

I think members are entitled to regard this matter seriously and to decide whether we are not proceeding on a tremendous journey away from words that appeared so simple when first used—"a vote, resolution or Bill for the appropriation of revenue or moneys." They should seriously consider the application of the ruling to an amendment which seeks merely to delay the exercise of a remedy by the Crown as mortgagee in connection with the recovery of money due to it by a mortgagor. I certainly hope this matter will receive a very serious consideration.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: I do not think there can be any doubt but that the ruling by the Chairman of Committees is sound and correct. The Standing Orders in many respects are, I agree, too rigidly enforced. I do not think members get the latitude they are entitled to as private members, but that does not apply in a case of this description. We must be particularly careful that a private member can never interfere with the privilege of the Crown to protect the revenues of the State. The very clause particularly concerned gives the right to the commissioners representing the Crown to make loans and advances. When it comes to collecting them, members opposite want to limit that right and want to say that a resident magistrate should investigate the matter before the commissioners can exercise the right to have their just dues paid to them. The proposed new clause contains the following:—

The decision of the resident magistrate granting or refusing to grant an order to proceed shall be final and conclusive.

If the new clause were adopted the resident magistrate could prevent the State from recovering its just dues. It is all very well for members to approve of the creation of an authority to advance money to farmers and then, having got Parliament's approval, to support a provision limiting the power of the Crown to obtain payment of its just dues. The hon. member, by trying to limit the operation of various provisions relating to the advancing of money and its repayment, is certainly seeking to interfere with the Crown, and in my opinion there is no question that the Chairman's ruling is sound.

Mr. Speaker: After hearing the arguments for and against, I have no option

but to uphold the Chairman's ruling. I think the ruling was perfectly correct.

#### *Committee Resumed.*

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

*House adjourned at 10.32 p.m.*

## **Legislative Council.**

*Tuesday, 7th November, 1944.*

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### **QUESTION—CHILDREN'S COURT.**

#### *As to Prosecutions, etc.*

Hon. E. H. H. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

(i) How many children were brought before the Children's Court (a) for the 12 months ended 31st December, 1943; (b) six months ended 30th June, 1944?

(ii) (a) How many were boys (b) how many were girls?

(iii) How many were committed to institutions (a) boys; (b) girls?

(iv) How many were released on probation (a) boys; (b) girls?

(v) How many first offenders (a) boys; (b) girls?

(vi) How many Probation Officers are there (a) male; (b) female?

(vii) How many children at the present time are out on probation (a) boys; (b) girls?

(viii) How many children at the present time are held in all institutions by order of the Court?

(ix) What are the names of the institutions?

(x) How much was paid to each for the six months ended 31st December, 1943; the six months ended 30th June, 1944?

(xi) Has any arrangement been made with any of those institutions to instruct boys in manual training, and girls in domestic science (a) if so, which are the institutions; (b) what is the nature of the instruction; (c) what is the nature of the arrangement?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: These questions necessitate an extensive reply, and I suggest that it would be far better for members to ask for returns to be tabled in connection with matters of this kind. The answers to the questions are as follows:—

(i) Children brought before the Children's Court, Perth:—For 12 months ended 31st December, 1943—2,327; for six months ended 30th June, 1944—1,202.

(ii) (a) Boys—1943, 2,191; 1944, 1,124. (b) Girls—1943, 136; 1944, 78. Total—1943, 2,327; 1944, 1,202.

(iii) Committed to institutions:—(a) Boys—1943, 28; 1944, 29. (b) Girls—1943, 39; 1944, 11. Total—1943, 67; 1944, 40.

(iv) Released on probation:—(a) Boys—1943, 147; 1944, 140. (b) Girls—1943, 33; 1944, 5. Total—1943, 180; 1944, 145.

(v) First offenders:—(a) Boys—1943, 1,862; 1944, 955. (b) Girls—1943, 122; 1944, 70. Total—1943, 1,984; 1944, 1,025.

(vi) Probation Officers:—2 male, 3 female.

(vii) Children on probation under control of Probation Officers:—(a) Boys 307; (b) Girls 52.

(viii) At 30/9/44 there were 487 children held in all institutions by order of the Court.

(ix) Names of institutions:—Swan Boys' Orphanage; Perth Girls' Orphanage; Parkerville Children's Home; Clontarf Boys' Home, Tardun; Castledare Junior Orphanage; St. Joseph's Farm and Trades School, Bindoon; St. Joseph's Girls' Orphanage; St. Vincent's Foundling Home; Home of the Good Shepherd; Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands; Seaforth Boys' Backward Section, Gosnells; Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe; Methodist Home for Children, Victoria Park; Tom Allen Memorial Home for Boys, Werribee; Presbyterian Children's Home, Byford; Government Receiving Home, Mount Lawley.

(x) Amounts paid for six months ended 31/12/43 and 30/6/44:—Swan Boys' Orphanage, £643, £583; Perth Girls' Orphanage, £234, £221; Parkerville Children's

Home, £360, £360; Clontarf Boys' Home, Tardun, £470, £477; Castledare Junior Orphanage, £308, £215; St. Joseph's Farm and Trades School, Bindoon, £193, £245; St. Joseph's Girls' Orphanage, £362, £387; St. Vincent's Foundling Home, £542, £586; Home of the Good Shepherd, £612, £532; Salvation Army Boys' Home, Nedlands, £443, £384; Seaforth Boys' Backward Section, £720, £594; Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe, £354, £339; Methodist Home for Children, £148, £146; Tom Allen Memorial Home for Boys, £109, £87; Presbyterian Children's Home, Byford, £105, £104; Government Receiving Home, —, —.

