

- 3, Coal Mine Workers (Pensions).
- 4, Trade Unions Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Labour.
- 5, Mine Workers' Relief Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Mines.
- 6, Main Roads Act (Funds Appropriation).

Introduced by the Minister for Lands  
(for the Minister for Works).

*House adjourned at 5.47 p.m.*

## Legislative Council.

*Wednesday, 25th August, 1943.*

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

### QUESTION—SCHOOL DRIVING ALLOWANCE.

*As to Income Limit for Participation.*

Hon. A. THOMSON asked the Chief Secretary: Will the Government consider abolishing the net income limit (£250 per year) now in force thereby debaring parents earning over that amount from participating in the driving allowance—6d. per day per child attending school when a horse and sulky is provided, and 6d. per week when a bicycle is provided?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: No. But the Government is considering raising the income limit.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*Sixth Day.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [4.34]: Before addressing myself to the Lieut-Governor's Speech, I would like to say how thankful and grateful I am that the position in which the Empire stands today compared with that in which it was at our last meeting is ever so much better, and is such as to induce us to go forward at an accelerated pace. Perhaps sooner than most of us thought possible two months ago, we shall have crushed the ruthless enemy that has created such a ter-

rible state of affairs in the world in general and in our beloved Motherland in particular. Permit me also to acknowledge the great debt we owe to those who have made the supreme sacrifice and to those others who have undergone great privations and sufferings in order that we may remain a free people, thus enabling us to carve out our destiny in the way that democratic people have every right to expect.

I would further seek the privilege of commenting on the recent expression of public opinion throughout this Commonwealth and congratulate the Labour Party on having been returned to the National Parliament with such a substantial majority. I take it that that party will endeavour to put into operation the platform to which it professes to subscribe. Certainly, the new conditions in the Federal sphere will be a great advancement on the uncertain state of affairs that existed in the National Parliament subsequent to the previous election as the result of which two Independents were responsible for the fate of the Ministry. The Labour Party appears likely to have a majority in both Houses but, if it brings in certain legislation which it has promised to introduce, I think that those members of this Chamber and another place who worked so enthusiastically for the return of Labour may live to regret that they displayed so much enthusiasm in that direction, because I understand that one of the planks of the Federal Labour Party's political platform seeks the abolition of State Parliaments and also the Senate. However, whether that will be done remains to be seen.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: The One Parliament for Australia candidates did not receive much support!

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: The first item in the Lieut-Governor's Speech to which I wish to refer concerns the very important mining industry. I do not propose to touch on what was once the great goldmining industry of this State and the blow that was dealt it by the Commonwealth Government. The people have spoken and we must accept their verdict. I do, however, want to say something about base metals because in Northampton, which is in the Central Province, there are a number of mines which, as many members know, have for years past been producers of lead and copper. I have here a letter from the Under Secretary for Mines in which he advises me of 14 mines that are

at work producing both copper and lead in that district. I have a newspaper clipping which states that in September last a committee was appointed to explore fields in the Cobar district of New South Wales and that Government nominees were appointed to advise the Administration whether those fields were worth subsidising. I do not know if it is too much to ask the Minister to tell the House and the people of my province, when he replies to the debate, whether this committee or the Western Australian committee has devoted any attention to the possibilities of the mines in the Northampton district. I cannot say much about them, being a layman, but it is understood that they have produced considerable quantities of copper in the past.

I would very much like to know if those mines have been worked out and are therefore not considered worthy of the expenditure of further public money. Should the Minister afford us any information on that point I shall be grateful. In yesterday's issue of "The West Australian" I noticed an informative announcement by the Minister for Mines. From that statement I am pleased to know that the Government intends spending money on further prospecting for coal at Eradu which is about 30 miles from Geraldton. Perhaps members will remember a syndicate being formed in Geraldton to prove those coal seams, but the undertaking did not meet with much success. I commend the Government upon its decision to investigate further the possibilities of the district. Some years ago the present Labour Government engaged the services of an undoubted authority in Australia on coalmining and that gentleman, in his capacity as a Royal Commissioner, submitted among other recommendations a proposal that the coal seams in the Irwin district should be exploited. An article that appeared in "The West Australian" of the 14th July, 1937, contained the following comment—

Dr. Herman mentioned that the stratigraphical series containing the Irwin River coal seams cover some hundreds of square miles and he argued that it is "quite within the bounds of reasonable probability that somewhere within these several hundred square miles there may be found by further boring a coal seam or seams of quality comparable with that of the Collie seams."

In the circumstances the Government is to be commended upon its decision to investi-

gate further the possibility of the coal seams at Eradu, which centre is closer to the coast than are the Irwin deposits. In the event of the Eradu seams proving unworthy of development, I trust the Government will give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commissioner in favour of the development of the Irwin deposits.

Hon. A. Thomson: I could never understand why that was not done years ago.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: The next item in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech to which I shall direct attention has reference to our railways. No one will deny that that section of our governmental services has had very heavy demands made upon both rolling stock and employees. While we sometimes complain about the late running of trains it has to be confessed that the railway system has stood up to the demand very well. Certainly it is a matter for great regret that, due to many men having been allowed to enlist whose services should have been retained to the State, the rolling stock is now in a shocking state of disrepair. Although another matter affecting the railways does not concern my province, as it is one that I regard as of great importance I am prompted to ask the Minister—I shall not refer to the failure of the Government to do anything because I wish to be correct in the attitude I adopt—if he will answer the question: Has the Government or the Commissioner of Railways or the responsible authority done anything to make quite safe the Swan View tunnel where existing conditions caused the death of an engine-driver some little time ago? If ever a union was justified in taking strong action, it was the enginedrivers' organisation in its effort to protect the lives of its members by insisting upon something being done to render the journey through the tunnel more safe. If what is necessary has not been done, I wonder that the men stand it at all.

