

preciated and enjoyed his originality, his quaint sense of humour and his novel mode of expression. He certainly did not lack courage in giving voice to his ideas. His criticism was decidedly direct and we who were his colleagues knew how bravely he endured his last illness. During the last year or two, the end always seemed near. He knew it, and throughout he bore himself cheerily and hopefully. There was not one of us who did not hear of his death with profound regret. I will ask hon. members to carry the motion in the usual way.

Question passed, members standing.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [3.33]: The recent elections having been held, it is now possible for us to elect a Chairman of Committees, which is usually done in anticipation of the work of the session. I have much pleasure in doing so, and I move—

That the Hon. J. Cornell be re-elected to the position of Chairman of Committees.

Hon. J. M. DREW: I second the motion.

Question put and passed.

BILL—WAGIN HOSPITAL VALIDATION.

The **MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** (Hon. C. F. Baxter East) [3.35]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act to validate a certain building contract in connection with structural additions to Wagin Hospital."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

The **PRESIDENT**: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Governor copies of the Speech that he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament. These will be distributed amongst hon. members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

HON. F. W. ALLSOP (North-East) [3.36]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:—
"May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament."

It is very pleasing to me, and I think to the people of Western Australia generally, to know that His Excellency's term of office has been extended for one year. I should like to congratulate you, Mr. President, upon the honour His Majesty the King has bestowed upon you. It was a well-deserved honour, and we feel it is only just and right that you should have received it. I am sure the great bulk of the people of Western Australia approve of the honour you have received. I should like to congratulate Sir James Mitchell on his again assuming the reins of government. I remember about 24 or 25 years ago listening in Kalgoorlie to Sir James Mitchell advocating that more of the male population should go on the land and undertake the cultivation of the soil. Sir James Mitchell's voice at that time was as one crying in the wilderness. His advice was derided by many and accepted by some. Since then great numbers of people have Sir James Mitchell to thank for having opened up to them employment which has placed them in a most comfortable position and proved beneficial to the State. It would not be in keeping with my thoughts if I did not also tender my congratulations to the Hon. Mr. Baxter on his assumption of the position of Leader of this House. It is satisfactory to know that he has again been elevated to Ministerial rank. Most of the Speech delivered by His Excellency was very doleful. Although Western Australia has retrogressed financially, it is only in keeping with the experience of other States of Australia and most of the countries of the world. At the same time we Britishers are not inclined to make a tremendous fuss when misfortunes overtake us. We put our shoulders to the wheel and try to rectify the wrong. It is pleasing to learn that the butter industry is making such marked progress, and that be-

fore long Western Australia will be able not only to supply its own requirements, but to export considerable quantities of that commodity to other countries. I remember when the Victorian land boom collapsed in 1892-93, increased attention was given to the butter industry in that State and that, in conjunction with Western Australian's gold discoveries and her orders for machinery and for produce, proved an important factor in restoring prosperity once more to the State of Victoria. If we cannot obtain payable prices for our wheat and wool, I am wondering what we shall do. It seems to me impossible that we shall be able to meet the interest on our loan commitments. I am a representative of the North-East Province, and have taken the seat formerly held by the late Mr. J. R. Brown. My constituency has produced more gold than all other parts of Western Australia put together. What does Australia's gold yield mean? In 1903 we reached our peak year, producing over £8,000,000 worth of gold. The latest recorded monthly statement of our yield in Western Australia was 41,000 ounces, which quantity was increased a little later as out-back returns came to hand, making the total 49,000 ounces. That is the best monthly yield we have had in Western Australia for a long time. But what is it compared with South Africa? I was in Johannesburg in 1894, when the people there were celebrating the achievement of an output of 200,000 ounces a month. Except during the time of the South African war, yields of that country have progressively increased, and the latest monthly output has reached 917,000 ounces. Beside that huge quantity, our last month's output of 49,000 ounces seems insignificant. Johannesburg is at present producing 53 per cent. of the world's production of gold. We in Western Australia are producing only 3 per cent. Away back in the early days of gold discoveries in Victoria and New South Wales, Australia was turning out 34 per cent. of the world's production, while California was producing 36 per cent. Now we want to know what can be done to increase the gold production of Western Australia. Generally, when everything else is bad and depressed, gold mining comes to the rescue. It came to the rescue in 1892-3. It made this State and gave it a tremendous impetus, while the benefit derived by Victoria and New South Wales was incalculable. Lately we sent a delegation to the Eastern States to strive to get a gold bonus of £1 an ounce.