(xi) Yes. (a) St. Joseph's Orphanage; Perth Girls' Orphanage; Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe; Swan Boys' Orphanage; St. Joseph's Farm and Trades School, Bindoon. (b) Girls—Elementary training for service; Boys—carpentry. (c) Girls over 14 years of age are given instruction in cooking and other domestic arts to fit them for service. Boys are given carpentry instruction in well equipped workshops under the supervision of an instructor from the Education Department.

## **BILL—LAND ALIENATION RESTRICTION.**

Read a third time and *passed*.

## **BILL—HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT.**

*Recommittal.*

On motion by the Honorary Minister, Bill recommitted for the further consideration of Clauses 3 and 7.

*In Committee.*

Hon. V. Hamersley in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3—Amendment of Section 3:

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have an amendment on the notice paper as follows:—

That in lines 3 to 5 of paragraph (b) the words "more than six persons exclusive of the family of the keeper thereof are lodged for hire or reward" be struck out, and the words "rooms are let to persons for living accommodation" inserted in lieu.

The effect of the amendment will be to add to the definition of "lodging-house" the words—

or in which rooms are let to persons for living accommodation from week to week or for more than a week.

Considerable difficulty was suggested in another place regarding the amendment set out in the Bill, and it is imperative to make the position clear. A lodging-house is a place where people rent a room from night to night. Then again, there are at ports what are called doss-houses, and those lodging-houses would be covered. The matter was discussed with the Solicitor General, who drafted the amendment I now propose to deal with the situation. There are houses that otherwise would not be covered. They would escape control under the Health Act because they do not provide for more than six persons. There is a terrace of houses within half-a-mile of the Health Department where the buildings are three storeys high and there are two rooms on each floor. The various matters that have been complained of exist there, but they would not be brought under the legislation. The amendment will deal with that phase.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The amendment is not so innocent as the Honorary Minister would suggest. I have not had an opportunity to look up the Act to peruse the definition dealing with boarding-houses.

The Honorary Minister: This deals with lodging-houses. There is nothing wrong with it.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: This will mean that if a person has a spare room or two and he lets them, the premises will have to be registered as a lodging-house and all the requirements of the Health Act will apply to it. I do not think that was intended.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Premises such as Mr. Baxter referred to have given rise to complaints and they will be covered. During the second reading debate, the principle seemed to be affirmed that control should be exercised over such places in the interests of public health.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If the amendment is agreed to, how will the definition of "lodging-house" then read?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have not the Act at the moment so that I cannot say offhand.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: We should have time to consider the amendment. Progress might be reported.

Hon. F. E. GIBSON: I hope the Committee will agree to the Honorary Minister's amendment, with which proprietors of

lodging houses in the metropolitan area will be in accord.

Hon. W. J. MANN: It appears to me as if the Minister had added some words in submitting the amendment appearing on the notice paper. There should be time for further consideration.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The amendment must be read in connection with the wording of the clause in the Bill. I have not added any words to it. Mr. Gibson has expressed the view of every health authority in the metropolitan area.

Hon. L. CRAIG: The amendment should be carried. Under it anybody letting rooms for hire or reward will be subject to registration and inspection. Rooms let should be suitable for accommodation of people. At present dirty and insanitary rooms may be let simply because the person letting them is not registered. It is time that living conditions in some parts of Perth were looked after thoroughly.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Large numbers of people at all times take in one person as a paying guest. The result of carrying the amendment would be that an inspector could go through the entire premises of these people at any time.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: All that is required is the tightening-up of conditions as to the letting of living rooms in and around the city. I would suggest the substitution of "two or more rooms" for "one room."

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I hope the Honorary Minister will ascertain exactly what his amendment means. Further consideration of the matter should be postponed.

On motion by the Honorary Minister, further consideration of the clause postponed.

Clause 7—New Division added to Part V: Proposed new section 158K:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have given notice of my intention to move the following amendment—

That proposed new section 158K be struck out and the following inserted in lieu:—The chairman of the local authority with approval of the local authority which granted or issued the registration of an eating-house or a license issued to a proprietor may, by notice in writing signed by him and served upon the owner of the eating-house or the holder of such license as the case may be, cancel such registration or license.

I desire to move the amendment to make the position clear. As the Minister intends making further inquiries, legal opinion as to the effect of my amendment might be obtained.

Progress reported.

### **BILL—PERTH DIOCESAN TRUSTEES (SPECIAL FUND).**

Received from the Assembly and, on motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, read a first time.

### **BILL—NATIVES (CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS).**

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 2nd November.

