

the clause is going to affect the rights of parties in those cases.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I move—

That progress be reported.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	12
Noes	..	..	..	..	14

Majority against .. 2

#### AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. A. Thomson
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Walker
Mr. Collier	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Heron	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Johnston	(Teller.)
Mr. Lutey	

#### NOES.

Mr. Angelo	Mr. Piesse
Mr. Carter	Mr. Richardson
Mrs. Cowan	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Durack	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. Underwood
Mr. H. K. Maley	Mr. Mullany
Sir James Mitchell	(Teller.)
Mr. Money	

Motion thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—agreed to.

Clause 5—Minister for Justice to represent Attorney General:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: This clause is merely a duplication of Clauses 2 and 3 and there is no necessity for it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle. I fail to see any distinction between it and Clauses 2 and 3.

The Minister for Mines: The one time Attorney General drafted it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I presume it was drafted by a legal gentleman. There is not the slightest power granted by this clause which is not already provided for.

The PREMIER: I promised to report progress before dealing with Clause 6. I am prepared to report progress now.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.22 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 31st August, 1922.

Address-in-reply, Eighth day ... .. PAGE 492

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

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

#### Eighth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. E. ROSE (South-West) [4.32]: In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, I join with other members in tendering to you, Sir, hearty congratulations on your elevation to the high office of President. You said it had been your ambition to attain that honour. As you have been connected with Parliament for so many years, we feel perfectly safe in entrusting the duties to you. I must express deep regret at the loss of our former President, Mr. Kingsmill. He was of very great assistance to this House, and we shall miss him greatly. We shall also miss other members who were defeated at the recent election. I was pleased at being again returned to take my share of the responsibilities in assisting to develop this great State, and I thank members for their welcome. Two items in the Speech stand out prominently, those dealing with the financial position of the State and the immigration policy of the Premier to settle our vast empty spaces. The success of the second will go a long way, if not all the way, towards overtaking the deficit which has been mounting up for so many years. I had hoped that ere this the Government would have devised means to check the deficit which is now in the vicinity of six millions of money. This is a huge amount for so small a population. I hope the Premier's immigration policy will prove successful, for if it does, I believe we shall soon overtake the drift, and before many years have passed will be on the road to prosperity. I agree with the Premier's group settlement scheme. In our vast areas there is room for not 75,000, but for 700,000 more people than we have at present. The area of Western Australia is so great that the State of Victoria could be put in the South-West corner and not be seen. The fact that we have a total population of only 340,000 men, women and children gives one cause to think. It is regrettable, so many members have said, that the Government cannot carry out a land settlement policy without the risk of running the State into insolvency. The group settlement scheme is a first class scheme. I am pleased that the Premier has introduced it, and I pray that it will be the success he hopes it will. In the South-West we have a huge area of timber and fruit and wheat-growing lands, and there as well as in the northern

areas as far as Geraldton, the country could be cut up into smaller blocks and closely settled. After five or six years the farmers we settle should be in a fair way to pay the interest on the money advanced to them and a small amount by way of sinking fund. Farmers in the South-West who started on areas from 30 to 40 acres are doing remarkably well, and they did not have the benefit of the I.A.B. or the Agricultural Bank assistance which is being offered to settlers to-day. If we get the proper class of immigrant, there is a great future before Western Australia. Some people ask—"What is the use of placing more people on the land when there is no market for their produce?" I am supporting the Minister for Agriculture in his efforts to increase the production of the State. There is a market at our doors for the greater part, if not the whole of the produce we can raise for some years to come. Every year a sum of over £2,000,000 is sent out of the State to purchase products which should and could be raised in Western Australia. Remembering this, we must admit that there is an outlet for all that can be produced within the State for years to come, and when the present market is overtaken, the requirements of the increased population will be still greater. The fruit-growing industry of the South-West will necessitate the opening up of the ports, but until we have sufficient produce to ship from those ports, we cannot expect boats to call there. We know what the Bridgetown and Mt. Barker districts are capable of doing in the way of fruit growing alone; we know the difficulties confronting our fruit growers in shipping their fruit from Fremantle, a distance of an extra 120 miles, in summer time without the advantage of cool vans. Last year when coming up from Bridgetown I saw a special train which left Bunbury at midday on Saturday. The temperature in Perth that day was 106 and on the following day it was 107. Yet that fruit was kept in the vans for three days before it was put aboard the boat or into cool store. What condition could we expect that fruit to be in on arrival in England? The Government should consider the opening up of Bunbury and other ports in order to give fruit growers and farmers the advantage of the natural outlets for their produce. Bunbury should have a port capable of accommodating the mail and other steamers which call for our produce. When we consider the country for which Bunbury is a natural outlet, extending east of Lake Grace to Newdegate and east of Narrogin, and all the South-West, we can imagine what facilities it will require in the course of a few years. I am sorry Mr. Baxter is not in his seat because he spoke very disparagingly of the South-West. He considered the land was too thickly timbered and not good enough for the settlement of a large number of immigrants. If he travelled through these districts and saw the volume of traffic on the railways, he would come to the conclusion that the South-West was worthy of better

