

The Minister for Education: Not on his property. If it is on his property it is covered.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: A person frequently has a portion of his property that is rateable, and he may have provided windmills or other improvements on another portion. These improvements probably appertain to one property and are taxable in some other district.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: In the matter of assessing the value of improved land, the Road Board Act must be considered as a measure subordinate to the State Land Tax measures, and it is undesirable to put into a subordinate measure something which is not in the principal measure.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: This should coincide with the Land Tax Act. It is contiguous improvements which are often not allowed for in the Land Tax Act, and there is a means here of providing for them. We might be doing an injury if we take those words out.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The amendment has been placed on the Notice Paper by the Crown Law Department on the ground that it is undesirable to put into the Act something which might lead to litigation and other controversy.

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

Clauses 214 to 233—agreed to.

Clause 234—Minimum rate:

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move an amendment—

That the words "a minimum general rate of two shillings and sixpence" and "a minimum loan rate of one shilling" be struck out, and "a minimum sum of two shillings and sixpence in respect of the general rate" and "a minimum of one shilling in respect of the loan rate" be inserted in lieu thereof.

This will improve the wording but not alter the meaning.

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

Clauses 235 to 239—agreed to.

Clause 240—Exemption:

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: There is here a printer's error. In line 3 the word "many" should be "may."

The CHAIRMAN: I will have the correction made.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 241 to 247—agreed to.

Clause 248—Who is liable for rates:

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move—

That consideration of this clause be postponed until after consideration of postponed Clause 211.

Motion put and passed; the clause postponed.

Clauses 249 to 263—agreed to.

Clause 269—Application of proceeds of sale:

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move—

That consideration of this clause be postponed until after consideration of postponed Clause 248.

Motion put and passed; the clause postponed.

Clauses 270 to 356—agreed to.

[The President resumed the Chair.]

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 8.46 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 20th November, 1919.

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

BILL—ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY, LIMITED (PRIVATE).

Message received from the Governor recommending the Bill.

Select Committee, Extension of Time.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, the time for bringing up the select committee's report was extended to the next sitting of the House.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Dentists Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Attorney General.

2, Shipping and Pilotage Ordinance Amendment.

Introduced by the Colonial Secretary.

SITTING DAY, ADDITIONAL.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [4.37]: I move—

That this House shall meet for the despatch of business on Fridays, in addition to the days already provided.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.38]: I had hoped that the Premier would give the House some idea of the legislation the Government propose to put through before the session closes. I take it, of course, that the object of sitting an extra day per week is to close the session at an early date. If that be the Government's object, I think we ought to know just what they propose to do with regard to some of the Bills on the Notice Paper. The Government business alone amounts to 15 Orders of the Day, to say nothing of private members' business; and the greater proportion of the Government business consists of Bills of which the second reading has not yet been reached. No doubt, most of the Bills are more or less unimportant, and should not occupy much time. However, I shall be glad if the Premier can give us some idea whether we are likely to close next week. I personally do not mind working an extra day per week if we can close the session earlier on that account; but I see very little good to be derived from loading ourselves up with another day per week if we are still to drag on here for some considerable time longer.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam—in reply) [4.40]: I do not want the House to drag along for any considerable length of time. We ought to finish up by the end of next week. Really there is very little business upon the Notice Paper. Most of the Bills represent small amendments of existing Acts, and some of them are merely continuation measures. The Estimates are almost completed. Of course, the Loan Estimates remain to be considered; but I see no reason why, if the House continues to work as it has worked so far during the session, we should not get through the work during the next six days.

Mr. Foley: What is the need for getting through during the next six days? We have not sat long this session.

The PREMIER: No; but we have done a great deal of business this session. I think there never was a session of Parliament in Western Australia during which hon. members attended so closely to business.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have had a good Opposition.

The PREMIER: Yes. The country has been well served by both sides during this session. Much work has been done, and it seems desirable that we should, if possible, rise at the end of next week. There is no reason why we should sit longer if we can get through the business by then. It is, of course, with that object in view that I am asking hon. members to sit on Fridays.

Question put and passed.

BILL—CONSTITUTION ACT
AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE
ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [4.43] in moving the second reading said: This Bill contains one little matter which hon. members may wish to discuss. The object of Clause 2, it will be seen, is really to confirm purchases of implements and machinery which have already taken place. The Industries Assistance Board found that machinery agents had sold machinery under hire purchase agreement to assisted farmers. Hon. members will readily understand that that machinery was necessary to the farmers. Arrangements satisfactory to the board have been made with the owners of the machinery, and during the past three years certain payments have been made under the agreements, and there is another year's payment still to be made. Hon. members are, of course, aware that when machinery is sold under hire purchase agreement it remains the property of the seller, and that thus it could have been removed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is not so under the moratorium regulations.

The PREMIER: Yes. We thought it advisable to make arrangements with the machinery firms, and in this Bill we ask that Parliament shall ratify the purchases. Clause 2 asks for power for the Industries Assistance Board to complete purchases made by people already on farms. This will also apply to machinery on farms which have been abandoned. If the Industries Assistance Board have power, as they will have in the event of this measure passing, to complete the purchase, they will obtain assets far beyond the amounts still remaining to be paid. Members will see that this is desirable. A machine might cost £50, and £60 of it might have been paid; there would remain £20 to be paid, but the board have no power at present to pay it. The board have security, and they ask for power to pay the balance in order that their asset might be increased. This is a right power for the House to give the board. The debts of the International Harvester Co.,

totalling £25,800, were bought for £15,700. This occurred when the member for Canzing (Mr. Robinson) was Minister.

Hon. P. Collier: Those are farmers' debts.

The PREMIER: Yes, under the Industries Assistance Act, debts due by the assisted farmers to the International Harvester Co.

Hon. P. Collier: They must have been getting good prices.

The PREMIER: Debts amounting to £18,581 were bought from Harris, Scarfe, & Co., Ltd., for £7,000.

Hon. P. Collier: Are the implement works making the same reduction?

The PREMIER: They made their loss before they sold. Neither of these transactions has been authorised by Parliament, and we are asking the House to confirm these purchases. No real advantage will accrue to the farmer except as regards the rate of interest. If there is any profit, and I believe there will be a profit, it will go to the Treasury.

Hon. P. Collier: That is to say, if the original amount of the debt is paid, the balance will go to the Treasury? It really amounts to a saving to the farmer.

The PREMIER: It ought to but, under the arrangement existing, there will not be any advantage to the farmer. We have given £7,000 for £18,000 worth of debts. It is not likely that we shall get in the whole of the £18,000 worth of debts.

Hon. P. Collier: You make a corresponding reduction to the farmers?

The PREMIER: No, we are not likely to get in the £18,000 worth, but I believe we shall get in more than £7,000 worth of the debts.

The Honorary Minister: If we get in £15,000 worth, the State will get the benefit.

The PREMIER: We are not likely to get in £15,000, but if we collect more than £7,000, it will be paid into the board's credit. I think it is quite right to take over these debts and distribute any surplus over the £7,000 among the farmers who have paid. It has been arranged that the profit, if any, shall go to the Treasury.

Hon. P. Collier: There will be no profit.

The PREMIER: I trust the hon. member will be agreeably surprised. As a matter of fact, in view of the present crop prospects and the guaranteed price of wheat, there should be a profit.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Will you take every other industry and pay on the same basis?

Hon. P. Collier: Buy out all the debts of everybody.

The PREMIER: Every other industry of equal value to the State might be considered.

Hon. P. Collier: Will you lift a mortgage for me?

The PREMIER: Members will realise that, when an offer of this kind is made, it is easy for the board to calculate their

chances of collecting the money. When the purchase was made, the board were careful to see that they could expect to collect at least £7,000 worth of the debts.

Hon. P. Collier: They must have been pretty bad debts in the opinion of Harris, Scarfe, & Co., or they would not have sold them for £7,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They could not collect under the moratorium.

The PREMIER: These creditors might stand out of their money so long as the Industries Assistance Board is in existence. As these firms had no option but to wait until we got surplus proceeds, they were the more ready to sell. If they could have called upon the farmers to pay their debts and could have collected by the ordinary means, no doubt they would not have sold the £18,000 worth for £7,000; but rather than wait, as they must do under the Act, they have made this offer to the board, and it has been accepted.

Mr. Pilkington: Some of these moneys were not yet due.

The Honorary Minister: The third instalment was due.

The PREMIER: Probably some of the money was not due; I do not know to what extent. The transaction did not take place in my time. No doubt some of these debts would be secured under hire-purchase agreements. The firms were perfectly willing to take the lower amounts offered, because they could not bring pressure to bear on the farmer to make him pay. There is another case in which the board have been offered debts totalling £60,000 for a little over £20,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Who is offering those, McKay?

The PREMIER: No, Wills & Co. If the House thinks it wise to buy these debts—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I am glad you are going into State trading. I did not know you were starting the Jews' business.

The PREMIER: If the House thinks it wise to make these purchases, then members will agree to pass the clause; otherwise they will not. It is quite possible for the board, having the security of the farmers and knowing their position as to crops, to calculate how much they are likely to get from these debts.

The Minister for Mines: You know the farmer will not agree to the Government retaining any profit.

Hon. P. Collier: No, and he will win through in the end, too.

The PREMIER: I do not think the interjectors know very much about these debts, and I doubt whether they know much about the farmers. In my opinion, if these debts are bought, the Government should be content if they get their money back. This is a matter which should receive the careful consideration of members. So long as the board do their duty and see that they get their money back, it will be very good business to relieve the farmer of the

£60,000 for £20,000. This offer was not suggested by the board.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No, it originated with the Farmers' and Settlers' Association.

The PREMIER: No, it did not.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, that is where it was suggested first.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We should not give the State's money at a time like this.

Mr. Harrison: I think the offer came from the merchants.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: From McGibbon for the merchants. You do not read the "Primary Producer."

Hon. P. Collier: We are very diligent students of the "P.P."

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: The offer I have mentioned came from the merchants, and it was not made at the instigation of the board or of the Farmers and Settlers' Association. I realise that this is a question which requires to be handled very carefully. It might be of advantage to the farmer, and members ought to consider it very carefully, to ensure that it is properly handled and that there will be no possible risk of considerable loss to the State. Another clause sets forth that the board shall have charge over all livestock, implements, machinery, plant, and movable structures of the applicants upon the land. To-day, under the Postponement of Debts Act, these chattels could not be attacked. Three years ago I introduced a similar proposal, and another on the same lines was introduced on another occasion since then. At present the merchant cannot enforce the payment of debts; neither can the board prevent the sale by the farmer of chattels of this description which are not secured to the board. The farmer, if he chooses, might sell horses which are on his farm and are not secured to the board, and he might pocket the money and defy the creditor and the board.

Mr. Maley: That is, stock acquired with the board's assistance.

The PREMIER: No, stock acquired since with the farmer's own money. We take the view that the machinery and stock are necessary to work the farm and it must be clear that, if farmers are permitted to sell them, as soon as the Act ceases to operate creditors will want these loose chattels and probably will get them. Creditors will naturally seek to recover their money, and they cannot recover in respect of chattels secured to the board. Members know these farms are worked in the interests of the creditor as well as of the board. We seek under the Act to protect the creditor. We see that the money is distributed properly amongst the creditors, and I believe a very large amount will be distributed this year.

Mr. Pickering: It is dual control.

The PREMIER: Yes; I think the creditor should be protected and, so far as we have been able to do so, he has been protected.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is not to say that you should use the State's money to pay his bad debts.

The PREMIER: That has not been done.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is what is proposed.

The PREMIER: Not one penny of the State's money should go to pay the money owing to any creditor.

Hon. P. Collier: My word, you will have to justify this Bill—the unseen hand!

The PREMIER: I confess if I were sitting on the other side of the House and the member for North-East Fremantle were sitting here, I would not question this Bill.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I do not think we would ever introduce a thing like this if we were against State trading.

The Minister for Mines: You will not oppose it in the circumstances?

The Honorary Minister: It seems to me like a sop to you chaps.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: There is another clause which will enable us to make one distribution of dividends each year. Under the Act at present, we must distribute all we get in the way of dividends each year, but the wheat scheme has made that particularly difficult because the scheme pays two or three dividends in one year and, if the board have to distribute each amount separately, a considerable amount of unnecessary work is involved. The Government ask to be allowed to group these payments and make one distribution each year. Last year we had dividends from two wheat pools, the 1916-17 and the 1917-18 but, under the existing Act, it was unnecessarily costly to distribute each of them separately. A saving could have been effected by grouping them. The other clause provides for the continuation of the Act for another year.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Everyone else should take the opportunity to get the Government to pay his debts.

The PREMIER: I do not think it would be of very much use for any other section of the community—

Hon. P. Collier: No, indeed it would not.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is a real, open confession, honestly given.

Hon. P. Collier: No one else has the pull the farmers have.

The PREMIER: No other section of the community can give the same security. Something was said last night about the amount that is expended on the gold mining industry and those employed in it. The member for Murchison (Mr. Holman) said that we were perfectly willing to give a vote to the farmer, to finance him on his holding, and assist him in erecting his home, but that the same assistance did not apply to the people on the goldfields, who possessed no dwellings of their own, but yet were just as much entitled to a vote as the farmer. I would point out that the farmer does more than any other man in

the community to deserve assistance from this House. It is the custom all the world over to assist the farmer.

Mr. Munsie: Not only that, but he gets it.

The PREMIER: The farmer is farmed by every section of the community. The member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) would not represent 5,000 voters if it were not for the farmers of the State. He would not represent 500. I remember, before the wheat lands of this State were settled, when North Fremantle was a very insignificant place. It is because of the work of the farmers of this State that Fremantle has been made what it is.

Hon. T. Walker: And of the goldfields!

The PREMIER: I do not say that the farmer is the only man who works, but he is the only man who cannot go on strike.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They are going on strike now.

The PREMIER: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Willcock debate adjourned.

BILL—TREASURY BONDS DEFICIENCY.

Second Reading.

Hon. PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [5.3] In moving the second reading said: This is the usual Bill which, unfortunately, has been introduced into this House on previous occasions. It is becoming a hardy annual. To-day we are asking the House to agree to the funding of the deficit of last year of £652,000. The first Bill of this kind was introduced by the late Mr. Frank Wilson in 1916. The authority then asked for was for nearly £1,500,000. The deficit to the end of that year was £1,417,649.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do not forget it, and compare the figures with what they are now.

The PREMIER: In 1918 further authority was taken to enable the deficit of £699,767 to be funded. In 1919 a further authority was asked of this House to fund the deficit of £705,743. Now I am asking the House to agree to fund the deficit of £652,014. I hope it will not be necessary to introduce a Bill of this kind on many more occasions. It is unfortunate that it has to be introduced at all. I have endeavoured to explain on a previous occasion that the deficit is due to some extent to the setting aside of the Sinking Fund with which to discharge our debts. Hon. members have very rightly asserted that the Sinking Fund should be kept intact. The only other provision in the Bill is one which authorises the amalgamation of these various loan authorisations. It will be seen that on each occasion an amount equal to the amount which is to be funded was authorised,

but on this occasion we are asking for £28,000 more than the actual deficit for this year. The total amount involved to 30th June last is £3,418,000, which is represented by Commonwealth loans less £652,000. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. T. Walker debate adjourned.

BILL — COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY LOAN ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [5.8] In moving the second reading said: It will be remembered that I told this House that the contribution to the Sinking Fund which is to extinguish the debt of £2,500,000 raised in 1896 is more by £70,000 per annum than it is necessary for us to contribute. This loan of £2,500,000 was raised 23 years ago, the money being borrowed at 3 per cent. This is a very low rate of interest, but at that time it was thought wise to ask for a Sinking Fund of 8 per cent. to be provided. Hon. members know that it was not considered then that the life of the scheme would be very long, and it was thought that the goldfields would go down, and that as the years went on they would take less water. It was also thought that the pipes would not last for a great number of years. To-day, however, the scheme is still working. The same pipes have been used all along, and owing, I believe, to the ability of the engineer in charge they are likely to last for a great many years longer. Ten years ago it was thought that the pipes were in a very bad state.

Mr. Munsie: And so they were.

The PREMIER: It was thought that the pipes had very few years of life in front of them. To-day, owing to the work which has been done in connection with the repairs, the pipes have a long life before them.

Hon. T. Walker: Is it the lime, or is it the fact that the pipes have been kept full of water?

The PREMIER: There is some method of repairing the pipes which was unknown a few years ago. The increased life of the pipes is also due to the fact that the water is treated before it goes into the pipes. This loan matures in 1927. The Government Actuary has looked into the question, and he says that if an annual contribution of £5,300 a year is made it will be sufficient to extinguish the debt by 1927. If we continue at the present rate the amount of Sinking Fund will be £3,089,447.

Mr. Collier: What is the excess?

The PREMIER: It is £589,000. It seems unnecessary to make a greater contribution than is sufficient to meet the loan. I propose that the contribution each year shall be £10,000 in order to cover any possible loss in connection with realisation or in connection

with charges on the investments of the Sinking Fund from now on, in view of the fact that it is not always possible to reinvest our fund promptly through Western Australian stocks not being available. The fact that we shall have this £589,000 more, if we continue at the present rate, is due to the Sinking Fund earning an average rate of interest which is beyond the 3 per cent. at which the money was borrowed. The investments of the Sinking Fund have brought in interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. for 20 years.

Hon. P. Collier: Have the trustees in London been consulted about this?

The PREMIER: London has been advised.

Hon. P. Collier: What do they say?

The PREMIER: They have not said anything about it, so I suppose they are satisfied.

Hon. P. Collier: Why is there a different attitude in regard to this matter?

The PREMIER: Even if there is any objection it will make no difference. We are not expected to contribute more than is necessary to pay our way.

Hon. P. Collier: We are committed to the 3 per cent. under the original Act.

The PREMIER: Yes, and we have met that commitment. Until to-day we have been going on contributing the 3 per cent. If we go on like that we shall be in the position of having £589,000 to our credit.

Hon. P. Collier: It will be a repudiation of the original contract.

The PREMIER: I do not think so. We cannot be expected to pay more than our debts. Would this House have this unnecessary contribution met year after year until 1927? I suggest this is quite unnecessary, and that in the present state of the finances we should not continue the payment.

Hon. P. Collier: The argument against the other was that it would detrimentally affect the reputation of the State.

The PREMIER: To repudiate the Sinking Fund would be tantamount to saying that we are not going to pay our debts.

The Minister for Mines: Not at all.

The PREMIER: We agreed to pay our debts by way of a Sinking Fund. I know that many of the Eastern States have very small Sinking Funds. New Zealand had no Sinking Fund until she raised war loans. Not a single loan that New Zealand has raised, and she has raised many millions, carried any Sinking Fund until she raised money in order to carry on the war.

Mr. Pilkington: What happens to the surplus over the amount of the debt? If we had a surplus on the Sinking Fund would it remain in the Sinking Fund?

The PREMIER: It would be available.

The Minister for Mines: It would be returned to the Treasury.

Mr. Pilkington: Each loan is kept separate?

The PREMIER: Yes.

The Minister for Mines: If you paid back your stock you would have nothing further to do with it.

The PREMIER: To refrain from paying Sinking Fund after having undertaken to pay our debts by that means would be quite wrong. If we contribute sufficient to pay our debts that is sufficient.

Hon. P. Collier: It would meet the circumstances if we continued to pay our present Sinking Fund until the debt was liquidated, and then ceased to pay any more Sinking Fund.

The PREMIER: Yes.

Hon. P. Collier: It would not help this year's Treasurer very much.

The PREMIER: The hon. member is quite at liberty to make ready for that if he likes. I am not so anxious to have the credit as I am to have the cash.

Hon. P. Collier: We know what you are after.

The PREMIER: That is the position. If we continue to pay this £75,000 a year, the fortunate man who occupies the position of Treasurer in 1927 will draw £569,000. The House is entitled to say whether they will contribute for the remaining years just enough to meet the indebtedness. We have invested now £1,893,480. I do not know that I can discuss all the circumstances surrounding the present position of the water scheme.

The SPEAKER: The Premier can hardly do that under this Bill.

The PREMIER: I think it right the House should know that after paying this £2,500,000, and the other small amounts of indebtedness in connection with the scheme, the scheme itself will still have a very useful work in front of it which will return considerable revenue to the Treasury. That will be after 1927.

Mr. Pilkington: What is the difference between the amount of the loan and the amount of the Sinking Fund?

The PREMIER: It is £600,000.

The Minister for Mines: It is considerably less; it is not more than £500,000.

The PREMIER: There are two other loans in connection with the work. I hope the House will agree to pass this measure. It is a very reasonable thing to ask. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier debate adjourned.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1919-20.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the 18th November; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair.

Medical and Public Health Department, Hon. H. P. Colebatch, Minister; (the Minister for Mines in charge of the Votes).

Vote—Medical and Public Health, £183,584:

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany—in reply) [5.15]: I have made inquiries from the Minister in charge of the department in regard to some of the matters discussed by hon. members. I am advised that, while the department has not been able to do all that members intend it should do, it realises that there is very much work which it could perform if funds were available for the purpose. For instance, the department realises that it is not doing sufficient in regard to the inspection of the children in the schools; that is largely a question of funds, and so, too, in respect of the provision of medical and nursing facilities in country districts. The Minister declares that he and his officers would be only too delighted to supply the growing necessities if they had the funds. In regard to the officers and the collection of fees, the department has done all that it could to put on men to collect the fees owing. Even so, there must be occasions when people, although well able to pay, will get away without paying. Short of some strict inquiry into the financial position of each person, it is very difficult to discover whether he can or cannot pay. With many people it seems to be a habit to get out without paying whenever possible.

