

it other than that I am convinced that if the Bill be defeated there will be no equity and justice. On the other hand, if the Bill be carried, it will prevent the Minister from letting reservations, and we shall have no privileged class at all. The member who said the Bill did not do justice to all, misinterpreted it, because it puts everyone on the same footing. If the Bill be defeated, we shall continue to have two laws, namely one for the rich and the other for the poor.

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

Ayes	18
Noes	21
Majority against			3

AYES.

Mr. Boyle	Mr. Seward
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Johnson	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Latham	Mr. Thorn
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Warner
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Watts
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Welsh
Mr. Raphael	Mr. Withers
Mr. Sampson	Mr. Doney

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Brockman	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Collier	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Coverley	Mr. F. C. L. Smith
Mr. Cross	Mr. J. M. Smith
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Troy
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Wan-brough
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Millington	Mr. Wise
Mr. Moloney	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Munis	

(Teller.)

Question thus negatived; Bill defeated.

House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 27th November, 1935.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Hon. C. F. Baxter and Departmental Meat Inspection.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [4.33]: I crave the indulgence of the House in order that I may make a personal explanation. When dealing with my motion to disallow a health regulation, I mentioned that an inspector of the Health Department had passed horse-flesh as beef. I was taken to task very trenchantly and in a most definite manner by the Honorary Minister who spoke in opposition to my motion. He stated—

That was rather a serious statement to make, and I thought it advisable to clear the matter up, so that the people of the metropolitan area may be satisfied that the inspection, which takes place at the metropolitan abattoirs, is efficient. To quote the Chief Inspector on that point—

This statement is certainly untrue. The only instance we have of horse meat being marketed as beef was in 1918. Our inspector, Clutterbuck, diagnosed it at once. The meat was seized, and the person who marketed it was prosecuted. The complaint was heard in the Perth Police Court on the 1st May, 1918. The defendant was fined £20 with £1 9s. costs. The carcass had been specially dressed and trimmed up to resemble beef, but our inspector was not deceived. If I remember rightly, our inspector was complimented on his perspicacity in detecting the fraud. I think, therefore, that Mr. Baxter should withdraw his statement. It is difficult to understand where he obtained his information. Mr. Clutterbuck discovered the carcass, and Mr. P. Higgs laid the complaint on behalf of Mr. Clutterbuck.

The Minister further stated—

There is a great difference between that case and the allegation made by Mr. Baxter. Allegations of that nature convey an entirely erroneous impression.

I have been a member of this Chamber for a long period. I have not been in the habit of making statements unless based on information from reliable sources. If at any time I have made a statement that I subsequently ascertained could not be substantiated by facts, I have taken the first opportunity to correct it. My intentions always have been that, in dealing with any matter, I must be straight, and be sure of the ground upon which I act. As I pointed out last night, my information regarding this particular matter was gained from a reliable authority. In order further to substantiate the facts, I approached that authority again this morning, and in pursuance of my inquiries, got into touch with three other persons and all those four people were present when this particular incident occurred. I interjected yesterday afternoon, when the Minister was speaking, indicating what was the position. It is not what is actually on Government files, but what is not included that so often matters. My reflection was not upon the health inspectors generally, but what has been placed on the file has been constructed in the best manner possible in the interests of the particular officer concerned. I did not want to mention the inspector's name, but the Honorary Minister divulged it. Mr. Clutterbuck, who was then an inspector of the Health Department, inspected this particular carcase of horse-flesh, passed it as beef, and stamped it. A little time afterwards, he was in possession of information that created the suspicion that the carcase was probably horse-flesh and gave instructions for the carcase to be returned. He called in the then Chief Inspector, Mr. Greenhill, and they came to a conclusion that it was horse-flesh. Therefore the statement in the Chief Inspector's memorandum that "our inspector, Mr. Clutterbuck, diagnosed it at once" is not true. Furthermore, the Chief Inspector said, "Our inspector was not deceived." He was deceived. As a result of the Chief Inspector's report, the Minister has been placed in the position of giving information that is not accurate. My statement was substantiated by persons actually connected with the incident who knew what occurred. They remember the facts although the incident happened 17 years ago. There is a difference between horse-flesh and beef. With the former, the set of the ribs is different, and also the number of ribs is different. Bullocks' ribs are more flat than a horse's ribs. Mr. Holmes can verify that.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: I do not know anything about horse-flesh!

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The hon. member knows that there are more ribs in the carcase of a horse. My statement, when I spoke on the motion, was absolutely correct, and there is no necessity for me to withdraw. What the Minister should do is to withdraw his statement. There is no doubt in the world that the statement I made was correct, and the facts can be substantiated by the four persons who were present when the incident took place. The facts are that the carcase was passed as beef, stamped by the health inspector, and a little later on, just when the meat was ready to be taken away to a shop, it was held up because of information received. Subsequent to an inspection by the Chief Inspector, it was decided that it was horse-flesh, not beef. I trust the Minister is satisfied that the statement I made was accurate and not, as he said, incorrect.

MOTION—MINES REGULATION ACT.

To Disallow Regulation.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.40]: I move—

That Regulation No. 2a, made under the Mines Regulation Act, 1906, as published in the "Government Gazette" on the 25th October, 1935, and laid on the Table of the House on the 6th November, 1935, be and is hereby disallowed.

The regulation to which I refer reads as follows:—

2a.—Lights: In every mine where lights are used on the surface or underground by workmen, the owner shall, at the expense of the owner, supply the workmen with lamps and fuel, or with candles or some other sufficient and safe means of illumination.

There is no objection at all to the regulation so far as it goes, but it is only reasonable to add something further. The addendum should be that the men supplied with these lamps, which cost up to 25s. each, should bear some responsibility regarding them. In all walks of life there are careless, negligent people, persons who do not care what becomes of property belonging to others although in their own possession. As the regulation stands at present, the big mines might be put to considerable expense that could be avoided.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Is that not being done now?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: It may be, but much of the loss involved could be

avoided. With respect to Government property, articles cannot be replaced without the production of the tool or instrument that has been damaged. This regulation will place a premium on carelessness or even on wilful damage. I understand instances are not unknown in which there has been trading in these lamps.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I suppose they steal the lamps like they do the gold. If they steal the lamps, don't they steal the carbide too? Don't they steal the candles too?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I do not suggest they do.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Blame the poor old miners for stealing!

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. C. B. Williams: I must stand up for men of my class.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member will have an opportunity to speak later on.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If Mr. Williams knows that the miners steal, I do not.

Hon. C. B. Williams: You said so.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I did not, in any shape or form, suggest that the miners steal.

Hon. C. B. Williams: But you did.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: That is not so. What I want to avoid is the possibility of unscrupulous men, who may have these lamps in their possession, dealing with them in a wrongful manner.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Catch them under the Gold Buyers Act and make them prove that they were in the lawful possession of the lamps.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If there are no unscrupulous men working on a mine, there will be no occasion to enforce the provision I would like to see added to the regulation. The addendum I would suggest would be to the effect that the men must satisfy the mine owner as to the means by which the lamps formerly in their possession had been either damaged or lost. There should not be the slightest difficulty respecting the honest men. All that would be necessary would be to prove what had happened to the lamp.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Just the same as a man has to prove, under the Workers' Compensation Act, that he has lost his leg or his health through dust.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Strange to say, the man who loses his leg has to prove the fact.

Hon. C. B. Williams: And the same here.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If he meets with an accident, he has to prove his case. What I suggest will not inflict any hardship at all on miners who are reasonably careful. On the other hand, the regulation will represent a hardship to the mine-owners if they have no control over the position, but simply have to hand out lamps as the men may demand. I do not think for one moment that the Mines Department desire that position to arise and I therefore submit the motion so that the regulation may be disallowed and a new one introduced with an addendum that will give the owner some right to call upon the possessor of the lamp for an explanation as to how it was lost or damaged.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [4.45]:

It seems that the Chamber of Mines have transferred their affections from Mr. Nicholson to Mr. Parker. I do not know whether one is more easily persuaded than the other or whether one has a better idea of what happens to the lamps.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I do not know anything about the matter.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Then this is the first occasion in eight years when the hon. member has not known. If they have transferred their affections elsewhere, I feel sorry for the hon. member. I thought he had done good service for them in the past. Anyhow, since mining has been mining, since before Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Parker and myself were thought of, the practice has been for the employer to supply the lamps. The regulation asks that the employer shall continue to do that—to continue to observe a practice that has been followed in gold mining in every State of Australia since mining has been undertaken. The regulation has been framed for the express purpose of avoiding conflict between the employers and the employees—to avoid stop-work meetings on the Golden Mile. Strange to say, this trouble occurs on one mine and one only, the Lake View and Star. Though most of the mines use carbide lamps, Wiluna and all the other big mines thrown in, there has been only one mine in Western Australia where any stoppage of work has occurred over the question of lights and that is the Lake View

and Star. No doubt Mr. Parker's instructions came from the Lake View and Star mine. That is the only mine in Western Australia where any objection is taken to a company supplying one lamp to two or three miners. Is any company going to employ a man who wilfully destroys the gear supplied to him? It is ridiculous for anyone to say that a man would deliberately lose or destroy a lamp. Anyone with a knowledge of conditions underground knows that a man deprived of a light underground would go mad in no time. He must have a light to see where he is going, to avoid danger to life and limb and to enable him to work. I have often heard it said that this Chamber is a non-party House. I have never believed the statement and never will do so. I have seen too much to believe it and I realise how untrue the statement is.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Are you speaking for yourself?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I am speaking for everyone that I know here.

