

Hon. L. Craig: What about the city surveyor?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: He has some say in it.

Hon. E. H. Gray: Only regarding the plans.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: And, in some instances, he has no say in the plans, because there may not be any. We are anxious to stop that sort of thing. I commend the Bill to hon. members, and I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. W. J. Mann, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.42 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 10th September, 1935.

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

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

The Speaker announced the return to a writ for the election of a member for the district of Katanning showing that Mr. A. F. Watts had been elected.

Mr. Watts took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Presentation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to announce that, attended by the hon. member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. F. C. L. Smith) and the hon. member for Albany (Mr. A. Wansbrough), I attended upon His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor and presented the

Address-in-reply to His Excellency's opening Speech. His Excellency was good enough to reply in the following terms:—

I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty the King, and for your Address-in-reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament. (Sgd.) James Mitchell, Lieut.-Governor.

QUESTION—ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Breakdowns at Queen's Park.

Mr. CROSS asked the Minister for Railways: 1. Is he aware that inconvenience has frequently been caused to the residents of Queen's Park by breakdowns in the electric light service? 2. Can an explanation be given of three lengthy breakdowns in the service in that district during the week ended the 31st August? 3. If so, can action be taken to prevent a recurrence of breakdowns?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1. Yes. 2. The very heavy storm winds caused the failure of high tension insulators. 3. Every precaution is taken but it is not possible fully to guard against violent storms such as were experienced.

QUESTION—RELIEF WORK.

"C" Class Men.

Mr. RAPHAEL asked the Minister for Employment: 1. Are the Government aware of the number of "C" class men who cannot be put to any of the work supplied by the Government Relief Department? 2. Do the Government intend to provide special work for those men? 3. If not, will the Government consider the provision of extra sustenance for that particular class of men?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (for the Minister for Employment) replied: 1. Yes. 2 and 3. It is the policy of the Government to provide as far as possible work within the physical capacity of these men, and attention has already been given to this aspect.

BILLS (4)—THIRD READING.

1. Brands Act Amendment.
 2. Droving Act Amendment.
 3. Judges' Retirement.
 4. Tenants, Purchasers and Mortgagors' Relief Act Amendment.
- Transmitted to the Council.

BILL—RURAL RELIEF FUND.*In Committee.*

Resumed from the 5th September. Mr. Sleeman in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2—Definitions (partly considered):

[Hon. C. G. Latham had moved to strike out of the definition of "rural industry" the words "and such other industries carried on in the State as the Governor may from time to time by proclamation declare to come within the definition of rural industry."]

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I hope the Minister will agree to conform as nearly as possible to the interpretation in the Federal Act. We discussed this matter fully on Thursday last and the Minister has had the week-end in which to consider it. It would be unwise to have two interpretations. We shall be administering the Federal Act, this measure being designed merely to supplement it. We should not take the responsibility of doing something not provided for in the Act we are asked to administer. If the amendment be passed, I propose to move for the addition of other words.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I have given the matter consideration during the week-end. The difference between the definition in the Bill and the hon. member's amendment is the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee, and so I propose to agree to the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move—

That the following words be added:—"and, without affecting the generality of the foregoing provisions, includes dairy farming, poultry farming, and bee farming, and also viticultural operations."

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: How will the definition read now?

The CHAIRMAN: It will read—

"Rural industry" means the agricultural, horticultural, pastoral, grazing and dairying industries carried out in the State, and, without affecting the generality of the foregoing provisions, includes dairy farming, poultry farming and bee farming, and also viticultural operations.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Dairy farming should be deleted as it has already been included.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment to insert those words has been passed.

Mr. HEGNEY: There are men engaged solely in pig farming, and if bee farming and poultry farming are included, pig farming should also be included. I move an amendment—

That after "bee farming" the words "and pig farming" be inserted.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: If you insert pig farming, you ought to include sheep farming.

The CHAIRMAN: The words "pig farming" would be inserted after the word "operations."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The amendment is unnecessary. Pig farming comes under the category of agricultural, pastoral and dairying industries. Why not insert cattle farming and goose or duck farming? A pig farmer is an agriculturist.

Mr. HEGNEY: On the Minister's assurance I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn; the clause, as previously amended, agreed to.

Clause 3—Rural Relief Fund:

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That the following be added to paragraph (b):—"and all repayments made under Section 10, and any moneys which Parliament may from time to time appropriate for this purpose."

The amendment provides that any moneys repaid by farmers shall be paid into a special fund.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I cannot accept the amendment. If this Parliament has any money to provide in supplement of the fund, let Parliament do it when the money is available. The Bill has been introduced to provide for the expenditure of £1,360,000 by the Commonwealth Government—nothing more and nothing less. This Parliament does not propose to provide one penny under the measure. Later in the Bill disposal of repayments is provided for. People should not be led to believe that this Parliament will appropriate money which there is no intention to appropriate. If necessary, the measure can be amended later in that direction.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I feel sure that in the Bill there is no provision as to placing repayments to the credit of the farmer.

Mr. Hawke: Clause 12 provides that all repayments shall be employed for the purposes of the measure.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes, I see that now. However, I regret that the Minister will not agree to the amendment. A measure such as this should not come up continually for amendment. The Minister takes a wrong view if he regards my amendment as moved for political purposes.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—How Fund controlled:

Mr. BOYLE: I have on the Notice Paper an amendment intended to make the Bill uniform with corresponding measures throughout Australia. In New South Wales the Act is administered by the Farmers' Relief Board, on which there is a representative of the farmers. The Victorian Act provides for a similar representative. The South Australian Board includes a farmers' representative.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Government ought to have the responsibility of appointing the board, and personally I would be glad to have a farmer appointed. However, I do not wish the Government to be restricted in their choice. I would agree to the striking-out of the words "the Director" and the insertion of "a farmer" in lieu. I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 1, line 3, the words "the Director" be struck out.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I hope the Committee will not carry the amendment, which seems to suggest that it is proposed to set up a new organisation. The Bill is merely skeleton legislation, and the provision really to be used in its administration is Section 11 of the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act. Under the amendment new trustees, without experience of adjustment, might be appointed. I would like to see a farmer on the board, and doubtless a farmer will be appointed.

Mr. Marshall: What sort of a farmer?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: A farmer chosen by the Minister, who I believe would select a farmer possessed of common sense. If the Minister takes away from the Bill one of the most important appointments to be made under it, I shall be extremely sorry, because the effect will be to alter the whole scheme of management. On a recent evening the Minister agreed with me that the

Bill is only skeleton legislation. Now it is proposed that the Director shall be taken away, without any intimation as to who is to be substituted. The Director represents the strength of the Bill, he having had several years' experience of adjustment of farmers' debts. This side of the Chamber has confidence in such legislation as this because of the experience gained by the Director. I hope the Minister will reconsider his amendment.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I suggest the Minister leave the clause as it is. It is perfectly sound. The insertion of "farmer" would convey nothing.

Mr. Doney: Why?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Should "bee farmer" be inserted? That is possible. We should leave the Government to use their common sense by appointing men of capacity and possessing a knowledge of farming that is not limited to one branch. It would be wise to retain the services of the Director under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act, a man of outstanding ability in matters of this kind. To exclude him would be to weaken the measure.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: I agree with the previous speaker. The Minister might reconsider the amendment, to which he does not appear to have given that full consideration which is customary with him. The board should include as one of its members the Director under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act. In framing the legislation, the Minister indicated that he intended to include the Director because the definition clause shows that the Director referred to in the Bill is the Director under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act, an officer who has done excellent work and has gained a lot of experience. That decision was the correct one, and the amendment the Minister has moved can only weaken the position. I hope he will withdraw the amendment and agree that one of the two remaining trustees shall be a farmer.

Mr. BOYLE: The Minister, by his amendment, is overwhelming us with kindness, but I would be sorry to see the services of a man of Mr. White's capacity lost to the trust that is to be set up. Mr. White is a man of outstanding ability who has specialised in this class of work for five years, so much so that he was invited by the Government of New South Wales to

visit that State to help in framing their farmers' debts adjustment legislation. That was a most unusual happening. I have confidence that the Minister will appoint to the trust men most suitable for the purpose. My sole idea in framing the amendment that appears on the Notice Paper in my name, was to make the Bill uniform with measures passed in other States of Australia. Moreover, it is a principle of farmers' organisations to have one farmer appointed on all such bodies as that proposed to be set up by the Bill.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This is a most surprising situation. It is a question of either the Director or a farmer, and Country Party members advocate the Director. The farmers should have a representative on the board, and here is the opportunity. I leave it to members to decide. I have given the matter the fullest thought, and I agree that if there is to be a farmer appointed to the trust, then the Government should have the right to appoint the two remaining members of that body. I put to members opposite the choice between the civil servant and the farmer, and I am staggered at the attitude they have adopted.

Mr. Thorn: There is no doubt that you are a champion juggler.

The Premier: It is a question of which man you will have.

Mr. Thorn: You misunderstand us.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It is not essential that the Director shall be a member of this trust, and I doubt very much if he should be one of the trustees.

Mr. Patrick: Then why did you include him in the Bill as one of the trustees?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I doubt if the Director will have time to deal with this work. The machinery of the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act must be utilised in the consideration of the applications, and that means that the applications will go to the Director first and from him, to the trustees. I feel strongly that the Director will not have time to deal with these matters. His hands are already full when he is receiving applications from 600 farmers now, but applications will be submitted by thousands of farmers under the Bill. I considered the amendment of the member for Avon in the light of these facts, and I intend to adhere to my amendment. Is it right to take up Mr. White's time

under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act and under this measure as well? I believe the suggestion by the member for Avon is the better.

Mr. SAMPSON: I do not see the grave difficulty that the Minister has laboured. The Government will have the authority to appoint the trustees, and they know a farmer or two capable of doing the work required. It is remarkable for the Minister to suggest that the Director under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act should not be one of the trustees. Surely the Director should be one of those who must determine how this fund shall be expended.

The Minister for Lands: I have given you your choice; it is a farmer, or the Director.

Mr. DONEY: The member for Swan does not understand the objection raised by the Minister, who has changed his mind out of consideration for the Director himself. I am rather of the same opinion, for I can contemplate Mr. White having to do the bulk of the work. No one would desire to lose the services of that officer, but if it came to a choice between Mr. White and a farmer, I would plump for Mr. White. I regard his position as Director to be absolutely essential. It is highly desirable to have a farmer on the board, but if it comes to a choice between a farmer and the Director, I shall support the Director.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: What sort of a farmer is it proposed to appoint as a trustee?

Mr. Marshall: A bee farmer.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: A farmer is defined in the Bill as meaning "any person, including the legal personal representative of a deceased person," and so on.

Mr. Doney: Would you appoint a person of that description?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I am just putting it to members.

The Minister for Lands: Why all this humbug?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: So it is; I admit it is humbug. I admit that, because the clause as it stands is well balanced, and to suggest that one of the trustees must be a farmer is pure nonsense. There is no substance in such a proposal. Is it suggested that because a farmer is appointed as a trustee, there will be some special administrative strength attaching to the board? I have never before heard such fudge in my life. This plea for farmer control and for farmers to do this and do that is a purely

political cry, with no substance in it whatever. Any Government would naturally select the most capable man for work of this description. The Minister's amendment would spoil the clause, and I shall not support it. It means nothing, conveys nothing, and will get us nowhere.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The Minister said he was staggered at the attitude of Country Party members, but I think the whole Committee were staggered by his amendment. He told us he had framed the Bill against his better judgment.

The Minister for Lands: That is not correct; I did not say that.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: And the Minister said that he had given further consideration to the position of the Director in connection with this work.

The Minister for Lands: I said the Director would do this work.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If the Minister had entertained the thoughts he has indicated, he would not have come down with this legislation. He admits that it is a skeleton Bill, and that a lot has to be filled in. We were agreeable to leaving it to the commonsense of those administering the measure. The Director will receive the applications and endeavour to make satisfactory adjustments. A stage may be reached in the negotiations at which the parties cannot agree, and the matter will then be sent on to the trustees, who will have to fix it up. I want to see amongst the three trustees a man of experience in adjusting debts, and I am satisfied to leave it to the Director. We agreed with the Minister that the Director was the right man, but we asked the Minister to give instructions that a farmer should be appointed as one of the other two trustees. For the third trustee I should like to see a commercial man appointed. It will certainly weaken the Bill if the Minister leaves out the Director, for this will be a matter for negotiation rather than for legislation, and so I want to see the Director left in. The Minister previously gave serious consideration to this legislation and definitely fixed in his mind that the Director was necessary. Why then should he now want to leave out the Director?

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: It is not fair of the Minister to wave his hands and say that we have to take the responsibility of putting either the Director or a farmer on the trust. It is not fair.

The Minister for Lands: But it is a fact.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: If the Minister agrees that one of the trustees should be a farmer, why not leave in the Director, and accept the amendment foreshadowed by the member for Avon (Mr. Boyle). The trust will be strengthened by having the Director as one of its members. Then we could have a farmer as one of the other two trustees.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Leader of the Opposition was not correct in saying I was in difficulty about the Bill. Under this measure the Director would have ten times the work he has under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act which, I think, gives him about as much work as he can perform. If members want among the trustees a farmer, I say let him take the place of the Director, and then let the Governor appoint two others. If it be found later that the Director, in addition to his duties under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act, could attend to the work under this measure, the Governor could then appoint him to the trust. We are asked to appoint a farmer to the trust. Very well, under the amendment a farmer can be one of the trustees, and the Governor will appoint the other two.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	18
Noes	..	..	..	15

Majority for .. 3

AYES.

Mr. Collier	Mr. Needham
Mr. Cross	Mr. Raphael
Mr. Fox	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Troy
Miss Holman	Mr. Wan-brough
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Millington	Mr. Withers
Mr. Moloney	Mr. Wilson

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Boyle	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Brockman	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Latham	Mr. Watts
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Doney
Mr. North	

(Teller.)

PAIRS

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Clothier	Mr. Warner
Mr. Munzie	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Wise	Mr. Welsh

Amendment thus passed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move an amendment—

That the words "a farmer" be inserted in lieu of the words struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That there be added after the word "Governor" in line 5 of the clause the words "one of whom shall be the Director."

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has already decided that "the Director" shall be struck out. I cannot accept the amendment.

Clause, as previously amended, put and passed.

Clause 5—agreed to.

Clause 6—Trustees may grant stay order where a deserving farmer cannot make arrangements with his creditors:

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That in line 24 of Subclause 1 "three" be struck out and "five" inserted in lieu.

The intention of the amendment is to provide a longer period over which the farmer may have his debts suspended. Under the clause as printed it is only three years, and I ask the Minister to agree to its being made five years. That would enable the farmer, if he makes a profit during the five years, to renew his equipment and so be able to get his farm in better order. If at the end of three years he has to pay his debts, he will not be able to renew his equipment.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The amendment is not necessary, for in Subclause 2 it is provided that the trustees may extend the operation of any stay order from year to year, but so that the total period for which any stay order may be extended shall not exceed three years. That means six years in all.

Hon. C. G. Latham: We will leave that there also.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No, I do not think the hon. member is wise in desiring that. I think that six years in all is quite long enough a period over which to give a farmer protection under this measure. His creditors are entitled to some consideration, for they have advanced money and goods to the farmer. I hold that a farmer's affairs ought to come up for consideration from time to time.

Mr. J. H. Smith: They will come up every year during the period of extension.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes, but three years is quite long enough to have a stay order definitely fixed, and inasmuch as the trustees can extend it for a further three years, the provision is very liberal indeed. The hon. member would extend it to five years and leave it at that, thus reducing the total period by one year.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The Minister has played that trick on me before. I will get hold of his speech on the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Bill and read out certain passages from it.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: You can quote anything you like against me. I was on the select committee that recommended the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Bill to Parliament, so I could not have said anything against that measure. I am sure the six years provision in the Bill before us is a very liberal one.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The Minister, when moving the second reading, told us the Commonwealth Government had not followed the advice of the Royal Commission they had appointed. That commission recommended that the suspension of debts should be for seven years, not three years. It is no use the Minister thinking this is a political dodge although, of course, in the Minister's mind everything is more or less a political dodge.

The Minister for Lands: Most of what is contained in this Bill was recommended by the "Primary Producer."

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If the Minister gets his advice from the "Worker," we certainly do not get ours from the "Primary Producer." I did not give the "Primary Producer" that which appears in it. I am more anxious to get this legislation through than to quarrel about it, but I do not want it to go on the statute-book until we have done our best to make it as useful as possible. The Minister says he is providing for a stay order for six years. He is really providing for only three. At the end of three years the farmer must come up for review, and the stay order may be extended from year to year. The farmer will require a stay of at least five years. The Minister might depend upon the majority he has behind him rather than accuse members on this side of wanting to

do something they have no intention of doing. If the Minister wants the rest of this session to be political, we are quite prepared to make it so.

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

Ayes	15
Noes	20

Majority against 5

AYES

Mr. Boyle	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Brockman	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. J. M. Smith
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. Latham	Mr. Thorne
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Watts
Mr. North	Mr. Doney
Mr. Patrick	(Teller.)

NOES

Mr. Collier	Mr. Moloney
Mr. Cross	Mr. Needham
Mr. Fox	Mr. Raphael
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Tonkin
Miss Holman	Mr. Troy
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Wensbrough
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Wilcock
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Millington	Mr. Withers
	(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 2 the word "three" be struck out and "four" inserted in lieu.

That will comply with the recommendation of the Federal Royal Commission, which was appointed to investigate the wheat and allied industries. They recommended the suspension of debts for seven years.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Protection is afforded to the farmer in this case. The trustees may extend the operations of a stay order from year to year. It is a matter for their discretion. I will, however, agree to the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. BOYLE: I move an amendment—

That a new subclause, to stand as Subclause 8 be inserted as follows:—"When a farmer, with a view to or in the course of making an application for advances under this Act, makes an application or calls a meeting of creditors under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act, 1930-34, he shall be exempt from all prescribed fees and charges in respect of the last-mentioned application and the meeting of creditors."

