

BILL—LIGHT AND AIR ACT AMENDMENT.**Assembly's Message.**

Message from the Assembly received and read, notifying that it had agreed to the modification made by the Council to the Assembly's amendment.

BILLS—(2)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Land Act Amendment.
- 2, Dog Act Amendment.

Received from the Assembly.

House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 16th November, 1922.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE BOARD.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, the time for bringing up the report of the select committee was extended for a fortnight.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Dog Act Amendment.
- 2, Land Act Amendment.

Transmitted to the Council.

BILL—HOSPITALS.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 31st October.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [4.35]: I am rather surprised that

the Government have introduced this Bill. It is not in accordance with the desire expressed here last session, and I am confident it is not a measure which is desired by the public. The Bill will not have the effect of assisting the hospitals, but will place them in a worse position than they are in at present. Provision is made for an alteration in the system of management. The hospitals to-day, financially, are controlled by Government officials, and there are different kinds of hospital management in various parts of the State. In Perth and Fremantle the hospitals are managed by boards appointed by the Government. There are numerous hospitals which are managed by the district medical officers, or were so managed until quite recently, because the other night we were informed that they are now controlled by the matrons. Then there are hospitals under management committees elected by subscribers. There are different conditions applying to hospitals. In Government hospitals and in the Fremantle and Perth Hospitals, the conditions provide that patients who can afford to pay must pay the fees stipulated by the board. Indigent patients are treated at the expense of the board. In the hospitals managed by committees, some permit contributors to receive free medical attention in return for the amount contributed. This applies chiefly to the hospitals of the goldfields, Kalgoorlie excepted, and also to the hospitals at the timber mills, where contributions are made for the upkeep and management of the hospitals. The Government rarely subsidise, except where they subsidise the district medical officer to a small extent.

Mr. Stubbs: At some hospitals, such as those at Katanning and Narrogin, the people are not asked to pay a penny.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The boards fix the fees at such hospitals and charge the people who are able to pay, but where hospitals are subsidised by the Government, the subsidy is paid for the treatment of indigent cases. I realise that a number of the patients treated in the country may not be residents of the particular districts in which they are treated, and that there is no means of obtaining hospital fees in respect of them.

Mr. Underwood: Do you ever get a fee from those who have been educated?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am not dealing with education now.

Mr. Underwood: Why not make a special tax for them, too?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The management of our hospitals up to date has been fairly satisfactory. There have not been many complaints. The complaints lodged have come principally from those unable to obtain sufficient funds to carry on the hospitals as they should be carried on. I do not know of any cases where the officers of the Government, the boards or the committees have made complaints with regard to the management or control. The only complaints have been on the score of insufficient funds to carry on

the work. This Bill proposes to initiate a new system of control. It provides for the formation of a trust. So far as I have been able to gather, there is no similar legislation elsewhere in Australia. In New Zealand there is a kind of trust or board which controls, in addition to hospitals, all the charity work, and that board receives the amounts contributed to the hospitals, the amounts contributed by local districts, and also a subsidy from the Government. The control here proposed is bound to result in additional expenditure. There is no help for it.

Mr. Underwood: No help for it at all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no necessity to alter the existing system of control, and it should be altered only if it can be shown that the existing system has given rise to complaints, and is not in accordance with the desires of the people. The Government could well control the hospitals in the future as they have done in the past. These institutions could still remain under the Principal Medical Officer and his staff. The Colonial Secretary, in moving the second reading of the Bill, said there was no intention of increasing the staff and the work could still be done by the department. The Bill gives the trust power to appoint a staff.

The Colonial Secretary: I said some staff would be necessary to collect the money.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: And the Minister also said that no expense would be attached to it. The trust will have power to appoint a staff, and if they do not appoint a staff, it will be quite a new experience in this State.

Hon. P. Collier: And contrary to all precedents.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know of semi-Government institutions of which Government officers form the official staffs, but there is additional pay for them, and the same will apply to the hospitals trust. Members may rest assured that immediately the trust is appointed, there will be officers placed entirely under the trust.

Mr. Underwood: The chairman will have as many meetings as he can, because he will be paid for each.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The control of the hospitals should remain as at present without incurring any additional charge to the contributors, the taxpayers, or those who benefit from the hospitals. We also find that all hospitals are to be vested in the trust. Whether it is the intention of the Government to take in the Children's Hospital or not, I cannot say.

Mr. Mann: It is so.

Mr. Broun: They take in everything.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Government have power to exempt special hospitals. If the Children's Hospital is vested in the trust, there may be trouble with the committee responsible for the erection of that institution.

Mr. Latham: The same thing will apply to all assisted hospitals.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know that the Government have assisted in the erection of several hospitals.

Mr. Mann: This will mean the handing over of £40,000 worth of freehold property.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There will be a lot of freehold property handed over to the trust under the Bill. The measure goes further than that, for it vests in the trust all hospital reserves which are Class "A." The purpose of those reserves cannot be altered without the permission of Parliament. If the Bill be passed, the power of Parliament will be handed over to the trust so that they can dispose of or leave any Class "A" reserve set aside for hospital purposes.

Mr. Latham: That is not unreasonable, seeing that the trust will be relieving the Government.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Government will have to bring down a Bill to alter the purpose of any Class "A" reserve should they desire to make that alteration.

Hon. P. Collier: The Bill gives the trust greater power than the Government possess.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Parliament has to be fully satisfied as to the purpose of the reserve and the uses to which it is to be put, before agreeing to the passage of a Bill altering the purpose of such a reserve. In 1911 or 1912 a desire was expressed to erect a sanatorium for tubercular cases in the National Park. Parliament refused to sanction the movement. The National Park was a Class "A" reserve, containing about 10,000 acres. It was impossible for anything such as a hospital for tubercular patients to be erected on that reserve without the consent of Parliament. Although the medical men considered the National Park was the best site for such a purpose, the Government of the day had to look for another site and eventually the hospital was erected at Wooreloo. The Bill, however, takes away that power from Parliament and enables the trust to dispose of a Class "A" reserve. The Bill also deals with the hospital board. Hon. members should pay particular attention to the provisions setting out how the board is to be appointed or elected. Instead of carrying out the desires of the Principal Medical Officer, if the Bill be agreed to the desires of the trust will have to be observed. The British Medical Association is well represented on the trust.

Mr. Latham: By only one member.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There are to be three.

The Colonial Secretary: The people are well represented too.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not in proportion.

Mr. Underwood: But why have a trust at all? That is what we want to know.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There will be three members of the British Medical Association—two doctors, besides the Principal Medical Officer.

The Colonial Secretary: There are to be three, who will represent the local authorities.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: On the board, the same thing applies. One of the greatest difficulties I found during the period I administered the Health Department arose out of the jealousy that existed in the hospitals regarding doctors. There were many complaints in connection with the Perth Hospital that certain doctors could not get fair play in that institution and that medical men on the board used their influence in certain directions, while other men, who were giving their services free, could not secure the same consideration for their patients as was the case with those of the doctors on the board. The result was that we put every doctor off the board except the Principal Medical Officer. I was talking to a gentleman the other day, who has had many years experience of hospital administration, and I found that the same trouble had occurred in Victoria. There they found it necessary to exercise the same precaution so as to get fair consideration for all doctors concerned. It will be seen, therefore, that the doctors are well represented on the board, which will consist of seven members, four to be elected by subscribers, if any, two by the local governing authorities, and one who will be a medical practitioner not in receipt of a salary or subsidy from the trust. We also find in the Bill that the number of subscribers regulate the number of members to be appointed to the board. It is provided that if there are under 25 subscribers there will be no representative of that section. That indicates clearly to me that the Government do not anticipate getting many annual subscribers.

The Colonial Secretary: That provision is to encourage more subscribers.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am doubtful whether it will. The Bill provides that for under 100 subscribers there will be three representatives; under 74 subscribers, two; under 49, one; and under 25, none. I do not know if this provision is to deal with the small districts, but my experience goes to show that it is more likely that a larger number of subscribers will be secured in the small districts than in the large areas. The Minister evidently, therefore, anticipates that there is a great probability that the number of subscribers will be very small indeed. Under the present Hospitals Act there is provision for subscribers electing representatives on the hospital boards if the subscribers are sufficient in number. Although that provision is there for application to the Perth and Fremantle hospitals, there have never been a sufficient number of subscribers to elect a member of the board. Thus to date, this provision has been a dead letter and the Government have had to elect the whole board. The same thing will apply in this case. It is provided that the hospital board may arrange for treatment in a hospital if there are funds outside those of the hospital from which payment may be made. That is done to-day. In many country districts, subscribers to hospital funds are entitled to hospital treatment. That can only be given, however, where there is only one doctor in the locality.

Mr. Latham: It is done at Collie, where there are two doctors.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is, if they pay the hospital fees.

Mr. Wilson: The men pay 1s. a month there.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That must be a recent development. The general rule is that if there is more than one doctor in a locality they will not allow anyone to secure hospital treatment free if the doctors consider the person can afford to go to a private hospital or pay for the necessary attention.

Mr. Latham: This Bill will remedy that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No Bill in this world will remedy it.

Mr. Mullany: That system has broken down at Collie, Merredin and Albany.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Dr. Pearson was brought to Western Australia as an expert in children's diseases. There were many who desired that their children should be examined by him and the charges in connection with the consultation were to go to the Children's Hospital. The British Medical Association, however, said they would not allow Dr. Pearson to do that, as there were outside doctors available. There was a conference with the hospital board, but he was not permitted to do the work. Of course, in some cases it was done, but back door methods had to be applied without the knowledge of the British Medical Association. In one case a man had been endeavouring for years to have his child treated. When Dr. Pearson came here this man tried to secure his assistance but permission was refused. Dr. Pearson did see the child in the end. That was principally through the influence of Mr. Lovekin. The fact remains that we secured the advice of that gentleman and we got Dr. Pearson's report.

Hon. P. Collier: Don't put them wise to your methods!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The British Medical Association took the definite stand that the doctor could not take outside patients under the circumstances I have outlined.

Mr. Teesdale: Do you mean to say that Mr. Lovekin used back-door methods?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I did not. In this case he did a good turn.

Mr. Teesdale: I thought Mr. Lovekin was such a constitutional gentleman that he would not resort to back-door methods!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Doctors give their services free to hospitals. They claim that patients who can afford to pay should do so and should not be admitted to the hospital. The Bill does not provide, as the Minister implied, that doctors can follow their patients into the hospital.

Mr. Underwood: It could only apply in about five towns, anyhow. In each of the others there is but one doctor.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Certainly, there are not many cases. A friendly society doctor, if not appointed by the hospital board, could not follow his patient into a hospital. He cannot do it to-day in Perth or Fremantle unless he be one of the honorary doctors of the hospital. There is no provision in the Bill for it.

The Colonial Secretary: That is in the case of intermediate hospitals.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is true the Bill gives power for the establishment of intermediate hospitals. I am not going to object to that, because the Government are not a socialistic Government, or at all events, so they say. Nevertheless, this is another trading concern which they propose to start, in opposition to the existing private hospitals. There is not much likelihood of any intermediate hospital being established in Western Australia for many years to come; the doctors prefer to send their patients to private hospitals. I see no improvement in the Bill. Take the position of country hospitals: In a town where there is but one medical officer—

Mr. Underwood: There are very few towns with two.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: In those places the indigent patients are treated free. The patient who can afford to pay hospital fees has to do so, while if he can pay doctor's fees in addition, he has to pay them. That applies to all Government hospitals in the country. So there are three different classes of hospital patients.

Mr. Teesdale: Do you see any prospect of relief from the annual cadging?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I will deal with that presently. The Bill is not the Bill desired by the public. The general public are looking for a Bill which will abolish street cadging and continual begging. The object in introducing hospital taxation was to do away with that very cadging. The Bill will not do that; in fact it provides for additional begging. To-day any hospital can appoint an officer to solicit contributions to the hospital. The Bill provides that there shall also be an advisory board appointed by the Governor. That board is to have power to collect donations for the hospitals, and also for anything specially required in the hospitals. So under the Bill we have additional machinery for soliciting subscriptions for the hospital.

Mr. Mullany: That is only in certain places. That is the intention.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Bill does not say so. We are dealing, not with intentions, but with the Bill. The Bill is not in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Hospitals.

The Colonial Secretary: With slight variations it is.

[Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is provided on the current Estimates £66,305 for the upkeep of hospitals for six months only. That means that but for the Bill there would have been provided on the Estimates for the maintenance of hospitals for 12 months, £132,610. Further, in the Property Trust Sales Account, and in the Estimates of the Public Works Department there is provided £11,146 for maintenance and upkeep of hospitals. Thus, but for the Bill the Government would have provided for the maintenance of hospitals during the current financial year, an

aggregate sum of £143,756, an amount approximately the same as that provided last year. The Royal Commission on Hospitals calculated that from the proposed tax of a penny in the £ there would be received £113,000. The Minister told us it would be about £100,000.

The Colonial Secretary: I said it would relieve Consolidated Revenue to that extent.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the annual sum necessary for the hospitals be £143,756, how can it be said that the hospitals will be in a better position in consequence of a tax that will realise only £113,000, out of which all charges and expenses of the hospital trust will have to be provided?

Mr. Latham: The Royal Commission did not expect that the Woorloo Sanatorium would be brought under the Bill.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Still, I have to take the Bill as it stands. The Royal Commission said—a point which apparently the Government have overlooked—that this sum might not be sufficient to carry on the hospitals and, if not, it should be subsidised from Consolidated Revenue. The Government have made no such provision; neither has the Bill. So in future the hospitals will have to cadge some £30,000 per annum more than in the past.

The Colonial Secretary: There are other receipts besides the tax. There are all the subscriptions, and the collections from paying patients.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We have all that at present. When the tax comes into force there will be greater difficulty than ever in collecting subscriptions. The Minister proposes to relieve the hospitals by giving them through the tax much less money than they are getting to-day. Is it in accordance with the desires of the public that there shall be greater cadging under the Bill than there has ever been in the past? Conditions here are dissimilar from those in other parts of the world. We are not blessed with large numbers of rich men prepared to give endowments to our hospitals. We have only one or two small endowments, which the Government control. Those endowments are not taken into consideration in the Estimates. In the other States and elsewhere in the world where there are generous rich men, the hospitals have been handsomely endowed. Although we have a few rich men in this State, only one or two of them have done anything at all for the hospitals. Twelve months ago we were told the Bill would be passed on the New Zealand system. The new Zealand Act provides that 10s. for every pound of bequest received by the board, but in no case to exceed £500 in respect of any one bequest; 2s. for every pound of voluntary contributions, and pound for pound on contributions received by the board from the local authority, shall be paid out of Consolidated Revenue. That is the New Zealand system. If the tax were to be in addition to what would be paid by the Government, it certainly would place the hospitals in a better position.

Mr. Gibson: That is what the Royal Commission intended.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The same subsidy has been provided for the special institutions in New Zealand for which collections are made. Hon. members will see, therefore, that the provisions of this Bill are entirely different. This Bill is going to put the hospitals into a condition of bankruptcy, instead of helping them. Not one hospital in Western Australia will benefit from the Bill. Even in outback districts, as soon as the power of control has been taken out of the hands of the local committees, reliance will be placed entirely on what is to be got under this Bill, and contributions will cease.

The Colonial Secretary: Not in every case.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, because the Bill takes the hospital away from the committee. They will not be able to order any improvements or alterations except by permission of the trust.

The Colonial Secretary: Uniformity of control is wise.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There cannot be much uniformity as regards the carrying on of hospitals unless there is money to carry them on. Where there is no money, the hospital will close. What is the present position? We have in Western Australia 18,945 members of friendly societies, who are paying to medical funds—not benefit funds, but merely for medical attendance—9s. per quarter.

The Minister for Mines: Medical attendance in their homes.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But there are thousands of young men paying that contribution, and thousands of others who never get any medical attendance.