Mr. ANGELO: You require local men, who would know the people.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Even then it would not assist very much, although certainly it would serve to produce certain fees which do not now come into us. In small places so much feeling exists among the local people that it would be altogether undesirable to have a local man making inquiries and deciding whether or not certain people could afford to pay.

Mr. Angelo: The resident magistrate ought to be able to do it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not think it would be at all proper to ask the resident magistrate to undertake the work, seeing that, in the event of a prosecution for the non-payment of the fees, the resident magistrate would have to decide the case. Efforts have been made to collect fees wherever possible. It will be seen from the estimated revenue that an increase is shown in the amount which it is expected to collect. It is not always desirable that a man should be forced to pay. It does not follow that because a man is reasonably well dressed, he is able to pay the hospital fees. If a man can live decently and keep up appearances, even though sailing close to the wind, he is entitled to do it. I do not think it should be necessary that a man have the appearance of a pauper before he is admitted to a public hospital. After all, descretion must be used in regard to the attitude to be adopted. It would be infinitely better to miss an occasional debtor who can pay than to bring up all the men about whose ability to pay there is some doubt.

Hon. P. Collier: There is no working man in the country to-day who is in a position to pay hospital fees.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I would not suggest that because a man dresses decently he is able to pay his hospital fees, and that he should be persecuted until he does pay them. Only recently there was discovered in Melbourne a wealthy man in rags. He had invested £5,000 in the war loan. He said he went about in the guise of a pauper in order to save himself from importunate beggars in the streets. I do not want to see our workmen dressed in that fashion. I do not judge a man by his appearance so much as by his nature, and I should not like to put any man in the position suggested by the member for Gascoyne, namely, going round his own little local district and declaring that Jim Smith can pay all right while John Jones is a pauper. To ask the resident magistrate to do this is unthinkable. The Minister for Works referred to the necessity for providing transport facilities on our spur lines for cases of sickness. He said that ambulance facilities should be provided and that if necessary the doctor and nurses should be taken out to cases of sickness. That has been an absolute necessity for years past. It is one of those problems which cannot be solved on the moment. I have had all sorts of suggestions made, even to the employment of flying machines, but it is not easy to get a practical suggestion. Under the suggestion made by the Minister for Works we should have a costly vehicle standing idle for six months in the year. We have one instance now of a vehicle held in readiness for 18 months without demand for it, and suddenly, within three weeks, it is called out on two occasions. We cannot expect these expensive vehicles to be supplied all over the State. What is required is a vehicle that can be used for practical purposes and yet be ready for an emergency call.

Hon. P. Collier: In some cases the local residents might well supply part of the cost.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It would not hurt them if they did. We have on the railway system a number of motor trolleys. They were not built to be applied in the way suggested, but for the purpose of inspection, and therefore they are only rough, with no covering, and with but sufficient power to propel them under normal conditions. Against the wind, and on a 1 in 40 grade, one would almost require luck to get along with such a vehicle. However, while the influenza epidemic was raging, we found it possible to use a very simple attachment, with springs and a portable cover, as an ambulance to run out on these motor trolleys and bring in a patient to the hospital. It meets the demand up to a given point. Such a trolley is in use practically all the time, although never more than an hour or two away from immediate call, and, consequently, it can be used to run out on the spur line and bring in a patient. What we want is a vehicle that can be stationed at our railway junctions and used for commercial purposes when not on urgency work. It must be made to pay for its own upkeep.

For instance, very often a business man is perfectly willing to pay £2 or £3 to be taken out along a line where there will be no train for a couple of days. This would leave a small profit to stand to the credit of the vehicle to meet ambulance charges. The only other way I can think of would be to have an ambulance built which could be trailed behind the motor trolley; but that would require a good deal of haulage against the wind. There are many difficulties in the way. Wherever we have the trolleys we are putting on the ambulance attachment. The Commissioner of Railways appreciated the difficulty at the outset. We are now being abused for the happening at Denmark. Within a few hours after we decided to take the motor away to have the ambulance attachment put on to it, directly the trolley was temporarily removed to Midland Junction, a lady in Denmark was suddenly taken ill and died. Now we are being roundly abused for having removed the trolley. But our critics forget to say that immediately word came through that a doctor was required and that there would be no ordinary train on that line for some days, the Commissioner of Railways ordered a special train to run out with a doctor aboard. Someone then sent back a telegram asking who should pay. The Commissioner promptly replied, "We will talk about payment afterwards." The Commissioner has decided on a course of action which will be acceptable to hon. members. He is issuing an instruction to all the employees in the Railway Department that they are not to wait to decide the question of who is to pay in such cases. If it is a question of life and death, the train must be run at call, leaving the question of payment to be considered afterwards. Later on we hope to get full information as to the methods by which these difficulties are being handled in other parts of the world. I assure the Committee we are doing everything possible to provide needed assistance to people in outback parts of the State. Unfortunately the activities of the department are seriously circumscribed by the funds available.

Item, Matrons, nurses, domestic staff, etc., £13,420:

Hon. P. COLLIER: Will the Minister state whether the staff have participated in the increases of salary or wages granted by the Government during the past month or two? The amount set down is about the same as that of last year.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The information I have is that £90 has been provided by way of increments to nurses.

Hon. P. Collier: For the whole lot?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: For this particular item.

Item, Chief resident medical officer, £708:

Mr. CHESSON: Can something be done to make the lot of the patients at Wooroloo a little better than it is? When it rains

and the wind blows from one direction, the effect is that as the wards are open on one side, the patients are not completely sheltered. A few blinds could be provided and on such occasions they could be lowered to afford the necessary shelter. Some consideration might also be shown to the convalescent patients by way of providing a hall for recreation purposes.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If the hon. member and the member for the district will make representations to the Minister controlling the department, I am satisfied he will do his utmost to agree to the wishes of the hon. member.

Item, Matron and chaplain, nurses, domestic staff, etc., £8,809:

Mr. FOLEY: Do we pay chaplains? I understood that chaplains did this work for nothing.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I can only tell the hon. member from memory that this provision has been made for years past. I think it is a small amount only that is paid to chaplains and it is more to cover travelling expenses.

Mr. FOLEY: Do I take it that the clergymen who go to Wooroloo have their fares paid?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is quite a simple matter for the hon. member to ascertain the information he requires. He only needs to ask a question in the House and he can then learn what he desires to know.

Mr. FOLEY: All I can say is that if we have to pay chaplains for visiting these institutions to administer solace to patients, I have lost a great deal of confidence in chaplains generally.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The labourer is worthy of his hire even in the vineyard of the Lord. The State pays the chaplain who visits Fremantle gaol. That is one instance that I can call to mind of payment being made. We must recollect that Wooroloo is an out of the way place and that if a clergyman is called there, he may have to hire a motor car to get to the sanatorium. My recollection of the matter is that there are two clergymen who draw between them the small amount of about £50 to cover travelling expenses. We must also remember that the inmates at Wooroloo are mostly in indifferent health and there must be a greater percentage of deaths there than at any other institution. That would therefore account for many frequent visits on the part of chaplains.

Mr. FOLEY: I am not against anyone receiving a fair remuneration for work done, but in this case the work is not being done for the State. If a clergyman is doing work for the church, it is the duty of the church to pay him.

Item, Government hospitals—Provisions, bedding and clothing, fuel, . . . commission, etc., £23,000:

Mr. MUNSIE: I would like some information with regard to "commission." What is this paid for?

The Minister for Mines: I have not the remotest idea.

Mr. Money: It is commission paid for collecting fees.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The leader of the Country party the other day laid stress on the work that was being done by assisted hospitals. He forgot, however, there were such institutions as Government hospitals.

Mr. Harrison: I quoted Government assisted hospitals.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, but an assisted hospital is one thing and a Government hospital is another. The hon. member quoted the Westonia hospital. That is assisted. The hon. member's district hospital is at Northam. I regret we have not last year's figures. I would like to quote them to show to what a small extent these institutions help themselves. I have, however, the figures of the year before and I shall give them. The cost of the upkeep of the Northam hospital for the year ending 30th June, 1917, was £1,598.

The Minister for Mines: Last year it was £1,356.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The total amount received by the Northam hospital for fees from patients and from donations was £358.

Mr. Teesdale: And it is in the most prosperous district in the State.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The cost of the Narrogin hospital was £984.

The Minister for Mines: It was £1,100 last year.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The total amount received from fees and donations in that large district was only £131. The leader of the Country party was not aware that assisted hospitals were one thing and Government hospitals another. The Westonia hospital is assisted. In 1917 the Government paid for the upkeep of hospitals in the country districts, not including Kalgoorlie and Wooroloo, no less a sum than £16,000, and the leader of the Country party tried to make out that the vote was only £10,000.

Mr. Harrison: I quoted assisted hospitals.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The hon. member did not quote Government hospitals. The hospital at Busselton is an assisted one.

Hon. P. Collier: Very much assisted.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Busselton hospital last year cost £467. To this the Government contributed £200 for maintenance, and £200 for the doctor's salary.

Mr. Pickering: But the doctor is not only for the hospital. The residents of the district subscribe to the hospital, too.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The doctors at subsidised hospitals have the right to charge fees, and at some assisted hospitals outback they have the same privilege. But in Government hospitals the doctors cannot charge fees, and no person is supposed to

be treated at a Government hospital if he can afford to pay fees.

The Colonial Secretary: But it is done.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, but the fees are coming in pretty well in such cases. I am informed that last year the Fremantle Government hospital raised £4,500 from fees and contributions. As regards nurses in the country, the trouble has been that they could not get proper accommodation. Nurses sent into the country by the Government have left again on that account; and for the same reason many nurses will not go into the country.

Mr. FOLEY: In the case of assisted hospitals all fees collected go to the institution, and there is an arrangement as to what portion, if any, of the fees the doctor may take. If an indigent case comes to an assisted hospital the committee do not class the patient as indigent, although in such circumstances they would receive more money from the Government for that patient's treatment. The committee put him down as a paying patient. This refers especially to hospitals in the mining districts. He is shown on the hospital books as a paying patient although he may not pay anything while receiving treatment or for a considerable time afterwards. In a mining community there is always a chance for a man to make a bit of money pretty quickly; and in nine cases out of ten the men who make money do pay for their treatment afterwards. All goldfield hospital committees look at the matter in that light, and so they avoid taking from the Government, in respect of indigent patients, public money that otherwise would be received by them. If the same system were adopted in country districts, the people there would very soon be provided as they desire in the matter of motor ambulances. If they obtained payment for hospital treatment as I suggest, they would soon be able to make their own arrangements as to ambulances. I hope that in the near future the Government will reconsider the whole question of hospital supervision, and that inspectors will be appointed to visit the various hospitals, not with a view of criticising adversely unless there is real occasion for it, but with the intention of assisting the committees to run their institutions better and more economically than is now the case. Every representative of an outback district will confirm me in saying that little prejudices creep in, and that such prejudices need to be broken down. Business people outback are apt to think that they keep the whole place going, and that they should get all the trade of the place. A good inspector would frequently be able to show the hospital committees where they could save money by buying in better markets, either locally or elsewhere. In my district storekeepers, in return for a payment of 1s. 6d. per week, obtain hospital treatment for themselves and their families, and there-

fore cannot argue that they do more to keep the hospitals going than is done by the average worker in the district.

Mr. PICKERING: The district I represent suffers very badly owing to the lack of proper medical attention. The doctor at Busselton has to cover a very wide district extending from Capel to Augusta, a distance of 60 miles. The only way to get about is by motor, and the difficulty and cost of bringing patients in is very great indeed. Some of the country doctors are not young enough to do the work, and some are not altogether what we desire in the way of medical men. Some doctors have grown old in the service, and are not well enough off to retire. The Government should consider the question of giving them compensation and replacing them with younger men. This is a matter of great importance to the country, and inquiry should be made into it. When speaking on the general debate, I drew attention to the fact that the Medical Department had promised to provide a sum for extra accommodation in the maternity ward at the Busselton hospital. The Minister, in replying to the debate, made no comment on this point, and I would like to know whether the Government this year can give effect to the wishes of the Medical Department.

Item, Master, clerk, matrons, storekeeper, nurses, orderlies, female attendants and domestic staff, temporary labour, allowances, etc., £6,500:

Mr. JONES: I take it this item relates to the homes for old men and old women. In connection with all Government institutions there is noticeable a growing tendency to treat those who have to avail themselves of the institutions too much on the lines of the old British workhouse system. Once a man or a woman finds it necessary to seek refuge in what should be an asylum for the declining days of life, he or she seems to lose individuality and to become known by a number. This tendency should be checked. The leader of the Opposition directed attention to the shocking state of overcrowding at the Old Men's Home. If members really desire to carry out the State's duty to men who have spent the best of their years in helping to build up the resources of the State, they should inspect the institution for themselves. This would be much more impressive than a long statement made in the House. When the Government are considering the overcrowded state of the institution would it not be possible to introduce, instead of the barracks, gaol or English workhouse system that exists in both the old men's and old women's homes, the cottage system for old couples? I am satisfied it could be worked much more cheaply than the present system, and would give a fair deal to the old couples who have not been sufficiently cunning and dishonest to pile up a fortune to

enable them to live in luxury during their declining years.

The Minister for Mines: You will not die poor.

Mr. JONES: I am going that way, but association with the Minister will no doubt teach me many things I do not know at present.

The Minister for Works: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. JONES: It would be more humane, instead of separating couples as under the old English workhouse system, to give them cottages.

Mr. Pickering: They are not doing it in England now; they have alms houses.

Mr. JONES: The alms house is worse than the present system; the very name of it is repulsive. I would not suggest that the people, who have made it possible for us to live here, should have to go into alms houses. These cottages are a right, not alms, not charity, to the pioneers of the State—men who went out and braved the hardships in the early days—a right they have earned from the community and, when the Minister for Works prepares estimates for additions to these institutions, I believe he will endeavour to provide a system which will obviate the necessity for separating married couples.

The Minister for Works: I will build a reinforce for you to-morrow.

Mr. JONES: If the Minister built anything for me, he would be in need of reinforcements.

The Minister for Works: If I got you, you would stay there.

The CHAIRMAN: This is entirely beside the subject before the Committee.

Mr. JONES: The occupants of these homes number 700, and though 90 per cent. are eligible for the old age pension, only 240 are receiving it. The department should look into this matter. Of the pension, 10s. 6d. is taken by the State for maintenance, and the remaining 2s. is given to the individual for pocket money. The Commonwealth Act makes it compulsory for an applicant for the pension to live outside for six months after receiving it. This is a ridiculous position, and one which probably could be overcome. It would pay the State to augment the pension of an eligible inmate for six months to enable him to live outside during the summer and, if it became necessary in winter, he could seek the shelter of the home, and the State would make a profit.

The Minister for Mines: You would not suggest making a profit out of the poor old people?

Mr. JONES: No; my main consideration is to get for these men the 2s. a week which they are entitled to and are not receiving to-day.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is the fault of the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. JONES: Yes, I am blaming the Commonwealth. It is an absurd provision

in the Act; the department should endeavour to overcome it. For an old man who has been a smoker all his days, a weekly allowance of one small plug of tobacco such as I hold in my hand is hardly what I, as a heavy smoker, should like to look forward to. This was given me by one of the old men.

The Minister for Mines: It was a shame to take it; you are a profiteer.

Mr. JONES: I intend to exhibit it. There is a certain amount of humour in producing this stick of tobacco, but when one considers that this is the weekly allowance of men who probably have been heavy smokers, it will be realised that a little more consideration is due to them. If we can assist them to get the 2s. a week, it will enable them to obtain a few of the little comforts which are their right. Under the will of the late Mr. Padbury, a certain amount was set aside for comforts, and this alleviates the position somewhat in regard to tobacco, though not so far as I could wish. The member for Claremont (Mr. Duff) suggested that portion of the bequest should be utilised to build a kiosk in the grounds. That would cut down the allowance of tobacco still further. I do not know whether that was his intention. Though there is no kiosk at the institution, profiteering is going on inside the Old Men's Home. The Government permitted a returned soldier to open a small dry canteen. He did not like the position and sold it to a gentleman who lives in Nedlands, and for two hours a day this gentleman goes there to sell little comforts to the old men at very much enhanced prices. I am informed that he charges 1s. a dozen for matches which can be purchased outside for 7d.; for cheese 1s. 9d. a pound when the same quality can be bought for 1s. 6d.; and so on through the list. The dry canteen is permitted by the Government, and they should see that profit is not made out of the old men. A dry canteen is necessary, and the department should establish one and supply these articles to the old men at cost prices. Heaven knows their spending silver is little enough without allowing profiteering of this kind! The portion of the building most in need of alteration is the kitchen. Like most of the Government institutions, the kitchen is fitted up with two very small ranges which would not be big enough for an ordinary family. There are big appliances for steaming food, and all the meat the inmates get is steamed.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. JONES: The dietary scale for 1917 for the home gives, as the authorised meat allowance per inmate, 14ozs. including bone, or 10ozs. without bone. I question whether that allowance is really given to the old men. The dietary scale further sets out that roast beef or mutton should be supplied once a week, if practicable. I know that at present it is not practicable, but I

ask the Government to endeavour to give to the home the necessary appliances to enable the inmates to get a greater variety of food. To be given steamed meat for five days in the week, when all the nourishment has been removed is not the best thing for the old men.

Mr. Money: The best way of cooking meat is to steam it.

Mr. JONES: Hon. members who have just had a repast of soup, fish and roast meat are not in a position to appreciate the effect of such a dietary scale. On Friday the fish served to the inmates is invariably tinned fish, notwithstanding that we have large supplies of fresh fish in our Western Australian waters. That is a matter which the Minister could well take in hand. I think the rest of the diet at this institution, comprising porridge, bread and butter, and so forth, could also be varied for the sake of the health and constitution of the inmates. With regard to the amusement provided, it is to be regretted that it was necessary to turn the old recreation room into a bedroom. Scores of the old men now have to crowd into a small verandah space, which could not comfortably accommodate 20. Proper amusement should be provided for the inmates of all our Government institutions. It frequently happens that most of the amusement they have consists of performances by eighth rate artists, to whom I should be reluctant to have to listen. I suggest that a State orchestra should be formed for the amusement of the inmates, though not on the lines of the orchestra in New South Wales, which is chiefly reserved for the "snobocracy" of that State.

The CHAIRMAN: There is nothing in the Estimates about an orchestra. Will the member confine his remarks to the matter before the Chair?

Mr. JONES: I am satisfied that a high class concert in these institutions, particularly in the gaols and State hospitals, would be a wonderful benefit to those who so badly need the cheering influence of amusement and the mental cure that music provides.

The Minister for Works: Would you have classical music there?

Mr. JONES: Undoubtedly! A committee of musicians would be better able to state the most suitable class of music to be provided. I would not suggest Wagner at the Mental Hospital. Probably Beethoven or Mozart would be better; something with a quiet movement. Modern thinkers must take this matter seriously.

The Minister for Mines: Try them with the bagpipes; if they stand them they will stand anything.

Mr. JONES: I hope that better accommodation will be provided in future at this institution, and also better amusement and more recreation for the inmates to whom this country owes more than it can ever repay.

Mr. DUFF: The member for Fremantle has referred to the part I played in the

proposal to build the kiosk in Claremont. I approached the Minister for Education, who stated that the idea of building this kiosk was a good one, and that he would be pleased to have it built, if possible. He did not think it could be built out of the Padbury bequest. I said if it was possible to get it built by the Government it would be better to do so. The hon. member also stated that the inmates are given a stick of tobacco, and showed us a sample of three or four inches in length.

Hon. T. Walker: It was only two inches in length.

Mr. DUFF: There have been a few remarks made as to how the inmates of the homes should be treated in the matter of comforts, more particularly at Christmas time. Having read a letter that was addressed to the public by Miss M. E. H. Padbury, a niece of the deceased gentleman, I made inquiries of the trustees of the estate to find out exactly what they were subscribing. The testator directed that the earnings of £30,000 should be spent on the Old Men's Home. I ascertained that for the 12 months ended August of this year the trustees had expended £1,100. Of that amount 4,295lbs. of tobacco represented £737. The difference of £363 was spent in other comforts, such as picture shows, theatrical entertainments and the like. The sum represents only about 7d. per week per inmate. I was sorry to see the letter addressed to the public by Miss Padbury, who is endeavouring, if possible, to divert the charity from the Old Men's Home. At Christmas time all the old men look forward to a little entertainment, and as one who has subscribed annually, I think Miss Padbury is not doing the right thing. As to the orchestra—

The CHAIRMAN: We are not dealing with the orchestra.

The Minister for Mines: You can deal with the Liedertafel.

Item, Commissioner of Public Health, £1,020:

Mr. WILLCOCK: Complaints have been made in reference to some men who were at Roebourne three months ago. They wished to travel down the coast, but the agent of the steamer would not issue tickets until they had certificates from the resident medical officer. In Perth the department provides such medical examination free. The resident medical officer at Roebourne receives £650 per annum, yet when these men presented themselves for examination he charged them a guinea each, each.

Mr. Teesdale: It is a Federal fee.

