

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 1935**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

## VOTE OF CREDIT.

ON ACCOUNT, 1936-37.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt from His Excellency the Governor of a message recommending that provision be made, on account, for the services of the several departments of the public service for the year ending 30th June, 1937, of the following amounts:—

	£
From the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland (exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account) the sum of ... ..	1,800,000
From the Trust and Special Funds, the sum of ... ..	1,200,000
From the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account, the sum of ... ..	750,000

Message ordered to be referred to Committee of Supply.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1934-35.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt from His Excellency the Governor of a message transmitting the Supplementary Estimates for the year 1934-35.

Estimates ordered to be printed and referred to Committee of Supply.

## WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER, 1935.

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

## QUESTION.

## AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION TICKETS OF ROTATIONAL RELIEF WORKERS.

Mr. NIMMO (*Ozley*) asked the Secretary for Labour and Industry—

"1. Has he received lately a complaint from rotational relief workers at Ipswich that the taking out of an Australian Workers' Union ticket was demanded as a condition of their period of work being extended in the case of married men to twelve weeks, and that failure to take out such ticket would result in dismissal at the end of eight weeks' rotational work?"

"2. When the Government decided to extend the period of rotational work for married men from eight to twelve weeks, was the taking out of an Australian Workers' Union ticket costing £1 5s. made a necessary qualification? If so, why was this condition not announced?"

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

"1. No; but an inquiry on the subject was received by telegram from Bundamba, which may have been made on behalf of rotational relief workers at Ipswich.

"2. It was made clear to constructing authorities carrying out rotational relief work that full award rates and conditions were to be observed, and as preference clauses constitute conditions of awards, they should be automatically observed by constructing authorities."

## PAPER.

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Ordinance dated 31st October, 1935, under "The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1934," relating to Tramways.

[*Mr. Morgan.*]

## LIQUOR ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

## INITIATION.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*): I move—

"That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to provide a measure of liquor reform and to amend 'The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1932,' in certain particulars, and for other purposes."

Question put and passed.

## SUPPLY.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES—  
FIFTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.

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

## ESTIMATES IN CHIEF, 1935-36.

## RAILWAYS.

## CENTRAL DIVISION AND MACKAY RAILWAY.

Question stated—

"That £932,880 be granted for 'Central Division and Mackay Railway.'"

Mr. CLARK (*Fitzroy*) [10.36 a.m.]: I pay tribute to the staff of the Central Division for the courtesy that has been extended to me since my election to Parliament. Among the matters that I desire to bring before the Minister is the imposition of the surcharge on the fare to be paid by travellers from Rockhampton to Brisbane, and vice versa, when travelling on the Townsville mail trains. On certain days the Rockhampton-Brisbane mail train does not run, and passengers wishing to journey in either direction between Rockhampton and Brisbane must make use of the Townsville-Brisbane mail train. For this so-called privilege they are compelled to pay a surcharge. I ask

the Minister to investigate the matter and, if at all possible, have the surcharge lifted.

The Minister should give careful consideration to the provision of a new railway station at Rockhampton. A previous Labour Government set aside an amount towards the erection of the new station and certain work was done. On the defeat of that Government at the polls their successors discontinued the work. Rockhampton is one of the largest cities in the State, and with a population of approximately 30,000, should have a more modern railway station. The existing station is a disgrace. Passengers alighting from trains at one platform are compelled to step down on to the level of the track and then ascend to the platform. This platform should be extended 30 feet to overcome this inconvenience to passengers. The extension would also lighten the labours of the porters attending to parcels and luggage. A large amount of luggage is put off certain trains drawing into this platform and porters are compelled at times to draw the heavy luggage barrows up the ramp.

The present practice of using the Rockhampton workshops to less than their full capacity merits the serious consideration of the Minister. Much of the repair work that is sent to Ipswich could be done in the Rockhampton workshops. When going through the Rockhampton workshops I noticed that there are several unoccupied blacksmiths' fires. The Moore Government dismissed many of the blacksmiths and their labourers, and these men have never been reinstated. All work that could be done in the Central District, should be done there. It must be expensive to truck certain articles from Rockhampton to Ipswich for repairs when the work could be efficiently carried out in Rockhampton. Draw hooks and couplings are heavy, and they could be repaired in Rockhampton just as efficiently as in Ipswich. I should like the Minister to go carefully into this matter. I am confident that after he had done so he would realise that the work can be done in Rockhampton if more blacksmiths and labourers are employed.

I agree with other hon. members who have expressed the view that the rail motors are an asset to Queensland. The Dawson and Callide Valley areas are adjacent to my electorate, and the introduction of rail motors on runs in those districts would be a benefit and saving both to the department and the farming community. Farmers would be able to despatch their cream more speedily to the factories and it would reach its destination in a much better condition than if it were standing about for a day or two waiting for a train.

I have travelled about the Central District for many years, and my experience of the railway employees from the highest official to the lowest employee is that they have always shown the greatest courtesy and willingness to do their duty.

Although it does not concern this vote, I desire to refer to the fines imposed upon railway employees in Queensland. I believe that the system is wrong. A man should receive his pay for the work done, and when found guilty of an offence he could be penalised in other ways than by the imposition of fines. In my opinion, those fines are often too heavy. I agree that there must be discipline in all industries, but there are other ways of penalising men who at

times break the rules and regulations. Some other system would make for greater harmony between the employees and the head officers of the branches concerned.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. J. Dash, *Mundingburra*) [10.40 a.m.]: In reply to the hon. member for Rockhampton and the hon. member for Fitzroy I should like to assure them that the matters brought forward in connection with surcharges will be thoroughly investigated by the officers of my department, and will receive sympathetic treatment.

The hon. member for Wide Bay informed the Committee that a tourist book had been published that did not mention anything about Maryborough. The book referred to was not issued by the Tourist Bureau of Queensland at all, but by a private person. The hon. member for Toowoomba referred to a pamphlet depicting an aborigine spearing an opossum, but again that book was not issued by the Government Tourist Bureau. I have to advise the hon. member for Wide Bay that the pamphlet issued by the Tourist Bureau does give ample publicity to the Wide Bay and Burnett districts.

I assure hon. members that any suggestions they have made will be thoroughly investigated by my department.

Mr. WATERS (*Kelvin Grove*) [10.46 a.m.]: I should like to refer to the position of officers in the traffic branch in regard to promotion. If a checker desires advancement he is unable to get beyond the limit of that grade because of the regulations laid down by the department, and there is a good deal of discontent in every division of the Queensland railways—Southern, Central, and Northern—in consequence. Some more equitable system should be devised. The checker should have the opportunity of advancement to a higher range of positions, such as car conductor and the like. At present he finds himself at a dead-end. Another cause of discontent is that many one-time station-masters and night officers who have been disgraced for misdemeanours have been appointed as checkers-in-charge, and thus the opportunities of the checkers for promotion to such positions have been reduced. In the general division, the traffic branch, there is not the system of examination that applies in the clerical divisions, and there should be easier opportunities for advancement. A man of average intelligence can quite satisfactorily discharge the duties of a porter, platform porter, cloak-room porter, or car conductor, so that there is a measure of injustice in the prohibitions that exist to-day concerning appointments to those positions. I mention this, Mr. Hanson, because in a recent appeal case in which the appellant tested the question of his right to get out of the ranks of the checkers, the appeal board held that under existing regulations he was unable to secure advancement. In the interests of the men there should be a re-casting of the grades and a review of the avenues for promotion, and every individual in the traffic branch should enjoy the opportunity to advance himself and in this way to improve, incidentally, the position of the railways.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. J. Dash, *Mundingburra*) [10.50 a.m.]: I should like to point out to the hon. member for Kelvin Grove that all the interested unions would have to be consulted

*Hon. J. Dash.]*

before his suggestion could be acted upon. If the Commissioner were given a free hand in the promotion of his officers—that is practically what was suggested by the hon. member—he could employ any officer in any position that he considered he could fill to advantage. It was suggested yesterday that clerks and other employees should be transferred from section to section so that they might be given an opportunity to obtain a wider knowledge of railway working.

Mr. GLEDSON: Within their own branches.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: The question arises whether the employees of one branch should be transferred to another branch. The important question to consider is: what would be the attitude of the unions, who are always concerned with safeguarding the members of their respective organisations?

Item (Central Division and Mackay Railway) agreed to.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. J. Dash, *Mundingbarra*) [10.53 a.m.]: I move—

“That £1,099,790 be granted for ‘Northern Division.’”

The amount required shows a decrease of £24,145 as compared with the actual expenditure last financial year. Here, again, while provision has been made for the usual grade and automatic increases, there will be a marked reduction in the expenditure through the reduced traffic in starving stock, fodder, wool, and live stock this year. Stores and fuel costs will also be lower than in the last financial year. As against the reduction in ordinary traffic compared with last year, provision has to be made for additional traffic from Mount Isa.

Item agreed to.

#### STORES BRANCH.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. J. Dash, *Mundingbarra*): I move—

“That £56,600 be granted for ‘Stores Branch.’”

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*) [10.54 a.m.]: For quite a considerable time complaints have been made that a quantity of timber used by the Railway Department was not sufficiently matured, and that much green timber had been used in the construction of its rolling stock. The matter was submitted to the Minister, and officers of the department reported that the timber was sufficiently matured for the purposes for which it was used. It is highly essential that timber used in the construction of carriages and trucks should be thoroughly dry. Later reports have proved that the complaints concerning the use of green or immatured timber were well founded. I suggest to the Minister that he make further inquiry into those complaints. I am sure that he would discover that they were justified. I hope that he will take prompt action to see that all the timber is properly seasoned before it is issued to the employees to be manufactured into railway rolling stock. Every workman assigned to a task is anxious to do it properly, and turn out a durable job. To supply him with green or immatured timber to work into coaches is not in the interests of the department or the workman. After such coaches have been in use for a month or

so they must be returned to the workshops for repairs, and it would appear on the face of it as if the workman had not done his work faithfully, when the fault did not lie with him at all. The Minister should go into the matter with a view to keeping up the stocks of timber, which would enable seasoned timber to be utilised in all work in the carriage shed.

Some time ago the spare parts and supplies in the stores branch were also depleted. This was accounted for by the fact that the vote was reduced by some thousands of pounds. I do not know whether this matter has been remedied, but I know that the Minister promised to go into it. I should like to hear from him as to whether this section of the stores branch has received attention, and the stocks have been brought back to their old standard.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. J. Dash, *Mundingbarra*) [10.57 a.m.]: During the depression period stocks of seasoned timber were depleted, mainly because the mills were not working full time. This question will receive serious consideration, because the department realises that seasoned timber is requisite for its work. During the depression period other sections of the stores branch were affected, and the stock level fell considerably. That was purely a matter of finance. It is our endeavour now to keep all stocks up to previous standards, so that the operations in our workshops will not be hampered. We are building these stocks up again to the best of our financial ability.

Item (Stores Branch) agreed to.

#### HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

##### CHIEF OFFICE.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Thaca*) [10.59 a.m.]: I move—

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

This vote is an increase of £792 on the amount appropriated last year. Last year the salaries of three clerks and one typist were charged to contingencies. The creation of the position of Director-General of Health and Medical Services resulted in the appointment of another clerk to the staff. The work of the department has grown considerably.

During the bulk of the past financial year the officers of the department have had a very strenuous period. The proposed reorganisation of the department and establishment of a Ministry of Health has thrown a good deal of work upon these officers. The retirement of Mr. W. G. Gall, the ex-Under Secretary, at the beginning of the year, and the death of two senior officers, which unfortunately happened during the year, created a shortage of experienced officers. Heavier work fell on those who remained. I hope that with the early establishment of a Ministry of Health the department will be organised on a much better basis, and that the work of these senior officers will be made much easier.

Mr. WATERS (*Kelvin Grove*) [11 a.m.]: The various activities of the Home Department undoubtedly have a considerable bearing on the social welfare of the people of this State; and the outcome of the reorganisation of that department will be awaited with interest.

[Hon. J. Dash.

I invite the Minister to consider the position of Mr. Chuter, who has been acting as Under Secretary in the Home Department for a long period. I think a man of his attainments should be appointed permanently to the position of Under Secretary instead of having to wait until the reorganisation takes place. Mr. Chuter is one of the outstanding public servants of the State, and has given much of his time to matters that concern the welfare of its people, and it is only just that his efforts should be rewarded by his permanent appointment as Under Secretary.

I have had the privilege of reading the reports relating to the activities of the sub-departments of the Home Department, and I must say they have been prepared in a very businesslike manner. The various activities have been fittingly described by the different officers in a volume that affords much very interesting reading.

The control of the department is in good hands. The Minister is largely responsible for the improved condition of the hospitals in this State, and Queensland now has one of the finest hospital systems in the Commonwealth. It is probably the outstanding hospital system in the Southern Hemisphere, and that development has been brought about as a result of Labour's policy. I do not think that even the Opposition would have the temerity to deny that fact.

Mr. MOORE: Deny what fact?

Mr. WATERS: That our splendid hospital system is due to the policy of the Labour Party. Hon. members know that during the time the Moore Government were in power they appointed a royal commission on hospitals for the purpose of giving the British Medical Association more control of the hospital system, apparently holding the view that the hospitals of Queensland were not being conducted in the right manner and that the medical men should have complete control.