The Minister for Mines: But the payment is essentially for medical attendance in the home, and not hospital attendance.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Bill does not relieve them, because if they go to the hospital they have to pay there, and their own medical officer cannot follow them into the hospital. So far as the hospital is concerned, the position, if this Bill passes, will be exactly the same as to-day.

Mr. Gibson: They would go into the hospitals as intermediate patients.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That would be so if intermediate hospitals were established. The member for Fremantle (Mr. Gibson) knows better than I do the difficulties which ensue if an outside doctor enters a public hospital. The hospital people take the stand that all patients must be treated alike, and that if an outside doctor comes in, special attention will be directed to his particular patient, the attention of the nurses being diverted from indigent cases. Those are some of the difficulties of the past; of course they may have been removed by the wave of a magic wand—I cannot say. If the Minister refers this matter to his officers, he will learn that that was the principal objection put up to me against permitting doctors to follow their patients

into the public hospitals. The medical benefit societies last year paid for their medical attention nearly £23,000. On the members of those societies the Bill puts a very heavy tax. And why? Only to relieve the Government. The object is not to relieve the hospitals, but to relieve the Government.

Hon. P. Collier: It would be done better by a purely taxation Bill.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I hope the Minister will withdraw the Bill. If the Government want increased taxation, let them obtain it through the income tax. This Bill proposes increased taxation, but not sufficient to carry on the hospitals. The only point about it is that the money raised under the measure is to be earmarked for hospital purposes. Let hon. members note what inducements are offered towards the making of contributions to the hospitals. A person who in any financial year voluntarily contributes to the revenue of any public hospital—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. member is in order in reading the clauses of the Bill on a second reading.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I understood that I was not in order when quoting the numbers of the clauses. That has been my experience.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member can refer to the clauses.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That will do me. The position is that any person who voluntarily makes a contribution to a hospital can deduct that amount from his taxation return. That is how contributions are asked for. Is that assisting the hospitals?

The Colonial Secretary: Yes, because in most cases the contribution exceeds the amount recoverable by way of income tax.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister knows very well that if he refers to past hospital contributions he will find that the amounts are very small, with the two exceptions which I have mentioned. In the case of very few hospitals does one see a man come along with a hundred pounds. But what I wish to point out is that the imposition of this taxation will have a tendency to put an end to subscriptions. There is no hospital to-day where the patients are compelled to contribute. They do contribute, but most of the contributions are made in the country, where there is a fund guaranteeing to the district the services of a resident medical officer. A district medical officer is appointed with £100 or £200 a year for attending indigent patients. The residents of the district meet and agree to subscribe a certain amount, say guaranteeing the medical man £600 a year, with right of private practice. In a little while they find that it is necessary for proper medical treatment to establish a hospital. Then they appeal to the Government for assistance, which is sometimes granted and sometimes not. Thereupon the residents increase their subscriptions by paying into a medical fund, which gives

them the right to enter the hospital. That is how the matter is arranged to-day. But if we compel the people to pay this taxation, and take out of their hands the control of the hospital, to the erection of which they have contributed so much, and hand over the hospital to be worked under the trust that is to be appointed—

Mr. Latham: It will be a local committee.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But a local committee appointed under the Bill. The subscribers if they are over 100 in number get four representatives. The only thing to be done with this Bill is to throw it out. No member here can move any amendment which means an increased charge on the Consolidated Revenue.

Mr. Latham: But the Minister might be persuaded to do that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No member can move here, as was done in New Zealand, that a subsidy should be paid on the contributions. Private members' hands are tied in that respect. If the House passes the Bill, the hospitals will be placed in a worse position than they are in to-day. If hon. members desire to preserve the efficiency of our hospitals, let them throw out this Bill.

Mr. Latham: Would you agree to a Bill somewhat on the lines recommended by the Royal Commission?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not know. It all depends. The Government have been asked whether they cannot do something on behalf of persons who are contributing to friendly societies. They are to-day paying very fair sums purely for medical attention. With this tax on the top of that, they will pay 1s. per week at the lowest.

Mr. Latham: It amounts to 1s. 6d. or 1s. 9d. now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am dealing with people in the metropolitan area; and 9s. per quarter amounts to 8d. per week. If a man is earning £4 per week, there is another 4d. to go on. In addition, thousands of people contribute to another fund so that they can obtain hospital attendance if necessary. The Minister has been waited on and asked to take that matter into consideration.

The Colonial Secretary: But they do not contribute both to the friendly society and the hospital fund.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes.

The Colonial Secretary: No.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They will be doing so under this Bill.

Mr. Mullany: They do not contribute to the friendly societies and to the hospital funds.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They will do so under the Bill. The hon. member knows well that the Bill sets out that every person must pay one penny in the £1 of his income. Then there are those who contribute to friendly societies funds, an amount which runs into 1s. a week, and in addition there are those who pay into a medical fund. In my opinion once the Bill is carried it will be made to operate even more harshly than is the case to-day in the way of collecting hospital fees.

There are many people who are in an unfinancial position and are not able to pay their doctor's bills or hospital fees, and to whom at the present time a certain amount of leniency is shown. Those people will not be spared under the Bill; they will be summoned for the amounts they owe. Generally speaking, the Bill is one of the worst pieces of legislation ever introduced into this Chamber. If the Government had followed on the lines of the report of the Royal Commission, they would have done much better. The object of the Bill first of all is to relieve the Government more than the hospitals, and secondly, it will encourage ending. It will act detrimentally to the hospitals and will land them in no time in an unfinancial position, even worse than they find themselves in to-day, and it will give them £30,000 a year less than they are receiving at the present time. If the Minister does not withdraw the Bill I hope the House will throw it out on the second reading.

Mr. BROUN (Beverley) [5.35]: I hope that the House will agree to the second reading of the Bill and when in Committee, make a number of necessary amendments. It is important that we should have some legislation for the control of hospitals owing to the many anomalies which exist, and also because of the lack of uniformity so far as control and management are concerned. I regret that there has been in this Bill a wide departure from the principles contained in the Bill which I introduced last session. I regret this, because when I submitted that Bill to the House I had particularly in view the control of the various hospitals in the country and the encouragement of the public generally to subscribe towards these institutions so as to relieve the Government of a heavy financial burden. Economy in administration was another matter which was not lost sight of. Under the Bill we are now considering there will be very little inducement for the exercise of economy. We find first of all a trust is to be appointed. I am not in accord with the suggested personnel of the trust, nor with the number who are to constitute it. If the trust be appointed as suggested in the Bill, the result will be to centralise the funds. The trust will be entitled to do this. The number, too, will make it cumbersome. It should be reduced to five. Last year's Bill contained a provision for the appointment of a trust as well as for the appointment of committees throughout the State, which committees would manage their own hospitals, and carry out their own supervision. Districts were to be set apart for the raising of funds which were to be spent on the institutions in the districts concerned. The main contention last year was the suggested method of taxation, and because of that a select committee was appointed to inquire into the best means of bringing about uniformity in that direction. The committee I think were almost in accord with the principles which were set out in that Bill, and I feel that the committee are still of that opinion. The method of taxation

under the first Bill would have cast a burden on a limited number of taxpayers. That was objected to by some hon. members and the committee was appointed to inquire into the matter and suggest a method by which the taxation might be more evenly spread amongst the community. In making their recommendations the committee have now centralised the whole of the funds, and the various local managing bodies will have practically no say so far as the distribution of those funds is concerned. The result will be that not the same interest will be taken in the management of our hospitals as was done formerly. The various committees controlling the different hospitals, more particularly in the metropolitan area, will have at their command more funds than they asked for to enable them to bring their hospitals up to date. It will be found also that many of the committees in the country districts will endeavour to enlarge their hospitals and provide the best of accommodation, which is just as essential in the country as it is anywhere else, and the result will be that instead of the administration costing £130,000 it will, in the short period of two or three years run into £200,000 or £300,000, and provision will have to be made for that sum to be raised. In my opinion there is nothing in the Bill that will induce economies. I do not wish to infer that our hospitals should be stinted. They should be provided with all those facilities that are essential, but at the same time every economy should be practised. Under the Bill submitted last year this would have been brought about because the local bodies were made responsible for raising the necessary revenue and imposing a tax. Then if the board did not give satisfaction and were lavish in their expenditure, there was power to turn them out and to put others in their place. Provision was also made for the subsidising of bequests or donations. There is no such provision in the present Bill. The Colonial Secretary will get very little under this measure so far as donations are concerned because the man who is paying the tax for the maintenance of hospitals, will not give anything voluntarily.

Mr. Mullany: The Bill will make many pay who in the past never thought of paying.

Mr. BROUN: It may be said that the present Bill contains a clause which provides that where any taxpayer who is contributing towards the upkeep of hospitals makes a donation, whatever it may be, if it be larger than the amount of the tax, or if it be lower than what he would have to pay by way of taxation, he will be credited with that amount.

Mr. Latham: He "may" be.

Mr. BROUN: This will not be much of an inducement except in one direction. Those who framed the measure have entirely overlooked the fact that by including that provision in the Bill the Government will lose complete control in certain districts, because the trust may refund that amount, and if they do they will find that a large number in a

district will say "I will give my contribution by way of a donation instead of by way of a direct tax." This will be with the object of preventing the contribution from going into the hands of the trust who perhaps, might use it for a metropolitan hospital. In that way the trust will lose control. Under the former Bill the arrangement contained in it would have gone a long way towards assisting the local committees in establishing maternity homes which are so essential in country districts. There was also a provision by which money could be raised and utilised for the building and maintenance of such hospitals. There is no such provision in the Bill. Wherever a donation was made towards the building of a hospital, the amount was subsidised by the Government. Provision was also made for the subsidising of sums collected in the hospitals, which encouraged activity on the part of the committees. The greater the amount collected by way of fees, the greater would be the amount of subsidy received. There is no such provision in this Bill. It is proposed that the trust shall subsidise any moneys raised for the building of a hospital, but would such a subsidy come out of the trust funds or out of the Consolidated Revenue? If it is going to come out of the trust funds—

Mr. Latham: It will come out of the trust funds.

Mr. BROUN: Then it will be of no assistance, because it is of no use raising such money by taxing the people. That point should be made clear. If a taxpayer made a donation to a hospital building, would the amount of tax for which he was liable be reduced to that extent?

The Colonial Secretary: It would apply only to the particular year. The Bill is not clear on that, but I take it that is the intention.

Mr. BROUN: The Bill should be made clear. Again, there is no provision for any appeal. Whatever the trust decide will be mandatory. There should be an appeal to the Minister.

The Colonial Secretary: The Minister will have the power to veto.

Mr. BROUN: Quite so, but any committee should be able to appeal against a decision of the trust. No provision has been made for taking over the liabilities of any hospital or board although the trust is to be empowered to take over the properties. I assume that the trust would take over any liabilities also, but that point should be made clear. The Bill of last year provided that certain hospitals should not come under the measure, but this Bill will embrace all hospitals except those mentioned in Part XI. of the Health Act. Thus, the money required for the Wooroloo Sanatorium will be provided out of direct taxation.

Mr. Latham: The same with the Home of Peace.

The Colonial Secretary: There is no provision for the Home of Peace.

Mr. BROWN: Those institutions were exempted last year and the Wooroloo Sanatorium at least should be exempted from this measure. The money required for that institution should come out of Consolidated Revenue and not out of this taxation.

Hon. P. Collier: That is surely not the subject of a special tax, but a State-wide obligation.

Mr. BROWN: Certainly. The infectious hospitals also will be brought under this Bill, and money will be provided from the trust funds for their maintenance. Infectious hospitals, however, are subsidised to a certain extent by the Commonwealth Government and they, too, should be eliminated from the operations of this measure. The public should not be taxed directly for these institutions. The old Bill stipulated that every committee should have sole control of its hospital. There was to be a matron in charge and any doctor could follow his patients into the hospital. This has been done in several cases. Only in the Government hospitals does it not apply. The committee were to have sole control of the management of their hospital and of the money raised to maintain the hospital, and any hospital receiving a patient belonging to another district was to be reimbursed by that district. Consequently, there would have been no cadging and no reason why people should slip out of their own district and seek treatment in the hospital of another district. As regards the raising of revenue, a certain amount of hardship will result, particularly in some of the goldfields districts, because of the insufficiency of people and wealth to provide the funds necessary for the hospitals. This could have been overcome by a slight amendment providing for a special subsidy for such districts or a small tax imposed upon other districts, so that the amount necessary for these isolated districts would have been available. I regret that there is not provision for different districts without any trust at all. The whole of the hospitals could have been left under the control of the Minister and of the P.M.O. and the committees would have managed them and raised the requisite funds. Under this system the administration would have been much more economical and efficient, and all the facilities required could have been provided.

Mr. Latham: Some parts of your district would have been starved.

Mr. BROWN: Under this measure the trust will have sole control of the funds. I hope the measure will be amended to provide that a majority of the trust shall be representative of districts outside the metropolitan area, so that there shall be an effective control over the funds to be centralised in Perth.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That could be done with a Government officer and without any trust.

Mr. BROWN: I do not see how it could be done otherwise under the method at present suggested, because the revenue would be centralised in Perth. The provision for dis-

tricts contained in the old Bill would have been much preferable, for under that the money collected in each district could have been allocated. The same secrecy regarding taxation could have been observed and each district would have been responsible for the money necessary for its hospital. In this way economy would have been assured.

The Colonial Secretary: Do you think the local authorities should have representation?

Mr. BROWN: Yes. The old Bill laid down that in the event of there being an excess of revenue over the amount required, it should be set off against the amount to be collected in the following year. According to this Bill 1d. tax might be struck, but before many years 3d. will probably be required. If more revenue than is necessary is derived, the balance will go into Consolidated Revenue. Any excess should be retained by the trust so that a proportionate reduction might be made in the following year. The Bill of last session provided for boards setting aside each year a certain amount for the building of hospitals. It was not necessary to impose taxation on the community for that purpose. They set apart a trust fund so that money might be collected from certain particular areas. There is no provision to cover that position in the Bill. People have to collect at least half the amount for the erection of a hospital in those areas, otherwise they cannot get the pound for pound subsidy from the trust. The result will be that in many instances the necessary hospital accommodation will not be provided.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: With all these amendments that you are suggesting, do you not think that it would be better to let the Bill go altogether?

Hon. P. Collier: You want about 100 amendments already.

Mr. BROWN: We want the Bill in order to bring about uniformity.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It would not matter for a few months.

Hon. P. Collier: The Bill will need to be re-cast in order to embrace all your amendments.

Mr. BROWN: It will remain for the Minister to put in the amendments I have referred to. Why should such a position arise as we see to-day in two sister districts? In one town the hospital is maintained by the Government who pay every penny of the expense in connection with the institution. In a sister district adjoining, a hospital committee run the institution. A small subsidy of between £200 and £300 is paid and everything above that has to be subscribed by the people in the district. The result is that the person who voluntarily subscribes to the hospital, finds that he is taxed again by the road board, who have the power under the Act to subscribe seven per cent. of their collections to the local hospital. Above that, he has to pay an additional impost as income tax, respecting the amount of money taken from the revenue for that purpose.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Have you found any road board naving that seven per cent.?

Mr. BROWN: The Beverley Road Board have done it for years. They have paid £84 out of the ratepayers' money every year. They did so when I was chairman and I think it has continued ever since.

Hon. P. Collier: Very few road boards have done it.

Mr. BROWN: In any case at Beverley the statutory seven per cent. has been paid for years.

Hon. P. Collier: That will stop if the Bill is passed.

Mr. BROWN: Of course it will. In addition to that, very little will be subscribed by individual ratepayers towards the hospital funds. I have been in the habit of giving a donation to the Beverley hospital. If I am to be taxed direct for the maintenance of hospitals, I will not give my customary donation to the Beverley hospital because it will simply go to the trust in Perth and assist in the centralisation of hospital affairs.

