt with employment as it related to mining and prospecting generally. The Government did promise to reduce unemployment and they have carried out that promise in every possible way through every department; and as I stated a while ago the Department of Mines fulfilled its obligations in that respect.

Speaking at the last annual meeting of the Mount Isa Mines Limited, the then chairman of the company, Mr. Blaikie-Webster, said—

"The company is experiencing a shortage of skilled labour, and while the management continues the work of training miners it is unfortunately unable to meet the shortage of skilled men for other work. With the increasing employment now so marked in Queensland, this shortage is becoming more accentuated."

Mr. Webster there referred to the employment that is taking place as a result of the mining policy of the Government.

I think I can be pardoned for making reference to my electorate because there is a great diversity of employment in that area. Cotton growing, general farming, grazing, and to a considerable extent mining activities are carried on. The department has shown a great interest in helping the mining fields in operation and in granting aid to revive some of the fields that have been regarded as dead for some years past. In my area the chief centres in which mining is carried on include Eidsvold, Monto, Monal, and Calliope, in the vicinity of Gladstone. I have a personal knowledge of most of these fields and the men engaged there. I can speak feelingly and with gratitude of the Minister's kindly interest in these fields and those who are endeavouring to obtain the gold that has so far eluded them. The department does not grant aid haphazardly, but whenever a good case is placed before it in regard to a mining show or a prospector

it has not refused assistance. The department has come to the help of mining fields in my electorate and other electorates to the extent of purchasing machinery and building access roads. Practical sympathy has been shown. There are on an average 107 men engaged in prospecting in my electorate and the amount they recovered in various localities represents twice the value of the amount made available in the way of assistance for prospecting purposes.

Of course, it does not follow that each prospector finds his share of gold. Gold-mining is a gamble, and only those who are prepared to do the job properly and hunt for the elusive metal will be encouraged not only by myself, but by the Minister and the department.

It is worthy of note that the Gladstone-Eidsvold and Cracow fields produced gold and minerals last financial year of a value exceeding £250,000. For a district that is not regarded as a mining area that is indeed something worth while. Probably I should not touch upon Cracow, as it is in the electorate of the Minister, but there has been development there and a model township has arisen in the bush. This development of mining at Cracow is due to the Minister and his predecessor, the late Hon. J. Stopford, and the mining policy of the Queensland Labour Government.

The Secretary for Mines has travelled over a large part of the State, and it is pleasing to note that a Minister of the Crown displays such interest in his work. All Ministers do. By travel they become not only au fait with the position generally as regards their own department, but meet those who are concerned in the industry. The Department of Mines is fortunate in having as its administrator a man with the ability and knowledge of mining possessed by the hon. gentleman.

As an illustration of the practical aid rendered to prospectors and to mining activities generally I can point to what has been done in my own electorate, which includes the mining warden's district of Eidsvold and Gladstone (including Monto, Monal, Calliope, and other mining centres). For the financial year 1936-37 the figures are as follows:—

	£	
Repairs, Glassford Creek to Lady Inez road	100	
Repairs Calliope to Tableland road	125	
	£225	
Prospecting assistance—		
	£	s. d.
Gladstone	3,074	10 0 to 94 men
Eidsvold	166	13 4 to 13 men
	£3,241	3 4 107 men
Subsidies for development work and purchase of machinery, etc.—		
	£	s. d.
Gladstone	364	5 9
Eidsvold	266	5 0
	£630	10 9

In addition, many important gold or mineral discoveries have been made during the last few years in this territory. With the provision of liberal prospecting aid there has been much mining activity, and as a result several rich pockets of alluvial gold were discovered at Cornwall's Paddock.

Production figures of the field for the year 1936 were well maintained, as the following figures show:—

	Gold.	Value in Australian Currency.	Other Minerals.
	Fine oz.	£	£
Gladstone	654	5,622	3,798
Eidsvold	98	858	86
Cracow	30,513	266,989	640
Total	31,265	273,469	4,419

Gross value £277,888.

These figures indicate that the aid granted has been worth while. I have already expressed my appreciation to the late Hon. James Stopford, and now take this opportunity of thanking the present Secretary for Mines for the continuance of that assistance. I hope he will continue to grant it, not to throw money away, but to make it available to deserving men after careful investigation. The officials do right to go very carefully into the claims made upon the department.

I thank the Minister, his Under Secretary, and the officers of his department for rendering assistance not merely to me, but throughout the State in the revival of the mining industry.

Mr. WELLINGTON (*Charters Towers*) [3.25 p.m.]: The Mount Isa mine and treatment plant are situated in the electorate of the Attorney-General, and I feel that he is quite capable of looking after all matters that concern them. The mine is recognised throughout the mining world as one of the greatest organisations in existence. Statements made in the prospectus issued by the Mount Isa Company to investors in Australia and Great Britain have been realised. The company was not responsible for the fall in the price of silver-lead. But for the operations of Mount Isa people in Western Queensland would have been in a deplorable position during the late drought period. The Railway Department would not have been able to send stock and fodder out to necessitous farmers at reduced rates.

The Mount Isa Company, together with other huge mining companies in Queensland, have adhered to the awards of the Industrial Court. Although there is a little disease connected with mining operations at Mount Isa—I refer particularly to plumbism—the laboratory at the mines is doing much useful work. It is generally recognised by the medical profession that few men come away from Mount Isa still suffering from plumbism.

The Trekelano mine, near Cloncurry, has received many concessions from the Railway Department. As a matter of fact, I spoke to the Minister some time ago as to the desirability of seeing that the Trekelano mine received concessions from the Railway Department.

Rich concentrates from Charters Towers are used as a flux at the Chillagoe works. Chillagoe to-day under its new management is a paying concern. The Charters Towers district and the Ravenswood district have been forwarding to Chillagoe rich concentrated ores, and this has been the means of reducing the cost of smelting at Chillagoe. I think the Minister should recognise this fact.

Mr. Wellington.]

In the Ravenswood area there are rich gold and silver deposits, but the owners of these concerns have to pay mileage rates for transport by motor truck from Ravenswood to Ravenswood Junction, and this cost is very heavy. The Railway Department, as well as the Chillagoe smelters, would receive benefits from this ore, but the people concerned cannot afford to produce the ore and pay the heavy costs attaching to its transport to Chillagoe. If a concession in the neighbourhood of 12s. a ton was granted to the miners in Ravenswood it would enable them to make a success of their ventures.

I understand a very favourable report was received in connection with Ravenswood dumps, and the Government are giving consideration to it. A number of parcels of this material were forwarded to the mill in Charters Towers and the inspector of mines supervised the crushing. I am pleased to be able to say that the returns are most satisfactory.

Mr. Judge, representing the Eureka mines, is coming to Brisbane on about the 26th of this month to enter into negotiations with the Minister in regard to the dismantling and erection of a new mill outside Ravenswood. This will be of great convenience to the public. Their ores will be crushed and treated at this mill at the same rates as those charged by the Venus mill in Charters Towers. Its erection will mean not only increased employment in the district, but it will tend to reduce the loss suffered by the prospectors in having to pay the cost of transporting their ores to Charters Towers for crushing.

While at Charters Towers recently the Minister received a deputation concerning Mount Leyshon, a 3-dwt. proposition. In Mount Morgan it is proposed to work a 2-dwt. proposition. With the present price of gold Mount Leyshon would be a 100 per cent. success. The Minister has been good enough to say that if any person desires to take up Mount Leyshon he will be prepared to subsidise the undertaking on a £1 for £1 basis to the extent of £1,000. When I return to Charters Towers I intend suggesting to the business people of the town that they form a syndicate, that, say, fifty of them contribute £20 each. That sum, together with a subsidy of £1,000 from the Government, should go a long way towards making development of Mount Leyshon a success. I am confident that the Government will be well repaid for every penny they invest in it.

Another mine to which I wish to refer is a gold and silver working in the electorate of the hon. member for Kennedy. There the prospectors, after paying for the cost of transporting their ore by rail to Chillagoe and for treatment at that place, receive no return. I had a conversation with the Minister concerning the matter and he understands the position thoroughly. He is very favourable to giving some measure of help to those men.

The Leader of the Opposition the other day mentioned the "Queensland Government Mining Journal." No man can be expected to memorise the whole of the information contained in that publication. Miners have come to me seeking information on certain matters contained in the journal, and I have told them that copies may be had at the Department of Mines. During the last twelve

or eighteen months a great improvement can be noticed in this journal.

The present Secretary for Mines has appointed geologists and inspectors, but I believe that more inspectors should be appointed, not merely for the purpose of making inspections, but for the purpose of educating the men engaged in the industry as to the intricacies of mining. There is a shortage of experienced miners in Charters Towers, and the people there are thinking of asking those miners who went to Mount Isa from Charters Towers to return to their district. New men have to be educated.

Thousands of pounds are spent in sending men overseas for the purpose of obtaining information in connection with the sugar and wool industries. Why should not the Government allow inspectors or geologists to tour not only Queensland but the other States of the Commonwealth also in search of the latest information concerning the mining industry?

We should send our experts to the other countries of the world too. The hon. member for Cooroora suggested that we should send them to South Africa, to Brazil, and to other countries. The Department of Agriculture and Stock has deemed it advisable to send its experts to other countries to gain wider knowledge in the interests of agriculture. Why not send some of our best mining men abroad to gain knowledge in the interests of the mining industry?

The School of Mines at Charters Towers has turned out some brilliant men. Mr. Len. Grant and eleven others, products of the Charters Towers School of Mines, are now employed in the Newcastle steel and iron works. Queensland is capable of educating mining men who are capable of taking their places in the mining world outside Australia. Let us be up and doing on behalf of our own promising brilliant men.

THE SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. T. A. Foley, *Normanby*) [3.36 p.m.]: It is very encouraging to me and my department to hear the remarks of hon. members on the important subject of aid to the mining industry.

It is very difficult indeed to add much to the speech by the hon. member for Port Curtis. He surveyed a very wide field dealing with the assistance to the mining industry, not only in his own district, but throughout the State. He struck a very important note when he suggested that the department should continue to help prospectors, syndicates, and others to develop not only likely new shows but also many of the old shows that were abandoned because of low values. The department has followed such a policy for a number of years, and latterly the amount spent on this object has been considerably increased. At the present time several thousand prospectors are being helped at the rate of £2 a week for married men and £1 a week for single men. The department has also helped them to get fracture where shooting is necessary and also with steel and other tools to enable them to continue operations. As a result of that policy quite a number of mines of some importance have been developed in various parts of the State.

For example, quite a number of miners have been engaged for a considerable time

[Mr. Wellington.]

in the Mielere district, approximately 23 miles from Clermont, and although all of them may not have been successful many of them have been able to locate new leads on what was believed to be a worked-out and abandoned field. For many years it has been thought that there were no more new leads on the old Mielere diggings, but the aid given by the department has induced men of the adventurous type to search again for a rich strike and by sinking, in a number of instances to a depth of 160 to 200 feet, they have been successful in locating some very nice alluvial leads that provide work for quite a big body of men at very remunerative rates.

I have in mind some men I worked with before I entered Parliament. They approached me with a view to getting financial assistance from the Government to explore the Mielere diggings. Many of those prospectors were not in the position to even meet the registration fee of the old motor truck they had. As a result of representations I made and the little aid granted by the department, I have known quite a number of these men to earn eventually from £15 to £40 a week for a very long period because they struck rich leads.

No matter what part of the State you examine, similar results will be found. Take Charters Towers, for example. Quite an encouraging strike has been made at Lolworth. That field was discovered by a prospector who was working with assistance from the department. It has now developed to a point when large capital is interesting itself in its possibilities. I believe we shall find a great amount of development with a considerable amount of employment to men following the occupation of mining in that district.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Do these men ever repay the advances?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: We do not ask them to.

Mr. GODFREY MORGAN: Not after they do well?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: No. They are not asked to refund 1s. of the advance made. The advance is definitely a contribution or help to encourage the prospector to open up and develop mining fields. If it were not for this aid this development would not take place. Where assistance is given to develop a mine by sinking or driving the department enters into an agreement with the leaseholder to repay the advance at the rate of 10 per cent. of the proceeds won. The advance made to the ordinary prospector is simply in the nature of help to enable him to start work. If he is lucky in striking a rich patch no demand is made on him for a refund of the advance. There have been one or two cases where miners have voluntarily refunded the assistance advanced.

Mr. NIMMO: Taking the matter as a whole, has it been profitable to the State to make the advances?

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Yes, absolutely. If the hon. member reads the report of the Under Secretary to the Department of Mines he will find that the gold production on every field has far exceeded the amount advanced to miners.

Cracow is another illustration. Before the rush took place at Cracow the men prospect-

ing in that area were aided by the department. That discovery resulted in a big rush, and the department derived considerable revenue from the applications for leases. Later, with the aid of outside capital, one mine there, the Golden Plateau, was developed. We now have a population of approximately 800 to 1,000 people at Cracow, mainly dependent on the Golden Plateau mine. There are a number of other encouraging mines at Cracow that have not reached the same state of development as the Golden Plateau, but as time goes on one or two others may be developed.