Hon. J. Nicholson: No.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: And I am speaking particularly for the gentleman who interjected. The hon. member would fall into the bottomless pit if he got away from party considerations. He is one of the greatest party men in the House. As to lamps, the Lake View and Star Company have decided that carbide lamps are much cheaper than candles for the working of the mine. They instituted a system on those lines. Let me show to what extent some mine managers will go. A little time ago a prominent mining man from Broken Hill was going through one of the mines. He asked, "What is the rubbish tip over there?" The reply was, "That is where the miners put their spent carbide." He asked, "Why bother about that, but tell me, when they want carbide underground, how do they get on?" He was informed that the miners had to take enough below with them to see them through the shift. Then the question was asked, "If something happened to a lamp, would you supply a candle?" The reply was, "No." The visitor stated that at Broken Hill a carbide bin was kept on every level. The comment was, "If we had that here, they would take it home." That is the attitude of the people who instructed the hon. member to come here and cause trouble by moving for the disallowance of the regulation. The general body of miners do not stand for any man who would wil-

fully damage the company's goods. We have had enough trouble over the lamp business and the object of the regulation is to avoid trouble. If the hon. member had his way, he would make conditions worse than they are at present because he would add to the regulation power to charge the employee for the light.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: No, I did not say that.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: At present there is a struggle between the worker and the employer and he pays. There is no question about that. If the company intend to make the men pay for the lamps, I say they are not worth 25s. The value is much less than that. But say the cost is £1, is that to be considered against the loss resulting from 300 or 400 men stopping work? Why not retain the regulation in order to safeguard the interests of the men, the company and the State. We have had a little peace on the lamp question during the last few months, but if the regulation be disallowed, or an addendum is inserted to give the company the right, after having supplied the first lamp, to charge the employee for the second or third lamp, the men say they will not work. Hence, instead of there being a loss of 25s. for one lamp, the State will lose the benefit of the wages of 300 or 400 men for one or two shifts as the case may be. The regulation states that the employer shall supply the lamps as heretofore he has supplied candles. If the company choose to substitute carbide for candles, why should an employee have to supply the utensil? I am well acquainted with the difficulty and I know that the stoppage of work emanates from one mine and one only, namely the Lake View and Star. I challenge anyone to turn up the newspaper files and show that any trouble has occurred over lamps on mines such as Wiluna, the Sons of Gwalia, the South Kalbarri or any of the big mines except the Lake View and Star. Having secured peace in the industry, we have asked for this regulation so that peace may be preserved and the interests of the miners safeguarded. The employers are merely using the carbide lamps for their own convenience. We have gone to the extent of suggesting that the lamps be provided with a hook which would have the effect of saving nine-tenths of the losses that occur. The attitude of the managers, however, is this: "We are managing this show and we will do

as we think fit." Well, we are managing for the miners and we will do as we think fit. If they try to charge one of our men, he will not pay. We claim that by putting a spring hook on the lamps there would not be the loss. The managers, however, say they know more than we do, and so we have to put up with the position. On behalf of mining constituents, I protest against the disallowance of the regulation. Those concerned will get all the strikes they want if the regulation is amended as proposed. The effect would be to empower the companies to charge the men for the second, third or fourth lamp supplied, even if a lamp were lost through an accident. I do not claim that all men are 100 per cent. careful, but most of them do look after their lamps. The suggestion that men might take the lamps home and sell them is absurd. If a miner turned up for work without his number or his lamp, he would not be able to start and would lose a shift. Hence a man takes his lamp home for safety's sake. What sense would there be in his selling his lamp? It is ridiculous to say that he would sell it because, if he went to work without a lamp, he would do no work that day. Whoever told the hon. member that must have been talking moonshine. If a miner sold his lamp for 10s., how illogical it would be. He might be earning 25s., 30s., or £2 a day on contract work or at the lowest he would be receiving 17s. 3d. or 17s. 4d. per day. That statement was entirely incorrect and was merely besmirching the names of the miners. Those men have enough to put up with already, because they are under an Act which provides that if anything in the nature of gold-bearing ore is found in their possession, they are deemed guilty of an offence until they can prove their innocence. The House would do well to awaken to the fact that it would be wise to leave the regulation as it has been framed. Surely the Mines Department exercise common sense in their dealings. If the words proposed are added to the regulation, the companies will be enabled to charge the miners for the lamps, and then we shall have no end of strikes. The mine managers know their business, but so do the men. It would not be worth slugging a man for 17s. 6d. or more as the price of a lamp if the result to the company was to lose £400 or £500 per day through loss of work.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [4.58]: I do not desire to enter into any argument regarding the merits of the regulation, but I am given to understand that a unique situation has arisen. If my information is correct, the regulation would not be worth the paper it is printed on were it tested in a court of law. The Interpretation Act provides, amongst other things, that regulations shall be made by the Governor, shall be published in the "Gazette," shall take effect and have force of law from the date of such publication or from a later date fixed by the order making such regulation, and shall be laid before both Houses within 14 days after such publication, if Parliament is in session, and, if not, then within 14 days after the commencement of the next session. I understand that what happened is this. Mr. Troy, when Acting Minister for Mines, framed this regulation, and it was gazetted on the 25th October and laid on the Table of the Legislative Council on the 6th November, 12 days after it had been gazetted, thus coming within the ambit of the 14 days prescribed by the Interpretation Act. But he failed to table it in the Legislative Assembly, and he notified Mr. Munsie when that gentleman resumed office as Minister for Mines, and the regulation was laid on the Table of the Assembly, not 12 days, but 18 days after it had been gazetted. Therefore the tabling of this regulation in no way conforms to the provisions of the Interpretation Act. That position, in my experience, is unprecedented. The Interpretation Act, as I understand it, sets out that first of all a regulation must be framed, then gazetted, and within 14 days of gazettal must be laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament, and if Parliament is in session the Interpretation Act declares that one House may disallow it. I should like the Minister, when replying, to tell us exactly where we stand. In one instance the tabling of the regulation was within two days of the period set out by the Interpretation Act, and the other, four days outside the period. At this juncture I do not desire to express any opinion on the merits or demerits of the regulation, but I want to know that if the regulation is not disallowed by this House whether the provisions of the Interpretation Act have been complied with. If not, I submit that the people to whom this regulation is intended to apply can take civil action to have it laid aside. I should

like the Minister to clear up that point. I also understand that, once a regulation is tabled, whether it is tabled in conformity with the provisions of the Interpretation Act or not, it is there, and the only course to adopt is to move for its disallowance. If no exception is taken to it, what will be the position? It is important that this point should be cleared up, and I hope it will be cleared up irrespective of the subject matter of the regulation.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, debate adjourned.

BILL—LOAN, £2,627,000.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [5.5]: The Bill seeks authorisation for the raising of a loan of £2,627,000. It would appear that the Bill was prepared and submitted originally in another place prior to the Premier attending the meeting of the Loan Council in Canberra. The one point in that connection that occurs to my mind is that this large sum of money is based on the estimate that all the works in the original programme would be put in hand, subject, of course, to the money being made available. Since the meeting of the Loan Council ended, we have learnt that the money which it was contemplated to raise, namely 12½ millions, to meet the requests of the various States and the Commonwealth, was not agreed to, and that in its place the total amount decided upon was 7½ millions, thereby necessitating a reduction in the amount that would be allocated, not only to the Commonwealth but to the various States. In view of the fact that the amount asked for has been based on the full programme originally prepared, surely it is not necessary to ask now for an authorisation of £2,627,000, seeing that the amount it was first intended to raise by way of loan has been reduced. I was wondering whether the Chief Secretary was prepared to accept a reduction in the amount asked for, in view of the fact that the first specified amount will not now be available for expenditure. There seems no necessity for the total set out in the Bill. However, that is a matter which no doubt the Chief Secretary will deal with when replying to the debate on the second read-

ing. There is one observation I should like to make and it is that the Loan Council having been unable to agree to arrange for the raising of a loan of 12½ millions, and the amount being reduced to 7½ millions is an indication to everyone that we have not yet reached the condition of prosperity which we were led to believe during the recent discussion on certain financial measures, had arrived, not only as far as the Commonwealth was concerned, but the respective States as well. The fact that the loan for the larger amount was not approved is an indication that prosperous times are not yet with us. Therefore we should realise the necessity for exercising care in connection with the loan proposals. The very fact also that the loan floated in May or June last was not the success which was anticipated is also an indication in the same direction. This should cause the Treasurers of the States to exercise great care in framing their estimates and in making proposals for borrowing in the future, because until we have reached that stage of prosperity which is essential, there is only one course to pursue, and that is the exercise of the utmost economy. By creating loans at the rate we have been doing for some years past, we are imposing burdens not only on ourselves but on those who follow us. Indeed, the day may come when we may be unable to borrow even the reduced amounts that are available to us at the present time. If that time should come, then we will have reached a stage which I am sure everyone will regret and deplore. Some members who addressed themselves to the Bill yesterday spoke very hopefully and with a degree of optimism as to the condition of trade and business, and indicated how money might be expended in directions other than those outlined when the Bill was introduced. But I think the Chief Secretary and his colleagues will be able to assure those hon. members the difficulty the Government will have in fulfilling the programme they have already determined upon, without undertaking additional works. With regard to the rate at which loans have been raised in recent years, one has only to look back and review the position since 1900 to realise its seriousness. A few days ago I quoted some figures when dealing with another Bill and I intend to refer to them

again. In 1900 the total debt of the State was a little over 11½ million pounds, with a per capita debt of £67. In 1920 the total debt of the State was 46.82 million pounds, with a per capita indebtedness of £142. In 1930, 10 years following that, the indebtedness had jumped up to over £71,000,000, with a per capita indebtedness of £171, and in 1935, the present year, the indebtedness, I understand, is somewhere in the vicinity of £89,000,000 or £90,000,000, and the per capita indebtedness is in the neighbourhood of £200. The jump from 1900 has been something altogether phenomenal, practically an increase of £140 of per capita indebtedness. Mr. Holmes, when speaking to this Bill, rightly drew our attention to what various taxation authorities have pointed out, namely that the amount of per capita indebtedness of any State or country should not exceed £100. The more that we can keep before us and the more the Government can keep before them the necessity for restricting borrowings and trying to get back to some more normal and safer condition than at present, the better it will be for the country and the prosperity of our land. One naturally asks, having regard to this huge increase in our indebtedness—