Hon. P. Collier: That is the attitude that most people will adopt.

The Colonial Secretary: There is no likelihood of the road boards adopting that attitude.

Mr. BROWN: Let me inform the Minister that I have already been told by the Beverley Road Board that if the Bill be passed, their contribution to the local institution will stop, because they will be taxed direct.

Hon. P. Collier: It is only natural that they will adopt that attitude.

Mr. Mullany: The Beverley Road Board agreed with the proposal and, in fact, it was suggested at Beverley.

Mr. BROWN: The Beverley people agree that the Bill is necessary, but they do not agree to a measure which will control the whole of the hospitals in Western Australia in the directions indicated. They will not continue to pay the subsidy as they have done in the past. I do not know whether there are many other road boards which have followed the line of action taken by the Beverley Road Board.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I know one that paid for a while, but then it was stopped.

Mr. Harrison: The Beverley instance is not an isolated case.

Mr. BROWN: It is necessary to have a Bill that will treat all these institutions alike. Why should one town have a hospital fully maintained by the Government and another only carried on by the people with the aid of a small subsidy from the Government? In the case of the Perth Public Hospital we pay them £25,000 a year, and at the end of each 12 months the vote is exceeded and we have to make up the balance. How much money is received as donations in connection with that institution?

Mr. O'Loughlen: About £350.

Mr. BROWN: Why, the people in Beverley pay more than £350 towards their little hospital!

Hon. P. Collier: Equal to the rich city of Perth.

Mr. BROWN: I hope the House will agree to the Bill going into Committee and then we can make provision for these various alterations.

Hon. P. Collier: What about agreeing to the second reading and referring the Bill to a select committee or a Royal Commission?

Mr. BROWN: We should endeavour to make the Bill a workable one.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It will take over two months to get through with the Bill.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

BILL—PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTS AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Resumed from the 2nd November.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [6.7]: This is a harmless little Bill. It comes within the category of measures which, even if they do no good, will do no harm. In the circumstances I do not intend to offer any opposition to it becoming law. I am not altogether sure that it is necessary to give statutory authority to these bodies which have been formed in recent years under the designation of parents and citizens' associations. Their formation has certainly been beneficial to the schools with which they are associated, and they have done work that is of advantage to the teachers and children alike. The organisations could very well have carried on as in the past without the suggested statutory authority. However, if it is felt by those who have taken an active interest in the work of the organisations that it would be better if a measure of this description were passed, I have no reason to advance why it should not be agreed to. There is one feature of the Bill which is a distinct improvement on the existing Act, and that is the part that refers to the election of school boards. In the past these boards have been practically a dead letter, so much so that in most districts they have ceased to exist.

The Minister for Mines: Even where they do exist they have never been elected under the provisions of the Act.

Hon. P. COLLIER: They have been appointed wholly by the Government. Perhaps it is because of this fact that the advice from school boards has been regarded lightly by the department and this, too, has probably been responsible for the boards ceasing to exist. On the other hand, school boards elected by members of live associations under the provisions of the Bill may be a distinct improvement because the members will be elected from organisations which have taken a keen interest in the work of the school. I support the Bill and I hope the passage of the measure will have the effect of bringing into existence many more of these associations.

These organisations have taken a deep interest in the work of the schools and the children, and it may be that the passing of the measure will cause increased activities and induce the formation of associations in districts where so far they have not been established.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2, 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Rules of Associations:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 after "rules" the words "and to fix the subscription to be paid by its members" be struck out.

Members of these associations have to provide the money for their various efforts, and it would be better if the membership were voluntary. I do not see that it is necessary to provide for a subscription.

The Colonial Secretary: It only means 1s. a year in most cases.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not see the necessity for any such provision. I think everybody should be encouraged to become a member of his local association, because everyone should take an interest in the local school. I have six or seven of these associations in my electorate.

The Premier: If you joined them all it would cost you only 6s.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not see why there should be any necessity at all for a subscription.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the amendment be carried, I will move an amendment in the next clause to fix the annual subscription at 1s., which will entitle the subscriber to all the privileges of membership. It is not advisable to have large fees in such associations.

Mr. Underwood: Can you give any reason for the associations?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: From what has come under notice in my electorate, I can say these associations have done and are doing really good work. They tend to the benefit of children and teachers alike.

Mr. Underwood: Did they provide the gymnasium for the Bunbury school?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, the Government did that.

Mr. Underwood: Did they provide the gymnasium and the tennis courts at the Modern School?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The annual subscription should not be made too high. It ought to be fixed here. The Bill gives the association power to elect the school board.

The Minister for Mines: It is the only power they have.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is a possibility of some people desiring to make these associations exclusive. We do not want that.

Mr. PICKERING: Parents ought to be encouraged to form these associations. We have several in my electorate, and they have done very excellent work. It is desirable that the annual fee should be a low one, so that the associations may remain open to everybody. Anything that will create a wider interest in the work of the schools is to be commended.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I will oppose both the amendment and the clause. It is a bit late to oppose the Bill. The secretary of the Teachers' Union has stated that the object of these associations is to enable parents to get behind members of Parliament, so that more money shall be spent on education.

Hon. P. Collier: Where did he make that statement?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: At North Perth, with the Minister present. A somewhat similar statement was made in the Colonial Secretary's department when the Principal Medical Officer told the Colonial Secretary to keep a stiff upper lip.

The Colonial Secretary: Is this in humorous vein also?

Hon. P. Collier: There was nothing humorous in the "stiff upper lip" advice.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It does not matter whether the fee be fixed at 2s. or 5s. One would expect the parents of school children to assist the teacher. In the Bill "parent" has been struck out and "citizen" inserted, so that those sticky-nosed people who have no children of their own can play at being parents with somebody else's children. The member for North-East Fremantle wants to give them that privilege for a shilling. I will oppose the lot.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have no objection to the amendment. It is not the object of the Bill to give statutory recognition or power to these associations. All that the Bill is doing is to continue the present system of having school boards. The only difference is the system of election. We have school boards, but they are wholly nominee boards, although the Education Act provides that they shall be elective.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Ninety per cent. of them are moribund.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Now that we have live associations taking an interest in the school life of the children, we propose to give them power to elect the school boards. We provide that they shall not exercise any authority over the teaching staff, or interfere in any way with the management of any Government school.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The people will not take sufficient interest next month to elect a senator.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: This is of greater importance. The assistance given to a school by the Citizens and Teachers' Association does not come from the membership subscription, but from the voluntary effort

in arranging socials, dances, and having busy bees on Saturday afternoons, to lay out the grounds, and even erect windmills and windmill stands. By holding concerts, and in other ways, money is raised, and material purchased. This is how they will continue to operate, but we want everyone to be interested, and we must have some basis of membership. Provided the subscription of 1s. is paid, a citizen will be entitled to become a member, and will then have the right to vote in the election of five members for a school board. In this way, we hope to get active school boards.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5—Officers of associations, and appointment of school boards:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to Subclause 1:—"An annual subscription of one shilling shall entitle all persons to full membership."

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6—Duties of school board:

Hon. P. COLLIER: What is intended by paragraph (c), which sets out that one of the duties of the school board shall be to carry out urgent repairs under conditions to be prescribed by regulations? It is intended to give the board power, by regulation, to carry out urgent or necessary small repairs without having to obtain authority from the head office?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In the event of the school board, not the association, recommending that something is required urgently, some slight damage from a storm or other reason—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Or a broken window requires replacing.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes, subject to a regulation fixing the cost, the board may arrange for the work to be undertaken. For general purposes, the work of repair and upkeep charged against the department is not to be handed over. This will apply to only urgent and small repairs.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If a window gets broken to-day, the Works Department repair it.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They sent a man to Greenbushes, at a cost of £5 10s., to do a small job.

The Minister for Mines: Sent him to measure it first, and then to take it back and put it in.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: What would the board do? There is a representative of the Works Department almost wherever there is a school.

The Minister for Mines: That is not so.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If a window were broken, the representative of the department would have it repaired. Now, however, it is proposed that the school board shall hold a

conclave and decide to view the school. Then they will send one of their representatives to the Minister to point out that the window is broken, and the Minister will say, "The window being broken, and I being satisfied that it is broken, you may go back and repair it."

Mr. Teesdale: Would the delegate take a motor car or the tram?

The Minister for Mines: Would he bring the broken window with him?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Of course the board would not be paid, but many of the things for which we do not pay are costing the State a good deal of money. This Bill will only increase the rubbishy boards.

Hon. P. Collier: This is the age of boards.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Surely they are approaching the limit.

Hon. P. Collier: They are not near senile decay.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: They must be getting near it.

Hon. P. Collier: They are in vigorous growth.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The school board would then order someone else to put a pane of glass in the window. This surely must be approaching the three-score-year-and-tenage of boards. I trust that members will treat the whole thing with the contempt it deserves. Barring the Dog Act, it is the most rubbishy Bill ever brought before us.

Hon. P. Collier: Your protest availeth not.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 7 to 9—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1922-23.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair.

Department of Colonial Secretary (Hon. R. S. Sampson, Minister).

Vote—Aborigines (Southern portion), £5,684:

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Minister told us earlier in the session that it was the intention of the department to make a considerable alteration in the policy adopted regarding native prisoners in the North-West portions of the State. I would like particulars of what it is proposed to do. I understand that in future native prisoners are to be employed by the road boards on road construction and maintenance. They will not be kept in the district to which they belong, but will be transferred. I am not sure whether this is a safe policy for the Government to embark upon. It opens the door to a system of forced labour. When the roads are bad and a considerable amount of native labour is required, it will probably be found that there has been

a proportionate increase in the amount of crime among the natives. When 20 or 30 men are required, they will be rounded up and offences charged against them.

The Premier: They have always done the roads at Roebourne.

Mr. Teesdale: For years they have done this work.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If it is merely intended to pursue a policy which has been adopted in the past, why was this announced as an entirely new procedure? I understand this is a departure from the practice hitherto.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: A proposal was put up to utilise native labour on roads and stations and elsewhere, but it was considered impracticable and no action has been taken. There is nothing in the way of gathering in native prisoners when work is to be done. That is reminiscent of the bad old days.

Mr. O'Loghlen: The days of black-birding.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, and is not in existence in Australia to-day.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: What benefit has resulted from the transfer of the natives from the Carrolup settlement to the Moore River?

The Premier: More fish.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The fish could not have been to the liking of the natives, because a fair number have trekked back to their old haunts. There was a large settlement at Carrolup. I intended to say something regarding the treatment of the superintendent of the settlement, but I understand the matter is being considered by the Minister. Is it his intention to deal with it? If not, I shall be compelled to refer to it.

The Colonial Secretary: I understand the question is to be looked into.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There were over 100 natives in the settlement, and they were in their natural environment. Owing to a change of policy, which the Minister might be able to justify, it was decided to close up the settlement and transfer them to Moore River. From what I can gather the Moore River settlement was not the most suitable choice. The land does not lend itself to cropping on a profitable scale. Those settlements should as far as possible be made self-supporting—I know it is a very difficult matter to work natives so as to get a profit. The State should reap some return from its expenditure on the natives if their labour can be attached to the soil. Are there any cereal crops at Moore River settlement to help to meet the cost?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The receipts for the current year will amount to £800.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Receipts from both settlements?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Moore River settlement. In the opinion of those competent to judge, the natives will not suffer by reason of their removal to Moore River, where the climate and the surroundings are quite suitable. I believe there is a fair amount of game in the Moore River country.

I cannot speak as to the reasons for the removal, but I have heard no complaints on the subject in the natives' behalf. The work at Moore River settlement is proceeding satisfactorily.

Mr. O'Loghlen: How many natives broke away?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am not aware that any broke away.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Then you are not in touch with the matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Of course aborigines are nomadic. I have not heard, but would not be surprised to hear, that some have left the Moore River settlement.

Mr. O'Loghlen: I read it in the Katanning paper.

Mr. Underwood: Who has Carrolup now?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Carrolup would be sold if a reasonable offer were received. Recently it has been leased for a term.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I was pleased to hear the Minister say that he had received no complaint in writing from the aborigines.

The Colonial Secretary: I did not say that. I said I had received no complaint from anyone on behalf of the natives.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am pleased to learn the Minister has had no complaints from the aborigines, either written or verbal. But what is being done with the Carrolup station? Why did the department shift the natives from near Katanning up towards Geraldton? Fine buildings and accommodation were provided for the southern natives at Carrolup.

Mr. O'Loghlen: In their own district.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Why should they be removed up towards the north? The Minister's statement that he has had no complaints from the natives is an evidence that he knows nothing about natives. He endeavours to push off that sort of stuff on members who do know something about aborigines. Why was Carrolup closed?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Because it was considered that the Moore River settlement was quite a suitable place for the natives, both as regards climate and as regards important features of the surroundings.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Was economy expected to result from the transfer?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Considerable economy was effected thereby.

Mr. Underwood: That is not shown by your Estimates.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is a saving of at least £1,500 annually, and the rent from Carrolup would increase the saving. I am assured that the natives will not suffer from the transfer, because all the conditions at Moore River are satisfactory for native life.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Did you get a report that some of the natives had gone back?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No.

Mr. O'Loghlen. You should read the country papers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am a regular reader of them.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The natives were reported as they went through the various towns. It was in one of your papers that I saw the report.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like to have a copy of the report.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Fisheries, £5,774; Registry and Friendly Societies, £8,668; Gaols, £25,350; Harbour and Light and Jetties, £21,816—agreed to.

Vote—Immigration, £4,849:

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Minister might give us some information as to the Immigration Department. I know, of course, that this vote provides only for the expenses of the department in Perth. Recently I read in the Press that a new officer had been appointed to the London office in connection with immigration. Is that a permanent appointment, and who has been appointed? Is there any intention to transfer any of the officers in the Immigration Department here to the London office?

The PREMIER: Mr. Taylor, one of the officers appointed to Australia House by this Government, but paid by the Federal Government, resigned. His successor is Captain Phillips, one of the inspectors of the Agricultural Bank. Captain Phillips is the State Government's nominee, but he is paid by the Federal Government to do immigration work in the Old Country.

Hon. P. Collier: Is there any intention to make another appointment or transfer?

The PREMIER: Not to the Immigration Department. We are entitled to appoint three officers. We do not pay them.

Hon. P. Collier: But you have the selection of them?

The PREMIER: Yes. We may have to appoint another one, but at present two are doing the work.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It has been stated in one or two newspapers that notwithstanding the big immigration scheme Western Australia is actually losing population.

Mr. Munsie: Our own statistics for the last quarter show that.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I saw the statement in the "Sunday Times." Possibly other papers would not publish it because it looked bad for the Government. All the same, when we discuss the Immigration Vote in this Chamber it is the duty of the Minister in charge to show us that the State is deriving some advantage from that vote, to show that by extending the money Western Australia gets more arrivals in the State than departures from the State.

The Premier: There is the Melbourne Cup, you know.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The Premier cannot answer such a serious question as this by referring to the Melbourne Cup.

The Colonial Secretary: There is a big exodus for the Cup always.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Will the Premier give us the figures of arrivals and departures for the three months prior to October? It is due to the House and the country that the results to date of our immigration scheme should be stated. Anybody who introduces the Immigration Vote should tell us whether the immigration scheme is actually increasing the number of people in this country. The fact of his silence goes to show that there has been no increase, and that we are spending all this money to bring in people from outside while our own and our best are leaving the State. If that is not right, let the Minister deny it and give us the figures for the last six months as to immigration and emigration.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The member for Pilbara is asking me to prove a negative. He states that there is an excess of departures over arrivals. I think the onus of proof rests upon him. I have no knowledge at all of such a state of affairs as the hon. member suggests.