treatment than it has received in the past. Of all our railways, with the single exception of the metropolitan lines, none is paying better than those of the South-West. Traffic on a lot of them is badly congested. The lines have to be worked day and night in order to carry the produce. Collie is producing 500,000 tons of coal per annum, and there is only one line of rails to carry this coal to the port. Owing to the steep grades double trains have to be run on that line. The Government should inquire into the question of improving the grade or providing another line so that the coal, wheat and timber may be expeditiously conveyed to the port. Regarding the Premier's immigration policy, it has been said that we should have obtained the loan of £6,000,000 on better terms. When on my election campaign I expressed the opinion that the Premier, knowing the conditions as he did, would be able to make out a very good case for Western Australia, and that we would get the requisite money at a reasonable figure, if not free of interest for a few years. I pointed out that the British Government were expending £100,000,000 per annum on the unemployed. If the British Government spent £10,000,000 or £20,000,000 in Western Australia in settling a lot of their able-bodied men here, it would be a better investment than spending ever so much more merely to feed idle men in their own country. Of course we cannot see behind the scenes; we do not know what difficulties the Premier experienced, but we are certain that he exerted all his efforts to get the money on the best terms possible. I have every confidence that he did his utmost for the State. I do not for a moment say that he could have done better. This is the first group settlement scheme which has been placed before either the Commonwealth Government or the British Government. Both those Governments have taken it up readily, and consider it the best settlement policy yet placed before them. The Premier, therefore, deserves every credit for what he has done; and I consider that this House and another place should do everything possible to assist him in carrying out his policy. I am not a croaker; I do not believe in running down Western Australia. I believe in giving this country fair play. The scheme, however, requires the most careful supervision; and I do not know that the Government have at present the necessary organisation. With such supervision, however, group settlement should prove a success. Supervision will be required not only in the initial but also in the later stages. Those of us who have gone through the mill ourselves know that in developing our farms we have wasted much money which could have been saved us by practical advice and guidance. I do not believe in young inexperienced men being put in charge of group settlements, nor do I believe in men from Government offices being sent to take charge of clearing parties. Such people know nothing about

the conditions of the work. I thoroughly believe that after three or four years a great many of the settlers, with proper supervision, will make good. That refers not only to the Great Southern district, but also to the country around Pemberton, where I have seen immigrants perfectly satisfied with their prospects on the land. They have not been there long enough yet to produce, but they are very pleased to think that in time they will have farms of their own. Those men, however, are not working eight hours a day; and the Government are setting rather a bad example by placing alongside them men who work only eight hours. The settlers themselves are putting in 11 and 12 hours per day. The eight-hours system adds to the cost of clearing. Returned soldiers have complained of being charged for clearing double the amount that the work would have cost if done by contract. In the past the Government lacked experience as regards clearing, but the men in charge of clearing gangs now have benefited by experience. I trust that the cost of clearing land for the immigrants will be only one-half of that for the returned soldiers. When legislation for the settlement of the soldiers was passing through this House, Mr. Ewing and I tried hard to secure the insertion of a provision relieving the soldiers from the payment of interest for the first five years. That is only right, because during the first five years a farm will produce very little, and for that period it takes a man all he knows to knock out a living without paying interest. Similarly, I consider that the immigrants should be relieved of interest payments for the first five years. Mr. Lovelock said that the British Government were, in effect, paying only £8 per head for the bringing out of the immigrants; this payment being made in the shape of the 2 per cent. interest. The cost is very low, and, with compound interest added, it might be put on to the price of the properties after five years. In any case, it would not amount to very much. In my opinion the soldiers would be much more contented if they knew that they were to be free of interest for five years. What the intentions of the Government are in this respect I do not know, but I strongly urge the Government not to demand payment of interest during the first five years. In the case of the immigrants there should be proper supervision to prevent money advanced to them being spent foolishly. That money should be devoted to the purchase of stock in a cheap market, and to the permanent improvement of the properties. I know of farms in the South-West on which the Government have advanced money, and which, for the want of advice and supervision, have not been improved as they should be; and the owners of those farms are talking of throwing them up. In connection with the settlement of immigrants the Government will have to go in for a comprehensive drainage scheme, because without drainage a great part of the South-West is useless. Good roads also are

necessary to enable the immigrants to cart their produce to the railways. It is poor management on the part of the Government to ask settlers to battle along without roads and without drainage. There has been some discussion as to why so many of our immigrants have left Western Australia for the Eastern States. I would suggest that the Government should pay some attention to the comfort of the womenfolk in the country, so that farming may be made attractive not only to the man but to the wife also. The women have much to put up with on farms. Every possible convenience should be given them in their dwelling-houses, so that they may be enabled to take pride in their homes. They should have wash-houses and stoves for cooking, so that they would not be compelled to go out in all sorts of weather to do their work. Country centres should be connected by telephone, and should have every convenience in the way of regular mails. Those of us who have had to battle along in the North-West and the back country know perfectly well what "roughing it" means. You, Mr. President, have done your share of it, as also have other members of this Chamber. We know what we had to contend with in years gone by. I, for my part, would be sorry to think that my children had to rough it as I have done in the past. Along our coast right from Fremantle there are thousands upon thousands of acres of land which has been condemned by some people, but which the developments on the Peel estate have proved to be excellent land. That country right round to Albany, when opened up with railways for the conveyance of produce to market, and served by comprehensive drainage schemes, will afford room for thousands of settlers, who will be able to make a good living. I trust that this session the Closer Settlement Bill will be carried, for we have along our existing railways to-day thousands of acres of unused land. No doubt the owners will sell that land, but at what price? The values they put on that land for taxation purposes and the sale prices they ask are altogether different matters. Some holders will not sell at anything like a reasonable figure, saying, "We want to stick to that land for our families in years to come."