Hon. G. W. Miles: And that is without the Commonwealth, either.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am glad the hon. member has reminded me of that. I would seek to repeat that the indebtedness I have referred to is quite apart from the liability which we all carry in respect of the Commonwealth indebtedness which, at the present time, if I remember rightly, is in the vicinity of £1,242,000,000.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: That is for the whole of the Commonwealth.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Yes, which naturally includes our indebtedness.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: I think the per capita indebtedness is about £60.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Under the Financial Agreement it was left to the Commonwealth to raise these loans for the various States, and the States, in turn, acknowledged their indebtedness to the Commonwealth, so that everyone within the boundaries of the Commonwealth is liable for the total indebtedness. The Commonwealth commits itself to the lender in Australia or overseas, and the Commonwealth, therefore, is the party first liable, the other liability being more or

less a subsidiary liability on the part of each State to the Commonwealth, for the amounts raised on their respective behalf. Undoubtedly it is a very serious position when we look at it from these various angles. But the question arises, are we as a people and as a Parliament, and are the Government doing that which is fair to our successors? Think of the legacy being bequeathed by not only our own Government, but by every other Government throughout Australia, in passing on to our successors this huge load of debt, rendering it impossible for them, I fear, to make that headway which is so essential in a country awaiting development. Suggestions have been made by previous speakers, and I think we all agree with the suggestion that borrowing should be confined to reproductive works. The Honorary Minister, in the course of his speech on this Bill a few days ago, explained the difficulties confronting his Government, no doubt in common with other Governments, in this respect. One realises what these difficulties are, and naturally it is only right to look as closely as possible into the various works which are contemplated and included or referred to in the Schedule. Amongst the works in hand, which I think may be regarded as one of the most reproductive, it will, I am sure, be admitted that expenditure in connection with water supplies, sewerage and drainage will best answer this description. Not only are these works of a reproductive nature, but they have also been a great standby and aid to the Government in absorbing the unemployed. That certainly was one of the reasons which appealed to the Government in embarking on those works; that it gave men opportunity to be employed in the main centre of the State, within reasonable reach of their homes, instead of their being sent far afield. No doubt it has been advantageous in many ways. But there is an item here which has been referred to, namely the construction of a central tram sub-station, a comparatively small amount, I admit, but still it is there, and I propose to make some observations in connection with it. The item is only about £25,000. On previous occasions I have referred to our tramway system and the undesirability of extending that system; indeed, I venture to say it would be wise for the Government to consider following on the lines of cities in the Old Country, and other places, where they have found that

the cumbersome nature of trams and the annoyance and obstruction which they occasion to traffic is such that it has been decided, in many cases, to replace the tramway system with either trolley buses or motor buses. That has happened in many cities in the Old Country. We had occasion to note in the cable news of our Press within the last few days in connection with trams in the vicinity of London. We know that trams are not admitted right into the heart of London because they would block the whole of the traffic, but they come within a certain distance of the heart of the city. There the Transport Board are now carrying out a scheme to put out of action something like 148 miles of the tramway system.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Yet there is wilful waste of public money on the tramway along the Claremont road.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That is quite right. We have an instance of a useless tramway system in the road Mr. Miles refers to, where we have an excellent bus service which could cater for the traffic and could be augmented, if necessary, or the Government could put on their own buses to cater for that traffic. They are much more efficient than are the cumbersome system of trams which we find lumbering along the road to Claremont and taking such a long time on a comparatively short route when the buses can do the journey in a very much shorter time. These are matters that might well be taken into consideration and even though this item in connection with the establishment of a tram sub-station in Perth is suggested, it might be better to consider whether that money could not be saved and put to some better use, and see what can be done in the way of revolutionising our tramway system and getting something of a more modern mode of travelling. Reference is also made to the Fremantle harbour improvements. That serves to recall many criticisms which have been directed towards the revenue derived from the Fremantle harbour. Revenue derived from that source, as we have been told on many occasions, finds its way into the Treasury, into the general revenue, and instead of many repairs and works being carried out by expenditure from revenue sources, moneys are borrowed, and the Loan indebtedness in connection with the Fremantle Harbour Works is gradually growing. Indeed, one can refer

to the report by the Harbour Trust, which has just been laid before members here, and go through it and see at a glance how the indebtedness is rising. In the report of the commissioners they deal on the first page with the revenue. They say—

It will be seen from the revenue account that the gross revenue for the year was £431,047 8s., an increase of £45,808 12s. or 11.9 per cent. over the previous year, while working expenses totalled £186,293 16s. 9d., an increase of £22,358 1s. 4d. or 13.7 per cent.

Later on in dealing with the net revenue account the commissioners set out how the surplus has been disposed of, and give particulars. They say—

The balance of £2,156 3s. 11d. represents the difference between the opening and closing balance of the net revenue account, namely, £2,281 10s. 8d. less the difference in the general stock account of £125 6s. 9d. as per revenue capital account.

Dealing then with capital expenditure the commissioners say—

The amount debited to the capital account from loan funds for the year was £98,204 10s. 5d., practically all of which is accounted for in the reorganisation and reconstruction of Victoria Quay and North Quay. The loan expenditure account now stands at £2,800,901 13s. 7d.

There is an item debited to loan, £98,000, when as a matter of fact the revenue derived by the Trust during the year under review was £431,000. I do not think this is the proper method to adopt.

Hon. H. J. Yelland: The net revenue was £244,753.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That is so, or 8.6 per cent. of the total capital expenditure. It makes one wonder whether it would not be better to reduce our borrowing and so live within our means as far as possible, and in that way safeguard the position for the future. We do not want to leave posterity with a legacy, the burden of which is increasing from year to year.

Hon. G. Fraser: Do you think the system will ever be changed?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: We should endeavour to change it. If it is not changed now it may be necessary to suffer a hardship we would not like to anticipate.

Hon. H. J. Yelland: It is not right that loan moneys should be used instead of revenue.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The course adopted is quite the wrong one. I am pre-

pared to admit that some of the works referred to are those which the Government found it necessary to undertake in order to meet the unemployment situation. The question is a very serious one for any Government, and gives us all much food for thought. It shows the importance of having in our midst industries that will help to absorb more effectively those unemployed who may happen to come on the market from time to time. The mining industry is certainly providing more than a useful outlet in that direction. Not only has that industry been the means of absorbing a large proportion of the unemployed, but it has stimulated work in other industries, which in turn have been able to absorb more people who would otherwise have remained without work. Sir Henry Gullett passed through from the Old Country yesterday. In the course of an interview he said it would appear that Australia generally is not at present in too high favour with many continental countries, because no doubt of the tariff and other contributing factors, which have shut out from the Australian market goods from those countries. No doubt Sir Henry and his colleagues will seriously consider the position to see if it is possible to rectify it, and induce a greater percentage of trade between Australia and those countries. A scheme was propounded some time ago for a plan of Empire works. I have taken some little interest in it, and no doubt members have received some information concerning it themselves. The objects of the scheme briefly are to relieve unemployment by the provision of public works; to stimulate trade by the provision of increased purchasing power; to get certain highly desirable pieces of work done for the improvement of the country concerned; to renew the flow of migration from the more crowded to the less crowded parts of the Empire. The matter was taken to the Homeland. Many members of the British Parliament are deeply interested in seeing whether it is possible to devise some scheme of reciprocal trade between the Dominions and the Mother Country. It is desirable that we should do all we can to stimulate and to help forward any objects that will add to the prosperity of this State. If we can by some method of reciprocal trade achieve

a measure of prosperity in this way we shall be assisting to a very large extent the unemployment position. The more we can turn our thoughts in that direction the better will it be not only for the Federal Government but for our own and every other State Government. We are all concerned about the serious aspect of our industrial and social affairs. A letter appeared in reference to the plan I refer to in the "Times" of London. The writers said—

We can hardly ask you to give us space for the unfolding of our plan in detail. A single example of its working must suffice. A committee of Imperial development will be established within speaking distance of the existing committee on Imperial defence, consisting of representatives of Britain, the Dominions, and the Colonies. Plans of public works are submitted to it. The plan put forward by Australia, let us say, includes the building of a necessary strategic railway. After consultation with the Defence authorities the committee approves of this, and determines how much of the raw material needed for the railway could be supplied by Australia, and how much is to come from Britain. Then the work begins. A stimulus is given to the steel industry in Australia, and also to the same industry in Britain. With the new purchasing power thus liberated in Britain she buys Australian wool and wheat. A stimulation is thus given to the rural industries in Australia, and with her new purchasing power Australia would buy goods of all kinds, many of them imported from Britain. Unemployment is progressively reduced in both countries. The new railway would set a good many wheels rotating besides its own.

