

these expressions from the Leader of the Opposition, to "beware of the Greeks when they come with gifts in their hands."

Mr. SAMPSON (Swan) [5.56]: I desire first of all to thank members for the kindly expressions of sympathy extended to me during my recent serious illness and also for the very cordial reception accorded me this evening. As a stranger in the House—this is my first appearance—it is delightful to be met with so many expressions of friendliness. I hesitate to allude to one of the remarks made by the member for North Perth (Mr. MacCallum Smith), but the expressions he has used, embolden me because he said that this Chamber in its altered circumstances resembled a Garden of Eden. That being so, one who has recently recovered from a serious illness may be permitted to throw aside any diffidence which might otherwise be expected of him. As members may know, I have the honour to be a member of the Country Party, an organisation which is destined to become and, in fact, has become, a great power in the land. I cannot help thinking that the famous general of former times, Horatius, had in view perhaps the establishment of the Country Party when he used those words, "Where none was for party but all were for the State." The Country Party, I am sure, is always for the State and has no other objective than the improvement of the conditions of the general community.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That shows your inexperience.

Mr. SAMPSON: In common with the electorate of Swan, which I have the honour to represent, there are many other electorates which have the same difficulties to face. In Western Australia there are over 22,000 acres of orchard, vineyard, and similarly cultivated country. This area is cultivated by men, and in some cases by women, who are labouring under very great disadvantages. Fruit products imported into Western Australia for the year ended the 30th June last totalled £209,000 in value, while the importations of vegetables, sauces, pickles, etc., represented a total of over £166,000, and poultry and eggs another £10,000, aggregating in all £385,000. In referring to those figures I desire to point out that unfortunately the fruitgrower is always faced with a glutted market during the fruit season. In the early part of this year the Williams Bon Creton or Bartlett pears were being sent to Perth to realise as low a price as from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per case, and in spite of the fact that the cost of each fruit case was approximately to within a fraction of a shilling. On each occasion the fruitgrower has to provide a new case. This is one of the difficulties with which he is faced. It is one of the difficulties which it was hoped might be remedied. Fruitgrowing is a very important industry and members will agree it is only reasonable that special consideration should be extended towards it by the Government.

This could have been done by the State saw-mills supplying fruit cases at a reduced price, but unfortunately this trading concern charges the same price as the other saw-millers.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. Pickering: Because it is in the combine.

Mr. SAMPSON: The special difficulties with which the fruitgrowers are confronted justify the expectation that they will receive some relief. The dairying industry is a very important one in many parts of the State. It is particularly important inasmuch as dairy produce to the value of over £800,000 is imported into Western Australia every year. The dairy farmer has a very hard row to hoe and we look to the Government for assistance in the way of money to provide roads. Dairy farmers are usually located in areas where they have either to do without roads or form working bees to make roads for themselves. It might be news to some metropolitan members that, in districts as close as the road board adjoining Belmont and one in which I am particularly interested, ratepayers have formed working bees in order to construct a road for themselves. They have provided the money and the use of horses for this purpose.

Mr. Money: No tramways there.

Mr. SAMPSON: Although I do not desire to quarrel with the South Perth people in regard to the extension of the tramways, I propose to make reference to this question later on. The people of whom I have spoken have done this work in order that they might be able to get their produce to market. I know one man who, after paying rates to the local authority for 16 years, had to assist to make his own road. This is very discouraging. In the country districts, however, a remarkably fine spirit prevails, a spirit of pluck and energy, and it would amaze some of the people who live in the city as it amazed me, to find how bravely these men grapple with the problems with which they are confronted. The fruitgrower is in a bad way. I have already pointed out how he is faced each year with a glutted market. A young man goes out to the country and takes up a block of land. After five to seven years the crop begins to come in. Meanwhile he has to support himself by working for the local road board or for the older settlers. When the crop comes in, however, this unfortunate man and his wife find that the returns which they receive for their produce are disappointingly small. A man needs a stout heart when he views the small returns he gets for his labour. I was connected with an orchard for some 14 years, and on one occasion sent down eight cases of pears. The pears were sold, and in return two penny stamps were received. That was all that was got for the labour. Early this year several soldier settlers waited on the Darling Range road board with a re-

quest that certain road facilities should be provided. The work did not require much money and we were able to put it in hand. One of the settlers told us that, in order to keep the pot boiling, he had planted tomatoes and had sent four cases to market. He had just received the returns and for the four cases of tomatoes he received a net return of 3d. This was at a time when the State was importing fruit products. During the year we imported fruit products in the form of jams, jellies, tomato sauce and so on to the value of £385,000.

