

1. Referring to the paragraph in to-day's *Register* headed 'The Hospital Trouble,' this, so far as any attempted revelations of the nature of the negotiations between the Government and the late honorary staff, is a distinct breach of the honourable understanding under which these negotiations proceeded.

2. Bad as the above is, it is still worse to find it put that it was a term stipulated for by me 'that the Board should for the time being remain as at present, but that alterations might be made later on.' This is simply another way of saying that I contemplated the displacement of some member of the Board at some future time to make room for a newcomer.

3. I desire to assure the Board that there is not one iota of truth in this monstrous suggestion, and for its more complete exposure and my vindication I must shortly state the facts.

4. Every suggestion for any action of the kind suggested was instantly and indignantly rejected by me, and the position was put most clearly that the Government would always desire to continue on the Board the services of the ladies and gentlemen at present constituting it, who had so disinterestedly laboured for the public good, and in the interests of the Institution under most trying circumstances. It was put most plainly that so long as the Government existed an effort would be made to induce these ladies and gentlemen to continue on the Board.

5. I cannot conceive how the matter has come to be so grossly misstated, unless it arose out of the following:—In the course of the negotiations I was brought into contact with one of the most distinguished and honourable men in the medical profession. Not only did he labour unceasingly and disinterestedly for the conclusion of an honourable peace, but with the utmost candour he more than once assured me that having looked into the matter there was nothing whatever in the charges of incompetency brought against Dr. Napier. He was in no way connected with any of the present staff, and on one occasion I did not hesitate to say in the presence of a third party that if peace were restored, and there were a vacancy on the Hospital Board which no existing member of the Board were willing to fill, nothing would give the Government greater pleasure than, as a mark of their goodwill towards the profession generally, to appoint such a representative man to the vacancy.

6. I make this explanation to the Board as I feel that they have a right to expect the utmost loyalty on the part of the Government. I resent the imputation on the Ministerial good faith which is attempted to be cast by the paragraph in question, and I feel sure that I have said sufficient for the purpose of exposing its utter fallacy, and of assuring the continuance of mutual respect between the Board and the Government."

The CHAIRMAN said he was very glad the Premier had written that letter, as he thought some explanation was due to the Board. Both parties—those representing the doctors and those representing the Government—had worked hard to bring about a settlement of the matter. He had worked hard himself, having spent many nights in connection with the matter, and he was very disappointed at the failure.

Mr. MORRIS asked the Chairman if there was anything in the negotiations which would

have led him to think that there was any intention on the part of the Premier of acting in the manner suggested.

The CHAIRMAN replied—No, in no shape or form had the Premier in his presence led him to believe any such thing. The Premier had always given him to understand that it was just the other way about. As far as he knew such an idea was never suggested or entertained by Mr. Kingston for one moment. He said this in fairness to the Premier.

The SECRETARY read a document referred to the Chairman of the Board by the Chief Secretary, Hon. J. V. O'Loghlin, stating that the removal of Professor Watson had been approved of in Executive Council that morning. This was received.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK said that after hearing the report as to the result of the negotiations which had been going on for so long he thought the thanks of the Board were due to the Chairman for the trouble and time he had devoted to try and bring about a settlement, and to all those parties who had been working with the same object in view. After hearing the letter read so far as to the imputation that an understanding had been come to that some members of the Board were to be sacrificed so that they might be replaced by somebody else for some consideration, all would be satisfied as to the loyalty of the Government and Mr. Kingston in the matter. All who had the pleasure of knowing the Premier knew that, although, like everybody else, he had his faults, one of those faults was not disloyalty. Mr. Kingston had never been charged with that. Those who knew him best knew how to take such a suggestion appearing in the paragraph which had been alluded to. All regretted that the trouble gone to by all parties, especially those on the other side who were willing for a settlement, had ended in failure. Those doctors who had had some little difference with them, but who were willing for a settlement, were deserving of their thanks on an occasion like the present. Whilst they regretted that the negotiations had fallen through they had to remember that the Board with the Government had delayed as long as they could taking further action in connection with the settlement. And it had been done at great sacrifice, not so far as the Board was concerned, but so far as the medical gentlemen who had the responsibility of carrying on the Hospital were concerned. They had worked very hard indeed, harder than they had a right to do, and if it was out of no other consideration than this they must now take steps to see that the institution was properly manned. There would have been more medical men brought into the institution before had it not been for the desire to give an opportunity to some of those gentlemen who said they had such an interest in the institution to come back. He moved—

That advertisements be inserted in the papers of the various colonies calling for applications as follows:—One experienced house surgeon at £250 per annum, one experienced house physician at £250 per annum, board and lodging and three years' engagement in each case. Applications to be sent to the Secretary before noon Friday, November 6.

He would have preferred a settlement for many reasons, even if it was only for the sake of saving expense, as the course they proposed to take would involve the Government in expense. But the Hospital demanded that further medical aid should be brought to bear, and they had no other course open to them than to take the step proposed. It had not been decided on in a hurry, and not until all sorts of efforts had been made to give the medical gentlemen previously connected with the Hospital an opportunity of returning if they so desired. There were not only the efforts of their Chairman and of the Premier, but they knew that various influential gentlemen had tried their hand at bringing about a settlement, and it must be extremely disappointing to those who had worked to this end to find that their hopes had been dashed to the ground. Parliament had been looking anxiously for a settlement, and motions had been suspended in case any friction might have been caused by bringing them on. But they had been hoping against

hope, as they had now found out that there was no chance of a settlement. They were driven into the position in which they now found themselves, and he was quite certain that no fair-minded man or woman in South Australia would blame them for the action they were taking.

Mr. W. G. COOMBS seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mrs. NICHOLLS said that Dr. Hill, who had just had to leave, had received a letter from medical students in reference to the report that Mr. Coombs made on behalf of a sub-