That is a simple example of the scheme. I am quoting this to give members an idea of what is underlying this plan of Empire works. It would be a very beneficial thing, and I trust will receive the support of the Government. I know the Government are as anxious as any of us to see what can be done to bring greater prosperity to the State. I gave some items showing how our per capita indebtedness had increased from £67 in 1900 to something like £200 to-day. In a matter of 35 years we have jumped from £67 to £200 as representing the per capita indebtedness, so far as our State liability only is concerned, but carrying with it, as Mr. Miles reminded me, our obligations to the Commonwealth. Nowhere is any means provided or any suggestion offered for reducing this per capita indebtedness. How can this be minimised? I realise that in making the suggestion I am about to make I shall encounter a good deal of opposition. There is only one practical suggestion for reducing this huge per capita

indebtedness, and that is to encourage immigration. I realise that hon. members may smile and ask, "How is it possible?"

Hon. H. Seddon: What kind of immigration?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: From the Old Land.

Hon. L. Craig: Child immigration, yes.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Not child immigration. I am quite conscious of the opposition which can be expressed to my proposal. At the same time, I consider the proposal worthy of consideration. Whilst immigration may be regarded as impossible because of the argument, bound to be advanced, that we cannot at present employ the whole of our people, yet I advocate immigration. I bear in mind that Western Australia has had to create certain works to absorb its unemployed. I do not suggest a scheme of immigration based on the lines in vogue here previously. The scheme would need to be one based on entirely different lines. The type of migrant we would seek would need to be of a somewhat different calibre from some of the migrants who came here previously. I am not running down all migrants; I am speaking merely of the type found to be useless for the purpose of overseas settlement. Amongst our earlier migrants there are some excellent types, undoubtedly. If we could maintain that type and induce more of the same type to come here, it would be for our benefit in the long run.

Hon. G. W. Miles: It would help us out of our troubles.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Apart, however, from the economic position I ask hon. members to turn their thoughts in another direction altogether for a minute, and not to judge the question from the economic aspect, but to regard it from the viewpoint of our self-preservation. When we reflect on the conditions now prevailing in countries possessed of teeming populations, and without areas available to settle their own people upon, we must not be surprised that the empty spaces of Australia are a great temptation indeed; and we must realise that those very countries, which are seeking a foothold for their own overcrowded populations, naturally are highly envious of us. I suggest that increased population will provide one of the best bulwarks for the preservation and protection of our land.

Hon. G. W. Miles: The only bulwark.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The only one. The gravity of our position from this aspect

did not escape the notice of the Director General of Health and Medical Services of Queensland, when addressing the recent Medical Congress held in Melbourne. He dealt with this very subject. I did not see in our own Press a reference to the warning which he gave; it may have been published, and I may have overlooked it. I did happen to see it in a journal I recently received from the Old Country. The Queensland Director General of Health and Medical Services, Sir Raphnel W. Cilento, gave an address on "Some Problems of Racial Pressure in the Pacific." He is reported as follows:—

The rapid fall in the birth-rate, he said, the declining proportion of youth, and with it the declining proportion of potential mothers, were all actually correcting the disparity between population, production, and consumption in all countries except Italy, Russia, and Japan.

It should be the natural and desirable solution, unless it meant, as it so frequently had, a new inevitability of conflict with or between those other powers, and a loss of frontiers and culture.

Japan's millions.

The population of Japan represented four persons to the acre of arable land, and was increasing. It appeared inevitable that on present figures the population of Japan proper would increase to 113,000,000, at which period Britain and America would reach their period of stalemata and decline, and with them Australia. This was a situation to be feared both in the interests of these countries and the world in general.

In Australia the decline in both birth-rate and population mirrored most alarmingly what was seen in Western Europe. But in the case of Australia it acted not as a safeguard but towards disaster.

Lowest birth-rate in world.

Australia could not preserve her frontiers unless they could effectively occupy the land they claimed, and the problem was a vast one.

It was in respect of natural increase that Australia's population figures were most disturbing. Her birth-rate to-day was one of the lowest in the world.

The average age of population was rapidly rising, and the proportion of youth declining. The natural increase for 1931 was half that of 1891. The solution was immigration or ultimate invasion.

Japanese Imperialism.

Japan, in dealing with her pressure of population, had chosen the only means consistent with her exalted nationalism. She had extended to the equator in the south—her sampans were permanently established on the north coast of Australia—she extended to the Arctic North, and was developing a new contest with the Soviet for Sakhalien and its fuel supplies, and in the west she had absorbed Manchuria and dominated Mongolia.

Australia depended to-day for her defence and development upon peace and security, for which there was no guarantee. Italy, Russia, Germany, and Japan, discounting any reliance upon conciliation and concession, had encouraged a hypernationalism that might rapidly become imperialistic in practice.

A period of increasing pressure in the Pacific appeared imminent and inevitable.

Those are the views of a man who certainly knows what he is talking about.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Very sound views.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: They give all of us grave cause for thought. So that when the subject of immigration is advanced in future, hon. members will, I hope, in place of regarding it merely from, shall I say, the economic aspect, look at it more broadly, from the aspect of the fate of this land of Australia—not merely Western Australia, but Australia as a whole.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: Mr. Thomson advocated similar views yesterday.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am glad to support Mr. Thomson.

Hon. H. Seddon: Do you think immigration should be paid for out of loan money?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am not saying that. I shall not introduce that aspect. We shall have no loans if we have no country.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I understand the hon. member's argument is that if population be increased through immigration, so per capita indebtedness will be decreased and so our loan indebtedness will be decreased. I understand that is the argument which the hon. member is advancing.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I thank you, Sir. That is exactly the point I urged, that there is only one method by which the per capita indebtedness can be reduced—by immigration. There is another view which hon. members may bear in mind in connection with this subject—the position in which the early pioneers found themselves when arriving on these shores. They were in the happy position, first, of having no loans. They started with a clean sheet. But, on the other hand, they started under difficulties indeed grave. Had it not been for their courage, we would not be here to-day. We cannot pay too high a tribute to them. The point I wish to make, however, regarding the early pioneers is that they found a means of employing every man and woman brought to these

shores in those early days, in the state of development that existed, without loans or any other aid. They found means of absorbing in useful employment the men and women whom they brought or who came to this land, and despite the difficulties confronting them they saved this country for us. If we follow a little more closely on the lines of the early pioneers, we shall probably be pursuing a wise course in connection with our loan policy.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Instead of depending on the Government and the taxpayer for everything.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The early pioneers believed in the doctrine of self-help; and the more that doctrine is inculcated upon everyone in Western Australia, and the more the history of our early pioneers can be taught in our schools, the better will it be for our citizens, present and future.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: But the hon. member does not forget that conditions have changed since then?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I admit that they have all changed, but yet we can gather food for thought by reflecting on what the early pioneers did.

Hon. H. V. Piesse: Migrants who came to the country were at once employed by those people.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I was pointing that out.

Hon. H. V. Piesse: Some hon. member said that the migrants did not receive reasonable wages, but they did.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That hon. member was probably wrong. It has to be remembered that money paid in those days had a higher purchasing power.

Hon. G. W. Miles: There were not so many union secretaries to support in those days.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Perhaps so, but I do not want to go into that question. I believe that a wise policy of migration would prove capable of promoting industry and providing additional employment, as I have indicated was the experience of the early pioneers of this State. It would also be helpful from the standpoint of the development and preservation of our country.

Hon. G. Fraser: Will you define what you mean by a wise policy?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: If Mr. Fraser wishes me to define all these things, it will

mean that I shall have to speak all night, so I shall not attempt to comply with his suggestion. I will leave it to his wisdom to determine what is wise or unwise.

Hon. E. H. Gray: The agricultural labourer—

The PRESIDENT: Order! Mr. Nicholson will proceed.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: As to migration, I would recall that in the earlier days America kept her doors open and admitted people of all nationalities and of all types and description. The astonishing thing is that her industrial prosperity was marked from the time of the adoption of that migration policy. Her development in the industrial sphere dates from that period, or shortly thereafter.

Hon. H. V. Piessse: The finest men we ever had came here in pursuance of the migration policy.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That may be so.

Hon. H. V. Piessse: They went back and were killed at the war.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Yes.

Hon. E. H. Gray: America submitted every migrant to a rigid medical inspection, and we did not.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The hon. member does not know what took place.

Hon. E. H. Gray: I do.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The system of medical inspection was not introduced until many years afterwards. I am speaking of the days when I was young.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Before Mr. Gray was born.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I can remember migrants humping their mattresses on board ship and crossing the Atlantic in crowded ships, the voyage taking about 10 or 14 days. When they reached their destination they speedily found positions for themselves.