Mr. Lambert: The Minister in charge of the vote ought to have that knowledge.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The immigrants who received official assistance last year were 3,217 men, 855 women, and 539 children, or a total of 3,711 persons. This year the number is very much larger proportionately. I have heard it stated that people make for the Eastern States from here, and that people from the East come to Western Australia. In the absence of definite figures, however, it is impossible for me to give the information the hon. member requires.

Mr. Underwood: You have the figures. They are here.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the hon. member has the figures, he can satisfy himself.

Mr. Underwood: But you have them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I have not the figures available and it is impossible for me to answer the hon. member straight away.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The point raised by the member for Pilbara is of the utmost importance, and it is not sufficient for the Minister to practically say it does not concern him.

The Colonial Secretary: Most decidedly it does concern me.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Minister cannot adopt that attitude and say that the hon. member must prove his contention. The Committee is entitled to information, and it is only through the agency of the Government that it can be obtained. I have not the figures with me but I have a distinct recollection of reading those which were taken from official records. They showed that although there was a large number of arrivals during the year, the net result in the excess of arrivals over departures was very small indeed. The "Statistical Abstract" shows that for the first quarter of this year the arrivals totalled 8,770 and the departures

6,960, or an excess of arrivals over departures of 1,810.

The Minister for Mines: Is that for July, August and September?

Hon. P. COLLIER: No, that is for the first quarter ended March last. For the half year ended 30th June last, the figures show that while the arrivals totalled 17,659, the excess of arrivals over departures was only 2,194. That is to say, that while 17,000 people arrived, 15,000 took their departure from the State. This aspect touches a vital point in the whole policy of immigration, because if it is to operate like pouring water into a sieve, and if the State is to spend large sums of money to secure population from overseas and the net result is that the newcomers are either leaving the State in almost equal numbers or are taking the place of Western Australians who are leaving the State, it is a serious matter.

Mr. Underwood: It is indeed very serious.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If we are not retaining a fair proportion or a very large proportion of those who come into the State, it is evidence that something is wrong.

The Minister for Mines: The increase of 2,000 up to the end of June would be more than the immigrants brought to Western Australia.

Mr. Underwood: It is up to the Minister to give us the figures.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Those are the figures I would like to get. Judging from what I have read from week to week, I should say that more than 2,000 have arrived from overseas during the first half year. The Minister may have those particulars.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The assisted and nominated immigrants during that period total 2,288.

The Premier: And we are keeping them all in the State. They are actually here.

Hon. P. COLLIER: According to those figures it would appear that we are retaining that number and a small increase in addition.

The Minister for Mines: We cannot do more than that.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It seems that we are not gaining from other parts. Has the Premier got the figures for the year? I remember reading that the total arrivals over a period was 35,000 and the gain by excess arrivals over departures was about 3,000.

Mr. Underwood: Three thousand! Why, up to June we had only 30,000.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is difficult to get at the real position.

The Minister for Mines: The figures you have read were quoted from the Governor's Speech.

Mr. Underwood: What about giving the exact figures?

The Minister for Mines: I am speaking to the Leader of the Opposition. The number you refer to represents the immigrants brought to Western Australia in 13 years.

Mr. Munzie: The Governor's Speech showed that 45,409 people were brought to Western Australia and 35,941 left the State.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Those are the figures I had in mind. At any rate, the Minister should give us some information on this point, because it is of the utmost importance. Having embarked on a policy of assisted immigration, we must be reasonably sure that the State is retaining those who are coming here. If we are to open the front door to admit these people and we let them out by the back door to go overland to the Eastern States, it will be a bad thing for us. What we want is an increase in our population and to retain those citizens we have now as well as those we induce to come to our shores. If the Premier has not the exact figures for the Committee, he might give us an assurance regarding the general situation.

The PREMIER: The Committee should realise that these people who come and go are those who are on business or on a visit. While a large number of people come to the State, they do not stay here but return to their homes elsewhere. The Leader of the Opposition said that our population had increased by 2,194 during the last six months. It should be realised that 3,711 immigrants arrived for the year ended the 30th June.

Hon. P. Collier: Most of them came during the latter half of the year.

The PREMIER: I have the figures for the year only, but probably there were 2,000 during the later half of the year. I think we eased up in the early part of that period.

Hon. P. Collier: That was about the middle of the year.

The PREMIER: These figures show that we have retained all those we assisted to the State and some more besides. Certainly the increase is not a large one, but we have retained as many as we brought out and a number in addition. We cannot possibly retain all the people who come to the State because some are young men who, for instance, may come here on business.

Hon. P. Collier: But we should retain a large proportion of those who come here.

The PREMIER: We are retaining all we have brought out and some more.

Mr. Davies: We should retain more because there is the natural increase.

Hon. P. Collier: But we are speaking only of the arrivals and departures.

The PREMIER: In any case these figures show that we are retaining more than the number of assisted immigrants.

Mr. Underwood: Give us the exact figures; they are published every month.

The PREMIER: Last year we brought in 3,711 immigrants. The figures are published from month to month so that hon. members may have that information. While it is true that some of our people go to the Eastern States, it is equally true that some of those who have been assisted to emigrate to the East leave there and come to Western Australia.

Hon. P. Collier: You have mentioned the number who have been brought out. Have you the number of departures for that period?

The PREMIER: Not at the moment. I do not think the number of arrivals and departures can be regarded as an indication of what should happen, because of the fact that so many come here on business while many of our people go to the East on business as well. Of the 2,200 odd referred to by the Leader of the Opposition, we probably assisted about 1,800. We have retained them and more as well. We cannot do more than that.

Mr. O'Loughlin: So long as we retain our own people, that will be something.

The PREMIER: We have gained rather than lost during the last 12 months.

Mr. O'Loughlin: Have you the figures?

The PREMIER: I gave them to the Committee when I said that 3,711 immigrants had been brought in.

Mr. Underwood: How many went out?

The PREMIER: There was an excess of arrivals over departures of 400.

Mr. Underwood: Taking the 1921 figures as published, more people went out than came in.

The PREMIER: I thought the hon. member was talking about this year.

Mr. Underwood: Why not give us the exact figures?

The PREMIER: I do not know what the hon. member wants. Can he make 3,711 persons into more than that number? Of course he cannot. We told the House in the Governor's Speech that in 13 years we had gained 9,000 people by the excess of arrivals over departures. During the last six months we have gained more than 2,200 people. We cannot do more than that.

Mr. McCallum: One immigrant was robbed the other day at Fremantle who was trying to get out of the State.

The Colonial Secretary: That was through his foolishness.

Mr. McCallum: Did you put up that job on him?

The PREMIER: Probably the hon. member did. I do not think the country ought to be told that we are losing population. We are not doing anything of the sort. We have only now started on the big immigration scheme, because our own unemployed had first to be absorbed. From this time forward we shall get many more immigrants than we have had. We are prepared for them now, and there is room for everybody.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The fact that the Colonial Secretary should try to bluff us and make facetious remarks at the expense of those asking for information, shows that things are not as they are pretended to be.

The Premier: There is no pretence about it.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: In 1921 our arrivals were 29,333, and our departures 29,306. So we gained 27 persons by excess of arrivals over departures. These are the actuary's figures. The published figures show that right up to the end of June, 1922, we were not gaining population. The figures for the first three months of the current financial year are known, and it is only reasonable

that the Minister dealing with these Estimates should have those figures for us. Instead of giving us those figures, he gives us cheek and impudence. It suggests that the figures are against him.

The Colonial Secretary: I gave you the figures last night.

The Premier: And he is not allowed to give the same figures twice in the one session.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It is important that we should know it if we are bringing people into the State and allowing them to drift out again. When the Colonial Secretary gives us verbiage and light rubbish in place of facts that must be known to him, we can only assume the facts are against him. Will he tell us the actual figures for the first three months of the current financial year?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I have given the hon. member the figures, both to-night and last night. For the 12 months ended 30th June last, our arrivals were only 3,711.

Hon. P. Collier: What were the departures?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I cannot tell you.

Hon. P. Collier: Then those figures are of no value.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I regret that I cannot give you the other figures. This is the work of the Immigration Department, and I do not know that the department can be held responsible for the excess of arrivals over departures.

Mr. McCallum: That is the test of your scheme.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Undoubtedly it is. I wish I had the complete figures. The information is easy to obtain, but I cannot give it at this moment.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is difficult to know whether the published returns are accurate. According to the figures in the return I have here, for the 18 months ended 30th June last, there was an excess of 3,448 departures over arrivals. The returns for the first quarter of the year showed an excess of 1,810 arrivals over departures. But on the return for the second three months being published, it was discovered that an error of nearly 1,000 had been made in the first return, and that the excess of arrivals over departures was only 843. In 1921 the excess of arrivals over departures was only 27, notwithstanding that during the period the State had brought in 3,381 immigrants.

The Minister for Mines: Apparently, they took the place of those who left.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is our own people, not the immigrants, who are leaving. The majority of the immigrants are not in a financial position to leave. However, the published figures do not look very good. The belief is general that we are losing more people than we are bringing in.

The Minister for Mines: The census would affect it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, the census affects only the total population. It is now the middle of November, and we are not yet supplied with the September returns. That to the 30th November, 1922, is the latest we have.

The Minister for Mines: The latest we can get is to March, 1921.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: In the monthly "Statistical Abstract" we used to get a good deal of information on which we were able to criticise the Government.

Mr. McCallum: That is why it was stopped.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, probably it was cut out for economy's sake. We are now supposed to have it every three months, but the returns for the 30th September are not here yet.

Hon. P. COLLIER: We might well complain that in the middle of November we have not received the "Abstract" for the quarter ended September, especially when we know that its preparation does not involve a very large amount of work, certainly not sufficient to justify a period of six weeks.

The Colonial Secretary: Possibly it has been published.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It has not been published, because it is invariably filed here immediately. Wherever one obtains figures regarding the population, they appear to be unsatisfactory. I have a set of figures covering the period of the present Parliament, the 18 months from April, 1921 to September, 1922, which figures I obtained from the statistician last week. They show that the total arrivals in the State numbered 44,032 and the total departures 42,504, so that the excess of arrivals over departures was only 1,528. During the same period there came to the State 5,205 assisted or nominated immigrants. Had we retained all those who were brought in, it follows that the arrivals would have exceeded the departures by a similar number, whereas the number was actually 1,528. Of the 5,205 assisted and nominated immigrants who arrived apparently no fewer than 3,675 left the State, either that or an equivalent number of our older citizens. These figures indicate a very serious state of affairs. It is a matter touching a vital point in our immigration policy. If people are leaving the State in greater numbers than they are arriving, notwithstanding all the trouble and expense we are incurring, there must be something radically wrong. If we are retaining the new arrivals, we must be losing some of our older citizens. I believe that a very small proportion of the new arrivals are leaving Western Australia, but it appears that a very substantial number of our older citizens are going out of the State. It is of no benefit to the State to lose in that manner. Our object is to increase the sum total of our population. When the Loan Estimates are under consideration there will be another opportunity to discuss the question, because on that occasion funds will have to be voted to give effect to the Premier's immigration policy. The Colonial Secretary could hardly have been expected to be armed with the in-

formation to-night, but he should be prepared to give us complete information when the Loan Estimates come down, so that we may know exactly where we stand.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It was quite possible for the state of affairs indicated by the Leader of the Opposition to occur under the scheme of immigration operating during the period quoted. I know of some war widows and others who were brought out by the Salvation Army for domestic purposes and who, after staying here a month, went to Melbourne. Under the Premier's immigration proposals, we shall confine our efforts mainly to married people with families. They will be placed on the land under group settlement conditions, and will not have the same opportunity to leave the State.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I think it is our own people who are leaving, which is worse, but we have no means of ascertaining.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Members should consider the basis of the Premier's immigration scheme, and they will then realise that there will not be the same opportunity for a flow of population from the State.

Mr. PICKERING: The figures quoted are, to say the least, disconcerting. We have really made a loss of 3,677 persons, and it is suggested that the loss has been of our own people as opposed to immigrants. The immigration policy is being carried out by means of special loans from England. The Premier, in announcing his policy, told us that he looked to the per capita return from the Commonwealth in respect to the increase in population to provide a very large portion of the interest which the State will be called upon to find. If this is not realised, the position of the State will become serious indeed. Apparently what is really happening is that a large number of people are changing their locality and occupation. We are settling in the South-West a large number of people who were previously on the goldfields and on the wharves at Fremantle. If this is so, there must be something happening to a large number of the immigrants we have introduced. Judging from statements published in the Press, it is probable that a considerable number are leaving the State.

The Colonial Secretary: That is not true.

Mr. PICKERING: The Minister is not able to disprove it.

The Colonial Secretary: You are not proving anything.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Let us have a little harmony.

The Minister for Mines: You are always decrying the State and assuming things. You are a croaker.

Mr. PICKERING: I have heard the Minister croak, and croak very loudly.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I must ask members to refrain from interjecting.

Mr. PICKERING: The Minister has just returned from a holiday jaunt and is full of

viii. Meanwhile we have been engaged carrying on the business of the House.

The Minister for Mines: You have not made much progress.

Mr. PICKERING: I paid for my own trip and I guarantee the State paid for the Minister's trip to Melbourne.

The Minister for Mines: That is the difference between you and me.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. PICKERING: If it is the business of Ministers to interrupt with rude interjections and make accusations as to what accuses members, I cannot be held responsible. I can quite understand the attitude of the Minister for Mines. He is always facetious; everything is more or less of a joke with him.

The CHAIRMAN: Let us discuss immigration.

Mr. Angelo: He is called "Happy Jack."

Mr. PICKERING: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Minister to refrain from further interjecting.

Hon. P. Collier: In discussing the Minister, the member for Sussex is discussing the question of arrivals and departures.

The Minister for Mines: But I come back.

Mr. PICKERING: As it is only a matter of facetiousness, I have no desire to pursue the discussion. I consider it a serious matter if we embark upon a policy which means an outlay of millions and we are not getting the results anticipated. As this apparently is not the view taken by the Government, I have no further remarks to offer.

Mr. DAVIES: The position disclosed in the figures just read out is amazing. What puzzles me is, where the people can have gone to. We are told there is unemployment in the Eastern States.

Mr. O'Loughlen: People exaggerate sometimes. You have only to go over East to see signs of prosperity.

Mr. DAVIES: But the New South Wales Premier stated only three months ago that a very large sum of money had been spent there in relieving unemployment. We know there are two million unemployed in the Old Country. If the departures from Western Australia are in excess of the arrivals here, where do the people go to from a prosperous State like Western Australia?

Mr. O'Loughlen: They can do just as well elsewhere as here. Do not let us delude ourselves. There are men out of work in Perth to-day.

Mr. DAVIES: If the figures given to-night are correct, every member ought to ask where the people have gone to. Surely they would not go to a State where there is unemployment.

Hon. P. Collier: That does not concern us. What concerns us is the fact that they have gone.

Mr. DAVIES: We should ascertain whether there is not some mistake in the matter. The "Statistical Abstract" contains many figures which are not nearly accurate. Of all the Australian States, the most prosperous is this

one. Let progress be reported on this vote, so that the necessary inquiries may be made.

Hon. P. Collier: We can deal with the question on the Loan Estimates.

Mr. MUNSIE: I happen to have here a copy of the London "Daily Mail" of Friday, the 21st June, 1922, which contains the following:—

A "Daily Mail" reporter who visited Australia House, Strand, yesterday morning, found the migration department crowded, and would-be migrants, young men and girls, middle-aged men and women, men from farms, factories and offices, men from the counter, seeking information. "Since Monday—"

This paper is printed on the Friday.

"Since Monday," said an official, "we have dealt with 8,000 people at the counter, and in addition there have been 18,000 applications for information."

If that statement is correct, and if arrangements are being made to bring all those people to Western Australia, it is up to the Government to find out whether the figures quoted by the Leader of the Opposition are correct. If it is a fact that our own people are leaving Western Australia, we should make an effort to keep them here. A good number of people have left this State quite recently because they have been unable to obtain land. With all the boom of land settlement here, a considerable number of people have left Western Australia quite recently for that reason.