I have frequently mentioned in this House the railway service provided by the Midland Railway Co. I have read the provisions of the original Act which was passed to enable the line to be built, and I consider the Government has some authority over the Midland Railway Co. There again the war has made very serious demands upon the company's service, and it has risen to the occasion in a very able manner. However, members can imagine my surprise when on Monday last I went to the railway station

with a lady member of my family to see her off to Geraldton and found that there was not a single "ladies only" compartment on the Midland Co.'s train. During the previous week I had endeavoured to book a sleeper, but I found that both sleeping coaches had been booked out. I thought at least that I would have been able to ensure for her a trip home in a "ladies only" compartment but, as I have mentioned, there was none. I do not regard that as fair, particularly when it is remembered that the train leaves Perth at 4.35 p.m. and is due at Geraldton at 8 a.m. the following day and frequently does not reach its destination until 10 or 11 o'clock. That is a matter that the Government should take up with the Midland Railway Co. with a view to securing some remedy. The difficulty should be overcome, although I realise the great demands that are made upon the company's rolling stock at the present juncture.

Another matter of major importance referred to in the Speech concerns education. I remember the time when many thousands of pounds were spent on the erection of that handsome building in East Perth—the Perth Girls' School. Those of us who represent country districts do not begrudge the girls of the metropolitan area the advantages to which they are entitled; but when we know that many vital requirements are denied the children in the country, naturally such a state of affairs gives rise to unfavourable comment. Particularly is that so when we see such a large expenditure undertaken in the metropolitan area while at the same time country schools are starved for necessary attention. Recently it was my pleasure to attend a concert given by the pupils of the Perth Girls' School in their large assembly hall. I appreciate the fact that such a hall, where the girls can hold concerts, is indeed a credit to the State and to the city, and when I glanced around the room I felt somewhat guilty for having made some remarks about the expenditure that had been incurred on the building. Certainly it is fitting that our girls should have a noble handsome building equipped with all the latest appliances for the furthering of their education. I know we are not entitled to expect similar buildings in every country district, but at least we are right in asking for the provision of many essential requirements in the outer areas, requirements that I am sorry to say

are by no means always granted when sought.

Turning from the Perth Girls' School to the Perth Boys' School, what do we find? The building has been badly located. I do not wish to poach on other people's preserves, but since the last meeting of this Parliament I have taken part in an inquiry, with regard to which I desire to have something to say. I ask to be excused for drawing attention to the disgraceful state of affairs existing in connection with the Perth Boys' School. The matter is one than interests members of another place as well as members of this Chamber. It is for both Houses to inquire where are the playgrounds for the numbers of boys attending the Perth Boys' School? We are told that it is in the early years that bad habits as well as good habits are formed. One has only to walk through the Perth Boys' School grounds, as I do frequently, to realise the totally inadequate nature of the provision that has existed for years and years for the boys attending that institution. Such a position is utterly unfair.

We used to be told here, time and again, that there was no money. I do not know whether Ministers sitting in this Chamber propose to continue along that line. However, the no-money idea is absolutely exploded. I have long had my doubts on the subject because of the frequent statements made to that effect. My belief is that the excuse will not be accepted by the people in future, irrespective of what political party may be in power. We are told that there is no more important object than the education of our children. I care not what objection may be made, but an education is only half an education if the physical requirements of the pupils are not fully met. To make quite sure of my ground, I asked a junior officer of this House where he went to school. He replied that he went to the Perth Boys' School. I then asked him how did the boys get on for playing tennis, football and cricket. He looked at me as if I was on the wrong side of Claremont. I leave it at that. As a country member mentioning the requirements of a Perth school, I may be criticised by the residents of my province; but it is up to all of us to take notice of these matters and bring them to the attention of the Government. I do hope that conditions somewhat comparable to those obtaining at the Perth Girls' School

will be made applicable to the Perth Boys' School.

Turning now to the Geraldton High School, I may begin by remarking that similar conditions obtain at Albany, Bunbury and Northam. Children from huge districts attend those institutions. The children of a particular district have to attend a certain school. There are areas marked out for each school. But when the children, or their parents, get to the particular town, they have to ferret out—I use that expression advisedly—some place at which to stay. Some people take in adult boarders, and in the same way other people take in these High School pupils as boarders. I am aware that this is a matter of policy on the part of the Government, and that therefore it is no use going to the Director of Education to discuss the subject. Again we are told there is no money. My contention is that meantime the Government is only half doing the job. If we want to give complete education to the country children of this huge and sparsely populated State, the Government must either erect suitable hostels or make it worth while for private enterprise to do so. Has any thought ever been given to the evening studies required of these pupils if they are to do a fair thing for themselves and justify the sacrifices their parents make in letting the children go off the farms?

Is it news to members of this Chamber that, according to a very high educational authority, a boy or a girl who desires to pass the junior examination must devote two hours each evening, except on Saturday and Sunday, to home study? I was surprised to be told that not only by one individual but by several persons who know what they are talking about. In many homes where these boarders are taken in, no conveniences whatever exist for that highly necessary evening study. So I say that if we want to do this educational job as it should be done, the Government must go the whole way and erect hostels where the children may enjoy the benefit of the facilities for combined evening study. We have churches doing work of this kind. The good Bishop of the North-West, the Rev. John Frewer, has a fair-sized hostel in Geraldton, where boys of his church who come from the country, may live. We all know that the Christian Brothers have similar institutions in Geraldton and elsewhere. The Sisters of Mercy and the nuns act similarly. If

religious institutions can do this, why cannot the State? I wish to inform members living in the city that there have been some tragic happenings in connection with children coming from the country to live in these towns, who go to board with people not competent to have children in their charge and not qualified to exercise the necessary supervision over children.