I desire to sound a warning in connection with the reorganisation of the Department of Public Health. I should not like to see the medical men obtain complete dominance over the health administration in this State. The system in operation has been running smoothly and has been capably guided by the efficient officers in the department. It would be dangerous to give the medical men too much authority in that sphere. Hon. members may recollect the controversies that took place in regard to the Brisbane General Hospital when the British Medical Association endeavoured to obtain control of that institution. Happily the Government have frustrated their attempts to do so, and I hope the day is not far distant when the honorary system in operation at that hospital will be abolished and replaced by a system of full-time medical officers. That is the principle the Labour Party stands for, and I believe the natural development of the medical services in this country and the world over lies in that direction. I look forward to the day when there will be paid specialists in every branch of medical science at the Brisbane General Hospital. When I refer to the Brisbane General Hospital I do not intend that my remarks should be restricted to that institution. The policy should operate all over the State. Fortunately the policy of the Government is to develop the medical service along such lines, but at least so

far as the Brisbane General Hospital is concerned the policy of replacing honorary medical officers with full-time paid professional men should be put into effect at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. NICKLIN (*Murrumba*) [11.6 a.m.]: I take this opportunity of again bringing under the notice of the Home Secretary a matter I referred to in 1933, relating to the unrestricted sale of synthetic fruit juices and drinks. A considerable amount is being expended in Queensland in supervising the health of the community, but synthetic drinks and juices are allowed an unrestricted sale. They have a very serious effect on the health of the children of Queensland, and considering that we grow such a quantity of fresh fruits from which the natural essences could be extracted it would be extremely wise to impose restrictions on the sale of the synthetic article. Lecch, a recognised authority on food inspection and analysis, analysed a drink very popular with the children. He states that raspberry consists of various sorts of ether (10 parts), aldehyde, tartaric acid, and glycerine. This is what the children consume when they partake of synthetic raspberry. The same authority also states that imitation pineapple essence is made by dissolving in alcohol butyric ether, which possesses a distinct pineapple flavour, and is prepared by mixing 100 parts of butyric acid, 100 parts of alcohol, 50 parts of sulphuric acid, and then shaking. Considering that so many pineapples are available in Queensland it is terrible to think that our young people are consuming alcohol and sulphuric acid when they drink a beverage made from synthetic pineapple juice. The Queensland Health Act and regulations prescribe certain standards for—

- (a) Pure fruit drinks which contain not less than 5 per cent. of the juice of the fruit after which the drink is made.
- (b) Fruit juices, cordials, and syrups, which must consist of not less than 20 per cent. by weight of fruit juice.
- (c) Flavoured cordials which must be flavoured with essences, extracts, or infusions of fruit of vegetable origin.

Essences to be used for cooking purposes have to be marked as to whether they are derived from pure fruit or vegetable matter or essence, and if derived from the latter must be marked "artificial." I suggest that the Home Secretary investigate the matter with a view to prohibiting the sale of synthetic fruit drinks, because ample natural fruits are available to supply the community with pure fruit drinks at no extra cost. Although synthetic fruit drinks are cheaper to produce, the profit is made by the vendor, as he sells them at the same price as he charges for pure fruit drinks. If it is not possible to prohibit the sale of these so-called fruit drinks it may be possible to frame a regulation compelling the manufacturers or the vendors to display notices that synthetic essences are being used in their manufacture. An even better system would be to compel the manufacturers to include at least 5 per cent. of the real juice of the fruit that the drink is alleged to represent.

This matter is of importance to the fruit industry of Queensland as well as to the health of the community. Fruits that are not saleable during glut periods could be profitably used in the manufacture of fruit

*Mr. Nicklin.]*

drinks for sale to the public. I hope that the Home Secretary will have this matter thoroughly investigated.

Mr. GLEDSON (*Ipswich*) [11.12 a.m.]: I take this opportunity of congratulating the Home Secretary upon the improvement in the conditions of the police service. The employees in the service are more contented than they have ever been to my knowledge. This contentment has been brought about largely by the introduction of long overdue reforms. Ipswich has now been designated a sub-inspector's district. Previously the district was supervised by a senior-sergeant, but it is now reorganised and controlled by a sub-inspector. I take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation of the people of the district for the improvement in organisation and control.

I very much regret the death of the first sub-inspector in that district, Sub-Inspector Tuohy. He was an exceptionally fine officer, who had devoted a life-time to the police service, and was held in high esteem by everyone with whom he came in contact. I regret his untimely end. We have now another sub-inspector in charge of the district, and the new system has made for a more contented service than we have had there for some time.

I think this contentment speaks volumes for the organisation and administration of the department. Although even in former times the police had a great amount of work to do, they now have extra work in consequence of the intermittent relief and ration payments. In spite of that we find they undertake it cheerfully, and through their wide knowledge of humanity are able to deal with these cases in a sympathetic and helpful way. People who have little to do with the police have the idea that the further they can get away from the policemen the better for them. Given the opportunity they soon find, however, that the Queensland police are as sympathetic as anyone else, as has been proved by the help they have endeavoured to give in times of need. I must express the appreciation of the people of my district of the work of the police force in Ipswich and surrounding districts, and of the help they have given to relief workers and others who have required their assistance.

Recently the Home Secretary visited Ipswich and saw the excellent work that was done there in spite of the difficulties under which the police are working. The police barracks and the accommodation for the watchhouse-keeper and others are sadly out of date. The watchhouse-keeper died, and before the new appointee went into the house the Home Secretary had an opportunity of looking at it, and I understand he passed the remark that he would not like to send his dog to live there. Whether that is so or not I do not know, but it is reported that that was his impression. The sub-inspector took a definite stand on the matter, and said he would not allow anyone to go and live there, and in consequence a house was rented for the use of the watchhouse-keeper. Nothing has been done in the direction of rebuilding the old residence, and I should like the Home Secretary to give us some information as to how the matter stands.

It is pleasing to note the improvements that have taken place in our insanity

[*Mr. Nicklin.*

service. The inmates of our institutions are of course, compelled to stay in them; they have not the same freedom as their more fortunate fellows. Consequently we should provide the best conditions we can for them. Some have complained about the cost of the buildings and the maintenance of our insanity service, but anyone who visited our institutions would understand that by giving these people the best possible environment one affords them an opportunity of recovering their mental balance that otherwise they would not have.

An innovation on which the Home Secretary must be congratulated is the establishment of a children's ward, in order to separate the younger children from the other patients. A children's ward was constructed offering ideal conditions for the improvement of the mentality of its inmates. The hon. gentleman is deserving of our thanks for deciding that it would be in the best interests of the little ones to segregate them from the older patients. I had an opportunity of visiting the ward with some of the members of the Country Women's Association of Ipswich. Last Christmas they took out toys to the little ones and spent considerable time in entertaining them. We were all very much impressed with the sympathetic and understanding way in which the nurses handled their charges. They played and conversed with them in such an interesting way as to give them new interests in life and thus assist them materially to regain their normal mental balance. These unfortunate little people cannot be assisted to any great extent by their friends, nor are they able to help themselves, and the Home Secretary is to be specially complimented on the wonderful work that he has caused to be done in their interests.

I have made inquiries concerning another innovation in the establishment of a prison farm, and I am satisfied that the department acted very wisely indeed in deciding that certain prisoners who are not guilty of any criminal intent should be removed from the environment of prison walls to more suitable surroundings. The Home Secretary and his officers were justified in deciding that prison environment would deprive such men of the opportunity of regaining their normal positions in the community. It was felt that if prisoners possessing no criminal intent were placed on prison farms they would develop a favourable psychology that would impel them to strive once more to become useful members of society. Any person who can encourage these unfortunate members of society to take their place in the community again is deserving of the highest commendation.

Some years ago a Local Authorities Boundaries Commission was appointed to inquire into the operations of various local authorities throughout the State. It recommended that in certain circumstances a number of small local authorities should be amalgamated, and I should like to know from the Home Secretary whether he intends to carry out that recommendation in connection with a number of small local authorities. The matter has been exercising the minds of a number of people situated in the small local authority areas. These small local authorities have been living practically a hand to mouth existence ever since the depression began—unable to obtain enough revenue to purchase road-making and other

plant to carry out their work efficiently. I should like to know whether it is proposed to amalgamate small local authorities and thus give them an opportunity to obtain revenue to carry out work that is urgently required.

The only other matter to which I wish to refer is the action of the Home Secretary in improving the conditions at Dunwich. I understand that the living conditions and the general surroundings of the old inmates of this institution have been improved to a remarkable degree, and that the dissatisfaction and discontent that prevailed there some years ago have now given place to brightness and happiness. These old folk who are compelled to spend the autumn of their lives in a State institution are deserving of every consideration, and are entitled to enjoy cheerful surroundings. I congratulate the Home Secretary on what he has done.

Mr. LLEWELYN (*Toowoomba*) [11.25 a.m.]: I also desire to pay a tribute to the work accomplished by the department. There is no responsibility of government that is greater, or has a greater community value than that of caring for the health of the people. The Home Secretary and his officers safeguard the health of the whole of the people of the State, and it is opportune on this vote to make some general appreciative reference to their immense responsibility.

The hon. member for Ipswich referred to the policy of the Government respecting hospitals for the insane. I commend the hon. member for doing so, because in Toowoomba we experience the results of the efficient service and kindly consideration he mentioned. Both are much appreciated by all those whose duties bring them in contact with the afflicted in the Willowburn Mental Hospital.

Health matters supervised by the department embrace hospitals, baby clinics, and many other social services. In their daily routine hon. members are brought into contact with many of these activities. Scarcely a day passes on which one of us does not come into contact with the sick in our hospitals. The department is to be commended on its vision in constructing and extending hospital buildings in Brisbane, and also for their consideration and help it has given to provincial centres. Recently a medical authority referred to the amount of money that is being expended on constructing hospital buildings and suggested that it would be preferable if some consideration was given to increasing the staffs. While I cannot speak as to Brisbane, I do know that every consideration is given to keeping the Toowoomba Hospital efficiently manned and the equipment up to date. It is necessary that vision should be the basis of any hospital policy, for in this manner provision is made for future requirements. The policy now being pursued by the department in respect of hospitals has much to commend it.

A social service in which I am specially interested is the ambulance brigade. Again I desire to pay my tribute on behalf of the ambulance authorities to the Home Secretary for maintaining the increase in the ambulance subsidy. I hope that under the new hospitals policy of the Government ambulance brigades will not be attached to the hospitals. Such a policy would be

inimical to the best interests of the brigade and detrimental to the service now rendered to the community.

In all matters appertaining to the health of the people we find that the "quack" plays a tremendous part, and it is a regrettable feature of our legislative life that no law has been enacted to prevent him from pursuing his nefarious occupation.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: They have them in the British Medical Association sometimes.

Mr. LLEWELYN: That may be so. I do not wish to refer to any section of the medical profession, but its members have had a long course of training in medicine, and it must be remembered that it is very difficult to obtain 100 per cent. of efficiency in anything. Taking the medical fraternity as a whole, we have nothing to complain about, but much to be thankful for.

In 1929 the incidence of cancer in human beings was forcibly brought before the notice of the public. The Commonwealth Government took the matter up, and a public meeting was organised in Brisbane, as a result of which £5,000 was donated by the Commonwealth Government, £5,000 by the State Government, and a good deal of money from various other sources to enable the Cancer Trust that has just been formed to conduct research work with a view to combating that disease. I consider that Parliament is the proper place in which to mention these matters; and I submit that it is incumbent upon every member of this Assembly to take some interest in a subject that is of such tremendous concern to the physical wellbeing of the community. When one realises that the statistics relating to Great Britain indicate that one person out of every eight dies as a result of cancer, either directly or indirectly, it behoves us to interest ourselves in the campaign to mitigate the ravages of this disease.

A few years ago I submitted certain information in this Chamber that indicated that one death in every ten in Queensland was caused directly or indirectly by cancer. Science has expended an enormous amount of money, and scientists have devoted long periods of their lives to cancer research that has resulted in considerable alleviation of human suffering. I take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the wonderful work of Drs. McKillop, Clarke, and Gray, of the Cancer Trust, and the secretary, Captain Pike—who is the well-known secretary of our ambulance brigade. The services of these gentlemen are given voluntarily, and their work is devoted to the praiseworthy object of ameliorating the condition of our sick and suffering. One can imagine the feelings of a person who is told that he is suffering from this terrible scourge. I can remember that when I was a lad the word "consumption" was almost anathema to us. With such awful fear did we regard that dread disease that we were almost afraid to go near a consumptive. That was due to our ignorance, and fortunately, such fear is a thing of the past. But, unfortunately, a similar feeling is manifested in regard to the unfortunate individual who is afflicted with cancer and thus is formed immediately an obstacle to the treatment of the disease. The object of the Trust is to inculcate in the minds of sufferers that they can approach medical men with confidence, be examined, and get competent advice and treatment. In this way these

*Mr. Llewelyn.]*

men are rendering a service of great value, and I suggest to the Home Secretary that the Government, in addition to providing financial assistance, should make it impossible for the "quack" to continue to exploit these poor unfortunates. The Trust has gone to the trouble of ascertaining the position in other countries, and I desire to quote some of the replies it received to its inquiries. From Great Britain it ascertained—

"There is nothing in force which prevents an ordinary 'quack' from practising, but he is liable, both under the criminal and civil law, for any injuries through his ignorance or neglect which may have fatal results. There is a Bill, however, premeditated which was introduced into the House of Lords, but temporarily withdrawn, but which is again being introduced, prohibiting anybody using a degree except that of a recognised University.

"The promoters of the Bill are being urged to include a prohibition against the unauthorised use of the word 'Professor,' namely, limiting it to one who has held the professorial chair of any recognised University. It is the common trick of the ordinary 'quack' in this country to call himself a 'professor' without the slightest right of so doing, in order to delude some of the uneducated public, especially of the poorer class."

The reply from America reads—

"Apparently the control of 'quacks' is regulated in this country by individual capital State laws, most of which prohibit the treatment of patients without a medical license.

"Although the law has been effective in a large number of cases, the country is still burdened with a good many 'quacks,' many of whom are intelligent and have medical licenses, so that prosecution is most difficult.

"The unfortunate thing is that the 'quack,' in whatever field, is usually a newspaper advertiser. The public is, in general, quite apathetic to the problem involved. Naturally the average prosecuting Attorney whose business it should be to proceed against a 'quack' who is violating the law, does not, as a rule, evince any enthusiasm, knowing, as he does, that he will antagonise newspapers that may be very useful to him politically and that he will not be able to make any frontage stuff as a means of appearing as the champion of the common people."

What a satire on the integrity of the men who are alleged to have the best interests of the community at heart! Our newspapers should not accept an advertisement from a "quack" when they know in their own hearts that the subject matter of that advertisement is such as will mislead the public and do infinite harm to those who believe it. Broadcasting stations have been exploited as a means of advertising the "quack" and his methods. I understand that in America this system of advertising has been considerably checked in recent years.

We in this Chamber should realise the tremendous danger of the "quack" to the community, and we should legislate to

[*Mr. Llewelyn.*

minimise the menace. We have a recent shining example in the case of G. R. Roberts, who led the people to believe that he had discovered a cure for cancer. So successful was he in his advertising that individuals invested money in his company with the hope of securing a return on their capital. The medical profession challenged Roberts, and he side-tracked them. He then challenged the Government, and it is to the credit of our present Home Secretary that he accepted that challenge and appointed a committee that proved conclusively to the public that this man was not only a "quack" but also a crook. One is justified in using such language on this subject. In fact, we cannot be too strong in our condemnation of this "quack" practice. I hope that the Minister will carefully consider the matter with a view to giving greater protection to the public.