Hon. J. Duffell: What do you say is a reasonable figure?

Hon. E. ROSE: It depends on the class of land and the situation. For anyone in this House it is impossible to say whether the value of certain land is £10 per acre or 10s. per acre. Take our coastal lands, of which I have valued a great deal at 10s. per acre for road board rating. With a drainage scheme and with a railway, a lot of this land would be worth from £10 to £20 per acre, because it will produce anything. It is highly suitable for dairying and for mixed farming.

Hon. J. Duffell: Is not that mostly sandy country?

Hon. E. ROSE: No, it is along the coast, and it must have railway facilities. Look at

what has been done on the Peel estate, and remember that the same class of country exists right along the coast. In the case of the back country the settlers have to pay enormous railway freights. The land along the coast is not only well worth opening up for agricultural purposes, but also for the sake of the timber it carries. Between here and Bunbury, and Bunbury and Busselton, there are stretches of very fine tuart. That tuart country should be reserved, and the timber should be looked after. All the mature timber should be taken almost at once, because if left too long it becomes useless. The tuart country should be conserved for railway purposes, and railway purposes alone, because tuart is the finest timber we have in Western Australia for undercarriages of rolling stock. That has been proved. If a line were run around the coast, that would help to make the rest of our railway system pay. Of course, we cannot hope to make new lines pay from the jump. However, all the south-western lines are paying, and paying handsomely. By the time we settle the land down there we shall require, not two trains a day as at present, but three or four. Moreover, it will be necessary to duplicate the line from Perth to Bunbury. That being so, why should not the duplication run along the coast, instead of beside the existing line? It is the intention of the Premier to open up the country through Pemberton and round to Denmark. There we have the finest forest in the world. The Premier knows the country well, and I am sure that if he can but carry out his policy he will have the timber down there conserved. In many parts of the country, where settlement is proceeding, it would be wise if the Government were to arrange for ring-barking ahead of clearing, and so save both time and money to the settler. Down towards Nannup the country ring-barked a few years ago is now practically clear on the hillsides and growing the finest of clover. Of course, that country will grow anything. At the Manjimup show every year there are to be seen magnificent English grasses and fodders, the finest in the State. The country there is more like Gippsland than any other place I have seen. Gippsland, we know, is one of the finest agricultural and dairying districts in the Commonwealth. Yet it is only what the South-West will be in a few years time. Instead of having two or three butter factories there, as we have to-day, there should be eight or ten. I for one hope to see the day when we shall be exporting butter. The dairying industry, it must be remembered, was the salvation of Victoria which, not many years ago, was almost in a state of insolvency. I have great confidence in the South-West, for I know it to be one of the richest and most fertile districts in Australia. Of course, we require population. To populate Australia will prove to be the cheapest method of defence. With our 12,000 miles of coast line, it is not practicable to rely upon the defence of navies. We must populate the Common-

wealth from north to south and from east to west. Western Australia can carry a huge population, not only in the South-West, but in the North. Until such time as we have that population, we are in grave danger of outside powers attempting to come in. I hope very careful supervision will be exercised in the selection of immigrants to come out here from the Old Country. We require only strong healthy men and women willing to go on the land. I have heard of a few exchanges of passports and names, to the advantage of those who were not able to pass the doctor. We require to be most careful to see that this sort of thing does not continue. In the South-West we have many thousands of acres of beautiful timber country. A lot of that timber is over-matured. In many parts of the forest one can find dry rot in the over-matured trees, all of which, or so many of them as are marketable, ought to be cut out and put to use. I hope the Busselton-Margaret River railway will be completed as quickly as possible. Now that the rails between Bridgetown and Pemberton are being taken up, it would be a good idea to run them down to Busselton for despatch to Esperance, instead of sending rails from Northam via Albany to Esperance, as they are doing. Mr. Sanderson said the other day that there was no co-ordination between the departments. I agree with that. The Railway Department and the Works Department certainly do not pull together as they should. When we want any material for our roads those departments, instead of assisting us, try to get the last ounce of flesh. Only recently have we been able to come to terms with the Railway Department for a supply of gravel at a reasonable figure. I should like to see the trading concerns disposed of as soon as possible. We hear it said that the State sawmills have been showing good profits during the last 12 or 18 months. So they should do, at the price they are charging for timber. The other day my attention was drawn to the high school in course of construction at Bunbury. The contractor explained that he is bound to take his timber from the State sawmills at the maximum price. The same thing applies to all materials used on Government buildings. In my view a contractor should be allowed to decide for himself where he shall purchase his timber. I am pleased that the Government are going in for a housing scheme and talk of building 1,000 cottages in country districts. The plans I have seen are very suitable, and I hope the Government will put the scheme into operation as soon as possible. Outlying towns in country districts are very short of houses. We must have more buildings and if, as they say, the Government can provide the cottages at a cost of £155 f.o.r., those cottages should be erected as quickly as possible. Once the local demand for our produce is overtaken, it will be necessary for the

Government to assist co-operative societies in starting dehydrators for the preservation of our fruit and other produce. Mr. De Garis is on the right track with the dehydrator and the guaranteed price, although I am not sure that his prices are right. However, the Government will have to assist co-operative concerns in starting dehydrators, because it means the provision of an illimitable market, not only for dried fruits, but also for vegetables. I hope every member will agree to assist the Premier in his immigration policy. We are returned to Parliament, not merely to represent our own little electorates, but to represent also the whole of the State, and so, as I say, we should assist the Government in every way possible.