The Minister for Mines: Why?

Mr. SAMPSON: Because the market has never been organised and the grower is constantly confronted with a glutted market and receives no return for his labour.

The Minister for Mines: You want to organise and put the acid on the retailers.

Mr. SAMPSON: It is not my desire that any extra cost should be imposed upon consumers. Consumers always have to pay very heavy prices for these products. In Perth a few weeks ago oranges were selling for 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s. a dozen, and at the same time the unfortunate grower was receiving down to 3s. 6d. a case for them. This problem however, has a much wider significance because of the money which is being sent out of the State. Growers and their families find that they are quite unable to continue in the industry, and so the present lack of organisation has the effect of increasing the influx to the city concerning which we are all so anxious. Some of us are continually telling the people that we do not desire that Perth should be further glorified at the expense of the country. Even the member for North Perth (Mr. MacCallum Smith), who has shown such solicitude for the consumer of wheat, would admit that the man on the land deserves the utmost consideration, and that if we look after the country Perth will easily be able to look after itself.

Mr. Money: Quite right.

Mr. Richardson: We will look after it.

Mr. SAMPSON: The first need of the growers is organisation, and in connection with that organisation, one necessity is an up to date refrigerator. I understand that some time ago a commission was appointed to consider the question of erecting a modern refrigerator. The question, however, died an unnatural death and nothing further has been heard of it. A modern refrigerator is urgently needed. There are people who contend that in Perth there is ample refrigerator space already. During the last apple season 40,000 cases of apples were turned away, and since it was impossible to place them in cold storage, it is only natural to assume that they were returned to mother earth. Very often fruit is returned to mother earth because the grower knows that it will not pay to send it into Perth.

Mr. Money: It is absolutely wasted.

Mr. SAMPSON: That is so. A man at Kalamunda the other day informed me that a certain grower had had tons of pears and

should have sent them into Perth. I pointed out that while he would get perhaps 1s. 9d. a case in Perth for them, the case would cost him 1s. and in addition he would have the cost of packing, transport, and commission charges to meet. The man admitted that this was so, but he added "It would save him burying the fruit." This, unfortunately, is the position. While we are losing the money which is being sent out of the State, we are practically forcing these men and women from the land. What woman, however brave she might be, would stand to a man year after year when he was unable to provide her with a reasonable amount for food and clothing.

Mr. Fickering: And the women are the ones who suffer most.

Mr. SAMPSON: The children are forced to work long before they should; they have to work before and after school hours. Referring to school matters, some further consideration should be given to the annual amount of £30 allowed for scholarships, which is insufficient to pay for board. Consequently a heavy burden falls upon the parents, because they are prepared to make a sacrifice in order that a specially bright child should be given an opportunity. The little brothers and sisters also have to share in the sacrifice. They do not know it, but they have to go short simply because their parents cannot afford to give them all they should have.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are too late in the day telling us that people are poverty stricken.

Mr. SAMPSON: I would be pleased to take the hon. member out to my district. He would not find people pleading poverty, but he would find such a remarkable exhibition of thrift as would surprise even him. These people would not admit that they were poverty stricken.

The Minister for Mines: The fruitgrowers at Mt. Barker had the same difficulty. Why not organise as they did?