**HON. C. F. BAXTER** (East) [5.1]: This is another of those Bills which have been brought down by the Government dealing with electoral questions. The Government appears to be more interested in electoral matters than it is in the progress of the State. We have had many such measures before us this session already. What is still worse is that the most important matter of all has been overlooked by the Government, namely, an overhaul of the Electoral Act, which is now being done by a Select Committee appointed by this House. On the question now before members there has been much heated controversy both inside and outside Parliament. In some respects a good deal of knowledge has been displayed, and in other respects none at all. I do not suppose that any subject either within the State or the Commonwealth has caused so much comment or led to so many recommendations as that dealing with the control of our natives. A great deal of the criticism and comment has come from those States where there are no natives. Criticism has emanated from a number of people who have only a superficial knowledge of the original race of this country, and have no acquaintance whatever with the mode of living or prospects of or anything to do with the lives of the natives generally.

There is criticism of the Government department in charge of the natives, and criticism of the missions, but both have done a fair amount of good for the aborigines. The native question is indeed difficult, and it is exceedingly hard to find the best means of alleviating their condition generally. All the attempts that have been made to im-

prove the lot of the natives have not been successful, although to a certain extent they have proved very useful. All the efforts that have been made in this direction have resulted in only one end, namely, the creation of an idle race amongst people from whom we could have expected better service if they had been handled differently. Many full-blooded natives will not work at all, and have no desire to do so. As a result of various steps that have been taken by different Governments over the years the natives are now provided with practically everything without having to do a tap of work to earn what they get. In the case of natives who were found most useful on stations—particularly was that so with half-castes—owing to the assistance now being given to them in the way of child endowment, they will not work.

I know of many instances where good servants on stations have left and gone into towns, where they pick up all the vices of the white people and none of their virtues. Because of the cash that comes in from child endowment, plus the goods that come in for nothing, they do not want work, and will not work. That is the position today. A great deal has been said with regard to the punishment of native children. It is all very well to say we must be kind to the natives, but they will not always accept kindness in the spirit that white people would do. They do not look upon that sort of thing as a kindness, for when they are treated in that way they regard it as a weakness on our part and play upon it accordingly. They possess a peculiar trait which does not apply to white people. According to this morning's paper the natives should be taken over by the Commonwealth Government. Surely those who advocate the taking of that step can remember the fiasco of the Northern Territory, where the Commonwealth Government endeavoured to handle the native problem!

Whilst the handling of natives in this State has been fairly successful, as successful, probably, as it could have been with that class of person, the handling of natives in the Northern Territory has been disgraceful. In that respect the Commonwealth Government has failed entirely. In the case of Victoria, there was a particularly good settlement for natives, who were not like those found in this State. In the northern

part of South Australia there are very few natives, and there are none at all now in New South Wales. Queensland has a system considerably in advance of ours. A huge fund has been built up there, and the natives are extremely well looked after. It is no use pampering natives as some people would like to see done. A good deal of political weight has been pulled in Australia, but much of it has come from States in which there are no natives and where no-one has any close knowledge of them. In this State, on the other hand, a great deal has been done for the natives, although what has been done has not been perfect by any means. It is not easy to devise the right means of handling natives, and those people who advocate particular methods do so without the foundation of the requisite knowledge. From the financial point of view numbers of people claim that the natives should be taken over by the Commonwealth Government, that the question is one for the nation.

To my mind the principal factor to consider is that the natives shall be under the control of the State and of persons who have wide experience of them. It is necessary to know their habits intimately, their mode of living, their aims, and what can be done with them. The passing of this Bill will mean that certain natives will be given citizenship rights. Very few full-blooded natives are likely to qualify, but possibly quite a number of half-castes will do so. If any native can pass the tests, and those who are in control of the Act use their judgment in the right direction, it is proper to extend the franchise to those people. It is necessary, however, that the natives should be handled by people who have had the necessary experience and can arrive at a proper judgment as to their mentality and balance. This will be an experiment that will apply in the main to half-castes. I see nothing in the Bill to object to, but whether any good will be achieved we do not yet know. Apparently members are prepared to make the experiment; we will see how it works out. I hope that when the Bill is passed those who have to administer it will do so in a way that will ensure that the necessary safeguards are applied. They should see that the privilege is not abused, for that might well happen if sufficient care is not taken. If the Act is administered as it should be and responsible people have charge

of it, I do not see that much harm can ensue. I support the second reading.

**HON. V. HAMERSLEY (East):** From time immemorial there has been difficulty in connection with the native question. Those people have been of wonderful service in the back country. On various stations pastoralists have had considerable success in the training of natives. A good deal of patience was necessary, but with all the training that was given, it was still found that the natives could not be civilised permanently because of their longing to return to the bush. When that longing developed, no matter what kindness was meted out to them, they had the urge to go, and that naturally brought in its wake an attempt on the part of those who had been doing the training and expected to reap the reward, to keep the natives in their jobs. There was always that sort of friction. It is not surprising that there have been so many changes in policy on the part of various Governments at different periods. There has been a great deal of disappointment in the attempts that have been made to civilise the natives and induce them to conform to our methods and customs. During that period there has sprung into being a tremendous number of half-castes, who in many instances have been carefully trained and have proved themselves to be entirely adaptable.