Hon. J. Cornell: Conditionally on our knowing what they are doing.

Hon. E. ROSE: I am pleased to know that the Minister for Education is desirous of starting an agricultural college. I have been advocating this for years past. We should have our own college, instead of sending our boys to the Eastern States.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Where would you put it?

Hon. E. ROSE: I do not care, so long as we have such a college for the training of our boys. Of course, the South-West is where the greatest settlement is going to be, and so I think the college should be there. Our boys go East to attend agricultural colleges, and on their return to Western Australia they have to set about learning the local conditions. Western Australian boys have been particularly successful in the agricultural college of South Australia. Young Johnson, of Bunbury, was the top boy over there.

The Minister for Education: There are 14 of our boys there now.

Hon. E. ROSE: Consider how many there would be at our own agricultural college! Very few of us can afford to send our boys East to study agriculture. I hope it will not be long before we have an agricultural college in Western Australia. I am very pleased to know that the Minister for Education is establishing high schools in the outer centres. I will gladly support the Minister in his endeavours to institute higher education throughout the State. Our boys and girls have to be educated in centres away from the city. We do not want them brought to the city as has been the case in the past, where they become accustomed to city life, to picture shows, and races, which unfit them for the country life we expect them to follow after leaving school. The Minister for Education is on the right track in establishing these schools in outside centres. Western Australia requires very careful management. It is a huge State and a grand heritage. To-day we have six Ministers doing what should be the work of eight. They are over-burdened. They have too much upon their shoulders.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Are they not getting rid of the trading concerns?

Hon. E. ROSE: We have heard that for many years past. The Premier has many different departments to look after, in which there are many clerks and different officers upon whom he cannot possibly keep his eye. He has too much to do, and there should be someone to take some of the responsibility off his shoulders. In his group settlement policy and land settlement policy he has as much work as one man can cope with, without having in addition the Treasury and the Lands Department to see to. There is room for two more Ministers. I am sorry the Government have not appointed two Honorary Ministers to assist them as they had two years ago. If they do not appoint Honorary Ministers they should have the Constitution amended so that two paid Ministers may be appointed. The gentlemen who occupy these portfolios give up nearly the whole of their time to the work, and they are entitled to come in on the same footing as other Ministers. I hope members of this Chamber will assist the Government in every way they can. I do not like to see so much croaking in the House. We should know what our land is capable of doing and what our country is worth, and should not be decrying our country and running down the administration. I have every confidence in Western Australia. It is God's own country which can be made prosperous and will be made prosperous under proper supervision.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [5.18]: There are very few points left for me to touch upon which have not been already dealt with fully by other members. There is one subject, however, in which we are all interested. I join with other members in extending to you, Sir, my hearty congratulations on the appointment you have secured. I trust the position which you hold to-day, you will be enabled as the years go on to continue to hold, with the same vigour you have displayed in the many other public offices you have occupied. I also desire to welcome amongst us the new members. With the advent of new members one feels regret that there have been displaced other members we used to see amongst us, and whom we learned probably to respect from many points of view, although we might have differed from them on political grounds. These regrets are also accentuated by the fact that we have lost your predecessor, one who had won the esteem and high regard of every member of the House. There can be expressed nothing but regret that we should have lost the services of one so capable as Mr. Kingsmill. The Speech contains a matter of outstanding importance, namely, immigration. We all desire to see that policy brought to a successful issue. We are blessed with a Premier of unbounded patriotism, a man who is possessed of the utmost enthusiasm in connection with the development of this State, and who is desirous of doing his best, and seeing that others do likewise to advance the interests of Western Australia. Although

some may offer adverse criticism regarding this policy, I do not think any one of us wishes to throw a damper upon that enthusiasm. There is an honest and sincere wish in the mind of every member to help the Premier in that great conception of his in connection with immigration. Unfortunately, however, we have not been furnished up to date with those details which we as members of the House might claim we are entitled to. The information that has been supplied to us through the Speech must be fairly regarded as very meagre. I am, therefore, looking forward with considerable anxiety to the explanations which no doubt will be furnished by the Leader of the House upon this important matter. At present it is difficult to form conclusions as one would like to do when dealing with this interesting topic. If a person had before him a scheme of such magnitude as this in any business with which he might be associated he would naturally ask for the fullest details, so that he might see whether the scheme presented the features that made for success or whether it was laid down on lines which would ultimately result in success. At this stage I can only offer a few observations. I would not for a moment think of seeking to criticise adversely this scheme that has been propounded. The meagre information placed before me prevents me from doing so. I cannot for a moment conceive that the Premier or his colleagues would put forward such a scheme as this if they did not themselves believe that they had the machinery and the organisation for carrying it out.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Surely members are entitled to know what the scheme is?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Those are the particulars for which I am asking.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Apparently we have given them a blank cheque.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: We have no official details before us. Things have been stated in the Press, but these items of information supplied to us by this back channel do not bear the official hall-mark which is essential to enable us to form our own conclusions. I am not offering these observations in anything but a friendly spirit.