Mr. WILLCOCK: No. The man who charged this exorbitant fee is controlled by the Commissioner of Public Health. It is up to the department to either make a standing charge or issue some ruling so that people who have to travel will not be outrageously robbed. I hope the Commissioner will give consideration to this case. The officer con-

cerned should be asked for an explanation. Also, I should like to know when we are to have the position of Principal Medical Officer filled. The Commissioner of Public Health has quite sufficient to do in his own department without having to attempt to fill the dual position.

Mr. TEESDALE: Reference has been made to a medical officer in my constituency. I have just come down from Darwin, and at each of the ports along the coast I was charged a fee by the medical officer for inspection before being allowed aboard the boat. I was assured that it was a Federal matter, that the fees had to be remitted to Melbourne, and that it had nothing whatever to do with the State department.

Mr. JONES: According to the Estimates it would seem that the Commissioner of Public Health has suffered a reduction from £1,067 to £1,020. This is the most important position in the State, and it is being particularly well filled by the present occupant. In addition to his ordinary duties he has had quarantine regulations to deal with this year and I should not have been at all surprised if an increase in salary had been provided. Government after Government seriously handicap the Commissioner of Public Health, who is responsible for the health of the community. He is responsible for the health of the citizens until they fall ill, whereupon they are handed over to the care of private doctors. No commissioner of public health can properly perform his duties unless the medical practitioners of the State are public servants instead of being forced by competition down to the level of petty hucksters. The care of the sick and the dispensing of medicines should not be in the hands of men not responsible to the State. With the competition which exists among medical practitioners, a medical man with a facility for making friends is the man who gets the biggest practice irrespective of his abilities as a doctor.

The Minister for Mines: What has it to do with the Commissioner of Public Health?

Mr. JONES: It handicaps him unfairly by not affording him proper provision for keeping the community healthy. Let us give him proper facilities to deal with the health of the people. At present we are handicapping him and not giving him a fair chance, in fact we are spoiling a good man's efforts.

The CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing the policy of the department; we are discussing items.

Mr. JONES: It is part of our duty to see that the Commissioner gets a fair show, and we are not giving it to him with private enterprise controlling the health of the people of the State.

The Minister for Works: What do you suggest?

Mr. JONES: I suggest that every medical man in the State be made a public servant and that the State be divided into districts.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest that the hon. member confine himself to the item.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I have asked the Minister for Mines several questions but I have not received a reply. I want to know if it is intended to fill the office of principal medical officer. I also asked a question about the exorbitant charge made by medical officers on the North-West coast. I submitted the matter to the Federal authorities, but they said it was a State matter as the passengers were travelling from one State port to another. These people on whose behalf I made complaints were travelling from Roebourne to Derby and they were charged exorbitant fees by the medical officer at Roebourne.

Mr. Tcesdale: I myself paid a guinea, 10s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.

Mr. WILLCOCK: What I want to know from the Minister is whether there should be a fixed rate. One of the advantages of centralisation is that in the capital city it is possible to get a certificate from a doctor during the period of an epidemic for nothing if one goes to a Government officer, and if a private practitioner is consulted the fee is 2s. 6d. Immediately you go to a country doctor he charges a guinea. There should be a uniform rate. The people have been shamelessly robbed. There was supposed to be an outbreak of influenza on the North coast, and the agent of the steamer at Roebourne would not issue tickets to intending passengers until they had been certified by the local health officer as free from disease. No fewer than 13 people consulted this medical man, and in the space of four minutes he collected 13 guineas from them, and without even putting a thermometer in their mouths.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am very anxious to give all the information that is available to me. With regard to the Commissioner's salary, there has been no reduction. It is £1,020 per annum. Last year he received £47, being the balance of an allowance made to him for special duties performed in the previous year. It is not the intention of the Government to separate the position of principal medical officer from the Commissioner of Public Health. Regarding the other matter mentioned by the member for Geraldton, it is the first I have heard of it. I am doubtful whether he brought it under the notice of the department.

Mr. Willcock: I brought it under the notice of the under secretary.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I cannot give the information the hon. member desires.

Mr. Willcock: Will you represent the matter to the Minister?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have no objection to doing that, to see whether he can prevent what are after all unreasonable charges which are frequently made by medical practitioners. Of course it is not an easy matter to get a practitioner to go to distant parts of the State, and when they do go to those places, the Government have to pay them a retaining fee so that they may attend

to indigent cases. If we adopt any harsh measures, we may find ourselves in a worse position by reason of these medical officers leaving those outback districts. At the same time, the question of the imposition of uniform fees should receive attention, and I will bring it under the notice of the Minister.

Item, Clerks and inspectors, £4,807:

Mr. DUFF: I desire to say a few words about the inspectors who are employed in this State. These officers in 1912 were classified at a minimum salary of £204, to be increased after the passing of three examinations, and stiff ones, in health matters, meat inspection and sanitary science. The officers appealed against the classification, and the Commissioner of Health stated in evidence that a competent inspector was worth £300 per annum. They were then classified at £300. That was in 1912, but to-day the maximum paid to inspectors is still £240. According to Knibbs, who has been so often quoted, the cost of living to-day is 40 per cent. higher than it was before the war. That means that the inspectors' salaries would to-day be equivalent to £144 instead of £240, whereas if the position were put the other way, they should be getting £336 per annum. The duties of these inspectors are many and varied, and they were particularly heavy during the influenza epidemic. They are often called from their homes at short notice and sent to country districts. They have to travel in all kinds of conveyances and under such conditions their clothing is put to a severe test. Naturally they find it difficult to get through on £240.

The Minister for Mines: They are getting a rise this year and special bonuses.

Mr. DUFF: Up to date they have not received these.

The Minister for Mines: I am telling you that they have.

Mr. DUFF: These officers are also obliged to work hundreds of hours overtime and they never get paid for it, in spite of the fact that Public Service Regulation 11 provides for additional payment for such overtime.

The Minister for Mines: I tell you that they have been given an increase.

Mr. DUFF: I am pleased to hear it. Mr. Greenhill is recognised as one of the best qualified inspectors in the Commonwealth, and he has been drawing the meagre salary of £264, a paltry amount which is less than many country inspectors and many sanitary cart drivers receive. The chief inspector for Perth city receives £450 per annum, but he left the service of the Health Department. The inspectors for Boulder and Kalgoorlie receive £286, and the Northam and Geraldton inspectors £300. The Geraldton inspector also left the department. The Perth City Council have raised the salaries of their inspectors by £12 per annum, and have recently appointed a food inspector at a salary of £234. This last-named officer also left the State service. Inspector Berry during nine months worked 669 hours, including 24

Sundays and six Public Service holidays, and also did 142 hours' travelling. Two other inspectors put in about the same number of hours. The Government have not offered one of those inspectors a penny overtime. In 1912 the classification of the inspectors was raised to £300. They have important duties to perform, and should not be kept on their present paltry salaries.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have not the slightest objection to raise to the fact that the hon. member makes representations on behalf of these inspectors, but it is fair to tell him that certain officers of the Public Service are paid overtime if they are called upon to work overtime.

Mr. Duff: The clerks are paid overtime.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It would be impracticable to pay overtime to officers who are under no control regarding hours.

Mr. Duff: The influenza epidemic occasioned a great deal of overtime.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: True; but a Government must handle these matters in a proper way. We have a Public Service Commissioner to attend to them, and upon their being referred to him he makes inquiries and then submits recommendations to Cabinet. If the changed conditions as regards these inspectors are to prove permanent, there will have to be a reclassification; but I do not think the new conditions will prove permanent.

Mr. Duff: These men are doing liquor inspection as well.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: They do very little of that.

Mr. Duff: As a result, the Government have saved one man in the work of liquor inspection.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: As regards overtime, the Government have already on the Public Service Commissioner's recommendation granted special allowances of £50 to these officers who, while not entitled to overtime, have had to work extra hours.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The inspection of teeth of school children is at present carried out by medical men, who admittedly are not qualified for dental work. I am assured by dentists that some of the recommendations made by doctors with respect to the teeth of children are ridiculous. A dentist should be appointed for this work.

Mr. GREEN: The examination of teeth of children is altogether neglected in this State. The teeth of my children, while attending State schools, were examined only once, and the recommendations then made were not carried out. The present position supports an idea, which is gaining ground, that the number of dentists in this State is altogether insufficient for the work; and therefore I hope that the Bill which the Government are about to introduce with a view to increasing the health service in this respect, will be passed.

Vote put and passed.

This completed the Estimates of the Public Health Department.

Colonial Secretary's Department, Hon. T. F. Broun, Minister.

Postponed Vote—Lunacy and Inebriates, £70,100:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [8.23]: It is not my desire to occupy the time of the Committee in discussing this vote if the Colonial Secretary will give an undertaking that we shall have, later, an opportunity of discussing the report of the select committee which inquired into the Hospital for the Insane.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. T. F. Broun—Beverley) [8.24]: I give hon. members the assurance that they will have an opportunity of discussing the report of that select committee, because I want hon. members to read the report and evidence and then discuss the subject, so that I may have an opportunity of getting the feeling of the Chamber on the subject.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [8.25]: I do not quite know what we ought to do in regard to lunacy administration. I am very sceptical as to any result being obtained from a discussion of the select committee's report. The Minister's promise is that an opportunity will be given, before the session closes, to consider that report; but once the Estimates for the department have been passed, I know, from experience, that very little satisfaction can be obtained as the result of any general discussion. My advice to any members of this Committee who want to discuss the general management of the Lunacy Department is to take advantage of the opportunity which presents itself now.

The Minister for Mines: We do not want to discuss the matter generally twice.

Hon. P. COLLIER: While the Estimates are before the Chamber, one has the opportunity of refusing to pass the items if the policy of the Government is not satisfactory. In Committee of Supply, the House has infinitely greater power to impress upon the Government its views regarding such an institution as the Hospital for the Insane, than in the discussion of a select committee's report.

The Colonial Secretary: But we require these amounts in any case.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes. But the Committee may think it advisable to divert amounts from particular items. Personally I am not disposed to agree to the passing, for instance, of the salary of the Inspector General of the Insane, until I have some idea of the policy which the Government intend to pursue regarding the management of the Claremont institution. Before I am called upon to vote for that item, I should like to know whether the Government intend to adopt the recommendation of the select committee that a board of control should be appointed to take the place of the system of

control obtaining at the present time. We know very well that if the Minister in charge of the department had had his way, there would have been no inquiry at all into the institution. He strenuously resisted the appointment of the select committee, even to the extent of arming himself with bulky volumes of medical authorities in order to quote to the House the effect which certain medicines would have upon patients when administered in a certain way. Having regard to the fact that the select committee were appointed by a vote of this House in defiance of the Government, as the result of a division in which every Minister opposed that appointment, I am not very optimistic as to the attitude which will be adopted by the Government towards the report now that it has been presented. The Minister objected to the inquiry. He held there was no ground for complaint or inquiry, but a perusal of the report and some of the evidence reveals a condition of things with regard to the management of this institution which is a disgrace to this country and a shocking reflection on the officials responsible for it. There can be no question about that. The report is couched in mild language quite befitting a body of men entrusted with the responsibility of reporting upon the important questions delegated to the committee. But it is an outstanding fact that the management of this institution has been in a state of chaos for some time. There has been practically no management at all, and this has been due to the fact that the officer in charge, the Inspector General of the Insane, is entirely unsuited and unfitted for his position. It is one of those appointments which should never have been made. The Government, throughout the public service, have refrained during the war period from making permanent appointments, for the reason that it would not be fair to the large number of public servants who were at the war if places were filled permanently and they were thus denied a possible opportunity to secure promotion to which they might be entitled. I know of no section of the community from whom a greater number proportionately were drawn for war service than the medical profession. This State was stripped of the services of medical men to a greater extent than those belonging to any other class and, while scores of our medical men were at the war, this position was filled almost immediately it became vacant. The officer now holding the position was appointed permanently, and in a surreptitious, underhand manner. An important post, which carries with it the management of an institution of 700 of our most helpless people and the highest salary paid to any medical officer in this State, a salary even higher than that paid to the Principal Medical Officer, such a post, I say, was filled without the public knowing anything about it. The position was not advertised

either in this State or in any other State, and it was not known to anyone that the position had been filled until a notification appeared in the daily Press. When an appointment is made in an underhand manner such as I have described, satisfaction cannot be obtained. The whole of the evidence placed before the select committee demonstrates on every hand that there has been no proper management of the institution. It demonstrates that the officer in charge is not fit for the post and never will be fit or capable of providing effective management. He has shown over and over again that he is of an autocratic, domineering disposition, quite the opposite to that which should be possessed by a man in charge of an institution such as the Hospital for the Insane. We have instances innumerable throughout the report which amply show that Dr. Anderson is not the man for this post. The inmates were isolated during the influenza outbreak, and I believe that was quite the right thing to do. It would have been altogether too great a risk to have allowed the attendants to mix freely with the outside public and so possibly carry the disease to the unfortunate inmates of the institution. But even a regulation of that kind, one would have expected would have been administered with judgment and not in the high-handed autocratic manner adopted by the Inspector General. Would anyone attempt to justify the action of Dr. Anderson in refusing, under special circumstances, leave to one of the attendants, a returned soldier, whose wife was about to undergo a serious operation. He asked for leave to see her before the operation was performed. I believe he offered to remain in isolation during the necessary period to ensure that he was free from infection before he returned to his duties. A verbal application was made and it was refused. A courteous letter was written again requesting permission to go out to see his wife, and yet a reasonable request of that kind was denied by this officer. Surely Dr. Anderson could have done without the services of that attendant for the three to five days necessary to ensure that he had not contracted the disease while out. Any man with any feelings of humanity or with common sense, reason, discretion or judgment would not have refused a request like that. I consider that a man, who would refuse a request of this kind, is not fit to be in charge of a party of black-fellows, let alone such an institution as the Hospital for the Insane. It is an extraordinary thing, too, that the Inspector General seems to have come into conflict with most of the returned soldiers on the staff of the institution, or at least this high-handed manner was displayed to returned soldiers in particular. The case I have just mentioned, that of attendant Edwards, was one of a returned soldier. There was another case of a returned soldier who asked for special leave to attend a case in the divorce

court. That was another instance where Dr. Anderson adopted the same high-handed, autocratic manner and refused leave. When a number of the attendants were dismissed because they broke isolation, the Inspector General not only dismissed 16 or 17 of them but, whether through the instrumentality of the Inspector General or some other officials of the public service, I know not, certain it is they were not satisfied with dismissing these men but pursued them outside wherever they endeavoured to secure employment. They were victimised and pursued and dismissed, or prevented from obtaining employment. In the regulations of the Police Department it is impressed upon all members of the force most strongly that, when a man is discharged from prison, he must not be pursued by the police or be pointed out or made known to anyone who might employ him.

Hon. T. Walker: They do it, nevertheless.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I believe they do it.

Hon. T. Walker: I know of cases.

Mr. Jones: The same spirit as was displayed by the Inspector General.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, but it is one of the regulations of the force that this shall not be done. Yet we find honest men with long years of service who, having had a disagreement with the Inspector General are dismissed. These men are to be starved and not permitted to obtain employment if this autocrat or those associated with him can help it. Right through the piece, we find the make-up, the mental equipment, the temperament of the man in charge of the institution demonstrated in this way. He should have been in charge of an institution in Russia during the days of the Czar, or should have been one of the attendants or even the chief of staff to the Kaiser. He would have been more fitted for this than for the chief office in the Claremont institution. Take the case of attendant McGowan, who was 12 years in the service of the institution: he was given leave because of ill-health. He was supposed to be affected with tuberculosis; he went to the Wooroloo sanatorium and obtained a certificate from the doctor in charge of the sanatorium that he was entirely free from the disease. Notwithstanding that, and without being given any opportunity by the Inspector General to prove that he had been cured, he was given notice terminating his service. He was not examined by any doctor connected with the institution or on behalf of the institution. He was dismissed without an opportunity to defend himself or to present his case. This is another instance, and all of these instances are in keeping with the general attitude of this officer. McGowan was unfortunate enough to become afflicted with tuberculosis. He was fortunate enough to be cured, and notwithstanding that he had been 12 years in the service without a mark against him, he was turned out into the world without any opportunity to earn his living, just because the Inspector General might have had a liver or might have been drunk or without

any reason whatever. Is that the kind of man the Minister stands for? Apparently these things have been done under the jurisdiction of the Minister, and with the knowledge of the Minister too.

Hon. T. Walker: This was brought under the Minister's notice.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Minister endorses all these things which the select committee have condemned. In every instance where the select committee disapproved of the action of the Inspector General, after full and exhaustive inquiry and after examining 50 or 60 witnesses, everyone of these things, I say, was approved by the Minister before the select committee were appointed. But if the House had not been wise enough to override the Minister's wishes in the matter, these injustices would have continued unredressed and others would have been perpetrated as a result of the freedom of the Inspector General from punishment for his past actions. The Minister has endorsed these things. If we pass the Estimates he will, pursuing the same policy, be prepared to endorse and support similar atrocious actions on the part of the autocratic Inspector General. There is another case of a returned soldier. It is remarkable that nearly all these instances relate to returned soldiers. This man went to the war and had his arm damaged. He was discharged as cured from the Base hospital. He declares that his arm now is better than it was when he first went to Whitby Falls, but he was dismissed by the Inspector General and turned out upon the world, presumably because he was not fit to do duty. Apparently there is to be no consideration shown for returned soldiers by the officials of this institution. Generally the Government service and private employers are sympathetic towards returned soldiers if they are found to be not quite so efficient as a result of their war services.

The Minister for Works: What was the matter with this man?

Hon. P. COLLIER: He was shot in the arm. According to the report of the select committee he was more fit for his duty than when he was employed there before. If he was able to use only one arm, it is not for the Government to turn a returned soldier out to look for other employment. If a man was employed by the Government prior to the war—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He was not employed prior to the war.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Then if Government institutions cannot find employment for returned soldiers, it is not likely that private employers will be able to do so when the man would be required to render services to enable his employer to compete with other employers.

The Minister for Works: He might be all right for another avocation but he was not fit for this.

Mr. Jones: He has done two and a half years' service since his arm was hurt.

Hon. P. COLLIER: There are other parts of the institution where he could be employed, even if he did not possess physical fitness.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He said his arm was better when he was dismissed than when he went there two and a half years ago.

The Minister for Works: I thought he was attending on patients and would be physically unfit for that.

Hon. P. COLLIER: There are patients and patients in the institution. It is a peculiar thing that returned soldiers were concerned in most of the conflicts with the Inspector General. No consideration seems to have been extended to them in recognition of their war services. The select committee found that the fire appliances—one of the most important things in an institution of this kind, for we could imagine what would happen if a fire went raging through those buildings—were to a great extent out of order. No fire drill had been done, and it appeared that the question had received no consideration whatever.

Mr. Davies: That is very serious.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is one of the most serious indictments in the report, that there are no proper appliances in the institution for coping with an outbreak of fire.

The Minister for Works: I thought Mr. Lapsley went there every year.

Mr. Brown: He has not been there since the institution was built.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is not Mr. Lapsley's fault. No doubt he would go there to-morrow is he were asked to do so. This is the fault of the management in not inviting him to inspect and report on the appliances. It would be a calamity if a fire started in the place. Very little attention has been given to the alarms for the calling of attendants. It is no wonder that in many cases attendants are injured by violent patients when the alarms are in such a condition that they cannot be used for calling assistance at the earliest possible moment. In every aspect of the management of this institution we find laxity, chaos, and indifference. There is a lack of proper supervision from beginning to end.

Mr. Davies: Was the institution undermanned?

Hon. P. COLLIER: It was reported to be undermanned. The Committee report that in the hospital ward at night, where patients are more or less violent, they are put into straight-jackets for a longer period than would be necessary but for the lack of sufficient staff. Sergeant O'Meara, the second Western Australian to win the Victoria Cross, is unfortunately an inmate in this institution. Although he is well enough to be free from about 4 o'clock in the afternoon until 8 o'clock in the evening he is then placed in a straight-jacket, and remains in that condition until 11 o'clock the next morning. It is a shocking thing for us to think that men are subjected to this treatment because of the lack of attendants. It is probable that there are also other cases of this kind in the institution. I do not know if the Inspector General has represented to the Minister that he is short of staff. If he has not done so he is responsible for this

state of affairs, but if he has done so the Minister is responsible. No matter how great our deficit may be we cannot allow the reputation of the State to suffer by permitting an institution of this kind to be undermanned merely on the score of economy. The report of the Committee deals also with the much discussed question of croton oil. The Minister spread himself a few nights ago on this subject, and displayed his authorities to convince hon. members that croton oil was more or less a harmless medicine.

The Colonial Secretary: I did nothing of the kind.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Then what was the object of the Minister in quoting these authorities?

The Colonial Secretary: It has been given in evidence by medical men that this is used in every institution.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Committee do not object to that, but they report that, according to the evidence of the storekeeper, croton oil was used to a greater extent than was admitted by the Inspector General. It is said that, on the average, croton oil has been given on 150 days per annum for the past five years.

The Minister for Works: That is not very much considering that there are over 1,100 cases in the institution.

Hon. P. COLLIER: How does the Minister know whether this is often or not? I offer no opinion on the subject, but what does the Minister know about it?