Hon. G. B. Wood: Very true!

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: In conclusion I would say that the Education Department is proud of the number of its male teachers who have enlisted. I myself am not too proud of that fact. Whilst I admire men who go away to fight for their country, I consider that the Education Department should have exercised the right it has to retain a number of its male teachers. Does the House know that by reason of the fact that our staffs have been sorely depleted, we now have women endeavouring to instruct classes of boys—I could say wrestling with that task? I maintain that is neither good for the boys nor the women who are endeavouring to do the work.

The next item in the Speech is—

A general stocktaking of land available for post-war settlement and the re-grouping of holdings in outer areas is in progress.

I raised this matter when the previous Government was in power. I wonder why Parliament passes Acts to which effect is never given. Why is it that the Closer Settlement Act has never been carried into effect? Are Governments afraid to put it into force? It certainly seems to be so, and I wonder why. Another item in the Speech is—

Wartime conditions have produced an acute housing shortage, and investigations into this problem have been made by a representative committee.

If the representative committee has done its job, I hope it has made very strong reference to a number of houses in a street in this city bearing the name of a very honourable early resident, Mr. Roe. I wonder why this state of affairs in connection with another Act of Parliament is allowed to continue. Prostitution in this State is illegal, and yet we see a number of horrible looking places in Roe-street which are known to be used for immoral purposes. Neither the Government nor the City Council, both of which have seen this going on year after year, takes any action.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: A couple of those people were fined yesterday.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I am not a lawyer, but there must be some other way, I think, than to bring these people now and again before the court and fine them, as is done in the case of starting-price bookmakers. We should do something more serious than that if we do anything at all. It does not seem that the authorities are looking at this matter in the right light. We wonder why we have to pass Acts of Parliament to compel people to get on the roll and, having got them there, compel them to vote. That is because of those things to which I have just referred. People say, "You are not serious. You are not 'dinkum.' You pass Acts of Parliament and do not put them into effect." I support Mr. Parker's references to ministers of religion interfering in politics. Equally reprehensible is the taking up by some so-called present-day Christians of the age-old claim that there is only one true church. Especially is that reprehensible while we are engaged in a terrific struggle against an enemy which has no regard for Christian principles. Government censorship should not have allowed to be broadcast such a deplorably unchristian utterance as that to the effect that the children of those persons linked in marriage by duly authorised Government officials are illegitimate.

This would appear to be a deliberate attempt to stir up religious strife, and should not be tolerated in this country where a big majority of the people believe that in God's sight all men are equal. A few years ago I quoted the opinion of Archbishop Prendiville who said that communism was one of the greatest evils we had to contend with. If he is still of that mind it would seem that some professing Christians should combine to prevent any anti-God Government from obtaining power in this country rather than attempt to divide and embitter their fellow-professing Christians. On the 6th August, 1941, I asked a question in this House as follows:—

Does the Government intend to make available to those concerned particulars regarding marginal areas? If so, when?

The Chief Secretary replied in the following terms—

Yes. Values on the new basis are in course of preparation and will be made available to individual settlers as soon as the work is completed.

That was two years ago. I am still being asked by people in my province if I can

expedite the receipt of advice as to whether they are in marginal areas and whether they are to be prevented from growing wheat. Seeing that Sir Hal Colebatch mentioned the Select Committee—subsequently appointed as an honorary Royal Commission—which inquired into the question of juvenile delinquents, would you, Mr. President, permit me to quote from the evidence tendered during the inquiry? That evidence has not been printed owing, I understand, to a shortage of paper. Judging from the volume of paper that was flying around the country recently, it does not appear that there was then a great shortage of paper. The evidence, however, is not available for members to read and that is why I would like to quote extracts from it. As the member who was responsible for the appointment of the Select Committee in the first place, I feel justified in taking this step. When I have read from the evidence, I am sure members will come to the conclusion, as those of us who served on the Committee have already done, that the inquiry was well justified. The Commissioner of Police made the following observations:—

There are three factors that go to making a bad juvenile. The first is the lack of parental control and home training. It is absolutely essential to bring up a child well if he is going to be a credit to himself in later years. The second factor is that in these days there is a lack of religious training and education as compared with the days when I was young.

A lot of the delinquent children have passed the compulsory school age?—That is so. I consider that every boy on leaving a public school should be required to learn a trade. That should be made compulsory. When dealing with applications for positions, I have been amazed to find that 95 per cent. of the applicants have been labourers—men without a trade of any kind. That is not right.

Mr. Thomson will be pleased to know that his advocacy of technical training for boys is endorsed by the Commissioner of Police. The Commissioner continued—

Before a boy is sent to an institution he should be tried on probation, but not under the present system of one probation officer. There should be half a dozen or 10 probation officers so that they could supervise. The present system of probation officers is not having the effect that it should have.

I now turn to the evidence given by Chief Inspector Doyle. He said—

I have some brief notes to give an idea of what I know of juvenile delinquency. My idea is that in order to have good children it is essential for them to have a good home influence, good control by the parents and a good example set by them. Nothing, in my

opinion, can make up for that. There should be a good home training and good Christian teaching. That is essential in the making up of good citizens.

I wonder what good Christian teaching our children who attend State schools are getting other than, I am afraid, the rather haphazard visits that are paid by ministers of religion. Chief Inspector Doyle continued—

If it were possible every boy should receive technical training at schools. It should be compulsory.