Hon. E. H. Gray: And they were medically examined before being allowed to land, even in those days.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That was not done at the time I speak of. It was done later. When we increase our population here, we shall no doubt establish more industries.

Hon. A. M. Clydesdale: How can you do that?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: We must have a plan of work, and Mr. Clydesdale and every one of us must assist. There is no reason why we should not make Australia as big a

country, from an industrial and manufacturing standpoint, as America.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: None at all. The great industrial achievements of America seem almost impossible, but why should we suggest we cannot accomplish the same results? It means organisation. In making these comments, I morely seek to make comparisons with a view to ascertaining if it is not possible to do something. In carrying out such a scheme, we shall act, in a measure, selfishly, but at the same time we shall demonstrate our patriotism. We shall face the problem from the standpoint of self-preservation and the salvation of our country. That must be kept in view.

The Honorary Minister: Would you advocate the same conditions as apply in America?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am not suggesting details but, in a most rough-and-ready way, am pointing out a scheme in order to provide ideas for thought. No single individual can accomplish what we desire; only as a result of evolution and much thought on the part of many people can there be achievement. We should bring together men from various walks in life to formulate a plan that will make that achievement possible.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: To make that possible, you would have to change the system that obtains to-day.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I admit that. A review of many matters would be required.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You cannot hope to get English agricultural labourers.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That may be so, but something can be done. The other day I was reading some remarks by Sir Hal Colebatch, the Agent General for Western Australia, in an address to the citizens of Coventry. In the course of his speech he said—

I believe it will not be long before we shall have a stream of migrants from this country to Australia. I believe it will be because the returning prosperity, both here and abroad, will make people realise the opportunities that are awaiting them in Australia. You in Coventry are a prosperous people. When prosperity comes to us in Australia, there will be a big flow of enterprising people to Australia. That will increase our buying powers from you in Coventry, and there will also be an increase in the opportunities for investment. Every sixpence you spend is sixpence that we shall have in spending to buy your products.

That is in answer to Mr. Gray's interjection.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: That is right, give it to him!

Hon. H. V. Piesse: We cannot get farm labourers to-day.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That is so. Here we have our own Agent General seeking to do what he can for the prosperity of the State, and endeavouring to aid the work that is so essential. I shall not trespass on the time of members any further, but I hope that some of the thoughts to which I have given expression, will induce reflection upon the part of some members. Although I regret the necessity for further borrowing, I shall support the second reading of the Bill.

HON. L. B. BOLTON (Metropolitan) [6.10]: I, too, intend to support the second reading of the Bill. Before proceeding with my remarks, I wish to congratulate Mr. Nicholson on the excellent speech he has delivered to the House. I am entirely in accord with him in his remarks regarding migration. During the last few years migration has entirely ceased with regard to Australia. Until the Commonwealth—and particularly Western Australia, with its million square miles and a population of little more than 440,000 people—increases the number of people within its borders, we cannot make the advance we desire. Much has been said regarding the industrial position of the Commonwealth and the question has been raised whether we can compete with other countries. From the angle of primary production there is not the slightest doubt that we can. It is a different proposition regarding our secondary industries. While I would not advocate a lower standard of living in Australia, experience I have gained during the last two years convinces me that the day is far distant when we shall be able to compete, from the secondary-industry standpoint, with countries such as, for instance, Japan. In the course of my remarks I propose briefly to touch on the manufacturing position of the Commonwealth, compared with that of Japan. During a visit I paid to the Near East two years ago, the effect of the inroads that Japan has made in the markets of the world, and particularly in our own markets, was brought home to me very seriously. I was particularly pleased to hear the references made by Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Thomson to the migration policy. I believe that we are getting back

slowly towards prosperity and if we reach that happy condition, our position will be much improved. Prices of primary products are increasing, and that is what Australia requires. Sooner than many people seem to think, we shall have returned to prosperity, although perhaps it will not be quite the same as we enjoyed a few years ago. In order to maintain our prosperous condition, Australia, and particularly Western Australia, must have greater population. If we, in the years to come, are able to hold our huge territory with a mere handful of people, we shall indeed be fortunate.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: When speaking previously on Loan Bills, I have advocated that provision should be made both for sinking fund and interest. I would add that successive Governments should see that this is carried into effect. If it were done we would have some prospect of paying off some of the borrowed money. Where this continual borrowing will eventually lead us, it is difficult to imagine, and I hardly know whether we should consider ourselves fortunate or unfortunate in being able to get even the money we do.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Interest and sinking fund are provided for.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: That might be stipulated but is not always carried into effect. Governments, not only in Western Australia but I suppose throughout the world, have not succeeded in balancing their budgets. There are one or two comments I desire to make on the proposed loan expenditure. The first is with reference to the increase of £70,000 for railways and tramways. I have no objection whatever to a continuance of the programme for overtaking belated repairs in the Railway Department, as that work is most necessary. When the present Commissioner of Railways was appointed, he had a very serious position to face. In my opinion he is doing a wonderfully good job, and I consider the State very fortunate in having secured the services of such a man. Regarding faster passenger services on country lines and better facilities for parcels delivery, I notice that the Government intend to import one complete body and five chassis with the metal framework and panels, and then to complete the building of the bodies locally. My appreciation of this arrangement would

be much greater if I thought the Government intended to give private enterprise an opportunity to tender for the construction. Having some little knowledge of the industry I can guarantee that the Government would save at least 20 to 25 per cent. on their construction. I sincerely hope that no more money is to be thrown away on tramway extensions and reconstruction. Tramways, in my opinion, are obsolete, being costly, noisy and clumsily slow. They retard traffic, and the sooner they are scrapped, the better. Mr. Nicholson, in his address this afternoon, mentioned the tram cars. I must remark, Mr. President, that I regret the action of some members in blocking the traffic, as it were, by their conversation. Their whispering in the House puts me off my subject. I do not mind members interjecting, but I do not like whispering. I would sooner that members went outside. Let me quote the remarks of an authority in the person of the general manager of our tramways, as reported in this morning's issue of the "West Australian"—

London's transport system and traffic control were discussed by Mr. W. H. Taylor (general manager of the West Australian Government Tramways and Electricity Department) in an address to the Perth division of the Institution of Engineers of Australia on Monday night.

There were many interesting developments in England at the moment, said Mr. Taylor, particularly in London, where the transport system was being overhauled. Trolley buses were replacing trams, not because the trams could not carry the people but because their presence in the streets caused serious congestion. Kerb loading with trolley buses obviated the hold-ups which occurred when trams were loading. One hundred and forty miles of tram lines would be converted in the next few years, in addition to the lines which had already been changed over.

That should be sufficient answer to the Government if they think of wasting any more money on tram lines, particularly in the suburban or outer suburban areas. In my opinion the trolley buses have proved to be a distinct success.

Hon. H. Seddon: And a big saving on capital cost.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Yes. While I congratulate the Government on the excellent job they made of the locally-built bodies, I am of opinion that the cost was much too high. We have little to thank the tramway extensions for in the matter of the suburban development that has taken place in recent years. This has been entirely due to the

privately-owned and controlled motor buses, and I hope the Transport Board will continue their policy of encouraging those concerns, and that the Government will not waste any more money on tramway extensions. I am glad to see that the Government are doing something to assist the banana industry in the North. I will always support any vote for the assistance of development of our primary industries, more so when it is a new industry of this kind. This reminds me of a comment I read in the Press during the week of a new industry, to which I think money, even if it is loan money, could be diverted, and that is the fruit-canning industry. This is a question to which I have given very serious consideration, particularly during my recent travels. I read with great interest some comments by Mr. W. M. Nairn, M.H.R., who said—

During the past 12 months ended June 30, 1935, Australia exported canned fruits to the value of £1,000,000. Western Australia was not represented in export, but we imported from the Eastern States canned fruit valued at £69,492, jam £124,565, and dried fruit £26,637.

By the sugar agreement that industry has to provide £216,000 per annum to assist fruit processing by—

- (a) rebate of £2 4s. per ton on sugar content of products for local consumption;
- (b) rebate on sugar content of exported products so as to give equality with world's free market price of sugar;
- (c) special assistance to export.

Distributions under the above headings for the twelve months ended September 30 last were made in the different States as follows:—New South Wales, £51,958; Victoria, £121,048; Queensland, £19,424; South Australia, £6,896; Western Australia, £672; Tasmania, £29,477. The extent of the payments indicates the relative size of the fruit processing industry in the different States. Western Australia's negligible share went to jam factories in Perth.

In the planning of industries, canned fruit should receive early consideration. Jam offers less scope. We have no berries nor any single unit large enough to guarantee economical manufacture. The better profits are in canning, and Western Australia is missing the opportunities which are equal throughout the Commonwealth. This State can produce excellent pears, apricots, and peaches. Sugar at world parity is available at all Australian capitals on equal terms. The local market is substantial and the export market is an open field.

The project requires a co-operative scheme sponsored by the Government; it is too big for any individual. First there must be an adequate supply of fruit in a concentrated area. Victorian experience proves that the factory

must be taken to the orchards. Growers would have to be assisted and kept to a plan. A suitable factory would cost £30,000 to £40,000. Its erection might not be justified directly for some years, but until Western Australia makes a start it must be reconciled to pay toll to Eastern manufacturers and get no share in the export.