The Minister for Works: It does not seem much to me.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It would not seem much to a man who had no knowledge of the subject. The Minister has the temerity to offer an opinion on a matter on which professors of medicine differ. Apparently, too, croton oil has been administered by the attendants.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The doctor said he scarcely ever administered it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The doctor denied that it had often been administered for the simple reason that he had not administered much of it himself. It is apparent, therefore, that the attendants of their own volition administered this oil.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Someone must have done it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: They would not have got it from the storekeeper unless they had intended to use it. This is another case indicative of the lax management and control of the institution. One would have thought that a regulation would have been issued by the Inspector General, seeing that this medicine was not supposed to be given unless under his instructions, or those of the other medical officers of the institution. Apparently he does not care, and the attendants can get what supplies they like and administer them. There is a lack of variety in the matter of food supplies, a greater lack of variety than I have ever heard of. It is no

wonder that there are very few recoveries in the institution.

Mr. Davies: All institutions are the same in that respect.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Not necessarily. In any institution in which there is a large number of inmates there must be a lack of variety in comparison with what would be obtainable outside, but there are degrees of lack of varieties. There could be some measure of variation, but apparently there has been no attempt to give any. The Committee report—

Your Committee is of opinion that a greater variety of food might with advantage be supplied to the patients. Bread and butter and bread and jam for breakfast and tea every day in the year is not the best for the patients and should be varied.

For 365 days in the year I understand that the diet for breakfast and tea is either bread and butter or bread and jam.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And porridge twice a week.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The diet could be varied if the patients were only given bread and dripping, or bread and treacle. How would we like to be given bread and jam or bread and butter twice a day, morning and evening, for a fortnight?

The Minister for Works: I have seen the time when I was glad of it.

The Colonial Secretary: There are thousands of people who eat nothing else every day for breakfast and do that all the year round.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I have not met many of them.

The Colonial Secretary: I have.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If that is the diet in Beverley I do not wonder that the hon. member is representing it in this House.

The Colonial Secretary: You have had it many a time yourself.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, and I have been glad to get it, but not as often as that.

The Colonial Secretary: Even when you were able to get it?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes. I usually have nothing else for breakfast but bread and butter.

The Colonial Secretary: Then why complain?

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not have it twice a day for 365 days in the year.

The Colonial Secretary: But the patients are not working.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That does not matter. One's taste for food is not governed by one's occupation.

The Colonial Secretary: I am aware of that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order! Hon. members must keep order.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If I were working and could get nothing else I would relish bread and butter more than if I were doing nothing. I would have a healthy appetite. A hungry man does not complain much

about his food. When I am doing nothing I want more delicacies than when I am working.

The Colonial Secretary: Quite the contrary!

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Government should be able to provide a greater variety of food than is disclosed by the report of the Select Committee. Dr. Birmingham, in his evidence, suggests that the institution is more like a prison than a hospital and run on regulation prison lines.

Hon. T. Walker: Once you get in you never get out.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Committee found, what I have often suspected, that the medical officers of the institution do not give enough of their time to the patients. It has been reported to me on several occasions that once a person gets into the institution he will remain there for the rest of his life. Little attention is paid to the patients, and they are not examined individually for months at a time. How can a doctor know how the patients are progressing, or what possibility there is of their recovery, if he does not conduct a personal examination at periodical intervals?

The Colonial Secretary: There is no occasion to examine a patient for insanity. In visible cases the insanity can be detected without examination.

Hon. P. COLLIER: There are many cases of insanity which cannot readily be detected, and it is easy for a layman to be deceived by them.

The Colonial Secretary: Quite so!

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is only the trained man who can detect signs of insanity. We know that persons are admitted to the institution in varying degrees of mental affliction. Some are only slightly affected, and many of these after a few months are cured. I know of many persons who have been permanently cured after being in the institution for only a short time. These are the people who require attention. If a person who is not seriously affected gets into the institution, and is thrown amongst the general crowd and becomes lost there, his chances of recovery are very much prejudiced. This must be so, especially when the institution to the patients is wholly inadequate. The report states that not more than one and a half hours to two hours a day are given by the doctors to the inmates. What are they doing the rest of the time? They reside on the premises, but apparently they are attending to the routine management of the institution. That ought not to be in an institution like that where there are at least three medical officers. Surely they ought to be able to devote more than that amount of time to the patients. The time that is given by the doctors of the institution to the patients is wholly inadequate. I am not surprised that that is so. I am not exaggerating when I say that the car which belongs to the institution can be seen with the Inspector General at all times

during the week careering around town. It will even be seen going to race meetings.

The Colonial Secretary: The Inspector General very seldom attends race meetings.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I have seen him myself at a race meeting at Northam. There were two of the doctors of the institution there.

The Colonial Secretary: Probably they went there on official business.

Hon. P. COLLIER: And probably they went there to examine some of the punters. There would be need for a periodical examination of the men who go to race meetings in the hope of taking down the book-makers. If the object of the institution was to gather in as many as it possibly could, I know of no one better than the doctors to act as recruiting officers, and I know of no better place for those doctors to visit than the racecourse. We are not surprised when the report of the select committee tells us that only 1½ or two hours are given daily to the patients by the medical men, and we are not surprised to learn a little further on how low the percentage of recoveries is. I ask hon. members to read the table which appears in the report of the select committee. Nothing could be more eloquent than the figures given in that table, of the totally inefficient management of the institution. The report states—"Your committee desires to draw attention to the percentage of recoveries to admissions at the Claremont institution during the past 17 years." And then follows the table of percentages. I have read something about the percentage of recoveries in the hospitals for the insane in different parts of the world and authorities writing on the subject draw attention to the remarkable fact that in practically every country where the institutions are efficiently managed the percentage of recoveries is about the same. We find that at Claremont in the year 1902 the percentage of recoveries was 51. It dropped in 1912 to 40 per cent., but it never fell below 27. In 1913 it was 33, in 1914 it was 40, in 1915 it was 44, in 1916 it was 33, and in 1917 23, the lowest in the history of the institution until 1918, when it dropped to 15. It fell from 51 per cent. in 1902 to 15 per cent. in 1918. When the committee asked the Inspector General how he accounted for this big drop, he replied that he could not account for it, except that the patients had not recovered. He could give no reason at all for that great fall.

The Minister for Mines: Except that they did not recover.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I wonder whether the committee felt any wiser when they got that answer. I venture to supply the reason which the Inspector General refrained from giving. Coincident with this great fall is the date of the appointment of Dr. Anderson as Inspector General. He was appointed in 1917, before which time the late Dr. Montgomery was in charge for many years.

The Colonial Secretary: He was appointed in 1916.

Hon. P. COLLIER: His baneful influence had not time to operate on the figures for 1916, but the effect of it is shown in the figures for 1917. How can the Inspector General be absolved from responsibility? We find that immediately he assumed control of the institution the percentages of recoveries began to drop. The year 1917 shows a decrease to 23, the lowest in the history of the hospital, and in 1918 the figures further fall to the astounding total of 15.

The Colonial Secretary: They vary similarly in the Eastern States. If the hon. member goes back he will find that in 1903 the percentage was 29.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, and in 1907 and 1908 the figures were 28, and those are the only years in which the figures fell below 30.

Mr. Davies: The war may have had something to do with the drop.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not know that that would be so, although I believe the people were somewhat mentally affected during the war period, especially when I look across the floor of the House and see the big majority there.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I asked Dr. Anderson whether he thought the war had anything to do with the figures, and he said it might have had something to do with them.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It would be an extraordinary thing if the war affected the position to the extent shown in the figures. I shall be glad if the Minister will show me that there has been a similar decline in any of the other States. I am not going to say that the Inspector General is wholly responsible; I believe that the overcrowding at the institution plays a considerable part. If an institution of this kind is overcrowded, it must be agreed that there are not the same possibilities of recovery as there would be in an institution where there was more space.

Mr. Pickering: That is not the Inspector General's fault.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No. I know that the Inspector General and his staff have been asking for additional accommodation for years past and that it has been denied to them, but having regard to the general management, or the want of management displayed by the Inspector General, he must be responsible to some degree for the falling off in the number of persons who have recovered. I do not feel disposed to vote for the money set down on these Estimates until we have some idea of what the Government propose to do. The Estimates should be further postponed until the discussion has taken place on the select committee's report. The Minister has told us that he will at that stage be in a position to announce the policy of the Government with regard to the recommendations made by the committee. We will then be in a better position to decide what ought to be done. But I know that when the Estimates are through, that will be the end of it so far as the House is concerned, though the Minister, of course,

will still be responsible to Parliament. The matter, however, is too serious to be permitted to pass lightly. I understand that the autocratic Inspector General compels attendants to salute him as they pass him. Here we have a touch of militarism creeping into the institution. We know that is one of the things more than anything else which got the Australian soldier into trouble—his utter dislike of saluting officers on meeting them in the street. If in civil life attendants at a hospital for the insane are expected to salute the superior officer, it is a monstrous practice to expect them to have to perform. Where will it end? We shall find the Minister on arriving at his office in the morning being saluted by the permanent head, and the permanent head being saluted by the chief clerk and the chief clerk being saluted by the assistant chief clerk, and so on right down until we have the whole army of officials saluting each other from the office boy upwards.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: One charge attendant down there would not allow the staff to approach him unless they had their hats on.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I suppose we may expect to see the inmates going about the grounds saluting each other all day long. It might be a harmless way of passing the time. At any rate it is the kind of thing that might be expected to take place amongst the inmates, but not amongst the officials charged with the administration of the institution. I will not say any more just now. The Minister can make any further explanation he likes before the Estimates go through as to the policy of the Government. I have not much confidence in him, and I do not consider that he will do anything because he has maintained that everything is all right. We see, however, that the appointment of the select committee is one of the best things this House has done this session. It demonstrates the fact that in connection with institutions like the Hospital for the Insane and the Old Men's Home, where the management is vested entirely in one or two officials, it is absurd to expect the Minister to know everything that is going on.

The Colonial Secretary: The visiting committee should report to the Minister.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If they did their work efficiently they would. The Minister cannot go down there every month to inspect the place for himself, and even if he did, he would be able to learn but very little. It would be a good thing if the House were to institute inquiries by select committee upon institutions of this kind every year. We have in the report of the select committee information which we could not otherwise obtain, information which should result in improved conditions at the institution.

[Mr. Munsie took the Chair.]

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Freemantle) [9.16]: The report of the select committee is a unanimous one. The committee are dissatisfied with the condition of things

at the asylum. There is very little administration down there. The whole of the administration is in the hands of the Inspector General and of the superintendent, yet most of the time of the Inspector General is taken up in visiting Whitby and other similar places and attending at the law courts, with the result that he has very little time to give to the administration of the institution. The select committee have endeavoured to put the true facts before hon. members. It was learned that from 1 to 2 hours daily represents the whole of the time given to the patients. Indeed that is a conservative estimate. Will hon. members be content to continue the payment to medical officers ostensibly to look after the Hospital for the Insane but actually to do little more than office work? Notwithstanding that an office staff is provided, the greater part of the time of medical officers is spent in the office. The patients are rarely examined. Patients have even been lost. The visiting committee visits the institution quarterly and reports to the Minister on the condition of things down there. One of the reports thus made contains this illuminating piece of evidence—

We examined the books and found them made up to the date of our visit. On going through the case book, on page 187, chronic male case book, we found no fewer than 10 entries appearing regarding No. 958—

That being the number of a patient. The report continues—

—in the register from 25/2/10 extending to 17/9/16, such as "much the same"; "no improvement"; "quiet and orderly."

Then the question was asked of the witness, "Does that mean that the doctor would enter those statements in the case book?" The answer given was, "Yes." The visiting committee's report continues—

The patient died on the 23/10/1909. This indicates at least in this case, and possibly in others, the patient has got lost.

It means that the doctor had been writing up that the patient had not improved, that he was "quiet and orderly," and "much the same," for six years after his death.

The Minister for Mines: Well, I suppose he was quiet and orderly.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The excuse given was that this man happened to be a Chinaman, and that they mixed him up with another Chinaman.

The Colonial Secretary: It is quite probable.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But it should not be. Even if he was a Chinaman, they should know whether the patient was alive or dead. Yet this was going on for six years, this entering in the case book the daily condition of a man dead for years! We thought it was necessary to make further inquiries as to whether the patients are ever examined by the doctor. It is the unanimous opinion of the select committee that unless a patient is taken into the hospital ward,

or unless he himself bails up the doctor, he is rarely taken notice of.

Mr. O'Loughlen: That is a very serious statement.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The doctor leaves his office at 10.30, attends the hospital ward in which there are 40 patients, looks over them, goes through the whole institution to see that everything is in proper order, goes through all the yards and courts, interviews several hundred patients, and is back in his office by half-past 12 or 1 o'clock. That is the position as we have learnt it from the evidence. To a large extent it was borne out by Dr. Bentley himself. The Inspector General is away most of his time attending to the other institutions, and the superintendent is left in charge of the administration, which means dual control between him and Dr. Anderson. After perusing the English Act, the select committee came to the conclusion that it would be far better if a board were given complete control of the institution.

The Colonial Secretary: The duties of the board in the Old Country are entirely different from what they would be at this institution.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There may be points of difference; but, no matter who the Minister may be, it is impossible for him to know what is taking place there.

The Colonial Secretary: What are we paying the visiting committee for?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The visiting committee go there for two days once every three months.

The Colonial Secretary: Dr. Birmingham goes for three days.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They walk through the institution on the first day and see that things are in order. On the next day they attend to receive patients who may wish to interview them. They have nothing whatever to do with the administration. They only see to it that the place is clean, and grant interviews to patients who may desire it. As I have said, it was the visiting committee who first discovered the extraordinary entries I have read out from the case book. In consequence of that discovery they have ordered a new card system, instead of the book, and have thus secured a better check. The select committee decided that an entirely new system of management should be introduced, more particularly since the Government have decided upon a new institution, entirely apart from Claremont. In England the work of inspection is performed by boards of commissioners numbering 17 each, 11 of the 17 being professional men. Every county has a hospital for insane, and some counties have more than one. Large boroughs have hospitals of their own. In addition, there is a mental ward in connection with the various workhouses, which are controlled by boards of guardians. Patients are placed in these mental wards before they are sent to hospitals for the

insane. The boards of commissioners have full control, under the Secretary of State, of all mental defectives. I may say that in England the use of the word "lunatic" is being discarded. The Act of 1913 invariably speaks of "mental defectives." In England the board of control is appointed by the county council or the local authority, with visitors from the board of guardians. A small committee of management is chosen, and the whole system is under the control of commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State.

The Colonial Secretary: Those are all small institutions, though; one for each county and borough.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Colonial Secretary is making a mistake. Many of the English and Scottish county hospitals have as many attendants and as many patients as there are in the Claremont institution. We have had evidence on that point from a man who was formerly attendant in a Scottish hospital for insane. However, the select committee realise that the English system could not apply in its entirety to this State. The select committee's report recommends a board of management consisting of two medical men, a practising barrister or solicitor, and two lay members, one of whom should be a woman. Then, instead of everything being, as now, under the control of one man, the control would be in the hands of a board of five, who in turn would be controlled by the Minister.

Mr. Hudson: Would you dispense with the visiting committee?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes. There would then be no need for visitors.

The Colonial Secretary: But even then you would require a head for the institution.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes.

The Colonial Secretary: Just the same as now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not just the same. In England there are no inspectors general.

The Colonial Secretary: Would the members of the board of control be visiting the institution continually, or would they be always there?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They would not be there all the time. They could not be expected to give their whole time to the institution. They would be a board of management, meeting weekly, or as often as they might decide to be necessary. They would control the Claremont institution in the same way as the Perth Public Hospital is controlled to-day by a board. I believe that under such conditions more people would be cured of mental disorder than are being cured at present. In the medical fraternity there is no other competition so keen as that between physicians controlling hospitals for the insane. We have an illustration of that in the fact that the Claremont doctors strive to obtain better percentages of recoveries than are secured in

the Eastern States. The position of Inspector General would be done away with entirely. A medical superintendent would be appointed for the Claremont hospital in the same way as for the Perth Public Hospital. That officer would have to report to the board. Under present conditions the friends of an inmate at the Claremont institution, visiting him week after week and month after month, may consider that he is fit to be discharged, and they may lay their case before the visiting committee; but the visiting committee can only discuss the matter with the Inspector General. If the Inspector General is willing to let the patients out, the patient goes out; but not otherwise. The visiting committee have no power whatever in the matter. On the other hand, in England the official visitors have power to let a patient out in the care of his friends, provided the friends give an undertaking that he will be properly cared for and looked after. Here, the visiting committee have no such power.

The Colonial Secretary: But the Inspector General would not refuse to release any patient who he thought was fit to be released under such conditions. That has actually been done. There was one case of that kind, and the man shot himself.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Many men shoot themselves without ever having been in the Claremont institution. But there is always the risk that the Inspector General may be too afraid of letting a patient out in case something of that sort might happen.

The Colonial Secretary: Then application for release can be made under the Lunacy Act.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The evidence given before the select committee bears out that the fear to which I have alluded does exist in the Claremont institution. My opinion—and I think this is the opinion of the other members of the select committee also—is that once a patient gets into the Claremont institution under certificates signed by medical men and justices of the peace, there is the greatest difficulty in getting him out again.

Hon. P. Collier: That is the end of him.

Hon. T. Walker: It is worse than old times.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A patient may not be actually insane when placed in the institution; he may be placed there merely for improvement.

The Colonial Secretary: Do you think the Inspector General is keeping patients there unnecessarily, then?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am not a medical man. If I were, perhaps I could answer that question. But a board of control such as the select committee recommend, including two medical men and a trained lawyer, would be able to question the doctors of the institution in such a manner that the members of the board could, in all probability, form an opinion as to whether a patient should be released.

The Minister for Mines: Why not make this place a half-way house to the Asylum?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I consider it my duty to bring these matters before Parliament, knowing that there are some 1,100 unfortunates in the Claremont institution. So little interest is being taken in the subject, however, that it seems as though this Committee does not intend to look after those unhappy people in any way whatever. Some of the members who are in the Chamber want to make fun of the subject. The inquiry was not a matter of fun to myself or to the other members of the select committee. In view of the work done since the select committee were appointed, I say we stuck well to our work. I am treating the matter seriously. I have no desire to condemn the doctors. I know the nature of the duties they have to perform. I recognise that probably nothing would affect the nerves of a man more than the work of looking after a hospital for the insane. The select committee felt that from the start, and certainly did not enter into their investigation with any purpose of condemning the doctors.

The Minister for Mines: The member for Fremantle condemned the doctors before he went on that select committee.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Irrespective of what that hon. member may have said before he sat on the committee, the committee's unanimous report shows that he realised his position there.

The Minister for Mines: That was due to the good influence of the Chairman of the committee.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The member for Fremantle is like a good many other members, who make statements here which have been vouched for them as true but are later found to be not quite correct.

Mr. Jones: On this subject at all events I did not make any statement which was not found to be true.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: My personal opinion is that the member for Fremantle perhaps exaggerated a bit.

The Minister for Mines: Only on the question of croton oil.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: As regards the male staff, there is no unanimity whatever among them; they are in a position of not knowing where they are. As regards the staff on the women's side, there were no complaints. They have a good matron.

Hon. P. Collier: The lack of unanimity among the attendants would indicate lack of proper control again.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: On one of our visits to Claremont, either the member for Subiaco or the member for Gascoyne asked the attendants about the alarms, saying, "How do you work the alarm if you want the assistance of another attendant?" They could not tell him. The same hon. member asked the doctor, "What are the alarms for?" The doctor replied, "To call an attendant if he is needed at night." Then we asked the doctor whether he could show us an alarm in any room. He took us into three or four rooms, and he was able to

show us one alarm in one room. Again, the member for Subiaco asked, "What is the window in that room for?" He was told, "That is in case something turns up in the night, so that the attendant can look out through the window, and see what is wrong without leaving the room." The member for Subiaco thereupon said, "Let us have a look at it." We did so, and we found a wardrobe against the window, totally blocking the view. Rooms which were supposed to be for the attendants to sleep in at night so that they might be within call if required, we found were occupied by patients. In the violent ward only one attendant is on duty at night time. Another attendant comes round during the night, but only once per hour. The attendant in the next ward dare not leave his position in order to render assistance in the violent ward. He would be dismissed for doing so. In the hospital ward, concerning which the leader of the Opposition has spoken, there were 47 patients at the time of our visit, with only one attendant on duty at night time. That attendant has to attend to sick patients, and also to look after any patients who may become violent. The hospital ward is that in which almost all admitted patients are first put. I say it is a scandal that the place should be in such a state, and that Sergeant O'Meara, V.C., should be treated as he is treated. The evidence shows without doubt that he is not safe if he is left alone. But we found that owing to there being only one attendant on duty after 9 p.m. he is put in a straight-jacket between 8.30 p.m. and 9 p.m. each night before the second attendant goes off duty. He is kept in the straight-jacket until 11 o'clock on the following morning, when he is taken out of the straight-jacket and marched down under two attendants to the violent ward. He is kept there all day. Sometimes one of the attendants plays cards, but they do not know when he will break out. At 4 p.m. he is taken from the violent ward and put to bed in the hospital ward. He remains free until 8.30 p.m. because there are other attendants available to render assistance if anything happens. When the time comes for all except one attendant to go off duty, he is put into the straight-jacket again.

Mr. Davies: Is he put into the straight-jacket whether he is violent or not?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes. The charge attendant stated that, for the last 4½ months, he had noticed nothing violently wrong with this man.