Any application for relief made under this Bill involves the payment of certain fees prescribed in the Farmers' Debts Adjust-

ment Act. The farmer has to pay £1 on application, and four guineas for the meeting. These fees apply to the ordinary applicant. There is a difference in the case of a man who is applying for relief under the Federal law. He only requires the adjustment of his debts. I have a telegram here from the New South Wales board, stating that no fees are charged in that State. I take it that the Federal authority has provided that the whole cost of administration shall be borne by the State Governments. If fees are charged it is obvious that this cost will not be wholly borne by the West Australian Government.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I cannot agree to the amendment. It is not a fact that no fees are charged in New South Wales. The Government of that State charge 2½ per cent. on all exemptions. That covers the cost of administration. The party opposite passed the Farmers' Debts Adjustment measure and prescribed the fees. The fees they prescribed will be the fees payable under this Bill. While that party were in office they made no attempt to reduce the fees, and yet the hon. member now asks us to do so.

Hon. C. G. Latham: That is quite a different matter.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Not in the slightest degree.

Mr. Patrick: The conditions are also different.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The State Government will not get 1s. out of this legislation, whereas the private banks, the merchants, the storekeepers and other creditors will get relief. Notwithstanding that, we are asked to bear the whole cost and get nothing out of it. We are not going to do that. We should not be asked to carry all the burdens while private people are obtaining some relief. I do not regard members opposite as patriotic. The fees are exactly the same as were prescribed by the previous Government. The State already carries a huge burden on account of the farming industry. The Agricultural Bank has fallen into arrears a further £900,000 since the present Government took office, and we now have to find an additional £138,000 per annum with which to finance the institution for the interest on the arrears. With regard to wire-netting, we have paid up to the end of the financial year, £80,000 to the Commonwealth Government in excess

of the money paid by the farmers. Land rents are in arrears to the extent of nearly £1,000,000.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: You are giving good evidence in favour of doing what the member for Avon wants.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: If the hon. member wants all this done for nothing he is mistaking the temper of the House. It will not happen if I can help it. I have also pointed out that the group settlers are entitled to relief, and theirs is a liability of over £7,000,000. Members opposite did nothing when the farmers were worse off. They charged fees just the same, and now they have the hyprocrisy to move this amendment. It will not be done for nothing.

The Minister for Justice: It is an impossibility.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: At least we ought to be entitled to do what the others did. I will not accept the amendment.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The very arguments the Minister has advanced are the very reasons why the member for Avon is asking the Committee to agree to the amendment. The men who really should be assisted and who have nothing behind them will not be able to get any benefit. There is a distinct difference between this piece of legislation and the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act. The Minister also knows that before he assumed office, and since, a considerable amount of money had to be written off by Executive Council minute. This distribution of Federal money is a totally different thing. I do not blame him if he says to the farmer, "You must have your accounts made up."

Mr. Moloney: Who will get the benefit of this money?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It is very difficult to say where it will end. I have no objection to the Minister saying that he will not agree to the amendment, but to declare that it is hypocrisy on the part of members on this side of the House, is carrying it too far. The Minister introduced this legislation, and because we have the temerity to move amendments we are to be charged with hyprocrisy! The Minister will not get his legislation through in that way.

The Minister for Water Supplies: I would not have said that; I would have said you were very weak.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: And I would have replied that the Minister who interjected

is much more discreet. I know that he can put up a Bill, set up all the facts of the case and then agree to withdraw a portion of it. He can get his legislation through very easily.

The CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with the Bill before the House.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Then, Mr. Chairman, you should stop the Minister from interjecting. I hope the Minister for Lands will be reasonable; it is no use his adopting a dogmatic attitude. This side of the House will move amendments if amendments are considered necessary. It is our privilege and our right, and we intend to exercise both. There is no need for me to repeat what he knows to be a fact. Many farmers will be unable to pay these fees because they are far too high.

Mr. Marshall: They were fixed by your Government.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: No, they were fixed by the present Minister for Lands at a maximum of £30.

The Minister for Lands: Who fixed the £30? I made it less than that. To what did I reduce them?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: We fixed the fees at £10 or three per cent.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will get back to the amendment.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I desire the House to know the position. The Minister ought to show a little sympathy for the men who have to avail themselves of this legislation.

The Minister for Justice: Who will pay the money?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: What will it cost?

The Minister for Water Supplies: Oh, everything is honorary!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am glad to have that assurance from the Minister.

The Minister for Water Supplies: No water supply rates, no fees, nothing!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The Minister for Lands told us the other night of the many thousands that had been lost during the last five years by those engaged in the industry. If the industry will not return any money, you cannot take from those engaged in it something they have not got. If the Minister took possession of some of the farms it would probably be a blessing to those occupying them to-day. This is a very important industry.

The Minister for Water Supplies: It is a very poor industry.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It is one of the best industries the State has had. It has returned £60,000,000 to the State. I do not think the Government would get any money from oversea if they had to depend on the manufactured goods that were exported. So I am surprised at the Minister not accepting the amendment. If he will not accept it, let him do so decently, and not charge us with hypocrisy. If there is any hypocrisy, it is all on the other side of the House. I wonder what the member for Northam will do when he talks to his farmer friends? He should support this side of the House and give assistance to those who will not be able to avail themselves of this legislation.

Mr. BOYLE: The farmer, to my mind, is not going to profit from this to any extent.

Mr. Moloney: Not a penny.

Mr. BOYLE: I agree with the hon. member. My object in moving the amendment was that the farmer should benefit if he is carried on under the provisions of the Act. In this case, however, he would have to provide fees ranging about five guineas for the benefit of his creditors and no one else. The people who will benefit from this are not asked to find a copper; the farmer will have to provide the funds for the working of the measure, and I am sure he will enthusiastically leave it alone.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: I am supporting the amendment because I want to make the approach to the trustees who will have the distribution of the funds, as cheap and as simple as possible. The higher the fee the more difficult will it be for the farmer to get his case dealt with by the trustees, and because of that no fees at all should be prescribed. The Minister, in his usual flamboyant style, says, "This is what the Government have done for the farmers and the group settlers, and the group settlers have cost the State £7,000,000, and some other section £900,000 for interest." That is so, but they are not the people who will participate in the distribution of this.

The Minister for Lands: Of course they are.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: The Minister has told us that no Government debts at all can be compounded with this money. He has said that the group settlers and the Agricultural Bank clients will benefit.

Really it will be the clients of the other financial institutions who will benefit, and not the clients of the Agricultural Bank. If the Agricultural Bank clients will get the benefit of this legislation, how can the Minister say that the Government will not derive any advantage? The Minister said that the Government would not get a penny piece. If clients of the Agricultural Bank are not going to get the money, and the Government are not going to benefit, how can the private banks benefit? The Minister cannot have it both ways. The people who will benefit mostly from the distribution of the money will be the clients of institutions outside the Agricultural Bank.

Mr. Moloney: What about their paying the fees?

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: If farmers have to pay one guinea application fee and four guineas for the meeting, in addition to the cost of working up their cases, a great many entitled to assistance under the fund will not be able to get it. The farmers concerned are those for whom the Government have not done much. The farmers who have received the greatest benefit from governmental expenditure are Agricultural Bank clients. The farmers along the Midland railway, who are not clients of the Bank to any extent, have been financed from their own resources or from assistance given by banks, insurance companies and private individuals. They are the people whom I wish to see facilitated to get before the trustees, and a good many will not be able to get their cases considered because of the cost to be entailed. It is no argument to say that a previous Parliament fixed certain fees under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act and that the same fees should apply under this measure. The Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act was placed on the statute-book to enable the farmers to meet their creditors and make arrangements for carrying on operations. It was right up to a point that some of the cost should be paid by the farmers. All that this measure provides for is the distribution of Commonwealth money, and the least that the Government can do is to bear the cost of administration so as to make the proceedings as little irksome as possible to the men who will benefit.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act was amended in 1933 thus—

Section four of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by striking out the whole of the proviso to Subsection 4 of that section, and inserting the following proviso in lieu thereof:—

Provided that the receiver shall in each year during which the receivership continues, be entitled to retain by way of emolument out of the proceeds of the farmer's business—

(a) an amount of ten pounds ten shillings (and in proportion for any part of a year); or

(b) when the receiver has carried on the business of the farmer, three per centum of such proceeds derived in any such year (and in proportion for any part of a year) whichever shall be the greater, but in no case shall the emoluments retained under this section exceed the sum of thirty pounds for any one year.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Did you limit it to £30?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Leader of the Opposition knows all about this, and so does the member for Avon. Under the measure introduced by the Leader of the Opposition, the receiver got both. Yet he stated that we had increased the fees. What confidence can we place in a man who does that sort of thing?

Hon. C. G. Latham: You need to look at your regulations.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The hon. member told me about receivers getting both when he was handing over the office to me.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You have no right to talk like that.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The hon. member's statement was not confidential, and it is a fact.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Was it not confidential?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Then I shall know how to treat you in future.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The hon. member made a similar statement in the House.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You have gone down in my estimation.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The hon. member should be scrupulous about telling the truth.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I tell it more than you do.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: He is indignant because I have given the facts. When speaking on the Bill in 1933, the hon.

member, according to "Hansard," page 2366, stated—

Under the amendments in the Bill it is proposed to limit the amount of money the deputy directors or receivers shall receive, and I am pleased to think the Minister has found a means by which we can limit it. Complaints have been made, not by individual farmers, but by the organisations, of the charges imposed under the Act. Of course it is difficult to protect a man against himself. In the past the farmer has gone along to his meeting, and has arranged with the trustee to carry on his business after he has negotiated with his creditors, and the fee has generally been fixed at higher than the amount allowed by the Act. This has been approved by the creditor and not disallowed by the deputy director, and so the farmer has contracted himself out of the Act. The Act definitely states that there is to be only one fee of ten guineas, and then 3 per cent. of the gross proceeds to be allowed to the deputy director for his services.

I said it should be ten guineas in all. The hon. member admitted that it was ten guineas and three per cent. of the gross proceeds.

Notwithstanding that, we find the farmers giving an additional £10 and then coming along and kicking up a noise about so much being charged.

It has been stated that there is a distinct difference between an application under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act and this measure. There is a difference to this extent only, that the down-and-outer sought relief under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Not so.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It was so. It must have been so, because the farmers who were better off did not come under the Act. Only the men who were hard pressed sought protection under the Act. They were so hard pressed that their business was carried on by receivers, but they paid the fees. The difference under this measure is that every farmer can make application, and before his qualifications, as set forth in the Commonwealth Act can be tested, he must receive a hearing from the Director. He must comply with all the preliminaries before he can get a hearing. Now we are asked to provide fees for those whom the hon. member said were well off.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You know that I did not say they were well off. The trouble is that you do not hear half of what is said.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: If they are not well off, they are better off than those who were down and out. Let me cor-

rect the member for Avon. I did not say that group settlers and clients of the Agricultural Bank would not get relief under this measure. I said they would get no relief insofar as debts to the Government were concerned, but they can get relief in respect to private debts. All of them will apply for relief. Who would not when there is £1,300,000 to be given away? We are asked to pay the fees for every man who desires to make application, whether he is entitled to relief or not. It will not be known whether he is entitled to relief until his affairs have been examined by the Director. The amendment is unreasonable, and I persist in opposing it.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I know that the Minister is anxious to stonewall his own Bill. That is his reason for putting up all the camouflage from "Hansard." He has read a speech delivered to the House in 1933. For his benefit I shall quote Section 7 of the Act of 1931, stating—

The receiver may realise and convert into money all property coming to his hands and derived from the business of the farmer, and he shall have power (between the date of the stay order and the date fixed for the meeting of the farmer's creditors), with the approval of the Director, to make such disbursements (not exceeding altogether thirty pounds) out of the money of the farmer in his hands.

Thus by the Act of 1931 we limited the amount to £30. As I pointed out to the Committee at the time, we provided for a sum of ten guineas for making up the farmer's accounts and for finding the necessary credit with which to carry him on for the year. After that the Director or receiver was to be entitled to not more than three per cent. of the proceeds. The receivers or trustees got the farmers to sign for £10 every year. What the Minister did was to introduce a measure to prevent the farmer from contracting himself out of the Act.

The Minister for Lands: Ten pounds and three per cent.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: No, it was not.

The Minister for Lands: It was stated in your speech which I quoted.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I see no use in pursuing the matter further, as the Minister has made up his mind. Certainly the amendment will be carried to a division.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	14
Noes	15

Majority against 1

AYES.

Mr. Boyle	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Brockman	Mr. Seward
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. Latham	Mr. Thorn
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Watts
Mr. Patrick	Mr. Doney

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Cross	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Fox	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Troy
Miss Holman	Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Withers
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Millington	

(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause, as previously amended, put and passed.

Clause 7—agreed to.

Clause 8—How applications are dealt with in first instance:

Mr. BOYLE: I move an amendment—

That the following three paragraphs be added to the clause:—

"To assist and advise farmers in preparing and making applications, and preparing compositions or schemes of arrangement with creditors, the Director shall appoint a requisite number of persons throughout the South-West Division as described in the Land Act, 1933, and in such other localities as he deems necessary, and such persons when appointed shall be called district debt adjustment officers, and their services for the purposes aforesaid shall be made available free of any charge.

"Where the farmer has been so assisted, the application shall be transmitted to the Director by the district debt adjustment officer.

"The Director may, with the consent of the Minister administering any department of the Public Service, or with the consent of the Commissioners of the Agricultural Bank of Western Australia, make use of the services of any person employed in the department, or by the Commissioners, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, so far as they relate to district debt adjustment officers."

The object of the amendment is to decentralise the preparation of schemes of adjustment under the Bill. The Minister has pointed out, and rightly so, that the director will be overwhelmed with applications. With that circumstance in view, this rather lengthy amendment is moved. The district debt adjustment officer does not represent

an original idea, but one which appears in the report of the Federal Royal Commission. The Agricultural Bank staff could be utilised to advantage for the work. In Western Australia to-day there are 20,000 farmers, of whom 14,500 are clients of the Agricultural Bank. Under the Agricultural Bank Act Amendment Act those 14,500 securities will have to be valued and adjusted. Therefore the Minister would be well advised to make use of the widespread organisation of the Agricultural Bank for that purpose. The inability of the client to come to Perth in addition to paying fees makes it seem imperative to take some action ensuring that he will be able to do this business at the nearest centre to his point of habitation.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I am prepared to agree to the amendment in the main if the hon. member will agree to some amendments on his amendment. I move an amendment on the amendment—

That in the first paragraph of the amendment, the following be struck out:—"and their services for the purposes aforesaid shall be made available free of charge."

Amendment on the amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: There is no objection to the word "Director" in the second paragraph of the amendment, but I have to move the following amendment on the amendment:—

That in the first line of the third paragraph of the amendment the word "Director" be struck out and "Trustees" inserted in lieu.

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

Clause 9—agreed to.

Clause 10—Form of relief:

Mr. BOYLE: I move an amendment—

That all the words of the clause after the first line be struck out and the following inserted in lieu:—"nature of a free gift, and shall not be repayable by the farmer."

What this amendment proposes appears in the South Australian Act. Under the Victorian measure, which has passed the Victorian Legislative Assembly, the trustees may require that a part, or if necessary none at all, at their discretion, of the advance be repaid to the Treasury. The principle underlying the Federal Act is that the money shall be in the nature of a gift to the farmer, notwithstanding that

the Federal Act, by Section 6, authorises the States to require repayment wholly or in part. This authority represents a privilege granted by the Commonwealth to the States.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: It does not say "shall."

Mr. BOYLE: No, it is permissive in the Federal Act. The whole spirit underlying the Federal legislation, as pointed out by the Deputy Prime Minister, was that the loan to the States was in the nature of a free gift.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I cannot accept the amendment. The member for Avon insists that this money "may" or "shall" be regarded as a free gift. That contention may be regarded as consistent when applied to the Federal legislation because the Commonwealth expects the States to get the money back. If the Commonwealth Act had specifically placed the obligation upon the States to repay the money, the States would have refused to accept the proposal, but would have told the Federal authorities to collect their own repayments. I was present at the conference at Canberra when this scheme was approved, and it was definitely laid down by the Commonwealth authorities that the money was not to be regarded as a gift. The community as a whole will have to provide the interest and the money necessary for repayment. It is a bad principle to adopt to provide money in such circumstances and allow the people to think that they can secure free gifts. If the community got that idea, it will be the beginning of the end. If we establish such a precedent, we shall regret it. If we can provide money as a free gift for one section, other sections will demand it as a right. Members should remember their responsibilities in such matters, and they should adopt, as a principle, repayment by farmers who are in a position to repay. I am prepared to admit that much of this money will not be repaid but even so, the obligation upon the part of those who can pay should be retained. I notice that the "Primary Producer" newspaper contained an article regarding this matter. It must have been written by an ignoramus, because he knew nothing about the subject. He quoted the South Australian Act and the Victorian legislation that has not yet been agreed to, but he made no reference to the legislation in New South Wales, where there is a composite Government formed from the National and

Country Parties. The New South Wales Act provides not only for repayment, but for an interest charge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In this State the Government provide for repayment, but without any interest charge. It is true that the South Australian farmers will not be required to make any repayments, but in that State the advance that will be approved by the trustees will not represent a final debt adjustment, because the trustees there are confined to an advance of 5s. in the pound. In that State, should a farmer have assets that are unencumbered, after the requirements of his secured creditors are taken into consideration, the indebtedness will still be a charge upon the unencumbered portion of his assets.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: If a farmer has unencumbered assets, I do not think he will get much assistance from this fund.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It all depends upon how his security is valued. The hon. member might say that a farmer's assets were worth nothing, but the trustees might consider them worth something. It is strange, too, that though the member for Avon has moved that the advances to farmers shall be in the nature of a free gift, and shall not be repayable by the farmer, the Leader of the Opposition intends to move an amendment to permit the farmer, at his option, to repay the advance, or any instalment thereof, at any time before it falls due, notwithstanding that the specified period of three years may not have elapsed. If I could secure a loan for some years free of interest, and I were in a position to pay off the loan, I think I would be more inclined to put the money into a savings bank and draw interest during the period of the loan. I do not wish to misrepresent the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: You would be glad to do so if you could.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No, I would not. I ask the Committee to adopt the decent principle that if a farmer can make repayments, he should do so.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The Minister for Lands knows that paragraph (d) of Sub-section 1 of Section 7 of the Commonwealth Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act provides that any money advanced to a farmer and repaid by him shall be applied to the scheme and used for that purpose. That indicates that it is left optional to the States, whether they will demand repayment.