Any loan moneys voted for the expansion of such an industry would receive my support. Regarding the Vote for sewerage I fancy I read in the Press a few days ago of a meeting of protest having been held not a hundred miles from Perth at which opposition was expressed to the installation of the sewerage system on account of the high cost. I observe that Mr. Gray smiles; I think he knows the province to which I refer. When speaking on the subject last year, I suggested to the Government that if more contract and less day labour work were done, the cost would be considerably lower, and further, there would be a check on the departmental prices. I again commend that suggestion to the serious attention of the Government. The amount provided for goldmining development will be money well spent. We must consider ourselves very fortunate that the goldmining industry is in such a flourishing condition. Certainly it has helped—I might almost say it has carried—the State through the last few years of hard times. I am certain that the Government will continue to give the industry all the assistance it needs. The amount provided for agricultural development is considerably less this year, and will, I feel sure, be easily swallowed up by the various departments. Here, perhaps, the Chief Secretary could supply the House with a little more detail. In my opinion it is most unfortunate that no provision has been made for new quarters for this most important department. So many unfavourable comments have been made regarding this that it is useless my going over the same ground, but a department which is so very important to the State is certainly entitled to something more respectable than the building it occupies to-day. The Agricultural Bank has received so much criticism lately at the hands of members of both Houses and the general public, that I feel sure I will be pardoned if I refrain from adding to that criticism. I think that of all the departments operating to-day the one deserving of the greatest sympathy is the Agricultural Department. That department

seems to be faced with more difficulties than all the others put together.

Hon. H. V. Piesse: They have not sufficient funds at their disposal.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Like Mr. Piesse, being interested in farming, I am afraid that I too have considered that not enough money was placed at the disposal of that department. When the unfortunate farmer is not worried about low prices, he is certainly worried about the increasing number of pests. If it is not the fruitfly, it is the emu; if it is not the emu, it is the rabbit, and so on. The department's officers are endeavouring to do the best they can under rather distressing circumstances. In discussing the Agricultural Vote I should also like to express the opinion that I think the scheme suggested by the Commonwealth Government for the rehabilitation of the wheatgrowing industry has a chance of success under the proposals set out, proposals that I have advocated ever since I have engaged in wheatgrowing, namely, that there should be a local price for consumption, and a compulsory pool. As a wheatgrower, that is my view, and I think I can claim to be a wheatgrower who has some knowledge of the cost of producing that commodity. It is time that industry was put on a sounder footing, and in my opinion there is a chance of this being brought about if the suggested scheme comes to fruition. It is to be regretted that a portion of the Vote has to be used in alleviating distress in some parts of the State. Certainly those with a reasonable chance of recovery should be carried over that period, but I still express the opinion that in respect of those who never will be a success it would be much better for the industry and the State if they were off the land entirely. It is sincerely to be hoped that the steady increase in the prices of both wool and wheat will be maintained, so that those great primary industries may be re-established. Mention has been made by previous speakers of the wonderful increase in the overseas fat lamb market. This only goes to show that when given the opportunity Western Australia can more than hold its own in any of the primary industries, and if the shipping service with adequate refrigeration were provided the State would find ready markets in the near East that would absorb the whole of our production. Having given much study to the position I can definitely say that the markets are there, but the difficulties first of all of

securing them and then holding them, are very many. While I appreciate the efforts of the Commonwealth to assist in this direction as I have previously pointed out, a hurried visit of trade commissioners is not the solution of the difficulty. Having visited those places, I read with no little interest in the Press this week of the comments of the trade delegation at present in India. This was published as coming from Calcutta.

Calcutta, November 23.—The Australian Trade Delegation, which is visiting India, will leave Calcutta to-night for Delhi, where it will convey the greetings of the Governor-General of the Commonwealth to the Viceroy.

The West Australian member of the delegation (Mr. W. L. Sanderson) said in an interview that his impressions of Calcutta, which was the delegation's first port of call in India, were that there were great possibilities here for the marketing of Australian goods like tinned fruits, jam, fresh fruit, and other food-stuffs. Trade development hitherto had been hampered by lack of a direct shipping service from Australia to ports in the Bay of Bengal, but the new British-India Navigation Company's service starting in January, in which provision was being made for refrigeration, would enable Australia to sell a much greater quantity of goods on the Indian market.

I think a word was missed there, the word "Eastern" before "Australia." It will help the Eastern side of Australia.

During its stay in Calcutta the delegation discussed with representatives of European and Indian commercial organisations, private firms, and shipping companies, methods of stimulating trade between the two countries.

I hate to criticise such a wonderful work as the trade delegation are doing, but having spent five weeks in India, and then only touched the fringe of it, what possible chance has a delegation like that of getting the necessary information in one day in a city like Calcutta? Having the right men permanently stationed in the principal centres and in constant touch with the buyers is in my opinion the only way this can be done. South Africa realises this, and has set out to capture the business. That country is making great inroads into the trade held by other nations. They have recently placed on this run two additional steamers with ample refrigerating space, and in some towns in India that I visited, no other than South African fruit was obtainable. During my visit I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Brennan, South Africa's permanent travelling commissioner who is doing excellent work for his country. Mr. Brennan has a

roving commission; he is not permanently stationed at any centre. He had visited all the large towns, and had got into touch with the right people, and the result was that South Africa was securing this business which legitimately belongs to Australia. If I am not worrying the House I should like to draw attention to the great geographical advantage we have over the rest of the world in this trade. Mr. Sanderson mentioned that direct shipping was to be provided for Eastern India, but I can assure the House that that will be all right for the Eastern side of Australia. It will be quite useless for Western Australia. The only possible way we can secure this is off our own bat. What I wish to point out is that we have a regular shipping service to Bombay, a fortnightly service. It is possible for us to trans-ship fresh fruit from Calcutta to Bombay and land it days earlier than can be done from the Eastern States, and also than can be done by forwarding it by any other route. It may be of interest to the House to know that when I was in Bombay I discussed the matter with the Chief Traffic Manager of the Indian Railways, and he promised a special arrangement for the transport of fresh fruit that would enable us to land fruit from Fremantle to Calcutta in 14 days. The boat arrives there on Saturday, and the train leaves on the same afternoon, and the fruit can be landed in Calcutta on Monday morning. Efforts have been made to forward fresh fruit from Fremantle to Eastern India by other routes. To forward fruit from Fremantle to Colombo and then trans-ship it to Calcutta takes 21 days, as against 14 days via Bombay. Forwarded via Singapore where we have refrigerated space, takes no less than 34 days. Members can imagine in what better condition fruit would arrive at Calcutta after only 14 days travelling. To show how anxious the Government of that country are to assist I was able to make special arrangements for cool vans, to convey the fruit—vans capable of carrying between 300 and 350 cases—over a distance of 1,400 miles for the sum of two rupees a case, equal to 3s. That works out to within 2d. of the cost of shipping from Fremantle direct to Calcutta when it was possible to get shipping, as members know, only just once in a while. There is another point that may be of interest to

members. Unfortunately, so far as India is concerned, we have no tariff advantage, and our primary products are subject to the same duty as are those from America in Japan. Mention was made by Mr. Nicholson in his excellent address of the inroads Japan is making in the industries, not only secondary, but primary. During my visit to Bombay there arrived a shipment of 50,000 cases of apples. So we are up against something even in respect of our primary products.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Were the apples from Japan?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Yes, 50,000 cases of them, but that would not matter much to this State, because we could still gain and hold that market since our goods are of such superior quality. It was almost impossible to eat the Japanese apples, which were very hard and woody, although beautiful in appearance. As Italy supplies large quantities of fruit, vegetables and wines to India, the present would be a very favourable time for us to try to establish our goods in that market. I should like to read one other comment made when I returned from a visit to the Malay States and Java. I submitted a report, and with the indulgence of the House I propose to read one or two paragraphs from that report in order to bear out the remarks I have just made. In that report I stated—

I am firmly of the opinion that the market for foodstuffs and primary products can be secured for Australia, and as stated before, Western Australia should control the bulk of it by reason of our geographical advantage. Definite and incessant requests were made for Western Australian products, which were very highly spoken of. There is a great opportunity to increase our flour trade, which is very popular, as well as dried fruits, honey, and bacon and fodder. In fresh fruit and vegetables, particularly potatoes, there is a wonderful market, and practically all this trade can be secured by Western Australia.

Regarding stock, there is a small demand for dairy cows and a limited one for sheep. Properly regulated, a good trade could be developed, but many losses have been sustained through forwarding livestock on consignment. This class of business will undoubtedly kill the trade, and is not at all advisable. While I would recommend that this State be represented on any trade ship sent to explore potential Eastern markets by the Commonwealth, I am convinced that better results would be obtained for us if an exhibition and delegation went from our own State, displaying those products which we are so fitted to supply.

In support of this, on her return trip the "Nieuw Holland" shipped from Melbourne

7,000 tons of cargo which included 6,000 cases of apples and pears, 30 cases of cauliflowers, and large quantities of potatoes, onions, celery, grapes and grape fruit, also dried fruit.