The Minister for Mines: Is it not questionable whether he should be there? Should not the Federal people be looking after him?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Unfortunately, it is necessary to keep him there; he would not be safe at Stromness. At the same time, to tie a man up in a straight-jacket for 14½ hours out of 24 hours every day is an absolute scandal, and it is done simply because it saves the services of an attendant. We have been informed that other patients, even

as bad as O'Meara, are put in a straight-jacket only at those times when they become violent, and the straight-jacket is removed immediately the fit of violence has passed. O'Meara, however, is put into the straight-jacket every night of his life and, from the questions we asked, there is no doubt that he is put into the straight-jacket because sufficient attendants are not kept on duty to look after him during the night. We had it in evidence from the attendants and from the doctor that he is not a safe patient to be left alone, and that someone should be in attendance on him. I have no doubt that croton oil is used more often than the doctors admitted, but we could not ascertain who were responsible for using it. We were told by Dr. Atkinson, the Principal Medical officer, Dr. Montgomery, medical officer at Wooroloo, and Dr. Birmingham, that croton oil should never be given to a patient except on the order of a doctor; it is a very drastic purgative. The doctors at the institution thought that croton oil had been ordered only two or three times during the year but we find that, on the average, 150 doses have been used annually during the last five years. Someone must use it; yet we could not find out who used it. I do not know whether the rats take it.

Hon. P. Collier: No one would take it from choice.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No. Croton oil is a purgative used in hospitals for the insane, and there is no harm in administering it provided it is given only on the order of a doctor. It is beneficial to the patient so long as it is prescribed and used under instructions from the medical officer. Dr. Atkinson told us it had a tendency to remove the blood pressure from the brain and sooth a patient so that he became quiet sooner than would be the case if any other medicine were administered. Therefore, we came to the conclusion that croton oil, if properly administered, instead of being harmful to patients tends to ease them and to benefit them.

Mr. Davies: Whose duty was it to look after the fire appliances?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Dr. Anderson said arrangements were made with Mr. Lapsley, but that he had not been there for some years.

Hon. P. Collier: Quite an oversight!

The Honorary Minister: Do you think he will go there by and by?

The Minister for Mines: What about the electric generating plant?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The committee were interested in the figures showing the percentage of recoveries. The figures are taken from the doctor's annual report, which would have been on the Table of the House but for the fact that we had it before us and that delayed the printing of it. The figures were presented by Dr. Anderson, and members must come to the conclusion that there is something which has prevented the recoveries this year from reaching the average of other years. The percentage of

recoveries in 1917 and 1918 was the lowest for any year since 1902. In 1902 the percentage of recoveries was 51.74; in 1909 it was 27.11 and in 1918 it was only 15.96. For the considerable falling off in recoveries, no reason could be given. The institution is considerably overcrowded, and probably that had a lot to do with the low percentage of recoveries in 1917 and 1918. The member for Guildford (Mr. Davies) said he thought the war might have had something to do with that. I put the question to Dr. Birmingham and to Dr. Anderson, and they agreed that the war might have had something to do with it. I regret very much that Dr. Anderson rather resented our inquiries into the question of recoveries.

Mr. Troy: He would resent any inquiry.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Questions 4988 and 4989 read—

With regard to recoveries, it appears from your report of this year that there is a falling off in the percentage of recoveries to admissions?—They vary from year to year. It all depends on the type of patient admitted.

The percentage is lower for the last two years than it has been since 1902?—No definite reason can be assigned for that except that the patients have not recovered.

Hon. P. Collier: Very illuminating!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Questions 4990 to 4994 read—

Do you think the war affected the position?—It may have done so. It is necessary to compare the figures with the Perth and Kalgoorlie hospital figures. If we get a lot of alcoholic cases, we get a lot of recoveries. If we get a lot of seniles and general paralytics (the incurable ones), the recovery rate is reduced.

You notice that for the last two years the percentage is smaller than it has been for the last 16 years?—Yes, but it varies. I do not know whether the inference is being drawn that I am holding cases over for some ulterior purpose. We take a pride in our recovery rate. We would let them go if we could do so.

I do not want it to be understood that we are inferring anything. The report is got out to show Parliament the percentage of recoveries at the institution?—Yes.

There are not many professional men in Parliament. Any layman looking at that list is likely to come to the conclusion that, owing to the percentage being so low, something is wrong with the institution?—That might be so. It all depends on the type of admission.

There was no insinuation about the matter?—I think I was misunderstood.

Hon. P. Collier: The type of admission could not vary much from year to year. Last year the percentage of admissions to the total population was fewer than in other years.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The doctor's own report shows that there is something wrong. When we go back for 17 years and find no equivalent for the fewness of the recoveries, there must be a laxity somewhere. The only conclusion the committee could come to was that the overcrowding of the institution might account for a certain percentage of the cases which should have recovered. Without doubt the institution is overcrowded—considerably overcrowded.

Mr. Hudson: The reduction in recoveries would be accounted for by the overcrowding?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The committee concluded that a large percentage would be due to the overcrowding. That was the only conclusion we could draw from the evidence before us. I maintain that Parliament must take action very early to provide more accommodation for those unfortunate people who I was going to say are imprisoned in the Claremont Hospital for the Insane.

Mr. Davies: It might be possible to do that on the Loan Estimates.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is incumbent upon us to do something if we intend to maintain the honour of the State. The surplus patients in the Claremont institution would be almost sufficient to fill another institution of the same size.

Mr. Davies: What is the capacity of the Claremont institution?

Mr. Brown: They have accommodation for 750, and they actually have 1,130 patients.

[Mr. Piesse took the Chair.]

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not think I need traverse the ground covered by the member for Boulder. The food given to the patients is not sufficiently varied. The practice is to cut by machine two slices of bread for each patient. Occasionally butter, and sometimes jam, is put on the bread and the two slices are stuck together. This comprises the meal for the patients every morning and every night. There is no variety whatever except that twice or three times a week a little porridge is served in the morning. This is not right in a country like Western Australia. A little while ago we had so much fruit that we did not know what to do with it. Much of it was allowed to rot on the ground, and other was fed to pigs; yet at an institution like the Hospital for the Insane, the only fruit they get is a few oranges sent from Whithy Falls during the season.

Hon. P. Collier: If the State orchard had not been rooted up they might have had plenty of fruit.

The Honorary Minister: If they had waited for the State orchard, they would have waited a long time.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A little cheese and a little tobacco, given to the patients who work, represent practically the only extras.

Mr. Davies: Do not they get plenty of milk?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No; the institution is in need of additional cows.

Hon. P. Collier: They get condensed milk.

The Honorary Minister: You cannot have your pudding and eat it too.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: What does the Honorary Minister mean?

The Honorary Minister: You cannot have the milk there and sell it too.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The herd consists of 96 cows, and 120 are required.

Hon. P. Collier: They are selling the fresh milk and serving out condensed milk in the institution.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The hospital ward, and as far as we could gather the women's ward, never went short of fresh milk, but the men's wards particularly were given condensed milk.

The Minister for Works: Condensed milk?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The fresh milk was kept for the sick people, and when there was a shortage the Hospital for the Insane had to go short. The manager of the dairy, Mr. Kerr, says he has sufficient accommodation for the additional cows, and that he can take 120 there. If he had that number he could keep the Hospital for the Insane supplied with milk as well as the other public institutions outside. I hope the Minister will look into this matter.

The Colonial Secretary: We are importing more cows now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We are of opinion that special attention should be paid to the appointment of a board of commissioners. Dr. Birmingham relates in his evidence that some time ago he visited America and Europe and at the request of the Government inspected several institutions to learn about the management of the feeble-minded and of lunatics in those countries. He found that more freedom was given to the patients there, that many of them were only kept in the grounds by a 3ft. fence, and that in many instances there was scarcely any fence at all. The patients were allowed to walk about the gardens and do very much as they desired. When they went into institutions of that character they realised that they were going into a hospital and not a prison.

The Honorary Minister: That is no good for alcoholic cases.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is necessary at times to confine persons. As a general rule Dr. Birmingham says that the attempts at escape from those institutions are not more frequent than they are at Claremont. Because patients realise that they are going into a hospital they do not attempt to get away from it. They thus have a better chance of recovery, because of the greater freedom and more exercise that are open to them. Let hon. members compare that state of things with Claremont where the patients are confined in a small space with four dead walls round them. Dr. Birmingham recommends that additional air space should be given to the patients. He realises that it will be difficult to carry out the improvements all

at once at Claremont, because so many of the patients there have been taken into what amounts to a prison life rather than a hospital life. It is feared that if the hospital were thrown open in the way I have indicated many of those patients would try to escape. The difficulty, however, could be got over by allowing more freedom to the new patients. Hon. members who have visited Whitby Falls will remember that full freedom is granted to the patients there. They go out into the fields to do their work without having anyone to supervise them.

The Colonial Secretary: They are a different class of patient there.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I admit that they are quiet patients. They go to their work in the morning and at lunch hour return for their meal. They then go out again and carry out the duties assigned to them. There were two patients just outside the hotel repairing the fence when we were there.

Mr. Angelo: Alongside the road.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes. These are patients who can be trusted.

Hon. P. Collier: A patient is more likely to recover under those conditions.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Dr. Birmingham also thinks that an epileptic colony should be established where such cases could be kept together. I hope the Minister when considering the plans for altering the institution, if this is done before the appointment of the board of commissioners, will give Dr. Birmingham an opportunity of offering some advice. The Committee are of opinion that a change in management is necessary. It is for that reason they recommend the appointment of a board of commissioners. If hon. members will read the first part of the report in regard to attendants, I think they will come to the conclusion that very little tact was shown towards them during the period of isolation at the institution. If more tact had been shown by the responsible officers a good deal of the dissatisfaction that occurred would not have been in evidence. Hard and fast rules were laid down and very severe action was taken. When the motion was moved for the appointment of this select committee, the Minister was advised that attendant Edwards had not sent in a letter asking for leave of absence.

The Colonial Secretary: He approached the Inspector General before he wrote the letter.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We had it in evidence that Edwards did write to the Inspector General.

The Colonial Secretary: He approached the Inspector General first.

Hon. P. Collier: And he wrote the letter afterwards.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It has been said that no letter was sent by Edwards. When we got his file we found that he had not only approached the Inspector General in his office, but that he had written him a most respectful letter on the following day.

The Colonial Secretary: I think the hon. member must have misunderstood me.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the Minister will read "Hansard" he will find that his statement was that no letter was sent.

The Colonial Secretary: He had not written when he first saw the Inspector General.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Attendant Robinson had a case before the court, but the Inspector General refused to give him leave in order that he might attend it. The attendant made a verbal application to Dr. Bentley and also wrote a letter, but his application was refused and he was dismissed.

Hon. P. Collier: There is no reason for refusing an application like that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We also had the case of attendant Roe brought before us. He was a returned soldier who had for some years been in the police force. He was talking at the fence to his wife one night. The officers of the institution went out to see if the attendants were observing the quarantine regulations. They saw this man and came to the conclusion that he had been outside. Dr. Anderson stated that he saw that a certain place in the fence had not been disturbed and that he did not at first see the man. Roe says he was not outside the grounds, and the officers did not see him come in. They saw him in the grounds, however, and he was dismissed for being outside. A young man named Cox was badly wounded in the arm. He had been engaged at the hospital for two and a half years and was employed at Whitby. He went to the Base Hospital for a further operation and is better now than when he was employed. Dr. Hadley gave him a certificate to the effect that he was fit for duty. When he went back to the institution he was dismissed on the ground that he was not fit for any more work. I should also like to refer to the McGowan case.

The Colonial Secretary: Are you aware of the facts of that case?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am sorry the Minister made that interjection, for I did not wish to say much about it. Dr. Anderson dismissed attendant McGowan with regret owing to the fact that he was suffering from T.B., and was afraid he would communicate that disease to the patients.

The Colonial Secretary: That is right.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: McGowan was not sent for in order that it might be ascertained what his condition was, but he received a letter dismissing him. He was discharged from the Woorloo institution as fit for duty because the examination of his sputum had given a negative result.

Mr. Davies: The Committee do not accept that and recommend that he should be again examined.

Mr. Jones: Another apologist for Dr. Anderson!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We say that he should be examined. The letter indicates that he was dismissed with regret. When the committee investigated the matter they got the evidence of Dr. Montgomery, who said that he was fit for duty. Dr. Anderson, however, says that there were other matters connected with his dismissal, which came under his notice

later. There was no mention of them in the letter.

Mr. Duff: Was that for some misbehaviour?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Dr. Anderson says it was in connection with some accounts.

Mr. Davies: It influenced the committee in their report. They should have said that he should be reinstated if they thought so.

Hon. P. Collier: They said he could be examined, and that if he was all right he should be reinstated.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Dr. Montgomery said his condition was negative when he left the sanatorium.

Hon. P. Collier: If he is the same now he should be reinstated.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Dr. Anderson dismissed him without seeing him. The Minister now suggests that there was another matter behind his dismissal. We say that in view of the time which has elapsed since his dismissal, in June last, he should be examined by an independent doctor to ascertain if he is still suffering from the disease.

Mr. Davies: You said the matter should be given further consideration.

Hon. P. Collier: The committee took a reasonable view of the matter. The action of the Inspector General was high-handed and it has been the same towards all the attendants.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Hon. members will find on page 44 the letter which was written by the secretary of the hospital to Mr. McGowan. This reads—

It is with much regret that I have to inform you that as you are suffering from a complaint that, should you be allowed to resume your duties, would be likely to be communicated to patients in the institution, the Inspector General has decided to retire you from the service as from the 30th inst. Regretting the necessity for this step, I am, etc., W. Malcom, Secretary.

That was the ground on which McGowan was dismissed. Now the doctor declares that there were other grounds.

Mr. Nairn: He says that McGowan was a dishonest man, that he took the union down for their funds.

Hon. P. Collier: Why did he not dismiss him then?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The letter was dated 30th June this year. The committee set out to inquire whether the man was dismissed on correct grounds. According to the letter which was sent, the dismissal was not on correct grounds. We say now that McGowan should be again examined by a doctor to see whether he is suffering from T.B. or not. According to the evidence of medical men a man might be examined to-day and the examination might prove negative, but on the next day the examination might prove positive. It is necessary therefore that McGowan should be re-examined. I do not think any hon. member would suggest that if McGowan was suffering from this disease he should be reinstated.

Mr. Duff: What is his condition now?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He was suffering from influenza when we saw him.

Mr. Duff: Is he suffering from T.B. now?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is a matter for the doctors and not for the select committee to determine. If the Colonial Secretary desires that the institution should be conducted in a manner which will be beneficial to the inmates, it will be necessary to provide additional accommodation. When that is done I have no doubt the expenditure, which at the present time is £70,000 annually, will run into £100,000 or more. The institution could be much better managed by commissioners in the manner recommended by the select committee. We believe the commissioners would take a greater interest in the work and in the welfare of the patients, and they would see that the medical men carried out the duties they were appointed to perform. I do not think it is sufficient for the patients that only two hours a day should be devoted to their examination by the doctors. We found that the doctors, in receipt of high salaries, were doing a considerable amount of office work, which could well be done by clerks. The committee did not take an antagonistic view of the position. The inquiry was conducted on correct lines in order to ascertain exactly the position of affairs at the institution, and in the hope of being able to report to Parliament exactly the conditions existing there. The recommendations which are contained in the report are the result of mature deliberation and the outcome of the belief that the patients do not get that attention which they should receive.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [10.22]: The member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) has given an outline of what the select committee found to exist at the Hospital for the Insane. There are, however, one or two matters that I would like to emphasise. The method of administration appears to me to be somewhat extraordinary. Nearly all the mental defectives of the State are in the Claremont institution, although there are one or two other places, such as Whitby and Stromness, which may account for about 100 patients. We find that at Claremont the administration is carried on by an Inspector General and a superintendent, both of whom are bosses, and one assistant doctor. I have never heard of such an administration before in an institution of that kind. There is generally one chief with a staff of assistants. Here we have two chiefs and one attendant, and there seems to be a great overlapping of authority. Dr. Anderson signs vouchers, and Dr. Bentley signs vouchers. Dr. Anderson controls the staff, and so does Dr. Bentley. That kind of thing appears to me to be quite unnecessary. Dr. Anderson is living on the spot, and that being the case, why should there be the necessity for a superintendent? Dr. Anderson should be the superintendent. We are told that Dr. Bentley was appointed superintendent on the advice of the visiting committee.

Hon. P. Collier: I will tell you why he was appointed. They changed his title so as to enable him to get an increase in his salary of £300 per annum. He was an assistant until then.

Mr. ANGELO: Exactly. That would appear to me the only reason for making the appointment. I think that, for the better management of the institution, the sooner there is one chief and two assistants, which would be reverting to the old system, the better it will be for the institution. I would like to endorse the remarks of the member for North-East Fremantle with regard to the accommodation provided there. It is positively shocking and I am perfectly certain that to the overcrowding we can trace the shortage of recoveries. The men are herded together like a lot of cattle and they are not given a fair chance to recover. We found that quiet patients were herded with noisy ones. The sooner the State can realise its responsibility and provide an additional building the sooner will a general improvement in the condition of things be effected. I was glad to learn from the doctors that there is very little increase in lunacy in the State. The reasons that they assign for that are just what I thought would be given. Twenty or 30 years ago every hamlet or village had its town fool or idiot. Now we never see them about the streets; they are all in the institution. Their own people used to support them previously; now the State cares for them. It is satisfactory to know that lunacy is not on the increase.

Mr. Nairn: Unfortunately you are wrong.

Mr. ANGELO: I am giving the opinions we received from the medical men.

Hon. P. Collier: The percentage of admissions last year was lower than for some years before.

Mr. ANGELO: I was glad to notice that in the women's wards about 80 per cent. of the inmates were elderly. It is a good thing to know that they are all being looked after.

Hon. T. Walker: If they are well looked after.

Mr. ANGELO: They would be well looked after under proper administration and with more accommodation. I consider that more accommodation is urgently required and also that the doctors should give more time and attention to the patients. I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle that the doctors do not spend sufficient time amongst the patients and, moreover, the patients do not get a fair deal because of the overcrowded state of the institution. The doctors cannot take that interest that they would show if the accommodation was adequate. The women patients to whom I have referred seem to be much happier in the institution than they would be outside. I was pleased to learn that lunacy is not spreading to any great extent and that this State is doing more than other

countries, in the way of looking after the mentally affected. Before concluding, I would like to refer to the able manner in which the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) carried out his duties as chairman of the select committee.

Hon. P. Collier: In his usual thorough manner.

Mr. ANGELO: Exactly. I had heard of the hon. member's good work as chairman of the Wheat Marketing Commission a year or so ago, and I can realise now how thoroughly he must have discharged his duties in connection with that investigation. Mr. Angwin was always at his post as chairman of the select committee and he conducted the greater part of the examination of witnesses, and in addition attended to the whole of the correspondence. The ability he showed in the conduct of the inquiry relieved the other members of the committee of a considerable amount of work. Personally, I can say it was a pleasure to be associated with that hon. member on the select committee. It was an instruction to me, and I gained more knowledge under his guidance than I expected to learn during my short stay in Parliament. I only hope that if I am again asked to go on a select committee we shall have the member for North-East Fremantle as chairman.

Mr. BROWN (Subiaco) [10.30]: As one of the members of the select committee I regard the duties we performed as among the saddest that could be expected of any member of Parliament. Insanity is a very painful subject. We had evidence that the public neglect in regard to the treatment of patients down there is shocking; in fact the friends of patients there hardly ever visit them, the unfortunate creatures being looked upon as outcasts in every sense of the word. I am going to appeal to the Press to analyse the evidence and extract from it such things as the public may be made aware of, so that the people might have a better knowledge of what is going on in the institution. The overcrowding of the building is incredible. None of the past Governments of recent years have taken into consideration the increased number of patients. The buildings were designed to accommodate 750 patients; at present 1,130 are confined there. In the dormitories, where there should be from 2ft. 6in. to 3ft. between the beds, there is not more than from 15 to 18 inches. That, in my opinion, is one of the reasons why the recoveries are so low numerically. The buildings should be increased straight away. There should be no waiting to make arrangements for the Loan Estimates. Some temporary accommodation should be provided without a day's delay, and I say that if it is not done the Government should be removed from office. Dr. Anderson himself, when asked whether the accommodation met the requirements of the Public Health by-laws, said he did not think so. I am quite certain that it does not. It was pointed out that the

King can do no wrong. So long as there is any room at all to crowd more patients into the buildings it will be done, because the number of admissions is greater than the discharges. Dr. Anderson said it was the intention of the Government to direct him and the chief architect to visit the Eastern States with a view to securing the latest information in regard to the design of modern buildings. Instead of following existing designs, I think it would be far better to call for competitive designs. We should then get something new in regard to the architectural structure of the buildings. We learned from the evidence that in America and other countries great improvements in connection with buildings are being adopted. If we were to offer a substantial prize for competition we should get such a variety of designs that, even if we did not adopt any one of them, we could evolve from among the lot something perfectly suitable. The select committee did not have sufficient time to go so fully into the question of the management as to be in a position to make recommendations. To do that would have necessitated months of study. With greater time we should possibly have been able to make some more definite recommendations than that the management should be handed over to a board. I am convinced that the Inspector General and those immediately under him constitute a happy family and do not greatly distress themselves over the work of the institution. In fact I think the evidence in regard to the increases in the salaries of Dr. Anderson and Dr. Bentley prove that they are first cousins in the financial sense. When Dr. Bentley returned from the war his salary was £636; but while away he discovered that he was worth a good deal more.