Mr. SAMPSON: No man minds working hard so long as he gets something for his labour, but it would break the heart of the strongest man to work year after year and to get no return for his labours.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. SAMPSON: Before tea I was referring to the dairying industry and its need of encouragement—encouragement in the way of herd testing and the importation of pure-bred stock. At present, of course, a small dairyman is quite unable to afford the necessary stock to improve his herd; and so a mongrel type of cattle is being bred, with a consequent decrease of the profits which should be forthcoming. The fruit growing industry might be assisted in various ways. It has already been advantaged by the opening of kerbstone markets, for which many of the

growers are extremely grateful. We are now looking to the Primary Producers' Association for a good deal of help in the matter of the distribution of fruit in the wheat growing and other country areas. In those areas there are numbers of co-operative stores, and arrangements are now being made by the Primary Producers' Association for the distribution of fruit through the agency of these stores. That will have a most beneficial effect in relieving congestion. But, coming to the point of the assistance which the Government might give, I would refer to the need for refrigerators in Perth and throughout the fruit growing districts. Last February or March I observed fruit being sent into the market here from at least one centre and being sold for as low as 2s. and even 1s. 6d. per case. The establishment of refrigerators in the various fruit growing centres would prevent such an occurrence in future. A very practical grower—I refer to Mr. Tom Price, of Illawarra orchard, beyond Kalamunda—has his own refrigerator, of a capacity of about 10,000 cases. When I was on his orchard Mr. Price was picking his pears and putting them into his own cold store. Later on, those pears would be released and a reasonable price obtained for them. Of course the small fruit-grower is quite unable to provide his own cold storage, and in this matter assistance is looked for from the Government. There is in existence a refrigerator in Wellington-street, as hon. members may be aware. It is stated to be an obsolete arrangement, and one requiring the maximum of manual effort in order to secure a minimum of result. I mentioned previously that the Government had given their attention to the establishment of a modern refrigerator, but that for some unknown reason the project was dropped. I understand that the departmental reports were favourable to the project; and it is my intention at a later stage, to ask that the papers connected with the matter be laid on the Table. Another remedy for gluts, and also a remedy for the continual outpouring of money from this State, is the establishment of jam factories. We have to-day in Perth one jam factory, and a very good factory, manufacturing the "Reindeer" brand. But that factory, good as it is, is quite insufficient to supply the needs of the Western Australian people in the form of jam. In this matter the fruitgrowers look to the Government for support in the same way as the Queensland fruitgrowers were granted support by the Government of their State. Our growers want to see canning factories and pulping plants established, feeling that when these things have been done it will be possible for them to make some progress. Moreover, the effect would be to prevent money going out of the State. I am sure hon. members realise the great importance of retaining this money in Western Australia, as well as of retaining the growers on their holdings. I

am indeed pleased that many hon. members have spoken in favour of taxing unimproved lands which abut on railways, or are in the vicinity of existing lines. I earnestly hope that something definite will be done in this matter during the present session. Our railway loss could, I think, be turned into a profit if those lands were forced into use. That would also be a means towards the wiping out of the deficit, which desirable end would be further promoted by the adoption of means favouring the use here of our own orchard products. With regard to the South Perth tramways there has been a good deal of controversy. In that connection the position of country members is very difficult. I could quite understand the member for North Perth (Mr. MacCallum Smith), if he were where he should be, namely with the Country Party, giving many sound reasons why the construction of the extension should be deferred. However, I have no intention at present of making any such suggestion. Still I would urge that the Government, before irrevocably committing themselves to the building of the extension, consider the motor bus means of transit, which in other parts of the world has been found to be far more suitable and economical and flexible, and generally of far greater service to the public, than tramways.

Mr. Clydesdale: That would not be the case on these roads.

Mr. SAMPSON: The roads would require to be reconstructed, in any case, when the tramways are laid. I am not posing as an expert on either trams or motor buses; but I think the least that might be done is to give serious attention to the claims of both systems of transport. Personally I am inclined to think that the result would be a consensus of opinion in favour of motor buses, which in the Old Country have proved a far better and far more economical and far more satisfactory means of transit.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Motor buses had a trial here.

Mr. SAMPSON: No doubt they did; but that was in the early days of the internal combustion engine. To-day one of those motor buses would be valuable only as an exhibit for a museum. The motor bus of to-day is a very reliable machine.

Mr. Clydesdale: On good roads.