Throughout the pastoral or agricultural industries or anywhere where machinery is used, the natives have proved themselves very quick, quite reliable, and most useful. There has, however, always been the tendency for them to break away. Many half-castes are well conducted and some of them are well educated. I have had appeals from many of them on the question of their being allowed to vote and enter civilised life. This applies particularly to the half-castes. They feel that they are outcasts in their native land. The intentions of this Bill are appreciated and it is supported because if it helps only a few natives to uplift themselves—there cannot be many of them—much good will be achieved. Those who apply for the right to vote will have to pass the careful scrutiny of the magistrate before being accepted as voters. That will be a great encouragement to others to endeavour to follow the example thus afforded to them. Difficulties may arise. It may be that one of

these natives will be got hold of. There may be a danger in this.

Natives are frequently responsive to the last person who gets hold of them. There is danger ahead for many of them if they are put on the roll. I am told that attempts have already been made to get control of some of our natives, and I have heard over the air remarks in connection with the creation of a black republic. There are large numbers of natives in the South-West of this State but there is none of the Swan River natives left. Those who have migrated from the stations in the North-West and from the Kimberleys provide the principal source of supply of native blood at present. Many have been brought in through the various institutions. It does not matter where they come from, the sex trouble is rampant with them all, and naturally the races have mixed. Wherever they are, we have this trouble. Dr. Hislop suggested that if they contracted certain diseases as a result of some of this inter-mixing and these misdeeds, they should not lose their citizenship rights. There are just as many troubles, and as many or more delinquents, among our own race as there are among the half-castes and the full-blooded natives. We have set them a very bad example in many respects. If we say that they must lose their right to vote because they contract certain diseases, then that principle should be applied to the whites as well.

Much has been said recently in connection with the troubles at several of the settlements, particularly those at Carrolup and Moore River. I had occasion to visit the Moore River Settlement when it was first established, and I thought then that it was one of the most deplorable places that could be chosen as a site for such an institution. I inquired as to whether there was some better land along the river, and was told that there was some far better country further out. I marvelled that this place had not been established upon good land where it could be made self-supporting. However, since it has been established I have learned that encouragement has been given to the natives by way of development on an area some 10 miles along the river from the original settlement. Some very good structures have been put up so that there are available some quite good homes for the natives. They have been producing a large quantity of their own supplies on the settle-

ment, and it is in that direction that the best training can be given to them. They will readily take to such training as will teach them to produce their own requirements, and that is the training most useful to them. They will, as a result, be much better citizens. I believe that by giving them citizenship rights and the opportunity to vote we shall extend to them something that will appeal to them as a distinct advantage compared with anything they have had before, and we shall get better results from them because they will feel that they are being taken into a brotherhood with the rest of us. They will appreciate that there is a better future for them. I hope that the second reading will be passed.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (in reply): I have listened with a great deal of interest to the comments by members during the debate made on this Bill—a debate which has been noteworthy on account of the great divergence of opinions on the native question. I listened to Mr. Baxter this afternoon and I can agree with a good deal of what he said. At the same time he mentioned one or two matters with which I certainly cannot agree. I shall, perhaps, deal with those points in the course of my reply to the remarks of other members. At this juncture I can say that, generally speaking, members agree with the principles of the Bill. Having experienced all the vagaries and complexities of the native question when I was, for some years, Minister controlling native affairs, I can well understand why members find difficulty in reaching a concerted opinion on the many points included in what we commonly refer to as the "native question." It is a difficult subject. That being so, it occurs to me that the department is entitled to more sympathetic interest in its onerous obligations.

Members, of course, have taken the opportunity to criticise generally the administration of native affairs, and in some instances no mention has been made of the merits or demerits of the Bill. While there is no desire on my part to avoid a general discussion on native affairs, I feel that this is not the proper time to deal with it extensively, and would prefer to confine my remarks to the merits of the Bill, which is of vital importance to that type of native who is living according to white standards, is paying taxation, and is entitled to con-

sideration as a human being from the standpoint of citizens' rights.

I propose to deal with the remarks of a number of members. Mr. Welsh was inconsistent in his comments on the Bill. That was most unusual on his part, but I think that I can show that I am quite correct in my statement. First of all he said, in effect, that northern natives were unworthy of consideration with respect to the rights of citizenship. Then he said it would be difficult to find more reputable citizens than some of the half-castes; that they were infinitely better than many southern Europeans, and he then went on to say that he would have no hesitation whatever in granting them full citizen rights. He disclosed a humane attitude in his remarks to that stage, but he finally discounted his utterances by stating that he intended to oppose the Bill as he considered it was ill-advised and he did not think any good would come of it. Mr. Dimmitt did not deal with the merits of the Bill at all, but fell into a criticism of the Moore River Native Settlement and it appears to me that he based his remarks on some statements made by a member in another place. I do not know whether Mr. Dimmitt has paid a visit to Moore River, but if he has not I suggest to him that he does, at some suitable time, go to that settlement in order that he may have first-hand knowledge of the institution and of the problems it has to face.

Likewise, Mr. Bolton hardly referred to the Bill. He did mention, however, the additional amount made available by the Government for the welfare of the natives. There has been an immeasurable improvement in the welfare of the natives and their social conditions since the present Government assumed office. Today the natives are enjoying unprecedented prosperity in employment and monetary circumstances. Doubtless this is mostly due to the war, but a portion of the improvement must also be attributed to their increasing intelligence and adaptability to industrious occupations. The Government has in view a proposal to secure a new settlement for the better elements of the inmates at the Moore River Native Settlement, and to retain the latter place as an institution for delinquents and bush types of natives. For some time inquiries have been going on with a view to acquiring a new property for this purpose, but as yet the Minister

in charge of the department has not been able to secure a suitable country site, due mostly to the problem of an adequate water supply.