Mr. POWER (*Baroona*) [11.44 a.m.]: I desire to pay a tribute to the officers in the Home Secretary's Department for the excellent work they have done during the past twelve months.

Great improvements have been effected in the administration of the police force since the appointment of the new Commissioner of Police. He has co-operated with the Home Secretary in providing greater police protection for the community. One radical change has been the establishment of police districts controlled by sub-inspectors. That system is working satisfactorily all over Queensland. The introduction of the wireless patrol cars has been the means of greatly diminishing crime in the State.

I desire to refer also to the organisation of the traffic branch of the Police Department. In the "Courier-Mail" recently I read a report that a number of traffic constables in Victoria had to be doubled to cope with the situation there. Traffic control in Brisbane is becoming a very serious problem by reason of the great increase of traffic. Much criticism was levelled at the department for placing white lines in Queen street and endeavouring to prevent jay-walking. People have gradually fallen into line with the new system and complaints have diminished; they have found that it is much safer to cross the street at the white lines where they have the assistance of the police officer. I believe that the traffic branch is understaffed for the amount of work that has to be done. I consider that not only should traffic police be stationed in the city but they should be allotted to many of the suburban areas, particularly between 7 and 9 a.m. and 4.30 and 6 p.m. A new regulation has been brought in making it compulsory for a driver to stop before entering a road such as Baroona road, but I still believe that traffic police should be stationed at some of these dangerous points where busy roads run into tram routes. I commend the suggestion to the Home Secretary's consideration.

Another very important matter is the amalgamation of the plain clothes and detective forces. I believe that the designation "plain clothes police" should be eliminated, and those men classified as detectives. They are doing the same class of work. I believe the reason why that has not been done is that an incentive is given



to uniformed police to qualify for promotion to the plain clothes branch, and then from the plain clothes branch to the detective branch. Nevertheless, the plain clothes men are doing the same class of work in crime detection and they should be attached to the detective staff.

In consequence of the present system of admission to the force, we are building up a very fine body of police. Before a man can become a member of the police force, he must reach the seventh grade in his education. However, I am pleased to note that the administration is not overlooking the fact that while that standard of education is necessary, good bushmen and good horsemen must be admitted to provide for the requirements of the outlying portions of the State. It would be useless to have even University graduates as members of the police force if they could not carry out the duties required in the remoter districts of our State. The fact that promotion is no longer determined by seniority gives an incentive to the men to qualify for advancement. That system was in vogue for a number of years, but the Home Secretary has now introduced a system of promotion by examination, so that any man who has the ability to do his job and to pass the examination after having served a certain number of years is on the same footing as a man who sat down and merely waited for his length of service to entitle him to promotion. Thus incentive is given to the younger men in the police force to do their jobs and rise to the higher ranks.

I commend the Home Secretary for his wisdom in establishing the prison farm at Rathdowney. Some time ago, through his courtesy, I took the opportunity of visiting that establishment. Each prisoner has his own hut and lives under proper conditions. The prison farm could more properly be described as a reformatory. The men are contented and they are doing very useful work under the capable guidance of Mr. O'Connor, the officer in charge. The Comptroller-General of Prisons, Mr. Whitney, was at the farm when I made my visit, and he informed me that it had earned £250 since its inception. It can be readily seen that the inmates are earning sufficient to maintain themselves, that they are really not a charge on the State and that they have an opportunity to learn farming. I hope that the system will be extended throughout the State. It is highly improper that a first offender who commits a minor offence should be incarcerated with the hardened criminals of Boggo Road, Stewart's Creek, or any other gaol. I have heard it said that the inmates of the prison farm receive such generous treatment that they are anxious to return, but I am assured by Mr. Whitney that no man is sent twice to the farm. If he commits a second offence he is committed to the ordinary gaol, and that if an inmate of the prison farm misbehaves he is transferred to Boggo Road.

I should like the Home Department to investigate the operations of various charitable institutions in the city. The time is overripe for such an investigation. There are quite a number of people holding the positions of secretary, president, and treasurer of the various charitable institutions who receive payment for their work. An investigation should be made with the object of deciding whether some of these societies

should be amalgamated. I think they should be placed under the control of one or two officers, and not three or four dozen, as is the case to-day. I know of one case where administration costs are £25 a week.

The appointment of a Director-General of Health and Medical Services is a step in the right direction. The health of a community is its greatest asset. The Department of Public Health has rendered splendid service in the control of disease throughout the State, particularly Weil's disease. A medical officer was sent North to investigate it and to adopt whatever preventive measures he considered necessary. The health inspectors are also doing very good work in endeavouring to prevent the adulteration of milk, but I should like them to pay some attention to the cafes in the city. When one enters a cafe for a cup of tea the milk is brought from the kitchen and placed on the table. I am satisfied that if it were analysed in many cases it would be found to contain 50 per cent. water. It is very difficult to sheet home a conviction to the offending cafe proprietors because the department cannot afford to have sufficient inspectors continually waiting on the doorstep to pounce on them. In a number of cases it is not even necessary to analyse the milk to know that it has been adulterated. The cafes that I have particularly in mind are those conducted by foreigners. I admit that it is a very difficult task to detect the offence in every cafe, but I hope that the inspectors will make a raid on them and thus prevent the sale of adulterated milk to customers who require a cup of tea.

I also wish to offer some comment on the practice of shopkeepers of displaying fruit for sale on the footpaths. When I acted in another official capacity I authorised the prosecution of a number of these people. The department should take vigorous action against them. The fruit is subject to contamination from dogs, fleas, and other vermin. The goods should be raised high enough to be free from contamination by dogs. It is offered for sale for human consumption and the department should take action to prevent people from displaying their goods in such a way that it can be contaminated. This applies not only to the city; it also applies to the outside areas, particularly the suburban districts. I hope that the officers of the department will organise a raid.

For some considerable time an agitation has been proceeding for the abolition of the Brisbane and East Moreton Pest Destruction Board. The board is composed of sixteen component local authorities. It obtains its revenue by means of precepts, 45 per cent. being levied on the Brisbane City Council and 55 per cent. on the other fifteen. The Home Secretary has received a number of requests for the abolition of the board. Some of the local authorities have not been doing their duty in destroying pests. On the other hand, the Brisbane City Council has performed splendid work in destroying such pests as the sparrow and starling. We all know how uncomfortable an invasion of starling lice makes a home. The component local authorities that are not carrying out their responsibilities complain that certain others are getting a greater return than they contribute by way of precept. During the past twelve months

*Mr. Power.]*

the Brisbane City Council has paid by way of precept 45 per cent. of the revenue required, and has received in return to compensate it for payments made, amounts equal to 56 per cent. of the total precepts levied. If other component bodies did their work they would receive a greater return than at present. I hope that the Home Secretary will take no action in relation to the representations he has received, because the board is performing a valuable work. I should like to see other pest boards reconstituted, as much valuable work can be done if they discharge their duties efficiently. The pests I have mentioned are a nuisance to orchardists and householders. It is claimed on behalf of the stinging that it does invaluable work in keeping down ticks. Nevertheless, the Department of Agriculture holds it to be a serious pest, and advocates its destruction.

I commend these few suggestions to the Home Secretary for his consideration, and, in conclusion, congratulate him and his department on the work so efficiently carried out during the past twelve months.

Mr. TAYLOR (*Enoggers*) [11.58 a.m.]: I am pleased to be able to congratulate this department on its very excellent work. To my mind, its work is more closely allied to those principles the Labour movement stands for than that of any other department operating under the aegis of the Government. We receive a full 100 per cent. return on that part of the policy the Home Secretary's Department administers.

The Palen Creek prison reform farm is one of the best institutions that has ever been created in Queensland. I had an opportunity of visiting it some six or eight weeks ago. It offers a splendid opportunity of reform to the boy or young man who breaks the law, probably not to such an extent as necessitates his being classed as a criminal. It offers him not only a good home, but also an opportunity of embracing rudimentary teachings of farm life. The farm itself will in the course of a year or two become self-supporting. That is a factor which will tend to decrease the cost of government, for the cost of our prison institutions is a problem.

Mr. DEACON: You are an optimist.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am not an optimist. When I see a piece of ground I can judge what its potentialities are. I am aware that one may apply labour to a certain class of soil and obtain very poor results. I am also aware that if I were to endeavour to cultivate the hon. member mentally the results would be nil. In prison reform regard must be had to the type of prisoner who is beyond reform; and sooner or later these prisoners will have to be segregated from the other prisoners. After all, there is the atavistic type, the throw-back, the being that has not the mental power to control his actions. It is essential that he should be segregated from the rest of society. I trust that the Government, through the Home Secretary and the officers of the department, will continue with the good work that is being carried out.

I am also pleased to be able to offer my congratulations to the Home Secretary and the Government on the policy that is being pursued in regard to the conduct of existing hospitals, and the building and equipping of new ones out of Golden Casket funds.

[*Mr. Power.*

There is no doubt that if it were not for the activities of the Government in this direction the people of Queensland, who, during the past five or six years of depression, have not been able to maintain that degree of medical service that is essential to the health of the community, would have been in a bad way, and probably the death roll in this State would have been greater.

The Women's Hospital in Brisbane is nearing completion, and early in the New Year it will be opened. It will be one of the most modern scientific institutions of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. In that hospital the Government offer to the community something that lies close to the principles for which the Labour movement stands—that is, the treatment of the poor and lowly and those who in certain circumstances cannot help themselves. Our policy is the only one that is identical with the principles of that real Socialist who was born 2,000 years ago.

The establishment of the Sister Kenny Clinic in this city is one of the most momentous moves that have been made towards the solution of the problem of the treatment of infantile paralysis. Old as medical science may be and wide as its knowledge may be it is of very little avail in many of the diseases that afflict humanity. We know that the treatment evolved by Sister Kenny is of great value in treating infantile paralysis, and the results are not in doubt. I had occasion to take three visiting members of Parliament from New South Wales on an inspection of the Sister Kenny Clinic. After an inspection of the clinic and seeing certain patients, we were shown two films that were taken of cases that had been treated at the Townsville Clinic by Sister Kenny, and from our personal observations and as a result of viewing the films the good work that had been done and the degree of success achieved were strikingly apparent to us. This morning at that clinic I was shown a new bath that will assist in the successful work.

There is no doubt that the building at the corner of Charlotte and George streets in Brisbane in which the clinic is at present established is too small to obtain the best results of the treatment. Each morning one sees the unfortunate children afflicted with infantile paralysis being transferred from ambulances or motor cars to the building. They are usually accompanied by some attendant. Accommodation has to be provided in which the attendants can wait during the period of treatment. The sisters connected with the clinic work in close proximity to the waiting people. I suggest that the Home Secretary give consideration to the transfer of the clinic to the Lady Bowen Hospital, in Wickham terrace, when that building is no longer required by reason of the establishment of the new Women's Hospital. At the present time the clinic is overcrowded, and there is no doubt that extensions will have to be made in the near future. There is also no provision for the accommodation of in-patients. No doubt better results could be achieved in some cases were the patients allowed to remain at the clinic. They are now required to attend for certain periods only and this necessitates constant comings and goings.

It is a well-known fact that some of the greatest discoveries in medical history have been made by what may be termed "lay

scientists." Madam Curie discovered radium and an Austrian professor whose name I cannot recollect—and if I could I should be unable to pronounce—discovered the serum used for inoculation against typhus. There is no doubt that Sister Kenny has discovered something of inestimable value in the treatment of infantile paralysis. Members of the medical profession are gradually recognising the worth of the treatment. Sister Kenny had many years of experience prior to the opening of her first clinic in Townsville. At her own expense she travelled Queensland treating individual cases in order to gain experience and come in contact with the different forms of the disease. At the present time there are a number of crippled children in the Montrose Home receiving the orthodox medical treatment. There should be some system whereby these children could also enjoy the benefits of the Elizabeth Kenny Clinic.

I trust that the people of this State recognise that something at least is being done for unfortunate persons who up to the time Sister Kenny established a clinic saw no hope of relief from a distressing malady.

I hope that the recent move to institute a control board and the appointment of a Director-General of Health and Medical Services to supervise the Brisbane General Hospital amongst other things will lead to the nationalisation of all hospitals. No matter what hon. members in this Committee may say, I maintain that the health of the community is the paramount duty of any Government. With the nationalisation of hospitals we shall have better results from the medical profession. I have a letter that was sent to a man who was going blind, asking him to present himself for operation at the General Hospital on a certain date. On that day he was told at the hospital that the doctor who was going to perform the operation was away from Brisbane and that he would have to present himself on the 6th November. I do not know whether such an incident would occur under the nationalised system, but it does take place at present. I can produce that letter if necessary. With the present system of honorary medical officers the doctors can come and go as they please, but with nationalised hospitals they could be compelled to do a job at the proper time.

I congratulate the officials of the Home Secretary's Department, including the Commissioner of Police, on the very fine efforts that have been made to control crime in this State. I received complaints from some of my electors a few months ago and I am pleased to say that upon my approaching the Commissioner of Police those complaints were immediately attended to. The new system of making every police station a station instead of a sub-station has made for better results in police work. The establishment of three in the Enoggera electorate has given such efficient protection to the people that they are now realising that it is safe to go out and leave their homes unoccupied. I hope that the Home Secretary will continue his present policy, as it is doing great work for the betterment of the State. The system of making a constable study to pass an examination before he is promoted is to be commended. There will not be the recurrence of instances we had years ago, an example of which is to be found in the story told

about the police sergeant at Bathurst. He had to issue a pass to a prisoner who had been discharged from goal, to take him to the station and see that he caught the train back to his home town. The sergeant asked the man where he came from, and he said he wanted to go to Condobolin. The sergeant said, "There is your pass. You go to where it says." He could not spell "Condobolin." To-day that could not happen. The sergeant will be able to spell the name of any town, and generally speaking inefficiency will give way to efficiency when it comes to promotion. I want to congratulate the Police Department, the Commissioner and the Home Secretary for the improvements they have brought about in that respect.