The PRESIDENT: Perhaps you did not hear Mr. Ewing's speech; he explained the whole matter.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: But he is not a member of the Ministry. I am awaiting with some degree of pleasure the explanations which will be furnished by the Leader of the House as a member of the Ministry. It is explained in the Speech that the money raised will be in the following directions:—

(1) To strengthen the funds of the Agricultural Bank in order that improvements—chiefly in the direction of clearing, fencing, and dam sinking—may be put in hand by existing holders to enable them to double the present production of wheat and to largely increase the stock-carrying capacity of their farms.

(2) To provide for the housing of people in country town and districts.

(3) To settle six thousand additional people on the land—chiefly in the south-west portion of the State—to bring their holdings to a productive stage by clearing, drainage, fencing and housing, and to provide railways, roads, and other facilities to enable them to market their products.

I assume that 6,000 additional people mean 6,000 additional settlers. I think I can show that the work done in paragraph (3) will absorb the whole of the £6,000,000 without leaving anything for the work entailed under the preceding paragraphs. I am supported in that by further information that is supplied in the Speech, which says that the average commitment—this is dealing with soldiers settlement—per soldier is £1,126. In one paragraph it is set out that the total registrations to date amount to 7,288, and of these, 4,547 have been granted advances. We may take it that the 4,547 have received an average of £1,126 each to place them in settlement. An expenditure of £5,181,629 has been absorbed in the settlement of 4,547 soldiers. It can thus be seen that if we spend at the rate of £1,000 on each of the 6,000 settlers it is proposed to place on the land under the immigration scheme we shall absorb the whole of the £6,000,000 without applying any portion of that money to any of the other objects which have been mentioned.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Is not that money for repurchased estates? Are not these settlers to be put on Crown lands?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I do not not know where they propose to put these men.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Why not put the soldiers on Crown lands?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: A lot of them have been placed on Crown lands. Certain estates, of course, have been repurchased. Assuming, however, that not a single estate is repurchased, I claim that men cannot be settled in the South-West for less than £1,000. The Leader of the House will agree with me that a settler in that part of the State will require that amount if he is to be successfully settled. That is to say, it will take that amount, unless the settler is to be placed on a small holding such as 20 acres to be devoted to the growing of vines or something of that nature.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: It costs that amount in connection with the group settlement.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I will be interested to hear details of this aspect. The Leader of the House will appreciate the difficulties confronting hon. members in their task of following this scheme, without having the details before us.

The Minister for Education: The Governor's Speech sets out that the details will be submitted to Parliament.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Until we get those details, one is at a loss to know where he stands. While offering these observations, I do so in no hostile spirit—far from it. My

desire is to assist the Premier, and I hope it will be possible for me to do so to the fullest extent. I would like to do so. In common with other members, I would like some explanation as to the organisation. For example, we want to know something about the arrangements in the Old Country regarding the selection of settlers and the placing of those men when they arrive here.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Do you think the Government have any organisation?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That is what I want to know. It is a vastly important feature. From my experience in connection with the Red Cross Society, I know that a great many men have come to Western Australia who are not suitable as settlers on the land. We have assisted a large number of these men and I know they are not fitted for the work they are expected to undertake in connection with land settlement. Some of those men are actually receiving sustenance allowances from the Red Cross Society.

The Minister for Education: Were those people assisted immigrants or did they come out on their own initiative?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: They came out under some scheme of settlement propounded at Home. They were supposed to have been passed by a medical man at Home.

The Minister for Education: Was that under a State scheme?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I understand it was. I can secure fuller particulars later on. I know we had occasion to write to the Agent General pointing out the seriousness of the position. I can assure hon. members that it does involve a serious strain upon our society's funds. We cannot leave these people in a destitute condition and we try to assist them through the Red Cross Society to the fullest extent. We want to know what organisation there will be and what methods will be adopted in connection with the expenditure of money. We want to be shown that the money will be wisely spent. Although we are getting the money on what appear to be favourable terms for a certain period, we must not lose sight of the fact that we have to repay that debt. We are committing ourselves to a serious liability in connection with this loan of £6,000,000. After a certain period, we are committed to the payment of the full interest on that amount. We want to examine the whole scheme from a business standpoint and see that it is established on such lines that it will prove to be a success and not a failure. We all realise that success will mean so much to this State, whereas failure will put the State back for many years to come. There is another point regarding which I should like the Minister to reply. I would like him to tell us whether any other countries have received more favourable terms in connection with advances made by the Imperial Government. It has been stated, for example, that the New Zealand Government have received a free grant amounting, I think, to £150 for each man landing there. I have not made

inquiries to ascertain if that is correct, but the Leader of the House will have the means to secure the necessary information. It is also stated that New South Wales has received money on much more favourable terms.