The water supply would have to be satisfactory for a considerable number of natives. There are other requirements which the site selected must possess such as transport facilities, the capacity of the property to provide employment for a considerable number of natives from time to time and, of course, it is necessary that any new settlement of that kind should be in a district that is accessible so that natives may be obtained for employment on private properties. It is of no use having a settlement many miles from districts where the natives are likely to be employed in the rural industries because, as pointed out by one speaker this afternoon, the natives are often most unreliable in regard to the length of time they will spend in any particular place. It appears that sooner or later nature asserts itself and they feel they must move along. Almost invariably the natives who have been associated with a settlement find their way back to the place again. Therefore it is necessary to have the settlement in a district where it can be particularly useful from the point of view of providing native employment in rural industry and at the same time affording a place to which these people can repair when the necessity arises.

Quite a number of critics appear to view the native question as a destitute problem. This is not so on present-day standards, because I am advised by the Commissioner of Native Affairs that approximately 6,000 natives are employed during some time of the year. He also advises that rationing has been discontinued, except, of course, at settlements and mission stations, and for aged and infirm natives at various towns. No able-bodied natives are rationed these days. This is a big change from the position as we knew it only a few years ago. Since approximately 6,000 of them are employed from the limited number of the native population of the State, I feel I should remind members of this fact as it discloses a very creditable, industrious capacity on the part of the natives generally.

During the debate the half-caste question has been stressed, and one would believe that Western Australia possessed all the

half-castes in the Commonwealth of Australia. As a matter of fact, we have in Western Australia only one-fifth of the half-castes, and we have about 50 per cent. of the full-bloods. At the 30th June, 1943, the half-caste population was estimated at 5,471. Figures are not available for the number of the half-castes in the other States as at the same date, but at the 30th June, 1940, New South Wales had 10,171, Queensland 6,164, and South Australia 2,250. Since then these latter figures have increased considerably, and they will be of interest to members since they disclose that the half-caste question is serious in other States as compared with Western Australia, though, of course, it is bad enough here.

Members will recall that when I was Minister for Native Affairs I introduced an amendment to the native administration laws and pointed out that in my opinion the native problem in this State was not one of full-bloods at all. We had passed that stage and reached the stage when the problem was that of the half-caste. It was our own white people who were really responsible for that state of affairs. Some members will recall the criticism aimed at me for having the temerity to make such a statement. In the few years that have elapsed, however, there has been an entire change of viewpoint on the part of some members; so much so that they have recognised this fact and also the fact that something ought to be done to care for the interests of the half-castes and to prevent, as far as possible, any considerable increase in the problem. Between Perth and Albany there are at present several thousand half-castes. Most of them are young people of both sexes, and if the debate on this Bill is any criterion, it appears that there is a possibility of this problem being regarded from an entirely different angle from that which prevailed a few years ago.

Dealing with the reference made by Mr. Seddon and other members to the strict qualifications necessary before a native is entitled to citizenship rights, it has been found necessary to lay down these standards in the Bill because of the difficulties of the problems to be faced in extending franchise and other citizenship rights to well-conducted natives. I have already said that, generally speaking, members have indicated a favourable attitude to the principles of the Bill and have shown a desire to assist well-

behaved natives in acquiring citizenship rights. On the other hand, some members are not at all sure whether well-conducted natives will be able to stand up to the obligations of white citizenship. These divergent viewpoints represent one cogent reason why the question involved should be approached cautiously by imposing conditions which ordinarily would not apply to our white people, but which would provide safeguards in extending such rights to persons of aboriginal ancestry. Doubtless we will be able to relax the rather strict standards at a later date if experience justifies the adoption of that course.

I think Mr. Baxter was quite right in his comments; I do not anticipate that the number of natives who will be able to qualify for citizenship rights under this measure will be large. Regardless of what the number may be, however, I think it will give the administration an indication of the policy that ought to be adopted by the department, and therefore by the Government, in regard to the treatment of some of the problems that exist at present. Members have dealt with the question of the association between holders of certificates of citizenship and other native persons. This is a problem of first importance, since the drink question is a formidable problem with the natives, and for this reason there must be a line of demarcation between certificate-holders who would be able to obtain drink and the native population in general. Statistics disclose that 50 per cent. of offences by natives are attributable to drink.

Superficially, it would appear unfair to stipulate conditions of citizenship for native persons, but we must take a realistic attitude because we know full well that persons of native ancestry are more often than not saddled with native disabilities, and this applies particularly to the drink question. The Government has therefore thought it necessary to restrict the native association of holders of certificates of citizenship to lineal relatives of the first degree. If this condition were not imposed we would have certificate holders in complete companionship with all types of natives, and difficulties would arise in respect to the drink and other questions.