Cement is sold there at 2s. 6d. per sack, as against the French at 7s. 6d. and English at 8s. 9d. Another striking example was that a complete bicycle could be purchased at from 25s. to 30s. Japan has endeavoured to capture the beer trade in Java. In this, however, Germany was not to be outdone, and a first-class German lager can now be bought at 4s. 6d. per dozen bottles. That will give the House some idea of what we are up against. Before concluding I should like to compliment Mr. Angelo—I am sorry he is not here to-night—on the excellent speech he made. Although his figures were somewhat ancient, they were very interesting, and those members who, like myself, have visited England, must wonder why we cannot secure a greater share of the huge supplies imported into the United Kingdom every year. Particularly does this apply to some of the lines mentioned by Mr. Angelo, as for instance bacon, wines and butter. The only other comment I desire to make is in reference to the Vote of £20,000 for the State Hotels and the Tourist Department. I notice that in the Bill these two are bracketed. I do not know why, but it is certainly fitting that tourists and hotels should be bracketed. I do not know how this amount is to be divided. I would support £1,000 going to the State hotels, although it does taste of State trading, of which I am no lover. Probably the amount will be shared at fifty-fifty. I should like to pay a tribute to the Tourist Department and the work they are doing. I am sorry the Vote is not for twice the amount. The work being done by the department is excellent, places of interest are being opened up and our State is being well advertised thereby. But I should like to see an additional sum of money on the Estimates for a campaign by which to attract tourists from overseas. The opportunities in India are wonderful, more wonderful than one can imagine who has not been there to see them. The near East and India are places from which we could draw countless tourists to this State if we could inaugurate the campaign I speak of. I am very serious in this matter because during those visits I came into contact with various Government departments dealing with the tourist traffic and they were very anxious that this

State should reciprocate if possible with some scheme or policy in that direction. Those are the only comments I have to make on the Loan Bill other than to say that it seems a tragedy that we should have to continue to borrow. But from time immemorial it appears to have been the fashion and I suppose it will go on long after we have left this world. I will support the second reading.

HON. J. M. MACFARLANE (Metropolitan-Suburban) [8.7]: It was not my intention to make a contribution to this debate, for I realise the difficulties in the way of any suggestion that would be of any value at all to the Minister. Perhaps the only valuable suggestion I could make would be on the lines of the increase of population and the reduction of the per capita debt of the State. However, I was caught by the interjection of the Honorary Minister when he was challenged about not having done enough to develop industry and reduce loan expenditure. His was a very simple query, merely "What do you suggest?" I am satisfied that the Honorary Minister gets quite a lot of amusement out of some of the suggestions that are made, and perhaps a good deal of useful information as well. On thinking over that remark, I am convinced that it was suggested because of the difficulties he himself recognised as being real difficulties in the way of making rapid progress towards development along the lines that most hon. members seem to desire. He knows the difficulties of reducing the loan expenditure by reason of the large amount being spent on unemployment. We must agree that loan money could not be suspended while it was really required. I admire several of the Ministers for the courageous way in which they have handled the position; perhaps a little extravagantly in my view—but it has done something to encourage those who had almost fallen by the wayside for want of permanent work, and who had no outlook and no hope until they derived encouragement from the Government's activities in finding employment for those who were out of employment. I also instance the work of the Minister for Industries, who has been pushing the matter of home consumption of local production. We all understand that home consumption is the best market that offers us anything for the future. I would have gladly offered suggestions to the Minister, but it was diffi-

cult for me to think of any point that would be helpful to him in constructing a policy that would be of advantage to the State in the future. The only points on which I felt I could offer a suggestion were the encouragement of primary products and the marketing side of the same question. We cannot offer the Minister any suggestion about greater activity in wheat production when all the farmers of Australia are calling for assistance to carry them on. In view of that, perhaps, it would not be a very wise suggestion and would not be approved. Then come meat and butter. These two items were the principal items that were affected by the Ottawa conference. We did secure preferential trade, and it has helped us very considerably. We are told that apart from the lines which we are exporting, the other lines present considerable problems to the producer and would be something in the nature of a great enterprise on the part of those who undertook it. They must have some system of organisation so that they might stabilise it, or alternatively handle it by some form of Government subsidy. The Ottawa conference benefits will disappear within the course of the next few months, when we shall have to watch the position that Great Britain is going to take up in regard to the future. It is suggested that quotas will be the system to be adopted. Personally I look upon quotas for Australia with very grave concern. I feel that the system adopted at the Ottawa conference has been helpful, but that to apply quotas to Australia would be disastrous, and would leave us no opportunity to expand in any industry with a view to increasing employment and the development of Australia. However, there are some points that have been of value to the State of late, as for instance the export of eggs. That also will be affected by the quota system if it be brought about. The export of eggs very wisely has been expanded. The article has met with approval to the extent that, with organised marketing, we could place a much greater number in Great Britain than is being placed to-day. Timber is another line that we export, but its uses are being limited by the fact that steel sleepers constitute a menace to timber sleepers.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: That is so.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I anticipate that the ironmasters will endeavour to find a

market for steel sleepers and thus displace timber, because in some countries the ravages of white ants make the use of timber very uncertain. In Port Darwin I think it was said some 40 years ago there was a difficulty about steel sleepers, and that they were replaced by wooden sleepers. I am sure the enterprise of the ironmasters would overcome that difficulty.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It has already been overcome.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: A good deal could be done with respect to the growth of softwoods, considerable quantities of which are imported into Western Australia. We cannot grow softwoods as easily or as rapidly or as cheaply as is done in some parts of the Eastern States, but we can grow them, and profitably too. It is worth the while of the Government to consider the possibility of a wider expansion of the growth of softwood timber.

Hon. H. Seddon: Already there are a few thousand acres of softwoods in this State.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: That would not nearly meet future needs. Mr. Bolton has been talking about the markets in the Near East and in India. If we are to increase the export of our primary lines, we must organise their marketing in those countries. This may have to be done by subsidising the articles in question until they obtain a foothold. I have on many occasions been approached to export butter, condensed milk and other lines to India. Upon investigation I have found that the price there was so low that it would not be worth while engaging in the trade without the assistance of a subsidy. I find from those who have been engaged in those markets for a long time that the method of approaching purchasers there is to accept the first price they offer. If the goods are of the requisite quality, are put up in the right way, and appeal to the consumers, the buyers will push the lines because through them they make the greatest profit. The agent for the commodities does not approach the buyers, but simply informs them that the goods are on the market, and the buyers go to him. If the first lines are satisfactory, the agent sits tight, and possibly supplies a second and a third consignment. By that time he knows that vested interests have come into the business, and he can perhaps raise the price a little. In a year or two it is possible to sell the lines at a profitable price. If the

goods maintain their quality, the exporters are on the high road to finding a permanent outlet for them. If we want to secure the markets of the Near East or India, something in the way of a marketing organisation must be established. I have frequently been approached with regard to ghee, a commodity that is in common use in India. It is an animal fat produced principally from the Indian cattle or buffalo, and there is a big market for it. With the low price of fats in Australia during the last few years and with the establishment of an organisation it ought to have been possible to open up a big export trade for butter fat in that form from Western Australia. The manufacture is a simple process. No refrigeration space is required for the carriage of ghee, and it does not have to be frozen hard when offered for consumption. It would have to be marketed at prices that would suit the different standards of society. A particularly good line could be put up for the use of the higher people, and for the lower class of society a cheaper line would be required. I have had several samples of ghee sent to me from India. It is clearly not all consisting of animal fat, but is largely a composition of animal fat and vegetable fat. Nevertheless, it would provide a good outlet for the fats that we desire to export. If only a few people could get together, raise the requisite capital, and appoint a suitable representative in India, it should be possible to establish a good export trade with profit to our producers. I have already indicated that it might be necessary for the commodity to be bonused for the time being.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Would it not be better for private enterprise to handle the whole trade?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Yes, but some backing would be required in the initial stages of the business.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: The Government could assist by appointing an officer and maintaining him in the market.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I have here a copy of a report written by Mr. T. Flood Plunkett, M.L.A., chairman of the Australian Dairy Produce Export Board. This was written after his return from England, where he spent several months investigating the butter position. He has supplied some very illuminating figures. Whilst these may perhaps provide some food for

concern, they also offer a little encouragement for the future. The outstanding features of the report are the figures dealing with the export of butter to Great Britain from Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere. They show the development of that trade since 1913. The export figures are given in hundredweights. Australia in 1913 exported 594,000 cwt. and in 1929 exported 768,000. In 1932 the export figures were 1,795,000 cwt., in 1933 they were 1,692,000, and in 1934 they amounted to 2,104,000 cwt. Most of this butter was sold in London. New Zealand developed along the same lines. She jumped from 252,000 cwt. in 1913 to 2,677,000 cwt. in 1934, thus exceeding the Denmark trade for the first time in history as it applied to trade with Great Britain. If we take all the exporting countries, we find that the Empire countries have sent to Great Britain in 1913, 848,000 cwt.; in 1929, 2,652,000 cwt., in 1932 4,336,000 cwt.; in 1933, 4,654,000 cwt.; and in 1934, 5,284,000 cwt. The foreign countries have developed along similar lines. Some years ago we thought that Russia, Denmark and other countries had all the market and that we would have an uphill fight to gain it. In 1913 all the foreign countries exported to Great Britain 3,291,000 cwt. and in 1934 they exported 4,419,000 cwt. This shows that whilst Empire countries have supplied Great Britain with increasing quantities of butter there is still $4\frac{1}{2}$ million cwt. being supplied by foreign countries. Australia and New Zealand, therefore, have something more to strive for in the way of capturing that foreign supply.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Because of reciprocal trade agreements with European countries, we cannot expect to get the whole of the market.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: No, but there is room for expansion. When Mr. Plunkett was in the Old Country he found that the price of butter in England was 80s. per cwt., but that it had been down as low as 64s. and 66s. In France, butter was selling at 129s. per cwt., in Germany at 216s., and in Belgium at 210s. During the last two or three years there have been periods when butter has been sold by the pound at 2s. to 3s. 6d., according to the time of year, while purchasable in Great Britain at 9d. and 10d. per lb. retail. Those

values apply in Australia at the present time. But there is this peculiarity, that while the prices named are quoted in those countries, last year Germany exported 4,000 cwt. to Great Britain, France exported 1,500 cwt., and Belgium 14,000 cwt., in spite of the higher prices ruling in the home markets of those countries. Evidently the prices were too high for the people of those countries to purchase, and the butter had to be exported to Great Britain at a loss to the Governments supporting the industry until such time as there should again be free commercial intercourse between the nations.