Mr. KING (*Maric*) [12.15 p.m.]: At the outset I wish to congratulate the Home Secretary on the work of his department. I have always recognised the very valuable work done by the Home Office and the efficient and courageous manner in which the present Home Secretary has controlled that work. On numerous occasions I have had to interview him on matters appertaining to my electorate, and if he felt that a request should not be granted he always had enough strength of character to refuse it. Although at the time I may not have seen eye to eye with the Home Secretary, I have come to the conclusion upon reflection that he was perfectly justified in making such decisions on many occasions, and anyone else in his position would in all probability have done the same.

I should like to review generally the activities of the Home Department, first of all its work in connection with our aborigines. Since we took this country from them it is our responsibility to protect the aborigines, who are a fading race and who, within a comparatively short period, will be no more. As an atonement for our crime we should give every attention to their wellbeing. The Home Department is doing it. We have a very able Chief Protector and staff in that branch, we are providing the necessary settlements, such as Cherbourg, Palm Island and Woorabinda, and we are also making grants to mission stations that the Government do not solely control.

The hon. member for Toowoomba and the hon. member for Enoggera mentioned the medical profession and "quacks." I agree, generally speaking, with the opinion of the hon. member for Toowoomba, that though the medical profession is concerned more than any other with the health of the community, it would be a very sorry day indeed when the medical profession was left as the sole arbiter as to what is best for the public. The hon. member for Enoggera has rightly reminded us of Madame Curie's discovery of radium. We recall also the Spahlinger discovery, and I might mention too the work of that well-known English scientist, Sir Herbert Barker, in the development of bone-setting. There is in any profession—medical or otherwise—a tendency to become conservative and exclusive, and I hope that every proposition put before the public of our State, whether by a medical man or otherwise, will always have full consideration from the authorities and be judged on its merits.

The hon. member for Enoggera referred also to Sister Kenny's system of treatment

*Mr. King.]*

and the establishment of her clinic, I understand that a committee of medical men is investigating that system of treatment and that a report will be placed before the public in due course. I believe that the report will be favourable to Sister Elizabeth Kenny, and that many people will benefit from her treatment. I can only speak as a layman, but I am inclined to believe that her methods will do much good. I have spoken to people whose children are being treated and they feel that the children are receiving some benefit from her methods. If she is able to give some benefit to her patients then we should seize the opportunity with both hands to help and encourage her to continue the wonderful work that she is carrying out in George street.

Mr. BRAND: It has helped in quite a lot of cases.

Mr. KING: I can confirm the opinion of the hon. member for Isis.

There is no need for me to expatiate at any length upon the wonderful work that is being carried out by the Industrial Institution for the Blind. We recognise that an excellent service is also being provided for the old folk at Dunwich. Many of the inmates are old pioneers, who have given of their best in the interests of the State, but who, unfortunately, in the evening of their lives find that they are without financial resources. Dunwich offers them an ideal place where they may live out their lives in an atmosphere of contentment. The other Government charitable institutions are also providing a very fine service indeed for unfortunate people who cannot help themselves.

The Department of Public Health has rendered signal service, especially in preventing the outbreak of disease. I always feel that more credit should be given to a department for its endeavours to prevent the outbreak of epidemics than for checking them when they occur. By concentrating on efforts to prevent outbreaks a department is really striking at the very roots of trouble. An examination of the history of epidemics in the elder countries of the world where they most occur will disclose that they are more prevalent where cleanliness is not commonly practised. Much good work is being done by the department, and I pay a tribute to its officers for their very valuable services.

Everybody recognises the immense amount of good that is being done by the hospital. Their accommodation has been severely taxed, but the Government have helped materially to solve the problem. The Diamantina Hospital in particular is rendering a very fine service. If it were not in existence much more suffering would have to be endured by people suffering from chronic diseases.

When the present Commissioner of Police introduced certain innovations I was quite prepared to wait to see whether they would be justified. I did not condemn them from the outset, as many people did. The Commissioner is to be complimented upon raising the standard of the police force and thereby giving the people that feeling of confidence in the police that was gradually disappearing before he took action. This is a time for plain speaking, and I intend to speak plainly.

I am pleased to note that the cut made in the police pensions by the Moore Govern-

[Mr. King.

ment was restored by our Government, and that the full pensions are now being paid. The Moore Government should not have reduced these pensions. The retired police officers who had contributed to the Police Pensions Fund over a great number of years were entitled to the pension they were led to believe they would receive. As the full pension rights have now been restored I trust that no Government will ever have the temerity to interfere with them again.

At 12.26 p.m.,

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

Mr. KING: I compliment the Minister and all his officers on the accomplishments of this department. It is one of the principal departments of the State. It administers numerous activities, and working as it does to cope with difficulties that arise from time to time in matters mainly affecting the health of the people is bound to have an invaluable influence in the community.

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowong*) [12.26 p.m.]: I am compelled to take strong exception to one of the statements of the hon. member for Marce. He said that the police, under the present Commissioner, had secured the confidence of the public. I have no desire to detract from the abilities of the gentleman now occupying the position of Commissioner of Police, but the statement of the hon. member for Marce is an insult to those capable and efficient gentlemen who previously filled that office. It ill becomes any hon. member, in order to obtain a little kudos from a section of the community, to make such a statement and inferentially to give a slap in the face to gentlemen who, under disadvantageous circumstances, not only upheld the law to the best of their ability, but also modelled a very fine police force.

Mr. KING: I do not take back a word I said.

Mr. MAXWELL: We are under a great obligation to the police force for the work they perform. We all know their worth. I am not one who blame the police for everything that occurs. I do not lay at their door the responsibility for breaches of the laws. I intend to bring under the notice of the Minister certain matters which I consider require some statement from him. Some time ago at a meeting of the Synod of the Diocesan Council of the Church of England, reported in the "Courier-Mail," some startling statements were made. I was surprised that the Home Secretary did not contradict them or make some public statement on the matter. I can only protest, as this respectable section of the community did—if their reported statements are true—against a system that says there shall be one law for one section of the community and another law for another. The Committee must recognise that our laws should be enforced. I have yet to learn that a Government cannot enforce a law. If a law is placed on the statute-book, then Parliament intended that it should be respected. Often in our morning or afternoon paper we read of bakers being prosecuted for selling bread in prohibited hours.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: What has that to do with the Home Secretary's Department?

Mr. MAXWELL: I desire to show where discrimination takes place. It is not possible

to buy food after hours, but one can buy liquor after hours.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: Where is this?

Mr. MAXWELL: In Brisbane. I am not blaming the police for the present state of affairs; I blame the Minister, because he has control of the department. We have heard a good deal about the remarkable innovations that have been introduced by the Home Department; but our first consideration should be to ensure that the law is carried out. If the statement reported in the "Courier-Mail" of 22nd June, 1935, is true, it indicates the existence of a condition of affairs that does not reflect credit on the Government. The report reads—

"SYNOD DEBATE.

"LIQUOR LAW 'FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED.'

"'Open Go' for Hotels.

"Dean's Attack.

"The Church of England had not contributed to the moral well-being of the State that public opinion which it could, and should, express, said Dean Barrett at the concluding session of the Brisbane Diocesan Synod last evening.

"The Dean was seconding a motion by the Rev. S. Atherton, 'that the Synod viewed with grave concern the continued flagrant violation of the liquor law throughout the State.' Hotels had an 'open go' until 11 p.m., and a more or less 'half-closed go' as long as they liked, said Mr. Atherton. For some reason unknown the traffic had a stranglehold on the administration of law in this State.

"Dean Barrett said that the law with regard to the closing of the hotels was flagrantly violated. If they saw the law of the land openly broken and were silent about it they were betraying their trust. There were other members of religious bodies who were not afraid to incur adverse criticism, but the Church of England, rightly or wrongly—wrongly, in his opinion—refused to assist in their councils."

Mr. JESSON: You are a political hypocrite.

Mr. MAXWELL: I want that withdrawn.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member for Kennedy to withdraw that remark.

Mr. JESSON: In deference to you, Mr. Gledson, I withdraw.

Mr. MAXWELL: The following is a report of the remarks made by Canon Garland:—

"Canon Garland said he resented the implication that even-handed justice was not meted out in Queensland. He quoted statistics of prosecutions of hotels, including ninety in the present year. He could positively say that Sunday trading was being dealt with, but if the whole country were to be policed to prevent after-hours' trading it would require another 1,000 policemen and cost an additional £500,000 a year."

I ask this gentleman how he gets the information that it will take another 1,000 policemen and cost an extra £500,000 a year. These gentlemen are spiritual advisers, and when theologians make a statement, I take it they are speaking with some knowledge.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: You mean you take the side that suits you?

Mr. MAXWELL: No. The remarks I am making may be detrimental to my own interests, but I believe in doing what is right. I hold that fair treatment should be given to everybody. I do not believe that one section of the community should get an advantage over another. In the same paper I find—

Mr. JESSON: Something in your hip pocket now?

Mr. MAXWELL: I do not put my hand in that of anybody else. It is just as well that the Home Secretary should be fully seized of the matter, and I desire to bring under his notice a statement in the "Temperance Advocate" of 1st July, 1935—

"LAW BREAKING RAMPANT.

"MR. ARTHUR TOOMBES'S CHARGES.

"'If the Home Secretary (Mr. Hanlon) was not trying deliberately to deceive, he was talking with his tongue in his cheek,' said Mr. Arthur Toombes yesterday, commenting on the reply of the Home Secretary to the allegations of gross liquor law violations by Mr. Skehan (secretary of the Liquor Trades Union), in the Industrial Court."

This is the statement of the Secretary of the Liquor Trades Union, quoted by Mr. Toombes, and not my own. The article continues—

"... Mr. Skehan had stated: 'ninety-five per cent. of the hotels are trading after hours.' Mr. Hanlon replied that if anyone knew of such breaches it was his duty to inform the police. Mr. Toombes stated that dozens of reports had been supplied to the Home Secretary and the Police Department by the Temperance League, without any evident result or improvement in conditions.

"To Mr. Hanlon's statement that 'the police are doing their best,' Mr. Toombes replied that for more than a year there had been only one prosecution in Brisbane for selling liquor between 8 and 11 p.m., and the police would need to be stone deaf and blind not to know that law-breaking was rampant in almost every hotel in Brisbane, almost every night in the week.

"'I have sufficient confidence in the Police Commissioner and in the police to believe that if they were allowed to do their best the Liquor Act would be as well in force as any other law,' said Mr. Toombes."

I have the same confidence in the Commissioner of Police and the members of the force as has Mr. Toombes. Whether he is right or wrong in his statement I do not know.

Mr. JESSON: Why not make sure about the statement?

Mr. MAXWELL: I was reading the report of a synod meeting, and the gentlemen who made the statements, I take it, knew what they were saying. If such a condition of things obtains I should be failing in my duty if I did not bring the matter forward in this Committee in order that the Home Secretary might know what had been said. It is not only in the Church of England Synod that these statements are

*Mr. Maxwell.]*

made. In the same paper I find this paragraph—

“ LIQUOR ACT VIOLATIONS.

“ COUNCIL OF CHURCHES’ PROTEST.

“ The Council of Churches at its last monthly meeting adopted the following resolution :

‘ That this meeting of the Queensland Council of Churches declares its alarm at the gross violations of the Liquor Act, as shown by the statements in the Industrial Court by the secretary of the Liquor Trade Employees’ Union, and expresses amazement at the attitude of the Home Secretary (Mr. E. M. Hanlon), in ignoring the serious charges made by a responsible union official against the administration of the Liquor Act.’ ”

Here we have gentlemen of the cloth, representing the spiritual side of the community, bringing certain charges before the public, we have the secretary of the Liquor Trades Union, and we have the Council of Churches making other statements, and under the circumstances, the Home Secretary would be well advised to see if he cannot reply to some of them. I have the greatest confidence in our police force, and we should feel proud of the wonderful work they are doing.

Mr. WATERS : You are a humbug.

Mr. MAXWELL : In spite of the inane interjections that are being hurled across this Chamber, I am determined to do my duty.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN : I ask the hon. member for Kelvin Grove to withdraw the word “ humbug.”

Mr. WATERS : I withdraw the word “ humbug.”

Mr. MAXWELL : When statements such as these are made by public men, we have a duty to perform, and I bring these matters before the Home Secretary in order that he may have an opportunity of saying whether they are right or wrong. If the law cannot be administered our only remedy is to review it. If the statements I have quoted are correct, I cannot understand why a number of people are being punished for breaking certain laws while others are allowed to go free.

I congratulate the officers of the Home Secretary’s Department upon the excellent work they are performing. The care of the sick must be attended to, no matter what Government are in power, and I am glad that it is usually regarded from a non-party point of view. I am sorry that the hon. member for Enoggera took the attitude he did, and I am more than sorry that an intelligent barrister-at-law should ridicule men who did wonderful work in the police department. Mr. Carroll is a worthy man, but no one knows better than the hon. member for Maree that he has a long way to go before he can be said to have proved himself to be ahead of his predecessors.

I sincerely hope that the Minister will be in a position to reply to some of the statements that were made at the meeting of the Synod of the Church of England, the Council of Churches, by Mr. Toombes, the secretary of the Temperance movement, and by the secretary of the Liquor Trades Union. I venture to say that there must be some-

thing in it when Mr. Skeehean, a union secretary, makes mention of it.

Mr. POWER : He is a supporter of your party.

Mr. MAXWELL : I do not know whether he is or not.

Mr. JESSON (*Kennedy*) [12.46 p.m.] : I do not think it necessary to defend the actions of the Home Secretary or the Commissioner of Police from the idiotic remarks of the hon. member for Toowong, who has quoted statements from a temperance paper that is absolutely against the liquor trade in all its forms whether we abide by the hours of trading or not. The purpose of the organisation that controls that paper is to abolish the liquor trade—which would be detrimental to the State and Australia as a whole—and to subscribe to the American policy of illicit sale of liquor by boot-legging, hi-jacking, and so on.

Although the debate on this vote has occupied almost the whole of this morning, the hon. member for Toowong is the only member on the Opposition side who has risen to speak on the humane side of the Government policy. They have been waiting to get some thunder from Government members so that they can make up their speeches. Government members take a humane view of life and are able to speak without prejudice of social legislation. As regards the liquor trade, apparently the hon. member for Toowong has been in places where it is plied more often than he would say, and knows more about the business than I do. I say very seriously, as a man with a family, that the Labour Government have done much for me in the past, and had it not been for the humane policy and legislation of Labour I do not know what the health of my children might have been to-day. For one thing, the Government have made available hospital facilities that would otherwise have been beyond the reach of the people. I defy hon. members opposite to say that my statements are not correct.