The Minister for Justice: That refers to what is described as the revolving fund.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: That is so. The Minister referred to the advantages and disadvantages of the South Australian Act. While the trustees are limited to the advance of 5s. in the pound, the farmer is still held responsible for the balance of any compromise arrived at. In my opinion, the farmer who has free assets is not likely to receive much consideration under this legislation. Most decidedly that phase will be taken into consideration as an offset.

The Minister for Lands: The assets may not be liquid.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Not at the time, but they will be liquid at some time. I know what would happen in this State if we were to pass the Bill as originally drafted. If there are any free assets they will be taken into consideration and will be an offset to the debt.

Mr. Moloney: Would that not be quite right?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: We are not asking anything about that. All that the member for Avon is asking for is that this shall not be an advance to the farmer, but shall be a gift, as in South Australia. The Minister says he will not agree to that.

The Minister for Justice: Where will the revolving fund come in then?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: But the Act does not provide for a revolving fund. It is of no use bringing that up when it suits the Minister, and condemning it another time.

The Minister for Justice: This is the policy that was announced.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The main purpose of this is to give the farmer some relief from his debt. The question now is whether that shall be a free gift or merely an advance. I think the Committee will agree that if the farmer is in such dire circumstances as renders it necessary to give him relief, that relief should be a free gift.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. SEWARD: I move an amendment—

That after "advance" in line 2 the words "and the trustees at their discretion may require the whole or any portion of such advance to be"; and by deleting all words after the word "advance" where it is first used in line 5.

That amendment is in the same terms as the section in the Victorian Act. Instead of making the amount a gift to the farmer, it leaves it to the discretion of the trustees.

During the discussion on the amendment rejected just now, it was said that this money is being advanced to relieve the farmer of some of his debts. The trouble is that the farmer is overburdened with debt, and if this amount is to be repaid it will merely mean the shifting of the debt from one creditor to another. It would be much better to give the trustees power to make the relief a gift to the thoroughly deserving farmer, whereas on the other hand the trustee could demand some repayment from a less deserving farmer. In other words it will give the trustees power to deal with each case on its merits, and so they will be able to give every farmer suitable treatment. Reference was made to the question of its being made a revolving fund. In my view the whole purport of it is to give the farmer encouragement by relieving him of some of the debts incurred during the depression.

Mr. Marshall: What about giving relief to other sections of the community?

Mr. SEWARD: At present I am dealing with the farmers; representatives of other sections of the community can come along later. The Commonwealth legislation practically gives the States the power to make regulations best suited to their own conditions. The conditions of our farmers are totally dissimilar from those of the farmers of New South Wales, for our farmers, being at an earlier stage of development require more assistance, and consequently we shall be within our rights in making regulations best suited to the conditions in this State.

The CHAIRMAN: The time has passed for the moving of amendments in that part of the clause, and so I rule the amendment out of order.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That the following be added to the clause:—
“Provided that the farmer may at his option repay the advance or any instalment thereon at any time before it falls due, and notwithstanding that the said period of three years has not elapsed.”

It should not be mandatory that three years should elapse before repayment is made. There may be many reasons why a farmer should wish to make repayment before it falls due. For instance, the division of an estate of a deceased person might make it essential that the debt should be cleared off. It is not just that a man should not be able

to make repayment before a given date.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I will agree to the amendment.

Hon. C. G. Latham: What has happened?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: If any farmer wants to repay a free of interest loan before the specified time, then God bless him!

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move an amendment—

That the following be added at the end of the clause:—“The trustees may consent in writing to the postponement of their security in favour of any other encumbrancer on such terms and conditions as the trustees may think fit.”

This is to ensure that the advance shall not handicap the farmer in his operations or prevent him from getting further credit.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I still think the Minister has not gone far enough. Before any man can get a lien over the crop or anything else as a security for an advance, he will have to go to the trustees. It will take some time. However, I am glad the Minister has seen that something ought to be done, and so I will accept the amendment.

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

Clauses 11 to 15—Agreed to.

Clause 16—Regulations:

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The wording of this clause is a departure from the usual. As a rule regulations are governed by the authority given in the parent Act, but in this case it looks as if it were intended to use the Governor-in-Council to prescribe any regulations at all.

The Minister for Justice: Only in accordance with the provisions in the Act.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am afraid there will have to be a lot of administrative action, and I do not want the Governor to go outside the Act.

Clause put and passed.

New Clause:

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move—

That the following new clause be inserted after Clause 7:—

8. A farmer whose business is at the commencement of this Act being carried on pursuant to a scheme of arrangement, deed or inspection, letter of license, or other agree-

ment or instrument under Part XI. or Part XII. of the Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act, 1924, may, if such scheme, deed, letter, or other agreement or instrument is lawfully annulled or terminated and the farmer has not assigned his estate or been made bankrupt, apply to the Trustees (whose duty it shall be to also consider such applications) for advances from the fund in order to make compositions or schemes of arrangement with his creditors.

This is to provide that a farmer operating under the Bankruptcy Act may make arrangements with his creditors for getting his discharge with a view to securing relief under this measure. The provision is taken from the South Australian Act. It will be of great benefit to the farmer, and may mean financial assistance to his creditors who, if the farmer be left under the Bankruptcy Act, may get nothing.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I have no objection to the clause, except that it is quite unnecessary. It is in the South Australian Act, but not because it is necessary there. There are many things in the South Australian Act that are not necessary. It might well be much abbreviated.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: What will happen if the trustees say, "You have already come under the Bankruptcy Act and we cannot accept you"? The new clause will certainly draw their attention to the matter. Even if it is redundant. I hope the Minister will accept it, because it has a distinct value.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The new clause is of no value. It is merely an attempt to put something into an Act that should not be there. The trustees cannot refuse to receive any application. If a person has been under the Bankruptcy Act, and some scheme, deed, or letter associated with his affairs has been lawfully annulled, he is no longer under the Bankruptcy Act.

New clause put and negatived.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1935-36, and recommending appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1935-36.

In Committee of Supply.

The House resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the 30th June, 1936; Mr. Sleeman in the Chair.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER

(Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [8.22]: In presenting this the third Budget of this Government, it is not my intention to deal exhaustively with the work of the various departments. Ministers will explain the operations of their own departments in submitting their Estimates. I do wish, however, to explain in broad outline the financial results achieved last year, and state what our expectations are for the year just commenced. When we view the economic position of Australia as a whole, we see that last year was the best since the coming of the depression. The trade figures are better, Government finance has improved, public confidence is stronger, and unemployment has been reduced. Unfortunately, Western Australia's return to better times has been retarded by the fact that we are so much dependent on good prices for primary products, particularly wheat.

Value of production.

In 1933-34 the value of the wheat crop was £5.08 millions for 37.5 million bushels. Last year the value had dropped to £4.19 millions for 26.99 million bushels. The wool clip last year was worth £3.375 millions, compared with £5,103 millions in 1933-34. The gold production was naturally affected by the industrial dispute early in the calendar year, and the figures dropped to 596,000 fine ounces, compared with 654,000 in 1933-34, a reduction of nearly 9 per cent. Thanks to the higher price of gold, the monthly average being £8.74 per ounce compared with £8.11 in the preceding year, the total value of gold production did not fall correspondingly. The value of gold produced last year was £5,214,000, as against £5,306,000 in the year before, a reduction of less than 2 per cent. If we accept 1928-29 as the latest pre-depression year, it is interesting to note the variations in values of our principal sources of production between that year and 1934-35. In 1928-29 the gold production totalled £1,638,000, the wool clip realised £3,988,000,

while the wheat harvest was worth £8,236,000. The total of these three items is £13,862,000. Last year the values totalled £13,504,000, a drop of only £358,000 compared with 1928-29. But an examination of the figures shows that the drop has been most severe in the avenues of production which affect us most. In that period the gold production increased by £3,576,000, while the value of wheat produced declined by £4,046,000, less Commonwealth wheat bounty £725,000, and the wool clip was less by £613,000. It will be noticed that the increased value of gold production was not far short of the decline in the value of the wheat harvest. Whereas most of the money received from the sale of wheat, however, goes to farmers resident in the State, a large proportion of the dividends from gold mining profits is payable to residents outside the State.

Unemployment Decreased.

The reduction of unemployment is revealed in the figures published by the Commonwealth Statistician. These show that for Western Australia the percentage of trade unionists unemployed in June, 1934, was 18.3, and that it dropped to 14.9 in June of this year. In the cost to the Government the reduction has been substantial. Unemployment relief from revenue fell from £232,181 in 1933-34 to £73,196 last year. The number on sustenance at 30th June, 1934, was 1,225, and on 30th June last it was 776. In the same period the number on relief works dropped from 1,950 to 835. The total reduction in the number of men on the hands of the Government was 18 per cent.

Trade Figures.

Unfortunately our trade figures, namely, imports and exports, do not show as favourable a balance as they did in 1933-34. The figures for last year were—

Exports—	£	£
Overseas ...	15,530,000	
Interstate ...	1,349,000	
	<hr/>	Total of 16,879,000
Imports—		
Overseas ...	5,102,000	
Interstate ...	10,145,000	
	<hr/>	Total of 15,247,000

Excess of exports over imports ... £1,632,000

In 1933-34 the excess was £3,232,000. The drop in excess was due partly to a fall in exports of approximately £200,000, accounted for largely by the decline in the

value of the wheat crop and the wool clip. In addition to the fall in exports, imports rose by 1½ millions, one million being interstate, and £500,000 oversea. The excess of exports over imports does not tell the whole story of our fiscal position, because from this excess we have to meet several commitments, notably oversea interest. The amount of oversea interest, plus exchange paid last year, was £2,248,000. In addition, gold-mining dividends paid in London amounted to £1,188,000. Another obligation which has to be met from our trade surplus is interest on our internal debts owing to creditors in other States. We have no reliable data as to the amount of this payment, but if it were no bigger than one-third of our interest, it would have last year totalled £484,000. The estimate of one-third is probably much below the actual figure.

Loan Moneys—Contributions and Distributions.

From particulars kindly supplied by the Chairman of the Loan Council, it appears that of loans floated since the commencement of the Financial Agreement, Western Australia has contributed about 1.3 per cent. of the total. I want members to bear these figures in mind. On the other hand, the distribution of loan moneys has given us almost 12 per cent. of the total. In other words we have contributed only a little more than 10 per cent. of our loan requirements.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: We cannot develop and lend money as well.

The PREMIER: We have contributed only a little more than 10 per cent. of our loan requirements. We have received far more than we have subscribed. That is not to say that we have ever been able to subscribe our full loan requirements in the State, even before the Loan Council had come into existence, because our loan requirements were then largely provided from overseas. The figures I am quoting now deal with loan requirements within Australia.

Hon. C. G. Latham: We send all our money over there for them to build up surpluses.

The PREMIER: I am aware that large sums have been contributed by banks and other financial institutions, and that part of their contributions would represent money obtained from this State. But even allowing for that, it is obvious that a substantial

proportion of our loan money comes from the other States. We cannot deny that, and there is no reason why we should. Our lack of accumulated capital available for investment, as compared with that in some of the other States, is made apparent in the incomes from property subject to Federal tax. The report of the Federal Commissioner of Taxation for 1933-34 shows that that Federal tax on income from property in this State is less than the tax on income from personal exertion. But in all the other States, except Queensland, the position is reversed. In South Australia the tax on property income is nearly twice the amount of the personal exertion tax. According to the evidence given to the Commonwealth Grants Commission, nearly 75 per cent. of property income in South Australia is represented by interest on Commonwealth loans. One effect of this condition is that a fairly substantial portion of our wealth is mortgaged for payment of interest and repayment of debts to creditors outside the State. The total payments to be made from our excess of exports over imports, even allowing for a payment of only one-third of our Australian interest outside the State, amounts to £3,920,000, which has to be met out of the trade balance of £1,632,000, leaving a net adverse balance of £2,288,000. To meet this adverse balance we have the loans raised for us by the Loan Council during the year which amounted to £3,090,000, plus borrowings by local governmental bodies and private individuals, particularly in the goldmining industry.

Last Year's Operations.

The year 1934-35 closed with a deficit of £167,095, as compared with the estimated deficit of £644,452, a reduction of £477,357. This position is very satisfactory, and is a welcome indication of progress towards normal times. This deficit is the lowest since 1927-28, when the deficiency was £26,466. But the conditions in that year were not comparable with those of to-day. The revenue was buoyant and loan money plentiful. Prices of all our products, with the exception of gold, were very much higher than they are now, and we were all enjoying a fairly high level of prosperity.

Comparison with other States.

As compared with other States, our position last year was one in which we ought

to take some justifiable pride. The budgeted and actual deficits were as follow:—

State.	Budget Deficits.	Actual Result:		Reduction on Budget Estimate.
		Surplus.	Deficit.	
New South Wales	£ 2,910,000	£ ...	£ 2,846,000	£ 64,000
Victoria ...	243,000	...	170,000	73,000
Queensland ...	1,001,000	...	563,000	438,000
South Australia	518,000	36,000	...	554,000
Western Australia	644,000	...	167,000	477,000
Tasmania ...	208,000	...	119,000	89,000
Totals ...	5,524,000	3,831,000		1,693,000

With the exception of South Australia, we effected a bigger reduction in our estimated deficit than any other State. All will be glad to see this sign of recovery in the finances of South Australia, which had a succession of bad seasons just before the depression. In consequence, that State's already depressed conditions were intensified many fold. Much of the improvement in their finances was due to rigorous economies and heavy taxation, but a considerable part was due to substantial assistance from the Commonwealth Government. While not wishing to detract from the merits of South Australia's achievement, it is necessary to keep this assistance in mind when making comparisons with our own financial position.

Revenue Receipts.

Turning to our revenue, the principal cause of improvement in our finances was an increase in revenue over the amounts estimated:—

	£
Estimated revenue ...	8,846,607
Actual revenue ...	9,331,430
An increase of ...	484,923

Almost each head of revenue showed an increase over the Budget estimate. Taxation revenue was £260,435 above the estimate. This was largely due to an under-estimate of the effect of the increased wool prices in 1933-34, and to an increase in employment generally, and to continued activity in gold and the revival in the timber industry. Probate duty collections showed a decline of £25,924 on the estimate, due largely to the delay in passing amendments to the Administration Act. Territorial

revenue was greater than the estimate by £63,241, made up as follows:—

	£
Land	20,688
Mining	17,049
Timber	25,504

Receipts from public utilities showed an increase of £344,252. This gratifying result was mainly due to the activities of the Railways, the revenue from which was £277,544 above the Budget estimate. The result is all the more satisfactory when it is known that the expenditure of this department was £1,440 below the estimate. I draw attention to the Railway figures, the revenue being £277,544 above the estimate, and the expenditure being £1,440 below the estimate. The additional revenue is due in part to a large carry-over of wheat from the previous harvest, which augmented receipts for the first three months of the financial year. Also it was due partly to the operation of the Transport Act, which affected the latter six months of the year. Though the wheat position is not repeated this year, we shall have the benefit of 12 months' operations of the Transport Act. Other utilities which contributed to increase in revenue were—

	£
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	6,686
Goldfields Water Supply ...	11,949
Electricity	22,674
State Batteries	11,062

Unfortunately, additional receipts from the Goldfields Water Supply were more than offset by an increase in expenditure of £17,438. The Electricity Department's expenditure also was greater than the estimate by £18,079, and that of the State Batteries by £8,333.

Treasury Receipts.

Departmental revenue exceeded the estimate by £36,568, but the Treasury receipts, which consisted mainly of interest earnings, showed a decline of £176,024. This substantial decrease necessitates detailed explanation. The greater proportion of Treasury departmental revenue consists of interest collections by the Agricultural Bank and its allied institutions. The Bank is required by the Act to pay to the Treasury interest on its capital, and in past years this interest has been credited to Consolidated Revenue, irrespective of whether or not the Bank

had collected it from its clients. That has been the practice of the past. When the Bank had not collected sufficient interest from settlers to meet administration expenses and interest due to the Treasury, the difference was taken from settlers' repayments of principal. If advances had to be made by the Bank in excess of balance of repayments in hand, further capital was provided from Loan Funds. The real effect of this procedure was to use loan moneys for revenue purposes.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That is one way of producing a good Budget.

The PREMIER: It is not done in this Budget. In the past it has been done by all Governments, including Governments of which I and the hon. member have been members, but it is not in this Budget. We are not doing that kind of finance any more. Though the old practice may be condemned as unsound, Parliament, by an Act of 1912, specifically authorised it to be done.

Hon. C. G. Latham: It instructed the Government to do it.

The PREMIER: Yes, authorised them to do it. All Governments have done this in the past, but we are not doing it here. The Act authorised the Government to do it, but it is not sound finance. During the hearing of the State's case before the Commonwealth Grants Commission we were severely criticised for this method of finance. So it was subsequently decided to limit if possible the interest payments to the Treasury to the actual interest collections made by the Bank, and the old provision which we have just been discussing was discontinued by the Agricultural Bank Act of last year. But the Estimates for 1934-35 were prepared prior to this decision. As I say, the old practice has been discontinued, but the Estimates of last year were prepared before the passage of the Act of last year. As a result of the decision, the Treasury lost last year £368,422, which it would have received had the old practice been continued. When members are examining our figures for last year, they should remember the fact that, had we continued the old practice of paying into Consolidated Revenue interest on Agricultural Bank loans, whether the interest was paid or not, our figures would have been £368,422 better than they are.

The Minister for Justice: It costs a lot to be honest.

The PREMIER: It certainly means a great deal to a Treasurer when he adopts a virtuous attitude in regard to finance, and when it means a difference of £368,422.

Mr. Stubbs: It gives you a headache.