Hon. P. Collier: The last salary Parliament voted to him was £408.

Mr. BROWN: At all events, the Government had a difficulty in filling his position at the time. He argued that he should get £708, and he clinched the argument by putting in his resignation, thus forcing the hands of the Government.

Hon. P. Collier: Direct action!

Mr. BROWN: Dr. Anderson was getting £708, and Dr. Bentley claimed that he, too, was entitled to that amount. Negotiations took place between Dr. Anderson and the Public Service Commissioner, Dr. Anderson urging that he should get £804, and recommending that Dr. Bentley should get £708. In the end those increases were granted. I do not say anything in respect to the value of their work, but it is clear that they are a happy family, and that they work not only for the welfare of the patients but for their own welfare as well.

Hon. P. Collier: You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.

Mr. BROWN: One thing hon. members should know in connection with the quarantine regulations: In my opinion, had a little tact been used between the members of the

hospital attendants' union and the management, none of the men would have gone out, and the dismissals would not have followed. Of 270 male attendants, 19 walked out. I commend those men who stayed under those circumstances, and I am sure we should all commend the nurses who loyally carried out the work set them during the quarantine period.

Hon. P. Collier: I believe a friend did get in now and again, although it was not known.

Mr. BROWN: It is quite natural that the sexes should occasionally see each other. It is remarkable that no educational test whatever is resorted to in the appointment of either male or female attendants.

Hon. P. Collier: The test for the females appears to be chiefly good looks.

Mr. BROWN: They have what is known as a waiting list of those desiring employment at the institution, and when any of the attendants marries, retires, or is dismissed, this waiting list is examined, and the next in order is notified to appear for medical examination. If the applicant passes the medical examination, he is put on as a probationer for a period of six months. To fill the vacancies caused by the 19 or 20 dismissals which occurred during the isolation period, 19 new men were engaged; and I was greatly disappointed to find that there had been no strong effort to fill those positions with returned soldiers.

Mr. Jones: An effort was made in that direction, but the returned soldiers would not scab on their mates.

Mr. BROWN: I did not hear that stated in evidence, though possibly the member for Fremantle did. When I asked a question regarding engagement of attendants, Dr. Anderson told me exactly what I have told the Committee.

Hon. P. Collier: Dr. Anderson does not appear to be too keen on returned soldiers.

Mr. BROWN: I asked questions regarding the age of applicants. It seems that age is no qualification in the scheme of things at Claremont. As the result of further inquiry I learnt that out of the 19 attendants engaged since the 10th June nine were under 21 years of age.

Mr. Jones: And four more of them were ex-Fremantle scabs.

Mr. BROWN: In connection with a matter so serious as this, I would like the member for Fremantle to modify his language somewhat.

Mr. Jones: What else can I call them?

Mr. BROWN: It is painful for me, when I make a few remarks on such a subject as this, to hear men labelled as scabs, whilst they have a right to be employed by any Government so long as they are honourable citizens.

Mr. Jones: But what else can I call them?

Mr. BROWN: It is time that Parliament treated that term as unparliamentary; and that any member using it should be called to order.

Hon. P. Collier: Under 21 years seems very young for an attendant at that institution.

Mr. BROWN: Two or three were 18 years of age, but nine in all were under 21 years of age. I contend that youths are not suitable for looking after unfortunate mental defectives, who are practically unable to do for themselves. Comparative boys of that age have a tendency to be jocular, to amuse themselves with, and in a sense to poke fun at, anyone who happens to be without his full reason. No attendant in that hospital should be under 21 years of age.

Mr. Troy: Such youths are apt to be thoughtlessly callous.

Hon. P. Collier: Nothing else could be expected.

Mr. BROWN: In regard to recoveries, it struck me, having read other works dealing with the subject of insanity, that the percentages at Claremont are very low as compared with the average in other parts of the world, which runs from 35 to 40 per cent. Against that, Claremont has got down to 19, 18, and 17 per cent.; and in the last year the percentage fell as low as 15. That appeared to me to indicate that there was something radically wrong. We questioned Dr. Anderson and Dr. Bentley as to the reason for such low percentages of recoveries. To my mind, no satisfactory answer was given. The only opinion I could form was that the explanation is overcrowding, joined with the fact that there is no control over the Inspector General of the Insane himself. With all due respect to the principle of dictatorship, I hold that no one individual can look after an institution of that character so well as a board can. The members of a board such as that recommended by the select committee would, having regard to their positions, pay strict attention to the management of the entire institution, and the doctors themselves would be under the direct control of the board; and certainly the public would be better satisfied to accept the decisions of the board on matters affecting the patients or the administration or any other phase of the system, than the decisions of any one person. I hold that while one-man control may be suitable for many institutions, it cannot possibly fill the bill in this instance.

Hon. T. Walker: I think members ought to be compelled to listen while a speech of this kind, on so important a subject, is being delivered. Members may have to vote presently. I call attention to the state of the Committee.

Hon. P. Collier: It is disgraceful. But I suppose inmates of an asylum do not matter.

Mr. Jones: I wish to point out that members had left the Chamber before the member for Subiaco rose to speak. I do not want the newspapers to play the hon. member the same trick as they played me, by saying that members trooped out of the Chamber when he rose to speak.

[A quorum formed.]

Mr. BROWN: It is the future treatment of the mentally defective that we have to consider, and consider very seriously; and in my opinion the Government would do well to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire fully into the whole subject. The select committee, if I may say so, did valuable work in the very limited time at their disposal. But the report of a Royal Commission appointed from outside Parliament and outside the Public Service would be what I may term a fully accredited report. After all said and done, the report of the select committee is, and could not be anything but, a hastily prepared document based on insufficient evidence. At all events, that is my view; and therefore I urge the appointment of a Royal Commission to go fully into the whole subject. The opinion of any member of this Chamber, whether a Government supporter or otherwise, can carry only a limited weight. I am sorry to have to say it, and I say it only because I hope it may result in some future good; but the fact that members of Parliament do not take so keen an interest in this matter as they should, has been made evident by the occasion which has arisen for drawing your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the want of a quorum. I make a special appeal to all hon. members to read the report and evidence through, word for word. The select committee could have used much stronger language in their report than they did, and still the report might have been described as mild.

Hon. P. Collier: That is quite obvious.

Mr. BROWN: The reason for the mildness of the tone adopted by the select committee is that we did not wish to display to the Western Australian people and to the rest of Australia—for this report will go to the Eastern States—how deplorable is the condition of things here as regards the care of the mentally defective. I am convinced that of the 1,130 patients, 200 or 300 are suffering more from senile decay and general break up than from insanity and, in my opinion, they should be separated at once and treated differently. According to the doctors, they might be technically insane, but from a common sense point of view, they are merely eccentric, and their age is such that a child could restrain them if restraint were necessary. All they require is someone to hand their food to them and keep them clean. The economy that could be effected by separating these patients would be of great benefit to the institution.

Hon. P. Collier: In other words, there ought to be a classification.

Mr. BROWN: A classification is attempted and carried out as far as possible, but the very limited area makes classification difficult. The Government should make a serious effort to give these poor beggars better sleeping accommodation during this summer. At present they are herded together with only 12 inches or 15 inches between the beds, and quite irrespective of whether they are Europeans or Asiatics. When I questioned Dr. Bentley in regard to the nationality of patients he said, "We have a patient belonging to every nation in the world." Chinese and aborigines are sleeping in the same wards, and probably often amongst Australians and Britishers. This is most unfair. There should be a segregation to avoid such unpleasantness. Had I the ability to tell the committee what I feel in connection with this matter it would take some hours, and would stir the Committee and the country to a recognition of the deplorable conditions existing at Claremont in connection with the people who should be receiving the greatest care and consideration and some of the comforts that human beings are entitled to.

Mr. STUBBS (Wagin) [10.53]: I do not intend to cover the ground that has been so ably traversed by previous speakers. If any hon. member is sceptical regarding the statements made in this Chamber to-night, he should devote a couple of hours to a personal inspection of the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. Whoever designed the institution could not have had much knowledge of the requirements nor could he have seen similar institutions elsewhere. During my visit with the select committee, the point that struck me most forcibly was that in the airing courts 100 or 150 men of all nationalities were crowded together just as they would be in a prison. Every member of the committee came away feeling that unless something were done to alter the present condition of affairs, it would be a positive disgrace to Parliament and the country. I, in common with other members, have not had as much time to devote to the institution as I should have liked, but I saw sufficient to convince me that the herding together of all nationalities is a blot upon the administration and should not be allowed to continue. I feel confident that the present management is not in the best interests of the institution. I have no desire to comment unfavourably on the gentleman who occupies the position of Inspector General. I believe he has excellent qualifications, but I say it is more than a one man job and, if the Government can see their way clear to appoint a board of management, it will lead to a better state of affairs than exists at present. One of the things which requires to be remedied at once is the neglect of fire appliances. Apparently the hose and fittings have not been touched since the day they were put there when the institution was built. If a fire occurred in the night, disaster would inevitably overtake

many of the inmates. The method of feeding the patients is not in the best interests of the inmates because, in temperament, they vary so greatly. I am emphatically of opinion that to feed 1,000 or 1,100 people on similar food, regardless of their digestive capabilities, is certainly not calculated to give satisfactory results. In the cöokhouse, we saw men spreading slices of bread three quarters of an inch thick, with jam. They put the knife into the jam pot, dug out some jam, ran the knife over one piece of bread and then jambed another piece of bread on top. This is the sort of food given to the patients for their tea on 365 days in the year. We inquired whether a variation in the shape of fruit could not be provided and were told that the only fruit the patients got was that occasionally sent by some kind friend or the surplus oranges from Whitby Falls. To provide fruit regularly would not cost a great amount, and even if it did, if it had the result of restoring one person to a normal state, it would be money well spent. When we visited Whitby Falls, we found there were 21 patients, but they had accommodation for nearly double that number. Surely if the management at Claremont had a proper system of classification, a number of the Claremont patients could have been sent to Whitby where better accommodation is available than any we saw at Claremont. The management of the Claremont asylum reflects little credit upon any member of the House, the Government, or the people of the State. I hope that, now the attention of the Government has been called to the fact that the institution, which was built to accommodate 750 people now contains 1,100 patients herded together like a lot of prisoners, they will realise that it does them no credit. I ask in all seriousness that they should take steps at once to rectify this position of affairs. Above all, I ask them to believe the report of the Select Committee when it says that the institution can be better managed by a board of control, or a board of paid commissioners. Two members of this board could be medical men, two could be laymen, and one a woman. If we had a committee of five, the Government could be represented on it by the appointment by them of one of its members, and I feel sure that if this idea were put into effect a better condition of affairs would soon exist at the institution, for the benefit of the patients and the credit of the State.

Mr. JONES (Fremantle) [11.2]: I move—

That progress be reported.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	12
Noes	21

Majority against	..	9
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AYES.

Mr. Angwin
Mr. Chesson
Mr. Collier
Mr. Jones
Mr. Lambert
Mr. Lutey
Mr. Munste

Mr. Troy
Mr. Walker
Mr. Willcock
Mr. Wilson
Mr. O'Loghlen
(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo
Mr. Broun
Mr. Brown
Mr. Draper
Mr. Duff
Mr. Durack
Mr. Foley
Mr. George
Mr. Griffiths
Mr. Harrison
Mr. Hickmott

Mr. Hudson
Mr. Maley
Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Money
Mr. Nairn
Mr. Pickering
Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Willmott
Mr. Hardwick
(Teller.)

Motion thus negatived.

Mr. JONES (Fremantle) [11.7]: I regret it is necessary to continue the debate at this hour of the night, particularly in view of the lack of attention that members on the other side of the House are showing towards this important subject. This is a subject which, above all others, deserves that a clear mind should be brought to bear upon it, and the best ability that we possess. Instead of dealing with jaded minds, as we must have at this late hour, with what is practically the life and death of an unfortunate section of the community which is unable to help itself, we should be given an opportunity of dealing with the question at a more reasonable hour. The fact that the Government have refused to allow further consideration of this report at a later date proves the callousness and brutal inhumanity with which they are prepared to deal with the mental inefficient of the State. The Government desire to rush through the Estimates and to have an opportunity of shelving the report of the select committee. Each member of the select committee, which sat for several weeks, has expressed himself in clear and unmistakable terms as being of the opinion that the Hospital for the Insane is mismanaged, and he has shown that there was every justification for the appointment of that committee. The opinion was formed that everything was far from well so far as the management was concerned. Notwithstanding this, the Government endeavour to rush the Estimates through to-night, and force hon. members to accept them, so that the question may be shelved for another 12 months. I cannot be a party to that. When some 15 months ago I first brought up this question, I realised that my duty as a citizen would be sadly neglected if, believing as I did that things were not well with regard to the treatment of these unfortunate people at this institution, I did not endeavour to have some inquiry made into the conditions which prevailed there.

The Premier: You had your inquiry.

Mr. JONES: And I want to see some result.

The Premier: You cannot expect to see any result to-night in five minutes.

Mr. JONES: After the able and complete exposition given by my esteemed colleague, the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) supported by the other members of the committee, I desire that members of Parliament may have a chance of going home and considering, before to-morrow, when the Estimates will come up again for consideration, what position should be taken up. That is not an unreasonable thing to ask the Government to do. It is not right that we should be forced to remain here so late at night to discuss matters of such vital importance. Unfortunately for me I have not the mental vivacity of the Premier, and at this hour of the night my mind works slowly and it will take me perhaps an hour to explain my ideas when at an earlier period of the day I could deal with the question more intelligently and when it would take me perhaps only minutes.

The Premier: But what have the Estimates to do with the report of the select committee?

Mr. JONES: If the Estimates go through I do not know whether the report will lend itself to the same discussion. I have had so much unreasonable opposition shown by members of the Government to anything in the nature of an inquiry being held into the condition of affairs at Claremont—

The Premier: Oh, no.

Mr. JONES: Perhaps not from the Premier, but from other members of the Government, and particularly the Minister in charge of the department, that I am satisfied we on this side of the House would not be given the same opportunity to debate the matter on the motion as we have at the present time. I wish hon. members to have the opportunity to consider this report in the light of the remarks made by the Chairman of the select committee to-night, and if the opportunity be given to do this to-morrow, we can arrive at a definite decision as to whether or not we will be prepared to pass the Estimates. I have been accused by the Minister for Mines of having a bias in this matter. I admit that. I never denied it. I am biased against the Inspector General of the Insane. I have never considered that he was a fit man to hold the position he fills. I consider it less to-day, and I think the members of the select committee are of the same opinion. The Minister for Mines has endeavoured to throw a mantle of partiality over my share of the proceedings of the select committee. I regret the Minister is not in his seat, because in his defence of his friend Dr. Anderson he was inclined to be unfair to me. The Minister is unfortunate in the selection of his friends. First he had Mr. Nevins of Wyndham fame. Then he had Mr. Hedges of the new wood line, and now he has Dr. Anderson of Claremont. Probably in the defence of his latest friend

he may meet with the same misfortune as that which overcame him in his endeavour to defend the other gentlemen. When on the second occasion this year I moved in the direction of securing an inquiry into the conduct of the Hospital for the Insane, the Colonial Secretary in his reply to me on September 24th said that the points raised by me were founded on misrepresentation and exaggeration and were untrue. He also stated that I had taken an active part in much of the trouble which occurred over the isolation at the institution. That was the opinion of the Colonial Secretary on that occasion.

The Colonial Secretary: You did take an active part.

Mr. JONES: The Colonial Secretary has not read any of the evidence if he says that. If he reads the evidence he will realise that the men who left that institution during the isolation and who gave evidence, stated that I advised them not to leave the institution unless they left in a body. I advised them to be as solid as the members of the Government are when anything that affects vested interests is proposed by this side of the House.

The Colonial Secretary: It is a pity they did not take your advice.

Mr. JONES: Had they taken the advice I gave them this trouble with regard to the isolation would never have arisen. The evidence will show exactly the part that I took with regard to the men who were in isolation. I gave them no advice as to coming out.

The Premier: What is it that you want from the Government now? Do you want to dictate what we should do?

Mr. JONES: The Premier is rather unkind in suggesting that I want to be a dictator.

The Premier: What is it then?

Mr. JONES: I am merely a cypher in this matter. I became a member of the select committee somewhat reluctantly and my selection was also against the wish of hon. members opposite, who, led by the Government Whip, did their best to keep me off the committee by organising a vote against me. I went on that committee as a biased man and when the report was drawn up I merely acquiesced in it.

The Premier: Are we to give effect to everything that is passed?

Mr. JONES: It would be a wise thing if the Government gave effect to the recommendations of the select committee.

Mr. Angelo: You sounded the alarm; you are the Big Ben.

Mr. JONES: That is all I did. Other members of the select committee will admit that I was the quietest member of that committee. I attended every meeting and watched the proceedings to see that the Inspector General did not take any unfair advantage. Just the same, I was not able wholly to prevent him. He got a copy of all the evidence taken, and he discussed it freely with some of the attendants at the institution. We allowed him to call every tittle of evidence he wanted; we refused him nothing. But I complain that whereas he was allowed a copy of the evidence to peruse in confi-

dence, he discussed it with junior attendants at the hospital and put them wise as to what the other attendants were saying.

Mr. Angelo: Some of the attendants contradicted that.

Mr. JONES: But others did not.

Mr. Angelo: They gave evasive answers.

Mr. JONES: Naturally, because of the prospect of their being victimised by the Inspector General. The hon. member would give evasive answers if his bread and butter depended on it. I complain of the despotic attitude the Inspector General has adopted. The Premier wishes to know what part of the recommendations I would have him give effect to. If he would give us an undertaking that the last clause of the report, that which deals with the appointment of a board to control the institution, shall be adopted, personally I do not think anything else would be needed. Even St. Luke himself would have been corrupted by being placed in the position of the Inspector General, who has unlimited control of lunacy in this State. His word is never questioned. He has the power of life and death over the 1,100 unfortunates in his control. He has the right to say whether they shall or shall not be permitted to leave the institution. In those circumstances any man would become tyrannical and despotic, would acquire all the objectionable characteristics of a tyrant if allowed to remain in that position.

Hon. T. Walker: What a contrast between him and the late Dr. Montgomery.

The Premier: The late Dr. Montgomery is dead.

Hon. P. Collier: The then Government did not look far for a successor, but took the first at hand.

[Mr. Stubbs resumed the Chair.]

Mr. JONES: The key-note of the position is expressed in question 172 of the evidence, when the Inspector General was asked, in regard to discharges from the institution—

Does not that month's probation relieve you of any great responsibility if you let a man out and he goes mad?

The reply of the Inspector General to the question practically focuses the whole of the investigation in regard to the management on to the concluding clause of the select committee's recommendations. The reply to the question was this—

I am responsible. I form an opinion as to the patient's condition. If a man committed suicide it could be said to me, "You are supposed to know something about mental diseases, yet look at the mistake you have made." I have that much responsibility.

The whole position is bovrilised into that one answer. The Inspector General has the sole responsibility of saying whether a man shall or shall not go out. If he is not able to decide that a patient is fit to go out, is he going to let him out and so condemn himself in the eyes of the world? Place a man in a position where he is responsible to none

but himself—he is not going to take any risks at all of prejudicing his professional reputation by letting a patient out. Personally I would oppose the appointment of Dr. Anderson to any position whatever in the institution. To that extent I am candid. I do not consider that he is a fit man or that he has the necessary qualifications. But even if my point of view is not acceptable to the Government, if they are anxious to retain Dr. Anderson in his position, just as the Government of the day were manifestly anxious to appoint him to that position—

The Minister for Works: You know that there were no doctors to be obtained anywhere in the world at the time.

Mr. JONES: But why appoint him permanently? Why could he not have been appointed temporarily until a more fitting man was available?

Hon. P. Collier: All other appointments to the Public Service made during the war were temporary appointments.

Mr. JONES: Is there another case in the Public Service of this State where a highly salaried position was permanently filled during the continuance of the war? Dr. Anderson was appointed when all the best of our medical men were away at the Front. Dr. Anderson at no time made any attempt to go to the Front himself, but was careful to have his papers marked by the then Colonial Secretary, "This man cannot be spared." And while all the medical men who could be spared were facing the risks of the trenches, Dr. Anderson wormed his way into the position of Inspector General of the Insane. This is the man whom the Minister for Mines and other Ministers are prepared to defend now. They are prepared to allege that I have a bias against Dr. Anderson. Of course I have a bias against him. I would not respect myself if I had not.

The Premier: Are you not going to let the Committee consider this report?

Hon. T. Walker: Surely we are entitled to a word from the Colonial Secretary tonight.

Hon. P. Collier: Does the Premier think that we are school children and that we will let the Estimates go through without any explanation from the Colonial Secretary? Every member of the Committee who has spoken has criticised the management of the Lunacy Department, and the Minister has not a word to say on the subject.

The Colonial Secretary: I am awaiting an opportunity to reply. You need not worry about that.

Mr. JONES: I do not want to go over ground which has already been traversed, but I cannot help calling to mind the obstacles which were placed in the way of the appointment of this select committee. I cannot help calling to mind how the attempt made by me last session to get a Royal Commission appointed to inquire into lunacy administration was defeated. I well remember how that motion was pitchforked about, up and down the Notice Paper. While I am

quite prepared to trust the Premier, I do not know that I trust all the members of the Government.

The Minister for Works: Not me?