During his remarks Mr. Seddon said that one thing is fairly well recognised throughout the community, namely, that there is something radically wrong with the Moore



River Native Settlement. He said that there was a need for an inquiry into conditions at that settlement and also at Carrolup. Mr. Bolton and Mr. Dimmitt also referred to these settlements. I repeat that there is nothing radically wrong with the Moore River Native Settlement or the Carrolup Native Settlement. I say this advisedly, but I do not intend to belabour a matter that has already been given undeserved publicity. The Moore River Settlement has been established on some of the poorest land in the State. I have always criticised the site of that settlement.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Who was responsible for its selection?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Not the present Government and not a Labour predecessor, either, I believe. I understand that the spot was selected because it was regarded as being suitable as a sanatorium for old natives and children. Unfortunately, in those days, it was developed in such a way that it now has all types of natives as inmates. Going back a few years, a previous Government—not a Labour Government—decided to clear out all the natives who were in the vicinity of one of our rather important country towns. They were removed, almost without exception, to the Moore River Settlement. It did not matter where they were sent so long as they were cleared out of the district in which they had lived and worked for many years. This, however, did not solve the native problem either in that district or at the Moore River Settlement. It is unfortunate, of course, that schools at the Moore River Native Settlement and Carrolup Native Settlement have been closed for some time. So far as the education of natives is concerned, I am in agreement with the views expressed by Mr. Roche that education of the right description would furnish the key to the problem of the native question. At least I believe it would largely do so insofar as the younger generation of natives is concerned. Mr. Bolton apparently agreed with this view.

We have to recognise that in the older natives we have a problem. No matter what we try to do nature will assert itself. In view of the fact that it has not been possible to give them the education which would bring them more into line with our white standards, we will always

have extreme difficulty, whether it be with the natives in the north or in the south, because of the mode of living which has been theirs from childhood days. I know other members in this House who have had all their lives close association, as employers, with natives; and I think they will agree with my statement. I take the responsibility, if anyone must do so, for having decided that the education of natives in the Government institutions of this State should be the responsibility of the Education Department and not of the Native Affairs Department. Until the end of last year education in those institutions was the responsibility of the Native Affairs Department, which did quite good work until such time as staffing problems became so acute that it was impossible to secure the services of any teacher at all. We are not in a position to force any teacher to go to the Moore River Settlement and teach the children there, nor to the Carrolup Settlement and teach the children there, nor elsewhere. The Education Department, however, has accepted that responsibility; and members are aware, as I have told the House on numerous occasions, that there has been, and still is, a most serious staffing problem confronting the Education Department itself.

If we are to achieve real success in the education of the young natives, it is necessary not only that we should have qualified teachers for that purpose, but qualified teachers who are keenly interested in the pupils whom they will be educating. It is not hard to understand that many people object, for various reasons, to being associated with natives at all. I am distinctly hopeful that when the schools re-open—and they will re-open at the beginning of the next school year—we shall have teachers of the kind I have mentioned: teachers not only qualified from an educational point of view, but also keenly interested in the welfare of the natives. A special curriculum is being drawn up for native education, and since it has been arrived at and based on a wide survey of the native educational system in Queensland, members can rest assured that the curriculum will be of a practical type. It has never been the policy of the department to take native children only up to the fourth standard, as was implied by Mr. Bolton.

Some people are under this misapprehension, but it is not a fact, and in a number of cases children have been brought to Perth to obtain the benefit of the higher educational facilities available at the metropolitan schools.

When I was Minister for Education I had the pleasure of arranging for at least one qualified girl to be enrolled as a student nurse at the Wooroloo Sanatorium. Even here a difficulty had to be overcome regarding her association with other trainees. This particular girl did well, became qualified, and served at various Government hospitals with credit to herself and her profession, but ultimately she married a half-caste and retired from the nursing service. That was a big disappointment for me, because I was hoping that this might have been the first of many cases in which we could have utilised the services of a native girl. I went to a great deal of trouble in order to ensure, as far as it was possible for me to do so, that the girl would be successful in her profession and that it might be possible for us to utilise her services in one or another of our Government institutions. When teachers were available and education was carried out at the settlement, there was a manual training instructor at the Moore River Native Settlement, and domestic training classes were conducted for the older school girls. These classes will be taken up energetically when the schools are reopened; and Mr. Bolton can rest assured that every possible effort will be made to impart suitable manual training instruction and instruction in domestic work.

Young natives are kept in the settlements until they are fairly well trained to take outside positions, but we have a finishing-off training centre for domestic trainees in Perth, and usually girls are brought down to this training centre before they are actually sent out to domestic employment for the first time, mostly in country positions. I think I can say that the majority of these girls have given every satisfaction. There is a constant stream of applications to the department for the services of half-caste girls, particularly from the Government institutions. Unfortunately we cannot supply anything like the number required by employers in all parts of the State. Although it may be true that in some instances these girls are unsatisfactory, it would be quite unfair to place them all in the same cate-

gory. The same test could be applied even to our white girls. Without going into details, we know a certain number of our white girls are unsatisfactory no matter where and under what conditions they are employed, and no matter what the type of employer may be. The same applies to native girls, but to a greater degree owing to the disability which I previously mentioned, namely, that nature will assert itself and in some cases they cannot always live up to white standards.