The PREMIER: Yes. That is the difference between the method adopted in the past and the method we are adopting now. We are now taking into revenue only the interest we receive. In the past we took into revenue the interest payable. If the full amount was not received, the balance was taken from loan funds.

Mr. Sampson: No one can criticise the Treasurer after that.

The PREMIER: We were authorised to do it by Act of Parliament, but really it was unsound finance.

Hon. C. G. Latham: There are a few other things to be taken up similarly.

The PREMIER: Yes, but we are making a start. I mention this to indicate that the figures on the present Estimates would otherwise have been better to the amount of £368,000. One might ask, seeing that we have lost £368,000 by adopting the new method this year, how our figures so nearly balance. The answer is that there have been substantial increases in other revenue, which have made it possible to avoid taking into Consolidated Revenue other than legitimate revenue collections. Receipts from trading concerns showed a decline of £49,893 as compared with the Budget estimate. The estimate was based on the assumption that the full amount of interest due by those bodies would be credited to revenue in accordance with the State Trading Concerns Act, even though the earnings were insufficient to meet the charge. At the close of the year only the State sawmills and State hotels had made sufficient profit to pay interest. To avoid increasing the capital indebtedness of other concerns, it was decided to take into revenue the interest earned only by those showing a profit.

Expenditure 1934-35.

Turning to the expenditure for last year, the figures were:—

	£
Budget estimate ...	9,491,059
Actual ...	9,498,525
Increase ...	£7,466

Under special Acts a saving of £64,625 was effected, due to interest on overseas loans being less than the estimate by £67,145, and to payment for sinking fund being smaller than the estimate by £10,696. Sinking fund contributions for the year are estimated by the Commonwealth Treasury officials, and we adopt their estimate. As an offset to those savings, there were excesses above the amounts estimated for other special Acts totalling £12,799. Those excess payments were partly caused by further partial remissions from deductions under the Financial Emergency Act on account of pensions and salaries paid under special Acts. Another contributing factor was the greater payment which had to be made under the Forests Act. Under that Act three-fifths of the revenue from timber must be paid to a special fund. As that revenue was much higher than was estimated, the special payment was higher. Of course the Treasury benefited from the increase in its proportion of the revenue.

Overseas Interest Savings.

The saving on overseas interest was the result of two conversion loans floated in November of last year and January of this year. These figures are important. The November conversion, so far as it affected this State, was as follows:—

Old Loans.	Interest Rate.
£	
2,235,007	3 %
2,959,821	3½ %
3,744,863	5 %
£8,939,691	

Those loans were converted thus—

New Loan.	Interest rate.	Issue price.
£8,939,691	3½ %	£99

Hon. C. G. Latham: You had to pay ¼ per cent. more on some of it.

The PREMIER: Yes. The annual reduction in interest is £67,347 and in exchange £15,955. That is the benefit to the State by the conversion of the three loans. The conversion in January last affected one loan of £1,895,527, which was converted from 5 per cent. to 3¼ per cent. at par. The result was an annual saving of £33,171 in interest and £8,418 in exchange. Up to the end of June we have benefited from overseas con-

versions affecting loans totalling £14,601,513. The annual savings are—

	£
Interest	175,844
Exchange	43,487
Total	£219,331

The Minister for Justice: The conversions were spread over two or three years.

The PREMIER: Yes.

Hon. C. G. Latham: That represents the savings on all the conversions.

The PREMIER: Yes, all the conversions up to the end of June of this year.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Covering about two years.

The PREMIER: It covers the period since the Loan Council have been able to convert loans, probably three years.

The Minister for Justice: The British Government would not give the necessary permission.

The PREMIER: None of these loans was converted by the permission of anyone. They are loans which had expired. We floated them years ago and they had an optional date for redemption. When a loan is floated, an optional date for redemption is usually attached to it. These were loans the optional date of which had expired. Taking advantage of the loans having fallen in, we have been able to secure this conversion. That does not affect the many millions of pounds that are owing by Australia, both in Australia and overseas, on which we have no optional date for redemption. Say a loan was floated some years ago, during the war, when the rates of interest were from 5 to 5½ per cent. Always on the issue of such loans a date was fixed for their redemption. In cases where that period has not yet expired, we are still paying the higher rate of interest.

Mr. Rodoreda: On foreign loans only.

The PREMIER: In those days loans were generally floated overseas. It is only during the last five or six years that we have had to raise all our money in Australia. We are still paying the higher rate of interest on loans that have not yet fallen in. The conversions which have been accomplished have been only in the case of what are known as optional loans. I was dealing with the reduction of expenditure on the Estimates. A substantial saving was effected in payments for unemployment relief. The actual

payment was less than the estimate by £27,504, a reduction of 27.5 per cent. The improvement in the unemployment position, responsible for this figure, has already been referred to.

Increased Departmental Expenditure.

The departmental expenditure was £48,589 over the estimate. This increase is almost entirely accounted for by excesses in the Estimates of the Premier's Department, the Treasury, and the Mines Department. The cost of the Secession Petition, and the Royal Commissions on Aborigines and Bulk Handling caused the excess in the Premier's Department. In the Treasury the following items were the main contributors to the excess:—

	£
Grant to Broome pearlers ...	7,000
Jubilee appeal	5,000
Grant to Hospital Fund	15,000

Hon. C. G. Latham: Grant to hospital fund? So that they have swelled their revenue to £185,000?

The PREMIER: I will explain all about that in due course. The money from the hospital tax has to be devoted to hospitals. That fund is not controlled by the Treasury, but by the Health Department. We have no say in it. In my judgment, the Health Department has overstepped their expenditure to the amount I have mentioned; indeed, by more than that. Hospitals cannot be closed, and so perforce the Treasury had to go to their relief, and provide £15,000, by which they have overstepped the mark.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The Premier is a very good Treasurer. I could not imagine their getting any money for hospitals when I was Minister for Health.

The PREMIER: It was mighty hard for me to have to give it.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I can bet that it was.

The PREMIER: The alternative was to close down hospitals. No one could subscribe to that. I am taking steps to see that it does not occur again this year. I was bled for £15,000 last year.

Mr. Stubbs: They will get it from you again.

The PREMIER: Not unless they alter the way in which they manage the hospital fund. Another contributing item in the case of the Treasury was: Repatriation of settlers £5,768. The continued activity in the mining industry accounted for additional ex-

penditure in the Mines Department. This expenditure was naturally reflected in additional revenue. The expenditure on public utilities showed a net increase of £56,769 over the estimate. This position is due almost entirely to—

	£
Goldfields water supply ...	17,438
Other hydraulic undertakings ...	13,873
Electricity supply ...	18,079
State Batteries ...	8,333

The excesses in the case of the two first-mentioned concerns were occasioned by additional supply of water to mines, and to adjustment in wages and stores accounts by which all payments due for the year were brought to account. In the case of electricity supply, the increased cost of coal and additional sales of current were responsible for the added expenditure. The treatment of increased tonnage, which brought in additional revenue, was the cause of the excess in the case of State Batteries.

Public Debt.

The net public debt of the State amounted to £88,066,361 at the 30th June last. The increase of the public debt during the last financial year amounted to £2,589,971, made up in this way—

	£
Net debt at 30th June, 1934...	85,476,390
Plus Sinking Fund ...	371,412
Total ...	85,847,802
Plus Flotations during the year	3,090,275
Making a grand total of ...	88,938,077
Less Redemptions during the year ...	347,901
Leaving gross debt at 30th June, 1935 ...	88,590,176
Less Sinking Fund ...	523,815
Making net debt at 30th June, 1935 ...	£88,066,361

The flotations during the year included floating debt transactions to which further reference will be made later. The flotations themselves during the year comprised—

	£
Our share of two internal loans ...	2,626,410
Counter sales ...	81,865
Instalment stock issued to Commonwealth Savings Bank for our share of excess of deposits over withdrawals ...	382,000

From the proceeds of internal loans an amount of £450,000 was applied to the funding of Treasury bills. Oversea and

Australian conversion expenses, which amounted to £185,973, and discounts and flotation expenses, totalling £55,691, were also met from loan raisings. The balance of £2,396,611, together with loan repayment receipts of £150,507, was available for public works and for the deficit. The loan expenditure during the last financial year amounted to £2,784,185; but this sum included £95,465 charged to loan suspense account in the previous year, and £200,000 set aside to meet commitments on contracts for the supply of machinery to the East Perth Power House. Our actual expenditure on works, therefore, was £2,488,720, showing a decrease of £159,781 when compared with the year 1933-34.

Short-term Debt.

Turning now to our short-term debt, we find that, including as indebtedness bills temporarily redeemed from loan proceeds, the total of our short-term debt in London and Australia at the beginning of the financial year was £9,621,414. That amount does not represent ordinary loan, but our short-term debt or, as we call it, our floating debt, repayable at call or, more usually, at three months or six months. That is one of the troubles which the Loan Council have had to face during the last year or two, and will have to face again. The Commonwealth Bank authorities are pressing for a reduction of the short-term debts, but the Loan Council meetings during the last two years have resisted that attitude.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Because the short-term debt is cheaper.

The PREMIER: Yes, but for other reasons too. The Loan Council have resisted, I say, the pressure of the Commonwealth Bank. The Commonwealth Bank Board have been insisting, at any rate for the last two years to my knowledge, that of whatever amounts were raised for the loan requirements of the States a proportion—they asked for half—should go towards redeeming our short-term debt. The Treasurers in the Loan Council have resisted that demand, but the Commonwealth Bank Board are in a strong position. True, they cannot force the States; but they can say, in the event of the Loan Council having approved the placing on the Australian market of a loan of £10,000,000—which is the usual thing—"We will underwrite that loan and back it, but you must pay half of

it—or some other proportion—towards redeeming your Treasury bills.” If we did that, it would leave only the remainder of the amount raised available to the States for public works purposes. Therefore the State Treasurers have resisted that attitude of the Commonwealth Bank Board. The board, however, are in a position to say, “Very well, if you do not agree with our proposals we will not underwrite the loan.” And if they refuse to underwrite a loan, most likely the loan will be a failure. Thus the Loan Council, representing the whole of Australia, cannot afford to go on the market for a loan that is not underwritten, in view of the possibility of such a loan proving a failure and thereby adversely affecting the credit of the Commonwealth and of the whole of the Australian States. From that aspect, I repeat, the Commonwealth Bank Board carry a very strong hand. I have taken part in Loan Council discussions, and I know there are many reasons why we should not set aside a large proportion of new loan raisings for the purpose of redeeming our short-term debt. One factor is the rate of interest. On our floating debt, or really Commonwealth Treasury bills, the rate of interest is $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. If we were to fund those bills into a loan, the rate of interest would be $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, or whatever the local rate might be. Thus we would increase our interest obligations. Apart from that, we would reduce the amount available for works. If a loan of £10,000,000 is raised for the States and we agree that half of the amount shall be set aside for the redemption of the floating debt, or Treasury bills, in addition to increasing our interest payment from $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. to perhaps $3\frac{1}{2}$ we have only half the amount of the loan available for public works in the State. It means, in effect, that the States Governments merely raise the money and pass it over by means of an entry in the Commonwealth Bank books. The Treasurers have always resisted and will continue to resist such a demand, but I must say again that the Commonwealth Bank Board carry a very strong hand in this respect and are trying to force the States.

The Minister for Justice: It should be done very gradually.

The PREMIER: Yes, and we have agreed that that is desirable. It is highly undesirable that our floating debt shall keep mounting all the time. In connection with loans that have been raised in recent years, the State Treasurers have not objected to a proportion being set aside for the redemption of Treasury bills, which, in other words, represent the floating debt. The difference between the Loan Council and the Commonwealth Bank Board has regard to the amount that should be set aside. We have been agreeable to setting aside a fair proportion each year entirely for the purpose of redeeming Treasury bills, but the Commonwealth Bank Board have been demanding an amount that the State Treasurers have been unable to agree to.

The Minister for Justice: It has all depended upon the interpretation of that word “fair.”

The PREMIER: That is so. From the State Treasurer's point of view, it has been a matter of necessity. While we do not desire—I regard it as highly undesirable—to increase our floating debt, or that our Treasury bills should be increased without any control over that phase whatever, it should be realised that out of every loan we float—and there are two every year—a proportion should be devoted to the redemption of our Treasury bills.

Mr. Seward: Was any definite proportion stated?

The Minister for Justice: No.

The PREMIER: That is where the argument comes in. The Commonwealth Bank Board say one-half, and the State Treasurers say one-tenth.

The Minister for Justice: That is where the battle comes in.

The PREMIER: We all agree that something should be done, but we are unable to agree as to what should be the amount. If we were to set aside half the loan raised for the purpose of the States, the States would be left without money with which to carry on, in which event the old unsatisfactory conditions would continue with respect to fulfilling our responsibility to find work for the people or, failing that, to provide sustenance for them. During the year, bills amounting to £200,000 were issued to cover the revenue deficit, and bills totalling

£450,000 were funded from the proceeds of two internal loans. The net result of these transactions was a reduction of £250,000 in our short-term debt, which, at the end of the financial year, then stood at £9,371,414, being held as follows:—

	£	£
London ... ..	...	3,031,414
Australia	5,550,000	...
Plus bills temporarily redeemed from loan proceeds	790,000	6,340,000
Making the total floating debt	£9,371,414	

A further redemption of £35,000, Australian bills, was effected in July to reduce the amount of the bills issued during 1934-35 for revenue purposes, to equal a figure approximately the same as the deficit for the year. This redemption will appear in the transactions relating to the short-term debt in the current year. It will be noted that no alteration was made in the amount of our indebtedness in London. However, during the year bills amounting to £467,000, carrying interest at 3 per cent., were converted into short-term debentures issued to the Commonwealth Bank at 2½ per cent. The whole of the London short-term debt is now held by the Commonwealth Bank in debentures carrying interest at 2½ per cent.

The Minister for Justice: Held by the Commonwealth Bank, not by private banks.

Interest on Short-term Debentures.

The PREMIER: This rate of interest was the subject of discussion at the last Loan Council meeting, when it was decided to make representations to the Commonwealth Bank Board for a reduction, but a decision has not yet been reached. I remember the last Loan Council meeting, at which the State Treasurers tried to bring the Commonwealth Bank Board to our way of thinking by agreeing to a reduction of the interest from 2½ per cent. While no agreement was reached, the matter was certainly considered. In the circumstances, we considered 2½ per cent. was an excessive rate of interest because the bank merely passed it on to other banks and did not carry the whole indebtedness at all. As the Commonwealth Bank merely passed the indebtedness on to other banks, there was no transaction, nor was any work done in connection with which the Commonwealth Bank carried any possible responsibility or liability. In other words, the Commonwealth Bank received 2½ per cent. interest for doing nothing at all.

Estimates for 1935-36.

In preparing the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for this year, we have budgeted for a deficit of £255,647. The deficit limit fixed by the Loan Council was £260,000. Though the deficit last year was £167,000, the amount budgeted for this year actually represents a small decrease on the result achieved last year. An examination of the figures will demonstrate that fact. In 1934-35, the Commonwealth Government distributed £2,000,000 amongst the States, to be used, if necessary, for the reduction of deficits. Our share of this special grant was £133,000, without which our deficit would have been £300,000. For this year, the Commonwealth has granted the States £500,000 towards the reduction of deficits, and our share is £35,000. When this sum is added to the anticipated deficit of £255,647 the result is £290,647. This represents what the deficit would be without this assistance from the Commonwealth. As compared with last year's results, the estimates for this year are as follows:—

	1934-35.	1935-36.	Increase over 1934-35.
	£	£	£
Revenue ...	9,331,430	9,406,490	75,060
Expenditure...	9,498,525	9,662,137	163,612
Deficit ...	£167,095	£255,647	£88,552

Revenue.

Revenue compared with 1934-35 is as follows:—

	Increase. £	Decrease. £
Taxation	28,414	...
Territorial ... ..	...	31,241
Law courts ... ..	...	90
Departmental	64,139	...
Royal Mint ... ..	...	153
Trading Concerns	1,893	...
Commonwealth ... ..	...	98,000
Public Utilities	110,098	...
Total	£204,544	£129,484
Net increase ... ..	...	£75,060.

No new taxation or variation in rates of existing taxes is proposed. Increased taxation receipts are anticipated from probate duty (£26,000) principally resulting from the amendment of the Administration Act passed last year, and from liquor licenses (£10,000), representing increased returns from turnover tax and premiums on

licenses for hotels in course of erection. Dividend duty receipts may be slightly less than last year, due to reduced profits earned by pastoral interests in 1934-35. Other taxation revenue is not expected to vary to any appreciable extent. A decrease of £31,241 is expected in territorial revenue. This is more than accounted for by the heavy drop of £40,688 in land revenue, due entirely to the low price of wool in the previous year. The average price of greasy wool each year determines the rents chargeable against the majority of the pastoral holdings in the following year. Thus the higher price of wool in 1933-34 increased land revenue in 1934-35, and the low price last year will reduce the revenue in the current year. The mining revenue last year was particularly buoyant and it is expected that the result this year will be equally good. The improvement in receipts from timber is expected to continue, and an increased revenue of £9,496 is anticipated this year. The export trade in timber was assisted by rebates amounting to approximately £10,000 made by the Government last year in royalty charges. This assistance has been of material benefit to the industry, and the prospects for some time ahead are very much better than they have been for a considerable period. In the main the receipts from departmental sources do not vary to any great extent, but naturally they do reflect good and bad times. Last year they were generally better than anticipated, and the improvement is expected to continue. An increase in Treasury revenue of £62,024 is anticipated this year through repayment of an advance made some years ago from revenue to the State Sawmills. The only other items calling for comment are collections from the Commonwealth and Public Utilities. The reduction of £98,000 under the heading of Commonwealth is due to the lesser sum available this year towards the reduction of the States' deficits, as already mentioned. The Estimates are prepared and the deficits fixed on the assumption that the Commonwealth grant for disabilities will be the same as was paid last year, namely £600,000.

Hon. C. G. Latham: What are your prospects of an increase?