Mr. JONES: Yes, I will trust the Minister for Works in such a case as this. But when I bear in mind that the Inspector General of the Insane has a violent partisan in the person of the Minister for Mines, I do not feel disposed to let this thing go without some sort of protest and without an endeavour to deal with the need for a definite assurance that the House will have an adequate opportunity to discuss the select committee's report before the session closes. There is no use masking the matter.

The Premier: Of course the House will have an opportunity to discuss the report.

Mr. JONES: This hour of the early morning when members are tired is not a fit time for the discussion of the report. We know that once these Estimates are through, the Minister's troubles about whether this report is discussed!

The Premier: You are quite wrong, I assure you.

The Minister for Works: You are only insinuating that.

Mr. JONES: I insinuate it because of the manner in which my previous motion was pitchforked about.

Hon. P. Collier: We are taking no risks, even though we shall have another chance to discuss the matter.

The Premier: To have two discussions on it would be absurd.

Hon. P. Collier: It is not good strategy to take unnecessary risks.

The Premier: You are not taking any risks whatever.

Hon. P. Collier: The fact is that we on this side have been too easy over these Estimates, and now you want to take advantage of it and get things through without any explanation. There has not been a word from the Colonial Secretary this evening.

The Minister for Works: You do not give him a chance.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. JONES: In speaking on the motion for the appointment of a Royal Commission, which was the form of inquiry first asked for, the Colonial Secretary said, referring to the returned soldier Edwards who was not only discharged but was dogged by the Inspector General of the Insane in an endeavour to prevent him from securing employment, that as regards this officer there were circumstances connected with the case which would not stand repetition. That remark of the Minister is founded on exaggeration and misrepresentation, and has no basis of truth. I am not saying that the Colonial Secretary was exaggerating or misrepresenting; but I do assert that the man who gave the Colonial Secretary that information was exaggerating and misrepresenting, was not speaking the truth. The Committee knows full well where the information came from, knows full well that it was given

to the Colonial Secretary by the Inspector General himself. This fact bears out the contention of the member for North-East Fremantle that a Minister is unable to obtain direct knowledge of the whole management of this institution and that a Minister who wants information on a subject, say for the purpose of replying to a question asked in this Chamber, is solely and wholly dependent upon the actual head, the Inspector General of the Insane.

The Premier: We will give you an opportunity to discuss this report. It could not be otherwise in so serious a matter.

Mr. Jones: But when will that opportunity be given?

The Premier: Before the session closes.

Mr. JONES: The members of the select committee have put so much time and thought into the compilation of the evidence and the preparation of the report that they are naturally anxious to see some tangible result from their efforts. I am satisfied with this report, which was drawn up by the other members of the select committee and in which I concurred. I wish to emphasise that fact. I do not want Ministers to think that the report discloses any spirit of revolutionary Bolshevism. I concurred in the report after it had been drawn up by the other members of the select committee, and the Government cannot charge any of those other members with holding fierce revolutionary views.

The Premier: You will have an opportunity of discussing the report before Parliament prorogues. Members have only just received the report.

Mr. JONES: I shall be satisfied if the Premier will agree to report progress before we go on to the items. Then hon. members will have an opportunity to read the report, and to-morrow they will be able to discuss the items with a knowledge of its contents. If the Premier is prepared to report progress now, I shall defer the balance of my remarks.

The Premier: To meet your convenience we shall sit, if necessary, for three months, to allow you to discuss it.

Mr. JONES: Will the Premier report progress now?

The Premier: No.

Hon. T. Walker: It will save time to-morrow.

The Premier: What have the Estimates to do with this report?

Mr. JONES: We are asked to deal with the Estimates when our minds are tired. It is my duty to discuss this question, but it is a greater hardship for me to have to discuss it than for members to listen to me.

Hon. T. Walker: If we pass the Estimates, we shall be voting the salary of Dr. Anderson.

Mr. JONES: Surely members are entitled to time to consider the report!

The Premier: The House will vote the salary, whatever you do.

Hon. T. Walker: I dare say.

The Premier: Four months of it must be voted. You will get an opportunity to discuss the report.

Mr. JONES: There is no guarantee that the Committee will vote Dr. Anderson's salary.

The Premier: Four months of it must be voted.

Mr. JONES: We might cut out some of the other eight months. There is still a sum of £500 to deal with.

The Minister for Works: Are you going to move to reduce the salary?

Mr. JONES: I want members to have an opportunity to study this report, so that they will know what they are doing. This is a simple request. Members of the select committee have had only this one opportunity to give an explanation of the report, and they have pointed out that if members were given till to-morrow to study the report, they would be able to deal intelligently with the Estimates.

The Premier: Another 20 minutes will bring us to to-morrow.

Mr. JONES: I mean after a night's rest, when we shall feel rejuvenated in mind and capable of dealing with the report, instead of handling it in the jaded, tedious way I am compelled to do. When I moved the motion for the appointment of a Royal Commission—the motion was amended to make the inquiry by select committee—the Colonial Secretary accused me of misrepresentation and exaggeration. In the light of the evidence taken by the select committee, I have read carefully the "Hansard" report of my remarks on that occasion, and I am satisfied that everything I alleged has been proved. I should like members to have an opportunity to judge for themselves whether I made any untrue statements, any exaggerated statements, or any statements which could be designated misrepresentations.

The Premier: No one has accused you of anything.

Mr. JONES: The Colonial Secretary himself accused me and in a very vigorous, virile and violent manner. He accused me of misrepresentation and exaggeration in daring to ask that the affairs of the Hospital for the Insane be inquired into, in daring to say that a Government institution—

The Minister for Works: You have had an inquiry by select committee, why not deal with the findings?

Mr. JONES: I am prepared to deal with the matter now, but other members have not had the same opportunity to consider the evidence, and I want the Government to give them this opportunity before they consider any of the items on the Estimates. In moving the motion which led to the appointment of the select committee, I was particular not to traverse much of the ground which I had covered in the previous session in pointing out that things were not well with the institution. One point I did

refer to was the matter of croton oil, which I stated was administered to the patients as a means of restraint. This is probably one of the points which the Colonial Secretary said was based on misrepresentation and exaggeration. I emphatically submit that the whole of the statements I made with regard to croton oil as a means of restraint have been proved absolutely by the evidence tendered to the select committee. Perhaps the evidence which bears out my statement most strongly is that of the storekeeper, from which we found that no fewer than 150 doses of croton oil per year had been given to patients during the last five years. When we consider exactly what croton oil is, and when we consider the effect it has on patients—well perhaps I had better leave the evidence to speak for itself. The member for Subiaco (Mr. Brown) questioned Dr. Montgomery, assistant medical officer at the Woorlooloo Sanatorium, and elicited the following information:—

Is croton oil used generally as a purgative?—No, never, but it is used in all mental hospitals and all head cases all over the world. It is a perfectly legitimate treatment.

The purpose of it is to soothe the brain?—Yes, you may put it that way. Croton oil is used in mental hospitals all over the world. When a patient is suffering from acute mania, you give him three minims of croton oil. It is so much better than using restraint.

I did not ask the doctor to make that statement. He made it in reply to questions put to him by the member for Subiaco. I did not put the words into his mouth. He bears out the very point I made, that croton oil was used as a means of restraint. Dr. Montgomery went further and said, "It is so much better than using restraint." The member for Subiaco further questioned the doctor—

Then, if we were told it was given as a purgative, that would be a childish statement?—It is never given as a purgative. No one would dream of using it as such. It is a drastic purgative, but there is no need to use it for that purpose as we have all the other purgatives.

If I understand the evidence aright, it would seem that the administering of croton oil must be a kind of super method of restraint, which is better than a straight jacket or padded room, or the use of sheets to tie patients down.

Mr. Teesdale: It would be far more humane than anything of that sort.

Mr. JONES: I very much question whether it is. There is one point in the evidence which stands out clearly and that is the class consciousness of members of the medical profession. There is no closer union and no more solid organisation of men in any profession or trade in the world than that amongst members of the medical profession. It does not matter whether it be murder or bigamy, members of the medical

profession stand by one another to the end. None of the medical witnesses would actually admit that croton oil had a bad effect. It would be interesting to have a report furnished of the number of deaths in the Hospital for the Insane during the period covered by the report of the committee, the causes of these deaths, and how large a proportion of these patients died as a result of dysentery.

Mr. Duff: Or croton oil.

Mr. JONES: A doctor would not call it croton oil. A man may be kicked to death in the Perth mental hospital, or he may have his ribs broken so that they perforate his lungs and cause death, but the doctor certifies that the patient has died from a totally different cause. I wonder if there is any analogy between the giving of this croton oil and the number of deaths that have occurred at this institution. The cases in which croton oil are administered, we were informed by the Inspector General, were very few, amounting practically to one or two in the year. Yet we have evidence that something like 150 doses a year are given. I would call that more than a few.

Mr. Teesdale: It is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. Munsie: We were told there were four doses in two years.

Mr. Duff: It is a perfectly legitimate treatment.

Mr. JONES: So the doctors say. Dr. Montgomery was asked this question—

Do you think that the prescribing of croton oil should be done entirely by a doctor or under a doctor's instructions.

The witness answered—

Certainly. It is not a drug that you can use without discrimination.

On the one hand we have the Inspector General saying that only four doses have been given in two years, and on the other hand we have evidence as to the amount of croton oil consumed.

The Minister for Works: Amongst 1,100 patients throughout the year.

Mr. JONES: According to the Inspector General only two doses were given in a year; but according to the quantity consumed we have 150 doses. It would be interesting to know who administered all these doses and who got the other 148 doses. Dr. Montgomery stands behind his brother professionals and keeps up the solidarity of the doctors' union.

The Minister for Works: You agree with that.

Mr. JONES: I agree with solidarity. Dr. Montgomery says that croton oil should only be given by a doctor. He also says that a doctor should prescribe it before it is given, and yet 148 doses of croton oil a year are not accounted for.

The Premier: You have told us that six times.

Mr. JONES: I protest against this form of interjection. I have not said that six times, and the Premier is endeavouring to put me in the wrong so that I may be called to order for repetition. It is my duty to

deal with the report of the select committee and endeavour to call the attention of the few members present to the evidence. Croton oil has been used at the institution without the knowledge of the doctors. That indicates a lack of management which seems to me appalling.

Mr. Duff: Have you any proof of that?

Mr. JONES: The only proof is that the doctor says two doses were given in a year and we find that 150 doses were consumed, leaving 148 doses unaccounted for. This speaks for itself. Either the doctor is telling an untruth—

Mr. Duff: Did you get that information from some of the dismissed attendants?

Mr. JONES: We got it from the storekeeper who is one of your pal Anderson's satellites, or pimps if the hon. member likes. We got it from one of his own men.

The Minister for Works? What is croton oil?

Mr. JONES: Everything I have said and every allegation I have made in asking for the appointment of a select committee has been proved by the evidence. In spite of the fact that the Colonial Secretary said there was exaggeration and misrepresentation, I submit that the statements which I made have been borne out by the witnesses, by the men who are still working at the institution, by those who have come forward fearlessly to give evidence, knowing that immediately the effects of this inquiry have blown over some excuse will be found by the Inspector General—if he is still there—to get rid of them and victimise them in the service, as he has done with returned soldiers who have left the staff. In the course of the first debate it is curious to note that the whole of the matters which I brought forward, matters of insufficient attendants, insufficient washing accommodation, lack of antiseptics, the fact that the alarms did not connect up with the rooms, and other questions—all these things were denied by the Minister then representing the Colonial Secretary with just as much vigour as the Colonial Secretary himself used when denying the allegations I have made on this occasion. All these have been investigated, and all have been proved. I cannot find that one charge I endeavoured to make against the management of the institution has not been borne out in every detail by the evidence which was taken before the select committee. It is an unfortunate thing that matters of deep seriousness, like the one under discussion, should create amusement for the member for Claremont. It is regrettable that the hon. member is not able to realise that the lives of the unfortunate individuals who are at the Claremont institution are practically in his hands. The Minister for Works a little while back asked me what croton oil was. I have now been able to secure the "Encyclopedia Britannica," which is a pretty reliable publication, and for the edification of the Minister, I will read what it has to say. [Article descriptive of croton oil read.] I think that is a fairly complete description of croton oil and its effects on patients. The writer of the article permits of

its being administered to the insane, but allows as a dose only one-fourth of a drop, whereas at the institution two drops are allowed. We found on the evidence not only that croton oil is administered to the patients in quantities four times greater than allowed by the writer of the article in the "Encyclopedia Britannica"—with, of course, effects on the intestines four times as bad as those described by that writer—but that the patients have been placed in cells and given bread and water for periods up to 14 days. Such evidence is a very strong argument for the board of management recommended by the select committee. Under the British Act, no patient can be placed in restraint for more than 12 hours without notice being given to the Commissioners in Lunacy. I submit that if a board such as that recommended by the select committee were appointed, a lot of the restraint now imposed upon the patients would be removed. Dr. Montgomery, who has had considerable experience in mental work in Great Britain, stated to the select committee that he had never used a straight jacket or locked a patient in a padded cell; yet at Claremont every night numbers of patients are locked in separate cells. Are they in a hospital or in a gaol? Over the entrance gates of the Hospital for the Insane should be written in large letters, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here." The patients, without apparent cause except that they are liable to be violent, are locked in a cell every night. On the evidence we found that the ablest alienists in the Old Country, instead of using restraint, believe that if one attendant cannot manage a patient, two should be put on. But Dr. Anderson for some reason or other has endeavoured to cut down the number of his staff and has had only one man on duty in wards where there are noisy, homicidal, and suicidal patients; and to permit of their being controlled by only one man, many of them are separately locked up for the night. They would be better off in gaol. They would be happier and have more freedom in the Fremantle prison than under the present Inspector General at Claremont. Every time an endeavour has been made to bring forward the claims of the asylum for a larger staff of attendants on night duty, the Inspector General has put up some specious reason why those claims should not be granted. I regret that I was not with the select committee at the time they visited the mental ward at the Perth public hospital. At the time of that visit, two attendants were on duty in the mental ward; and from the committee's report one would be led to believe that that is now a permanent arrangement. But that arrangement obtains only on rare occasions, although one of the strongest recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Andinach case was that two attendants should be constantly on duty at the Perth mental ward. One of those rare occasions, strangely enough, was the occasion also of the select committee's visit to the ward. I do not say anything special was done then, because it was a surprise visit.

But I do say that the present arrangement really is to assign two attendants from Claremont to the Perth mental ward—each doing 12 hours' duty, one during the day and the other during the night. If the ward contains more than three or four patients, including cases inclined to be violent, the attendants there are allowed to ring up the Claremont institution in order to obtain the assistance of a third attendant; and in the meantime the Perth public hospital is supposed to supply an orderly pending the arrival of that third attendant. In many instances—one of them occurred as recently as August of this year—it has been impossible to raise an orderly from the Perth public hospital; and this has resulted in one attendant being put into hospital and two others being injured. Those three cases have happened since August last. The facts I have stated make it plain that there is absolute necessity for the stationing of two attendants for day duty and two for night duty at the Perth mental ward permanently. The danger arising to patients and attendants alike from having only one attendant on duty in that ward cannot be too strongly insisted upon. There is, of course, a difference in attendants; and here let me say that I fully agree with the member for Subiaco that age and size of attendants should be taken into account. It is impossible that a boy of 18 or 19 should give the best measure of efficiency in attending on mental defectives. Earlier in the debate some hon. member interjected, "Why were not returned soldiers obtained to fill the positions of the attendants who walked out during the isolation period?" I am sorry if I offended the ears of the member for Subiaco by a word which I was forced to use, but I want to tell him that that was the way in which the soldiers themselves put the matter. Their actual words were, "Those men who walked out were returned men, and we cannot scab on our coppers." However, the vacancies were immediately filled by boys—the only men put on being, I believe, men who had worked on the Fremantle wharf and of the class whom the member for Hannans, when referring to them here, forcibly describes as scabs. The question of the reinstatement of the attendants who walked out during the isolation period should be taken into account while these Estimates are being considered. As the report expresses it, these men left in accordance with the decision of the majority of the attendants at the Hospital for the Insane. In his speech on my motion asking for the appointment of a Royal Commission the Colonial Secretary—again guided by the false black hand of the Inspector General—said that at the meetings of the attendants two or three voted one way and two or three another way, while the majority did not vote at all. If he reads the evidence given before the select committee, evidence in the course of which various witnesses strongly corroborate one another, he will find that a fairly representative meeting decided by a majority of

three to one that the whole of the attendants should walk out. I do not care what shade of political opinion a member may profess, I do not care what his particular views may be upon industrial problems, but I am sure a spirit of solidarity amongst men must appeal to him. The man who stands by his mates has the respect of everybody. When the attendants went to the gate on that occasion on which I am alleged to have made an inflammatory speech—

Mr. Pickering: Was that the only occasion on which you made an inflammatory speech?

Mr. JONES: I have made inflammatory speeches, and believe that I shall make them again; but I did not make one on that occasion. On that particular occasion I merely appealed to the men to stand together. I said to them that if they wanted to go out, they should go out in a body; that if they wanted to stay in, they should stay in as a body. I trust I shall never advise men to do anything that I am not prepared to do myself. I would not take such a position as that taken the other evening by the member for Sussex, when he championed the gay houses of Roe-street.

Mr. Pickering: Mr. Chairman, I must ask for a withdrawal of that statement. I have never championed the gay houses of Roe-street. I ask for an apology at the same time.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Sussex asks for a withdrawal.

Mr. JONES: Then I certainly withdraw the remark.

Mr. Troy: I think the hon. member ought to explain. He has objected to the expression, "gay houses in Roe-street." What is the difference between gay houses in Roe-street and gay houses in Harvest terrace? Why does he seek a withdrawal and an apology?

Mr. Brown: This is a gay house.

Mr. JONES: I should like to have an explanation from the hon. member but, in deference to the Chair, I shall withdraw. The whole of the attendants decided to take certain action and, when they met at the gate, some of them thought the other fellows were going to stick to their word. They thought they were men of their word. It was just like members of this House deciding to vote in a certain way, crossing the floor to do so, and then finding that some members had twisted and remained behind. This was the position they took up. A motion was carried that the attendants should abide by the decision of the majority and the result now is, apparently, that these men who went out are to be starved and not permitted to get a living anywhere, so far as the Government are concerned. They are to be forced to their knees in the mud before they are permitted to have a crust of bread to live on. The Government cannot put up any defence. They cannot offer any excuse for their action in regard to these men, whose only

crime was that they were true to their mates and abided by a majority decision of their comrades. They are to be penalised, victimised, and refused positions anywhere where positions are offering for all time. This is a point on which the Colonial Secretary has got to make a decided statement. The select committee have recommended that these men be taken back as vacancies occur. These men, being returned soldiers who have learned in a pretty hard school what comradeship means, who have learned while fighting for Australia in the trenches what it means to stand together, these men are being penalised and victimised. Some of these men have not done any work since. They have not had an opportunity to get work and, even when some of them have got work, as Edwards did at the Old Men's Home, there was a conversation on the 'phone between the master of the home and the Inspector General; a midnight ride was taken to the under secretary's residence in order to try to get this man sacked and put on the street because he had dared to stand true to what his comrades had decided.

[Mr. Munsie took the Chair.]

The Minister for Works: Whom do you blame for that?

Mr. JONES: To a certain extent, I blame the apathy of the Government. I do not say their intentions were bad but I blame them for allowing themselves to be led by a despotic and tyrannous individual like the Inspector General.

The Honorary Minister: That is why Edwards is in his job to-day.

Mr. JONES: Although the Government have shown apathy in the past, I do not think they will continue to do so.

The Minister for Works: Not if they get a little croton oil.

Mr. JONES: The Government might show that they are sincere in their protestations regarding what they intended to do for the men who went to the war. Nothing was to be too good for our soldiers. Here is a chance for the Government to show it. Of the attendants who filled the places of the returned soldiers who walked out, many of them are boys and many of them are men who are not in the same street for ability and efficiency as the men whose places they have taken. I say these boys, who are unfitted for the job, could be dispensed with. Their appointments have not been made permanent yet, and the older men could be reinstated straight away. The Government will not suffer indignity if they do this. There will be no sacrifice of any principle. On the contrary, they will be sacrificing principle if they do not adopt this course. The whole question has been thoroughly inquired into by the committee and now that the inquiry is over, the Government would

show a humane discretion if they allowed these men to be reinstated straight away.

The Minister for Works: We will give it fair consideration.

Mr. JONES: I thank the Minister for that assurance, and shall now feel very much more contented on that particular point. Regarding the attendants who were dismissed, a very peculiar case was that of attendant Roe, another returned soldier, who was accused of having gone out through the fence to talk to his wife and returned to the institution again.

Hon. P. Collier: A terrible crime!