The Minister for Agriculture: They have a nice hope of getting land in the Eastern States.

Mr. MUNSIE: I am not prepared to say whether they will fare better or worse there.

Mr. McCallum: Other avenues exist there.

Mr. MUNSIE: I know of the case of a father and four sons who waited seven months here for land, sending in application after application. Eventually they packed up and went East. First of all, we have preference to returned soldiers, to which I do not object; but if the Government are going to boom land settlement for the purpose of attracting immigrants to be placed on the land, they should speed up things as regards finding land for our own people.

Mr. Money: Our own people are not going off the land, and many more are going on the land here.

Mr. MUNSIE: Many of the people who have left this State are accounted for by the decline in the outback districts and on the goldfields. From those areas people are going East by the Trans-Continental Railway instead of coming to our country districts. It is no use getting 20,000 immigrants if we are going to lose 19,000 out of the back door.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I repeat my expression of regret that I have not available the figures hon. members have asked for. I am particularly sorry because some of the remarks made here to-night may possibly do some injury. I hope that until we get the

absolute figures no one will be influenced by what I may term a gospel of despair. Speaking of Perth, we have never been more prosperous than we are to-day. Building is the best criterion of prosperity, and in Perth to-day building is going on in greater volume than ever before in the history of the city.

Mr. Munsie: It would go on faster if the Minister for Works would increase the capacity of the State Brickworks.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is a great demand for bricks, and some of the private brickworks are booked up for months ahead. How different is that position from what we might believe! Building work in Perth is so plentiful that builders, carpenters, and bricklayers are hard to get.

Mr. Munsie: There is no shortage of carpenters.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am told it is difficult to get any class of men engaged on construction work. As regards Perth, a splendid time is being experienced. Latterly values of land and buildings in Perth have become greatly enhanced.

Mr. O'Loughlin: Are we rolling in prosperity with the deficit growing as it is?

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is not very satisfactory for the Committee, when seeking information on a vital question of policy—in fact, the only question occupying the public mind to-day—to be treated by the Minister in charge to a dissertation to the effect that he does not know when there has been so much prosperity in Perth. He says there are numerous buildings going up in the city, and that there is in consequence a scarcity of labour. "Great prosperity in Perth" is the Minister's reply to the statements which have been made. He goes so far as to say—and I am almost inclined to characterise the statement as impudent—that he hopes the Committee will not be influenced by statements made to-night. I have given the official figures of the Minister's department.

The Colonial Secretary: I do not object to that.

Hon. P. COLLIER: When I give official figures, I object to the Minister asking the Committee not to be influenced. From that statement the inference is that the figures I gave are not correct. Has the Minister proof of their incorrectness? In reply to figures of arrivals and departures the Minister says there are more buildings going up in Perth than he has ever known before. It is no use asking the Committee to be satisfied with such an inconsequent, lackadaisical reply as that. I have looked up last year's Loan Estimates, and find that there will not be an opportunity of discussing the question of immigration on them. Last year there was no vote whatever for immigration; all the expense was provided from other sources. There was a reference to soldier settlement, and one or two other matters in last year's Loan Estimates, but there was no vote. If we allow this division to go through, we will have no opportunity to discuss this all important question.

The Premier: There will be a vote on the Loan Estimates this year. We require a vote to get money to spend for these purposes.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I looked up the Loan Estimates for last year, and the fact that no vote appeared, prompted me to draw attention to the matter. If the Premier, however, says that there will be a vote this year, I accept his statement. I will be prepared to allow the division to go, on the distinct understanding that there will be a full and ample opportunity for a serious discussion on the whole question before the session closes. After all, immigration is wrapped up in our land settlement policy, and our proposal to spend large sums of money in the development of the State. If we cannot be well and amply informed on this question, we might just as well shut up shop, because everything else is of comparatively small importance.

The PREMIER: There will be an opportunity on the Loan Estimates to discuss immigration, because there will be a vote this year. A discussion on the question of immigration is one thing, and a discussion on whether our own people are leaving the State, is another thing. Had we not brought people to Western Australia during the last 20 years, we should have been in a far worse position than we are to-day. Had we not brought out 3711 immigrants during the last 12 months, we would have lost proportionately in the figures relating to the arrivals and departures.

Mr. McCallum: That does not always follow.

The PREMIER: It does, to the extent that the immigrant remains in the State, and there is no proof that he does not do so.

Mr. McCallum: There are some who go.

The PREMIER: And there are some immigrants who come to Western Australia from the Eastern States.

Mr. McCallum: When I was in Adelaide last, I heard one immigrant speaking in the Botanical Park, and he was telling the people of the bad time he had had in Western Australia.

Hon. P. Collier: I do not think there are many like that, but it is a bad thing if our own people are leaving the State.

The PREMIER: I can assure the Committee that our own people are not being squeezed out by the immigrants.

Hon. P. Collier: I do not say that. Things must be bad, generally, to drive our own people out.

The PREMIER: The building trade was in a bad state some time back.

Mr. O'Loughlin: We know that a number of farmers have dismissed their older employees and put on cheaper men.

The PREMIER: Many bricklayers and builders went to the Eastern States in one year when trade was bad. If we ceased bringing people out because some of our

people went to the East, we would simply be in a worse position than ever.

Mr. Davies: Why are the people going to the Eastern States?

The PREMIER: I do not know.

Mr. O'Loghlen: They are not starving there.

Mr. McCallum: The building trade has been busy there for the past six years.

The PREMIER: We are settling more people on the land than ever before.

Mr. Munsie: That is so.

The PREMIER: Certainly. We are settling more people from the goldfields than ever before.

Mr. Munsie: Principally with the group settlements.

The PREMIER: Far more are going on the land than are included in the groups. Some 2,500 men have been settled in the groups during the last few months.

Mr. McCallum: I would like some information from the Minister regarding the administration of the department. When immigrants arrive at Fremantle, they are housed at the Immigrants' Home. I frequently see people going there; and I read in the Press that representatives of organisations, and a lot of busybodies from different parts of the State have delivered addresses. When, however, public men, including the Leader of the Opposition, visited the home to see the class of immigrants being brought out, they were refused permission to remain on the premises by the officer-in-charge. Is it the policy of the department, that members of Parliament are to be ordered about, and refused information relating to this important matter, by understappers and Government officials?

The Premier: That incident was regretted by everyone.

Mr. McCallum: But the then Minister supported it.

The Premier: In any case, it was regrettable.

Mr. McCallum: The Minister admitted that it had been referred to him, and that he had agreed with the instructions which had been issued. Representatives of organisations were allowed to visit the home and address the immigrants.

The Colonial Secretary: To what organisations do you refer?

Mr. McCallum: There were representatives of churches, and social bodies, including the Ugly Men's Association. While representatives of the Ugly Men's Association were allowed into the home on one day, the Leader of the Opposition and myself, accompanied by a member of the executive of the New Settlers' League, were ordered out of the premises.

The Colonial Secretary: You are still speaking of the one incident.

Mr. McCallum: Yes.

The Colonial Secretary: I do not see why anyone desirous of addressing the immigrants should not be allowed to do so.

Mr. McCallum: Representatives of organisations were allowed to address the immigrants on the day previous to our visit, and also on the day following it. We had no desire to address the immigrants, but we wished to inform ourselves as to the type of people who were coming out. Quite a wrong account of what happened appeared in the Press. As soon as we appeared there, the telephone was rung, Mr. Collier was called to it, and we were told we would have to go. If that is the way the officer in charge of immigration deals with public men, how will he deal with the immigrants?

Mr. Wilson: Who was the officer?

Mr. McCallum: Crawcour issued the instructions.

The Premier: It was regrettable.

Mr. McCallum: I am glad to hear the Premier say so. At the same time, it should not be necessary for members of Parliament to seek permission before going into the home. Although I pass the institution when going to and from my home, I have not attempted to visit the place since. Am I to be expected to ring up Crawcour and get permission to go through? Is the Leader of the Opposition, the man who stands second to the Premier in this State, to be ordered off the premises by a Government official? I should like an assurance from the Minister now in charge of the department that members of Parliament are not expected to do any such thing.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Personally I know nothing of the incident referred to beyond what I read in the Press. My own belief is that it arose out of a misunderstanding which was regrettable. The presence of members of this House should be welcomed at the immigrants' home and, in fact, at any Government institution.

Vote put and passed.

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Vote—Inspection of liquor, £1,368:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I want some information regarding this sub-department. When the new Licensing Act Amendment Bill becomes law, the department will cease to exist and the control will be taken over by the authority provided in the measure. I was not in the House when the Bill was discussed and I may not be here when the vote for the State hotels will be before members. The officer who is Superintendent of State Hotels is also the Chief Inspector of Liquors. My grievance against this particular officer is that he is faithfully carrying out the policy of the State hotels to profiteer on every possible occasion.

The Minister for Works: What place do you refer to?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I refer to every place where a State hotel is conducted.

The Premier: I wish they would succeed a bit more.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Is the Premier not satisfied with the profits derived at present, profits which are secured from the frailties of men?

The Premier: I do not want to see more liquor consumed.

The Minister for Mines: The profit does not include goodwill and ingoing that the other fellows have to pay.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: If the Minister put up the State hotels for auction, he would get a shock. They would be run to advantage by private individuals, although they would be run on different lines.

Mr. McCallum: They have returned more capital than was invested in them.

The Colonial Secretary: Do you say they would pay better?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Yes, for bigger profits, but they would be conducted worse than they are now.

The Premier: Where there is only one hotel, it should be a State hotel.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I know that. The idea in the establishment of the State hotels was to give the people something better than the private hotels were providing. I got hundreds of signatures for one State hotel and I think I robbed the private trader of about £20,000.

The Minister for Mines: Are you referring to Dwellingup?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Yes.

The Minister for Mines: You cannot grumble at the Dwellingup hotel.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The residents grumble at it. They were deprived of the only recreation they had, after the hotel had got their money. The billiard room was closed up so that it could be turned into a store-room. Nowhere else than at a State hotel do you have to pay 7d. for a glass of beer. Why should the State hotels get the last penny from the people? The Premier and the Minister in control are unable to reply to that question.

The Colonial Secretary: I do not know that the State hotels are charging a higher price.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I have told the Minister that is so. Does he not accept my word?

The Colonial Secretary: I have paid 7d. for beer myself.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Where.

The Colonial Secretary: I prefer not to say where, although I will let the hon. member have the information privately.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The State hotels are run to-day for commercial profit. The superintendent of State hotels buys the liquor required. Before the Royal Commission on Licensing he boosted Australian whisky. Later he went to two traders in Perth and bought big supplies of Australian whisky. But he did not put that whisky on the shelves of the State hotels. Instead of that, he blended it with other brands, and is selling it as bulk whisky at 1s. a nobbler. In private hotels that whisky can be purchased for 9d.

The Minister for Works: I think 9d. too much.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The hotelkeeper who supplies the Minister does not think so.

The Minister for Mines: The hotelkeeper can measure it out.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: But the Minister for Works takes no notice of the measure, at all events, not at Parliament House. Under the new arrangement of the department contemplated in the Licensing Bill, I hope a better chance will be given to the Australian product. I have no fault to find with the managers of the several State hotels, but I do object to the general policy. The prices charged are too high, and there is never a newspaper or a magazine available in a State hotel.

Mr. Teesdale: I suppose the customers shake them all.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It is like the hon. member to cast aspersions on the working bullock. Recently a notice was issued that the hotels were to take in only one daily paper from Perth in addition to the local newspaper.

The Colonial Secretary: Is not that enough?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Of course the Minister's newspapers are to be found in all State hotels, but journals supplying satisfactory mental pabulum have been wiped off the list. I do not like the cheeseparing policy adopted in the State hotels and the grasping methods employed to get additional revenue. At one time we looked to the State hotels to correct the evils associated with the drink traffic, but to-day they have fallen far below their original standard.

The Minister for Mines: The Dwellingup State hotel, if in private hands, would not be conducted as it is to-day. It keeps a splendid table, one of the best in the State.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: But the working man cannot enjoy that table. It is beyond the means of the man on 12s. or 13s. per day. The only place for him is the trough. Let him go to the bar and swill.

The Minister for Mines: If they saved what they spend at the bar, many of them could afford at least one good meal a day.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister does not do with one good meal a day. I hope the Colonial Secretary will look into the management of the State hotels.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—State Labour Bureau, £2,278:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Recently instructions were issued that no more railway passes were to be provided for men proceeding to work in the country. That is a wrong policy. Previously men going to work in the country got a railway pass from the bureau and paid for it as soon as they were able to do so. Now they cannot get away to work in the country.

The Minister for Works: I fixed up three men the other day.

Mr. O'Loghlen: But there are 30 others who have not been fixed up. Men cannot take work in the country, because they have not the money for their railway fare. Of the aggregate value of the railway fare previously issued by the bureau, 93 per cent. was recov-

ered. It is better to get men away to work in the country than to have them knocking about the city. In this morning's "West Australian" I saw the Premier reported as having said that if any such men were sent to him he would fix them up with railway fares. Later in the morning two men came to me with a telegram from the manager of the Youanmi mine offering them work. They had not their railway fares, so on the strength of what I had seen in the paper I rang up the Premier, who at once said he had been misreported. If the bureau will not help deserving men to get away to work in the country, we might as well close it up. This afternoon I had a word with the Premier, and he said he would see to it that the policy was altered. Another member of Parliament sent five men to the Premier's office to-day, and the Premier's secretary undertook to fix them up. The Colonial Secretary ought to put this right himself. Conditions of life are precarious. We never know what is awaiting us, and so the Minister some day, instead of having a dozen newspapers and a Rolls-Royce car, may find himself out of work with nothing to fall back upon. In such circumstances it would be very handy if he could accept some work in the country and get his railway fare advanced by the Labour Bureau. I am sorry the remark of the Premier was wrongly reported, because I thought the difficulty had been overcome.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: For the year ended the 30th June last fares were advanced to 3,253 workers to proceed to work in the country, and 73 per cent. of the amount has been recovered to date.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I read 93 in the report, but I am willing to stand on 73.

Mr. Teesdale: Even 73 is satisfactory.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That percentage would be considerably higher but for the fact that certain instructions have been issued to the secretary of the bureau. Those instructions are not severe. It is not the wish of members that the bureau should become a booking station.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is our wish that it should do the useful work it has done in the past.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Tickets could be issued in special circumstances, but it should not be a regular thing for a man requiring a ticket to go to the bureau for it.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is not; 3,000 is a mere bagatelle compared with the number who travel.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: A man can secure a ticket if he presents a letter from a reputable citizen stating that the money will be refunded.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Is that a guarantee?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I am not giving it, and you would not, either.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If I did not know a man well enough to guarantee his fare, I should not recommend him to the

bureau. A man going to employment could secure a letter from his employer.

Mr. O'Loughlen: If he had to write for a letter, he would be kicking his heels in town for another week.

Mr. Corboy: In most instances these employers are on a railway line with a mail once a fortnight.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: A man can give an order on his employer for payment.

Mr. O'Loughlen: These men agreed to do that, and your man turned them down.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If they give an order on the employer and the manager is satisfied the men are going to that employer, the tickets are issued.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Your manager gave them the job. What is wrong with the old system?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This is the only system I know of.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Did not you introduce it?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No, it was in force when I took office. It seems a reasonable system. It would be unsatisfactory if the manager issued tickets without supervision.

Mr. O'Loughlen: He does not complain.

Mr. McCallum: If you left it to his discretion, you would not go far wrong.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I call attention to the state of the Committee.

Mr. Corboy: Yes, nine of us kept House for four of you last night.

Mr. O'Loughlen: And a dirty paragraph was published in the "West Australian" because we were a few minutes late.

[Quorum formed.]