The PREMIER: I have no idea. Pending the issue of the report of the Disabili-

ties Commission the Commonwealth are now, month by month, continuing payment at the same rate as last year. It is hoped that an increased grant will be recommended by the Commission, which would have the effect of reducing the deficit accordingly.

Public Utilities.

Principal increases of revenue under Public Utilities are—

	£
Goldfields Water Supply ...	12,051
Metropolitan Water Supply ...	7,700
Railways	72,456
Tramways and Electricity ...	9,513
State Batteries	6,938

Increased returns from Goldfields Water Supply and State Batteries are confidently expected as a result of the continuing improvement in the goldmining industry. The Metropolitan Water Supply increase is in part new revenue from recently completed sections of the sewerage system. The balance is normal increase and collection of arrears, made possible by the improved employment position. Railway revenue last year was particularly good, notwithstanding concessions in railway freight rates amounting to £150,000 annually. Operation of the Transport Act for six months, improved timber exports, mining activities, and better conditions generally, all helped to bring about the result. Further improvement is expected this year, and the returns for the first two months give reason to believe that the expectation will be realised. The result of the operations of the Railway Department last year were particularly gratifying, knowing as we do that the department has been a heavy drag upon the finances of the State for many years past. I feel sure that the railways will do just as well this year, and I should like to say that all credit is due to the railway service, from the heads to the men on the bottom rungs of the ladder, for the results achieved last year. The tramways and electricity revenues also reflect the improvement in industrial and local labour conditions.

Comparison of Expenditure.

Taking the estimated expenditure for 1935-36 in comparison with the actual ex-

penditure for 1934-35, the following are the results:—

	Increase. £	Decrease. £
Special Acts ...	59,323	...
Governmental, ordinary...	78,795	...
Governmental, exchange ...	...	9,237
Governmental, unemployment relief ...	...	9,496
Public Utilities ...	44,227	...
Totals ...	182,345	18,733
Net increase ...	...	£163,612

Details of the various increases and decreases in departmental expenditure will be fully explained by the Ministers concerned. For the present my remarks will be confined to the major items of difference between last year's result and this year's anticipations.

Financial Emergency Legislation.

The Government have given very careful consideration to the salary and wages provisions of the financial emergency legislation. The original Act came into operation on the 10th July, 1931. It imposed cuts of 18 per cent., 20 per cent. and 22½ per cent. on rates of salaries, wages and pensions as at the 30th June, 1930, and reduced governmental grants by 20 per cent. A reclassification of the public service and teachers immediately prior to the operation of the Act reduced their salaries by 6 per cent. This formed part of the percentage reductions under the Act, as also did basic wage reductions between the 30th June, 1930, and July, 1931, on those whom they affected. The estimated savings to revenue were—

	£	£
Reclassification of Public Service and Teachers ...	...	70,000
Financial Emergency Act—		
Salaries and wages ...	252,000	
Pensions ...	18,000	
Grants ...	20,000	
Total ...	£290,000	

The Act was continued in its original form until the 31st December, 1933. On taking office in 1933, the present Government made drastic alterations to the Act. All employees, whether Government or private who were ordinarily subject to the basic wage declarations of the State Arbitration Court, were removed from the scope of the Act, and thus reverted to awards of the court. Government salaried officers who received up to the equivalent of £293 per

annum in 1930 were also withdrawn from the Act and were placed under the basic wage variations as declared by the court. This amendment operated for the 12 months ended the 31st December, 1934. In 1934, the Government secured a further amendment extending the principle of the basic wage variations to the first £500 of all salaries. This came into operation on the 1st January, 1935, and will expire on the 31st December next. The annual cost to revenue of these remissions has been—

	Salaries and Wages.	Pensions.	Grants.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
First amendment ...	70,000	3,000	...	73,000
Second amendment ...	100,000	11,000	5,000	116,000
Total remissions to date ...	170,000	14,000	5,000	189,000
Balance remaining from cuts originally imposed ...	82,000	1,000	15,000	101,000

It will thus be seen that the Government have pursued a progressive policy in remitting the reductions. Each year we would have liked to do more, but were restricted by the financial position and could do only what the finances permitted. The Government consider that the time has now arrived when there is no necessity whatever for continuing this sectional taxation. The deficit last year was reduced from an estimate of £644,000 to an actual result of £167,000. Owing to reasons that I have already explained, the deficit is expected to be somewhat higher this year, but we are within measurable distance of balancing, and there is no longer any justification for singling out one section of the community for special disabilities.

Mr. Needham: The end of the Premiers' Plan!

The PREMIER: There never was any equity in the arbitrary salary cuts imposed on Government servants.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You know that necessity make us do many things.

The Minister for Justice: Dire necessity!

The PREMIER: We all realised that the cuts were unfair. The exigencies of the financial situation made it imperative to save money where it could most readily be done, but public servants are subjected to

the same taxation as are the remainder of the community.

Hon. C. G. Latham: That is why we did not restrict the cuts entirely to the public service.

The PREMIER: The Government with whom the hon. member was associated did, though they tried to override the Arbitration Court.

Mr. Cross: And they did override it.

Hon. C. G. Latham: We can deal with that later.

The PREMIER: Public service salaries, even in the first place, were never on a high scale compared with those paid to people performing similar work in private employment, and it is only right that public servants should not be called upon to endure special penalties where it is not absolutely essential. The Government propose, therefore, not to re-enact the provisions of the financial emergency legislation imposing reductions on salaries, wages, pensions and grants. It was an iniquitous thing to have done. This does not mean that those affected will have their salaries restored to pre-depression level. The reclassification of teachers and civil servants of 1931 has already given a six per cent. reduction. The Public Service Commissioner is now engaged on a reclassification to date from the 1st January next, the day when the Financial Emergency Act will cease to operate. This means that the onus of fixing the actual salaries to be paid to the public service will lie where it was placed under the Public Service Act, namely with the Public Service Commissioner.

Hon. C. G. Latham: As it ought to be.

The PREMIER: And always was, until the Government of the day reduced the salaries. Under the Financial Emergency Act the Government of the day, with the approval of the majorities in both Houses of Parliament, interfered with the Public Service Commissioner. They said, notwithstanding what classifications the Public Service Commissioner may have made in the Service, they were going to impose cuts of 22½ per cent., 20 per cent. and 18 per cent. Where did the Public Service Commissioner come in? Parliament overrode him, and overrode the Act. That cut did not apply to anyone outside the pub-

lic service, and could not apply to them. What kind of equity was that? A public servant receiving £300 a year was subject to all the taxes and payments that a man outside the Public Service, on a similar salary, was also subject to; but in addition to these taxes the man in the Service found his salary reduced by 20 per cent. My only regret is that the Government have not been able to remove the cuts before, but we are removing them now. It was a most unfair imposition upon a section of the community.

Mr. Hawke: The member for Neillands was in that Ministry, was he not?

Mr. Marshall: He got away just at that time.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member is not in order in interjecting out of his seat.

The PREMIER: They could never have been justified. Only the difficulties of finance have prevented us from cutting them out before. We shall have no more of this iniquity and this injustice imposed upon men and women, merely because they happen to be employed in the Public Service as distinct from those who are employed outside the Service. I would remind members that notwithstanding the abolition of these cuts, on the savings that will be effected we are going through this financial year within the amount allotted by the Loan Council, namely a deficit of £255,000 as against £167,000 last year.

Reclassification of Public Service.

In his classification the Public Service Commissioner will be absolutely untrammelled. It will be his responsibility to take into consideration variations in the cost of living, and whatever other factors he considers relevant. The Government do not know what basis he will adopt. For purposes of the Budget, however, figures have been prepared along the lines of the existing classification issued in 1931. On that basis the additional cost to the Government this year has been worked out in detail, and will be £49,000. If the Commissioner lowers his classification, that amount will be reduced, while, should he raise it, it will be increased. The Government are very happy to be able to arrive at this decision, and to think that by a gradual process this iniquitous thing may be wiped off altogether. We

are going to do justice to a section of the community which have suffered special hardships. No other section has suffered such hardships as have the members of the Public Service. I know that hon members will say that officers of the Service are secure in their employment, that they have permanent jobs, and they are lucky to have work at all. I would point out that a large number of our people in city warehouses, business places, and industry generally, are also secure in permanent jobs. Surely it is not a justification for imposing a special cut upon one man merely because he happens to be in a permanent job in the Service, as distinct from the man whose job may be not so secure. The principle is wrong. All other Governments have made certain remissions, that were imposed under the Premiers' Plan, to their employees. They have all made restorations. Some have gone further than others. The Commonwealth Government led the way.

Hon. C. G. Latham: They have had more revenue than State Governments have had.

The PREMIER: If it is to be a matter of money, where shall we start, and where shall we finish? Our guiding principle must be equity, the equitable treatment of all our citizens. No matter where the money comes from let us use it on an equitable basis, and not single out one section of the community. The Premiers' Conference, however, decided that the matter was one entirely for the consideration of individual Governments, and we have acted accordingly.

Expenditure under Special Acts.

The principal item of expenditure under special Acts is "Interest and Sinking Fund." As a result of London conversions last year, our interest overseas will show a reduction of £44,250. Last year, interest payments overseas amounted to £1,779,354; this year they are expected to total £1,735,104. That saving practically offsets the increase of £46,432 in Australian interest, due to added indebtedness from loans raised last year. Contributions to the national debt sinking fund are estimated by the National Debt Commission. Our figure for this year is set down at £345,000, an increase of £26,696 when compared with last year. With regard to the sinking fund, it is noteworthy that the provision last year was £151,209 greater than the deficit for the year. The provision this year is £89,353 greater than the anticipated deficit. These are the only occa-

sions that that result has been achieved since the year 1927-28. In addition to financial emergency remissions, other increases under special Acts are—

	£
Expenses of secession appeal ...	2,000
Increase in grant to University ...	5,826

Last year, expenses in regard to secession were charged to a vote under the Premier's Department and the cost was £4,308. As the mission was authorised by a special Act that appropriated moneys for the purpose, the expenditure is more correctly shown under a special appropriation.

As regards the University, several items of justifiable expenditure had to be deferred during the depth of the depression. Although it has not been possible to provide funds for all of them, some substantial assistance is necessary to meet imperative needs. The annual cost of remissions from financial emergency legislation has already been stated. In the main, this is responsible for the increased expenditure under the heading of "Governmental." Normal increases in the staffs of the Education and Police Departments must always be anticipated, and for this year the added cost is expected to amount to £16,000. The cost of the general elections next year is the principal reason for the increase of £11,962 in the Estimates of the Minister for Justice. Under the heading of "Agriculture," it has been necessary to make increased provision to deal with the rabbit menace, toxic paralysis and other general activities of the department. Altogether an increased amount of £12,970 has been allocated to the services of this department. Reductions are shown under the headings of "Exchange" and "Unemployment Relief." The former follows the reduction in the overseas interest bill and the latter reflects the further improvement in the employment position.

Public Utilities.

With regard to public utilities, it is pleasing to note the marked improvement in the net result. Return No. 16 of the statements supplied to members gives a summary of the results for the past 12 years. It will be seen that the result for last year showed an improvement of £175,112 over the previous year, and, in fact, disclosed the best position for a period of seven years. It is expected that the net return for the present year will be even better. Last year the cash surplus available for interest and sinking

been provided. The increased cost of coal to the Railway and Electricity Supply Departments is another cause of increased expenditure. The total increased expenditure of the various undertakings is expected to fund amounted to £1,723,000. This year it is expected that £1,789,000 will be provided. To obtain such a result, increased expenditure must be incurred, and it is principally for this purpose that various increases have amount to £71,101. Of this amount, the principal items are—

	£
Railways	51,440
Electricity Supply	7,921
State Batteries	7,931

Decreased expenditure is anticipated respecting—

	£
Goldfields Water Supply	22,909
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	2,600
Metropolitan Water Supply	1,255

The substantial decrease in the provision for the Goldfields Water Supply is brought about by exceptional circumstances. Debt-enture capital provided from Savings Bank funds will be paid off at the end of the present month, and the saving in interest and sinking fund payments for this year will amount to £14,488. In addition, it is expected that special expenditure last year, which amounted to over £10,000, will not recur. A smaller saving under similar circumstances is expected regarding "Other Hydraulic Undertakings." The saving in connection with the Metropolitan Water Supply is due to reductions in pumping and maintenance. Limited supplies will be available from the Canning dam and the gravitation of water available at this source to the metropolitan area will mean a fairly substantial saving in pumping expenditure. Maintenance costs have been reduced as a result of expenditure incurred in renewals and the cement lining of mains.

Restrained Optimism.

This Budget, I hope, is one of restrained optimism. That is a phrase I prefer to the well-worn "turning the corner," because sometimes one finds that one has gone past the corner and is obliged to turn back again. The generally improved conditions last year enabled us to reduce our estimated deficit by £477,000, and it is hoped that the improvement will continue this year. In the meantime, taking into account the special grant

from the Commonwealth for reducing our deficit, we have budgeted for practically the same deficit as was actually incurred last year. I regret that conditions are not yet ripe for reducing taxation, but we have devoted £49,000 towards removing the iniquitous cuts on the employees of the Government. There is no reason to doubt that we shall be able to live within our estimate for the year. The increase in the price of wool, if it is maintained, should be of great assistance. The outlook for wheat is better than it was. The oversea market is slightly more hopeful; and despite adverse conditions earlier in the year, it now looks as if the season would be almost normal. At this early stage, moreover, the average yield per acre promises to be better than that of last year.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: That is high optimism.

The Minister for Justice: We had a very bad average last year.

The PREMIER: While dairying prices are still low, production continues to increase, and the outlook for better export prices is encouraging. The price of gold is holding a high figure, and the prosperity of this industry appears to be assured for many years. New mines which are now in the preliminary stage of having machinery erected should be brought into productivity during the current 12 months. The timber industry shows continued activity, and is re-employing many men in the sawmills. The policy of encouraging local products is having a beneficial effect on employment. In 1934, as compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 178 factories registered, employing 1,710 more people. Altogether, during last financial year 2,044 men were removed from the hands of the Government who had been either on relief work or on sustenance. There is a revival in building in the city. All around us we see activity in the building trade. Generally the indications lead us to be hopeful. "Hopeful" is perhaps another term for "restrained optimism." I repeat, I do not like talking about turning the corner or attaining prosperity; but I believe my words with regard to restrained optimism correctly describe the situation. Although improvement is apparent on all hands, there is still great need for economy and caution in the finances

of the State. A strong hold must be kept on the expenditure of Government money, and that hold must at all times be continued.

Need for Caution.

Not for a moment do I suggest that we are on the high road to prosperity. I do not know very much about racing, but I believe the man who follows horse-racing is in some doubt as to the horse he has backed when the field are rounding the home turn. We are not yet right in the straight and headed for home. So, I repeat, there is great need for caution in the expenditure of public money and for economy in the disbursement of our funds. I hope hon. members will bear that in mind when they come to a discussion of the estimates affecting the different departments. I remember sitting here a few years ago listening to a debate on the Budget and jotting down the points raised by hon. members with regard to expenditure in their own electoral districts. I went up to about twenty-five millions sterling in excess of the amounts estimated, and then I stopped counting. And at that stage only half the members had spoken. Whilst hon. members express, as they are entitled to do, their views regarding the expenditure of money in their respective districts—believing, of course, that the money should be expended there, that need exists for it there—it is well to bear in mind that money cannot be found for all these works; and therefore let us not go out afterwards and say that the Government are spending too much money. There it is: the amounts set down in these Estimates have been arrived at after very careful consideration of all the factors governing the financial situation. There is

not a State department, certainly not an Under-Secretary or departmental head, but will be disappointed with these Estimates upon seeing them in the morning. All the responsible heads fight for more money—not that they desire to spend money extravagantly, but because they honestly believe that increased expenditure is necessary for the proper equipment and carrying-on of their departments.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: "Twas ever thus."

The PREMIER: Quite so. I have had to cut, and there will be much disappointment, but in the end the officers are loyal and try to live within the amounts provided for them by this House and by the Treasury. Taking it all in all, if we in this State are able to live—and I am certain we shall—within the estimated deficit of £255,000, having regard all the time to huge deficits that have gone before—in two years we went to leeward to the extent of three million pounds, in the succeeding year to the extent of £800,000, and in another year to the extent of £600,000—whereas last financial year we got the deficit down to £167,000 and this year just entered we shall finish within the estimated deficit of £255,000, I consider that we have done and are doing as well as can be expected of a State, having regard to all our difficulties, in moving along as fast as possible towards a balanced Budget. I move the first Division of the Estimates, namely—

Legislative Council, £1,742.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.17 p.m.

[Return No. 1.]

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1934-35, COMPARED WITH ESTIMATE.

SUMMARY.

	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Revenue	8,846,607	9,331,430	484,823	...
Expenditure	9,491,059	9,498,525	7,466	...
Deficit	644,452	167,095	...	477,357

DETAILS.

Revenue.	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Taxation	1,641,650	1,902,085	260,435	...
Territorial	343,000	406,241	63,241	...
Law Courts	50,000	55,590	5,590	...
Departmental	920,275	780,820	...	139,455
Royal Mint	25,000	25,653	653	...
Commonwealth	1,206,432	1,206,432	...	...
Trading Concerns	86,000	36,107	...	49,893
Public Utilities	4,574,250	4,918,502	344,252	...
Total Revenue	8,846,607	9,331,430	674,171	189,348
Net Increase			£484,823	

Expenditure.	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
SPECIAL ACTS—				
Constitution Act	13,768	14,552	784	...
Interest—Overseas	1,846,499	1,779,354	...	67,145
Interest—Australia	1,452,376	1,452,209	...	368
Sinking Fund	329,000	318,304	...	10,695
Other Special Acts	265,121	277,920	12,799	...
GOVERNMENTAL—				
Departmental	1,870,496	1,919,085	48,589	...
Exchange	475,000	469,237	...	5,763
Unemployment Relief	100,000	72,496	...	27,504
PUBLIC UTILITIES	3,138,599	3,195,368	56,769	...
Total Expenditure	9,491,059	9,498,525	118,941	111,475
Net Increase			£7,466	

UNFUNDED DEFICIT.