The hon. member for Toowong spoke of the Brisbane General Hospital, which is the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth, or—on a population basis—in the world. From 1929 to 1932 very little was done at the hospital other than the renewal of a floor board here or there, but now it is a hive of industry and extensive additions are being built. The superintendent, Dr. Pye, and his staff are doing excellent work. In fact, the General Hospital is the greatest advertisement for Labour’s humane policy that the State could possibly have. I should like to refer to other institutions inaugurated by the Labour Government, including the baby clinics and welfare institutions. I am pleased to note that during the last few months a baby clinic has been opened in Ingham, and I know that similar developments are taking place in many other districts. The Government take the welfare of the individual very seriously, and are endeavouring to ensure that welfare right from his birth. It is important that the mother should receive instructions in the care of her baby immediately it is born. She is then able to care for it in the proper way, so that it may develop into a robust child, which is the greatest asset of the State, thence into an intellectual and healthy lad, and thence to manhood—a being capable of taking his place in the economic life of the community.

[*Mr. Maxwell.*]

Unfortunately, we have too many mental defectives. On two Saturday afternoons I had an opportunity of inspecting the institution for the insane at Goodna, and I was able to learn of the wonderful work that had been carried out by the Government especially during the past two years in providing appropriate treatment for the patients in congenial surroundings. A cricket match was in progress one Saturday afternoon and I was impressed by the interest displayed by the patients who came down on to the green to view the match. The scene convinced me that they had enough mentality that could be developed to permit them once more to regain their positions in society. The humane treatment that is now being given to them is in vivid contrast with the old idea of herding them together like so many sheep and cattle and regarding them as sources of contamination. At the present time they are treated as human beings and every hope is held out that many of them may regain their usefulness in society.

A few minutes ago I was called to order for describing an hon. member as a political hypocrite; but all hon. members opposite are tarred with the same brush—if I may make that statement concerning their hypocritical remarks and the crocodile tears they shed for the workers and the sick people of the State. They know in their own heart of hearts that the present Government have done more for these unfortunate people than the Moore Government ever did. They failed to recognise that every inmate of a hospital or an asylum was a liability on the State, and that it was their bounden duty to do everything possible to restore them to normal health so that they could become useful members of society again.

When I was discussing the Estimates of the Department of Public Instruction I suggested that the Secretary for Public Instruction and the Home Secretary should collaborate to see if it were not possible to devise a scheme that offered facilities to school children in country districts to obtain dental attention at an early age. I hope that consideration will be given to that suggestion.

I have had the pleasure of visiting the prison farm at Rathdowney, near Palen Creek, and I was surprised to observe that the honour system introduced in the conduct of that institution was so successful that only two attendants were required to supervise twenty to twenty-five inmates. I compliment the Home Secretary upon introducing this splendid institution based on the honour system, and I hope that it will be extended to Rockhampton and Townsville. When these men are placed on their honour they are encouraged to assume a sense of responsibility that will cause them to decide to lead a better life after they have paid the penalty for their mistakes.

I should also like to express my appreciation of the splendid efforts of the staff of the Westwood Sanatorium. They are doing admirable work in assisting its inmates to throw off the dreadful disease of tuberculosis. Some four or five months ago I secured the admission into the Westwood Sanatorium of a married woman from my electorate whom the doctors and "quacks" had given up as incurable. The visiting medical officer, Dr. J. H. Blackburn, forwarded me a monthly report showing the condition of this woman. I was also inter-

ested in the conduct of the institution. As a result of the splendid treatment this woman received at the Westwood Sanatorium she has now returned to her husband and three little children, well on the road to recovery.

I desire to bring under the notice of the Home Secretary the duplication of traffic by-laws in the various districts of this State. There are cases of dual supervision by the police and traffic inspector of the local authority. There have been instances where the traffic inspector interrogated a motorist at one end of the street for having no tail-light, and when he moved to the opposite end he was again interrogated by a police constable. A motorist does not know what his position is, although in this case he received more humane and sympathetic consideration than he did from the police constable. The police should be relieved of the odious duty of collecting statistics in the rural districts and be left free to do their true police work. Many of the extraneous duties performed by the police are duplicated by officials of the local authority. A local authority official could be relieved of traffic duties to enable him to pay attention to the collection of revenue, thus leaving traffic duties to be performed by the police. Some of the traffic by-laws operated by local authorities lead to what one might term "Kelly's rule of the road." In some centres motorists commit breaches of the traffic laws by getting too close to the footpath, while in other centres they meet with the disapproval of the inspector by getting too close to the centre of the road. The multifarious traffic by-laws are confusing, and a motorist does not know where he is.

I commend the department for establishing maternity hospitals throughout the State. I hope the time is not far distant when every public hospital will have a maternity ward attached to it. I see no reason why the Government should not make provision for a private maternity ward and permit the hospital to charge certain fees. There are many people who cannot afford the high fees charged by private maternity hospitals, and there is no reason whatsoever why public hospitals should not collect fees for private maternity wards. I remember that some years ago when an expectant mother went to a maternity hospital she was first called upon to sign away the baby bonus, although it might have been the only money she had wherewith to clothe her baby. In the bad old days the maternity hospitals to which such mothers were compelled to go, and some midwives, were manifestations of a vicious and undeveloped form of society.

At 2 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

Mr. JESSON: I compliment the Home Department on its administration of Dunwich, which provides an admirable resort for the aged people in the State. During the last few years many additional features have been added to that institution to enable the inmates to enjoy greater comfort.

I desire to refer briefly to the aboriginal settlement at Palm Island. I am well acquainted with it, having visited it on many occasions, and it is the model aboriginal settlement in the State. The system in operation there is an excellent one. The aborigines are taught trades, and in many cases they have their own homes, surrounded

*Mr. Jesson.*]

by a plot of land that they can cultivate. The settlement has to contend with many drawbacks, owing to its isolated position; and the facilities could be improved by better means of communication with the mainland by means of wireless. At the present time a boat calls once a week, but during the interval the only method of getting into communication with Townsville is to go by motor boat to Halifax or Lucinda Point. The establishment of a small wireless station would be of great assistance to the officials and the inmates.

I wish to say a few words with reference to the Sister Kenny Clinic, which is under the administration of the Home Secretary's department. I am acquainted with many cases that have been under treatment by Sister Kenny, to whom the gratitude of the community is due for the wonderful work she has done for many of the crippled in this and other States. The altruism of Sister Kenny is demonstrated by the fact that she is performing this great work without any payment. A case to which I wish to refer particularly is that of a youth who was brought by aeroplane from Sydney to Townsville. It was not considered advisable to attempt to take him by train on account of the intense pain he was suffering. This youth responded so quickly to treatment that some months after he arrived in Townsville I attended a "Victory social" in that city just after the last election, and I saw this boy dancing with my daughter. The only evidence of paralysis that he retained was that his arm was slightly bent, but Sister Kenny assured me that he would be completely cured. That case speaks volumes for Sister Kenny's treatment of infantile paralysis. I have visited her clinic on various occasions, and from time to time I have noticed the improvement in the various cases. The Home Secretary is to be congratulated upon allowing her to proceed with her treatment without interference by the medical fraternity. They were against Sister Kenny's treatment from the commencement. It would, of course, reduce the money they could obtain from parents for the treatment of their children. No parent will see his or her child a helpless cripple if it is possible to raise the money to pay for a course of treatment that is held out to them as promising success. I trust that the treatment evolved by Sister Kenny will reduce the number of cripples in the world to the minimum.

I pay my tribute to Dr. Morrissey, Government Medical Officer at Ingham, for his great work in connection with Weil's disease, a disease found in Queensland in areas subject to heavy rainfall. It is a disease that largely depends on excessive moisture for its propagation, and has developed in the sugar belt during the last few years. A paper written by Dr. Morrissey on the disease was read to a Medical Conference in Townsville some time ago. It was looked upon as one of the best ever read at these conferences.

The vacancy in the position of Under Secretary to the Home Secretary's Department, created by the retirement of Mr. Gall, has not yet been filled. Mr. Chuter, who has occupied the position of Assistant Under Secretary, has a thorough knowledge of local authority matters, and in my opinion there is no better fitted person than he to take the place of Mr. Gall. On one occasion there was a controversy between the

[Mr. Jesson.

Hinchenbrook and Cardwell Shire Councils. Mr. Chuter was asked to arbitrate on the matters in dispute, and after many days of discussion he adjusted them so much to the satisfaction of both councils that there has been no repetition of the trouble. I commend Mr. Chuter to the Home Secretary for appointment to the position of Under Secretary. His knowledge of the Local Authorities Acts alone will be of the greatest assistance. He has served the Government faithfully for a very long period, and is a very capable officer. The Home Secretary's Department, with its multifarious ramifications, is considered to be the busiest of all Government administrative departments.

At 2.9 p.m.,

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

Mr. JESSON: I would suggest that a subsidy be granted to the Australian Inland Mission. A great service is being rendered to the people of Queensland in the far-flung western outback by the flying doctor. The institution is well worthy of Government assistance. When a Tory Government had control of the administration they did not appear to concern themselves as to whether a man died in the backblocks or a woman was confined behind a tree. Such matters did not worry them! The present Government are very sympathetic towards these people, and look after their interests. Dr. Fenton is doing wonderful work in the Northern Territory, as is also Dr. Thompson.

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

Mr. FOLEY (*Normanby*) [2.11 p.m.]: This is the most important vote with which we have to deal during this session, because the Home Secretary's Department covers a very wide range of activities. That branch of the work concerning the health of the community is particularly important. The hospital system now being developed as a result of sympathetic consideration by both the present Home Secretary and his predecessors is rendering much better service to the community than was possible under the old method. The time is not far distant when we shall have the complete nationalisation of all hospitals in this State. The sooner that becomes an accomplished fact, the better I shall be pleased. Various hospitals throughout the State are controlled by hospital boards, and are rendering much better service than the hospitals controlled by hospital committees under the voluntary system. The hospital boards are able to develop, expand, and improve the service rendered to the community; whereas the committees are continually appealing to the Government for financial help to enable them to give the service that should be rendered to the community. As most of the Queensland hospitals are conducted on the unsatisfactory committee system, it is evident that the time is not far distant when all hospitals will be nationalised and much better service will be given.

Although the Brisbane General Hospital is rendering excellent service to Southern Queenslanders we shall have to abolish the voluntary or honorary system whereby specialists attend that institution to give treatment on stated days. I do not in any



way deprecate the excellent work performed by honorary specialists, but there are certain disabilities that could be overcome if the Home Secretary could co-operate with the board with a view to arranging for resident specialists to take the place of the honorary staff. The motive of profit still prevails in the medical profession, and this to a certain extent is disadvantageous to many patients who need treatment from specialists in the Brisbane General Hospital. The sooner we develop a system of resident specialists attached to the hospitals the better it will be for the health of the community. A better service is given where a paid specialist is in charge. Such a system acts as a check on private practitioners, in the same way as the dental clinic in Brisbane does. Though the dental clinic is yet in its infancy it is doing a remarkable work for the community, and to a certain extent it acts as a check upon private practitioners. Anyone who is at all doubtful about the advice of a private practitioner can check that advice by going to the institution. Recently, if I had taken the advice of the dentist to whom I sent one of my children, one of the child's teeth would definitely have been destroyed. I checked up on that advice by going to the dental clinic, and the result is that I shall wait for a year or two, the child being very young, before any attempt is made to carry out the required operation. That is just one illustration of what could be done by way of checking up on medical practitioners if we had in the Brisbane General Hospital resident paid specialists attached to the staff.

Among the latest additions to our hospital service is the Women's Hospital, now in the course of construction. The thanks of the community are due to the Home Secretary for the work he is doing in that respect. No doubt hon. members have recently read a little pamphlet supplied by the Hon. W. M. Hughes dealing with the mortality rates in childbirth throughout Australia. In that publication he gave particulars that indicated we were lagging considerably behind other countries. No doubt in Queensland the splendid maternity welfare system that we have built up is of much value; no doubt the new hospital will be equipped along the latest scientific lines, and it should do much towards bringing down the high mortality rate, but I suggest to the Home Secretary that he would be interested to study that pamphlet. There are quotations in it from leading doctors pointing out that the cause of the high mortality rate in most of the hospitals throughout Australia is inefficiency on the part of those in charge. The Perth Hospital is cited as an illustration, where, since its inception, there has been practically not a single fatality. That is mainly attributed to the fact that it has a most efficient staff. A modern women's hospital is being constructed in Brisbane, and I suggest to the Home Secretary that he complete his programme of maternity service by the installation and appointment of the most efficient equipment and staff. I have no doubt that eventually our own women's institution will be able to boast of splendid achievements equal to those attained in Western Australia.

I must not miss this opportunity to offer a word of praise and encouragement to the Home Secretary and to Sister Elizabeth Kenny, the former for having decided to

establish the clinic and the latter for the splendid work that she is carrying on in this city. There is no reason why the royal commission, comprising eminent members of the medical profession appointed to supervise the work of Sister Kenny, should in any way dampen her ardour or that of her assistants who are carrying out such splendid work. Whether the report is favourable or otherwise, she is assured of the support of the people of Queensland, especially in view of the fact that practically every patient that she has treated has shown considerable improvement. That in itself is a sufficient justification for the continuance of her treatment.

I take this opportunity also to thank the Minister for the generous help that he has extended to the various hospital committees in my electorate. He has not refused a single reasonable request that I have submitted to him, and he has never hesitated to make generous financial help available from the funds at his disposal to improve the medical facilities available to people in the isolated parts of the State.

At 2.23 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

Mr. FOLEY: I regret that there has been some delay in proceeding with the construction of a hospital at Cracow. The Home Secretary has promised to give some assistance in the furtherance of this worthy object, and I sincerely hope that when the pressure of business in the Home Department has been overcome, the officer in charge of the work of attending to the plans of hospital buildings will push ahead with the work so that a new hospital may be erected in this important mining centre. At the present time patients are compelled to suffer a serious disability in having to be conveyed over a long distance to the Mundubbera Hospital.