The same applies to Herberton. Throughout the Herberton, Irvinebank, and Mount Garnet district the same measure of prospecting assistance or subsidy to carry out developmental work is given. All miners know there is a chance of gaining something from every mine that has been known or worked in the past, and as a result of their activities our mineral production from that area has been very considerably increased. Many of these mines may prove of great importance, such as the Canberra, where £10,000 or £15,000 worth of ore was taken cut over a short period. It was once the same as the hundred and one propositions in that district that are now being worked by small parties of miners and individual prospectors. In that area tin has a tendency to cut out, owing to the geological structure. In many of these shows the miners have followed the lode for some distance and it has disappeared. As a result of much experience in that district the miners are familiar with the geology of the area, and when a lode disappears they continue their operations because they know it will develop at some other point, but of course it takes a good deal of prospecting to locate it again.

Another example of the value of aid to mining is to be found in the Sarina district, where there is a mine known as the Grasree within a few miles of Sarina. This mine was worked away back in 1896. Quite a little township existed—hotel, stores, and a fair population. Much of the exposed part of that big lode was worked away back in that time, but eventually through treatment troubles the mine was abandoned. One man in that district who was acquainted with the work that was done at that time was successful in inducing a number of friends in the Mackay and Sarina districts to interest themselves in the matter, and, aided by the Department of Mines, reopened the mine, and in one of the tunnels that was in fairly good condition they sank a winze 80 feet into what is known as the sulphide section that had never been tapped previously. They were lucky to open up 60 to 80 feet of 2½-oz. mineral ore with very little expense. Every parcel they have sent to Chillagoe from that time up to date has realised 2½ oz. or over, and they have repaid the amount advanced by the department and extended their operations, and whereas at first they employed three or four men they are now employing in the vicinity of eight, and operations are expanding. Recently they established an assay office on the mine that will enable them to make assays on the spot so that they will know exactly the value of the parcels of ore that they will send away. Owing to the nature and the size of that deposit there is a possibility of its developing into a really good mine that will employ a considerable number of miners and also add

Hon. T. A. Foley.]

considerably to the gold production of this State. A face about 15 feet wide and 18 feet high—the stone going $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or over to the ton, as was proved by parcels already sent to the Chillagoe smelter—was being worked during my visit, and about £3,000 was realised on ore already won. Immediately it was opened up, a certain amount of ore was proved, and what will happen there will be that either new capital will take over and work the mine on a much bigger scale or the present owners will establish treatment works there and themselves develop the mine. In either case the result will be an increase in the number of men employed in that district.

When a small syndicate makes application for help it is returned to the mining inspector of the district for report. As soon as possible this official visits the site and reports upon it. These men are experienced, and if they can visualise a possibility that the assistance rendered will develop something worth while they make a recommendation to that effect, either on a footage basis or for mining machinery, as the case may be. The money is made available by the Minister.

The hon. member for Charters Towers drew attention to the necessity for the training of youths in the mining industry. As he has pointed out, quite a number of years have passed since there was any revival in mining, and during that time few or no opportunities have been afforded to our young men to engage in that industry and learn something of mining practice, breaking ores, timbering, and other processes in mining. Some time ago the Commonwealth Government intimated to the various States that a sum of money was available to assist in the training of youths, and although on two occasions the Ministers of the various States were sent to assemble in conference the meeting was adjourned. Up to the present nothing definite has resulted from the Commonwealth proposal. Through the Government, I have submitted a proposal that would mean the expenditure of a comparatively small sum of money only. Men should be appointed to visit the mining districts and give lectures on mining to youths and others interested. Very valuable information would be spread among the mining districts, and this would be of inestimable value to the young men and miners. Time will tell whether we shall be able to do anything in that direction. If the mining revival continues it may be that a way will be found to establish schools of mines, perhaps not of the standard to which they attained years ago, but at least of such a sort that they would help in the training of men to carry on the mining industry.

The hon. member also brought under notice the very encouraging result from a trial crushing from the Ravenswood district. There are some enterprising men there; among them is Mr. James Judge. He has gone so far as to arrange with my department for a trial crushing at the Venus mill in Charters Towers. From the various mullock dumps in that area it has been ascertained that 114,000 tons of ore are available for treatment. That estimate has been arrived at as a result of crushings from 160 points in the dumps. If that is the case the establishment of the necessary treatment plant in that locality is justified. It would naturally lead to the development of many other mines which at the present time have to forward their ore to

Chillagoe or Charters Towers, and high transport costs mean that the value of the ore won has to be very high to make that course payable. With treatment on the spot a very much lower grade ore can be mined, with fair remuneration for the men carrying out the work.

There is another important proposal in the Charters Towers district. As I have pointed out, the policy of the department is to subsidise or assist by way of subsidy. In other words, we contribute on a £1 for £1 basis, or sometimes more and sometimes less, if an individual owner, syndicate, or miner will contribute on a similar basis in labour or capital. On my recent visit to Charters Towers a proposal was submitted to me by representatives of various bodies that we carry out developmental work to ascertain whether a certain value exists at Mount Leyshon, which would encourage outside capital to work the mine on a big scale. The proposal as submitted to me was not in keeping with the policy followed by my department. We expect, at least, some contribution from those who are interested and if that is forthcoming we will do our part. I went so far in this matter as to have a report made upon the proposal by the inspector of mines at Charters Towers. A very careful investigation was made by this officer. He pointed out if the request was to be approved he would recommend that developmental work be done in a certain area in that mountain. The cost of this work would amount to approximately £2,200. I pointed out to the hon. member for Charters Towers—no doubt the old mining spirit still prevails in that town—that if there was enough interest in Charters Towers to raise £1,000 to enable this mine to be fully tested out by developmental work, my department would contribute its quota on a £1 for £1 basis. That offer has been extended to other districts in Queensland. If interest still lives in Charters Towers there are enormous deposits of ore averaging from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 dwts. that have been worked in the past under conditions different from those of the present time.

At 4 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. Hanson, *Buranda*) relieved Mr. Speaker in the chair.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES: Even then they were only about 2s. short of making the undertaking a payable concern. With the present price of gold and by the application of improved methods of working I honestly believe that a subscription by the business men of Charters Towers to the extent of £1,000, to be subsidised by the Department of Mines on a £1 for £1 basis, would be ample to prove the value of the lode. A larger company could then be formed to work the mine. At Mount Morgan, as a result of the application of that highly efficient method of extraction known as the flotation process, a $2\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. proposition is being worked successfully. At Mount Leyshon we have a proposition almost as big as Mount Morgan and of approximately the value of $2\frac{1}{2}$ dwt., possibly more, and all that remains to be done is a little developmental work to establish that it can be worked successfully. I am confident it can.

I assure hon. members that I am prepared, as far as the funds at my disposal will allow, to help any genuine mining prospector or syndicate who are prospecting for gold or

[Hon. T. A. Foley.]

other minerals in this State. Small syndicates desiring to carry out further development work, in addition to the usual aid, will be helped to equip their mines with more up-to-date plant, machinery, and other facilities that may be needed to carry on mining operations successfully under modern conditions.

Resolution 37 (Department of Mines—Chief Office) agreed to.

Resolutions 38 and 39 agreed to.

Resolution 40—“*State Mining Operations*”—

Mr. RIORDAN (*Bowen*) [4.3 p.m.]: During the debate on the Estimates for the Department of Mines the hon. member for Isis said that the Bowen State coalmine had shown a loss on last year's operations. The loss last year was £1,339, but that was offset by the payment of interest and royalties amounting to over £10,000. When one takes into consideration the fact that approximately 300 men are employed in this mine and that the wages paid to those men last year amounted to approximately £95,000, one can realise what a gigantic undertaking this is. State undertakings should not be conducted for the purpose of making huge profits. Their objective should be the development of the State and helping the various industries that may need their products.

Better conditions should be provided for the men employed in State undertakings. I know that the men employed in the State coalmine at Bowen are working under reasonable conditions, but those conditions could be improved. Certain mining men will achieve no good purpose by criticising this State undertaking because it does not happen to be making a profit. I was very pleased to hear the Minister say that although they were expected to clear expenses, the primary aim was to develop the mine and give reasonable industrial conditions to the workmen. That should be the object of every State undertaking. I do not say that it should not make profits at all, but the primary aim should be to develop the country and to give proper industrial conditions to the men in the industry.

The Bowen State coal mine supplies coal to Mount Isa and to the Bowen coke ovens, which, last year, for the first time, showed a profit of £779. The coke ovens produce 22,000 tons of coke annually, most of which is supplied to Mount Isa, but the coal is drawn from the Bowen coal field. The coke ovens employ sixteen to seventeen men at a total annual wages cost of £4,416. I regret that the industrial conditions there cannot be regarded as good. The men have already asked the Minister to improve them, and I believe that they now intend to submit an application to the Industrial Court. On a previous occasion, when work was rather slack, because Mount Isa did not take all the coke that it had agreed to take, the men refrained from asking the Government to improve their bad conditions or from making an application to the court because they did not want to embarrass the department.

Recently the State coke ovens received a trial order for coke from Noumea and some thousands of tons have been shipped. It is hoped that this will be the forerunner of

an export trade in coke. At the present time all the ovens are in operation, whereas prior to the order from Noumea and orders for additional supplies from Mount Isa and Chillagoe, some of them were not. This undertaking cost £50,000.

I should like the Minister to investigate the economic possibilities of producing by-products from coke. I understand that in other countries, such as Great Britain, one of the most profitable branches of the industry is the production of by-products.

I should also like the Minister to consider the advisableness of buying the Scottville mine, which is only about 3 or 4 miles away from the Collinsville mine. Each has its own office staff and each has to pay its overhead costs, but it has been definitely proved in England, and especially in Wales, that if mines are allowed to operate as single units they eventually become uneconomic. One of the drawbacks in the future will be the separate ownership of the Scottville and Collinsville coalmines, and the duplicated overhead expenses associated with their management. My friend, the hon. member for Charters Towers, has reminded me of this fact. Eventually, something will have to be done by the State to acquire the proprietary interest of the Scottville mine and thereby reduce these overhead expenses. I do not know whether the department has investigated the possibility of taking over the Scottville mine and working it in conjunction with the Collinsville State mine.

Statistics show that the Bowen coalfield is fast becoming the principal coalmining area of the State. Last year it produced one-fourth of the total quantity of coal mined in the State, or 250,000 tons. Each year the production is becoming greater. It would be advisable for the State to investigate the desirability of taking over the Scottville coalmine so that it might become an asset to the State in the future.

Mr. WELLINGTON (*Charters Towers*) [4.11 p.m.]: I desire to support the request made by the hon. member for Bowen that an investigation be carried out with a view to the State's taking over the Scottville proprietary coalmine. Collinsville is just beyond the boundary of my electorate. Here we have the spectacle of a State coalmine and a proprietary coalmine within a few miles of each other, worked independently, and having separate managements. The Scottville coalmine was formerly called the Bowen coalmine. I had a few shares in this mine, and latterly it has declared a dividend. It is not economical that we should have these two mines almost alongside one another working under different managements and with separate staffs. This adds to the cost of production. The Scottville company is paying interest to the Government on the cost of the siding that has been constructed to the colliery. In the interests of the coal-mining industry in that district I hope that the Government will carefully consider the suggestion made by the hon. member for Bowen.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. T. A. Foley, *Normanby*) [4.12 p.m.]: A very interesting point has been raised by the hon. members for Bowen and Charters Towers. I do not know of any proposal for the Government to acquire the Scottville coalmine, or whether the Government have ever discussed such a matter. However, the point raised by both hon. members is sound. It

Hon. T. A. Foley.]

is economically wrong that two mines in one district should be operating in opposition to one another, each bearing considerable overhead expenditure and capital, whereas one mine well developed could handle all the trade of the district. It is a matter worth investigating, but I cannot give hon. members any encouragement for a belief that the Government are prepared to consider such a proposal. One mine commands almost the whole trade of the district, while the other struggles along with heavy overhead expenditure and is only obtaining a small number of orders and is only able to give its miners one or two days a week. It is definitely uneconomic to the State, and it would be an advantage to the State if effect could be given to the suggestion.

The subject of coke by-products has been investigated. A treatment plant would involve a large amount of capital. One of the chief difficulties is that by-products are being obtained from coke manufactured in other parts of the Commonwealth, and only a limited market exists in Australia for them. The fact that high capital expenditure is involved, combined with the limited market, prevents any scheme from being put into operation at the present time.

I think we have reason to be proud of the operations at the Bowen State coalmine up to date. During last financial year £93,743 was distributed in wages and salaries from that mine, and the amount expended on stores was £2,903, and the suppliers of timber to the mine received £2,004. The expenditure directly and indirectly in wages amounted to £104,137. The losses are mainly attributable to the fact that we supply coal from the State coalmine at concession rates to enable certain industries to be carried on; in other words, we pay the miners the award rates for the production of coal and to help other industries we give certain concessions. The charge to the State coke works is not the ruling charge for coal. A rate of 10s. a ton is charged for the slack, which is used to produce the coke. As a result of these concessions Mount Isa Mines employ an army of workmen, not only in the mine itself, but indirectly also, and men in other occupations are kept working. I sincerely hope, as a result of the much more friendly spirit that exists between the management and the miners at Bowen, where what is termed as the darg is in operation, as time goes on there will be a compromise between the management and the miners whereby production will be carried out consistently throughout the whole year.

I raised this point with the miners, and they pointed out that one of the difficulties is the distribution of skips and they do not want any darg to operate; but while there is a faulty distribution of skips to the miners throughout the mine, naturally their idea is to bring the management into line so that they may get a more even distribution and continuity of production. Since my visit I have arranged with the management to keep more in touch with the committee on this question, which is a very important one to the successful running of the State coalmine, and the results will be closer co-operation with the miners. If the management finds itself faced with obstacles that cannot be overcome, by laying its cards on the table before the committee, the committee in their wisdom will con-

sider whether the darg will be applied to restrict production.