	£
Unfunded Deficit to 30th June, 1934	5,149,430
Deficit for 1934-35 Year	167,095
Total Unfunded Deficit to 30th June, 1935	5,316,525

[Return No. 2.]

REVENUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1926-27 TO 1934-35 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1935-36.

Heads.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	Estimate 1935-36.
TAXATION—										
Land Tax ...	147,415	162,000	196,301	219,066	168,579	132,368	130,903	118,973	121,895	120,000
Income Tax ...	345,527	323,597	329,603	340,501	248,650	200,252	169,010	173,256	235,331	230,000
Financial Emergency Tax ...							202,336	411,716	684,980	685,000
Dividend Duty ...	273,613	324,946	315,233	410,815	277,343	178,187	168,614	190,880	318,058	310,000
Totalisator Tax ...	54,553	58,770	57,999	61,156	52,505	50,109	47,291	47,739	33,393	55,000
Stamp Duty ...	252,693	270,756	293,244	282,011	179,170	190,808	191,547	216,779	259,732	265,000
Probate Duty ...	66,366	81,452	82,460	75,707	72,093	63,192	91,995	70,154	74,076	100,000
Entertainment Tax ...					34,360	63,169	62,436	75,262	83,651	85,000
Licenses ...	71,176	73,937	90,290	83,737	63,052	59,417	64,202	63,061	70,670	80,500
Other ...					40,833	3,444	11	1		
Total ...	1,211,343	1,296,358	1,370,039	1,452,793	1,134,385	1,006,916	1,128,515	1,368,720	1,902,086	1,930,500
TERRITORIAL AND DE- PARTMENTAL—										
Land ...	350,531	305,282	343,225	299,661	235,441	223,496	197,412	201,856	250,688	210,000
Mining ...	16,689	18,812	17,725	16,380	17,557	16,906	20,304	27,768	45,049	45,000
Timber ...	183,692	197,027	153,533	158,821	85,761	52,220	61,435	83,194	110,504	120,000
Royal Mint ...	15,271	15,800	10,706	9,867	11,519	21,173	21,147	24,952	25,653	25,500
Departmental Fees, etc. ...	1,636,768	1,602,548	1,655,782	1,566,916	1,689,549	1,382,809	1,350,723	1,119,829	780,810	844,958
Law Courts ...	45,441	51,122	57,213	81,132	55,616	52,819	47,105	40,782	55,590	55,500
Commonwealth ...	1,153,132	809,061	811,446	300,000	300,000	300,000	500,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Do. Special Grant ...									133,000	35,000
Do. Interest Contributions ...				473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432
Total ...	3,401,324	3,089,712	3,049,630	2,886,209	2,818,875	2,522,855	2,671,048	2,520,813	2,474,736	2,409,390
PUBLIC UTILITIES—										
Aborigines Cattle Stations ...	4,786	5,141	4,554	3,800	3,813	2,332	2,901	2,020	3,703	3,600
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	20,150	15,250	11,050	8,250	6,350	6,600	3,000	8,000	8,400	8,500
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	258,884	250,057	294,881	300,525	241,236	227,316	231,093	216,853	236,636	235,000
Goldfields Water Supply ...	171,145	164,909	171,181	173,365	161,602	170,315	171,971	174,546	187,949	200,000
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	3,880	3,245	3,341	3,264	3,760	4,209	5,130	5,035	5,926	6,000
Metropolitan Abat- toirs and Sals Vards ...	48,935	51,697	45,200	47,257	42,486	41,434	38,253	30,201	42,675	43,000
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewer- age ...	290,334	324,900	374,974	393,458	343,496	373,177	350,197	355,687	364,240	372,000
Other Hydraulic Undertakings ...	36,792	38,903	42,671	43,653	39,424	43,884	43,224	44,808	52,664	55,000
Perth City Markets ...	1,441	1,620	1,542	1,570	1,927	1,126	1,293	1,320	1,114	1,000
Railways ...	3,574,269	3,835,299	3,783,492	3,631,876	3,120,970	2,807,336	2,920,817	2,624,531	3,277,544	3,350,000
Trains, Perth Electric ...	295,032	319,438	344,447	350,118	304,241	280,041	282,202	281,063	244,818	200,000
Electricity Supply ...	221,221	247,140	278,535	302,441	253,018	274,516	279,302	295,207	322,674	327,000
State Ferries ...							1,996	8,608	8,790	9,000
State Batteries ...	21,021	19,196	14,523	18,643	30,373	72,045	98,919	110,496	116,062	123,000
Cave Houses, etc. ...	16,279	17,272	15,724	14,785	8,428	6,238	5,983	4,857	5,212	5,500
Metropolitan Markets Butter Factorie ...	4,577				2,423	1,165	454	159	37	
Government Refrig- erating Works ...	1,463	20								
Total ...	4,070,259	3,294,396	3,380,115	3,209,005	4,813,756	4,400,024	4,436,707	4,433,390	4,918,502	5,028,600
TRADING CONCERNS ...	167,707	127,482	142,167	113,508	119,740	96,521	95,283	98,774	86,107	38,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	9,750,333	9,507,948	9,947,951	9,750,516	8,686,756	8,035,316	8,332,153	8,481,697	9,331,430	9,400,490

a From April 1st only. Previously under State Trading Concerns.

[Return No. 3.]

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1926-27 TO 1934-35, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1935-36.

Head.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	Estimate 1935-36.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts ...	3,602,450	3,490,062	3,620,810	3,761,444	3,872,297	3,735,021	3,740,944	3,811,437	3,842,339	3,901,661
Parliamentary ...	13,901	13,954	14,173	14,091	14,415	11,470	11,659	12,123	12,279	13,129
Premier ...	15,519	15,936	14,843	15,462	13,410	13,791	14,474	16,542	22,813	17,069
Governor ...	2,508	2,518	2,430	2,522	2,468	1,771	1,631	1,807	1,080	2,007
London Agency ...	12,572	13,844	13,196	11,080	12,167	9,285	9,109	9,225	9,029	9,581
Public Service Commis- sioner ...	1,373	1,573	1,500	1,400	1,425	1,828	1,263	1,246	1,106	1,250
Government Motor Cars	5,838	8,478	7,228	5,677	2,589	2,544	3,075	3,808	4,357	2,472
Printing ...	67,053	67,929	74,237	75,001	50,120	47,400	40,817	51,513	52,873	58,792
Tourist and Publicity Bureau ...	1,738	1,934	2,120	2,105	1,924	1,523	1,519	1,846	1,760	2,080
Literary and Scientific	11,115	11,321	11,953	11,377	10,968	8,690	9,090	8,090	8,935	10,380
Fisheries ...	5,448	5,385	5,347	5,687	4,372	3,410	3,020	3,554	3,006	4,197
Centenary ...	...	...	4,915	15,085	...	353	...	...	...	...
Treasury ...	18,515	19,830	20,395	20,069	20,226	17,157	20,084	20,187	21,738	23,373
Audit ...	13,375	13,534	13,938	14,592	14,342	11,139	10,409	11,039	11,261	12,733
Compassionate Allow- ances ...	7,441	5,591	9,879	6,095	4,862	7,018	6,063	8,150	5,176	4,329
Government Stores ...	16,990	17,076	16,806	16,923	13,314	11,548	11,075	11,714	12,357	13,681
Taxation ...	30,224	30,212	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	31,614	32,057	33,640	32,900
Miscellaneous and Re- funds ...	230,328	511,861	440,528	143,224	460,353	697,927	627,407	560,128	509,335	517,790
Commonwealth Grants	365,965	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lands and Surveys ...	72,191	60,141	71,843	72,823	65,675	52,045	48,001	40,016	48,723	52,206
Immigration ...	5,728	5,914	6,301	5,720	4,007	2,040	791	...	...	...
Group Settlement ...	...	...	1,060	2,309	1,783	...	3	...	...	...
Town Planning ...	...	...	...	1,288	1,452	1,030	910	931	930	1,367
Farmers' Debts Adjust- ment ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,182	2,213	2,224	2,154	2,582
Mines, Explosives, Geo- logical, etc. ...	86,160	102,066	102,148	105,116	105,141	102,252	87,424	109,985	120,665	123,797
Forests ...	23,192	24,081	23,081	23,096	18,510	14,272	12,835	14,742	18,524	21,924
Agriculture ...	77,963	85,881	93,851	98,646	77,548	64,918	65,061	66,640	75,535	88,505
College of Agriculture	94,233	90,321	86,327	99,723	80,112	69,335	71,525	66,711	65,767	77,729
Crown Law & Branches	215,906	220,511	230,332	250,200	237,990	201,898	197,995	211,929	219,683	226,805
Police ...	88,971	89,668	97,712	111,536	48,648	20,330	19,159	50,663	49,208	55,389
Public Works ...	10,228	12,310	13,580	14,777	5,971	3,779	3,858	3,979	4,344	4,733
Labour ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arbitration Court ...	a 30,475	a 31,165	a 32,190	b 29,490	b 27,897	b 23,449	b 23,662	b 23,274	b 24,845	20,977
Office of Chief Secretary	8,502	11,626	12,376	13,889	10,893	11,187	11,616	11,330	12,608	14,275
Aborigines ...	25,400	25,712	28,204	31,560	31,468	25,373	24,310	25,709	25,620	26,451
Gaols ...	23,082	22,429	23,457	25,074	21,175	16,982	17,328	19,375	19,880	21,374
Harbour and Light and Jetties ...	102,658	101,916	104,813	112,849	99,075	85,432	90,990	93,933	98,218	101,928
Lunacy ...	108,425	100,352	136,222	170,462	570,703	138,431	132,570	128,863	125,957	127,139
Child Welfare ...	...	...	...	...	...	653,031	357,721	244,457	...	...
Unemployment Relief...	...	...	...	2,800	3,210	4,048	3,358	7,715	92,445	83,922
State Labour Bureau ...	1,168	1,170	1,160	1,192	1,148	928	918	1,202	1,530	1,584
Council of Industrial Development ...	199,395	200,894	212,292	211,657	143,231	78,658	75,648	69,410	64,560	70,077
Medical and Health ...	647,061	688,085	679,019	692,672	673,202	540,115	563,846	576,296	612,703	665,000
Education ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Departmental...	2,641,144	2,610,826	2,651,584	2,470,740	2,908,186	2,993,089	2,614,386	2,524,301	2,460,818	2,520,881
PUBLIC UTILITIES.										
Aborigines Cattle Sta- tions ...	7,255	6,079	6,791	6,709	5,582	4,441	4,192	4,751	5,190	6,808
Goldfields Water Supply	133,432	136,633	134,941	137,678	128,038	108,973	108,239	113,258	128,369	105,370
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	2,844	2,385	2,328	2,764	2,312	2,468	2,586	2,900	2,990	3,440
Metropolitan Abattoirs	25,402	27,087	28,654	29,301	26,075	25,296	25,518	26,952	27,886	28,572
Metropolitan Water Supply ...	139,004	143,832	142,765	149,126	127,093	97,046	83,350	96,602	97,133	95,878
Other Hydraulic Under- takings ...	27,483	26,719	20,822	31,073	24,320	21,617	23,916	29,953	47,095	44,495
Perth City Markets ...	536	649	805	785	555	589	602	500	720	700
Railways ...	2,684,723	2,903,084	3,075,568	3,119,648	2,519,691	2,116,352	2,039,353	2,156,664	2,348,560	2,400,000
Tramways ...	234,507	253,065	269,073	299,905	244,010	220,823	222,219	205,003	199,078	201,000
Electricity Supply ...	172,000	191,467	212,909	229,407	201,092	192,924	191,997	192,804	220,079	228,000
State Ferries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,005	7,828	7,993	8,000
State Batteries ...	29,317	27,712	22,636	26,536	87,605	65,587	80,601	91,788	103,739	111,870
Cave House ...	14,130	14,815	14,332	13,313	8,344	6,180	0,017	5,027	5,636	5,062
Albany Cold Stores	312	...	926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Butter Factories ...	4,537	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Govt. Refrigerating Works ...	3,108	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Public Utilities	3,476,994	3,733,527	3,942,536	4,036,335	3,326,832	2,662,122	2,840,904	2,934,781	3,195,368	3,239,595
GRAND TOTAL ...	9,722,588	9,834,415	10,223,919	10,268,519	10,107,295	9,593,212	9,190,234	9,270,000	9,498,625	9,662,137

a Includes Registry, Friendly Societies, Correspondence Despatch, Observatory, and Labour Bureau.

b Excludes Labour Bureau.

c Previously under Crown Law.

[Return No. 4.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND,
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1934-35.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Annual.	
			Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1900 ...	...	...	...	...
1900-01 ...	3,078,033	3,165,244	...	87,211
1901-02 ...	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	...
1902-03 ...	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	...
1903-04 ...	3,550,016	3,698,311	...	148,295
1904-05 ...	3,615,340	3,745,225	...	129,885
1905-06 ...	3,558,939	3,632,318	...	73,379
1906-07 ...	3,401,354	3,490,183	...	88,829
1907-08 ...	3,376,641	3,379,006	...	2,365
1908-09 ...	3,267,014	3,368,551	...	101,537
1909-1910 ...	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	...
1910-1911 ...	3,850,439	3,734,448	116,991	...
1911-1912 ...	3,966,673	4,101,082	...	134,409
1912-1913 ...	4,596,659	4,787,064	...	190,405
1913-1914 ...	5,205,343	5,340,754	...	135,411
1914-1915 ...	5,140,725	5,706,541	...	565,816
1915-1916 ...	5,356,978	5,705,201	...	348,223
1916-1917 ...	4,577,007	5,276,764	...	699,757
1917-1918 ...	4,622,536	5,329,279	...	705,743
1918-1919 ...	4,944,851	5,596,866	...	652,015
1919-1920 ...	5,863,501	6,531,725	...	668,225
1920-1921 ...	6,789,565	7,476,291	...	686,725
1921-1922 ...	6,907,107	7,639,242	...	732,135
1922-1923 ...	7,207,492	7,612,856	...	405,364
1923-1924 ...	7,865,595	8,094,753	...	229,158
1924-1925 ...	8,381,446	8,439,844	...	58,398
1925-1926 ...	8,808,166	8,907,309	...	99,143
1926-1927 ...	9,750,833	9,722,588	28,245	...
1927-1928 ...	9,807,949	9,834,415	...	26,466
1928-1929 ...	9,947,951	10,223,919	...	275,968
1929-1930 ...	9,750,515	10,268,519	...	518,004
1930-1931 ...	8,686,756	10,107,295	...	1,420,539
1931-1932 ...	8,035,316	9,593,212	...	1,557,896
1932-1933 ...	8,332,153	9,196,234	...	864,081
1933-1934 ...	8,481,697	9,270,609	...	788,912
1934-1935 ...	9,331,430	9,498,525	...	167,095

[Return No. 6.]

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH FROM 1901-02 TO 1934-35.

Year.	Contri- bution to Sinking Fund.	Contri- bution towards Interest.	Surplus Revenue Returned.	Payment per Head 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Transferred Properties.	Disabilities Grant.	Total.
*1901-2 to 1909-10	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	...	...	£8,303,144	...	...	Nil	...	8,303,144
1910-11	...	...	569,578	...	...	Nil	...	569,578
1911-12	...	...	...	365,614	232,265	40,648	...	638,527
1912-13	...	...	...	382,591	222,554	30,465	...	635,610
1913-14	...	...	...	409,855	212,751	27,358	...	640,964
1914-15	...	...	...	403,772	203,127	24,388	...	631,287
1915-16	...	...	...	398,076	193,544	24,485	...	616,105
1916-17	...	...	...	386,008	183,974	24,485	...	594,467
1917-18	...	...	...	386,779	174,350	38,110	...	599,239
1918-19	...	...	...	391,809	164,696	29,163	...	585,668
1919-20	...	...	...	414,068	154,937	29,268	...	598,273
Total 1910-20	...	...	569,578	3,529,572	1,742,198	268,370	...	6,109,718
1920-21	...	...	...	419,448	145,287	29,099	...	593,834
1921-22	...	...	...	418,966	135,738	29,063	...	583,767
1922-23	...	...	...	428,193	126,038	28,955	...	583,186
1923-24	...	...	...	442,269	116,301	27,153	...	585,723
1924-25	...	...	...	455,155	106,589	26,391	...	588,135
1925-26	...	...	...	465,229	96,890	26,391	...	588,510
1926-27	...	...	...	473,432	87,207	26,588	565,905	1,133,132
1927-28	77,908	483,286†	...	...	...	25,775	300,000	836,969
1928-29	91,598	463,578†	...	...	...	47,868	300,000	903,044
1929-30	97,863	473,432	...	...	...	...	300,000	871,295
Total 1921-30	267,369	1,420,296	...	3,102,692	814,050	267,283	1,465,905	7,337,595
1930-31	106,166	473,432	...	...	...	...	300,000	879,598
1931-32	118,946	473,432	...	...	...	...	300,000	892,378
1932-33	126,781	473,432	...	...	...	...	500,000	1,100,213
1933-34	136,826	473,432	...	...	...	...	600,000	1,210,258
1934-35	143,871	473,432	£ 133,000	...	...	...	600,000	1,350,303
Total 5 years	632,590	2,367,160	133,000	...	...	...	2,300,000	5,432,750
Grand Total, 34 years, to 1934-35	899,959	3,787,456	702,578	6,632,264	2,556,248	535,653	3,785,905	27,183,207

* First complete year under Federation. † Including £868,963 from Special Tariff provided under the Constitution of the Commonwealth for five years after the imposition of uniform Customs duties. ‡ Special payment under States Grant Act, pending passing of the Financial Agreement Act. § Proportion of Commonwealth Surplus, £2,000,000, distributed to States.

[Return No. 7.]

PUBLIC DEBT.