I also compliment the Home Secretary upon appointing Dr. Blackburn as medical officer at the Westwood Sanatorium. Dr. Blackburn has been associated with that institution for a considerable time, and he never fails to keep abreast with the latest information dealing with the disease that he has to combat. He always endeavours to procure the latest medical aid and information that is made available by medical science overseas so as to provide the most up-to-date treatment for his patients.

One can only speak in the highest terms of the officers engaged in this department. The Acting Under Secretary, Mr. Chuter, is labouring under a disadvantage on account of the proposed reorganisation. I sincerely hope when that reorganisation is accomplished Mr. Chuter will hold some responsible position. No matter what Government have held power one has always received courteous treatment at the hands of that gentleman. It is an admitted fact that no officer in the public service to-day knows his job so well, and has everything at his finger tips, so to speak, as Mr. Chuter. I make those remarks in passing in the sincere hope that the Home Secretary when reorganising his department will take into consideration the past services and the ability of Mr. Chuter, and see that he is placed in some responsible position.

I do not usually set myself out to flatter any Minister or his departmental officers, but one can only speak in the highest terms of the administration by the Minister of

*Mr. Foley.]*

this department. The Minister has given of his best; he is sympathetically disposed to the development of our health services, and I can only hope that he pushes on with that work and develops it to the fullest extent so that the people not only of Brisbane but of Queensland generally will get the highest possible service from the hospitals and medical services under his control.

Mr. WATERS (*Kelvin Grove*) [2.28 p.m.]: It was quite interesting to hear the tirade of the hon. member for Toowong regarding the breaches of the liquor laws. He has been consistent not so much in his insistence of the administration of the liquor laws as his attack on the administration of the Commissioner of Police. There is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that that attack has something to do with the personal view he entertains towards the Commissioner owing to his findings as a royal commissioner in connection with a certain matter. He has expressed an opinion on another occasion that was tantamount to saying that Mr. Carroll was unfitted to hold the position of Commissioner of Police. No doubt these facts impelled him to make the attack he did on the present administration. It is quite futile when one considers the fact that if the hon. member for Toowong wished to draw attention to certain matters he, as a prominent member of the Moore Government party, could have done so effectively some years ago. I understand he occupied a responsible position in the councils of that Government. If he desired to bring about the reform of administrative or legislative enactments, then a kindly word whispered in the ear of the Premier of the day would most assuredly have had some effect. Apparently what he conceives to be wrong to-day he considered to be quite right then. There is no doubt in my mind that his speech in this Chamber this morning was nothing more than a purely personal vindictive attack on the Commissioner, because of the views he expressed towards certain members of his party who were responsible for certain transactions.

Mr. MAXWELL: I rise to a point of order. I deny that I made use of the remarks attributed to me by the hon. member for Kelvin Grove. During the course of my speech I did not make a personal attack on the Commissioner for Police.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Toowong denies that he made any personal attack on the Commissioner for Police, and I ask the hon. member for Kelvin Grove to withdraw the assertion that he did so.

Mr. WATERS: Parliamentary practice is such that a denial by the hon. member must be accepted. An hon. member may say something in public and deny it in this Chamber. Having regard to the fact that the Standing Orders lay down I must accept the denial of the hon. member, I do so. It was regrettable to see the hon. member for Toowong, who has been a member of this Parliament for fourteen or fifteen years, descend to tactics of that nature.

I wish to refer to the establishment of a department of industrial hygiene, in connection with the general reorganisation of the Health Department. Inspections carried out at the present time by shops and factories inspectors are principally directed to ascertaining whether the conditions laid down in awards are observed, but one of

the most important subjects that can occupy the attention of any Government is the matter of insuring a healthy environment for workers in factories. There is no doubt that at the present time, owing to faulty inspection and lack of co-ordination, numbers of premises are being used that should not be passed as suitable places in which people should work. I trust that when the Health Bill is receiving consideration by the Government careful attention will be given to this very vital and essential factor, which has been neglected in the past. The importance of that matter to the community cannot be over-emphasised. After all, wages and working conditions are not the only factors to be considered in employment. The advantage of good wages and working conditions is reduced if the employee has to work in an unhealthy environment that is bound to have a detrimental effect on his health.

Mr. McLEAN (*Bundaberg*) [2.34 p.m.]: I take this opportunity of sincerely thanking the Home Secretary for his kind treatment of the kanakas that were left destitute years ago by their employers. Thanks are also due to the efforts of those Christian people, the Evangelists, of Bundaberg, who, assisted by the Home Department, have housed these people and looked after them in every way. I pay tribute to what I concede was a humanitarian action on the part of the Home Secretary towards these black people when representations were made to him on their behalf.

I ask the Minister to make investigations and ascertain whether it would not be possible and advisable to include at each hospital throughout the State a ward for the detention of nervous mental defectives. At the present time all such patients have to be taken from their familiar surroundings and placed in the Goodna Mental Hospital. Parents and friends residing beyond the metropolitan area are thus prevented from visiting them. I have in mind the case of an unfortunate young man from the Bundaberg district. Owing to lack of facilities at the local hospital he was taken to Goodna. There his surroundings became an obsession and he worried himself to death within a fortnight. I understand this incident is not singular. I know of a similar case from the Gympie district. I sincerely trust that it will be found possible to provide for the treatment of these patients in the local hospitals.

The ramifications of the department under the Home Secretary and multifarious duties he is called upon to perform are such that his success is a great tribute to his unbounding energy and interest, and I take this opportunity of congratulating him on the enthusiasm he shows in the administration of his department. He has discharged his duties to the satisfaction not only of the people of this great State but also to those unfortunate persons who have been physically and mentally stricken and have had to take advantage of the institutions under his control. I express my gratitude to him for his interest in the institutions in my electorate. The incorporation of dental hospitals in the various institutions under the control of hospital boards is very necessary in the development of the great social service work of the Government, and I hope that in the very near future he will be able to induce the Bundaberg board to accept the dental hospital that has been

[*Mr. Foley.*

offered to it. It would be in the best interests of the community of the city of Bundaberg and district.

I again thank the Home Secretary for his kindness in providing blankets and other comforts for the old people in my electorate. Quite recently the president of the Country Women's Association, Mrs. Gibson, instituted a movement to provide homes for the old-aged people in the various districts. These old people have been discarded by society because of their age, and many of them have been relegated to the "back-blocks" by their families. The establishment of these homes would be of great benefit to the old people, who have been consulted in the matter and expressed a desire to remain in the districts in which they have spent their life time rather than become inmates of such institutions as Dunwich. The hostel that was purchased by the Country Women's Association for the purpose of accommodating the boys and girls who were attending the Bundaberg High School has been vacated recently, and the president of the Country Women's Association has offered that hostel to the Home Secretary for use as an old people's home for Bundaberg and district. I ask the Home Secretary to take the matter up with Mrs. Gibson with a view to establishing an institution similar to the Eventide Home in the Charters Towers district.

Mr. O'KEEFE (*Cairns*) [2.43 p.m.]: I desire to offer my congratulations to the Minister and his staff for the excellent manner in which the chief office and various branches of his department have been administered. The hospitals in my electorate have improved greatly during the past three or four years. I have a message from my constituents at Cairns to the Home Secretary. The hospitals board at Cairns convey its appreciation of the good work carried out by the Home Secretary's Department in enlarging the Cairns Hospital and in every way improving conveniences for the people who use that institution. The people of Cairns are also grateful to the Minister for the commencement of the erection of the new dental clinic in Cairns. This clinic has been a long-felt want, and I am confident that many of the poor people will avail themselves of the opportunity of protecting the health of their children by having their teeth attended to.

I desire also to express my appreciation of the work of the Commissioner of Police and the very able manner in which he has abolished the gambling dens that used to exist in the North. To my mind nothing that has been done by the police department has been of greater benefit than the cleaning up of these undesirable houses and the undesirable people who have frequented them for many years past. If the Commissioner were to go out of office to-morrow it could be said to his credit that he had done a great service to Queensland by driving many of the southern crooks back to their haunts in the southern portions of the Commonwealth. I hope they will never come to Queensland again, because gambling is definitely detrimental not only to the people who visit the games but also to the business section of the community. As a northern member I say that the Commissioner can be thanked for the good work that he has done in that direction. He has brought about also a vast improvement throughout the police force, cleaning up the undesirable

members of the force and setting about his task without fear or favour from any of the men under his control.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Carroll is doing much to improve the conditions of the men, there is one matter to which I should like to draw his attention. I should like him to make a thorough investigation of the quarters provided for police officers in various parts of the State. It is time the police department appealed to the Government to make money available so that these quarters might be made more comfortable than they have been. In the earlier days there were quarters with only a partition between them and the stables for the horses. That has been changed, but in many of the larger centres the police quarters are not very desirable. It is not a fair thing to have a number of men living in one big sleeping room. We should have separate bedrooms or at least no greater number than two in a room. In Cairns they have one large sleeping room with ordinary bunks instead of comfortable beds. Some of the bunks are not long enough, and the policeman must lie with half of his legs over the end of the bunk. If we have any desire to see the police force contented we should make their living quarters more comfortable than they are at present. I feel that the Commissioner is sympathetic in this matter, but it is for the Government to see that money is made available. Heaven only knows, the life of a policeman is not a happy one! He is called upon to do many things that we should object to doing in our ordinary life, and the least we can do is to make that little improvement for him. I appeal to the Minister to have money made available next year for this purpose.

Mr. W. J. COPLEY (*Bulimba*) [2.50 p.m.]: I desire to join other hon. members on this side of the Committee in commenting favourably upon the continuity of the efficient service that is being rendered to the State by the Home Secretary's Department.

At the last elections the people of Queensland gave the Government a definite mandate to establish a new Department of Public Health, and I hope that before long it will be established on sound administrative lines. In the meantime, I suggest that the present Acting Under Secretary, Home Secretary's Department, should suffer no reduction in the emoluments usually paid to Under Secretaries. Mr. Chuter is carrying out the duties usually performed by the Under Secretary, and he is giving excellent service.

I express the opinion that the Home Secretary took a very wise course when he decided that the administration of the prisons should be transferred from the Under Secretary to the Comptroller-General of Prisons. Prior to the appointment of the present Home Secretary the Under Secretary of the department occupied the dual positions of Under Secretary and Comptroller-General of Prisons, and he received a special allowance of £100 for the duties that appertained to the latter office. I do not cavil at that. Many of the duties that are usually allocated to the Public Service Commissioner in other departments were delegated to the Comptroller-General of Prisons, and so an anomalous position arose under the Public Service Acts. It became impossible for a prison officer to

*Mr. W. J. Copley.]*

obtain a fair deal in appeals against punishment, promotion and similar administrative acts. He was deprived of a right that for years has been extended to other public servants and railwaymen. The Comptroller-General was not only the person who awarded punishment; he was also the person to whom appeals against punishment were made, and so we had the ridiculous spectacle of the Comptroller having, so to speak, to take himself to one side to decide whether he should uphold a decision that he had already given. I referred to this matter in this Chamber last year, and I was delighted when the Governor of the Brisbane prison was given control of all the prisons throughout the State.

The present Home Secretary has displayed practically limitless energy in carrying out the duties of this department, which is a very important one, in the welfare of the people. It is the department in which is vested the control of the social services of the State. The Home Secretary did not hesitate to remove all the embarrassments created by his predecessor in office, and the Moore Government in connection with social services. I am pleased to know that the State Children Department is continuing to operate satisfactorily. It will be remembered by every hon. member that the Moore Government filched 1s. a week from the State children and widowed mothers on the plea of economy, with the object of balancing their Budget. We also remember that in pursuance of their miserable and petty policy they decided that the toothless old men of Dunwich, whose custom it was to be served with a rissolle every night for tea, were to be content with half a rissolle in the future. This was done on the plea of balancing the Budget! I am pleased to know that all these petty things were remedied by the present Government without delay, and that the institution at Dunwich is being administered in accordance with the humanitarian policy of the Labour Party.

It is gratifying to observe that the Estimates contain provision for the payment of certain grants previously paid to charitable institutions and organisations.

The administration of the Police Department reflects credit on the judgment of the Home Secretary in the selection of the Commissioner, Mr. Carroll. It was formerly the belief that a policeman only required brawn, that so long as he was big and bulky he was a fit and proper person to occupy the position of custodian of the law. Those days have departed. When the Home Secretary was casting his eyes round for a suitable person to hold the office of Commissioner he found in the service a man who had met with considerable success as chief inspector in the Taxation Department, and a man equipped with military training who had proved himself capable of controlling men. The Home Secretary himself had had experience of him as an officer in the Australian Imperial Force. He resolved to offer Mr. Carroll the appointment as Commissioner of Police on probation. Mr. Carroll's most severe critic cannot say that the efficiency of the force has not improved since he took over the position. I am delighted to see that he has set an educational standard for admission to the force. It is necessary that educational qualifications shall be combined with

[Mr. W. J. Copley.

muscular development. The policy of the Commissioner is to recruit men possessing brains allied with brawn. It will not be surprising if some of the men who have been recruited by the Commissioner occupy high positions in the force in the future. I do not know why a Deputy Commissioner has not been appointed. The present Commissioner is a hardworking officer. The Commissioner's inspector, Mr. Toohill, is also a capable officer, and has accomplished valued work. The introduction of police cars and the increase in the strength of the plain clothes and detective section of the service has done much towards the prompt detection of crime. I hope, as time goes on, that the Home Secretary will see that every opportunity is given the Commissioner and his officers to build up an efficient police force such as we require in Queensland.

It is gratifying to observe that the "Golden Casket" continues to merit the public confidence it has enjoyed for a number of years. There can be no question that the "Golden Casket," as a public lottery, does enjoy the whole-hearted confidence, not merely of the people of Queensland, but of the people of Australia. It is gratifying to notice the increase in sales in the other States and in the country districts. The first "Golden Casket" took approximately five months to fill; to-day it is filled in seven days. It is unquestionable therefore that the "Golden Casket" enjoys public confidence. Whatever divergence of opinion there may be as to the financing of hospitals from the "Golden Casket," there can be no doubt that we should never have had the public institutions we now possess had it not been for its funds. Let us take the new Women's Hospital which is now being erected in Brisbane. It will be the finest institution of its kind in the world. At present the Freemasons' Hospital in London holds pride of place. It is anticipated that our hospital will take that position. The whole of the cost of that hospital has been obtained from the "Mammoth Golden Casket." I recollect that when the present Home Secretary assumed control he instituted the system of conducting mammoth caskets, and many people doubted the wisdom of his action; but their undoubted success is a tribute to the perspicacity of the hon. gentleman. The new institution that is being erected out of the funds obtained from mammoth caskets stands as a monument to the efficient administration of the Home Secretary.