Mr. McCallum: Better lock the doors to keep them in.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There should be some restriction.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Will you leave it to the secretary to make the restriction?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That would not be fair to him. A man can get a ticket if he presents a letter from a reputable citizen.

Mr. O'Loughlen: That represents a guarantee, and how many men will give a guarantee? Try it yourself.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the hon. member believed a man was going to work, he would give him a letter.

Hon. P. Collier: That is ridiculous.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The second course is to present a letter from the employer.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is not obtainable.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: And thirdly a signature from the person proceeding to the work that the money will be refunded.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They all give that.

Mr. Corboy: And it should be sufficient

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In that case the secretary uses his discretion.

Mr. O'Loughlen: But you do not allow him to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The utmost consideration will be given within the limits of reason. We should not issue a ticket if it is thought the amount will not be refunded.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I gave you instances and offered the signatures and both you and the secretary turned me down. You asked me to guarantee them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I was assured that a certain member would guarantee them.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I would not.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We made a regulation that we would not accept a guarantee, as it was not worth the paper it was written on.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The bureau is sympathetic, and cannot do more than issue tickets where the request is considered reasonable.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You have issued instructions not to do that without an order from the employer.

Mr. TEESDALE: I am disappointed that the Minister has not explained why the old order of things has been altered. Undoubtedly an alteration has been made when a man produces a letter or telegram showing that he has an engagement and cannot get a ticket.

Hon. P. Collier: That is an alteration, because in such cases a ticket could always be obtained in the past.

Mr. TEESDALE: Yes. The secretary is a very capable man. I have often gone there to see how the officials treated the unfortunate men who have to wait hour after hour for something to do. I have been in a similar position elsewhere and it is a rotten position. I wanted to catch them napping, but I found the office work proceeding with the greatest consideration possible. The officials were sympathetic, and I could not help being struck with the difference between the management there and one or two other departments I have in mind. It would be safe to allow this man to use his own discretion.

Mr. Corboy: Safer than leaving it to the Minister.

Mr. TEESDALE: He has been there long enough to say whether the risk should be taken. Seventy-three per cent. is a wonderful return, considering the class of labour which has to be dealt with. No member would cavil at £100 or more being in a liquid state.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It does these men no good to be cadging about town.

Mr. TEESDALE: The old system should be restored so that the cases mentioned by the member for Forrest could be met. We should not put the slightest obstacle in the way of men getting work. God knows we have enough wasters who do not want work. When we have men who want to get away, if the Government cannot help them, then

by Heavens we have reached a pretty pass. Let the Government leave the matter to the secretary without reference to the Minister.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I have no knowledge of any system having been altered.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Will you agree to abolish the guarantee?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am advised that no genuine applicant has any difficulty in obtaining a fare. This is proved by the fact that the fares issued last year exceeded those of the previous year by over 1,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You had a large number of unemployed then.

Mr. Corboy: What is a genuine applicant if he is not a man to whom Mr. Hitchens has given a job.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I should say such a man was a genuine applicant.

Mr. Corboy: Yet he was refused a pass.

Mr. McCALLUM: The work of the Labour Bureau should not be judged on a profit and loss account. It should be judged for its usefulness in the life of the community. It has done really good work. Mr. Hitchens is a very capable man and if things were left to his discretion, they would not go far wrong. Recently navvies obtaining work in the country have been asked to produce some agreement for employment. A navvy does not enter into an agreement when he gets a job. There is no written agreement between him and his boss. The men usually follow a ganger from place to place and, when a job is finished, they come into the city. When the ganger is going out again, he picks the men up, and tells them to meet him at a certain place in readiness to catch a certain train and he will start them. When these men go to the bureau and ask for a fare to such and such a place, they are asked to produce an agreement. Now, an agreement is altogether foreign to the navvy's occupation. What does a navvy want to get out of town into the country for, except to work? Keeping such men in town is conducive towards making them "unemployable"—a term which certain people frequently use. The loss involved is, after all, only a matter of bookkeeping; there is no extra expense to the Railway Department because these men are on board a train. In every section of the community there are wasters; that class of person is not confined to the ranks of the workers. The loss in railway fares is not a financial loss to the country; but, even if it were a direct pecuniary loss, there would be an economic gain to the country from getting the men to work. I urge the Minister to leave the largest possible discretion to the officer in charge of the Labour Bureau.

The Premier: But the men with money ought not to get railway passes.

Mr. McCALLUM: The man with money keeps away from the Labour Bureau. The great majority of the men who obtain passes may be rough, but they have big hearts and they pay back when they can.

The Premier: We know that.

Mr. McCALLUM: Mr. Hitchens knows these men; and if he does not know an applicant, he knows where to inquire concerning him, and does inquire. The Minister should give Mr. Hitchens the widest possible discretion.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Is the policy going to be altered?

The Colonial Secretary: I have no knowledge that there has been any change of policy.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Guarantees have been taken from members of Parliament. That is a change of policy. Will guarantees be required in future?

The Premier: Of course we do not want frauds.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Inquiry will be made in the direction suggested by the member for Forrest. Naturally, the department must exercise some discretion.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I suggest that too much attention should not be paid to the Under Secretary. The man responsible is the officer in charge of the Labour Bureau. He makes every inquiry before granting railway passes. Guarantees from members were abolished some years ago. It would take considerably more than a member's salary to meet the claims in this connection. Occasionally, a member refused to put up on a guarantee. The officer in charge of the Labour Bureau does exercise great discretion, more particularly as regards men obtaining employment through private registry offices.

Mr. MANN: It is hardly right that a private institution should be called upon to guarantee a Government department, but the Ugly Men's Association have had to give guarantees when obtaining tickets for men going to jobs in the country. The matter ended up with a debit of £23, and a letter from the Crown Law Department threatening the issue of a writ. Last week I had a case where three men were able to get work in the bush, but could not raise their fares. Eventually, I got the men away through the good offices of the Minister for Works. The next day there were three more men, who were similarly circumstanced. The men agreed to sign orders on their first week's pay. At the Labour Bureau I have been told that passes could not be granted without the production of agreements for employment. Even if the Labour Bureau is occasionally taken down for a fare, that is only a matter of book-keeping.

The Minister for Works: But the Railway Department suffer then.

Mr. MANN: It is an economic benefit to the country to get such men out of the city to work, though I do not suggest that it costs nothing to carry them by train. I urge that greater latitude be given to the officer in charge of the Labour Bureau.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Lunacy and Inebriates—£36,500:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: What has been done as regards carrying out the recommen-

dations of the Royal Commission on Lunacy? Some of those recommendations would not involve much expense, but would make the position of the patients more comfortable. I do not like to say it, but it is a fact that the position of patients in Western Australia is worse than that of patients in either New South Wales, Victoria or South Australia. I have visited 12 or 13 institutions in those States, and I say the position here is the worst of the lot. There is no getting away from the fact that in Western Australia the patients are prisoners. In the other States they are not prisoners, and are not confined between four walls as is the case at Claremont. The Chairman of the Royal Commission was very strong in his remarks on the Claremont institution in that respect. He pointed out that at small expense the place could be made more open for the patients, so that they would not be confined so closely. To this end he suggested the removal of certain walls, thus providing better ventilation. So far as I can learn, nothing has been done in that direction. It was also recommended that with a little additional expense there should be a ward for the purpose of receiving patients so as to avoid their being placed with the chronic cases at the hospital. No attempt has been made to attend to that matter and, so far as I can see, nothing has been done to make the patients more comfortable. Unless steps are taken in that direction, Western Australia will labour under a stigma regarding its lunacy administration. The building was constructed in accordance with the old style and, consequently, is by no means up to date. With slight alterations, however, it could be made much more comfortable for the patients. The Commission also made a recommendation regarding a nurses' home. Hon. members do not realise the position. At the time the Commission sat there were, speaking from memory, between 80 and 90 girls at the institution and only 13 of them had had three years' experience. The girls will not remain there, with the result that the institution has not the number of qualified nurses necessary in the interests of the patients. The girls sleep in little wards adjoining the main ward and their rooms are not satisfactory. The matron asked us to go into one room where there was a sick girl, and it was so small that one could hardly swing a cat in it. Further, that girl's room adjoined the ward where the noisy patients sleep. A number of nurses on night duty had to sleep during the day over the scullery, with the result that their rest was broken. Apart from the brief intervals when they were off duty and away from the institution, they were constantly amongst the patients. Dr. Jones, of Victoria, who is a first class officer, stated that the nurses must be properly treated in these institutions. I do not say anything derogatory to the nurses we have. They are doing the best in the circumstances in which they are placed. Dr. Jones emphasised the point that if the nurses were to be retained, they must be made comfortable. In the Eastern States

attention is paid to that aspect. I was pleased to hear the Minister say that the diet had been improved. Now that the summer is approaching, I hope he will see that fruit is provided for the patients. In a country like Western Australia, where fruit is allowed to rot on the ground, it is strange that patients very rarely see fruit, unless some is received from Whitby. The Commission recommended the introduction of legislation regarding the release of patients, and I hope the Minister will bring forward the necessary Bill this session. As the law stands to-day, a case cannot be brought before a judge so long as there is any doubt about the sanity of the patient concerned. The Commission recommended that if a person desired to secure the release of a patient whose mental condition was such that he would not be dangerous to the community at large, the law should be amended to enable him to have his liberty. By the expenditure of comparatively small sums of money, improvements can be carried out at some of the existing buildings and thus obviate the immediate necessity for the bigger expenditure for a new institution. If another room were provided at Green Place a number of patients could be transferred to that spot. At present women patients under the control of two nurses look after this home. The women are not actually insane but their condition is such that they are not fit to be at large. It is the only place, however, where the doors are thrown open and the inmates allowed to go into the garden at will. It is a beautiful site, and the chairman of the Commission approved of additional accommodation being provided and a number of patients being transferred there. At Whitby Falls a few patients are accommodated, and if another room were erected quite a number of patients from the main institution could be sent there and allowed to work on the farm. A new institution will have to be provided in time but there is no necessity for great expenditure at present. When the question of site is settled, the grounds can be prepared and the work of providing the new institution can go on by degrees. One of the most important things that appealed to me during my visit to the Eastern States was the reception homes. I was particularly struck with the fact that they were all small. In conversation with those in control here, I am afraid there is a tendency to provide a place that will develop into an institution. Provision should be made for not more than about 20 male patients and 20 women patients. If hon. members could only see the reception homes in New South Wales they would quickly bring pressure to bear on the Government to have similar provision made here. The report of the Commission is before members and it deals exhaustively with many of these questions. The Inspector General of New South Wales informed me that in that State they have slightly over 40 per cent. of recoveries out of all the admissions. He said that over 35 per cent. leave the reception

homes without being declared insane. This is a matter that affects the general public, and I trust the Minister will not delay the provision of a reception home here. If possible I would like to see it erected along the river so that the view will attract the attention of patients, who will not feel confined as they do at present. The system of administration is somewhat different here from that which obtains in the other States. In New South Wales the superintendent has complete control over the whole institution, but he confines his duties entirely to the patients. Under the superintendent is a manager who has control of the outside work, enabling the former to devote greater attention to the patients. Dr. Sinclair said they had been very fortunate in that there had never been a clash between the superintendent and the manager in that State. In some institutions the manager looks after the whole place and the doctor only pays occasional visits. In those cases chronic patients are kept in the institution but they are allowed to go about as they please. In Victoria almost a similar system is in operation, but they have a secretary instead of a manager and he relieves the superintendent of the outside work. The only place that can be compared with Western Australia is South Australia, where they have only one institution which is controlled by a board of three. The Inspector General takes no part in the administration of the Asylum except as chairman of the board of control. The board meet regularly, examine accounts, see that economy in purchasing supplies is observed, and they pass on the accounts for payment by the Government. There is a superintendent, who is in control, and there is a steward who takes charge of the outside work. From what I was told in the Eastern States their opinion of the trouble experienced in Western Australia, is that it has been due to the fact that the Inspector General is also the administrator and inspects his own work. The Royal Commission recommended that the Inspector General should not reside in the hospital, that the superintendent should be in charge, and that the Inspector General should see to it that the work is carried out in accordance with the Act. We have had dual control, the Inspector General and the superintendent both administering the institution. I urge on the Minister the erection of the reception house for patients. In South Australia one has been erected at a considerable distance from the Parkside institution. Dr. Morris said to me in Adelaide, "Whatever you do, do not build your reception hospital near the main institution; for if you do you will have a stigma cast on a man who is suffering from some simple temporary derangement of the brain." When I entered Gladesville I was surprised at the conditions. There were no uniforms of any kind. Some of the women were knitting, while others were sewing. The doors were all unlocked. At the head of the stairs was a fairly large landing, where the night nurse

could sit and see everything that was going on. From the top of a 4ft. dado to the ceiling was a continuous expanse of leadlights, making everything bright and cheerful. All around the landing were flower stands, and vases filled with roses. There were carpets on all the floors. Everything was made as cheerful as possible for the patients. On entering the asylum at Claremont, on the other hand, one is struck only by the rows of chronic cases, the worst to be found anywhere.

Mr. McCallum drew attention to the state of the Committee.

Quorum formed.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The other States are trying all they know to cure brain troubles in their incipient stages. We should endeavour to follow their example. I urge the Government to immediately provide some of the conveniences to be found in all the other States. In our institution, not only the buildings but the very furniture has a tendency, not to cure the patients, but to impede their cure. I trust some of the recommendations of the Royal Commission will be put into effect.

Mr. MANN: I wish to bring under notice the work being done by the After-care Society, a band of ladies and gentlemen who accept discharged patients, raise funds for their sustenance, and find suitable employment for them. In some instances it is many weeks before suitable employment can be found for those discharged patients, and, in consequence, the society are hard put to it to provide the necessary funds. Since the Government sanctioned the appointment of this society, they should provide some funds for the carrying on of the society's work.

Mr. McALLUM: I hope the Government will make some alteration with regard to this institution. We have four medical men at Claremont. I am advised that the first assistant, a particularly capable officer recently appointed, has no fewer than two-thirds of the patients under his direct charge. Nowhere else in the world does anything like that prevail, and there can be only one result: either the doctor's health will break down or he will lose interest in his work. It is impossible for him to do justice to such a number of patients. In the United States the asylums average 150 patients per doctor, and nowhere in England or on the Continent is there a bigger average than 250. Yet this doctor has 700 out of the 1,100 patients under his charge. The Inspector General's work is largely that of management. There is no necessity to have a doctor in that position. It is for a business man to attend to the commercial side. Very little medical knowledge is required in the position. The only medical work being done is that of inspection at Whitby and Green Place. The medical inspection of these places could easily be carried out by the local practitioner. The Inspector General occasionally goes to Stromness, but that is a Commonwealth institution

and the Commonwealth Government should look after it.

The Colonial Secretary: He performs duties there for which the State is paid by the Commonwealth.

Mr. McALLUM: Arrangements could be made for that inspection to be done by one of the local practitioners. It does not justify the keeping of a medical man as Inspector General. The general management work in the Eastern States is done by a secretary, a business man. We should not overload the first assistant with 700 patients and have a doctor doing the business portion of the work. Parliament passed an Act providing for a board and making them the head authorities of the department. Their powers were to be defined by regulation, but to date no regulations have been framed. It was said at the time that the decision of Parliament was opposed to the views of the Inspector General, who did not want the board. The board have no defined powers and there is a conflict of authority. The board do not know where they are, and the Inspector General can ignore or override them. By the omission to frame regulations, Parliament has been flouted. Parliament set up the board and looked to them to generally supervise the department, and yet the board are practically without power. Regulations should be framed promptly that the board might know what authority they have, and in order to give them the status Parliament intended them to have. As to allowing patients freedom to get out into the gardens instead of being kept as prisoners behind closed walls, we know what is being done in other parts of the world. Can the Minister say whether any arrangement was made for Dr. Bentley, while in England, to visit the institutions and submit a report?