The Minister for Education: Who has said that?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I have heard it stated. I would like inquiries to be made, for that statement may be wrong. I am simply asking for information. Should such prove to be the case, I am sure the Premier will see that his scheme is amended so that Western Australia may be placed on the same favourable basis as other countries. On the question of organisation, Mr. Rose alluded to Kendenup where an admirable scheme was established by Mr. De Garis. During the recess I visited Kendenup and I was more than favourably impressed with the conception of the scheme. It struck me as being a scheme that might well be applied as an object-lesson in connection with group settlement. I went to Kendenup unannounced, arriving in the early morning. I was given every facility to make inquiries while at Kendenup, and I was able to see the settlers and to interview them. I was struck by the very enthusiastic tone prevailing amongst them and the boundless hope they had for the future.

Hon. J. Cornell: They are a good type of men.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I was very much impressed with the type of settlers I came across. It was astonishing, having regard to the conditions prevailing there, that these men should be possessed of that great hope. It would be disastrous to this State if we were to allow these settlers to sink. We should give them every possible encouragement and help. I was greatly impressed by one feature. There was taken away from each producer all that care and responsibility which faces the ordinary man participating in a group settlement scheme, in seeing to the marketing of his produce and, at the same time, being left dependent on the markets of the day for a return for his labour. I have no knowledge as to the finances of the scheme. I am not interested, nor am I concerned in the scheme in any way. I understand that the settlers have been guaranteed a certain amount per ton for all the goods they produce. Everything they produce is brought by them to the dehydrator. According to the class of article, they are credited or paid a certain amount for the goods they leave there.

The PRESIDENT: I did not catch what you said. Did you say they were credited or paid?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am not sure which it is. They are either credited or paid for those goods. I was surprised to find the results achieved by the settlers. It was really astonishing. The settlers were quite willing to give me particulars, to show their returns, after a residence of practically only one year in the place. In my opinion,

the success of the scheme is centred in one thing. I refer to the dehydrator. On the way back from Kendenup, I travelled part of the way with two representatives from Java who were in Western Australia some months ago. I learnt from them that they were greatly impressed with the possibility of marketing produce such as came from the dehydrator at Kendenup. I was informed by the acting administrator at Kendenup that they were assured, owing to the quality of the goods they could turn out, of an unlimited market, and that they were able to dispose of every ton of goods produced. That applies not only throughout Australia, but the goods can be carried into the Far East and disposed of there. The Kendenup people were told by the representatives from Java, who noticed that the goods were being packed in wooden boxes, that it would be useless to export the goods in that fashion to Java. I was told by the acting administrator that they were overcoming that difficulty and packing the goods in hermetically sealed tins. The opinion was expressed by the visitors from Java that the goods sent forward packed in that way would find a ready market available amongst the teeming millions in the Far East. Those people are crying out for the goods we can produce and we have plenty of land available to grow the stuff. If we are to leave the 6,000 settlers, who are to be brought to Western Australia, to be dependent simply upon the open market, leaving them the responsibility of placing their own goods on the market, I am afraid there will be a great many failures amongst them.

Members: Hear, hear.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: We must give them that support which De Garis has given his settlers at Kendenup. If we establish dehydrators, and encourage the new settlers to grow such crops as can be grown all in one season, those people will be enabled to make their lands practically productive almost from the beginning.

Hon. G. W. Miles: You want the Government to establish dehydrators?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Yes, to assist.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Another trading concern!

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It would not be a trading concern in the ordinary sense.

Hon. E. Rose: Co-operation.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Yes, and it would be an adjunct to settlement. State sawmills, and State brickworks are not necessarily adjuncts to settlement.

The Minister for Education: What about freezers?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It wholly depends on circumstances. Freezers have been established in various places, but I do say that, as an adjunct to the settlement of people on their holdings in groups, it is necessary, in order to secure their success, to see that they are able to get their produce to market, and have it dealt with in a proper way. Suppose these men grow ordinary root

crops which are capable of being grown in the south-western districts, where it is possible to get two or three crops per annum, if the settlers are left to send their goods merely to the open market in Perth, what chance have they of disposing of them?

Hon. J. Cornell: Simper will get most of them.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: What chance would they have of making any profit out of their holdings? I have an instance before me of what took place at Piesse's Brook, where a number of men, thinking that they might add to the chances of their success by growing vegetables, sent their produce to the open market and received a return of something like 1s. for great bags of cabbages and cauliflowers.

The PRESIDENT: Do I understand that the hon. member's remarks relating to Kendenup will be connected with the Premier's immigration scheme?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I have quoted Kendenup as an instance of what ought to be done in connection with some of the group settlements. It is proposed to put a large number of the 6,000 settlers on group settlement blocks, and in order to encourage them to work successfully, it is clearly our duty to follow methods which have proved so successful at Kendenup. In a scheme of the nature outlined to us by the Premier, there are many points which require consideration, and I shall be interested to hear the explanations of the Leader of the House as to the manner in which the details are to be carried out. Probably he will tell us that there will be an efficient board appointed to assist those settlers, and that various means will be adopted to help them in other directions. Whilst the greatest enthusiasm has been aroused over the subject of immigration, one recognises that in a measure it temporarily overshadows that still more vital subject, finance. The two, no doubt, are largely intermingled, and I cannot pass the subject without expressing my regret at the increased deficit and the absence of any explanation in the Speech as to how the Government propose to rectify the position.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Cannot your optimism make you forget the deficit?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I cannot forget it. I realise that the two are very closely connected, and if our finances are not to be put straight, then we shall bring the settlers here to a place which is loaded with debt, and the position of which is not as sound as we would like it to be. It is true that in the second last paragraph of the Speech it is set out that it is the intention to devote the work of Parliament chiefly to the question of finance and development, and that there are certain legislative matters urgently requiring attention. Not one word is said as to how the deficit is going to be checked. That is what I want to see, and it is what I would like the Leader to explain. I agree with Mr. Rose and other members who have spoken, that there is grave need for rendering