That is one of the most important things in the working of the mine. If we could get a continuous output from each pair of men from that mine over the next twelve months to supply the orders that are forthcoming—and, according to the inquiries we have had, orders will probably be received from other parts of the world—I am confident that next financial year we shall be able to balance the ledger. I sincerely hope we shall reach the point where we shall be showing a profit and that the Government will consider the making of concessions to the men who helped to produce those profits. There is no desire on the part of the Government to exploit the workers in that industry—I make that clear in this public statement. If we can get their co-operation I feel sure that the Government will recognise it and as we reach the point at which we can balance the ledger, and there is anything over, it will then be time to talk of concessions to miners that will make their conditions better and more comfortable than they are to-day.

Resolution 40 (State Mining Operations) agreed to.

Resolution 41—"Queensland Mining Journal"—agreed to.

Resolution 42—"Department of Health and Home Affairs—Chief Office"—

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*) [4.21 p.m.]: After reading the report that the Premier laid on the table when we discussed Golden Investments on a previous occasion I wish to make further reference to the operations of that company. The report of the Deputy Auditor-General confirms all I had to say when the Chief Office vote of the Department of Health and Home Affairs was under discussion last week. In addition to a commission of 10 per cent. on all tickets sold outside the State, whether through the company or by the "Golden Casket" office, the company is also paid 5 per cent. commission on all sales of tickets in mammoth and special "caskets" to persons outside the State by Queensland agents. Of the total commission received 80 per cent. was in respect of sales to persons outside the State effected by the "Golden Casket" office and by Queensland agents.

The report covers the period from 1932-33 to 1935-36, which is referred to by Mr. Ross, the Deputy Auditor-General, as being four years. The firm was registered only on the 18th April, 1933, so that the actual period is only three years two months and thirteen days at the outside. The total commission received was £86,118 4s. 6d., and the expenditure is shown as £59,259 12s. 8d., leaving a profit of £26,858 11s. 10d., which is equivalent to 31.2 per cent.

Mr. KING: What are you pointing out?

Mr. MAHER: If the hon. member who interjected hears me through he will have some understanding of my objective. That leaves a profit equal to 31.2 per cent.

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Thirty-one point two per cent. of what?

Mr. MAHER: That leaves a profit of 31.2 per cent. of the commission; 31.2 per cent. profit on the operations of the company.

[Hon. T. A. Foley.]

There was a surplus of profit over outgoings equivalent to 31.2 per cent.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Thirty-one point two per cent. of their takings is profit, not 31.2 per cent. of their sales. That is a different thing altogether.

MR. MAHER: We read the report further and we find the net profit is in the vicinity of 23 per cent.—a most handsome profit.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Twenty-three per cent. of what?

MR. MAHER: On the figures I have given here, 32.1 per cent. is gross profit, and when the overhead expenses of the company are taken into account they had a net profit of 23.8 per cent.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Percentage must have a relation to something. Do you mean 23.8 per cent. of the total sales of tickets?

MR. MAHER: Twenty-three point eight per cent. profit on the operations of the company. That is the position. Unfortunately, the Deputy Auditor-General did not give in his report a comprehensive balance-sheet. On page 10 of the report laid on the table of the House there is what the Deputy Auditor-General refers to as a summary of the balance-sheet. It shows the profit and loss account of the Golden Investment Company, and the years 1932-33 to 1935-36 are summarised to show the manner in which commission was received. £86,118 4s. 6d. was received in commission. My point is that this is merely a summary over a period of three years, and it is not a dissected balance sheet showing the results of the company's operations for each year of its existence. If that was shown it would indicate that for the last year profits had been abnormally high.

In the early operations of the company certain expenditure was incurred for advertising on a much higher scale than since. The company undertook newspaper advertising in the Southern States, and set out to do this in a comprehensive way. Much publicity was then given compared with the publicity given now. Since it started to advertise certain States prohibited the distribution of lottery literature and advertisements, and the company found it difficult to expend the money in that direction. It has reached the point now, so far as my observations go, that it has very little expense in regard to publicity of an interstate and overseas nature.

The company has been able, as Mr. Ross admits, to use the "Golden Casket" office for a great deal of the work attached to its operations. The "casket" office conveniently affords the labour necessary for putting in envelopes the dodgers and leaflets printed by this company; it provides the envelopes and the stamps.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: That is not true.

MR. MAHER: I say it is true.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: The subscriber provides the stamp.

MR. MAHER: I say that "casket" envelopes and stamps are used to convey leaflets to prospective subscribers in other States of the Commonwealth.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: I say you are not telling the truth.

MR. MAHER: I say that is so.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Postage is paid by the subscriber in every case.

MR. MAHER: The whole of the organisation of the "Golden Casket" office is available to this company. Is it right for the "casket" office to do the bulk of the work for this company, as the official figures show the greater part of overseas subscribers come directly through the "casket" office. Is it right that the State should be called upon to pay out £23,000 a year as a reward to this company for work which, so far as I can see, looking at the matter in an unbiased way, the organisation of the "casket" office is really carrying out? On page 9 of this report it will be seen that sales of special "casket" tickets by Golden Investments amounted to £104,837, sales of special "casket" tickets by "casket" office £637,760, and sales of special "casket" tickets by various Queensland agents £32,642.

At 4.30 p.m.,

MR. SPEAKER resumed the chair.

MR. MAHER: Of a total of £775,000 worth of sales the Golden Investment Company secured only £104,000 worth, and the "Golden Casket" office has been able to attract £637,000 worth. Can anybody say that we are justified in paying to this company the handsome sum that it receives, having regard to the fact that the "Golden Casket" office is really doing the work? Why do we permit the continuance of a contract that deprived the "Golden Casket" management and the hospitals of the State of the sum of £23,000 that was paid to it last year? If this company can show where it has honestly earned the commission on the sale of tickets in other States, it is entitled to be paid; but where we find that no evidence can be produced in this House to show where large sums of money have been expended in other States of the Commonwealth, and where we find that the "Golden Casket" office is being made use of by this company for the purpose of distributing its leaflets and that the subscribers send their money direct to the "Golden Casket" office, why tolerate the continuance of a company that is merely exploiting the "Golden Casket" management and taking advantage of the organisation of that office in order to gain profits to which it is not entitled?

Let the Minister produce evidence in the form of a balance-sheet duly audited, proving the amount of money that this company has expended on its own initiative to attract business. Why does this company have to send out its leaflets and instruct subscribers to forward money direct to the "casket" office? Persons may think, of course, that the "Golden Casket" office might have a better standing than the company, but the company knows, of course, that it gets its commission irrespective of whether subscriptions are sent direct to the "casket" office or through the Golden Investment Company.

A fair and businesslike arrangement would be to pay that company only commission on the sales that it obtains itself, and the business that is offered direct to the "Golden Casket" office belongs to the "casket" management and, of course, through the management to the State.

Some of the items of expenditure appear excessive, but there is no way of checking

Mr. Maher.]

them, because the figures are not given in enough detail. The item "Advertising, publishing, delivery, general, and travelling expenses expended outside Queensland" amounts to £7,385 16s. 9d., of a total expenditure of £59,259 12s. 8d. This bears out the contention that very little, if any, advertising is now being done, as most of this would have taken place in the early stages before it was prohibited by other States of the Commonwealth.

The report of the Deputy Auditor-General substantiates what I had to say when discussing the Estimates concerning the dodgers of this company, being enclosed in the "Golden Casket" mail. As a matter of fact, when I made that statement the Minister said, "That is a very serious charge." I stated that it was, and I reiterate it.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: You are saying something there that is unfair again. The "Golden Casket" does not pay for the stamps on this company's mail. That is not true.

MR. MAHER: In his report the Deputy Auditor-General says—

"It has been suggested that circulars of Golden Investment are enclosed at the 'Golden Casket' office in envelopes in which tickets are sent to the subscribers. In explanation of this . . ."

There is the admission—

"... however, it may be stated that the cost to the 'Golden Casket' office is practically nil as the return postage is paid by subscribers."

The point is that Mr. Ross's report bears out what I said that the leaflets were then distributed through the envelopes from the "Golden Casket" management. The Minister says that is not so. "In explanation of this," Mr. Ross says—in other words, admitting that it is so—"it may be stated that the cost to the 'Golden Casket' office is practically nil."

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: You said the "Golden Casket" paid for the stamps.

MR. MAHER: Wait a moment. When the leaflets are inserted in the envelopes obviously the "Golden Casket" office pays for the stamps on the envelopes that go out.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Are you so dense that you cannot understand what you said a moment ago? You quoted from the report of the Deputy Auditor-General that the stamps were paid for by the subscribers.

MR. MAHER: At some stage envelopes have to be used and stamps have to be used that are the property of the "Golden Casket" management. When the subscriber sends for tickets he provides stamps but those stamps may be for the purpose of returning the result slip. At some stage of the operation the "Golden Casket" management is responsible for the postage. Therefore I say that Golden Investments gets the benefit of the envelopes and the stamps and it also gets the benefit of the labour involved in folding the leaflets and despatching them. That is a very considerable advantage. The result is that the "Golden Casket" office really does the job in that it secures business to the value of £637,760 out of a total of £775,000, yet the company

gets all the benefits and the commission. It is not a businesslike contract. The fact remains that Golden Investments is relieved of the expense of the delivery of its circulars.

The statement that all the tickets are sent direct to the "Golden Casket" office is confirmed by the following paragraph in the report:—

"In the printing and issue of circulars and forms of application Golden Investments direct subscribers to apply for tickets to the management of the 'Golden Casket' Art Union."

That report merely confirms the monopoly and does not refute the statement made in the Press in 1933 that Golden Investments was allowed to sell shares as small as one-tenth in mammoth "caskets" while a similar privilege was refused to Queensland agents.

Can the Minister show any definite operations by this company and what are the methods that it employs to attract business in the other States? He may have information that is not available to hon. members. He may be able to show certain work that it does in the other States. If it can be shown that it has an extensive system of travellers, agents, offices, or advertises to a large extent on moving picture screens or otherwise, or something like that, or that it spends a large sum of money to warrant such handsome profits, there would be something in it. It made a profit of £23,000 last year, but there is nothing in the report of the Deputy Auditor-General to indicate how much capital was invested in this business or company and, therefore, we have no means of calculating the rate of dividends that are distributed to two individuals who operate the company at an extraordinary advantage to themselves, and at a loss to the "Golden Casket" management. Whoever is responsible for this agreement has done something that is definitely unbusinesslike. He made a bad bargain for the State. That is the point. If I found that it was the manager of the "Golden Casket" who had made that bargain and I was the Minister controlling him I should call upon him for a very definite explanation of his action. If, on the other hand, the manager of the "Golden Casket" can show that the contract was imposed on him by the Government or the Minister, then we must hold the Minister answerable for it.

I say, after a full and careful study of the report of the Deputy Auditor-General laid on the table by the Premier, that I can come to no other conclusion, and I have said so previously, than that the "Golden Casket" management is losing money that definitely belongs to the State, and that the two fortunate members of Golden Investments are receiving profits and advantages they are not earning. Therefore, I say, without any hesitation, that the State is not receiving value for the money, over £20,000 each year, which it contributes to this company.

MR. POWER (*Baroona*) [4.41 p.m.]: I did not rise with the intention of discussing the "Golden Casket," but I cannot refrain from saying that the speech of the Leader of the Opposition reminds me of a boarding-house stew—it is the same that he dishes up each session of Parliament, merely garnishing it with different verbiage. The matter

[*Mr. Maher*

complained of has been fully investigated by the Deputy Auditor-General, and a copy of the agreement has been submitted to Parliament. As I said previously, if the Opposition know of anything that is wrong—which they do not—why not come out into the open and make a definite charge?

The Opposition frequently make statements in this House that are not correct, and in proof of that statement I propose to read a letter that appears in to-day's "Telegraph" in refutation of a statement made by the hon. member for Oxley on the Estimates of the Department of Health and Home Affairs respecting the accommodation for nurses at Goodna. The letter reads—

"ACCOMMODATION FOR GOODNA NURSES.

"Sir,—It was with considerable amusement that I read in your issue of 8th October of Mr. Nimmo's declaration in Parliament, and apparent concern regarding inadequate accommodation for nurses at the Goodna Mental Hospital.

"It is my purpose to set forth the inaccuracy of Mr. Nimmo's statement—to the effect that 50 per cent. of us have to sleep on mattresses placed on the floor. This gentleman, though meaning well, has certainly been misinformed."

That is like many other of their utterances on the floor of this House. The letter proceeds—

"No nurse ever sleeps on the floor unless it be a particular whim of her own to do so, and I have not observed anything of the kind so far.

"On the contrary,"—

Listen to this—

"we each have a separate bedroom, adequately furnished, and a nice space of sleep-out veranda. We have also a large sitting-room with plenty of easy chairs, a radio, and a piano. I think the phrase, 'A home away from home,' expresses our sentiments quite nicely on the question of accommodation; and since my arrival here some three years ago, I have, with my colleagues, ever been pleased to retire to my own little cot in peace and quietness, at the end of the day.—Yours, etc.,

"One of the Nursing Staff.

"Goodna."

That is a very effective reply to the statement made by the hon. member for Oxley. One of the nurses has taken him to task for it. It is high time that one holding such a responsible position as a member of Parliament stopped making idle and stupid statements like this. If the hon. member continues to do so he will receive further rebuffs.