Mr. JONES: Members have to remember that most of these attendants were married men. They had been away from their wives for some time, merely seeing them through the fence at a distance. I put it to members, how would they have behaved in the same circumstances? The attendants might certainly have made appointments with some of the pretty nurses, but most of them were married men and remained true to their wives. The case of Roe shows up in a particularly clear light the character of the Inspector General. According to the evidence, Roe purchased some oranges at the canteen, met his wife at the fence, pushed the oranges through one by one and stood talking with her for some little time. When about to return to his quarters he saw some dark figures watching him; someone was sleuthing him. In the darkness of the night, there stole pussy-footed upon him the Inspector General of the Insane. That is the only resemblance the Inspector General has to the pussyfoots who are talking prohibition in the United States. The Inspector General flatly accused Roe of having been out. I asked the Inspector General, "Did you see Roe come in?" and he replied that he did not but that he had put a mark on the palings and, when he looked at the particular paling, the mark had not been disturbed; consequently Roe must have been out. Here is an instance of the despotic tyranny of this individual, Dr. Anderson. He could not say Roe had been out, but because the particular paling where Roe said he had pushed the oranges through to his wife had not been disturbed, Dr. Anderson said he must have been out. Dr. Anderson did not see where Roe came from. He just saw him walking along the fence where he had been talking to his wife, and straightway he accused him of having been out. Roe denied that he had been out, but Dr. Anderson maintained that he had been out. Then it was a case of "off with his head: push him through the fence; good-bye!" The leader of the Opposition said Dr. Anderson was not fit to be in charge of a party of black fellows. Of course he is not. He is not fit to be in charge of the herd of pigs at Claremont. What kind of justice is this: what kind of treatment has he meted out to men who have been away fighting on the battle-

fields of France against just this sort of tyranny. This sums up his attitude to Roe, "Because I say you have been out, you have been out, so out you go again." We cannot for a moment tolerate a man who is guilty of this sort of thing. Should we be surprised that the 19 men who walked out had sufficient manliness to defy a man who behaved in this childish, hysterical way?

The Minister for Works: Did the doctor admit that?

Mr. JONES: Yes. I consider this is one of the finest pieces of proof we have as to the character of the individual who holds the office of Inspector General, with the power of life and death over these men. I shall quote the evidence for the benefit of the Minister for Works. I observe that the Minister for Works is so greatly interested in the matter that he has left the Chamber. The case of Roe demonstrates very clearly the Inspector General's ideas of justice. The case of McGowan has been dealt with fairly fully by the member for North-East Fremantle. All through the evidence everything bears witness to the fact that once a man in the position of the Inspector General is given this awful and unnatural power it tends to make him somewhat of a despot. Even the best of men will, if inclined to be tyrannical, become despots if they hold such power, despots compared with whom the late lamented Kaiser and the late lamented Czar Nicholas would be mere children. Consequently I hope the Committee will in their wisdom decide that the last recommendation contained in the report will be given effect to, namely, that the Inspector General is not a fit and proper person to hold his position. The behaviour of this gentleman has been described as that of a wild beast of the forest, and it may be necessary as a protest against it to move that his salary be reduced.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Broun-Beverley) [12.45 a.m.]: I am sorry I have to reply at this late hour.

Hon. P. Collier: You will close the general discussion on this portion of the Estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Minister replies he will close the discussion.

Mr. Troy: I should like to have something to say on this matter but have no desire to speak at any great length.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I think it is time to report progress. I move—

That progress be reported and leave asked to sit again.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes	10
Noes	18
Majority against				8

AYES.

Mr. Angwin
Mr. Collier
Mr. Duff
Mr. Jones
Mr. Lutey
Mr. Troy

Mr. Walker
Mr. Willcock
Mr. Wilson
Mr. O'Loughlen
(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo
Mr. Broun
Mr. Brown
Mr. Draper
Mr. Durack
Mr. George
Mr. Griffiths
Mr. Harrison
Mr. Hickmott
Mr. Maley

Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Money
Mr. Nalra
Mr. Pickering
Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Willmott
Mr. Hardwick
(Teller.)

Motion thus negatived.

Mr. TROY (Mt. Magnet) [12.50]: We are indebted to those hon. members who devoted so much time to the work of the select committee, and whose report has been the subject of discussion to-night. I have been perusing the report and some of the evidence, and I have come to the conclusion that the report is milder than the evidence warrants. It appears that the committee, in order to obtain a unanimous report, have toned down the results of the evidence, and whilst that may be commendable in some cases, in cases of this description it is an action that I cannot approve of.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is not so.

Mr. TROY: I am of that opinion. On one occasion I was guilty of such an error myself. I was chairman of a select committee and in order to secure a unanimous report I allowed my impressions to be set aside in the hope that the unanimity of the select committee would have the effect of bringing about an improvement, which was desired in connection with the matter under investigation.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That was not so in this case.

Mr. TROY: On reading the evidence of the select committee into the management of the Hospital for the Insane, I came across instances of recorded brutal treatment, and that is what makes me arrive at the conclusion that the report is too mild. The select committee was appointed after considerable opposition, particularly from the Ministry, but I am satisfied now that a very good thing was done when the select committee was asked to make these investigations. The evidence bears out that Dr. Anderson did that, which I on other occasions have said was contemptible, in connection with the case of Edwards. Having dismissed him, Dr. Anderson pursued him in order to secure his further dismissal from the Old Men's Home. Mr. Milner stated in evidence that had he been in the position of Edwards he would have followed exactly the same course as Edwards did. Edwards wrote a letter respectfully begging permission to

see his wife, who was about to undergo a serious operation. That permission was refused him. Dr. Anderson denied that Edwards had written the letter, but we now know that the letter was written, and it appears in the evidence. Thus Dr. Anderson has been proved to be unreliable and despotic, and it is not in the best interests of the State that he should have the supreme power he possesses over the Claremont institution. Furthermore, his treatment of McGowan was unworthy. He dispensed with McGowan's services owing to that unfortunate man's ill-health, and it is now stated that he dismissed him for some other reason. I have also read the evidence of a woman who was formerly an inmate of the institution, and who is now married and apparently in good health. I must accept her evidence as true in the absence of evidence to the contrary. This woman states that the treatment she received was inhumane and it resulted in her having to undergo a serious operation later on. If that statement is true, and there has been nothing to contravert it, the select committee has not commented on it sufficiently strongly. The evidence right through has the impress of truth, and it represents that apart from want of proper supervision at the hospital the patients have been subjected to brutal treatment. It is the worst thing that could happen in such an institution. Both the member for Subiaco (Mr. Brown) and the member for Wagin (Mr. Stubbs) stated to-night that the result of their investigations shows that the supervision and maintenance of the Hospital for the Insane are a scandal, and a reflection on Parliament. I do not admit that; because neither Parliament nor the people had any knowledge of the actual state of affairs at the institution. Furthermore, neither the people nor Parliament had an opportunity for knowing the full facts. No reflection can be cast on members of the House. We were ignorant of the proceedings at the hospital, the treatment of the patients, the over crowding, the want of supervision and of medical attendance which the select committee in their report show have obtained at the asylum. What is going to happen as the result of the report of the select committee? Is the report to be set aside, as so many reports are? Are those happenings to continue? Is Dr. Anderson to be retained as Inspector General of the Insane? The select committee have set out clearly that under the administration of Dr. Anderson the position of affairs at the asylum constitute a scandal. What are the Government going to do? If what the select committee has stated is correct, the Government ought to be in a position to inform us now what they propose to do in regard to the maintenance of the hospital in future. We want to know that to-night. In looking over this report I have been struck by the strong feeling, I suppose it would be called esprit de corps, which exists among the officers of the department. Dr. Anderson desires to wreak

his vengeance on somebody. He inspires Mr. North, who in turn inspires somebody else. Dr. Anderson is accused of intemperance. Mr. North rushes to members of the select committee with the information that Dr. Anderson has never been guilty of intemperance. These are the people in whose hands is the unfortunate Colonial Secretary. From these he must get his information; and it is because of the advice of these officers and their loyalty to one another that the strongest opposition was shown in this House to any inquiry being held. The Government ought to have some policy in regard to the asylum. If on this Committee rests the responsibility, the Government should give the Committee an opportunity for accepting that responsibility. If the hospital is overcrowded, let the Government make the announcement that they are going to provide the money necessary for the enlargement of the building. If the administration of the hospital is unsatisfactory, or if the Inspector General has his hands too full, let the Government state now what they propose to do. The appointment of a board is recommended by the select committee. If the Government propose to improve the conditions at the hospital, let us know now, and I am sure the Committee will give the necessary approval. I accept no responsibility whatever for any scandal that has occurred in regard to the asylum, but I think it is the duty of the Colonial Secretary to make a statement to the Committee regarding the officer apparently responsible and to give the Committee a lead in the direction of making the hospital worthy of the confidence of this Parliament and the community.

Mr. LUTEY (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [1.10]: It is most regrettable that this important vote should, owing to the Government's refusal to report progress, be discussed at so late an hour, when members cannot approach the subject with fresh minds. I have a lively recollection of the almost jocular manner in which the matter of the administration of croton oil was disposed of by members sitting on the Government benches, at the time the motion for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the Claremont Hospital for the Insane was under discussion. It was treated as if there was nothing in it. We were assured that only four doses of croton oil had been given in the institution. If the select committee had done nothing else, it would have justified its appointment by unearthing the fact that about 150 doses of croton oil have been administered to the patients at Claremont. From the "Encyclopædia Britannica" I learn that this purgative has very serious effects on the system. We should ascertain how many of the Claremont patients have died of bowel complaints, for the administration of so dangerous a drug, except under medical orders, is almost equivalent to murder. Let me read to the Committee Dr. Hugh Montgomery's evidence regarding croton oil—

3607. Was croton oil ever used while you were there (Claremont)?—I cannot

remember that they ever did, but it is quite legitimate treatment. It is used in all head injuries, and it is a legitimate treatment in all mental hospitals. In a case of acute mania, croton oil is a perfectly legitimate treatment, and it is quite safe.

We have it in evidence from the late head attendant that the late Dr. Montgomery never used croton oil unless it was for a case of extreme constipation?—I think that is incorrect, because it is a perfectly legitimate treatment. You give a patient three minims of croton oil, and that is quite legitimate. That would be practically three drops. It is also used in head cases. If a person has concussion and is unconscious, you put three drops of croton oil in butter and put it on the back of his tongue.

Now, the "Encyclopædia Britannica" says—
The maximum dose of croton oil is two minims, one-fourth of that quantity being usually employed.

That is information given on the very highest medical authority; but it is contradicted by Dr. Hugh Montgomery, who says that three minims of croton oil should be administered. We should make the fullest inquiry into the matter. From the evidence it is plain that very drastic treatment has been adopted at the Claremont asylum, and that fact in itself justifies the appointment of a Royal Commission. The matter should be sifted to the very bottom, and the blame placed on the right shoulders. Again, we learn that a system of saluting has been instituted at Claremont. Are we going to tolerate that sort of thing?

Mr. Willcock: Militarism!

Mr. LUTEY: Next we shall have saluting in the Railway Department, and then in the Public Works Department. Such snobbishness ought to be sternly repressed. There is no room for servility in Australia.

The Minister for Works: But civility does no harm.

Mr. LUTEY: No, certainly not; but, irrespective of the accident of position, one man is as good as the next in this country. To salute a man every time one encounters him is to show servility. I believe in treating everybody with manly respect, but the introduction of the saluting system into our public institutions is to be resented. The evidence before the select committee brought to light the fact that a patient who had been dead for some years still continued to be regularly reported as "gradually improving." There must be something wrong in an institution where such a thing is possible.

Mr. Pickering: That happened before Dr. Anderson's time of office.

Mr. LUTEY: The incident seems to suggest that Dr. Anderson had some occult means of communicating with that patient in the realms above and of securing reports of the man's spiritual progress. Though the select committee have shown great energy in obtaining evidence and have done splendid work, the chances are that further inquiry would bring to light some more dead patients who go on "improving slightly." Perhaps the doctors are still in touch with the celestial

world and are still receiving reports that some of the dead men are improving. I hope that, even at this late hour, the Government will agree to report progress so that we shall be able to give this matter the thorough consideration which the report of the select committee shows is necessary. We should search every detail of the report and see that the hospital is beyond reproach, that those citizens who have relations in the institution might rest content that the patients are being properly cared for.

The Honorary Minister: Are you speaking feelingly?

Mr. LUTEY: I have no relations there, but there are people in my constituency who have, and they will be thankful to the House for having appointed the select committee. People should have the assurance that, when their relatives come under the care of the State in an institution like the Hospital for the Insane, they will receive adequate and proper attention. Again I appeal to the Government to report progress.

Mr. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [1.23]: I move—

That progress be reported.

Motion put and negatived.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [1.24]: During the discussion which has taken place, one thing which has struck me particularly is the apparent agreement amongst members of the committee to make charges against Dr. Anderson. One cannot help thinking that with all the best of intentions—I have no idea of imputing anything against the select committee—they have not given to an accused person the opportunity, which is allowed in all our law courts and at all our inquiries, to be present and to defend himself.

Mr. Brown: I rise to a point of order. No one was accused of anything. We had no trial of any individual.

The CHAIRMAN: I uphold the point of order. The Minister is not justified in continuing in that strain.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We carried out the Standing Orders; in fact we exceeded the Standing Orders in favour of Dr. Anderson.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the Minister for Works to proceed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I was not aware that I was out of order in anything I said.

The CHAIRMAN: I think you were.

Hon. T. Walker: You accused them of a conspiracy to accuse Dr. Anderson.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I did not.

Hon. T. Walker: In effect you did.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The point of order has been decided. The Minister for Works will proceed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: If any members of the select committee have any such

idea, I ask them to remove it from their minds. I believe that, from their point of view, they did everything which was fair. Judging from the debate, it is evident that the whole affair hinges around the fitness or otherwise of the Inspector General for the position he holds. That is a very serious matter to bring forward, and it can be brought forward with perfect order. If we wish our judgment to be guarded and based on the principles of fair play, we must allow the person who is accused in the House or in the evidence an opportunity to present his case and to examine those who made the accusations against him.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is no accusation here.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The accusations made in this House this evening have been to the effect that Dr. Anderson is not a fit and proper person to be in charge of the institution.

Mr. Chesson: No more he is.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There is no sophistry that can get away from that fact. If it is not put forward as a charge the inference is there, and the inference has made itself felt, seeing that the member for Cue has interjected that he is not fit for the position. That is a serious matter. When an inquiry takes that trend it becomes a matter for the individual's opinion.

Hon. P. Collier: For the opinion of the committee.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: They are of course entitled to their own opinion. Here is a man occupying a most important and trying position, one upon which the calls vary throughout the day and every day in the year, and such a man must have every opportunity given to him—

Hon. P. Collier: So he has. Here is the report. He has had three days in the witness box.

Mr. Willcock: And liberty to make whatever statement he liked.

Mr. Angelo: Have you read the report and the evidence?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not pretend that I have digested the whole of this report. I am of opinion that the committee have been influenced in what they say. I do not say they are bringing forward anything with bias, but on the evidence submitted to them there is a serious and cumulative accusation against the Inspector General, who occupies such a trying position, and if I have the opportunity I will give him more latitude than he evidently has had here. I have known many doctors who have occupied similar positions in different parts of the world, and my experience teaches me that the trials of that position are such that the holders themselves may easily become mental or be driven to drink. We have had instances in this State. When a man in charge of a number of men and women in this condition is being judged, consideration must be given to all his responsibilities, and he must be afforded more latitude than would be necessary in the case of a doctor who was en-

gaged in ordinary professional work. I have had to go to the Hospital for the Insane on one occasion. It took me some time before I could get out of my mind the impression I received regarding those unfortunate individuals. If one visit would have had that effect upon me, as no doubt it had upon members of the select committee, and whilst I had not felt the cumulative effect of constant association with the institution, what must it be for a man who has to spend all his time in association with it?

Hon. T. Walker: Are you arguing that Dr. Anderson has gone mad?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No more than I am arguing that the hon. member has gone mad.

Hon. P. Collier: That is your line of defence.

Mr. Chesson: You said that he would either go mad or take to drink.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: If there is no hope of continuing the government of such a big concern as the Hospital for the Insane, where are we going to land so far as all these patients are concerned?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have practically accused us of being unfair towards this man. I will quote you the Standing Order to show what liberty he has had.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: If I am transgressing—

The CHAIRMAN: I say the Minister is treading on dangerous ground.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Then I will sit down.

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [1.32]: Notwithstanding the lateness of the hour I think that some tribute should be paid to the members of the select committee.

The Honorary Minister: You have said that before.

Mr. LAMBERT: And I will go on saying it until you take off your hat.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. LAMBERT: I was replying to the interjection of the Honorary Minister.

The CHAIRMAN: I have given every hon. member fair play. The hon. member will get all the fair play that he wants.

Mr LAMBERT: I only desire to point out that I was answering the Honorary Minister, and I had no desire to transgress.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may continue.

Mr. LAMBERT: The Government would have been well advised if they had taken into consideration the recommendation of the committee as to the appointment of a board of commissioners to control this institution. Much has been said about Dr. Anderson. It ill becomes members of Parliament either to use their prerogative or their privileges as members to attack an official of this description unless there is some reasonable ground for doing so. I do not know anything of Dr. Anderson's attainments, but I do think that, even with my personal regard for him, he is temperamentally unfitted for the position he

occupies. He is not singular in that respect, because probably nine-tenths of the officers of this House and those who compose this Assembly are also temperamentally unfitted for their positions.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. member is justified in saying that.

Mr. LAMBERT: If you think I am not justified in saying that, possibly my trifling reference to the composition of the House—

The Honorary Minister: It is one of the grossest insults I have ever had to listen to.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not fair criticism.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is only by way of comparison, but as usual the Honorary Minister has indulged in his spirit of levity.

The Honorary Minister: There is no spirit of levity in that.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the Honorary Minister not to interject.

Mr. LAMBERT: Regard must be had to the temperamental attitude of Dr. Anderson since this investigation was mooted. I do not think the Minister controlling the department can say that Dr. Anderson is the most competent person available to occupy this position. I do not say he has in any degree not attempted to do all that could be done. I only hope that the Minister controlling this department will not be dogmatic in his attitude, and will not contend that Dr. Anderson is the only man who can control lunacy matters in this State. This is a serious question. Dr. Anderson is a fine gentleman as a man, and it would ill become any hon. member to attack him in the slightest degree, but we have a right to ask, particularly when we bear in mind the unrest which has been shown to exist in the attitude of the public towards this institution, that the Government should give an assurance that the report of the select committee will receive serious consideration at their hands, and that the recommendations will be given effect to.

The Premier: We will give you that assurance.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am pleased to hear that. I understood that there was a sort of unflinching attitude towards the recommendations of the committee. That would be regrettable, because both the Minister controlling the department and the Premier must view with serious alarm the evidence which has been adduced before the select committee, and must also see the necessity for the stringent recommendations which have been made. Our paramount duty is first of all to place ourselves in the position of the Inspector General of the Insane, and realise the difficulties of his position. We should also try to realise whether he could do full justice to those who are under his care, and who are directly concerned in the result of his administration. While I have the greatest regard for Dr. Anderson as a man, and possibly as a

doctor, I feel that—quite apart from the evidence given before the select committee—he is temperamentally unfitted for the position he holds to-day. Even if the session closes without proper consideration being given by members to the report of the select committee, I hope the Government will be fully seized with the necessity for giving effect to the more essential recommendations the committee saw fit to make.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [1.42]: Now that the general debate on the vote has been concluded, I will move—

That the vote be reduced by £500.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [1.43]: As chairman of the select committee and on behalf of the members of the committee I desire to say that I strongly resent the accusations made by the Minister for Works. I would like hon. members to be acquainted with the position. The Standing Orders of the House were violated by the select committee for the express purpose of enabling Dr. Anderson to have all possible information, everything in fact that came under the notice of the select committee. There were no charges made against Dr. Anderson, but the committee thought that some witness might possibly prefer a charge against the doctor, and that the doctor should then be in the position of knowing what was said almost as soon as the matter was laid before the committee. Consequently Dr. Anderson was allowed to have a copy of the evidence when it was available, and that was, when the printed copies reached the committee. If a Royal Commission had been appointed Dr. Anderson could have been represented before it. The Minister for Works, instead of making charges against the committee, should have expressed regret that he did not assist in bringing about the appointment of a Royal Commission which was what was asked for originally. The select committee had to prepare their report on the evidence given and the only accusation made against Dr. Anderson is in regard to administration. The committee came to the conclusion that the administration was not good, and they recommended that another system of management should be instituted. I will read what the Standing Order 352 says with regard to evidence—

The evidence taken by any select committee of the House and documents presented to such committee, which have not been reported to the House shall not be disclosed or published by any member of the Committee or by any other person. The committee should have abided by that Standing Order, but they violated it in order to let Dr. Anderson know what was going on. Now we have the Minister for Works accusing the committee of not acting fairly to Dr. Anderson. Further than that, when Dr. Anderson appeared to give evidence he was handed a typewritten copy of the evidence of another doctor which had been

taken on the day previously so that he might have an opportunity to reply to that as well if he cared to do so. Dr. Anderson took that evidence away with him so as to peruse it over night. The accusation of the Minister for Works is grossly unfair, and it is not the kind of thing that is likely to induce hon. members to undertake onerous work of this description in the future. Charges of bias are not likely to encourage members to offer their services in the future in connection with matters of public importance which require to be investigated. In this case the select committee endeavoured to frame a true statement on the evidence submitted, and unprejudiced members of this Assembly will, I think, agree that they succeeded in their task. I have nothing whatever to say against Dr. Anderson. The recommendation of the select committee that the system of management should be altered does not suggest that Dr. Anderson should be thrown out. There is nothing to prevent him from receiving the appointment of superintendent under the new scheme.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 1.50 a.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 21st November, 1919.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE, STATE CHILDREN DEPARTMENT.

Interim Report.

Mr. SMITH (North Perth) brought up an interim report by the select committee appointed to inquire into the State Children Department.

Report received and read, and ordered to be printed.