Some members of that delegation have returned looking moderately happy; others do not look quite so pleased, but we are hoping that good will result from the mission. If we can get only half of what was asked, namely, 10s. per ounce, it will prove a wonderful stimulus to the industry in this State. I have been chairman of the Mining Board in Kalgoorlie for several years. Men come before us with requests for assistance to go prospecting. We inquire into their qualifications and, if they are favourable, we give them for work around Kalgoorlie £1 a week, for work further north 22s. 6d. a week, and for work further north still, 25s. a week. A fair percentage of the gold now being crushed at Government batteries is being produced by men sent out by the Mining Board. New South Wales seems to have gripped the situation better than we have done. That State has sent out 800 prospectors. The men who accept £1 a week to go out prospecting would not think of undertaking woodchopping, farm work, or other laborious work. They are lured and fascinated by the chance of making a wonderful find. There is also the spirit of emulation spurring them on. They want to emulate the feats of the early prospectors who did so much to bring about the prosperity of Western Australia. If these prospectors could find only one golden mile or a couple of golden miles, it would do more to bring prosperity to us than anything else I know of. We possess the largest auriferous belt in the world. Incalculable riches are hidden in it, and before long I feel convinced we shall discover another golden mile. It should be our aim to produce more gold from one end of the State to the other. The goldmining industry at present is benefiting a little from the adverse rate of exchange. It is receiving 5s. 5d. on every 100s. worth of gold. While goldmining is benefiting in this way, the adverse exchange is a nightmare to merchants and others engaged in the importation of goods from abroad. However, we want more help than the exchange is giving us. We want the gold bonus, and we want the Government to continue to send out prospectors who will seek to unearth additional riches. If we can only make a lucky find, it will give our State a tremendous impetus. I have, over a period of years, dabbled in science and have devoted some considerable time to research work. It is due to scientific research that our mines in Kalgoorlie are working to-day. If we had not applied chemistry to gold mining, there

would not be many mines working on the Golden Mile at the present time. It can safely be said that 90 per cent. of the gold that is extracted from ore is dissolved by means of cyanide solution, and in connection with the mining operations that are being carried on at Wiluna, success will first of all depend on the gold in the ore and then the extraction that is obtained. By means of the research work that is being carried on, we are hoping that that mine, on which so much money has already been expended, will be a wonderful success. We know also that without scientific research our wheat lands would not be producing within 40 per cent. of our present yields. A short time ago I read an article criticising the work that was done in some of our scientific institutions, such as the School of Mines and the Technical School. When a man starts to talk on scientific matters he enters another world, and he should know something about the subject. Very often it is the man working unobtrusively that brings fortune to a country and, sometimes, benefits himself, and he is the individual who should receive every encouragement. I ask hon. members, when debating questions around which are involved the subject of scientific research, to bear in mind the valuable work that has been done, and is still being done, by institutions such as the School of Mines, and not to hesitate to give their support to such establishments. Whatever money is spent in support of research work will be repaid a hundredfold. I submit the motion.

HON. C. H. WITTENOOM (South-East) [3.54]: I formally second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. C. B. Williams, debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 3.55 to 4.45 p.m.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £1.730,000.

All Stages.

Received from the Assembly, and read a first time.

Standing Orders Suspension.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.48]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Bill to be passed through all its stages at this sitting.

It is considered necessary by the Government that the Supply Bill should be passed to-day. Hence the motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders.

Question put and passed.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter East) [4.50] in moving the second reading said: It is usual for a Supply Bill to be passed at this stage of the session. The amount asked for is £1,730,000, being £850,000 from Consolidated Revenue Fund, £550,000 from General Loan Fund, £30,000 from Government Property Sales Fund, and £300,000 from the Treasurer's Advance Account. The amount is slightly less than that of the corresponding Bill of last session, which was £1,900,000. The difference is due to a smaller amount being asked for from General Loan Fund, £550,000 as compared with last year's £720,000. The Estimates for the current financial year are almost complete, and will be presented at an early date. The financial position has rendered their preparation a difficult task. Last year's results on revenue account were most unsatisfactory. When the 1929-30 Budget was presented, a surplus of £105,415 was anticipated. The actual result of the year's operations, however, was a deficit of £518,034, representing a difference of £623,419. The Railway Department showed a heavy falling-off as compared with the forecast, the actual result being that receipts fell £383,124 below expectations. Expenditure, on the other hand, showed a saving of only £167,352, the net result being £415,772 worse than the estimate. Taxation, however, has exceeded the estimate by £39,293. It is the cash position which causes most anxiety. At the 30th June last our overdraft in London stood at £1,320,000. In Australia there was a credit balance of £93,034. At the same date the General Loan Fund was overdrawn to the extent of £3,516,140. The Federal Government have been unable to borrow sufficient to cover our total authorisations by the Loan Council, and the shortage has been made up by the overdraft and by temporary advances granted by the Commonwealth, and also from trust funds. Hon. members will real-