The action of the Minister in appointing an inspector of hospitals has been well worth while. If any of the things alleged by the hon. member for Oxley actually existed the inspector of hospitals would bring them under the notice of the Minister. People are only too prone to criticise before they are armed with the full facts, and I am satisfied that the Press, which is always on the alert, would have ventilated the matter if it were true, without waiting for the hon. member for Oxley to bring it up in this Parliament. The hon. member for Dalby said he took much of the credit for the abolition of "bingo" in this State, but the newspapers are also taking credit for it.

The alert Press would have ventilated this condition if it had been true, and would not have waited for the hon. member for Oxley to bring it up in Parliament.

I am pleased that the Department of Health and Home Affairs has taken control of private hospitals. As a former member of the Brisbane City Council and chairman of the Health Committee, I became conversant with the workings of these private hospitals, and on many occasions the officer in charge of the Health Department was of opinion that some action should be taken to improve the hospitals, but the view was taken that if these persons were called upon to carry out the repairs and alterations that the health officer considered were necessary they would be driven out of business, and the matter was allowed to drop. A very capable and valued officer of the Brisbane City Council, who unfortunately passed away while on a trip overseas during special leave, made an investigation of the various private hospitals in the metropolitan area and referred to some of them in very scathing terms in his report; and included in that number was the hospital in which the unfortunate girl died to whom Sir Raphael Cilento referred. I congratulate him on his fearless and outspoken attitude and his condemnation of what took place, which no doubt had something to do with the girl's death.

A remarkable disclosure in that report is that the medical man who was called in to give a certificate for cremation purposes admitted at the inquiry that he gave the certificate without examining the body. What state of affairs is the medical profession getting into when a medical man signs a certificate to permit a person to be cremated without having examined the body? The object of making it necessary for two doctors to give certificates before a person can be cremated was to prevent any crime from being hushed up. Here we have a member of the medical profession signing a certificate to say that everything is all right and the body may be cremated without having examined the body, and yet no action can be taken. There must be something radically wrong somewhere when a member of the medical profession can do such a thing and get away with it. I hope the Minister for Health and Home Affairs or the Attorney-General, whichever Minister is in charge of the department that is responsible for the control of these matters, will have the position thoroughly investigated with a view to introducing a Bill to deal with it. Legislation should be passed to prevent a repetition of such things. Had it not been for the sincerity of the desire of the Minister in charge to clear up this matter and to ask Sir Raphael Cilento to investigate the death of this girl the general public would have never known the exact circumstances. What has been done by him in that direction shows that he is a man with the courage of his convictions and fitted to do the right thing in the interests of the people of Queensland.

Another action taken by the Minister in the interests of the health of the people not merely of Queensland, but of the world, was that in reference to the Roberts cancer clinic. Roberts claimed he could cure cancer and had established in Brisbane for some time this so-called clinic. A number of unfortunate persons attended it each week and handed over their money, thinking they would get benefit from his treatment. The hon. gentleman decided that he would have

Mr. Power.]

a close investigation made into this cure or alleged cure. Hon. members know what took place. Investigations proved that the alleged cure was a fraud. Roberts was given every consideration in these investigations. A clinic was established, patients were put under his control, members of the medical profession assisted, and the Government made available certain sums of money. The cure was found to be of no value at all, and consequently many unfortunate people were proved to have been deprived not only of their savings, but of their health, by a spurious treatment. The gentleman left Queensland because of the exposure. The hon. gentleman will not tolerate any person of that calibre who wishes to establish himself and his fancy cures in this State.

The department could proceed a great deal further in matters affecting the health of the people of Brisbane. Chinese herbalists are advertising their wares. They are purely and simply quacks, but unfortunate persons are induced to visit them and pay over their money and receive bottles of dope which in the final analysis, I think, would prove to be of no value at all. Legislation should be introduced to abolish this type of practitioner altogether.

Mr. GAIR: Abolish some of the British Medical Association.

Mr. POWER: I agree that some action should be taken in regard to some members of the British Medical Association. I am glad of the interjection by the hon. member for South Brisbane. In Queensland to-day there are many doctors who will not come and attend patients. On numerous occasions I receive requests to ring for a medical man. Of course, I have told these persons to use my telephone. They have called a doctor to attend a case, but it is found that the doctor is not at home or is not prepared to come, or it is impossible for him to come at the moment. There have been urgent cases requiring the immediate attendance of a doctor. It is unfair to the people of Queensland that practising in their midst are certain medical men who are not prepared to come even to their own patients when requested. This matter will have to be seriously considered by the Government. I do not want to place every doctor in the same class. There are quite a number of very fine medical men to-day who are desirous of practising their high and honourable profession in the proper way, but there are some who are not prepared to give the public the consideration they are justly entitled to.

I think enough publicity is not given to the valuable work done by the baby clinics in this State. I should like the Minister, if possible, to increase the number of nurses in some of our clinics. When I was rearing a young family some years ago nurses from the baby clinic called at my house. I do not know whether that practice continues, but I do know that those nurses did very fine work. Greater publicity should be given to the baby clinics, because the work performed by the nurses at the clinics is of great national importance. It is rather amazing to know that there are many young mothers who do not know of the existence of such a thing as a baby clinic. May I suggest that the Minister give these clinics a little further publicity? It would be a good thing if he adopted a plan of advertising. Perhaps he could use money from the "Golden Casket" for this purpose. He

could advertise in suburban picture theatres and advise mothers of the location of these clinics and the hours when they are open to the public. Parents of children have been saved a good deal of money by these clinics. Years ago, before the introduction of baby clinics and child welfare work, many of our local chemists attended to these requirements of mothers.

I should like to see some greater attention paid by the Department of Health and Home Affairs to the swimming baths within the metropolitan area. Some of these are owned and controlled by the Brisbane City Council and others are leased to private persons. The water is not changed every day in some of these baths. I also think that greater supervision should be exercised over the members of the public who use the baths. I discussed this matter with Sir Raphael Cilento the other day, and more shower facilities should be erected in each of the swimming pools in the metropolitan area. Persons using these pools should be compelled to wash and use the shower before entering the swimming baths. Many children, running in the streets, playing in the usual way, have dirty feet, and in some cases running sores on their limbs. They should be called upon to go under the shower and cleanse themselves before entering the baths.

At 5 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307 and the Sessional Order of 11th August last, I shall now proceed to put the Resolution under discussion, and the Resolutions not already agreed to by the House.

Resolution 42 (Department of Health and Home Affairs—Chief Office) agreed to.

Resolutions 43 to 78, both inclusive, agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

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

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. P. Pease, Herbert) [5.2 p.m.]: I move—

"(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, for the service of the year 1937-1938, a further sum not exceeding £7,695,251 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

"(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, for the service of the year 1937-1938, a further sum not exceeding £6,282,217 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

"(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, for the service of the year 1937-1938, a further sum not exceeding £2,169,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

"(d) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, for the service of the year 1936-1937, a supplementary sum not exceeding £152,223 17s. 10d. be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

[Mr. Power.

"(e) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, for the service of the year 1936-1937, a supplementary sum not exceeding £594,150 5s. 4d. be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

"(f) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, for the service of the year 1936-1937, a supplementary sum not exceeding £147,980 12s. 1d. be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

"(g) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1938-1939, a sum not exceeding £1,800,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

"(h) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1938-1939, a sum not exceeding £1,300,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

"(i) That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1938-1939, a sum not exceeding £600,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account."

Question put and passed.

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 Tuesday, 26th October.

RESUMPTION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

On the motion of the SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. P. Pease, *Herbert*), the resolutions were received and agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL, No. 2.

FIRST READING.

A Bill, founded on the resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, was introduced, and read a first time.

SECOND READING.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. P. Pease, *Herbert*): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*) [5.7 p.m.]: There is a good deal of dissatisfaction throughout the State at the present time with the operation of the unemployment relief tax, and there is a movement amongst the people hostile to Government policy. They know that the tax was introduced as an emergency measure, and they are unable to reconcile their ideas of what is right with the Government view as expressed by the Premier and his supporters in this House from time to time. They are given to understand that we have reached the point when, according to "Economic News," unemployment has been reduced from 23 per cent. to 6 per cent., which is said to be better than the prosperity that obtained in 1929, prior to the depression, but they are still called upon to pay a record amount

by way of relief tax for the purpose of relieving unemployment when, if we can accept the statement of the Government, the need for it does not exist.

There is not only the objection to the tax as a tax, but there is also a growing feeling in country districts that it is being continued for the benefit of the metropolitan area and the large provincial cities that have intermittent relief schemes. A great part of the rural areas of the State are levied upon for the £2,600,000 that was collected by way of relief tax last year, and the feeling is that the people who pay the greater part of the tax are not receiving anything in return for it. In Mossman last week there was the largest gathering ever known in the district at which the member for the district, the hon. member for Cook, was severely heckled by the residents of the area who complain that they are being levied upon to pay this tax, and are not getting anything in return.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: Did you hear what the mayor said in reply?

Mr. MAHER: The Acting Premier will have an opportunity of justifying Government policy when he is in Mossman, and it will be interesting to know what happens then.

The movement in Mossman is one that is growing in various parts of the State, as there is extreme dissatisfaction with the collection of a tax to relieve a condition that does not exist. If we are back to the 1929 prosperity level, where is the need to collect the unemployment relief tax at all? Are we justified in taking taxation out of the pockets of the people to relieve unemployment when only a very small proportion of unemployment exists? The tax should have its name changed. It is an unemployment relief tax no longer. Let the Government come out into the open, be frank about the business, and change the name of the tax to an income tax. Then we shall know what the Government are really driving at. The Government are making this tax a permanent one. In other words, they are creating a new form of taxation out of the existing relief tax. That is what is really happening. This growing objection to the payment of an unemployment relief tax to relieve a condition that does not exist is taking very strong form indeed, as the Government will find to their regret as time goes on. Where is the justification of the Government's continuing the collection of this tax when the conditions that brought about the need for it in the first place had disappeared? That is the point I want to submit to hon. members.

Last year £3,059,000 was expended from the Unemployment Relief Fund—a tremendous sum collected from all parts of the State. The rural areas benefited to the extent of £563,000 by this expenditure. For the purpose of my argument I have included the amount expended in the larger provincial cities, such as Toowoomba, Townsville, Rockhampton, Cairns, and Ipswich, together with the subsidies paid to local authorities, the payments for full-time employment work, and the expenditure in developing country lands, including forestry, prospecting assistance, assistance to cotton growers, and assistance to other farmers. It is only in limited areas that this money can be expended. It can be truly said that the great bulk of the £3,059,000 spent last year was distributed in

Mr. Maher.]

the favoured centres of the State where the intermittent relief scheme applies.

Of course, the city of Brisbane receives the lion's share. Fifty-two per cent. of the total number of relief workers are located in this city, and it follows that more than half of the total amount of expenditure in wages and other concessions to relief workers is spent in this city, despite the fact that it represents only one-third of the total population of the State. It is a recognition of these things that is causing a revulsion of feeling in the rural areas.

The fact that the rural areas, if I may use the term, are being plundered to make favourable conditions in the metropolitan area, and in some degree the provincial areas of the State, has had a bad effect on country conditions generally. The fact that millions of money have been made available under a very generous system of intermittent relief work in the capital and larger provincial cities has had the effect of drawing a great proportion of the available labour away from the rural districts to those centres. The result has been that in many areas of the State it is extremely difficult to obtain employees for rural work. These find that conditions in the cities are far more attractive, and they have removed their families and taken up residence in the areas where the intermittent relief scheme operates. If the State were getting any benefit from the expenditure of this sum of £3,000,000 a great many of our objections would be removed; but obviously but little useful work has been done, and to-day great armies of men are employed on work that can be said to be wholly unproductive, and cannot be expected to make any contribution to the wealth production of the State. If £3,000,000 had been distributed in giving employment to men engaged on useful work, such as building roads in farming areas, pastoral areas, mining areas, and forestry areas the Government might have some measure of justification for their policy; but they cannot make any such boast. We find that over £2,000,000 is distributed in the favoured areas where the intermittent relief scheme operates; in other words, a dozen or so centres. Outside these favoured areas very little money is spent. It is only an odd occasion, when a local authority requires a loan and subsidy to carry out some improvements, that some relief tax money is found by way of subsidy.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: You must have shut your eyes when you travelled north.

Mr. MAHER: For what reason?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The bulk of the money has been spent on this work you are speaking of in the North, South, East, and West.

Mr. MAHER: I have here the actual expenditure taken from last year's report of the Department of Labour and Industry, and it shows that the intermittent relief work has absorbed £1,500,000 in wages. Obviously that amount has only been spent in centres where the relief scheme operates, and there are not more than a dozen such centres in the State.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: How many?

Mr. MAHER: Round about a dozen centres.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: That is absolutely wrong.

[*Mr. Maher.*

Mr. MAHER: It is thereabouts. It is only in the larger centres, such as Brisbane, Townsville, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Cairns, Tully, Innisfail, and Bundaberg—there may be fifteen to twenty at the outside. Those are the favoured centres where this £1,500,000 is being spent. If we add to that the £233,000 ration relief and £110,644 for winter relief and Christmas cheer and other charitable assistance of £42,880 and the contribution of £40,000 to the Story Bridge and the £30,000 to the Industries Assistance Board we have well over £2,000,000, apart from the administration cost of £113,000. So one can say without fear of contradiction that over £2,000,000 of this vast expenditure from the Unemployment Relief Fund last year was distributed over a limited number of favoured centres of the State where the intermittent relief scheme operated. The rest of the country is being levied upon for this large sum, and gets a small advantage in a few centres, but nothing at all in proportion to the amount of money contributed.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: A destitute person in any part of Queensland gets assistance.