Mr. SAMPSON. We must have good roads before we can run trams on them. I believe that the keeping of the highway in sufficiently good repair for the running of motor buses would be the better method. I desire to congratulate the Government on what they have done in regard to the Tourist Bureau. They have removed the institution to Barrack-street, and the general public are now getting to know where it is. I consider that in Mr. Hayward the Government have a very able man, who displays a great deal of enthusiasm. Only the other day a friend of mine, after visiting the Tourist Bureau, said to me, "The time has gone by when Western Australians need go East for a holiday, because at

last we have a department which is alive to the opportunities for holiday-making that exist here; and in place of Western Australians having to go East for a trip, they may now take as their motto, 'See Western Australia first,' and trips are all ready mapped out for them." We can honestly congratulate ourselves on the coming about of this improvement. Regarding immigration I think we are all of one mind as to the need for a vigorous policy. In this connection I cannot help expressing my feeling that our Agent General's office has for too long been a kind of social rendezvous instead of a place where information regarding Western Australia can be obtained. Having visited the Agent General's office, I have been amazed at the difficulty in obtaining information.

Mr. Teesdale: You must not say that here; it is very unpopular.

Mr. SAMPSON: Only on my second or third visit was I able to get the information I wanted. It was in the form of printed matter. I was bold enough, just shortly before the war, to hold a meeting of Devonshire lads with a view to recommending them to come out here and settle on the land. It took at least two visits to the Agent General's office before I could obtain the printed matter giving the exact details I wished to place before my audience of possible immigrants. At a later stage I intend to move for a return showing the personnel of the Agent General's office. I hope to learn that they are all Western Australians, and that they all know something of Western Australia.

Mr. Teesdale: Only three of them have ever been in Western Australia.

Mr. SAMPSON: Then the staff should be changed. I make no reference to the recent report with regard to furniture, but I do say that the staff of our Agent General's office should undoubtedly be composed of Western Australians, men who are enthusiastic regarding this State and have some knowledge of it, and who, when a possible immigrant comes along for information, will see that he obtains the most reliable and most up-to-date information that it is possible to supply. The need of water is an ever pressing problem in this State, and nowhere is it more required than in some parts of the Swan district. I hope I will not be considered parochial in referring to the Swan district, but I may tell hon. members that Parkerville has no water service, and that last year several cases of typhoid fever occurred there as the result of the absence of good drinking water. At Darlington also there is no water available and each summer the place is deserted because of that.

Mr. Lambert: Do they not store water in tanks?

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes, but to supply the needs of everyone in those places it would be necessary to have tanks of big storage capacity to carry enough water to last throughout the summer. Glen Forrest and

Swan View are also without water supplies, and I earnestly hope when the Estimates are being framed consideration will be given to the needs of the places I have mentioned because we cannot expect to develop them without an adequate water supply. If water were available at Darlington, I venture to say that within three years there would be resident in that place from five to eight times the number of people who are there to-day, while such unfortunate happenings as an outbreak of typhoid fever in the hills would not be known. We look forward to the time when the main roads of the State will be controlled by the Government, and when we shall have uniform construction. This will be an advantage to everyone concerned. I have made some reference to the manner in which settlers in the different districts work and are prepared to go out and work and thus provide themselves with roads. These settlers in fact are working in some districts to-day, although ratepayers for many years. It is very unfair that that should be so, and I am hopeful that it will be possible for the Minister to revert to the payment of the subsidy which was voted in the pre-war period. If we are to prosper, we must give people roads over which to carry their produce to market. Perishable produce such as soft fruits cannot be carried over bad roads because of their liability to injury. The pre-war subsidy should be again paid at almost any cost if we wish to preserve our industries and particularly that of fruit growing. If it is desired to prove the oft-repeated statement that we are out to help the producers, and that it is not our intention to glorify Perth, the Government should do as I suggest.

Mr. HICKMOTT (Pingelly) [7.50]: I wish to join with other members in extending hearty congratulations to the new members on their election to this House. It is not my intention to labour the question of the adoption of the Address-in-reply. I have read the Governor's Speech, but I have failed to find much of great importance in it. My chief object in addressing a few remarks to the House is to refute statements made by my friends on the Opposition benches with reference to the position of the members of the Country Party, and their association with outside bodies. I have been a member of the Country Party since its inception and I can honestly say without fear of contradiction that during the whole of my experience I have never been spoken to in connection with what I have done or what I have not done.

Hon. P. Collier: They treat you with reverence as the father of the family.

Mr. HICKMOTT: A great deal of attention has been directed to the Country Party by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin), and also the member for Mount Magnet (Mr. Troy). Judging by the articulations and gesticulations of the mem-