assistance to the Premier. Undoubtedly Sir James Mitchell is over-burdened with the cares of responsible offices. The work which must devolve upon him in connection with the immigration scheme alone is sufficient for one man.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: He always did attempt too much.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: In addition, may it not also be said that the cares devolving on the Premier as Treasurer are enough for one man without his having to undertake others. In connection with the ordinary business affairs of a company, or even those of a private firm, one finds that there is no subject which gives greater concern than that of finance.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is when the finances are limited.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Precisely.

Hon. J. Cornell: The State's finances are not.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: If the Government do not check the drift, it means that there will be added burdens placed on the community in the shape of further taxation. I hope some means will be devised to arrest the backward flow. I know that the Leader will point out the manner in which the deficit has increased, but at the same time the duty devolves upon the Government to meet the circumstances as they arise, and to prevent as far as possible the backwash continuing. On a previous occasion I offered a suggestion with regard to the serious position of our finances and the growth of the deficit. This suggestion was that the matter should be investigated by a board of competent experts. Mr. Kirwan last year moved a motion in that direction and I hope the Leader will give consideration to the matter. He must recognise that it would be in the interests of the country to get the benefit of expert advice in connection with our finances.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Are not the Government competent to do that?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The trouble is present and the Government do not seem to be able to stem it.

Hon. J. Cornell: The trouble is to get the Government to make a commencement.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Nothing has been done to stop the drift. We want to reach that stage when there will be no deficit. I offer this suggestion, too, that in connection with our financial position certain trading concerns are responsible in a measure for the deficit, and should be disposed of.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Hear, hear!

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Some are showing a pretty good profit.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I do not care whether they are showing a good profit or not.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: The deficit would have been greater but for the trading concerns.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: When I speak of the State trading concerns, I refer to those which are not part and parcel of the scheme

of settlement such as that which has been alluded to. Unhesitatingly I say that the State trading concerns are the worst advertisement the State can have.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: They prevent the investment of private capital in the State.

Hon. E. H. Harris: And you asked for a State dehydrator!

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That is a totally different thing. I am prepared to stand by what I said about the dehydrator.

Hon. E. Rose: Co-operation.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: In the absence of co-operation, what will you do?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It will be for the Government to say what can be done. But it is clearly necessary to do something to assist in establishing a dehydrator. The State trading concerns which are in competition with established industries, I repeat, are the worst advertisement the State can have.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It is not the function of a Government to run trading concerns.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That is quite true. It is the function of Governments to govern and not to trade. We also have this position, that by carrying on the trading concerns we are preventing other people from embarking on enterprises in the State. If we could induce private enterprise to invest capital in the State, we should take every opportunity of doing so because, at the same time, we are encouraging population and helping forward the settlement of the country. The greater the population we have, the less will be the amount of our indebtedness per head. If we are retarding the expansion of industrial concerns amongst private people, we are retarding the progress of the State. A further objection regularly advanced is that State trading concerns occupy a favoured position. They pay no taxes, and when tenders are called for any work, the Government stipulate that certain articles shall be purchased from State trading concerns. That is not only unfair but is sufficient to drive industries out of the country.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Would you sell the railways, too?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The railways come in a different category and consideration may dictate the adoption of a different course. Some little time ago the Minister for Works and Railways in New South Wales Sir Thomas Henley, said emphatically that after his experience, State trading concerns should be abolished, even when they were paying.

Hon. G. W. Miles: The Federal Treasurer said practically the same thing.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: We recognise that the industrial world is still unsettled. I ever there was need for industrial peace, that time is the present.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: Cease the campaign for wage reduction and you will get industrial peace.

Hon. J. Cornell: Has there ever been industrial peace?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I have no intention of raising a contentious debate. Many leaders of the Labour Party recognise the economic position, and show a desire to bring about an amicable settlement of disputes. Unfortunately, their efforts are not always attended with success.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: There has been no reciprocity on the part of employers.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I would not say that. When men strike in defiance of the Arbitration Court, as in the case of the present strike in Perth, it makes one doubt whether the Arbitration Court is of much use. I regret that this institution is not availed of more than it is. The Government have appealed to the producer to keep on producing and to increase the production, but what has the producer to face? He has to face the go-slow policy which has been announced so widely—

Hon. F. A. Baglin: That is a bogey.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: What encouragement have the Government given the producer?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: He has to face strikes; he may have to face heavy taxes to meet the deficit; he has to face increased railway freights. The go-slow policy indicates a wrong economic conception on the part of those concerned. If the go-slow policy be carried out—

Hon. F. A. Baglin interjected.