Mr. MAHER: I am not dealing with destitute persons. I am dealing with the whole of the expenditure, and pointing out that over £2,000,000 of the money that was expended last year by the Minister's department went to certain favoured centres where the intermittent relief scheme operated.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Very unfavoured centres.

Mr. MAHER: Very little of the remainder went to the rural districts of the State, which possibly provide the bulk of the money. The system is wrong. Three parts or more of Queensland is being heavily taxed to make conditions attractive in a few centres where the relief scheme operates. That is entirely wrong, and it is because of the inequitable distribution of unemployment relief tax receipts that there is a recognition on the part of the people of Mossman that they are being levied upon year after year and not getting back anything like a fair return for the money they pay. All their efforts to get information from the Minister and the Government generally as to the amount of money taken out of their local authority areas for unemployment relief purposes is barren of result.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Do you not think they are lucky inasmuch as they have no destitution there?

Mr. MAHER: That is the point upon which the hon. member for Cook foundered at a meeting in Mossman the other night. He failed to justify the attitude of the Government as the Minister will fail to justify it to the people who pay. It is all right for the Minister to go to Innisfail, Cairns, or Townsville and say, "Yes, this is a good scheme." Of course it is a good scheme for the people of Townsville. The people who live there receive a certain measure of benefit. The money circulates amongst the business people, and the workers engaged get whatever benefits accrue to them.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: I do not think it is a good scheme. It is your scheme.

Mr. MAHER: Yes—our scheme; a scheme imposed at a time when depression ruled

the land and when something had to be done to relieve distress in the community. After six years the Government claim they have reduced unemployment from 23 per cent. to 6 per cent. and that the conditions are better than those of 1929. Where, then, is the need for continuing this emergency relief tax? As you, Mr. Speaker, well know, the Moore Government had to introduce this tax because circumstances demanded it, but those conditions have passed and there is now no justification for the Government's continuing a tax based on unemployment if the figures submitted by the Bureau of Industry are correct. If the percentage given by the Premier in the Financial Statement is correct—that unemployment has been reduced from 23 per cent. in the depression period to 6 per cent. to-day—there is no need for the continuance of the tax at all. At the depth of the depression we were able to manage with a little over £1,000,000 and with £700,000 at the commencement of the scheme. We were able to cope with the unemployment problem reasonably well at a time when things were not well with the country, when the national Australian income had dropped by £250,000,000 in one year and when the devastating cyclone of depression swept through the land, leaving a frightful trail of unemployment and distress. The Moore Government imposed the tax then, and even at its peak collected a little over £1,000,000. With that amount of money we were able to manage reasonably well under those difficult conditions.

To-day, however, the scene has changed throughout Australia. There has been a recovery in our overseas markets; prices of wheat, wool, butter, and base metals have risen; everything we export has risen in price. I repeat, the whole scene has changed. Where can the Government justify their action in continuing to collect taxation not on the depression scale of a little over £1,000,000, but more than twice the amount the Moore Government levied in the dark days of 1931-32?

If we were able to manage with £1,200,000 in 1931-32 where is the justification for the present Government's taking from the pockets of the people who can ill afford it a tax of £2,600,000 for the financial year just closed? Where is the justification for the Government's continuing to impose taxes in the current fiscal year when the unemployment problem, according to the Government, has been practically solved? It has been solved to the extent that only 6 per cent. remains.

THE SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: The unemployment problem would never be solved under the capitalistic system.

MR. MAHER: The hon. gentleman has changed his tune since 1931-32. In this House at that time he had all the nostrums in the world to solve the unemployment problem. "If only we as a party could get into power! Put us where the Moore Government are and the unemployment problem will dissolve like a mist before the rising sun." He has had six years to do the job, but he has failed. There has been a definite improvement, I realise. Who could not improve the position with £4,000,000 of loan money at his disposal? Each year since the Government have been in office they have had that amount at their disposal. In other words, they have had £24,000,000 of loan money to spend.

THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: And it has been well spent.

MR. MAHER: During the period approximately £24,000,000 of loan money has been spent and much of the work that has been done only adds to the unremunerative public debt. It will increase the 58 per cent. of unremunerative debt which I previously referred to in this Chamber.

MR. KING: Pick out the loan money and tell us where it is.

MR. MAHER: All right. I will please the hon. member for Maree. From the Financial Statement delivered by the Treasurer this year we find that £524,000 is taken from Loan Fund for expenditure in the Railway Department. Where is the interest return in the Railway Department?

MR. KING again interjecting.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Maree is not making the speech.

MR. MAHER: The hon. member for Maree wants to know where this loan money has been spent imprudently and on unremunerative work. I say again that that £524,000 from Loan Fund to railway improvements will be unremunerative. The sum of £393,000 was taken from Loan Fund and devoted to public buildings, another expenditure which will be unremunerative. The £110,000 to Brisbane River improvement works will not be interest-returning. From those three items alone we have a total of £1,027,000 spent from Loan Fund last year that is definitely not remunerative. If this policy is proceeded with a point must ultimately be reached when there will be no interest coming in from the expenditure of loan money and the State will get into an ever-increasingly difficult position. In fact, the Deputy Premier and other members of the Cabinet foresee this condition. Do you think, Mr. Speaker, when they make this loud outcry about the Commonwealth's flourishing at the expense of the States and about the Commonwealth's invading the domains of State taxation that they do not see the writing on the wall and want to raise an early clamour so that they can try to make the public feel that the cause of their financial dilemma is the failure of the Commonwealth Government to contribute more substantially to the revenues of the State? Do you not think that they would rather do this than tell the truth, which is that the Government are pursuing an unsound financial policy and that they are spending increasingly large sums of money from loan on the various departments of the Government that will attract no interest returns whatever in order to create a fictitious improvement in the budgetary position? In other words, the more loan money they can use in following out their unsound financial policy, the more loan money they can spend in Government departments to relieve the strain on revenue the better the chance the Treasurer has of showing an improved budgetary position, the closer will be his approach to budgetary equilibrium.

Obviously such a policy cannot be followed for ever. The Treasurer can have only a season of that kind of finance. There must be a showdown eventually, and each year he gets a little closer to it, because interest is not being returned on his investments. That, of course, means that the public debt

Mr. Maher.]

risks, that the interest bill rises with the increasing size of the public debt, and that the public have to be taxed on an ever-increasing scale to find the money. Sooner or later a stage will be reached where a very difficult position will arise for somebody to meet. The pity of it is that those who create the problem will not be called upon to find the solution. If those who created the difficulty could be bogged in it and made to get the State out of it there would be some cause for satisfaction.

It reminds me of an ancient tyrant, King Phalaris of Agrigentum, who arranged with a Grecian designer to build him a brazen bull. The idea was to put the enemies of the king inside the bull and light a furnace underneath. The throat of the bull was so contrived that when the furnace was heated the bull bellowed as if it were alive. Of course, that was very inconvenient for all the unfortunate subjects of the king who were burnt to death in the brazen bull. The king tested the bull out on his subjects, but the point is that the time arrived when his subjects tested the bull out on the king, and it was not quite so pleasant for him then. My wish is that the experience that befell King Phalaris may come to those who are gradually engineering the State into a difficult financial position and that they may be called upon to provide a solution of the problem they have created.

Every member of the Cabinet knows what I have said to be true—that loan moneys are being used imprudently, that loan moneys are being used to bolster up the budgetary position, that no interest return can be expected from much of the money that is being expended, and that therefore we shall eventually reach a position that will be extremely awkward for the people of the State.

The Government claim that they have partly solved the unemployment problem, but who could not make the position better than it was in 1931-32 with the large sums of loan money and the buoyant revenue that have been available to the Government? If the party on this side of the House could not make a better job of the task than the Government have done with £24,000,000 of loan money in six years, £13,000,000 to £14,000,000 by way of relief tax, and buoyant revenue generally, I should not want to return to this Parliament again. They have had more money at their disposal than any other Government in the history of Queensland, but they have failed miserably to give satisfaction to the great majority of the people.

The position is rather paradoxical. While the Government claim to have reduced unemployment from 23 per cent. to 6 per cent., we have these figures showing the unemployment relief staff and salaries, excluding the Chief Office—

	1931-32.		1937-38.	
	Number.	Salaries.	Number.	Salaries.
Ration Relief Branch	11	£ 2,033	38	£ 6,612
Other Unemployment Relief	9	1,965	51	10,802
Totals	20	4,048	89	17,414

The staff has increased four and a-half times although the number of unemployed, according to "Economic News," has declined from 38,320 in 1931-32 to 9,430 last year.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Many of them were transferred from the State Trade Department and were not permanent officers.

Mr. MAHER: The hon. gentleman will have an opportunity to explain all that when he gets up to speak. The number of unemployed has fallen substantially since the depression period of 1931-32, yet strange though it may seem the staff dealing with rations and other unemployment relief has increased by four and a-half times during that period. It is a peculiar position. On the one hand we are told that the problem of unemployment has been solved, yet on the other there has been an increase in the staff dealing with the matter and their salaries. In addition, the Government continue to collect over £2,500,000 per annum from relief tax. It is perplexing to me, and I confess that I cannot follow the logic of hon. members opposite when they try to explain these paradoxes to the people and to Parliament.

[Mr. Maher.

These figures show the number of staff and salaries in the Chief Office, Department of Labour and Industry—

	No.	Salaries.
		£
1931-32	7	2,583
1936-37 (estimated)	68	17,606

In 1931-32, when unemployment was at its worst, we should naturally expect to find a bigger staff than in 1936-37, but what do the figures show? There are no more sub-departments in 1936-37 than in 1931-32. It must be difficult for the Minister to explain that away satisfactorily. If the economic position has improved and if poverty has diminished as a result of the Government's policy, surely there should be no need for an increased ration scale! Yet we know that the cost of rations has grown very substantially since 1931-32. If unemployment and poverty have decreased, why is there the need for these larger staffs and the higher cost to the taxpayers? It is rather an extraordinary position that we have to face in this respect.

The estimated total expenditure of the Department of Labour and Industry for

1935-37 is greater than the total of the following tax revenues for the same year:—

	£
Income Tax	2,800,000
Land Tax	390,000
Licenses	106,000
Totalisator and Betting Tax	90,000
State Transport and Heavy Vehicles Acts	81,000
Total	£3,467,500

The estimated total expenditure of the Department of Labour and Industry is £3,583,232, or greater than the combined totals of our income tax, land tax, license fees, totalisator and betting tax, and the fees under the State Transport and Heavy Vehicles Act!

It is a serious position when we spend more money from one department of State alone than we are collecting from all those sources of revenue.

MR. KANE: Not the same money, though.

MR. MAHER: That is so, but the hon. member for East Toowoomba must see clearly that something is out of balance if when we are supposed to have virtually solved the problem of unemployment the Department of Labour and Industry, which was designed specially to contend with unemployment and poverty, is spending more money in one year than the State has collected from the sources of revenue I have just enumerated.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! I hope the people who are making all the noise in the lobbies will go into one of the interviewing rooms.

MR. MAHER: The facts I have mentioned, covering expenditure and staffing of the Department of Labour and Industry are totally inconsistent with the Government's claims and also totally contrary to the promises they have given of reductions in unemployment relief taxation. Five years of Labour administration has exposed the fact, that, as usual, Labour in power does not carry out what it advocates when in opposition.

When the Income (Unemployment Relief) Act was introduced in 1930 the Labour opposition of the day advocated (1) the payment of the full basic wage, not the basic-wage rate, and (2) the financing of the scheme by methods other than a tax upon the workers. Now, after five years, men with dependants are only getting the same number of days of intermittent relief work. The daily wage has been increased from 11s. a day to 14s. 3d., but it must be remembered in considering this fact that the percentage increase in the cost of living since 1933 is equal to 2s. 3d. a day on 11s. Therefore, the unemployed are only 1s. a day better off in the purchasing power of their allowances.

The present intermittent relief work rates range from £1 6s. 2d. a week for a married man to £2 0s. 4d. a week for a man, wife, and three children—a long way below the basic wage of £3 18s. which Labour advocated.

Again, after five years of Labour rule, the annual reports show that the amount of unemployment tax obtained from wages stamps has increased from £690,319 in 1931-32 to £1,340,726 in 1935-36, which is a

peculiar way of carrying out Labour's advocacy of taxing the wealthy.

In conclusion, I make the charge that the Government have failed to keep their promises to the taxpayers, to the public servants, and the workers generally, as well as to the unemployed. They are the only Government in Australia who have increased taxation since the depression—and a very substantial increase too—yet they are the only Government who have failed to produce a balanced Budget since the depression. Further, they hold out no hope of tax reduction in the future, and, therefore, no hope of expansion of industry which alone can get men back into permanent employment. The record of the Government is one of rank failure.

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [5.47 p.m.]: I desire to have a few words to say on this vote, and I particularly wish to comment on the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition concerning the honesty and character of members of the staff of my department. I think it is an unfair thing for a member of the Opposition to get up in this House and say things impugning the character of officers of the public service or employees of a department if he is not prepared to substantiate his statements.