In regard to the administration of the General Hospital, I believe Dr. Pye is doing very excellent work. I do not think anybody who has come in contact with him fails to realise that he is a painstaking, hardworking, efficient doctor who is carrying out a great work.

I express the opinion very definitely that the nursing staff at the General Hospital is not adequate to cope with the work. I invite the Home Secretary to investigate the matter. I know from experience that the staff on duty at night is not sufficient, and they have to work very hard on that account. Nursing is an old profession and a humane one; the working hours are long and the work is arduous and exacting, and it is the duty of the department to make working conditions as favourable as possible.

One cannot deal with the question of hospital administration without realising the

good work performed by the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade, which is one of the finest ambulances in the world. Visitors to Queensland frequently comment upon the excellent service provided by the brigade here. Our ambulance works in conjunction with the hospitals, and I am pleased to see that the subsidy that has been paid to it in the past will be continued, and, if necessary, increased.

I understand that the Home Secretary's Department recently purchased extra ambulances in order to provide sufficient transport accommodation for patients visiting the Sister Kenny Clinic. I do not think anyone in the State is doing greater work than Sister Kenny. That lady enjoys the confidence of a very large section of the community, and in Townsville her name is a household word. I recently had the opportunity of meeting a young man, over thirty years of age, who used to walk with considerable difficulty owing to an attack of infantile paralysis, but after receiving Sister Kenny's treatment for a few months he was able to walk with comparative ease. Sister Kenny is deserving of all the encomiums paid to her in this Chamber.

Another matter I desire to mention to the Home Secretary for his consideration is the subsidising of the life-saving clubs in Queensland. Surfing is the national sport of all young Australians—although some people may suggest that it is racing. No finer pastime is enjoyed by young Australians and there is no healthier or greater body-building sport than swimming and surfing. Australians do not appreciate, as they should, the glorious beaches within their reach. Surfing is developing, and will continue to develop as a national pastime. The life-saving movement in Queensland is performing an excellent service in the patrol of the beaches. An examination of the figures of the number of accidents averted by the efforts of the life-saving clubs last year discloses the fact that there were between 2,500 and 3,000. A large number of these accidents would have proved fatal but for the presence on the beaches of members of life-saving clubs. Who are these life-savers? They are the young men of Queensland, many of whom work in Brisbane, who have a liking for surfing, and who go to the seaside at their own expense at the week-ends and voluntarily patrol the beaches. During the Christmas and Easter vacations the beaches are thronged with thousands of young Australians, and the life-savers voluntarily supervise the beaches and bathers. Unfortunately, when a collection is made for financial help the public either through ignorance or apathy do not patronise the clubs. The work of patrolling the beaches is a national one, and I sincerely trust that in the very near future the Home Secretary will be able to see his way clear to grant a subsidy at least to the controlling body of life-saving clubs of Queensland for distribution amongst the branches.

Recently I took the opportunity of visiting the farm home for boys at Westbrook. Hon. members who have not yet availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting this institution should make a special effort to do so at the earliest possible moment. The home, under the superintendency of Mr. Jones, is doing an excellent service in the reformation of some of our young Queenslanders. The superintendent has

reformed and turned out some very fine examples of young Australians. Boys who were regarded as hopeless cases have, under his guidance, developed into men capable of occupying responsible positions in the public and commercial life of Australia. The persons who carry on this work do not look upon it merely as a means of livelihood; their whole heart and soul is in the movement for the reformation of the character of the boys. I take the opportunity of commending Mr. Jones for the very excellent manner in which he has carried on the work of reformation among the boys who have been sent by the courts to the home.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) [3.9 p.m.]: On behalf of myself and my staff I thank hon. members on both sides of the Committee for the tributes so uniformly paid to the efficiency of their work and the courtesy they have shown.

The hon. member for Murrumba has again raised the question of the sale of synthetic fruit juices. This is not really a matter that concerns the Department of Public Health. This department confines its activities to seeing that articles sold are correctly labelled—that the community is not sold a synthetic fruit juice, for instance, in lieu of the real article. Representations have been made to me on many occasions by commercial houses in Brisbane protesting against the stringency with which the Commissioner of Public Health has enforced the correct labelling of such flavourings and syrups. On several occasions they have protested against being compelled to label their products "Artificial syrup," or "Artificially flavoured," or "Artificially coloured," and so on. The department is not concerned with the use of artificial syrups—so long, of course, as they are not injurious—but it does take every precaution to see that the people who buy artificial syrup know what they are buying.

It would not be out of place to stress the huge field there is for the use of fruit juices in this State. While the hon. member for Murrumba was speaking I noticed an American magazine calling attention to the desirability of drinking Hawaiian pineapple juice. In the United States of America one of the most popular breakfast dishes is canned or bottled fruit juices. Large quantities of pineapples and mangoes of marketable size are wasted each year in Queensland. If the producers of those fruits would undertake the correct marketing of their juices they would find a great field for their sale not only in the cities but also in the far western portions of the State, where the opportunity does not exist of securing pure fruit juices in a preserved state. The same remarks were applicable at one time to the milk industry. The milk suppliers were continually complaining about low prices. They failed to realise that the only market for which they were catering was that of the woman who wanted a little drop of milk to put into a cup of tea. They eventually recognised the scope for development of milk as a beverage, with the result that milk is now one of the most consumed beverages in Australia. The persons interested in fruit growing should endeavour to arrange for a market for their fruit juices in a palatable form in order to encourage their consumption by the people of the Commonwealth.

*Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]*

Several hon. members have referred to the hospital programme of the Government. I desire to say that the Government are endeavouring to apply a uniform policy throughout the length and breadth of the State. We have not neglected the desires or needs of small hospitals in the far out-back places. We have reconstructed, repaired, and painted hospitals, we have provided improvements in equipment, we have helped hospitals in every part of Queensland, as far North as Normanton and Croydon and as far West as Camooweal. I am now considering a scheme whereby we shall be able to give an improved medical service throughout the State.

An example of the protection accorded the people by the operations of the Home Secretary's Department was recently given when the vigilance of the police force discovered that a Southern crook had posed as a medical man and had secured an appointment as medical officer in a country hospital. That man would not only have been the medical adviser of the hospital, but he would have been the only medical officer available to many settlers in that district, and one trembles to contemplate what would have happened had the police, in their vigilance, not discovered that the man was an impostor. Naturally, the small hospitals in country districts cannot attract prominent medical men, because they are able to offer only small salaries. These hospitals are compelled to take either some young man starting out in the medical profession or some man who has failed in a larger practice in the city. The department is now considering a system whereby some assistance can be rendered to these country hospitals with a view to providing men of the required medical ability and standing. It desires that every person in Queensland, irrespective of locality, should have available an efficient medical service to safeguard health and life.

As regards the staffing of the hospitals, in some of our smaller towns we have a fully-paid medical staff, but in Brisbane we still work under the honorary system, and, as several hon. members have said this afternoon, that system must go sooner or later. The change is a matter of expense and accommodation, but we are providing the accommodation now. The building programme of the Brisbane and South Coast Hospitals Board is a very extensive one, and at an early date we shall have ample accommodation. Consideration will be given to providing a full-time specialist service. There is not the slightest doubt that the present honorary system cannot do satisfactory work in the short time that honorary medical officers are able to give. It must be said that although they are busy men, and their time is worth much to them, they do give their services freely. However, when a specialist sets aside two hours on a certain day for the Brisbane Hospital he might find fifty or sixty patients waiting, and it is obvious that he cannot do the job properly in that time. Furthermore, it means that people are kept waiting too long, and we desire to make such provision that people may have treatment immediately they present themselves at the hospital.

Speaking on the matter of the Women's Hospital, the hon. member for Normanby commented upon the paper issued by the Federal Department of Health on the subject of the staffing of maternity hospitals. What was contained in that paper was true

in some respects. It was probably true in regard to some of the hospitals in the Southern States, and it was quite true in regard to many of the private maternity hospitals in this State. In our public maternity hospitals here a properly qualified staff is always engaged, and only the regulation number of trainees is allowed, so that every patient is assured of first-class medical and nursing attention. People going into private hospitals have no such guarantee, and only recently there came to my office a statement by a girl who approached the Labour Department in an endeavour to obtain wages due to her by the proprietor of a leading private maternity hospital. She had been working in various capacities for something like three years. She was only twenty-two years of age, she had never studied any nursing subjects, and had never passed any examinations. She was engaged in the hospital for five months, and was in sole charge between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. That is a hospital where people pay £8 8s. a week for accommodation, and the patients there had no qualified nursing attention at night. The girl describes a struggle she had with a certain prominent man, a bad case of pneumonia, who insisted on getting out of bed at night to keep the cats from his birds. She was alone in the hospital, trying to get him back into bed to save him from getting a chill. We propose when the Ministry of Public Health is ultimately established—the measure providing for that will come before the House later in the session—to take powers to ensure that adequate medical and nursing attention is provided in all hospitals. It is as much the duty of the Government to protect the lives of the well-to-do as the lives of the poorer patients, and we propose to make it a hard and fast rule in this State that any mother going into a maternity hospital, whether a private or a public hospital, will be assured of all the safeguards necessary to protect the life and health of herself and her baby.

Recently a conference was called by the Federal Government with a view to doing something to aid in this work of maternal welfare, and, like most other conferences, it ended in smoke. Interested bodies throughout the Commonwealth were called to that conference, and, with the aid of medical officers in the Home Department, we prepared a list of resolutions to go to that conference, all of which were carried. But so far nothing has been done. The Federal Government reduced the baby bonus from £5 to £4, and also decided that persons eligible to claim it should not be in receipt of more than the basic wage. The Queensland Government suggested to the conference that the Federal Government should pay a fee of £1 for every birth into a fund to be controlled in each State by the State Government, and used to give help to the mother in the home during the few weeks when she was unable to look after her children owing to her confinement. The conference carried that resolution. That is one of the major problems to be dealt with in connection with maternal services and maternal mortality. The average woman who has other children wants to be confined at home so that she may be able to look after her children, even though she is sick. She can exercise some care and control over them. If she is taken to hospital she must get someone else to do the work at home or

[Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]

worry unnecessarily. I consider that the proposal is a very sound one and one that the Commonwealth Government could well have considered favourably seeing that they have surplus revenue to make available by way of grants to other States and to spend in other directions. The £1 that has been taken off the baby bonus should be restored by being paid into a fund which would enable State Governments to provide some help to the mothers. It would pay for the services of a woman during the two or three weeks that the mother was incapacitated, thereby making it unnecessary for her to attend to her usual duties. If this is not done she is very likely to become upset by having to do hard work. We know from our own experience that the health of many mothers is broken during the few weeks following confinement because they find it necessary to try to do some of the housework. The other children have to be washed and dressed, the house kept clean, and the food cooked, but the mothers are not in a condition to do the work. We propose to send the resolution again to the Federal Government and to ask them if they will agree to this procedure to provide a real service for the mothers. Something better is required than the beating of drums, the making of noise, and the talking of platitudes about death and birth rates. My proposal means that something really worth while will be done to assist the mothers during a crucial period.

Mention has been made of the reorganisation of the police force and almost every hon. member had nothing but praise to offer for the new system. To my mind it is working very well, and the community as a whole are very well satisfied. I was pleased to hear nothing but praise for the increased efficiency of the force. What the hon. member for Bulimba said is quite correct, and it is time that everybody realised it—that the old idea that a person was fit to be in the force so long as he had plenty of weight and brawn, is gone. To-day the policeman required is a man who is keen, capable, and well educated. Many policemen to-day must undertake greater responsibilities in bookkeeping and accountancy in connection with the various trust funds and collections for the different departments than are undertaken by any accountant in any city office. The man who is not keen, capable, and competent has no chance of doing the work to-day in a satisfactory manner. Consequently, it is necessary to provide for a higher educational test for entry to the service and for promotion. I do not suggest that the policeman should have high educational attainments in Latin, Greek, and similar subjects, but he must be able to pass a high educational test in actual police work. The system is working excellently, and I hope that it will continue to improve. I have been able to make some new equipment available to the Commissioner and his staff to enable them to do their work in a more efficient way. For instance, three wireless patrol cars and other motor cars have been purchased, and we have been able to make a bigger sum available for the re-equipment and reorganisation of the Criminal Investigation Branch. More money is still required to improve the equipment of the police force. It is proposed to place a light utility truck at each main railway terminus in the West so that the police there can move about more quickly than if they

were tied to the use of a horse. Motor vehicles of that description will enable police officers to make long journeys of investigation promptly, and at the same time make provision for the carriage of their equipment and petrol for the journey. We hope to have these centres equipped this year with that type of motor transport.

The amalgamation of local authorities has been proceeding slowly but surely. Since the advent of Labour to office about fifteen local authorities have disappeared. Those too small to function successfully have been amalgamated with others. There is still work to be done in this direction. Another authority that has disappeared in the last few years is the joint board. In the early days the fact that a creek, bridge or road was on the boundary of two or more local authorities was the excuse for creating an additional governing institution. They were so numerous that this type of institution flourished. It is interesting to note that there is not one divided city in Queensland. Every city is controlled entirely by one local authority. We are a great deal further ahead in that respect than any other State in the Commonwealth. All our cities and towns have gradually been brought under a system of unified local authority control.

The local governing institutions of the State are getting the best attention that the Government can afford to give them. The building up of these institutions must be a slow process, nevertheless our objective is being surely if slowly achieved. I am sure the community would begrudge the cost. In the building of these institutions we are learning from experience. We are building year by year in the hope that some day we shall have model institutions.