Certain views conveyed to him by Mr. R. S. Schenk of the Mt. Margaret Mission, were expressed by Mr. Seddon. Mr. Schenk is known to the department and the public generally. He is to be commended for the state of his mission according to his own standards, but Mr. Seddon knows full well that it has also been the subject of adverse criticism. The Royal Commissioner, Mr. Moseley, even recommended that it should be removed to a more outback position. Even so, the department recognises the welfare aspect of the Mt. Margaret Mission and has not sought to frustrate its efforts in any way; except that the department established the Cosmo Newbery Depot against the wishes of the mission, but at the desire of the local pastoralists. Mr. Schenk's general statement that the department has pursued a policy of allowing the full-bloods to die out will certainly not be acceptable to fair-minded people. On the contrary the department has endeavoured to frustrate interference with full-bloods and the dismemberment of their families by the removal of their children to missions. This is where the department has acted contrary to the views of Mr. Schenk, who, it is pleasing to me to note, by his letter to Mr. Seddon, supports the principles of the Bill.

The question of the issue of certificates of exemption was mentioned by Mr. Schenk, who drew attention to the fact that the holders of such certificates are not permitted in principle to visit the Mt. Margaret Mission. This is so because the mission is a native reservation, and since such certificates exclude their holders from the provisions of the Native Administration Act and the regulations thereunder, it follows that it would be wrong in principle to allow natives to have the right of residence on native reservations, such as missions and Government settlements to which

such Act and regulations apply, as these reservations are definitely set aside for the use of natives only, and permits must be obtained by other persons desirous of entering them. I do not want that statement of mine to be misunderstood. Nothing that I have said in that respect would prevent the holder of a certificate from paying a visit either to a mission or to a Government institution; but if he desired to pay a visit to either of those places and to stay there for any time, then it would be necessary for him to obtain a permit from the local protector, in the same way as a white man has to do today. This is reasonable.

We shall have difficulties in this respect mainly because natives, as members are aware, like to congregate together. Sometimes they will go to any length and even travel long distances in order to meet their relatives, their kith and kin and friends. However, a native who secures citizenship rights under this measure must know that the white man's law will apply to him. So long as he recognises that fact, there will be little difficulty in his visiting such places as the Mt. Margaret Mission. The Native Administration Act was acclaimed as a most modern measure when it was passed by Parliament, and I cannot understand why Mr. Schenk should describe it as the most anti-British and anti-democratic Act in Australia, especially as a number of its provisions have been incorporated in the native legislation of other States. I do not know whether Mr. Schenk went into particulars in that regard, but it seems strange criticism to come from that gentleman in view of the actual facts of the situation; and more particularly in view of the fact that, when that Act was passed by Parliament, we received very high eulogies from organisations and individuals associated with the native problem in various parts of Australia and elsewhere.

Turning now to the remarks of Mr. Thomson, who has had a lot of experience with natives, I notice that he advocates the segregation of the half-castes from the full-bloods; but members know full well the impossibility of that at this late stage; and I doubt whether it would have been possible even in the early history of the State. The general consensus of opinion elsewhere in Australia is that it is now too late to do anything in the way of segregation, and there should be no objection to half-castes associating with full-

bloods. This is the expressed opinion of that well-experienced officer, Mr. Bleakley, who lately retired from the position of Director of Native Affairs in Queensland, and who, I think, is acknowledged by many people and organisations as being an outstanding authority in Australia on the native problem.

Some time was devoted by Mr. Thomson to criticism respecting a particular case in his district. He referred to a man named Rodney at Woodanilling, who was a sanitary worker; and he also mentioned the association between Rodney's daughter, Winnie Rodney, and an alleged quarter-caste named Morton Hansen. Hansen is a quadroon and is not subject to the Native Administration Act. The citing of this case by Mr. Thomson indicates just how far some members are inclined unjustifiably to criticise the department for something for which it is not responsible. The facts are that Rodney holds a certificate of exemption. He is a well-behaved person, and industrious as well, but his home is the resort of native persons in general. Even so, and even though Rodney is a borderline case so far as native companionship is concerned, the Minister granted him a certificate of exemption. The Minister also issued a certificate of exemption to Rodney's daughter Winnie; but she subsequently became involved and lived as a native person with Morton Hansen, by whom she has had a child; and this has resulted in the revocation of her certificate of exemption.

Hansen is a man of industrious habits, but he has had affiliations with various native women, and has become involved in matrimonial discord in which the department has not been concerned. He is a married man and the father of children by his legal wife, but he deserted her some years ago and took up with another half-caste married woman, by whom he has also had native children. In other words, the man Hansen has had affections for various native women, and has not hesitated to transfer them as his inclinations prompted him; and now he is living with Winnie Rodney. Hansen endeavoured to untangle his matrimonial affairs by proceeding for a divorce against his wife on the ground of desertion; but the King's Proctor became aware of his affair with the other woman and objected to Hansen's petition, with the result that he decided to discontinue proceedings. In fair-

ness to the department, and since it has been in no way responsible for Hansen's various affairs with native women, I think I should disclose these facts.