For instance, an hon. member said this afternoon that the accountant at the "Golden Casket" office has probably an arrangement to cover stealing the stamps and using them to send away letters of a private agent. That type of complaint should be made to the department in order to allow the police to investigate it. That is a miserable kind of slander and it is scandalising for members of this House to get up and say that people are rogues—say quite definitely that people are using public funds or stealing or cheating and then walk out and smile and say, "We were only having a joke; we were only trying to belittle the Government by saying those things." It is a pity these mean and malicious statements should be made. A member this afternoon read a letter from one of the girls at Goodna—

MR. NIMMO: Perhaps he wrote it himself.

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: No, Mr. Speaker. I think that although the "Telegraph" is not a journal that supports this party it does accept a little bit of responsibility for the letters it publishes. It published a letter from a nurse in Goodna that just gave the position that exists among the nursing staff there. The hon. member for Oxley pictured them as sleeping on the floor. The other day he painted a picture of the nurses at the General Hospital stealing the patients' fruit.

MR. NIMMO: That is a lie.

MR. NIMMO (*Oxley*): I rise to a point of order. I never said the nurses stole the patients' fruit. I ask for a withdrawal of that statement. The Minister made that statement before when I happened to be out of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! First of all, I ask the hon. member to withdraw the allegation about lying.

MR. NIMMO: I do that willingly.

Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, I ask the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs to accept the denial of the hon. member for Oxley.

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I accept that denial. He did not use the word "steal," but the impression he conveyed was the same. I should have some respect for a man who would get up and speak plainly and make definite charges, but the fishwife method of slander should not be practised by members of this Assembly. What the hon. member said was that the nurses had no fruit to eat, only what was brought to the patients. I sent up to "Hansard" to obtain the exact words, because I know he is in the habit of afterwards denying statements made by him. I read them to the Committee. These slanderous attacks on the decency and honesty of nurses and members of the public service should be resented by every decent member of this House. I do not wish to pursue this matter further, but hon. members opposite should adopt a better method of obtaining public support. They should endeavour to convince the people that the policy they espouse is worth while and gain support by putting forward counter proposals to meet those advocated by the Government. They should leave scandal and scandalmongering alone.

From moral standards I now pass to the physical and deal with the general health standards of the people of Queensland. As the result of my experience for over five years in the department controlling public health, I am satisfied that the State must face the task of further building up the health standards of the race. We have to eliminate waste of life and prevent disease, if we can. We have also to endeavour to build up the physical standard of our children and that of adults. One of the main evils to-day practised by qualified and unqualified practitioners is that of abortion. Looking through the figures I find that somewhere in the vicinity of 700 women of child-bearing age die annually in Queensland. When one is continually alighting upon the fatal result of the malpractice of abortion it makes one wonder just how many of these deaths were due to natural causes and how many are undiscovered abortion cases. It is only when a case proves fatal or somebody gets a terrible fright that a patient is about to die that we discover that it is a case of abortion. Obviously, where it can be covered, certificates are given that give no indication at all of abortion as the cause of death. In the case that we have been dealing with recently and in which we have been endeavouring to have some measure of punishment meted out to the persons who perform these operations, the girl's death is registered in our records as being caused by pneumonia. To-day I was reading the particulars of another inquest into the death of a young girl of twenty-one from the result of abortion and find that the doctor told the girl's mother that she was suffering from pleurisy. How many pneumonia and pleurisy cases are really cases of abortion?

Our records and statistics are of no use and are absolutely unreliable if we cannot accept the certificate issued by a medical man as correct. The further I investigate these matters and the greater the number of these cases I hunt up, the more confidently

I claim that the figures we work upon are incorrect. We compile our mortality tables and the causes of death and endeavour to work out some definite plan of improving the conditions of life and the health services of the State. It is on these figures that we base our health policies. As I have pointed out, if the cause of death of this little girl is put down as pneumonia and not abortion, well, there is certainly one case that is entered in the wrong column.

One wonders exactly how much of this kind of thing is going on. It is imperative that the State should make an attempt to deal with it. We cannot afford to continue losing the very necessary infants that should be born to become citizens. We cannot afford the waste of female life. Apart altogether from ethical grounds, there is a stark necessity to save every life it is possible to save.

The police department informs me that it is very rarely it comes in contact with cases of abortion. A very frank statement was given to me the other day by one of my officers in the Criminal Investigation Branch when I asked him about the matter. The department divides abortion cases into two sections—those handled by qualified practitioners, and those handled by unqualified persons. He said, when speaking of the first section, "We never hear about these cases at all." It is those in the second class that the police come in contact with. This officer gave me a list of abortion cases discovered last year.

To deal briefly with them, here is one case where a man was sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour. We secured a conviction in that case, but, as hon. members realise, it is very difficult to get convictions in such cases, even if the girl lives and tells the whole story. Sometimes a girl will tell a true story under fear of death; if she recovers she is liable to go back on her original story because she does not want publicity. Even if the police can get such a girl into the witness-box, her uncorroborated evidence is of little value. Generally speaking, in submitting to illegal acts she becomes an accomplice, and it is a rule of law that it is dangerous to convict an accused person on the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice. So there must be corroboration of her story, even if she tells it.

Continuing with this list, we find that there was a recent case in Toowoomba, where a no true bill was filed after the accused was committed for trial in the police court. There was another one in Brisbane in November last, in which the accused was discharged from the police court because there was not sufficient evidence. In Cloncurry a case was discovered, but no indictment was presented. In a somewhat recent South Coast case the police believe that a qualified man performed the operation, but they could not get sufficient evidence for a conviction.

Here is another case in Brisbane where a young girl lost her life. Dr. Derrick, who performed the post-mortem examination, assured the court that the operation had been carried out in a skilful way. In connection with that case I want to record the remarks made by the coroner, but before doing so let me say that the medical man who gave evidence excused himself for telling an untruth to the girl's mother in not mentioning to her that the girl was pregnant. He said that he was bound by the

[Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]

law of confidence between patient and doctor. He said he had no right to tell the girl's mother, because the patient herself wanted the matter kept secret. I do not suggest that that doctor performed the abortion. He neither informed the parents of the girl nor did he give the police any information. The coroner, in his remarks, said—

“I cannot help being impressed with the thought that these doubtful claims to regard as inviolate the confidence between a medical man and a patient on the plea that that latter, in some instances minors, extracted a promise of secrecy, and the subsequent attempt to justify deception or lying to parents who are humanly entitled to know the truth are being made in this court in certain classes of cases, in which the evidence furnishes grounds for suspicion that illegal and nefarious practices have been resorted to, either by medical men unworthy of the noble traditions of their profession or by vile types of women.”

Those remarks came from an officer who was handling a great number of these cases. He protested at the attitude of the doctor in giving evidence.

Here is another case in the Valley, which was a fatal one. We were unable to sustain a case in that instance. In the South Coast district I find another case where a girl of seventeen died. This list is a long one, and I give these cases to demonstrate to members of Parliament the very great ground for concern.

We must expect the medical profession to accept some of the responsibility for keeping the profession clean of abuse. If the medical profession would interest themselves in this matter, and the bulk of them tell me something should be done, and that the Government should do something, we should be better off in the State. This is a matter in which we are powerless to act unless the medical men themselves will do something. It is for the want of medical evidence that most of the discovered cases “go phut.”

I want to say, as I have said previously, that the proportion of doctors who practise this trade is very small, but it must be remembered that it does not need a large number of such practitioners to do a great deal of harm. The criticism that I have to level against the general body of the profession is that they are inclined to keep out of anything of this nature; they do not want to be embroiled. It is very rarely that one can find a doctor who will express his opinion so frankly and so unreservedly as Sir Raphael Cilento has done. The public are getting the impression that the members of the profession in general practise this evil thing. They are beginning to believe that the medical profession are no better than the point of view of professional ethics than quacks, and that is where the medical profession are doing their own calling a tremendous amount of harm.

Mr. MAHER: I do not think the public think that at all.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: I do not care what the hon. gentleman thinks. That is the impression I have and I think I come into closer touch with the public than does the hon. gentleman. The impression abroad among the public to-day is that that practice is

widespread, whereas in fact it is not. What is almost universally accepted, however, is that one doctor will not disagree with another. That is the general impression that the people have. They believe that one doctor will not tell on another. The case that we had recently bears that out. It is such cases that create that impression, and the public regard the medical profession as a whole as subscribing to the first commandment of the razor gang, that “Thou shalt not squeal.” That is the view the public have of the matter—“Thou shalt not squeal.” That is not the correct view. In the interests of the welfare of the medical profession as well as in the interests of the public, the members of the medical profession must accept the responsibility that is on them.

This morning the “Courier-Mail” in a leading article, attempts to attract public attention away from the responsibility of the professional medical man. The “Courier-Mail” is endeavouring to make the people believe that the police have the responsibility of preventing this practice, and through the police, the Government. An endeavour is made to saddle the Government with the responsibility of putting down this practice.

Mr. NIMMO: They are not far wrong, are they?

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: The hon. member has been wrong so often that I suppose it is all right for him to be wrong again.

Mr. MAXWELL: It is a good leader, anyhow.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: It is not a good leader, because it distorts the truth, and while that might appeal to hon. members opposite it does not appeal to me and it does not appeal to anybody who wants to do the right thing by the community. One member of the Medical Board, writing to the “Courier-Mail” yesterday, distorted the truth again. He said that the Medical Board cannot deal with this evil unless there are convictions before the court. That is false, Mr. Speaker, and nobody knows it better than the medical gentleman who wrote that letter. And the editor of the “Courier-Mail” is aware of the fact that it is false, because his representatives have discussed the matter with officers of my department. They know that the Medical Board has power to deal with this evil, and they know that the Medical Board shirks that duty on every occasion upon which it is laid at its door.

The Medical Board is given wider powers, I suppose than any other similar body in the community, and it is given those powers in all parts of the British Empire. It is given those powers in order that it may keep the profession clean in the interests of the community. Parliament created that board under the Medical Act, but Parliament did not create the board for the purpose of safeguarding the financial interests of the medical profession. Parliament created the board to safeguard the interests of the community as a whole. While the members of the board readily recognise anything that threatens the financial interests of the profession they fail to carry out their obligations to the community.

Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]

The other day the board displayed tremendous activity because some highly qualified men entitled to be registered and practise in Great Britain, but coming from Germany, demanded registration here. Having the qualification necessary for registration and practice in England, they had the right to demand to be registered here, provided they were of good fame and that there was nothing against them. If there is anything against their character, the Medical Board here can refuse to register them. There was nothing against their character, they were of good fame, but the Medical Board still wanted to prevent them from practising because it was introducing more competition. That was the reason.

Can any hon. member imagine what would happen if any doctor in Brisbane inserted an advertisement in the "Courier-Mail" to the effect that he would give good medical service at his surgery for a fee of 2s. 6d. or 5s. a visit? Would not the Medical Board quickly wipe him off the register for a breach of the ethics of the profession? He would soon go if he advertised that he would give a good, clean, wholesome service at a cheap rate.

The Medical Board has power to deal with persons of infamous character, and the power is expressed in an Act of Parliament. That power was expressed in an opinion that the Medical Board received from counsel who had been asked to advise it what its powers were. This is part of the opinion that it received—

"If any registered medical practitioner . . . shall after due inquiry be adjudged by the board to have been guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect . . . the board may, if it sees fit, direct the Registrar to erase the name of such medical practitioner from the register."

"Infamous conduct" is not defined in the Act. Obviously, if we tried to define "infamous conduct," every malpractice that was not included would be beyond the control of the board. "Infamous conduct" is defined by practice and was laid down in England in 1894 in the case of Allinson versus the General Council of Medical Education and Registration. In that case the court held that—

"If it is shown that a medical man, in pursuit of his profession, has done something with regard to it which would be reasonably regarded as disgraceful or dishonourable by his professional brethren of good repute and competency, then it is open to the General Medical Council to say that he has been guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect."

That was wide enough, but the trouble is that medical men will not say that certain conduct is "infamous conduct." "Infamous conduct" cannot be defined by law. The medical men have power to decide it.

That rule has been adopted here too. It was adopted by Mr. Justice Henchman in the case of Barlow v. The Queensland Medical Board. It has been adopted in other parts of the British Empire. Only medical men of good repute can determine whether certain conduct is conduct that they would regard as infamous or dishonourable. If a medical man issues a certificate to the effect that a girl who had been in his care for several weeks and had died of septic abortion had died from pneumonia and that

conduct is regarded by the profession as honourable and decent, then I am sorry for the people of Queensland.

Mr. MAHER: Why did you not take action in terms of the report of Sir Raphael Cilento?

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: The hon. gentleman fails lamentably to appreciate the situation. The Government and the Parliament of Queensland created a board of medical men, conferring on them that authority and responsibility. They have the power if they think that the conduct of any individual is dishonourable. That is to say, if they think an ordinary general practitioner is not of good repute and competency they have the power to suspend his registration for a period or wipe him out altogether.

Mr. MAHER: Is not abortion a crime?

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Yes.

Mr. MAHER: Why not take the necessary action against the offender in this case?

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: Because there is not sufficient evidence. A medical man went to the coroner's inquiry and said that the case was not one of abortion. He was a covering practitioner—a consultant—brought in by the first doctor. He did not regard him as an abortionist at all. He came in and also diagnosed the cause of death in this case as pneumonia. That is the complaint. When the consultant was brought in it was his duty as an honourable and decent member of the medical profession to inform the police promptly, but he took the view of the first doctor. Then, when a certificate was required under the Cremation Act an independent doctor was called in to give a certificate, and he simply confirmed the diagnosis of the other doctor.

Mr. MAHER: How can you ask the Medical Board to take action on that?