There we have the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Inspector in agreement.

A lot of boys do not like ordinary school work but they might like technical training. They would be interested in machinery and in carpenters' tools or electrical equipment or tools of other kinds. Such training would probably make them realise that to be efficient tradesmen they would have to have a knowledge of the rudiments of education, particularly figures, and that would probably be an incentive to them to study their ordinary school lessons more thoroughly than if they were not given technical training.

Too many young children are taken before the court. At present, however, there is no other way to deal with them.

I would be very hesitant to send any boy to gaol even though he had committed several serious offences.

Many people think that the police are all in favour of sending people to gaol. The inspector in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department, Mr. Read, gave the following evidence—

This Committee asked if the figures for the town and country could be separated. That is impossible, but I can say without fear of contradiction that 90 per cent. of these juvenile delinquency figures refer to the metropolitan area. There are a few cases from Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Albany, but the bulk of them are from the metropolitan area.

I submit for your information records of juvenile offenders who have continued a life of crime. These records will show the classes of crime in which they continue.

I ask the attention of members to the figures I am now about to give. The inspector said—

One lad now 19 years of age first came under the notice of the police in July, 1936. He has continued a criminal career right throughout, and is at present in custody at Barton's Mill. From 1936 to 1943 he has committed 25 offences of a serious nature. Another boy first came under the notice of the police in 1939. He has continued a criminal career and is at present undergoing a sentence of three years for robbery with violence. In all he has been charged nine times. Another boy first came under the notice of the Children's Court in 1940 and at the present time is undergoing a

sentence of four years, and at the Governor's pleasure. He has committed 16 offences in that time.

What age is he now?—Eighteen. Another lad first came under the notice of the Children's Court at Perth in 1937 and has continued his career of crime. He has been charged 25 times. All the charges against him are either for stealing or unlawful possession. Another boy first came under notice in 1932 at the Children's Court, Perth. He has gone on with a career of crime and committed 35 offences. His last conviction was in 1940 when a penalty of three years' imprisonment was imposed. This lad has also been convicted in Queensland for two simple offences. Another boy, now 24 years of age, came under the notice of the Children's Court in 1936. He continued his criminal career up to last year. He has been charged 33 times.

Another lad first came under the notice of the Children's Court in 1937 and has been convicted 52 times. He is at present undergoing a sentence of two years for breaking, entering and stealing, and for escaping custody. He is now 19 years old. These are just a few cases I have brought along. I thought they might prove that these lads do continue their crime careers.

It is noticeable that if a child has only been convicted once and does not come back a second time, we seldom hear of him again. If, however, he comes up a second time he generally continues with a life of crime.

That shows that in the early stages some determined effort should be made to prevent this great deterioration—of a comparatively few, let us be thankful to say—of our boys. It entails a life of misery for them and a big expense to the State. The inspector continued—

I have also copies of the records of children still under the jurisdiction of the Children's Court. The first is a lad of 17 years of age who has been convicted 25 times before the Children's Court.

Is he at large now?—His record shows that he should be out.

By the Chairman: In this instance the lad was first convicted on a charge of assaulting a female child. He was committed to an institution until 18 years of age. How does it come about that he is at large?—The Child Welfare Department in its wisdom thought he should be allowed out on probation, and he is out.

Does not that probationary period end when he has been again brought before the court?—It should.

It seems extraordinary. This child was convicted in 1936 when he was only ten years of age?—In this instance I understand the lad is sub-normal. He was charged with two offences regarding the stealing of cars. One of these cars he pushed into the river at York and another into the Swan River.

By Hon. C. B. Williams: Was that recently?—Yes. When arrested he told the detectives

that if it were not for the likes of him, the detectives would all be out of work. That just goes to show the mentality of this lad. He has received three months for escaping from custody.

By the Chairman: Where is he now?—He is in custody.

But his three months' term is up?—Yes, but there are eight charges against him and some of the sentences are cumulative and others concurrent. There is another lad who is 16 years of age who first came before the Children's Court in 1941. Up to the 28th December, 1942, he had committed 36 offences. He has been cautioned and released, and on his latest conviction for breaking, entering and stealing was re-committed to an institution but has been released while on good behaviour. This lad moves around with a number of others in a sort of gang. Their work in breaking into shops and dwellings would be a credit to expert cracksmen. Another lad 17 years of age first came before the Children's Court in June, 1940. Up to the present he has been convicted on 28 charges. I would point out that while the record shows only 28 charges, from the standpoint of the Detective Office, they were the only ones we could prove, but we are perfectly satisfied that he committed a far greater number of offences. This lad, although only 17 years of age, is at present in the Scaforth Home. He comes from good parents who have done everything possible to put him on the right track. He works a good deal alone in breaking and entering into premises. The last time he escaped from Scaforth he went straight to his own home, broke into the premises and stole his mother's money. Another lad aged 16 years first came under the notice of the Children's Court on the 26th April, 1940, and to date he has committed 24 crimes. All these charges are serious ones. Here is the record of one of that lad's mates who came under notice of the court on the 22nd March, 1937, for the first time. Up to the 26th October, 1941, he had been presented on 42 charges.

By the Chairman: In this instance the position is much the same as with the other. This lad is now only 16 years of age. The first charge against him was one of stealing on which he was presented on two counts. He was committed to an institution and then released on good behaviour. Two other charges were preferred against him and he was again sent to the institution, but allowed out for medical treatment. Again he was committed to the institution until he was 18. Although only 16 years of age he has been allowed out and has committed over a dozen offences since!—That is a matter entirely for the Child Welfare Department. Our department has no control over the position.