The PRESIDENT: I ask the hon. member not to interrupt so frequently.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: If the go-slow policy be carried out, we shall find ourselves in a very serious position. One of the most distinguished leaders of the Labour Party in the Old Country, Mr. Clynes, M.P., said it was the poor who suffered by under-production, and scarcity was a real friend of the profiteer; under-production afforded no protection to the worker. Does not this suggest the necessity for imparting in our schools and elsewhere some instruction on economics? If greater instruction were given on this subject we would have fewer strikes and a better understanding would prevail between employer and employee. It is one of the things which will tend to success more than anything else, and I sincerely hope that some better knowledge and understanding will be arrived at ere long. The apprenticeship question has an important bearing on the advancement of our State. This question has been brought forcibly before me on various occasions, because industries are being hampered through a deficiency of qualified men. If the State is to progress, we must see that the future generation of workers are qualified. Under the arbitration awards and agreements the number of apprentices is limited to the number of journeymen employed, and I doubt whether that principle is sound. I know of several instances in which it has caused great hardship. The "Industrial Australian and Mining Standard" of the 17th August contains

an article which impressed me greatly. It reads—

Mr. James Nangle, Superintendent of Technical Education in New South Wales, spoke on "the problem of apprenticeship" at the Paddington Town Hall recently. The time has come when serious consideration will have to be given to the important question of apprenticeship. Many trades are being starved of skilled men because of the restrictions placed on the number of apprentices which may be employed to each tradesman. The "closed shop" and union tyranny are mainly responsible for the present position. Mr. Nangle, in the course of his lecture, said that the system of apprenticeship, which was at its best in the days of Elizabeth, had been interfered with when machinery was introduced and factories came into vogue. This meant that the individual employer who took an apprentice and who worked by hand was able to give a personal and technical training. Machinery and the factory system, however, made this system impossible. Many attempts to revive the system had been made, but as a general rule they had failed. Australia and other new countries differed very much from the old world centres where manufacturing, and consequently specialisation, had to be carried on. Where specialisation was in vogue, operatives, rather than good all-round tradesmen, were required. As a result, in thickly populated countries it was difficult to carry on a system of apprenticeship such as obtained when the guilds flourished in Elizabeth's time. Australia, however, required good all-round craftsmen. Here, specialisation would not be needed for at least a generation. It seemed, therefore, that we should revive apprenticeship, and we must do so if we were to secure that training which the men who were to become the tradesmen of Australia needed. Mr. Nangle proposed as remedies (1) a proper allocation of the numbers of apprentices to be taken annually into each trade or calling; (2) systematic selection of boys and girls for suitable callings, thus preventing the danger of misfits and securing to a boy or girl an employer who would provide a satisfactory apprenticeship; (3) the organisation of boys and girls into apprenticeship with suitable employers; (4) the control of apprentices in order to secure effective service to employers; (5) control aiming at securing proper training of apprentices by employers; (6) organised training which should consist of two parts, (a) workshop training with the employer and (b) supplementary technical education in trade schools. The control, he said, unquestionably should be exercised by the Education Department. At present the interests of the boy were subservient to industrial disputes between employer and employee, and the boy was not enfranchised until he was 21 years of age.

I bring this matter before the House in order that it may receive further consideration. I hope further consideration will be given by the Government not only to advancing our primary industries by settling the land, but also to advancing and encouraging our secondary industries. The two must go hand in hand. As I had occasion to say the other day, we must recognise the fact that there are many men coming out to this State, and even in this State at present, who are not fitted for going on the land, but these same men might be most useful as operatives in factories or as workmen in other spheres. I hope it will be recognised that the development of our primary and secondary industries must go hand in hand. It is our duty to advance both, because we can never be a self-contained or self-supporting State unless we have both primary and secondary industries flourishing. Subject to what I have said on certain points, I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. G. W. Miles, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 6.14 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 31st August, 1922.*

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

### COUNTRY PARTY LEADERSHIP.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. K. Maley—Greenough) [4.35]: With your permission, Sir, I should like to

inform the House that following upon the resignation of the member for Avon (Mr. Harrison) and the member for Katanning (Mr. A. Thomson) as Leader and Deputy Leader respectively of the Country Party, that party has appointed me as Leader and the member for York (Mr. Latham) as Deputy Leader.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Latham, leave of absence for two weeks granted to the member for Beverley (Mr. Brown) on the ground of ill-health.

### SWEARING-IN OF NEW MINISTER.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the return of the writ for the by-election of the Swan electorate. It appears from the endorsement thereon that the Hon. Richard Stanley Sampson has been returned unopposed. I am now prepared to swear in the hon. member.

The member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) accordingly took and subscribed the oath, and signed the roll.

### BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Mining Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Mines.
- 2, Pensioners' Rates Exemption.  
Introduced by Capt. Carter.

### PAPERS—MINING ACCIDENT, GOLDEN HORSESHOE.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier ordered—  
“That all papers relating to the fatal accident which occurred on the Golden Horseshoe Estates mine, Boulder, on the 6th December, 1921, be laid upon the Table of the House.”

### PAPERS—OIL LEASES, WORK DONE.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier ordered—  
“That all reports made to the Minister for Mines in accordance with the provisions of the Mining Act Amendment Act, 1920, relating to work done by persons licensed to prospect for mineral oil be laid upon the Table.”

### MOTION—RETURNED SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.

To inquire by Royal Commission.

Mr. WILSON (Collie) [4.40]: I move—  
That in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that a Royal Commission should be appointed to go into all phases of the “land settlement policy” in regard to repatriated soldiers of the A.I.F. who are now struggling under adverse circumstances and must