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: I can only ask the Medical Board to accept the authority and responsibility that is placed on them by Parliament. If they do not, then Parliament will have to find some other means of suppressing this practice. If the Medical Board will not accept that responsibility, will Parliament permit this board to say that its will shall not be obeyed? If that is the case we shall have to find some other method of dealing with the situation. That is the fact of the position—that the Medical Board has refused to accept its responsibility.

Mr. MAHER: Do you mean to say that all the resources of the criminal law cannot stop abortion if the Government set their will to do so?

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: All my powers of eloquence and logic would be insufficient to make the hon. gentleman understand the position.

Mr. MAHER: That does not get away from the fact that abortion can be stamped out if directions are given to that effect.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: The board approached me after a famous case that occurred at the Brisbane General Hospital. There a medical man who was giving honorary service to the community gave directions that

[Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]

a certain patient had to have her teeth removed. He told her not to go to the Dental Hospital conducted by the Brisbane and South Coast District Hospitals Board because she would not get satisfactory treatment there. He said, "I will give you a letter to take to a dentist who will do the job properly." That was a libel on an institution conducted by the board, but that is by the way. The good lady went to a dentist other than the one recommended to her. He extracted her teeth and she was quite satisfied. Later on she found the letter of introduction in her bag and opened it to see what it was. This is what this honorary medical man said:—

"Dear Mr. So-and-So (giving the name of the dentist),

"Herewith Mrs. Anderson (I think the name was) for you to butcher. She has a few quids and we may as well earn some."

Mr. NIMMO: I don't believe that.

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: I do not care a hoot what the hon. member believes. I am quoting what the letter said. I referred that case to the Medical Board. They told me that there was a provision in the Medical Act limiting their power to deal with the medical man concerned. Parliament removed that limitation. That enabled the board to deal with cases of that nature in the future. The definition of "infamous conduct" has now been made as wide as possible, but still the Medical Board has taken shelter behind a legal opinion, not the law that has been laid down by the courts in England in regard to men of good repute and competence. Yet they sent it to a lawyer who is not a medical man; but, like lawyers in all cases, they can find a way of getting round these things.

The doctor concerned published a statement in the Press in which he said the coroner exonerated him and said he did not abort the girl. The actual remarks of the coroner are worth reading, because they convey the opinion of the judiciary on this practice. The remarks of the coroner at one stage, as contained in the police report, are as follows:—

"In my opinion Dr. Ross did not abort the girl, as it looks too clumsy a job for a doctor with the knowledge and skill of Dr. Ross, although the evidence is conclusive that the girl had been aborted."

Mr. MAHER: Who said that?

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: The coroner. At another stage the coroner remarked:—

"Ordinary laymen, after hearing the evidence, must come to the conclusion that the girl had been aborted, but the evidence does not disclose who did abort the girl, or whether it was accidental or naturally."

The medical profession will not back them up. To say the coroner acquitted him after a statement of that kind is rather amusing.

That is the position that we find in this matter. I say definitely the people are entitled to know that the practice is as common as we know it is. Parliament is entitled to know. If we give to a board of medical men privileges and powers and authority that we do not give to other sec-

tions of the community, they should accept the responsibility of those privileges, powers, and authority. Every hon. member recognises the confidential nature of the work performed by medical men, but that does not give them authority to conceal crime; they have to accept the responsibility that goes with authority and with privilege. The only way the medical profession can cure what is one of the evils of the age—the flight of the people to the quack—is to re-establish the prestige of the profession in the minds of the public. They can do that if they have the courage.

Mr. MAHER: If I were in your shoes I would put Ross in the dock despite what legal men say.

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: The hon. gentleman is talking in his usual childish, ignorant manner. If the hon. gentleman were in my shoes he would put nobody in the dock. I cannot put people in the dock; that is a matter for the officials of the Crown Law Office. These papers were sent to the Crown Law Office, and they advise there is not enough evidence to justify a prosecution. The Medical Board, who are outside the law, could investigate these things and deal with persons who are guilty of conduct that they think is detrimental to the good name of the profession.

Mr. MAHER: You want nothing better than Sir Raphael Cilento's report.

The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS: The Medical Board should need nothing more. They did not act on it. That is the summing-up by a medical man on the evidence. As a layman I am not in a position to dispute medical facts with medical men. So I asked Sir Raphael Cilento to read through the depositions. I read through the depositions in case after case, which, by the way, takes hours of wearisome reading. It was so staggering to me to think that no action could be taken that I asked Sir Raphael Cilento to take the depositions and read them through and give me his opinion on them, and that is the opinion I have given here. That is the opinion of one of the leading medical men of the country.

I think in view of our general health standard that we need in this country a national health scheme. We need a national health insurance scheme not only in this State, but in all other States. If a scheme of that kind is to be inaugurated it must provide for all the people who need services, whether employed or unemployed, and it must provide for all the services those people need. A scheme that provides for a section of the working people or provides for only some of the illnesses they are subject to is of no value. I say there is an opportunity for the Commonwealth and State Governments to do something in collaboration on this matter. It is too large a contract for the State Government nowadays, when they are finding it difficult to balance their income and expenditure accounts, but there is an opportunity for the Commonwealth Government to do something big and help the States in putting into effect a national health scheme that will ensure for the community proper and adequate medical attention and hospital service. It must also assure them of some means of sustaining their homes whilst they are incapacitated and suffering also from the consequent loss of income.

Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]

A gentleman brought from England has recommended a scheme to the Commonwealth Government, but it is such a weird proposal that this State will have nothing to do with it. It proposes a tax of 3s. a week, 1s. 6d. a week on each wage-earner and the same amount on the employer of each wage-earner. Of the 3s. weekly which it is proposed shall be taken for this fund, 1s. 3d. will be expended on giving to the insured person only—not an unemployed person—the ordinary benefits that he can get from a friendly society or lodge. He will have the right to the services of a general medical practitioner, free medicine, and maintenance for twenty-six weeks at £1 a week, and a smaller sum thereafter.

But the scheme makes no provision at all for the expensive medical services. If a man suffers from a serious illness, or has to undergo a serious operation, he is passed on by the general medical practitioner to a specialist, who charges what he likes. He also gets the account for any amount that a private hospital may like to debit him with. No provision at all is made for serious illnesses. The worry of a working man on a regular wage is not the 10s. 6d. visits to the doctor, or the measles, or the prescription for influenza. These minor illnesses do not break the solvency of the home. Those that break the heart of the wage-earner are the ones that leave him with a medical bill of from forty to fifty guineas to meet and take him a number of years to pick up. Any scheme of national insurance that does not provide for all services, expensive as well as cheap, is only waste of time.

The other 1s. 9d. of the amount of 3s. that is to be taken, is to be diverted to a fund to provide for old-age and invalid pensions.

That is not a national health insurance scheme. It is only a confidence trick on the community to refer to such a scheme as a national health insurance scheme. It is merely a scheme that will ensure to the general medical practitioner the payment of round about 6d. or 9d. a week from every wage-earner in his district. No provision is made at all for the serious ills that befall the workers of this country.

There will have to be co-operation of the Commonwealth and State Governments to solve this problem, as there will have to be in maternal welfare service also. We have done remarkably well in this State in this regard, but we have had no co-operation from the Commonwealth Government. Some little time since we forwarded a scheme to the National Health Council, but I notice that in this evening's Press another scheme has been proposed on the eve of an election. Under our scheme, for each baby born Commonwealth and State Governments would pay £1 into a fund to be used to provide the necessary services in the homes while the mothers were being confined. Most of the trouble that afflict women after childbirth occurs to those confined at home. These women worry as to the welfare of the family, and do not remain in bed the time necessary to rest their organs and recover their strength. The Commonwealth Government have taken £1 off the baby bonus, and were they to put that £1 and the States to pay in another £1, every mother confined in her own home could be provided with skilled attention, and the children and home could be cared for whilst she was confined to bed. There is great room for

co-operation, but in five years we have not been able to get one pennyworth of co-operation from the Commonwealth Government.

All these matters have to be solved if there is to be an improvement in the standard of the health of the people of this State and the Commonwealth, and there is every reason for the Governments to co-operate. It will be for the benefit of the people of this country.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (Hon. M. P. Hynes, *Townsville*) [7.25 p.m.]: I wish to make a brief reply to some of the misleading statements of the Leader of the Opposition. One would expect some masterly force to emanate from the leader of a big political party, but we find he is content to indulge in partisan criticism with a view to gaining some political advantage at the forthcoming Federal election and later at the State election.

The hon. gentleman repeated a statement he has been making through the constituencies in Queensland that the relief tax was unfairly distributed. He particularly referred to the rural districts. That statement is untrue, and his statement that there are only twelve centres in which intermittent relief labour is employed is as accurate as most of the statements he has made in this House.

MR. MAHER: How many are there?

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: There are sixty-eight centres that are receiving intermittent relief work at the present time. At the inception of this scheme local authorities were written to and asked to co-operate with the Government. Those that replied that they would do so to the fullest extent had the intermittent relief scheme applied to their districts.

It has been said that we have distributed the money to purely city electorates, and in the metropolitan area. That is not so. I hope I am not imposing on the indulgence of the House, but I think it necessary for me to give an account of each district that is employing relief labour at the present time in order to combat the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition. The intermittent relief scheme is operating at these places—

Ayr, Barcaldine, Beaudesert, Beenleigh, Bendemere, Belyando, Booringa, Bowen, Bundaberg, Burrum, Caboolture, Cairns City, Cairns Shire, Calliope, Cardwell, Charleville, Charters Towers, Chinchilla, Cleveland, Coolangatta, Dalby, Degilbo, Drayton, Fitzroy, Gladstone, Glengallan, Gooburrum, Goolman, Goondiwindi, Gympie, Highfields, Ipswich, Isis, Jericho, Johnstone, Jondaryan, Kilcoy, Livingstone, Longreach, Mackay, Maroochy, Maryborough, Mirani, Moreton, Mount Morgan, Nerang, Noosa, Pioneer, Proserpine, Redcliffe, Rockhampton, Roma, Sarina, Southport, Thuringowa, Tingalpa, Toowoomba, Townsville, Wambo, Wangaratta, Warwick, Waterford, Widgee, Woongarra, and Main Roads Commission.

I wish to emphasise the fact, notwithstanding the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition, that only 50.9 per cent. of the intermittent relief labour is in the metropolitan area compared with 49.1 per cent. in the country districts. That disposes of

[Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]

the statement that there is an unfair distribution of relief funds so far as the employment of intermittent labour is concerned.

What is hurting hon. members of the Opposition is that this party has made good its promises and fulfilled the pledges it made to the people in 1932.

Mr. MAXWELL: I do not believe it.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: The hon. member believes it in his own heart.

We said that we were going to deal effectively with unemployment. We appreciated the fact that the paramount problem exercising the minds of all Governments throughout the civilised world was the absorption in useful employment of those citizens who were thrown out of work during the depression. I say that we have fulfilled this promise. Let me quote again the figures that were mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition this afternoon. We have reduced the percentage of registered unemployed unionists from 19.7 to 5.4. Those figures bear eloquent testimony to the fact that this party has fulfilled its pledges to the people and has carried out every promise that it made concerning the absorption of the unemployed in useful industry.

The method that we have adopted in pursuing that policy has been that of subsidising local authorities and other local bodies for the purpose of enabling them to carry out useful services for the people, services that otherwise could not have been undertaken. That, in my opinion, was one of the chief factors that enabled this Government to give effect to their policy of providing employment at full award rates and conditions. We have dealt more effectively with this problem of unemployment than any other Government in the Commonwealth have done. I want to say so plainly that I cannot possibly be misunderstood that this Government are doing more for their unemployed citizens than any other Government in Australia are doing.

Mr. NIMMO: They are the worst off in the Commonwealth.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: I have had the opportunity of personally investigating the relief systems in operation in the various States. I have talked with the Ministers for Labour and Industry in those States and—they are not as narrow minded as the hon. members who occupy the Opposition benches in this House. They all agreed that the Queensland Government have been more liberal in dealing with this question than any other State Government in the Commonwealth.

I think it was during the course of the debate on the Address in Reply that I heard one hon. member referring to the scheme in operation in Victoria. I should like to point out that the relief scheme in operation in that State was one of the most niggardly of all the schemes in the Commonwealth until the Dunstan Government obtained the support of the Labour Party to keep them in office. They were then able to effect certain improvements to that scheme. There has been some improvement in the Victorian scheme in recent times, but notwithstanding that improvement, we are still more liberal to the unemployed in

Queensland than are the Government in Victoria.

The method of ascertaining the eligibility of an applicant for relief is quite different in the other States from what it is here. Here a certain proportion of the income coming into the home of the applicant is disregarded. That is not so in other States. Here we do not question a man about the amount of money that he has earned in the twelve months immediately preceding the date of his application for relief. In the other States, including Western Australia, and other States in which Labour Governments are in power, a man is questioned and if it is found that he has earned a certain sum in the twelve months immediately preceding the date of his application his request for relief is rejected. I venture to assert that if the Victorian scheme was in operation in Queensland I could wipe off 50 per cent. of the number who are now benefiting under the Queensland scheme. We do not want to do that. We think that it is the bounden duty of Governments—of Labour Governments in particular—to relieve distress and destitution, and to help those persons who cannot help themselves, and we are doing that in a more liberal manner than any other State in the Commonwealth is doing at present.