We know that, but it is extraordinary that a child, having been sentenced four or five times, and having been committed to an institution until he is 18 years of age, can then by some means be allowed out, and he is in a position to commit a dozen more offences?—The same thing applies to others.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It would not be the Child Welfare Department, but the magistrate.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: It is the Child Welfare Department. The Chairman asked the inspector another question—

Is the lad at large now?—He is inside. Of course I cannot guarantee that he is inside because the Child Welfare Department allows these lads out without notifying us. Here is another case. The lad is 18 years of age. He first came under the notice of the Children's Court on the 16th May, 1934, and he has been before the Supreme Court. On the 2nd March, 1943, he was sentenced to 12 months' hard labour on a charge of breaking and entering. He subsequently escaped from custody but was re-arrested and given an additional month's imprisonment.

He was only nine years of age when first in trouble?—He is only 18 years old at present.

The inspector related another case—

In another instance the lad first came before the Children's Court in 1938 and has since been convicted on 26 charges. At present he is 15 years old, yet he was committed to an institution until he was 18 years of age.

By the Chairman: He was 10 years of age when he was first committed to an institution?—That is so. In the case of another lad who is 16 years of age, he has committed 20 offences since he was first charged on the 1st March, 1942.

The Chairman: This boy was released so long as he was on good behaviour. Surely that should mean that when good behaviour ceased, release should cease.

Hon. C. R. Cornish: I think that once he broke his word he should have been sent back.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I thought that was the idea.

The Chairman: He was committed to an institution for 12 months on December last, and since then has committed half-a-dozen offences.

The Witness: That gives you an idea of what is happening.

Is this not astounding? That is why I am asking members to listen to me. Inspector Read gave another instance—

Here is the case of another boy, aged 17, who between 1937 and last year, had been brought up on 23 charges. He was sent to an institution and recommitted, but still he comes back. Another boy, now 16 years of age, first came before the Children's Court in 1939. He has been convicted of 40 offences, and you may depend upon it that in the case of a lad like that, there are probably 40 more offences that we do not know of.

Hon. C. R. Cornish: Of course a lot of crimes are committed and are never reported.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: This is a farce.

The Witness: Another boy, now aged 17, first came before the court in 1938 and between then and 1942 he had 17 convictions, 14

of which were for unlawfully assuming control of motor cars. In nearly every case the Police Department is not notified when the boys are released on probation.

By Hon. C. B. Williams: Not notified at any time?—No.

Your advice is not asked by the department?—No. When a prisoner is released from gaol, notification is sent to the Police Department so that we can be on the lookout. We say that so-and-so is out and will be doing jobs again, but we have not been notified when boys have been released on probation. Here is an interesting case. A boy escaped from the Gonnells Home on the 7th November, 1942, and was re-arrested on the 26th of the same month. He was then sent to Tardun but escaped from there on the 11th March, 1943, and was re-arrested at Northam on the 13th. He was sent to the Castledare Orphanage and escaped on the 15th. The following day he was re-arrested at Perth and sent back to the Child Welfare Department. He escaped from the train while being returned to Tardun on the 19th, was re-arrested on the 30th and sent to the Swan Boys' Orphanage. He escaped from there on the 2nd April, and was re-arrested two days later. He escaped from the Children's Court on the 5th April, and was re-arrested last night.

If that state of affairs does not need inquiring into and something done to meet the shocking position that has existed for some considerable period, I would like to know what does. In fairness to Mr. Schroeder, I think I should make the following brief quotations from his evidence:—

The Child Welfare Act is headed by the Preamble that it was passed by both Houses to make better provision for the protection, the control and the reformation of children and for other purposes. The committee will observe that there is no mention of the word "punishment" in the purposes of the Act; but, of course, punishment is necessary in many cases. My court is not like a police court. It is a court of reformation and I have always insisted that I should go to the greatest extent possible in my power to save the child. Therefore, what might seem extraordinary procedure in a police court is quite justified in my court. I try to put the child on the right lines.

Mr. Schroeder gives an interesting instance—

We had a boy named —. He had 60 convictions. Just previous to the last time he came before me the police took him in a car to the Esplanade to pick up some loot which he had buried there. They took him in the Bentley. He put his hand in the pocket of the door and pulled out a revolver and shoved it into the ribs of the detective snarling at him like a wild animal. Fortunately the revolver was not loaded. I sent him to the Supreme Court. I was sick of him. The judge gave him 12 months. I used to go down to Fremantle gaol once a month to see the boys

there. After — had been in gaol for eight months he said, "Can't you get me out?" I said, "I did not put you here. If you play up again you will make a fool of me." He replied, "No, I won't. This has fixed me." I have a fund so I said, "Very well, I will get you out. I will give you a new suit and send you home to your mother for three weeks and give you £1 a week." He later came in dressed in his new suit, the first full suit he had had in his life.

By the Chairman: What age was he?—He was 17. I got him into the A.I.F. and found him a cobbler at Northam. He served in the Middle East and Syria and fought at Buna and Gona. Last week he came to see me from the Hollywood Hospital, broken down in health. That goes to show that we can do something with these boys if we only make the attempt. Mr. Schroeder continued—

Yesterday a nice-looking, upstanding airman came to see me. I had given him six months. It was in the old section of the gaol before the war. I could keep the boys away from all the other prisoners. None of the boys I sent to that old section ever came back to the court. This chap came back to say goodbye to me because he is going on Active Service.