Even now, Hansen—as a quadroon—is committing a breach of Section 46 of the Native Administration Act by living with Winnie Rodney; but the department has not authorised his prosecution for this definite breach of the Native Administration Act, the provisions of which were laid down by Parliament, and not by the Department of Native Affairs. To all intents and purposes, Hansen is a white person. He is not subject to the provisions of the Native Administration Act; and this means that, as a non-native, he is committing a breach of the Act by living with the native person Winnie Rodney.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Why is he not prosecuted?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: He is one of those borderline cases. Evidently Mr. Thomson desires that the relationship between those people should not be interfered with. As yet, the department has taken no action except to cancel Winnie Rodney's certificate of exemption; and I doubt whether it will do anything further in the matter, although Hansen's position is similar to that of a white man who might live with an ordinary native woman. There are from time to time a number of exceedingly difficult problems affecting the domestic circumstances of individual native people; and it is quite easy to get a wrong conception of the case, if one listens to statements which may be made by one or other of the interested parties concerned. The department usually has full information concerning all the parties and very seldom acts without being sure of its ground. I think it will be conceded that, so far as the present Commissioner is concerned, in the great majority of cases any action he eventually decides upon is fair and just, in view of the circumstances.

The presence of natives about towns in the southern areas over week-ends was referred to by Mr. Thomson. There has been quite a lot of criticism in this regard, and protests have been made because of misconduct on the part of natives. This sort of thing cannot be permitted, and in some instances the presence of natives in towns has had to be regulated by the issue of

passes. I have no doubt that some members of this House have been associated with representations made to the department from time to time with a view to some action being taken to deal with the native problem in their particular districts. Action is not taken at the behest of the department, but of the particular districts; and there is need for Mr. Thomson, if he disagrees with the action taken, to educate the people in his district in matters of this kind. Sometimes it has been necessary for action to be taken. Very frequently it is quite easy for an ugly situation to arise, and I have every sympathy with the people of those districts as well as with the natives themselves. So far as I know, there are very few cases in which it would be possible to criticise the action taken by the department with a view to maintaining the peace and good order of certain country districts.

In principle, the department does not favour prohibited areas or the restriction of the presence of natives in towns because, as human beings, they are entitled to liberties and to an opportunity to make purchases at towns over the week-ends: but local authorities and citizens of various towns have raised objections because of certain episodes involving misbehaviour, and action had to be taken to deal with the local situations. Mr. Thomson raised the question of a £ for £ subsidy from the Commonwealth Government for the welfare of the natives. This proposal was originally put forward by the Commissioner of Native Affairs as far back as the 11th February, 1942, when he gave evidence before the Commonwealth Parliament's Select Committee on Social Security, and advocated a Commonwealth grant of £3 for every £2 of State expenditure, subject to the stipulation that the State expenditure was not to fall below the mean of the last five years. The Commissioner also reiterated this proposal when he gave evidence before the State Select Committee on the Commonwealth Powers Bill; and he substantiated his evidence with facts showing just why the State Government was unable to finance the native question alone.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Was that put up to the Federal authorities?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: It was put up to the State Select Committee and to the Federal authorities.

Hon. W. J. Mann: With what result?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: So far, with no result. Mr. Roche disclosed a very realistic attitude towards the native question, and he appeared to appreciate the difficulties of the problem. He did not endeavour to pass the blame on to others. However, I am not prepared to agree with him that the granting of child endowment to native parents was a most ghastly error. I think those were the terms in which he described the payments. On the one hand, we have a considerable body of opinion advocating the humane treatment of detribalised natives and natives generally, and advocating as well the extension of all social benefits to them. On the other hand, Mr. Roche criticises the Commonwealth administration for the extension of social benefits to detribalised natives. The department's experience is that the extension of social benefits to natives has done a lot of good, and has materially assisted the social uplift of the natives; but it admits, at the same time, that there have been abuses in the expenditure of child endowment moneys by native parents. Of course, there are also very many similar cases of abuse by white parents, but we do not hear so much of these abuses.

Every possible action must be taken to preserve the benefits which detribalised natives have acquired in this regard. The majority of natives are responding well to the proper expenditure of their social benefit funds, but there are many cases of abuse in the spending of the money, and the department intends to supervise these cases. By arrangement between the Commonwealth and State Governments, it is intended to cancel direct payment of cash in the reported cases of abuse, and to issue orders on local storekeepers instead for clothes and foodstuffs corresponding to the value of the child endowment payments. The department will then collect the child endowment moneys, open trust accounts for the various payees, and pay the accounts for food and clothing, etc., supplied to those natives who are unworthy of receiving direct cash payments. I reiterate that this Bill is a step in the right direction, representing a desire on the part of the Government to raise the status of those natives who have shown that they are capable of taking their place in the community as citizens. I trust that the Bill will meet with full approval.

Question put.

The PRESIDENT: There must be a division in connection with the second reading of this Bill. I appoint Hon. H. S. W. Parker teller for the Ayes.

Hon. C. B. Williams: And whom for the Noes?

The PRESIDENT: The officers of the House.

Division resulted as follows:—

Ayes	....	....	....	....	23
Noes	....	....	....	....	0

Majority for ..... 23

#### AYES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. J. G. Hialop
Hon. C. R. Cornish	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. T. Moore
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. V. Hamersley	(Teller.)

#### NOES.

NIL.

The PRESIDENT: There being more than an absolute majority voting for the second reading, I declare the question carried in the affirmative.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Hon. G. Fraser in the Chair; the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Short title:

Progress reported.

*House adjourned at 6.21 p.m.*