Reference was made to the increase in the number of my staff at head office. I think the Leader of the Opposition referred to the matter, and quoted from the report that was submitted to this House last year by the Under Secretary for Labour and Industry. The Leader of the Opposition said that in 1931-32 there were nine officers at head office—in this report the number is set down as ten—and now there are thirty-eight. I should like to point out that we have removed the relief office staff from the Edward street building to head office, and I should also like to mention that until 1932 the scheme was in its infancy and that the salaries of most of the clerks who administered the scheme were paid out of the Unemployment Insurance Fund and other trust funds, and only some of them out of consolidated revenue. In those days the Moore Government were not doing anything like the work that we are doing now.

In 1931 there was only one form of relief tax—a flat rate of 3d. in the £1, whether the taxpayer earned £1 a year or £10,000 a year. In my opinion that was an unjust system, and it does not commend itself to hon. members on this side of the House. We introduced a graduated relief tax, so that persons in receipt of higher incomes were expected to pay a higher rate in the £1, and are still paying a higher rate in the £1, than those on smaller incomes. It must be admitted that when we are administering a scheme that provides for four grades of taxes more clerks are required to carry out the work effectively. That is precisely what has occurred in this connection.

Mr. MOORE: Why?

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Because there is more work to do where there are four grades of taxes instead of only one or two.

Mr. MAXWELL: There are fewer unemployed, according to the Government.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: But an increase in the grades of tax means more work.

Hon. M. P. Hynes.]

I should also like to remind hon. members opposite that the previous Government made no effort to provide work for the unemployed beyond the chipping of grass and the employment of men on railway-conditioning work at starvation wages. They were paid £3 a week, but their wages were stopped in wet weather. I remember getting a letter from the organiser of the Australian Workers' Union in the North Coast district, where this work was being carried out, who said that the men did not average more than £4 4s. a fortnight, and they were obliged to live away from home and maintain their families elsewhere. These men were virtually working and starving as a result of the conditions imposed by the Moore Government. We remedied that, and men who are now doing a similar class of work enjoy full award rates and conditions, with some security of a long job on railway reconditioning on the North Coast.

We have also converted intermittent relief schemes in the metropolitan area, and throughout the State into jobs providing for full award rates and conditions. That is the objective of this party—gradually to convert intermittent relief schemes to full-time jobs—and notwithstanding the carping criticism of hon. members opposite we are carrying it out effectively.

We also claim that more staff is required to carry out the numerous activities associated with the Department of Labour and Industry to-day. None of the schemes that I am about to enumerate were attempted under the Moore regime. For instance, we have given financial aid to needy cotton growers, and clerks are required to administer that policy. Let me review the conditions that led up to this Government's deciding to help the cotton farmers in the Biloela and other cotton-growing districts of the State.

Mr. T. L. WILLIAMS: The Queensland Cotton Board does not want you to discontinue.

THE SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: The cotton growers themselves do not want me to discontinue the assistance, and I take very much more notice of the cotton farmers than I do of the Queensland Cotton Board. When I was appointed to my present office it was represented to me that cotton growers in certain districts were having a bad time owing to adverse seasonal conditions. They were faced with the alternative of walking off their farms and joining the ranks of the unemployed in the city to do work of an uneconomic nature. The work performed at that time was of that class.

The hon. members for Normanby and Port Curtis approached me, and in consequence of their representations it was decided by the Cabinet to give necessitous cotton-growers loans from the Unemployment Relief Fund to enable them to clear land and prepare the soil for the cotton crop. We despatched some of our best officers to the centres in the cotton-growing districts in order to administer this policy sympathetically as expeditiously as possible. The result of that policy makes me intensely proud. It enabled these cotton growers to remain on their farms, prepare their land for the oncoming season's crop, and, instead of augmenting the ranks of the unemployed in the cities and towns, to become wealth producers. A large number

of these cotton farmers are now doing well for themselves and have become well established. I have received a request from the cotton-growers, and as the hon. member for Port Curtis said, the Queensland Cotton Board, asking me to continue this policy wherever it is necessary. I am pleased to state that most of these advances have been repaid to the department.

Hon. members opposite claim that we never help the people in the rural areas, and that our attention is always focused on the industrialists in the cities and towns. We have given the people in the rural areas a full measure of assistance. In fact, we have given them more help than they have ever got from their alleged friends the Country-Nationalist Party. We have also given generous aid to the dairy farmers, the wheat farmers, and all those persons on the land who are having a bad time. Tobacco growers have come in for special consideration. That is because their failure was greater than that of other farmers. Full rations were issued to them as to men in the city, although dairy farmers and other farmers who are able to produce some of their own requirements only obtained a ration equal to three-quarters of the regular schedule. The tobacco grower farms land that very often will not produce anything but tobacco. Usually, tobacco land is not fit for the cultivation of any other crop. Of course, there are exceptions. The Government in their generosity, and I think they were wise, as the tobacco growers were fully entitled to it, conceded them full rations, the same as the industrial workers. To-day many of these tobacco growers are independent. Their position is due to the aid previously rendered by the department. They are grateful to the department for the help afforded to them.

I also point out that we have given generous assistance to mining. All this assistance created additional administrative work and more labour was required in the administration of the department. My department has spent tremendously in recent years. It has been necessary to have the department efficiently manned to ensure the effective carrying out of the work. We helped the miner to the extent of £20,000 last year. We adopted a special scheme in relation to the miners at Charters Towers. Instead of putting these men to do work for the local authority, which was uneconomic as there were not the same facilities there as in other cities and towns, approved men previously engaged on intermittent work were allowed to go out and work on mining shows five days a week. They received the wage they would have received if employed by the local authority cutting vines and undergrowth from the streets and footpaths.

Mr. WELLINGTON: And they are thankful for it.

THE SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: The hon. member for Charters Towers, who has given me a great deal of help in the launching of this experiment, is entitled to some commendation for its success. As the hon. member for Charters Towers could tell the House, many of these men who were assisted are to-day independent, and it appears as though they would never need further relief.

We have also given some attention to banana farming. That was one of our early experimental schemes. We did not sit down

[Hon. M. P. Hynes.]

like the previous Government did and say that a good time would come, and endeavour to bring about that good time by taking part in a poverty competition by reducing wages and thereby reducing the purchasing power of the people; we embarked on a scheme that was instrumental in taking over 100 poor families from the cities and placing them on banana farms in the country. Many of these have become land-minded, and although some of them have left banana-growing they have engaged in other rural industries.

That is some of the work that has caused an increase in the number of people employed in my department.

Mr. MAHER: A few hundred pounds out of £3,000,000.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Does the Leader of the Opposition suggest that we should cut out the help we are giving to the people working in our rural industries? Does he suggest that we should cut out help given to the cotton growers, to the destitute farmers and other persons, in order to save the wages of a few clerks? I say definitely this Government are not going to entertain any proposal of that kind. We want to be fair to every section of the community, and I believe that all sections of the community are thankful to the Government for their relief policy.

We are also giving assistance to prospective mothers. We are giving further assistance to intermittent relief workers who are ill and unable to work; they are now entitled to draw relief pay during the time they are off, up to eight weeks in any one year. All this means extra work for the department that is administering these schemes.

It is true we are collecting a large amount in taxation, but it is equally true that the money is being prudently spent on the object for which it was collected—to give employment in useful industry to persons who were unemployed. We are definitely doing that. The figures I have quoted demonstrate we are doing the job we undertook to do—to find work for the unemployed. I say without fear of contradiction that with the finances and the facilities at our disposal we have carried out our job thoroughly.

I also remind hon. members opposite that there is also another large section of the community who have been enabled to obtain unemployment relief since the period of 1929-32. I refer to the single men. The only single men who were entitled to receive any help when the Moore Government were in power were those who walked from police station to police station in order to qualify for 6s. worth of rations.

Mr. MAXWELL: They were sent by the McCormack Government.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: It is no use saying what was done under the McCormack Government. During that time and that of the previous Government a large number of these single men were engaged in useful employment as producers in industry. One of the first administrative acts that I undertook was to bring in 11,000 young men who previously had been denied any help under the scheme. Naturally the services of clerks were required to deal with this large section of the community who were morally entitled to assistance under the Moore Government

but did not get it. They were brought within the scheme and allowed to stay in the wholesome environment of their own homes. Later we gave them a full day's work a week at award rates.

Hon. members opposite should also be reminded that many of the unemployment relief jobs to-day are being carried out by this Government at full-time award rates and conditions. There is the sewerage scheme in the metropolis in which, under the previous Government, the men were working hard for £3 a week. The average wage on that job to-day I suppose would be £5 a week. This Government have effected these improvements. Work at Breakfast Creek is being done from moneys of the Unemployment Relief Fund. That job was previously carried on under intermittent relief conditions, but is now a full-time job at award rates.

The Department of Labour and Industry is co-operating with the Public Estate Improvement Branch of the Department of Public Lands. An unsightly swamp existed at the Sandgate approach to the Hornbrook Highway. That swamp is being reclaimed, not with intermittent relief labour but workmen who are given the full award rates and conditions.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: A large number of the intermittent relief workers were transferred from Sandgate to this work. The hon. member for Sandgate was chiefly instrumental in having this work undertaken. The swamp will be filled, the foreshores attended to, and eventually the blocks will be offered to the public on perpetual lease conditions and the Public Estate Improvement Branch recouped by the proceeds of the sale. That work is serving a two-fold purpose; the removal of a mosquito-infested swamp and the making of a beautiful suburb. Eventually there will be roads and parks in that area and in the not-far-distant future it will constitute one of the finest suburbs in the metropolitan area.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: These are some of the works we have undertaken and they provide reasons for the increase in the staff in the various offices.

The Department of Forestry has also been given assistance.

Mr. MAXWELL: Take it easy.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: I am not taking it easy. I am not so modest as to sit down and suck my thumb while hon. members opposite criticise my department and fill "Hansard" with their utterances so that their constituents may read them. We give assistance for the building of roads into timber land in the northern portion of the State. This gives employment and at the same time provides access to the great timber wealth lying there. We also help the Sub-Department of Forestry to train boys. One of the finest tasks that that sub-department has undertaken is the training of youths in forestry work. The boys are paid a fair wage and I think there are 100 or 200 employed at the present time doing this very useful work and learning to be useful citizens.

Hon. M. P. Hynes.]

Those are some of the things we are doing. I could speak all night on what Labour has done to vindicate its selection in 1932 and 1935. Every fair-minded man and woman will give credit to the Labour Party for the manner in which it has handled the unemployment problem in Queensland.

I am optimistic enough to think that in the not very distant future we shall be able to discontinue intermittent relief work altogether. I say plainly that the scheme that I inherited from my predecessor, Mr. Sizer, has been abhorrent to me. We had to get rid of it gradually, and that is what we are doing.

I point out that it is necessary in the administration of such a large scheme as this to employ an inspectorial staff. We have had to pay heed to the fact that there are some persons who would practise fraud in any scheme of the magnitude as this. We have had frauds perpetrated in other States of the Commonwealth. It was my duty to see that this fund, which is under my personal administration, was not unduly or illegally imposed upon. We have had to appoint a staff for the purpose of carrying out certain inspections. We have apportioned relief labour to various schools and churches. That also meant further work and more supervision for the Department of Labour and Industry. Taking it all in all, I believe we have done the job and carried it out in the way most persons expected us to carry it out. The Labour Party has always been expected to give effect to its election pledges and promises. I believe the prosperity of this State is attributable to—

Mr. NIMMO: The Lyons Government.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Solely to the State Government of Queensland. Mr. Lyons has had no more to do with the increased prosperity and employment in Queensland than the man in the moon. This is an electioneering stunt of his. He will accept the credit for the improvement, but he will not accept responsibility for the 200,000 persons who are unemployed in Australia to-day.

Mr. NIMMO: Why should he?

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Because I say that the problem of unemployment should be a national one, that it should be attended to by the Commonwealth Government. They have control of the tariffs, and tariffs have a tremendous bearing upon employment.

Mr. NIMMO: You must believe in unification.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Of course I believe in unification. I have signed my platform for unification. We say that the National Government have some responsibility in this matter. We in Queensland have been compelled to shoulder the whole of the responsibility while the Federal Government have been tinkering with tariffs and bringing about the present degree of unemployment in secondary industries. I believe that with a helpful national Government—which I am confident we shall have after the 23rd of the present month—we shall be able to build up secondary industries in Queensland.

Mr. NIMMO: Like Scullin did!

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRIES: Mr. Scullin did great work for secondary industries in this State. He

[Hon. M. P. Hynes.

laid the foundation of many of our secondary industries. A great number of the industries that are now producing wealth to Australia were established by his Government.

We intend to carry on our policy. We are not going to be pushed off the track by carping criticism such as that voiced by the Leader of the Opposition, who said that there are only twelve places in Queensland in which intermittent relief schemes were established. I have stated that there are sixty-eight, and I have named them. I do not believe that the hon. gentleman knows how many districts in his own electorate are enjoying the benefit of intermittent relief schemes. We have given relief also in those rural districts in which there are no intermittent relief schemes. We have given them help in effecting improvements to school grounds.

At 8 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER: Under the provisions of Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 11th August, I shall now proceed to put the question under consideration, and all other questions necessary for the disposal of the remaining stages of the Bill.

Question—"That the Bill be now read a second time" (*Mr. Pease's motion*)—put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

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

Clauses 1 to 8, both inclusive, schedule, and preamble, as read, agreed to.

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment.

THIRD READING.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (*Hon. P. Pease, Herbert*): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a third time."

Question put and passed.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (*Hon. P. Pease, Herbert*): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 26th October."

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 8.5 p.m.