Later Mr. Schroeder said—

I have criticised Barton's Mill, but I have had a long experience of the Fremantle gaol which I visited sometimes twice a week for four years. I know it very well. It is an old relic of the convict days. It turns men into rats. It is unnatural. There is a gaol smell about the men. I consider that Barton's Mill is really a most excellent idea. It is the best thing that has been done in this State and in Australia for many years, but the trouble is that something is lacking there. I do not know what it is, but something is wrong. Last week some boys who escaped said that the doors were open. They simply walked out of the huts. I have been criticised because I have been reluctant to send boys there. In the first place I will tell you what I was told by the boys. One said that he had to sleep near the guard's tent to escape the attentions of the old men.

I will not ask the House to listen to what follows, but if members so desire they can read it themselves, and it is because of that that I brought this matter before the House. Was it for that reason that the Chief Secretary tried to persuade members to vote against my motion? I cannot and will not believe it. I say that the hon. gentleman controlling the prisons evidently did not know what was occurring there, but it was happening.

In conclusion I just want to make one or two remarks in quoting from a gentleman who is a psychologist. We have an excellent medical man who made a most favourable impression on us, but we



have not the advantage of having a psychologist, and I entreat the Government to do something in the direction of providing one. Members may hold varied opinions on the value of psychology. I am aware that there are high authorities who are against it, but I remind members that the Army has adopted it. Therefore we ought to realise that there is something in it. Of course, much depends upon the individual. Let me quote a few brief references by Dr. H. L. Fowler, head of the Psychology Department of the University—

In this State we have a Child Welfare Department and a Children's Court, and we have various institutions to which children may be committed, but it seems that the child, however young, must be charged with some offence before assistance can be given to him. The absurdity of charging a babe in arms with being a neglected child should be apparent to all. It is a disgrace to an intelligent community. A great number of cases which come before the Children's Court should never, in my opinion, get there.

In our public officers we have much to be thankful for. Many of them are earnest, enthusiastic and conscientious men, and from their numbers we could get an honorary council that would do excellent work. Therefore the bugbear of expenditure need not be raised. The members of the Select Committee were unanimous on this point. There should be co-operation and co-ordination between the various departments that deal with the young people. I hope the Government will not go to the country until it has done something in this very important matter. I thank members for their patient hearing and support the motion.

**HON. L. B. BOLTON** (Metropolitan): At the outset let me express gratification at the improvement in the war position. When we assembled two years ago the outlook was very disquietening and on many occasions since it has seemed very black indeed. In spite of the improvement, however, I suggest that the time has not yet arrived when we can afford to let up on our war effort. If we desire to secure an early victory over the enemy, we must continue to use all our resources, energy and courage. The people of Australia have reason to be proud of the efforts of the members of the Fighting Forces. We in this State have reason to be proud of the achievements and the awards gained by our men. Another matter for congratulation has regard to contributions to the

various patriotic funds continually requiring help. Those of us who are unable to fight can still assist by paying. It is gratifying to find that Western Australia is at least holding its own in this direction. Speaking from experience of the industry I control, I must say that I was sorry to notice an announcement in the newspaper this morning to the effect that the Premier supports the re-introduction of daylight saving.

Members: Hear, hear!

**Hon. L. B. BOLTON**: In a State like Western Australia, whatever saving may be effected in one direction does not nearly compensate for the disabilities suffered by the vast majority of the people.

**Hon. J. Cornall**: I think there is a lot of imagination attached to it.

**Hon. L. B. BOLTON**: Possibly the hon. member is right. Daylight saving might be more necessary and effective in the Eastern States, but, without wishing to contradict the Premier, who should have all the information at his disposal, I say definitely that most of the industries in this State have nothing to gain by daylight saving. It may benefit a few large works that are operating throughout the 24 hours, but in other industries I cannot see that daylight saving is of any benefit. Perhaps the Premier is recommending it because the coal position is rather serious not only in this State but also throughout the Commonwealth. The Speech contains a reference to Collie coal as follows;—

The State's coal deposit at Collie is of estimable value at the present time and every endeavour is being made to increase output.

I sincerely hope that the Government will assist in every way possible to increase the output. We have been very fortunate in that there has been no industrial trouble at Collie to interfere with the output, and I hope that industrial peace will continue. I should like to comment on the remarks of Mr. E. H. Hall and particularly his references to the conditions pertaining at the Perth Boys' School. First of all I should like to express approval of the Government's intention to raise the school-leaving age to 15 years; in fact, I would support an increase to 16 years, especially if part of the later years was devoted to compulsory technical training.

**Hon. L. Craig**: What about accommodation?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: That is a problem that will have to be overcome. Arrangements for additional accommodation must be made sooner or later, but the raising of the school-leaving age will be of inestimable value to the rising men and women of this State. I am with Mr. Hall and Mr. Thomson in advocating technical training for our boys. When I am employing a youth I like to get one who has spent some time in the Junior Technical School. I believe that almost every industry in Perth would give preference to a lad from that school or from some other like institution.

I support Mr. Hall in his contention that housing arrangements should be made, if at all possible, for many of the students who are sent to the city for training. Perhaps the problem is not as acute as it was some years ago, seeing that high schools have been opened in several country towns. Still, young people are subject to great danger on being sent to the city to continue their training. If arrangements could be made along the lines suggested by Mr. Hall, I think the move would have the support of every member. Mr. Hall, in speaking of the deplorable conditions at the Perth Boys' School, need not have stopped there. The same position obtains in many of the older schools. I suggest that those who were in control of education some years ago showed a lack of foresight in choosing sites for various schools. Many of our metropolitan-suburban schools are built fronting main highways, and one must fear for the safety of little children when going to or leaving those schools. This is one reason why there is no accommodation for the development of sport at the Perth Boys' School. The site of that school is altogether wrong. The site of the Junior Technical School in Newcastle-street is also wrong. I spoke against spending money on enlarging the Technical College in St. George's-terrace, because I consider that site is altogether wrong.