One hon. member raised the question of dealing with "quacks." No one in this Committee has more distaste than I have for the "quack"—the incompetent and incapable man—who exploits the worried, anxious, and sick of the community. The great difficulty facing us is to get Parliament to decide who is a "quack" and who is not. We find any number of people outside the medical profession who are able to do certain work with advantage to themselves and their patients. There are, however, a number who practise most barefaced robbery on the community—there is not the slightest doubt about that. I read the other day where one man moved the courts for a rescission of a contract of sale. He had bought a so-called healer's business. He may have been a bootmaker or a tinsmith, but he went along and bought the goodwill of this business, took possession without knowing anything about it, failed because he was not a good publicity man, and then wanted his money back. These things occur in the community. How to eliminate the unworthy without affecting those people who do honest work is a problem that faces every Government. Governments find it difficult to resolve on the man they should eliminate and the man they should not. As far as we possibly can we are endeavouring to protect people from being imposed on by persons who pose as the possessors of degrees or diplomas. That is as far as the law can go. The good sense of the people should prevail, and before consulting men who pretend they possess skill in medicine and healing they should make some

*Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]*

inquiry concerning their antecedents and history.

The only discordant note in the debate was struck by the hon. member for Toowong. I would call his attention to his own argument, and to the answers supplied in the newspaper article from which he quoted. He quoted the remarks of one person who participated in a debate on the enforcement of the liquor laws, but there was quite a considerable debate in Synod, and it is not altogether fair to quote one speaker engaged in church work—and these gentlemen usually have no concern with Parliament at all. The argument the hon. member quoted suited his purpose, but other participants in the debate held entirely different views, which he did not bother to quote. The hon. member said he did not blame the police, that he blamed me. Any person like the hon. member for Toowong who has had a long experience of parliamentary life should know that a Minister of the Crown has not unlimited time to go looking round hotels. I rarely see one. I drive past them in a car and I have no time to go round inspecting them. The Commissioner of Police is entrusted with that work. The hon. member suggested that I interfered in some way with the police in the carrying out of their work. I do nothing of the kind. I recall to the hon. member's mind that about four years ago he was a supporter of the Moore Government and he did not make any of these protests. Why not? Why is it that when sitting in Opposition the hon. member can find fault with the Commissioner of Police—because he is responsible for the administration of the law, notwithstanding the fact that the hon. member suggested that I was in order that it might appear to the police force that he was attacking me—and that when he was sitting behind the Moore Government that did not administer the law as strictly as this Government do, he had nothing to say? The figures relating to the prosecutions of licensed victuallers during the last five or six years afford some indication of the attitude of the different Governments that were in power. The figures are—

Year.	No. of convictions of licensed victuallers.	
1929-30	...	66
1930-31	...	29
1931-32	...	23
1932-33	...	9
1933-34	...	50
1934-35	...	89

Those figures indicate that the police carried out more prosecutions during the past year than they did during the term the Moore Government were in power. In 1930, the first year the Moore Government came into power, the number of prosecutions were higher than they were during the rest of their period of office. The prosecutions that took place last year were 25 per cent. more than the highest number that took place during the time the Moore Government were in power. That is an indication that the police are now stricter in the enforcement of the Liquor Act than they were when the Moore Government were in power.

I call the attention of the hon. member for Toowong to the fact—I have no desire to be continually referring to these matters—that I have in my office records of cases

[Hon. E. M. Hanlon.

where members of the Government at that time had interfered in prosecutions of the public. I have one in my hand that relates to the case of a publican at Helidon. In that case the policeman found people drinking in the bar at 1.20 a.m. on the 10th October, 1929, and by direction of the Premier no action was taken, but the licensee was cautioned. It is no use the hon. member for Toowong getting up and saying he is concerned about what is taking place when those things were occurring when his party were in power.

Mr. MAXWELL: Two wrongs do not make a right.

The HOME SECRETARY: I draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that that sort of thing is not done now. I do not interfere with the police in any way, and they are doing remarkably good work. The figures indicate that there were twenty-three more prosecutions last year for breaches of the Liquor Acts than in 1929-30, and exactly sixty more than there were in 1930-31, and sixty-six more than there were in 1931-32. That is abundant evidence that the police are doing their duty more strictly than they were during the period when hon. members opposite sat on this side of the Chamber. Statements such as those made by the hon. member may be made with a view to creating some political capital, but they do not get them anywhere. Hon. members opposite should reflect that they had the opportunity to do the job more efficiently if they could some years ago, but they failed to do so.

The police have done more to put down crime during the past couple of years than before. Crime is gradually yielding to the continual steady pressure of the police. More men have been put on at the Criminal Investigation Branch, and they are concentrating on the prevention of serious crime. Large numbers of men have been put on to traffic duty, and I am sure every hon. member will agree that the mortality rate of our streets has been too high. We must reduce the number of dreadful accidents that have been occurring in Brisbane and Queensland. There has been a continual increase in the number of motor cars operating in Queensland—about 34,000 cars are registered in Brisbane alone, and hundreds are being added to that number every month. We must make some effort to protect the lives of our people. The hon. member may consider the killing of a woman or child not half as serious as the fact that a labourer returning from his work late at night is able to get a pot of beer. I regard the public safety as being of paramount importance. A large percentage of the police force is on traffic duty, but even with the reduced number at our disposal to administer the licensing laws of the State they are certainly making a much stronger attack on breaches of the licensing laws than was the case during the years when the hon. member was on this side of the Chamber.

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowong*) [3.36 p.m.]: In reply to the statement of the Home Secretary I would ask him: is he satisfied that the liquor laws are being properly administered? If he is perfectly satisfied that that is so, then I desire to know how it has come about that reputable gentlemen associated with the Church of England



and the Council of Churches, the secretary of the Liquor Trades Union of employees, and the secretary of the Temperance Alliance have found fault with the administration. The hon. gentleman shelters himself behind the statement that during the administration of the Moore Government there was a smaller number of prosecutions for breaches of the liquor laws than during his term of office. He endeavoured to sidestep the issue. During the term of the Moore Government the Diocesan Synod made no complaint as to breaches of the liquor laws of the State. The attention of the Government was never drawn to such a state of affairs by the Council of Churches. The argument advanced by the hon. gentleman is ridiculous. (Government interjections.) At the present time we have serious statements from a body of reputable citizens whose sole interests is the welfare of the community. I, as a public man, make no apology for bringing the matter forward. It is my duty to do so. A charge has been made by a reputable and authoritative body. They say that a certain thing has been done. The responsibility now rests with the Minister, but the hon. gentleman wishes to side-step the issue. He says that the police are doing their duty. I have never said that they were not.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: What did Canon Garland say?

Mr. MAXWELL: I desire to know what information Canon Garland has in his possession. (Government interjections.) I know that the reverend gentleman ministers to the spiritual wants of the people. What does he know about all this? It is very evident he has certain knowledge. How could he know that it would require another 1,000 policemen at an annual cost of £500,000 to administer the law? If that is so there must be something wrong with the law as it stands. We have from Canon Garland the assertion that the Act cannot be put into force. And then we have from the Minister a statement that I did not quote all the statements that were made. I did not quote what Mr. A. E. Thompson had stated that it was a wrong thing but one could not blame the publicans for it owing to the excessive licensing fees that had to be paid. My argument is that there is a law on the statute-book and the Home Secretary is responsible for the administration of that law. To-day he has sidestepped the issue. There is no doubt about that. He said that the police administer this law under the direction of the Home Secretary. We know that the Police Department is under the control of the Home Secretary, but—

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

Mr. KEOGH (*Merthyr*) [3.40 p.m.]: I was rather surprised to hear the hon. member for Toowong making such an attack upon Canon Garland. He suggested by innuendo that Canon Garland had been loitering around hotels late at night to find out what was going on.

I desire to congratulate the Home Secretary and the officers of the Home Department for the kindness and courtesy they have extended to me and to those people whom I have brought along with complaints on different occasions during the past year.

While it may be commendable to have a Director-General of Health and Medical Services—and Sir Raphael Cilento is a very good man—there are serious complaints among the people with regard to the attitude he has taken up concerning the Sister Kenny Clinic. I do not know whether the people have grounds for these complaints, but the Minister should remember the old saying that where there is smoke there is fire, and investigate the matter with a view to ascertaining whether these complaints are based upon solid foundations. The general feeling of the public is in favour of the Sister Kenny Clinic, and I know from my own experience that it is deserving of every commendation for the relief it has given to these unfortunate children. I trust that the Home Secretary will inquire into the matter and see whether Dr. Cilento is justified in his opposition to the clinic.

While the Sister Kenny Clinic is doing good work I suggest that the Home Secretary also give consideration to the question of providing seaside homes where these crippled children will have the advantage of the natural sun and salt water. I know very well that it would cost money and would not be as central for the treatment as is the clinic here, but I feel sure that the natural sun on the beach and the salt from the sea water would be beneficial to them. The Minister cannot very well say that lack of funds is the obstacle in the way of helping the children in the manner I suggest, because nothing should be an obstacle where the health of the children is concerned.

There is a rumour that it is proposed to move the old people's home from Dunwich because of the expense of maintaining it there and the cost of providing a new boat. It may be expensive to buy another boat to go down there, but I feel sure that Dunwich is the best place for these old people. If they are brought on to the mainland it will be necessary to build a fence around them to keep undesirables from supplying intoxicating liquor and other injurious articles, and that will eventually cost the Home Department much more than it now costs to keep them at Dunwich. There they are free from all disabilities, dust and otherwise, and I am sure it is the best place they could be in.

I should like to draw the attention of the Home Secretary to the work of the Magdalen Asylum at Lutwyche. During the term of the Moore Government the amount of subsidy was reduced from £200 to £75 a year. The unfortunate girls who are sent there, and the little children, are treated well, and I do not know why the Moore Government reduced the subsidy nor why the present Government have not increased it again. I hold this asylum is doing very good service to the community in helping these unfortunate girls and their children, and it should have every possible support from the Government.

Another matter I should like to bring forward is the need for some provision for nervous people. I have spoken on this subject for many years, as I hold that it is the duty of the Government to build an intermediate asylum or home for nervous people. It is very hard for people to send to Goodna anyone in their family who may have a nervous breakdown. None of us would like that. We deplore the fact that

*Mr. Keogh.]*

anyone should suffer a nervous breakdown, but it is more to be deplored that there is no intermediate home for them. I hope the Home Secretary will take note of the matter and make provision for such a home, if that is at all possible. None of us knows when the worst may befall any of our poor relatives and friends, and provision should be made at all times for such cases.

The Social Service Institute in Fortitude Valley is giving a good service to the community, and I should like the Home Secretary to consider whether he cannot increase its subsidy of £160. That institution is of great assistance in the training of boys, and the training of girls in needlework, housework, cooking, and similar occupations. This training is very valuable to them in future years.

I also wish to congratulate the Commissioner of Police upon the manner in which he is carrying out the duties of his office, and for what he has done for the police force. We know that some of the policemen whom the Commissioner is dismissing on account of over-weight have a grouch. The Commissioner says they are not fleet enough of foot to catch the hardheads. I think the Commissioner is taking a right course, but I hope he will not start to weigh too many of them. Many of those heavyweight policemen could do good duty in the suburban stations where they would not need to do as much chasing as the Commissioner thinks. I hope the Home Secretary will ask the Commissioner of Police to be a little more sympathetic towards the heavyweights, or else put them through a course of gymnastics. I think the system of examinations to qualify for admission to the force is a good one, and certainly it takes a burden from the shoulders of members of Parliament, because now policemen will have to get into the force by examination and not by influence, as in years past.

I should like to draw the attention of the Home Secretary to the peak-hour traffic problem in outside areas. The Commissioner and the traffic branch are certainly doing very good work here in the city area, but many accidents happen in the suburbs. There are many dangerous corners in the suburban areas, where no policemen are on duty at all. I have in mind a dangerous corner on Abbotsford road, near the Mayne Junction railway station. Already two or three deaths have occurred through traffic accidents at that corner, and several other accidents have happened. It is practically impossible to cross the road during the peak hours, and it is difficult for the drivers of vehicles to obtain a clear view of approaching traffic. No policeman is on duty at that corner. On one occasion the traffic branch painted some white lines in the streets, and when they were washed away they were renewed, but when they were washed away again the department got tired or forgot to repaint them. The policemen seem to overlook the fact that this is a dangerous corner, and I complain very strongly about the absence of traffic police on this and other dangerous corners in the suburban areas during peak hours. Policemen should be on traffic duty at these corners during such times. One policeman was killed at this corner, and several citizens have also been killed.

I desire to congratulate the Home Secretary on establishing the prison farm at

[*Mr. Keogh.*]

Palen Creek. It is a step in the right direction. The unfortunate men who break the law and are sent to this farm are given a chance to rehabilitate themselves in society. I am sure that the honour system at this institution will remind them that they should endeavour to mend their ways and become better citizens.

I also desire to congratulate the officer in charge of the State Children Department on the very fine work that he has done. On every hand we have evidence of the good work that he is doing.

I should like to thank the Home Secretary on behalf of the Brisbane Fire Brigade Board for his utmost co-operation with it in protecting life and limb and property throughout the city and the State. I also wish to thank the Home Secretary, the Ambulance Brigade, and the Police Department for their hearty co-operation in assisting fire brigades to deal with all outbreaks of fires that have occurred during the year. The members of the fire brigade have repeatedly stated that the firemen would have experienced considerable difficulty in reaching a fire if they had not had the utmost co-operation from the police force. I suggest to the Home Secretary that the Fire Brigades Act should be amended so that persons suspected of giving malicious fire alarms may be prosecuted by the police. Not only has the fire brigade to incur a heavy expense in responding to malicious calls, but there is also the grave danger of a real outbreak of fire during its absence. I hope that the Home Secretary, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Police, will consider my suggestion with a view to seeing whether something more cannot be done to protect life and limb and property in the city.

I also desire to remind the hon. gentleman that the provisions of the Health Act in connection with the use of lead paint are not being observed. I have heard many complaints of lead paint having been used on fencing and buildings within the reach of young children. We all know the danger of lead paint and its effect on our child life, especially in their after life. We have factories in Queensland manufacturing zinc paint containing 1 or 2 per cent. of soluble lead. I do not object to the use of lead paint provided it is used on buildings out of the reach of children. I cannot understand why persons should use lead paint under such circumstances, and if they persist in the practice the law should be amended to prevent them. It is very difficult for inspectors of the department to follow up painting work and have the material analysed to determine whether lead paint or zinc paint has been used. If the remarks of public men will not stop the practice then the Government should tighten up the regulations in a stringent manner, even going so far as to prevent lead paint from being used at all. I have no desire to interfere in the use of lead paint, but if public warnings will not suffice, then it is our bounden duty, as legislators, to protect infant life, which is the best asset of the State.

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

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

The House adjourned at 3.58 p.m.