(a) LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

	£	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1934 (adjusted)...	...	102,243,607	
Authorisations, 1934-35 ...	...	3,938,000	
			106,181,607
Flotations—			
Inscribed Stock, Debentures, Treasury Bonds, etc., issued in Australia and Overseas—Net proceeds ...	92,595,292		
Discounts and Flotation Expenses (including Cost of Conversion Loans), net ...	3,634,242		
		96,220,534	
Short Term Debt—			
London ...	3,031,414		
Australia ...	5,550,000		
		8,581,414	
Total Flotations ...	...	...	104,810,948
Balance available for Flotation ...	...	...	a £1,370,659

a Includes surplus of £52,981 under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts.

(b) LOAN INDEBTEDNESS.

	£	£	£
Total Amount raised to 30th June, 1934 ...	...	...	101,791,276
Flotations during the year—			
Counter Sales ...	...	81,865	
Instalment Stock ...	...	382,000	
Commonwealth Loans ...	...	2,626,410	
Discount on Conversion Loans ...	...	89,397	
		3,179,672	
Less net reduction in Australian Treasury Bills ...	...	160,000	
			3,019,672
			104,810,948
Redemptions—			
Total to 30th June, 1934 ...	...	15,943,474	
During the year:			
National Debt Commission:			
Securities repurchased ...	263,043		
Instalment Stock redeemed ...	2,830		
Stock redeemed at maturity ...	11,425		
		277,298	
			16,220,772
Gross Public Debt at 30th June, 1935...	...	...	88,590,176
Sinking Fund ...	...	...	523,815
Net Public Debt at 30th June, 1935 ...	...	...	£88,066,361

[Return No. 7—continued.]

(c) SUMMARY OF GROSS LOAN RAISINGS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

<i>Raisings.</i>		<i>Disbursements.</i>	
	£		£
Total Flotations, as per Return 7 (b)—		Discounts and Expenses—	
To 30th June, 1934 ...	101,791,276	To 30th June, 1934 (Net) ...	3,303,181
During Year 1934-35 ...	3,019,672	During Year 1934-35 ...	331,061
Receipts from Loan Repayments—		Redemption of Agricultural Bank Mortgage Bonds ...	1,566,000
To 30th June, 1934 ...	932,390	Deficits Funded (including Discount and Expenses) ...	6,332,328
During Year 1934-35 ...	150,507	Advances to meet Expenditure pending receipt of Revenue ...	4,373,000
		Expenditure from General Loan Fund on Works and Services ...	88,401,520
		Balance of June, 1935 Loan—not to account at 30th June, 1935 ...	246,110
		Balance of General Loan Fund ...	1,340,645
	£105,893,845		£105,893,845

(d) NET PUBLIC DEBT FOR HEAD OF POPULATION ON 30TH JUNE EACH YEAR.

Year.		Debt per Head.		Year.		Debt per Head.	
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
1935 ...	...	197	6 11	1924 ...	...	146	13 6
1934 ...	...	193	4 2	1923 ...	...	142	9 6
1933 ...	...	187	3 10	1922 ...	...	137	1 0
1932 ...	...	180	2 11	1921 ...	...	*124	15 11
1931 ...	...	174	1 10	1920 ...	...	119	7 3
1930 ...	...	163	9 2	1919 ...	...	116	7 0
1929 ...	...	162	6 9	1918 ...	...	118	0 8
1928 ...	...	165	10 7	1917 ...	...	116	5 5
1927 ...	...	157	14 4	1916 ...	...	109	19 9
1926 ...	...	155	14 8	1915 ...	...	101	12 10
1925 ...	...	146	3 11	1914 ...	...	94	4 11

* NOTE.—Compared with the previous year, £2 16s. 11d. of the increase is due to an adjustment in the figures of the population at the Census.

(e) CONTINGENT PUBLIC DEBT AT 30TH JUNE, 1935.

	Securities Issued.	Re-deemed.	In Circulation.	Funds Invested.
	£	£	£	£
Finance and Development Board Act ...	700,000	227,730	472,270	...
Agricultural Lands Purchase Act ...	587,471	219,932	367,539	39,507
Totals ...	£1,287,471	£447,662	£839,809	£39,507

[Return No. 8.]

LOAN LIABILITY—STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNTS MATURING EACH YEAR.

Earliest Date of Maturity.	Latest Date of Maturity.	Interest Rate.	Repayable in—		
			London.	New York.	Australia.
		%	£	£	£
...	1935	1½	...	...	5,550,000*
...	1935	2½	3,031,414*	...	...
...	1935	3½	...	...	590,230
...	1935	4·65	...	...	50,000
...	1936	3	597,497	...	...
...	1936	3½	...	...	525,920
...	1936	4·06875	...	...	372,235
...	1936	5	140,000	...	...
...	1937	4·06875	...	...	27,963
...	1938	3	...	...	114,930
1928	1938	3·4875	...	...	1,667,250
...	1938	4	...	...	2,967,009
...	1938	4·65	...	...	462,972
...	1939	3	...	...	389,000
...	1939	3·4875	...	...	78,650
...	1939	3½	...	...	376,029
...	1939	4·06875	...	...	350,000
...	1940	3·4875	...	...	19,658
...	1941	4	...	...	4,298,094
...	1942	3½	...	...	3,100,750
...	1942	4·2625	...	...	61,697
...	1943	3½	...	...	1,548,820
...	1943	3½	...	...	277,930
...	1943	4·2625	...	...	1,100
...	1943	4·65	...	...	755,000
...	1944	3	...	...	112,840
...	1944	4	...	...	1,689,234
1927	1947	3½	1,417,800	...	...
...	1947	3½	...	...	32,630
...	1947	4	...	...	1,373,144
...	1947	5·0375	...	...	250,000
...	1948	3	...	...	1,443,925
...	1948	3½	...	...	1,964,970
1943	1948	4	2,716,302	...	...
...	1949	3½	...	...	1,331,110
...	1950	4	...	...	1,368,448
1948	1953	3½	1,049,993	...	...
...	1953	4	...	...	1,329,574
1935	1955	3½	3,250,204	...	...
...	1955	4	...	...	1,334,903
1952	1955	5	...	1,507,732	...
...	1957	3	...	...	154,962
...	1957	4	...	...	1,302,099
1947	1957	5	...	541,424	...
...	1958	3	...	...	177,579
...	1959	3	...	...	381,928
...	1959	4	...	...	1,303,595
...	1960	3	...	...	44,000
1940	1960	3½	888,608	...	...
1956	1961	3½	1,895,527	...	...
...	1961	4	...	...	1,298,596
1942	1962	4	4,964,083	...	...
...	1961	3·1	...	...	1,566,000
1935	1965	4½	2,631,165	...	...
1964	1974	3½	8,914,691	...	...
1945	1975	1	66,970	...	...
1945	1975	1½	3,852,734	...	...
1945	1975	5	9,079,258	...	...
			44,496,246	2,049,156	42,044,774
			88,590,176		

* Floating Debt.

[Return No. 9.]

SINKING FUND.

TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1934-35.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Receipts.							
Balances brought forward, 1st July, 1934—							
National Debt Commission	...	86,737	12	1			
Crown Agents	...	100,227	2	7			
Endowment Policy, £140,000 (M.V. "Kangaroo")	...	94,447	10	0			
					371,412	4	8
Contributions:							
On account M.V. "Kangaroo"	...	5,250	0	0			
State—							
5s. per cent. on loan liability	...	220,196	17	3			
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	...	98,107	11	1			
3 per cent. under Federal Aid Roads Act	...	21,148	0	5			
Commonwealth—							
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on loan liability	...	143,871	0	5			
Net earnings on investments...	...	8,559	8	10			
					497,192	18	0
					808,545	2	8
Disbursements:							
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc.	...	339,480	7	2			
Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo"	...	5,250	0	0			
					344,730	7	2
Balance, Sinking Fund, 30th June, 1935	...				523,814	15	6
					£868,545	2	8

TRANSACTIONS FROM 1ST JULY, 1927, TO 30TH JUNE, 1935.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Receipts:							
Balances brought forward—							
1st July, 1927—Endowment Policy (M.V. "Kangaroo"), Premiums paid	...	57,697	10	0			
1st July, 1929—Crown Agents	...	897,347	0	10			
					955,044	10	10
Contributions:							
On account M.V. "Kangaroo"	...	41,000	0	0			
On account, Crown Agents	...	40,312	13	5			
State—							
5s. per cent. on loan liability	...	1,510,565	12	2			
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	...	944,683	17	9			
3 per cent. under Federal Aid Roads Act	...	125,731	8	7			
Commonwealth—							
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on Loan Liability	...	898,958	17	6			
Net earnings on investments	...	299,874	3	2			
					3,262,126	12	7
					4,217,171	3	5
Disbursements:							
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc.	...	2,613,438	0	1			
Contributions refunded to the State	...	630	17	11			
Contributions to Crown Agents	...	39,934	2	8			
Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo"	...	41,000	0	0			
Repayment of 1934 Loan	...	998,353	7	3			
					3,693,358	7	11
Balances, 30th June, 1935, viz:—							
National Debt Commission	...	424,117	5	6			
Endowment Policy, £140,000 (M.V. "Kangaroo"); Premiums paid	...	99,697	10	0			
					523,814	15	6
					£4,217,171	3	5

LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1934-35 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

(EXCLUSIVE OF LOAN SUSPENSE EXPENDITURE).

Undertakings.	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.	1927-28.	1926-27.	1925-26.	1924-25.	1923-24.
Railways, including Land Resumptions	£ 295,078	£ 316,124	£ 180,567	£ 137,168	£ 454,395	£ 824,952	£ 826,600	£ 806,895	£ 642,225	£ 642,854	£ 534,103	£ 561,988
Tramways—Perth Electric	...	11,290	6,601	...	9,550	24,710	8,551	75,247	32,444	16,380	26,571	57,816
Electric Power Station	203,208	2,069	918	3,681	11,289	44,050	48,479	60,304	104,752	110,540	60,661	31,717
Fremantle Harbour Works	98,688	91,975	169,616	37,904	99,696	109,086	133,066	113,956	62,052	66,539	56,437	37,891
Harbours and Rivers generally	200,830	154,169	73,302	39,882	63,810	154,169	140,994	137,691	128,535	152,764	124,576	101,122
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	330,199	177,873	125,055	90,669	42,102	102,250	151,211	129,430	108,414	109,891	114,798	39,762
Water Supply	773,422	653,553	658,485	437,200	197,238	236,650	425,004	452,367	333,431	568,570	535,497	395,903
Development of Goldfields	70,865	76,085	30,196	28,091	20,077	92,219	79,752	81,915	87,598	84,079	85,731	84,221
Development of Agriculture	341,580	306,116	267,150	125,904	61,490	87,019	143,071	67,091	51,238	127,326	100,626	74,041
Assistance to Settlers	0,921	113,535	94,679	79,516	262,880	97,121	92,807	110,959	84,960	10,784	192,710	441,546
Agricultural Group Settlement	26,073	115,904	79,646	67,513	213,293	639,611	766,893	1,122,820	1,423,486	1,335,000	1,124,252	822,910
Land Settlement for Soldiers	331	1,190	403	12,284	39,360	46,313	116,614	170,484	176,921	326,247	598,649	778,603
College of Agriculture	...	...	...	...	...	1,100	10,305	5,371	25,850	5,043	15,598	...
Immigration	...	132	461	500	1,063	7,182	11,837	10,072	11,203	...	7,148	16,229
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital	50,000	325,000	303,257	317,400	298,734	849,849	704,445	221,170	105,678	229,511	257,072	264,027
Purchase of Wire Netting for Settlers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,850	192,854	...	...	...
Steamships	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,768	419,119	178,353	94,089	...	...
Workers' Homes Working Capital	35,000	35,000	35,000	...	...	...	25,000	50,000	...	...	...	...
Saw Mills	...	...	...	...	...	7,000	8,346	36,934	50,000	...	...	...
State Hotels	...	519	...	413	...	749	1,653	16,905	953	966	1,424	2,831
Agricultural Implements Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,000	...	7,500	...
Brickyards	...	...	...	...	...	2,000	1,925	1,506	9,537	1,712	7,500	...
Ferries	...	...	...	...	...	208	...	...	...	...	...	...
Public Buildings	106,418	93,020	84,634	...	...	54,140	92,353	126,512	117,483	77,795	91,140	88,595
Roads and Bridges	213,804	124,647	83,004	...	...	315,325	335,718	287,584	175,930	96,835	92,606	77,744
Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account)	...	...	...	...	...	...	66,000	60,000	...	...	30,500	30,000
Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	847	...	...	...	...
Bundries	£ 25,103	£ 412	1	£ 2,244	£ 5,072	£ 18,354	£ 18,058	£ 14,264	£ 23,108	16,391	25,140	23,280
Urgent Minor Works throughout the North-West	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,770	1,714	5,708
Purchase of Site at Point Heathcote for Mental Home	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91	7,069	...
Aborigines Stations	337	...	...	...	...	...	156	365	6,459	...	...	...
Reconstruction Cannan Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,907	75,792	8,981	...	...	...
Gullford Road—East Street to Midland Junction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,042	...	...	...	...
Metropolitan Markets	...	...	...	...	...	8,935	92,418	...	...	...	...	...
Discount and Flotation Expenses	...	...	78,007	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2,784,185	2,664,022	2,217,982	1,980,225	1,769,263	3,693,052	4,372,269	4,680,260	4,113,054	4,078,686	4,009,021	3,936,833
Less Expenditure from Loan Repayments Receipts	97,064	215,740	240,275	171,800	...	210,647	33,207	...	...	...	...	...
Net Expenditure from Loan Raisings	2,687,121	2,448,282	1,969,707	1,208,425	1,769,263	3,476,405	4,339,072	4,680,260	4,113,054	4,078,686	4,009,021	3,936,833

Includes Loans to Local Authorities for erection of Country Hospitals, etc., a £10,370; b £21,025; c £9,780; d £5,084; e £3,619; f £1,442; g £400. h £103.

[Return No. 11.]

LOAN REPAYMENTS.
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance in hand.
	£	£	£
1928	154,108	...	154,108
1929	235,404	33,297	358,215
1930	153,583	216,647	293,151
1931	84,248	...	377,399
1932	112,361	171,800	317,960
1933	91,751	249,275	160,436
1934	100,935	215,740	45,631
1935	150,507	97,064	99,074

[Return No. 12.]

HOSPITAL FUND.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1934-35.

Receipts.		Payments.	
	£		£
Hospitals Tax Collections	183,398	Overdraft at beginning of year ...	7,415
Hospitals Fees Collections... ..	33,493	Administration Expenditure ...	4,697
Grant from Revenue Fund	15,000	Drug Department—Net Expenditure	1,167
Miscellaneous Receipts	379	Hospitals Expenditure—	
Balance—Overdraft at 30th June,		Departmental	98,369
1935	649	Non-Departmental Subsidies, etc.	121,271
	£232,919		£232,919

[Return No. 13.]

FORESTS IMPROVEMENT AND RE-FORESTATION FUND—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1934-35.

Receipts.		Payments.	
	£		£
Balance from Year 1933-34	28,075	Expenditure on Forest Improve-	
Appropriation from Revenue Fund	34,404	ments and Re-forestation during	
Sundry Receipts	3,599	the year	13,827
		Balance of Fund at 30th June, 1935	52,251
	£66,078		£66,078

[Return No. 14.]

ROAD FUNDS.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1934-35.

	Traffic Act Main- tenance.	Main Roads Contri- butions Trust Account.	Metro- politan Traffic Trust Account.	Transport Co-Ordina- tion Fund.	Federal Aid Roads Agree- ment Account.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balances from Year 1933-34	8,111	15,762	15,209	...	115,624	154,736
Receipts during Year—						
License Fees and Permits	36	...	141,313	18,145	...	159,494
Contributions by Local Authorities ... ..	...	2,111	...	...	...	2,111
Premiums on Omnibus Routes ... ..	...	...	...	101	...	101
Commonwealth Grant ... ..	...	...	...	...	468,456	468,456
Miscellaneous Receipts ... ..	...	...	77	232	...	309
	8,147	17,908	156,599	18,478	584,080	785,207
Transfers to other Funds ... ..	...	...	27,253	...	...	...
Transfers from other Funds ... ..	...	27,253	...	...	...	...
Totals	8,147	45,156	129,346	18,478	584,080	785,207
Payments during Year—						
Administration, Plant, Office Equip- ment, etc. ... ..	...	...	15,921	7,225	11,365	34,511
National Debt Commission Sinking Fund ... ..	...	...	...	...	21,148	21,148
Treasury—Interest, Sinking Fund, and Premiums ... ..	...	...	7,410	101	...	7,511
Road Construction, Maintenance, Surveys, etc.	8,147	31,000	6,120	...	459,046	504,313
Distributions to Local and Statutory Authorities ... ..	...	...	84,670	10,312	...	94,982
	8,147	31,000	114,121	17,638	491,559	662,465
Balances in hand at 30th June, 1935	...	14,156	15,225	340	92,521	122,742

[Return No. 15.]

CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1934-35

Undertaking.	Loan Liability.	Interest Charge for the Year.	Sinking Fund Charge for the Year.	Net Earnings for the Year.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
<i>Fully Reproductive.</i>						
Tramways and Electricity Supply ...	2,602,131	110,091	5,943	187,430	71,396	...
Abattoirs, Slaughteryards, Grain Sheds, and Cold Stores ...	326,692	11,332	723	18,123	6,068	...
State Hotels ...	60,171	3,055	150	7,955	4,750	...
State Ferries ...	6,726	327	18	806	461	...
State Saw Mills ...	287,326	14,224	720	21,249	6,305	...
Harbours and Rivers ...	5,831,944	232,836	13,080	264,446	13,730	...
Workers' Homes Board ...	656,491	27,057	1,578	32,847	4,254	...
	9,800,481	398,722	27,210	532,896	106,964	...
<i>Partially Reproductive.</i>						
State Batteries ...	372,609	16,767	896	12,323	...	5,340
State Brickworks ...	52,298	2,586	131	131	...	2,586
State Quarries ...	35,031	1,874	88	88	...	1,874
Wyndham Freezing Works ...	1,049,308	57,530	2,617	3,562	...	56,585
Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage ...	11,152,983	472,806	51,960	347,080	...	177,697
Agricultural Bank ...	6,994,623	312,508	16,987	120,442	...	200,053
Assistance to Settlers ...	2,061,692	92,876	5,154	12,411	...	86,610
Soldiers Land Settlement ...	6,327,507	243,809	15,360	95,541	...	163,634
Group Settlement ...	5,360,708	180,481	13,342	4,796	...	189,027
Metropolitan Markets Trust ...	166,352	9,565	418	6,778	...	205
Railways ...	25,076,303	1,020,502	62,779	928,984	...	154,297
Assistance to Industries ...	444,758	14,974	1,107	4,788	...	11,313
Roads and Bridges ...	2,638,720	88,839	6,313	7,398	...	87,754
Development of Mining ...	766,986	23,803	1,700	3,056	...	22,447
Pine-Planting and Forestation ...	508,398	23,175	885	497	...	23,563
Plant Suspense ...	204,403	6,882	511	3,977	...	3,416
Stock Suspense ...	78,527	2,644	196	1,300	...	1,540
Workers' Homes Board—Small Loan Scheme ...	24,637	820	52	726	...	155
Loans to Public Bodies ...	143,093	5,325	...	7,454	...	841
	63,998,871	2,580,775	180,502	1,573,331	...	1,187,046
<i>Totally Unproductive.</i>						
Tourist Resorts ...	47,110	1,715	123	Dr. 354	...	2,192
State Implement Works ...	121,816	5,857	307	...	...	6,164
State Steamships ...	508,494	27,013	1,271	...	...	29,234
Development of Agriculture Generally ...	3,376,814	114,077	8,056	Dr. 5,262	...	127,395
Public Buildings, including Schools, Police Stations, Gaols, Hospitals, and Institutions ...	2,934,347	69,022	7,069	Dr. 127,363	...	233,054
Aborigines Stations ...	31,630	1,367	77	Dr. 1,437	...	2,931
Miscellaneous ...	89,571	3,015	213	Dr. 118	...	3,346
	7,109,782	252,066	17,116	Dr. 135,034	...	404,266
<i>Summary.</i>						
Fully Reproductive ...	9,800,481	398,722	27,210	532,896	106,964	...
Partially Reproductive ...	63,998,871	2,580,775	180,502	1,573,331	...	1,187,046
Totally Unproductive ...	7,109,782	252,066	17,116	Dr. 135,034	...	404,266
Capital Adjustments and Unallocated Costs of Loan Raisings ...	1,967,397	...	...	...	...	...
	22,876,531	3,231,563	224,828	1,971,143	106,964	1,592,212
Reconciliation with Public Debt—Advances to Consolidated Revenue Fund ...	4,373,009					
Balance of General Loan Fund ...	1,340,645					
Public Debt at 30th June, 1935 ...	£ 88,500,178					
		Net Deficiency		...	£1,485,249	

[Return No. 18.]

RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.
Number of miles open ...	miles. 4,359	miles. 4,360	miles. 4,338	miles. 4,235	miles. 4,179	miles. 4,111
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment of Lines open	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Loan ... 25,111,525	24,864,735	24,296,424	23,771,124	23,443,042	22,973,997
	Revenue 640,908	640,908	640,908	640,908	640,908	641,492
	25,752,433	25,505,643	24,937,332	24,412,032	24,083,950	23,615,489
Working Expenses ...	2,348,560	2,156,664	2,089,353	2,116,352	2,519,691	3,119,648
Interest Charges ...	1,028,569	1,008,453	996,233	989,173	968,066	950,797
Total Annual Cost a	3,377,129	3,165,117	3,085,586	3,105,525	3,487,757	4,070,445
Gross Revenue ...	3,277,544	2,884,531	2,920,817	2,897,336	3,120,979	3,631,876
Surplus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deficiency debited to Consolidated Revenue, being burden on Taxpayers ...	99,585	280,586	164,769	208,189	366,778	438,569

a These figures do not include Sinking Fund, estimated to be £62,779.

[Return No. 19.]

RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ...	£ 1,104,572	£ 1,121,129	£ 1,109,839	£ 1,103,707	£ 1,103,707	£ 1,094,157
Working Expenses ...	199,978	205,069	222,219	220,623	244,019	289,995
Interest Charges ...	51,874	52,142	52,039	52,259	52,420	51,522
Total Annual Cost a	251,852	257,211	274,258	272,882	296,439	341,517
Gross Revenue ...	284,813	281,063	282,202	286,641	304,241	350,118
Surplus ...	32,961	23,852	7,944	13,759	7,802	8,601

a These figures do not include Sinking Fund, £2,761.

[Return No. 20.]

RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	1,272,787	1,271,070	1,269,868	1,268,950	1,265,215	1,253,311
Working Expenses	220,079	192,804	191,997	192,924	201,092	229,407
Interest Charges	61,658	61,709	61,775	61,476	60,922	59,492
Total Annual Cost a	281,737	254,513	253,772	254,400	262,014	288,899
Gross Revenue	322,674	295,207	279,302	274,516	258,618	302,441
Surplus	40,937	40,694	25,530	20,116	...	13,542
Deficiency ... ..	...	...	...	...	3,396	...

a These figures do not include Sinking Fund, £3,182.

[Return No. 21.]

RETURN RELATING TO METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

	1934-35	1933-34.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	6,025,393	5,340,449	5,087,527	4,872,947	4,735,281	4,695,313
Working Expenses*... ..	97,133	96,602	83,359	97,046	127,093	149,126
Interest Charges	255,718	247,654	235,920	229,077	220,323	183,436
Sinking Fund	11,630	11,171	10,606	10,224	9,387	8,408
Total Annual Cost	364,481	355,427	329,885	336,347	356,803	340,970
Gross Revenue	364,240	355,687	350,197	373,175	388,496	398,458
Surplus ... ..	...	260	20,312	36,828	31,693	57,488
Deficiency	241	...	...	...	...	...

* Year 1929-30, includes Interest and Sinking Fund on debentures, £34,581, 1930-31, £34,939, 1931-32, £24,673, 1932-33, £14,671, 1933-34 and 1934-35, £14,655.

[Return No. 22.]

RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ...	3,999,901	3,701,835	3,491,408	3,433,912	3,350,404	3,329,393
Working Expenses <i>a</i> ...	128,369	113,253	108,239	108,973	128,038	136,805
Interest Charges ...	62,172	52,658	47,772	43,744	40,708	40,157
Sinking Fund ...	19,171	15,704	14,183	12,535	11,739	11,549
Total Annual Cost ...	209,712	181,620	170,194	165,252	180,485	188,511
Gross Revenue ...	187,949	174,546	171,971	170,315	161,602	173,365
Deficiency ...	21,763	7,074	...	...	18,883	15,146
Surplus ...	...	...	1,777	5,063	...	...

a Includes interest on Debenture Capital.

[Return No. 23.]

RETURN RELATING TO OTHER HYDRAULIC UNDERTAKINGS.

	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ...	1,600,094	1,501,876	1,058,585	758,206	746,610	499,844
Working Expenses (a) ...	47,095	29,755	23,916	21,618	24,328	31,073
Interest Charges ...	49,069	47,077	43,645	30,962	32,300	21,984
Sinking Fund ...	13,751	13,031	10,986	7,160	7,404	5,476
Total Annual Cost ...	109,915	89,863	78,547	59,740	64,030	58,533
Gross Revenue ...	52,664	44,898	43,224	43,884	39,424	43,652
Deficiency ...	57,251	44,965	35,323	15,856	24,606	14,881

(a) Includes Interest on Debenture Capital, Harvey Drainage, No. 1 Area.

[Return No. 24.]

RETURN RELATING TO OTHER UTILITIES FOR 1934-35.

Utilities.	Capital Cost, etc.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Total Annual Cost.	Gross Revenue.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	2,800,002	(a)	123,505	123,505	236,036	113,001	...
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	527,822	(a)	24,765	24,765	8,400	...	16,305
State Batteries ...	372,000	103,739	16,767	120,506	110,062	...	4,444
Aborigines Stations ...	31,030	5,100	1,367	6,557	3,703	...	2,854
Albany Cool Stores ...	20,915	...	937	937	...	...	937
Perth City Markets ...	20,000	720	1,000	1,720	1,118	...	602
Metropolitan Abattoirs ...	170,183	27,886	7,333	35,210	42,675	7,456	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	9,360	2,900	515	3,505	5,926	2,421	...
Tourist Resorts ...	21,314	5,636	959	6,595	5,212	...	1,333
State Ferries ...	6,726	7,993	327	8,320	8,799	479	...
Metropolitan Markets Trust	166,352	(a)	0,505	9,565	9,778	213	...
Total ...	4,147,813	154,154	187,130	341,284	438,359	123,660	26,585
Estimated Slaking Fund	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,080
Net Surplus ...	...	...	...	...	...	£86,997	...

(a) Receipts paid to Trust Accounts from which working expenses are met without Parliamentary appropriation. Transactions for the year were—

	Receipts.	Working Expenses.
	£	£
Fremantle Harbour Trust ..	431,172	186,294
Bunbury Harbour Board ..	20,155	12,589
Metropolitan Markets Trust ..	15,893	9,117
	£467,220	£208,000

[Return No. 25.]

ESTIMATED CASH POSITION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1936.

Items.	Estimated 1935-36.		Balance.	
	Receipts.	Payments.	Deficiency.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£
Aborigines' Native Stations (Moola Bulla and Munja) ...	3,600	6,808	3,208	...
Goldfields Water Supply Undertaking ...	200,000	105,370	...	94,630
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	6,000	3,440	...	2,560
Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale Yards ...	43,000	28,572	...	14,428
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage ...	372,000	95,878	...	276,122
Other Hydraulic Undertakings ...	55,000	44,495	...	10,505
Perth City Markets ...	1,000	700	...	300
Railways ...	3,350,000	2,400,000	...	950,000
Tramways ...	290,000	201,000	...	89,000
Electricity Supply ...	327,000	228,000	...	99,000
State Batteries' ...	123,000	111,670	...	11,330
Cave House, etc. ...	5,500	5,662	162	...
State Ferries ...	9,000	8,000	...	1,000
	4,785,100	3,239,595	3,370	1,548,575
Net Surplus ...	...	...	£1,545,505	...

RAILWAYS.—STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE AND EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1934-1935.		1933-1934.		1932-1933.		1931-1932.		1930-1931.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	230,802	8.55	225,345	8.81	216,410	7.85	197,779	7.14	204,395	6.97
Ores and other Minerals ...	334,302	11.03	267,005	10.43	281,854	10.23	177,010	6.41	264,450	8.63
Wool ...	29,049	1.04	19,470	0.76	21,464	0.78	23,703	0.80	23,615	0.77
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	45,584	1.63	45,327	1.77	45,498	1.65	4,712	1.76	51,955	1.70
Wheat ...	709,183	28.50	788,039	30.70	1,041,011	37.73	1,159,048	42.00	1,326,394	43.27
Other Grain and Flour ...	149,011	5.35	122,078	4.81	146,126	5.30	150,230	5.44	147,700	4.82
Firewood ...	230,334	8.43	201,462	10.22	287,769	10.44	307,015	11.12	313,705	10.23
Local Timber ...	341,081	12.17	265,863	10.39	175,020	6.35	176,378	6.39	210,169	6.86
Imported Timber ...	1,079	0.06	2,129	0.08	1,825	0.07	680	0.02	514	0.02
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	81,204	2.90	70,028	2.97	70,075	2.54	72,396	2.62	72,576	2.37
Fertilisers ...	212,814	7.59	207,706	8.12	217,852	7.90	216,403	7.84	188,623	6.15
All other goods ...	332,313	11.85	277,948	10.85	251,100	9.11	231,572	8.38	200,679	6.51
Total ...	2,803,310	100.00	2,550,080	100.00	2,736,019	100.00	2,761,892	100.00	3,064,836	100.00

Class of Goods.	1934-1935.		1933-1934.		1932-1933.		1931-1932.		1930-1931.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	£ 135,414	5.95	£ 123,933	6.40	£ 118,455	5.92	£ 110,067	5.56	£ 111,225	5.13
Ores and other Minerals ...	83,825	3.68	97,270	3.47	72,494	3.62	47,774	2.42	64,313	2.97
Wool ...	83,380	3.67	60,541	3.12	60,081	3.05	74,505	3.77	70,476	3.67
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	37,555	1.65	36,093	1.86	36,094	1.80	37,580	1.90	41,059	1.89
Wheat ...	528,880	23.25	507,283	26.18	662,754	33.13	743,302	37.65	852,762	39.35
Other Grain and Flour ...	83,823	3.68	69,873	3.61	80,090	4.05	82,710	4.18	82,482	3.81
Firewood ...	19,371	0.85	19,654	1.01	20,853	1.04	20,654	1.04	22,784	1.05
Local Timber ...	285,746	12.56	207,423	10.70	145,145	7.25	126,546	6.39	153,040	7.10
Imported Timber ...	2,167	0.10	2,278	0.12	1,731	0.09	1,240	0.06	1,391	0.06
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	101,933	4.48	98,508	5.00	91,251	4.56	90,707	4.58	90,480	4.17
Fertilisers ...	59,842	2.63	54,737	3.03	62,125	3.10	62,307	3.15	56,604	2.61
All other goods ...	852,892	37.50	686,180	35.41	648,216	32.30	581,060	29.40	611,643	28.19
Total ...	£ 2,274,829	100.00	£ 1,937,782	100.00	£ 2,000,988	100.00	£ 1,979,421	100.00	£ 2,107,538	100.00

[Return No. 27.]

	TRADE, PRODUCTION, POPULATION, ETC.										
	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.
Railway and Tramway Revenue	£3,616,426	£3,604,914	£3,869,300	£4,154,737	£4,127,939	£3,981,994	£3,425,220	£3,183,977	£3,203,018	£3,165,593	£3,562,357
Railway Mileage (Route)	3,793	3,865	3,918	3,977	4,079	4,111	4,179	4,235	4,338	4,360	4,359
Wool exported ...	£3,736,300	£3,527,865	£3,518,313	£4,002,916	£3,910,886	£2,779,113	£2,380,538	£2,345,570	£2,553,592	£4,810,846	£3,408,377
* Wheat produced (bushels)	23,837,397	20,471,177	30,021,616	36,370,219	33,790,040	39,081,183	53,504,149	41,521,245	41,791,866	37,305,100	26,985,000
* Hay produced (tons)	443,525	355,269	423,839	416,707	421,504	428,328	491,595	453,353	485,368	512,439	462,991
† Gold produced & ...	£2,255,927	£1,874,320	£1,857,716	£1,734,571	£1,671,093	£1,602,142	£1,864,442	£2,098,137	£4,403,042	£4,886,254	£5,558,873
Coal produced ...	£371,152	£364,304	£405,770	£414,451	£415,926	£416,350	£371,956	£281,174	£292,285	£269,302	£297,582
Other Minerals produced	£157,609	£156,867	£119,748	£50,899	£36,941	£59,045	£28,012	£10,606	£47,348	£63,438	£71,304
Timber exported ...	£1,477,997	£1,522,958	£1,658,018	£1,265,321	£980,435	£303,154	£503,696	£357,953	£258,510	£484,241	£631,228
† Number of Sheep...	6,396,564	6,861,795	7,458,766	8,447,480	8,043,002	9,556,823	9,882,761	10,098,104	10,417,031	10,322,350	11,191,868
† Number of Cattle...	891,564	835,911	827,303	846,735	837,527	836,846	812,844	826,532	857,473	885,669	912,106
† Number of Horses	175,116	170,563	166,463	165,021	160,876	159,528	156,973	156,489	157,443	159,646	161,660
Area of land selected (acres)	1,584,963	2,023,671	2,179,616	2,147,202	2,618,318	1,541,707	1,024,787	633,572	403,350	351,313	310,297
Area of land leased (acres)	20,899,952	8,931,282	10,823,845	11,105,900	14,822,663	8,686,464	3,253,044	3,492,791	3,281,418	7,543,950	5,327,846
c Area of land under cultivation	9,099,933	9,757,189	10,474,172	11,486,803	12,927,793	13,803,310	14,407,756	14,212,789	14,106,094	14,024,056	a 14,483,850
* Area of land under crop (acres)	2,710,856	2,932,110	3,324,523	3,720,100	4,250,269	4,566,001	4,792,017	3,961,459	4,261,047	4,215,360	a 3,817,482
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	3,606,226	3,268,853	3,763,957	3,795,310	3,688,892	3,955,079	3,687,357	3,555,403	3,549,494	3,564,705	a 3,610,000
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	3,657,529	3,256,132	3,796,564	3,806,078	3,674,238	3,932,476	3,686,229	3,530,279	3,563,879	3,567,884	a 3,810,000
Exports, including Gold	£14,604,548	£14,581,657	£15,151,989	£18,240,775	£17,185,954	£17,769,529	£17,975,502	£16,296,086	£15,537,412	£17,291,577	£16,879,169
Exports, excluding Gold	£13,976,719	£13,521,377	£14,048,807	£17,569,994	£15,900,545	£13,133,726	£11,238,158	£11,374,476	£10,803,066	£11,079,673	£11,750,158
Imports ...	£16,074,035	£16,462,572	£18,370,063	£18,287,633	£20,053,772	£18,781,656	£10,879,854	£10,655,821	£12,180,760	£12,832,517	£14,226,405
Savings Bank Deposits	£8,102,733	£8,634,389	£9,817,412	£10,920,039	£12,142,575	£11,710,403	£9,636,023	£7,864,997	£7,447,503	£8,182,395	f £6,709,393
Savings Bank Withdrawals	£8,203,644	£8,380,600	£9,324,740	£10,289,589	£11,590,206	£12,026,896	£10,877,719	£8,734,317	£7,747,633	£7,988,122	f £6,479,988
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	3,900	3,248	6,084	10,658	8,027	2,912	b 2,312	b 1,495	b 546	b 655	398
Population ...	372,843	381,143	392,165	407,954	421,122	429,181	432,265	435,200	438,948	442,123	a 446,251

* Season ended 28th February

† Year ended 31st December

a Preliminary figures, liable to slight revision.

b Excess of Departures over Arrivals.

c Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc.

d Australian Currency Value.

e For 9 months only.

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