Hon. J. Cornell: You could say that of the Perth Hospital, too.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I did say it of the Perth Hospital. I am totally opposed to building public institutions of that kind in the centre of the city. The land is much too valuable and the sites are most unsuitable. Of course, Mr. Hall did not suggest that the metropolitan members had been lacking in their duty in this matter. The attention of the Government has been

directed to it time after time. On more than one occasion I have been a member of a deputation that has approached the Government with a view to securing some improvement at the Junior Technical School. As one engaged in industry, I am particularly keen on seeing that our lads get the best possible training. The question, however, is one of money. We are told that money cannot be found; we will be told again that money cannot be found. I was under the impression that our Education Vote was approximately £900,000 per annum; but the Chief Secretary, a moment or two ago, kindly informed me that the amount was about £800,000 per annum.

The Chief Secretary: A little over.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: All I can say is that it is money well spent. Sooner or later—sooner I hope—money will have to be found to remove those schools from the heart of the city and thus give the coming youth the adequate facilities suggested by Mr. E. H. H. Hall. Another item in the Speech that caught my attention was that referring to the development of the State's secondary industries, particularly those industries which are contributing to our war effort. I definitely subscribe to that policy, as we all do. The Government has, as far as has been possible, done an excellent job in this connection. With the assistance of the Commonwealth, the State Government was able to devote its energies to the construction of huge works that could not have been otherwise undertaken in Western Australia. I am pleased to note that a site has been selected for the charcoal iron blast furnace. This is a new departure and I have made some inquiries with regard to it. I understand that the furnace will deal with only high-grade iron, as that is the only grade in which we can hope to compete. It is certainly a move in the right direction and I sincerely hope, as I am sure every member of this Chamber hopes, that the Government has done its utmost to obtain the best information it can and to retain the services of the most capable experts procurable. The next paragraph of the Speech deals with the production of potash from alunite. I understand good progress is being made in this direction.

From the Speech we learn that the State Shipping Priorities Advisory Committee has arranged for severe restrictions to be imposed on the importation of those classes of goods

that are manufactured locally in sufficient quantities to meet the State's requirements. I desire to pay tribute where it is due; and, in my opinion, although the position is still acute, a vast improvement has taken place during the last twelve months. After all, it usually takes three or four years to settle down in a war, but the department is definitely settling down and paying more attention to the requirements of the State's industries for raw materials, which unfortunately we must still import from the Eastern States. I shall return for a moment or two to the development of our secondary industries. The Chief Secretary knows that this subject is my weakness and therefore I am sure he will pardon my referring to it in the manner I am about to do. Mention is made that assistance is being given to several industries. With that policy, as I said, I entirely agree. However, I ask the Government to exercise the greatest possible caution before making advances. I do so because, on studying the Auditor General's report, I find that the position regarding the Assistance to Industries Vote, as at the 30th June last, was as follows:—

	£
Principal outstanding .. ..	435,183
Interest outstanding .. ..	68,840

These are huge figures. I now turn to the collections, viz. :—

	£
Principal .. .. .	6,266
Interest .. .. .	7,011

These figures convince me that those in control of these advances have not been perhaps as cautious as they should have been. In fairness to the officers at present in control, I believe more caution is now being exercised. Nevertheless, I desire to bring before the notice of the House an instance that recently came to my knowledge. An advance has been made to a company which is to manufacture charcoal briquettes. I am not sure of the amount, but I understand it is as much as £6,000.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Do you know the name of the company?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Yes.

Hon. G. W. Miles: And the men connected with it?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Yes. I saw a notification in the Press a few weeks ago.

Hon. G. W. Miles: You might give the House the information.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I will give the information later on. I suggest that in this instance caution is needed, because, although I believe a move was made over two years ago for the production of charcoal briquettes, the company is not yet in production. I venture the opinion that the use of gas-producers and charcoal will stop in a very short time; at least, I hope the time will be very short, and so does every other user of a gas-producer. Within a very short time sufficient petrol will be available and gas-producers will be things of the past. As one who knows a little about this matter, I say that not 3 per cent. of motor vehicle owners who are now using gas-producers will continue to do so for one moment after they can procure sufficient petrol.

Hon. J. Cornell: Particularly where heavy loads are concerned.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Yes, but my remark applies also to light cars. Should gas-producers go off the market, then, unless this company can get ahead with its production immediately, it will not make sufficient profit to repay the Government the advances made to it, and so there will be another amount added to the list.

Hon. G. W. Miles: What is the address of the company?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I prefer to tell the hon. member privately.

Hon. G. B. Wood: We all want to know.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I am not averse to telling all the members privately. I also hope the hon. member interjecting will get the opportunity to buy these charcoal briquettes, because they will certainly fill a long-felt want, but they will fill it for only a very short time. That is my opinion. The Government has had sufficient experience in the making of these advances not to be caught again. The motor industry must develop, but it certainly will not develop, as far as I can see, along the lines of gas-producers or the like.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. G. B. Wood: You must be using a very bad one.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I am perhaps quoting the hon. member's own experience. I have never heard him praise his gas-producer. I do not know of any motorist who has done so.

Hon. C. B. Williams: He is very happy since he has had one.

Hon. G. B. Wood: Mr. Bolton's statement is not correct.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Then I am sorry. I understand and hope it was a local gas-producer that the hon. member has had fitted to his car.

Hon. G. B. Wood: It was made in Kellerberrin.