The Colonial Secretary: Something was mentioned, and I believe it is his intention to do so.

Mr. McALLUM: Was a definite arrangement made?

The Colonial Secretary: I am not sure.

Mr. McALLUM: It would be a great pity if we missed the opportunity to get Dr. Bentley to learn the latest methods and submit a report. If it means only the cost of a cable, the cost should be incurred.

The Colonial Secretary: I shall look into that, and if it has not been authorised, I shall see that it is done.

Mr. Teesdale called attention to the state of the Committee.

Hon. P. Collier: A useless, lazy, loafing institution, that is what it is. What are they paid for? A loafing gang of go-slows.

Mr. McALLUM: One Minister here!

Hon. P. Collier: If they saw a navy on the job straighten his back, they would talk about him going slow. The Chamber is an absolute graveyard.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The CHAIRMAN: Once more my attention has been called to the state of the Committee, there being no quorum present.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ring the bells.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Count in the Sergeant-at-Arms and "Hansard" or you will not be able to get enough.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have counted the House and there is a quorum present.

[Mr. Angelo resumed the Chair.]

Mr. McCALLUM: We had better lock the doors this time. I hope the Minister will recognise that it is unreasonable to expect one doctor to attend to 700 patients. The necessary regulations giving powers to the Board of Visitors should be framed as soon as possible, so as to give effect to the intentions of Parliament.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is well known that the control of the Lunacy Department has been the subject of much discussion in Parliament during the past few years, and also last year the subject of investigation by a Royal Commission. Whilst making allowance for the fact that the Minister has not long been in control of this department, still I take it that the officers of the department have supplied him with fairly full notes of its work. What has been done to give effect to any or all of the recommendations of the Royal Commission? In 1920 Parliament passed an amendment to the Lunacy Act. The chief feature of the amending measure was the reorganisation of the Board of Visitors. From that feature, it was anticipated at the time, great improvements would result. If it is a fact, as stated by the last speaker, that although the Act was passed two years ago, no regulations have yet been promulgated for the work of the Board of Visitors, it is evidence of scandalous neglect. As regards the Lunacy Department, there is at work some influence which means to defy Parliament. The Act of 1920 conferred upon the Board of Visitors very important duties, so important that if they had been carried out as intended by the last Parliament, great reforms would have been brought about in the management of the Claremont institution. Meetings of the board were to be held at regular intervals. The board was empowered to make regulations for the performance of its business and duties. The board was to visit the institution at least once in every month, and also at such other times as the Minister might direct. The board was to report to the Minister after visiting the institution. Copies of all the reports made to the Minister by the board were to be laid before both Houses. So far as I am aware, there has not been one copy of any report made by this board to a Minister presented to the Assembly since the Act was passed two years ago. I do not know whether the board has made any reports to the Minister.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes; the reports regularly reach the Minister.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Then there has been a dereliction of duty somewhere in the department, because copies of such reports have not been laid before both Houses of Parliament.

The Colonial Secretary: I shall see that that is done.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That provision was specially inserted in the Act in order that Parliament might know that effect was given to its express wishes. Although it is nearly 12 months since the Royal Commission reported, effect has not been given, so far as I know, to any one of the recommendations of the Commission, except possibly the recommendation regarding quality and variety of the diet of the patients. It is time Parliament altered its attitude towards the Lunacy Department. We are not sincere with ourselves or with the people. Month after month and year after year Royal Commissions are appointed, spending much time and trouble and money in investigating matters affecting the administration of various departments; and the Commissions' recommendations are presently pigeon-holed and nothing at all is done. Undoubtedly it was the desire of Parliament that some reforms should follow the appointment of the Royal Commission on Lunacy. I know very well that one of the chief obstacles in the way of necessary reforms in this instance is that a large sum of money would be involved in the erection of a new institution. But assuredly the Commission's recommendations as to structural alterations of the existing institution could be carried out at a very small cost and with great benefit to the inmates. In one instance, it is merely a matter of knocking out portions of a partition in order to create a current of air and thus secure better ventilation in some of the dormitories. The provision of verandahs would enable the sick and infirm to sleep outside and secure the benefit of the fresh air. Quite a lot of the recommendations by the Commission would involve alterations that could be carried out at the cost of a few hundred pounds. So far as I know, nothing has been done.

[Mr. Stubbs resumed the Chair.]

The Colonial Secretary: Something has been done.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I know that alterations have been made regarding the diet, and the visits of medical officers and so forth, but nothing has been done in the way of the alterations suggested by the Commission. If hon. members read the report of the Royal Commission they will find therein statements which should make the people of this State ashamed of the manner in which we treat these unfortunate people. The Commission said that the institution was more like a gaol than a hospital. Throughout the report, there are statements of that kind. I feel inclined to read the report through from beginning to end, because it might serve to make members take serious notice of the points raised in it, and induce us to spend some money in improving the conditions. I am afraid we are only playing with our responsibilities. Take this para-

graph which appears in the Commission's report:—

The conditions which now prevail at Claremont cannot conduce to the best interests of the patients towards recovery—its large barrack rooms, barely and badly furnished, its prison-like conditions under continually locked doors, are in great contrast with institutions in other States of the Commonwealth, and one cannot be surprised at the statement of the Inspector General in evidence that "we have practically had no new furniture for 14 years. I am ashamed to take people through my wards. The furniture is dwindling away; once it is smashed, it is not replaced." These conditions should be altered as early as possible.

A summary of the recommendations is attached to the report, the reasons in support of the recommendations appearing in other portions of the report. Under the big heading of "Accommodation," the Commission recommend the establishment of a reception house or acute mental hospital. The member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) has already dealt with that matter at length. This will involve the expenditure of some money in buildings, but when it is remembered that something like 35 per cent. of those who go to the reception houses in the Eastern States never go into the Asylum, but recover their health, we must realise the importance of this institution. The Commission also recommend that additions and alterations to the Claremont Hospital for the Insane should be carried out to cope with overcrowding by means of the erection of a nurses' home, the conversion of the existing nurses' quarters into a new female ward, and the conversion of workshops into a male ward.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is a beautiful stone building.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is wasted as a workshop, and with the alteration suggested, which would involve very small expenditure, it could be put to greater use in the interests of the patients. The Commission also recommended the remodelling of the kitchen block, and the conversion of the isolation block into wards for imbecile children and the provision of additional pavilions, the creation of new reception wards and the erection of verandahs. In a climate such as we have here, provision should be made for sleeping out of doors. When we remember that the whole institution is scandalously overcrowded, we must realise that there is the greater need for provision being made for verandahs and so forth. These alterations will not involve the expenditure of much money.

Mr. Corboy drew attention to the state of the Committee.

Quorum formed.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Another recommendation of the Commission which might well be carried out is the provision of better ventilation in the wards. Then there are the erec-

tion of a baker's oven, the extension of certain buildings, the increasing of the size of the airing court at X block, the alteration of doors to single rooms, the removal of divisional walls in the airing courts, revision of the administrative system on the lines of South Australian legislation, and the improvement of the dietary scale. The Commission made strong comments on the dietary scale, and declared that it was never varied. I understand an improvement has been effected in that respect. Is it the intention of the Minister to go into these questions? Thus far he has not had much time, I admit, but unless the matter be taken in hand by a Minister determined to improve the conditions that have prevailed, nothing whatever will be done. We have proof of that in the fact that the board upon which Parliament relied to effect improvements at the institution have so far failed. I believe a policy of passive resistance has been adopted by those in control of the institution. The board are not to be permitted to carry out the reforms which Parliament expected of them. The Commission also recommended a small amendment of the Act. It is not too late in the session even now to bring down the necessary Bill. Under the heading of "Overcrowding" the board say that on the original cubic capacity basis the Inspector General calculates that there are in the institution 337 patients too many. Even on a greatly improved cubic capacity basis, it appears there are 270 patients too many. It is an appalling reflection on everyone of us that we permit these things. I admit that this particular reform involves a large expenditure. But numerous improvements could be made on a very small expenditure. Everything that can be done with the present institution, short of the expenditure of a large sum of money, ought to be done and done immediately. The Commission does not recommend the erection of an entirely new institution, the view taken being that if effect were given to the recommendations made, it would be sufficient for some time to come. I know that is not the view of those in authority, who have been looking around for sites and having plans prepared for new buildings. However, I am afraid that, in view of the present cost of building, if we do not attempt to improve the existing buildings nothing will be done for many years to come. I took great interest in the Bill of 1920. There had been much dissatisfaction in Parliament for some years prior to the introduction of that Bill. I felt convinced that the Bill, if it were earnestly administered, would go a long way towards some measure of reform. But we learn that after two years the regulations governing the board's functions have not been framed, and find that although the Act stipulates that copies of their reports and recommendations shall be presented to Parliament, not one such copy has been so presented. I hope that will be remedied and that, further, the Minister will have copies of all past reports laid on the Table.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I regret these reports have not been placed on the Table. I must take the blame for that. They have come along, and I have perused them. In respect of the recommendations of the Commission, the recent appointment of two additional doctors will make a good deal of difference down there. Provision has been made for a slightly more liberal dietary scale. The After-care Society has been formed, and there is on the Estimates an item of £100 for the assistance of its work. The sites for the proposed reception home and convalescent home have been inspected, but there will be a good deal of difficulty in arriving at a decision. There is a Class "A" reserve which I think offers the best site, and I hope that if it is finally recommended, members will sanction its use for this purpose. Butter shows an increase and margarine a corresponding reduction. It is intended to use butter so soon as the price drops sufficiently to warrant it. The recommendations of the Royal Commission have received at least some consideration, but it is difficult in the restricted time at one's disposal to do everything. I am looking forward to the rising of Parliament when these matters will be attended to so far as opportunity and ability permit.

Mr. McCallum: This has hung fire for three years.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Everyone is sympathetic towards the inmates of this institution. I have also visited Jandakot where it is proposed to establish something in the nature of a home farm.

Item, Inspector General of Insane and Inebriates, £852:

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am quite satisfied that the reason greater improvement has not been effected in the management of this institution is because of the hostility of the Inspector General. There can be no question about that. For years the Inspector General has resisted with all his power any alteration in the old management of the institution. He was opposed to the amending Act. He was opposed to anything which would alter the conditions which have prevailed in the management of the institution for so many years. The principal feature of the Act of 1920 was the appointment of a visiting board. There has always been a board of visitors, but the duties and powers of the board were greatly enlarged by the Amending Act. It was the deliberate intention of Parliament to give the board very great powers, believing that it would lead to a necessary improvement in the management of the institution. Section 95 deals with the powers and duties of the board and paragraph (g) of Sub-clause 1 reads—

The board may give instructions to the Inspector General as to the management of the institution otherwise than in regard to medical treatment of patients but subject to regulations.

Before the board can proceed to give effect to that paragraph it is necessary to have regulations framed and adopted. These regulations have not yet been framed; consequently, that portion of the Act has been a dead letter. The board have not been able to do what Parliament authorised and intended they should do, and they are not in a position to-day to give instructions to the Inspector General. The board cannot frame the regulations. This is not a matter for the board. The board may make regulations governing their own movements and procedure, but the regulations which would enable the board to give instructions as to the management of the institution can only be made by the Minister. I want to know whether the Minister will have the necessary regulations prepared and gazetted at the earliest possible moment to enable the board to function as Parliament intended it should do. How long is Parliament going to submit to the obstinate dictatorial attitude of the officer in charge of the institution? After exercising all his power and influence to prevent these provisions being passed, and after having been defeated, he has attained his purpose evidently by influencing the Minister or those in charge to such an extent that no regulations have yet been promulgated. The whole crux of the matter is that under the Act the board may give instructions to the Inspector General with regard to the management. We do not require a highly trained medical officer drawing a big salary and spending his time attending to details of the management of the institution, buying bread and ordering tea and milk and sugar and seeing that the pigs are fed. That is not work for a trained medical man. It was in order that the Inspector General might be relieved of that work and that such work might be taken over or supervised to some extent by the board that the Amending Act was passed. But the Inspector General goes on attending to the buying of tea and bread and milk and things of that kind.

Mr. Mann: The board have been doing a good deal.

Hon. P. COLLIER: They have not been doing all Parliament intended they should do or all that the Act says they should do, simply because of the absence of regulations. Under paragraph 8 of Section 7 it will be necessary for the Minister to frame regulations enabling the board to give instructions. This Committee should mark its disapproval of the manner in which things have been going on by reducing the item on the Estimates. It is intolerable that Parliament should be defied year after year by a highly placed officer who has certain powers, and who apparently is able to influence Ministers and others to prevent the will of Parliament being carried out. That is what has actually happened.

The Colonial Secretary: I have not seen any indication of that.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not suppose the present Minister has yet had opportunity to

become thoroughly informed regarding the many departments within the scope of the Colonial Secretary. There are too many departments under the Colonial Secretary, and they are so varied in nature as to call for a diversity of experience impossible for any one man to possess. It would take any man two or three years even to become reasonably acquainted with the ramifications of all the departments under the control of the Colonial Secretary. If the Minister will carefully observe the operations of the Lunacy Department, he must come to the conclusion that the Claremont institution is not being administered so well as it might be. I ask him to take particular note of the need for framing the regulations which will enable the board to carry out their duties as intended by Parliament.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN. Undoubtedly Parliament intended that the board should advise regarding the administration of the Claremont hospital, of course outside the treatment of the patients. The select committee recommended that there should be a board of management, but the Minister of the day did not agree with that. After much discussion in this Chamber the Minister accepted an amendment giving the board power to make recommendations as to administration, but thought it should be done under regulations. The provision in question, however, has remained a dead letter.

Hon. P. Collier: A scandalous thing!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Unfortunately the Act vests the power to visit only in the board, and not in members of the board individually. The Royal Commission recommended an alteration in that respect. As it is, no member of the board can pay a surprise visit. I do not say that a member of the board, if he visited the institution by himself, would not be allowed to inspect it; but individually members of the board have not the right which Parliament intended they should have. The Royal Commission's report was fairly strong as to neither the Inspector General nor the Superintendent paying enough surprise visits to the wards; and that was the opinion not only of the lay members of the Commission, but also of the expert. It appeared that neither of those two officers visited a ward at night except very rarely. The expert member of the Commission stated that, in his opinion, it is urgently necessary for a medical officer to be in the ward at night occasionally in order that he may understand the condition of the patients. Further, the Commission found that the medical officers rarely visited the wards at meal times, or that this was done in merely a perfunctory manner. The expert member of the Commission recommended that the wards should be frequently visited by the medical officers at meal times in order that the diet of the patients might be supervised. The Board of Visitors attend at the institution fortnightly, because they cannot inspect the whole institution in a

day. Individually they have no power to pay surprise visits, and an alteration is recommended by the Royal Commission in that respect, so that individual members might visit the institution officially. I think hon. members will agree that the board should have power to assist in the administration. In that respect their hands are completely tied, although they were appointed two years back. The Act empowers the board to make recommendations to the Minister as to alteration of regulations. If the regulations are not so framed as to admit of the board's work being carried out in a proper manner, the board can recommend alterations. However, no regulations whatever have been framed. At the time of the passing of the Act this House was told definitely that regulations would be framed permitting the board to take part in the administration. In South Australia there is a statutory board which administers. It consists of the South Australian Inspector General and two other members, who are paid. On the other hand, the visitors are not paid in South Australia. Those who know that State are aware that Dr. Morris has made a wonderful change in the treatment of the patients. He has made the institution much brighter than it was previously. Formerly Parkside was in the centre of a large group of pine trees, and a miserably dark-looking place. Dr. Morris had the pine trees removed and replaced by gardens, of which the patients avail themselves. In the Claremont institution the patients are kept between brick walls at the back. At Callan Park, the only divisions between the patients comprise open iron fences with spaces of six inches between the cross wires. The patients can talk to each other through the fence. There are no brick walls, such as we see at Claremont. The new hospital outside Heidelberg has been constructed on an entirely opposite principle from that of our own asylum. There the medical officer can stand on his verandah and see all the patients about him. When speaking to the superintendent, I said: "I cannot understand your institution here at all. If you go into some wards at Claremont, instead of being amongst human beings, it is like going amongst wild beasts who run around you and shout at the top of their voices. One has to look out that he does not get a blow. Why are your patients here so much quieter than those in Western Australia?" The superintendent replied: "I know your institution in Western Australia, and I put this to you: If you were confined for six months inside four brick walls, would you be normal?" There is no doubt that our system is detrimental to the patients. The regulations contemplated under the legislation passed by this House, should be framed. We have a man on the board of visitors who has made a great study of lunacy questions. He has travelled the world over and has visited all the big institutions in Europe and America. He did that at his own expense, and reported to the Government on the result of his inquiries. I am

confident he will be of great assistance to the authorities if power is given to him and the other members of the board to carry out the desires of Parliament. Unfortunately, their hands are tied now just as they were before the amending legislation was agreed to, except as regards the patients. I hope the Minister will see that the regulations are framed as soon as possible. All the brains are not to be found in one man, and if several men who take a deep interest in the question are able to advise the Minister on matters of administration as well, better results will be achieved. Every member is anxious to see an improvement in connection with these unfortunate people and, if possible, cures effected.