Hon. J. Cornell: The Transport Board has stated that gas-producers are unsuitable for heavy loads.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I have fitted them to two of my vehicles, so I can speak feelingly on the subject. However, I realise that in wartime we must put up with some inconvenience; but I am quite sure that the moment sufficient supplies of petrol are made available, gas-producers will be removed from motor vehicles.

Hon. C. B. Williams: How long is the war going to last?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I would ask the hon. member to give me notice of that question, and I claim the right to give the answer when it suits me to do so. There is one other point I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. I sincerely hope the Chief Secretary will bring it before the Minister for Industrial Development. I refer to the lack of orders in this State for munitions. Admittedly, I, in common with all Australians, wish the manufacture of armaments to cease in Australia, but the time is not yet ripe for that. During the first two years of the war period this State rightly made many complaints with regard to the fewness of orders placed with our factories. I have expressed the opinion time and again that this State was given the crumbs, and the crumbs only. Now that the war position has so greatly improved, there is not the same demand for munitions and armaments. The result has been a stoppage in many of our industries.

Practically all the small engineering shops have been closed up, while many of the large engineering works have had their orders reduced by 50 per cent. I am speaking advisedly on this matter. I made inquiries today in order to confirm my statement. Unfortunately, many of the large engineering shops have had their contracts reduced by the percentage I have mentioned and, while the effect of that is not apparent just at present, in a very short period it will be felt very seriously by industry in this State. My reason for bringing the matter before the

House is to try to induce the Minister for Industrial Development to use every possible endeavour to ensure that this State is not dropped first. We are entitled to some consideration. Our secondary industries are entitled to more consideration than they have ever had in the past. It is all very well to say that Western Australia is a primary producing State only.

Our secondary industries must be developed, and if we do not hold on to what we have at the present time, we shall have a very poor outlook when we attempt post-war reconstruction. We have a man who can fight if he will, and I believe he will. I hope, of course, that he will fight not only for the State Trading Concerns, but that private enterprise will have a fair share of what I am asking for. I suggest that unless the Government does something in this direction very soon, this State will feel the effect more seriously than most of us imagine. In the early stages of the war we were unfortunate enough to lose hundreds of our skilled artisans. When the war is over, unless we are able to maintain and extend the industries that we have, we will lose the balance of our skilled men. That is the type of man we should make sure of retaining in our midst. I noticed in a journal a few days ago figures showing the population of some of the countries whose industrial enterprises will shortly be in competition with ours. With our high standard of living I ask: What hope will we have of competing against countries like Java which has a population of over 50,000,000 people?

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: That country is not industrialised.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: It will be in competition with us. Other countries are more industrialised than is Java. In the past, some of the countries I am about to mention, with their huge populations, have been in very keen competition with us. There is India with 380,000,000, China with over 400,000,000, Japan with 90,000,000. These countries will all come back on the markets of the world and in many instances we will have to compete against them. There are 180,000,000 people in Russia, 70,000,000 in Germany, over 40,000,000 in Brazil and 17,000,000 in Mexico. Surely the United States with 140,000,000 people must be considered an industrial country and one which will compete with Australia in the future! I am mentioning this in the hope that the

Minister for Industrial Development will be persuaded to give a little more attention to trying to save the industries that we have even if he has for a little while to neglect the development of new industries, though I do not think there is any necessity for that.

I think I stated on the floor of this House before—although it may not be subscribed to even by the people to whom I am referring—that the tendency seems to be for this and another Government to nationalise our industries. I hope sincerely that that will not be brought about because it has to be remembered that private enterprise has supplied the capital necessary successfully to establish and develop most of the great industries in our own State and in the Commonwealth. We who believe to the uttermost in private enterprise and initiative look with intense anxiety at the over-developing paternalism of modern Governments. What destroys initiative and enterprise destroys individuality and the very citadel of man's worth. A nation's greatest assets are the skill, energy and intelligence of its people. It was John Stuart Mill who wrote the words with which I conclude—

A people may prefer a free Government but if, from indolence, or carelessness, or cowardice, or want of public spirit, they are unequal to the exertions necessary for preserving it; if they will not fight for it when it is directly attacked; if they can be deluded by the artifices used to cheat them out of it; if by momentary discouragement, or temporary panic, or a fit of enthusiasm for an individual, they can be induced to lay their liberties at the feet of a great man, or trust him with powers which enable him to subvert their institutions; in all these cases they are more or less unfit for liberty; and though it may be for their good to have had it even for a short time, they are unlikely long to enjoy it.

On motion by Hon. G. B. Wood, debate adjourned.

### BILL—COMPANIES.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

*House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Wednesday, 25th August, 1943.*

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

### QUESTIONS (3).

#### PHOSPHATE SUPPLIES.

##### *As to Local Deposits.*

Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Industrial Development: 1, Have the results of recent tests of phosphatic rock at or in the vicinity of Dandarragan yet come to hand? 2, If so, are they satisfactory or otherwise? 3, What contribution are they likely to make to supplies of superphosphate for W.A.? 4, Are there any other sources of supply in W.A. which give promise of providing any relief of the superphosphate shortage?

The MINISTER replied: 1, No. 2 and 3, See answer to No. 1. 4, Yes. One deposit of phosphate rock is already being worked and another promising copralite deposit similar to that at Dandarragan is being examined.

#### SEWERAGE.

##### *As to Graylands Area.*

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Works: Has the recent extension of the sewerage in Claremont enabled the residents in the Graylands area to become connected with the service?

The MINISTER replied: The following allotments in the Graylands area are capable of being connected to the sewer:—Davies-road.—East side from Lapsley-road northerly to Lot 3 opposite Loc. 222 between Hay-street and Alfred-road. Graylands-road.—West side between Second and First avenues and on east side between First-avenue and Alfred-road.