Hon. P. Collier: When we appointed the Royal Commission we thought we were doing something.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The then Minister fought very strongly against the board of control at that time. In fact, I am confident that the state of the House was such that if the Minister had not agreed to deal with this point in the regulations, the House would have stated definitely in the Bill that the board should take part in the administration of the institution. The Minister found it necessary to adjourn the debate to consider the position. No regulations, however, have been framed, and, therefore, the Act has been voided. The board cannot put forward any recommendations to the Government regarding the administration of the institution.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Minister has a very competent board of men and women who have spent a lot of time disinterestedly in connection with this work. These people will not be content to continue their job year after year, without knowing what their authority really is. At present they are working under an Act which provides for regulations to be framed defining their powers and authority. That has not been done and the board can merely report to the Minister on ordinary happenings at the institution. The Minister has put up the plea that he is new to office and has only seven days in the week. He should remember that two years have passed since this matter was dealt with, and there is an officer who has drawn £350 per year since then, who should have moved in that direction for the Minister.

The Colonial Secretary: It has been pointed out that it is not that officer's duty to do so.

Mr. McCALLUM: Surely it is his duty to recommend to the Minister what should be done. Is this officer to be allowed to draw his salary for two years without knowing what his authority really is and without assisting the Minister to deal with these matters? He should have pointed out this phase of the question to the Minister and helped to have the regulations framed.

Hon. P. Collier: He was hostile to the board; he hated the board and the powers to be given to them. He has defied Parliament, or someone else has.

Mr. McCALLUM: It was common knowledge at the time that the Inspector General of the Insane was opposed to a new law being passed. It was generally known that he was against the appointment of the board. He has been able to get behind the decision of Parliament and flout the House by not having the regulations framed and put into force. The Act goes further than has been indicated. The board cannot even do the work it should carry out in connection with the patients, much less respecting the institution generally, until the regulations are framed. I remember reading somewhere that, on a previous occasion, advice was given to the Minister that if he was to be successful in his job, he would have to keep a stiff upper lip. I wish to repeat that advice.

The Colonial Secretary: It is not required any more now than it was then.

Hon. P. Collier: You will find it is necessary to have a stiff upper lip in order to control this institution before you are finished with it.

Mr. McCALLUM: If the regulations are framed and the board is to carry on the work as Parliament intended should be done, the Minister will require a stiff upper lip.

The Colonial Secretary: I hope that is said in the same tone and with the same touch of gentle humour as the former statement regarding any stiff upper lip.

Mr. McCALLUM: There is no humour in what I am suggesting. I know the will that is behind this officer, and if he can flout the Minister, he will do so. He has done that for two years.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, for many years.

Mr. McCALLUM: If Parliament is to say that one man can flout the will of the people, and set the authority of Parliament aside, what is to be the position in the end? I hope the Minister will insist upon these regulations being framed early, so that the board shall have clearly defined power. The board members are thoroughly competent, and keenly interested in their work. It is not easy to discover what the work of the Inspector General is. Until recently, he did the buying for the institution, but now it is done by the Government Stores. In any case, it is not a job for a doctor, to be managing the institution, and attending to the commercial side. That should be for a business man. There are four medical men down there, yet a young doctor is left in charge of 700 patients. What does the Inspector General do? Apparently he plays golf all day.

Hon. P. Collier: A man with a Government motor car can always put in his time agreeably.

Mr. McCALLUM: When the Minister starts out for reform, he will find obstinate opposition in the Inspector General. Why have the board been allowed to go on for two years without knowing where they are, and with the Inspector General carrying out functions which it was intended the board should perform?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will look into this question forthwith. If Parliament gave certain instructions, those instructions must be carried out. I should be sorry to find that the circumstances justified the opinions expressed by the hon. member. There has been nothing to indicate a lack of regard on the part of the officer in question. However, I assure the hon. member that the position will be looked into.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The difficulty is that the Minister is new, not only to the department, but to Parliament also. The management of this institution has a history which ante-dates the Minister's advent in the House, and, consequently, he has not a personal knowledge of what has taken place in Parliament during the past four or five years. Prior to the last elections, when the Minister was returned, the control and management of this institution were the subject of long and warm debates, session after session. It ended in the Bill of 1920. The temper of Parliament had become exhausted. Notwithstanding continual protests, the Inspector General had succeeded in resisting the desire of the House for improvement. When the Bill of 1920 was going through, the Inspector General was always about here in the corridors. One night he said he would damn well see to it that the board did not have any power. That was the attitude of the Inspector General. If Parliament had had any idea of what was going to happen, the powers of the board would have been clearly defined in the Act, instead of being left to be fixed by regulation. If the Minister who was in office then were controlling the department to-day, and the position no better than it is, I should not be prepared to allow this item to be passed at all. However, the present Minister cannot be held responsible. The only way in which the House will get an alteration will be by striking out the item of the Inspector General. There is a superintendent, who can manage the institution much more satisfactorily than it is being managed at present. The only thing for the Committee to do is to take the matter into its own hands, and strike out the item. In fact I move—

That the item be struck out.

I do not feel assured that the Minister will effect the necessary alteration during the next twelve months. If I am in the House next year, when we reach the Estimates of this department, if the same state of affairs obtains, I will certainly do all I can to prevent the Estimates getting through.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I hope the Leader of the Opposition will withdraw his motion, and at least give me an opportunity to carry into effect the promise I have made.

Amendment put and negatived.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Observatory, £1,957:

Mr. LUTEY: I move—

That the vote be struck out.

This division comes up year after year. We have debated it many times and two years ago a motion to strike it out was almost carried. Only the able advocacy of the member for Kanowna saved it. This institution should be a charge on the Commonwealth Government. So long as the State continues to pay for it, the Commonwealth will do nothing in the matter. I believe representations have been made to the Commonwealth, but still the State is burdened with the expense.

Mr. LAMBERT: This is one of the things we should insist on the Federal authorities taking over at once. The present financial position of the State does not warrant us spending this sum on an abstract science.

Hon. P. Collier: Abstract! It is one of the exact sciences.

Mr. LAMBERT: But from the State point of view it serves no practical purpose. An observatory is all very nice for a country that can afford it, but for a struggling State in the infancy of its development to be saddled with such an institution is scandalous. It is our duty to tell the Federal Government that we are not going to continue it or to permit them to dodge their obligations any longer. The sooner we assert our authority, the sooner shall we get something like a fair deal from the Federal Government. The Premier should be courageous enough to say that we can do without this institution.

The Minister for Agriculture: This institution?

Mr. LAMBERT: I was not referring to Parliament. If the interest shown in the work here to-night is indicative of the value of Parliament, the sooner it is done away with, the better. If it were not for the consistent attendance of members of the Opposition, Parliament would be a laughing stock and a disgrace. The Commonwealth should be made to recognise their obligations regarding the Observatory.

Hon. P. Collier: Unfortunately they will not pay.

Mr. LAMBERT: Then we should close up the institution. If we had a good agricultural chemist and laboratory in the Observatory buildings, much more useful work would be accomplished than by star gazing. The Observatory is an unnecessary service to the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The amount would settle two men every year under group conditions.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, and feed a lot of mouths that are unfed to-day. While there is a hue and cry about expenditure on education and for the relief of the sick, the Observatory is apparently to be immune from any financial reform. It is an institution that the Federal Government should keep up. We should say to them, "There is the Observatory and equipment; take the institution over and run it, if you will, with your meteorological branch; this State will not run it any longer." We can spend the £1,600 involved with much more advantage in various other directions. I hope the Premier will focus his practical mind on

the Observatory. I support the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe.

Mr. LUTEY: I hoped for some pronouncement from the Government on this vote. Have they been making serious representations to the Commonwealth as to the taking over of the Observatory? In the present temper of the Committee the amount seems likely to be struck out. The member for North-East Fremantle has pointed out that half the amount of the vote has already been spent, and therefore my better course would be to move the disallowance of only the other half. I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr. LUTEY: I now move—

That the vote be reduced by £900.

The Observatory goes on year after year, without any attempt by the Government to bring the Federal authorities up to their responsibilities. Members on the other side of the Chamber have expressed themselves freely regarding the institution.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is quite pardonable that at this hour the Committee should be in no mood to discuss this vote. If hon. members were to peruse the last two or three reports of the Government Astronomer, it would be enough to put the cap on any question as to the usefulness of the institution. Mr. Curlewis has been directing his activities towards such subjects as prediction of tides at Port Hedland for 1922, meridional observation, standard stars, transit instruments, time service, and the 125th meridian. The Committee should make a serious attempt to deal with this matter and we should get the Federal Government to shoulder their responsibilities. I suggest that the Premier should make representations to the Federal Government and offer them the use of the Observatory buildings, where the Commonwealth meteorological work could be carried out at a saving of hundreds of pounds a year in rentals. I hope the Committee will support the amendment.

Amendment put and a division taken, with the following result:—

Ayes	8
Noes	17

Majority against .. 9

AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. Munle
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Lutey	Mr. Corboy

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo	Mr. Mann
Mr. Collier	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Denton	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Durack	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. George	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Gibson	Mr. J. Thomson
Mr. Latham	Mr. Underwood
Mr. C. C. Maley	Mr. Mullany
Mr. H. K. Maley	

(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—State Children and Outdoor Relief, £95,466:

Hon. P. COLLIER: While we exercise our right to criticise Government departments, we should give a word of praise when it is due. The State has much to be proud of regarding the way it looks after its neglected children. The total vote for the Charities Department is £95,000, which is a large sum. Notwithstanding that fact I am pleased to see that no reduction has been provided, but, on the other hand, an increase of nearly £2,000 has been provided. No State in the Commonwealth takes greater care of its children and women with children dependent upon them than does Western Australia. The number of children under the control of the department and chargeable to public funds on the 30th June this year, was 1,302, a decrease of 108 compared with the previous year. The department is also supervising 305 children placed out on probation with relatives but not chargeable to the State. The number of children with mothers who are receiving monetary assistance, not committed to the care of the department through the Children's Court, was 2,016. The number during the previous year was 2,022. The number of children boarded out on subsidy to the 30th June last was 586, a decrease of 49 compared with the previous year. I notice that under the aegis of the department 500 odd adoptions have been arranged and 48 were adopted for the year just closed. The departmental report says that the foster-mothers are to be congratulated on their loving care and attention during the year, and that the low death-rate constitutes a striking testimony to their motherly instincts. The rates of payment are set out, showing special rates for special cases. The final conclusions of the report are very gratifying—

The outstanding features of the year's operations are a further reduction in the number of children committed by the Children's Court and chargeable to the State, and a decrease in the mortality rate of children boarded out, constituting a record for Australia; the low death-rate of children placed out with licensed foster-mothers, paid for privately. The rate for the year was the lowest since the department was established.

That is very gratifying indeed. Although I have found on many occasions that the department has not granted the measure of assistance which I could have liked, still I recognise that it was owing to the financial exigencies of the State. If members would go down to the Charities Department and sit there for an hour or two, noting the number of cases of women and children, they would see that the officers of the department are simply wonderful in their patience and sympathy with those with whom they have to deal. Certainly this department is doing

splendid work. It has fathered thousands of children, many of whom will no doubt grow into useful citizens. They will have cause to be thankful for the care bestowed on them by the officers of the department, and to be grateful for the manner in which the State has come to their relief. I have much pleasure in congratulating the officers, the Minister, and everybody associated with the administration of the department.

Mr. MUNSIE: I wish to supplement the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition. Western Australia should be proud of the department. I congratulate the department on the selection of its foster-mothers. It would be a revelation to members to see the homes in which the boarded-out children have been placed. I have nothing but praise for the lady inspectors who examine the homes before they permit the children to go to them. I should be lacking in my duty if I did not testify to the work the department is doing.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: An important report such as this of the Charities Department should be printed and distributed, even to the other States. As it is, we get merely a typewritten copy, which very few can secure. The report is not lengthy, and it is highly important, showing as it does what the State is doing for the assistance of the children. I hope the Government will have the report printed.

Vote put and passed.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, progress reported.

House adjourned at 12.40 a.m. (Friday).

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 21st November, 1920.

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

QUESTION—POLICE DEPARTMENT, INSPECTORS.

Hon. F. A. BAGLIN asked the Minister for Education: 1, How many inspectors are there in the Police Department? 2, What are

their names, ages, salaries, and their length of service? 3, What is the retiring age for police inspectors?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Twelve. 2, Name, age, salary and length of service: Chief Inspector McKenna, 69, £545, 48 years 10 months; Inspector Sellenger, 59, £420, 38 years 4 months; Inspector Duncan, 60, £420, 30 years 5 months; Inspector Mitchell, 60, £420, 35 years; Inspector Houlahan, 60, £420, 41 years; Inspector Walsh, 60, £380, 31 years; Inspector O'Halloran, 55, £395, 34 years; Inspector Condon, 60, £380, 36 years; Inspector Treadgold, 43, £380, 19 years 5 months; Inspector Simpson, 55, £380, 34 years; Inspector J. Smith, 55, £380, 29 years; Inspector Spedding-Smith, 49, £380, 28 years; Inspector Barry, 52, £380, 28 years. 2, The Police regulations provide that the retiring age of members of the force shall be 60 years, subject to the Minister on the report of the Commissioner allowing any member to remain in his position until otherwise decided.

QUESTION—INDUSTRIAL, 48 HOURS WEEK.

Hon. G. W. MILES asked the Minister for Education: 1, Have the Government lodged applications in the State Court of Arbitration for an award of 48 hours in respect of (a) Engineering employees in the Water Supply and Public Works Departments; (b) Water supply, sewerage, and drainage employees; (c) Dock, river, and harbour employees; (d) Engine-drivers and firemen; (e) Plumbers, carpenters and joiners, painters, shipwrights, and survey hands? 2, (a) Has the Minister for Trading Concerns made application to the State court for an award against the Amalgamated Society of Engineers; (b) If not, what is the reason for the Minister for Trading Concerns not citing the Amalgamated Society of Engineers?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Yes. 2, (a) No; (b) Because of proceedings in the Federal Arbitration Court and the pending appeal to the Privy Council.

QUESTION—ESPERANCE NORTHWARDS RAILWAY.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS (for Hon. J. W. Kirwan) asked the Minister for Education: What progress has been made with the construction of the Esperance Northwards railway since the Minister made his statement in this Chamber on the 26th October last?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Eight miles of rails and 3,000 sleepers delivered at Esperance. Arrangements completed for transport of some of the necessary trucks, and practically finalised for despatch this month of locomotive; this latter has been difficult by reason of few vessels available suitable for the purpose.