The Honorary Minister: But those totals are a mere bagatelle.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Yes; but for the home consumption of Germany 5,000 tons of butter used to be re-exported from London, whereas now there is an export from Germany to London while the home price in Germany is 216s. per cwt. as against 80s. in London. During the last year or two the equalisation plan has enabled the industry here to be preserved, home consumption being called upon to maintain prices.

The Honorary Minister: How do you associate the expenditure of loan money with a further increase in the export of butter?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Profitable development is required in the State. Butter does not call upon the Government for financial assistance.

Hon. G. W. Miles: The taxpayer pays for that, and the taxpayer is the Government.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: The tax is on the industry itself. The same position obtains in connection with dried fruits.

The Honorary Minister: The dairying industry has had millions of pounds spent on it by the Government.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Next I have to point out that pasture is the important factor for any further expansion of the dairy industry. I want to ally other industries with dairying.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Surely you would not have the Government spend loan money on pastures?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Yes, because it would be a good investment.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Private enterprise should attend to that.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Development of pastures should be assisted to proceed at a rate which the industry itself cannot compass. Something has to be suggested with a view to creating a future for people now engaged in the dairying industry. Developments in that industry over the past few years have been great. There has been a tax placed upon the industry itself, as is evident from the zone system operating in Western Australia. Then there are the experimental plots at Hamel and Waroona.

Hon. G. W. Miles: How would you spend loan moneys on pasture?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: The object is to bring in population and thus reduce the per capita charge represented by the public debt. Wheat does not offer further inducements to the Government to back it. There are heavy Government liabilities attached to the wheat industry already. The dairying industry could be developed to some further extent. When Mr. Swift, of Chicago, was here, I had the pleasure of dining with him one day; and he then explained how rural America by means of small holdings did so much for the supply of meat to the American public. In spite of the range squatter, the American small holder is a big supplier. On those lines something could be done to develop Western Australia and bring to it that additional population which represents the only means of reducing the per capita public debt. I hope hon. members will not think I have wasted their time in expressing these views.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Not by any means.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I hope my views will be incorporated in some future scheme.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: I would like some member to tell us what will happen when we have exhausted the loan market.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: We are on the look-out for that, and I am sure no one is more anxious about the position than are the present Ministers, even though they have been charged with extravagance in expenditure of loan moneys. We have to try to realise what the future will hold out when we are free of the morass.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: The only way of getting out of the morass seems to be to get further in!

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: When we have a larger population, the question will be how to employ it suitably. My remarks to-night have been directed to showing how one section of the population can be employed on work that offers a future. I support the second reading of the Bill.

HON. H. V. PIESSE (South-East) [8.39]: This is a most important Bill, but from the "West Australian" of the 31st October I gathered that the Treasurer when introducing it in another place occupied a whole five minutes. Surely such an important Bill as this should be given—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The hon. member must not allude to a debate in the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: The Chief Secretary, in his usual courteous manner, explained the Bill thoroughly when introducing it here, and gave us much information regarding the expenditure proposed. Complaints are often heard here in connection with loan expenditure. Many of the criticisms are justifiable, though I think we must all agree that Western Australia could not carry on at present without loan money. That is not to say that all loan expenditure should not be fully discussed in this Chamber. The Chief Secretary referred to harbours. We note that money is to be expended on the ports of Esperance, Geraldton, Roebourne, Point Samson, Ashburton, Bunbury and Fremantle. May I express the wish that the Government would consider the natural port of Albany and endeavour to influence more shipping to it. Albany is the natural port of the State.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Which port is that?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: Albany, of which the hon. member may have heard. It is, moreover, a fine seaside resort. Some little time back there was a reception to the Honorary Minister at Albany. A point brought up at that reception by the secretary of the Lumpers' Union was that there had been a decline in the bunkering trade and that Albany had known no strikes for many years. The lumpers work not only on the wharf, but also on small holdings outside the town. They are developing into fine agriculturists, and provide butter and other commodities to residents of Albany. Last year the port of Albany exported 292,185 bushel cases of apples to Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Hull, Stockholm, Rotterdam,

Antwerp and Port Said. Pear shipments for the year amounted to 9,255 cases and 1,290 crates. Flour exported amounted to 392 tons, and wheat to 26,782 tons. Of wool 354 tons were exported. Of fruit generally, 12,085 tons or 303,152 cases. The total cargo shipped from the port last year was 39,767 tons. It is interesting to note that while 37,160 tons were exported in 1930-31, in 1933-34 the quantity had increased to 43,589 tons.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Do you want more money expended on such a wonderful harbour?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: There is no need to spend any money on it, as it is a natural harbour. However, loan money could be expended on improving the approaches to the harbour.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Twenty years ago more was exported from Albany than is being exported now.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: I did not quote statistics showing that. The hon. member interjecting has been in Parliament longer than I have, and perhaps carries the figures in his memory. Exports to the Eastern States for 1930-31 were 9,761 tons. In 1933-34 the quantity had increased to 8,917 tons, showing that production is increasing in the Albany district. I do not desire to appear parochial in these matters, because I am a great believer in all ports securing the advantage to be derived from their geographical position. In an article that appeared in the "Sunday Times" last week reference was made to that famous port of Fremantle that has been made at a cost of so much money.

Hon. G. Fraser: But that port has returned a lot of money to the State Treasury.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: That is so, and Mr. Nicholson dealt with that point and showed how much of it was charged up incorrectly. Notwithstanding what he said about Fremantle, we must not forget that Albany is the natural port of Western Australia.

Hon. J. Nicholson: What about Esperance?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: I am not forgetting that port. With regard to water supplies, I was pleased to read that the Minister in charge of that department has promised to send out boring plants throughout the wheat areas. Recently Mr. Seward,

M.L.A., introduced a deputation from the Kulin Road Board, and the Minister for Water Supplies promised to send plant to that district with a view to discovering a source of permanent water supply. Many years ago a water scheme was embarked upon at Albany, but it is greatly over-capitalised and is certainly not giving service to the people. I speak feelingly because I am resident at that port during the summer months, and I know the scheme has not given satisfaction.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: You want to invest more loan money there?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: I do not say that, but I think greater efficiency is necessary with regard to the scheme. I sincerely hope the Chief Secretary will influence the Government to make Loan funds available in order that Pingelly may be provided with a reasonable water scheme. The water obtainable at that centre is far from satisfactory. In that regard I would like to read the following extract from the local paper, the Brookton-Pingelly "Leader"—

Mr. R. Whitmore, of the Water Supply Department, Pingelly, has received the following letter from the accountant of Works and Labour:—"Mr. Elsegood, of this staff, will leave Perth on Monday afternoon, the 25th inst., to take final recovery action in Pingelly and verify valuations with the local road board books. Please give him all assistance possible, and let it be generally known in the town that rates must be paid, or summons action will be taken."

Many years ago when I was a commercial traveller, I visited Pingelly, and had a showerbath. The condition of the water was disgraceful.

Hon. J. Cornell: Did you get enough of it?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: Plenty.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is the main thing.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: But it smelt! It was secured from the river and was not wholesome. If the Government propose to enforce the payment of rates by the people of Pingelly, I can only regard their action as disgraceful. The position is so unsatisfactory that Mr. Seward, M.L.A., wrote to Senator E. B. Johnston urging him to arrange with the Federal Government to provide Loan funds to enable the town to secure a proper water scheme. Senator Johnston received a reply from the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Casey, as follows:—

The Minister for Commerce (Dr. Earl Page) has conveyed to me your representations regard-

ing the provision of money for water services at the town of Pingelly, Western Australia, concerning which the Hon. A. Thomson, M.L.C., and Mr. H. S. Seward, M.L.A., have been in communication with you. In regard thereto, I desire to say the Commonwealth is not in a position this year to make any grants to the State for the purpose of enabling them to assist local government bodies with the capital cost of works which the latter might desire to undertake. The Commonwealth has decided, however, subject to satisfactory arrangements with the States, to make money available to be used in the form of contributions towards interest and sinking fund on loans for public works of local authorities. It is known that many local government bodies are debarred from proceeding with public utility schemes by reason of the consequent debt service being beyond their rateable capability, and it is hoped that, with joint help on the above lines from the Commonwealth and State Governments, a number of such public utility proposals may be undertaken. If the town of Pingelly desires to take advantage of this scheme, I would suggest that it keep in touch with the State Government, so that its application may receive consideration when details of the plan have been finally settled.

I hope the Chief Secretary will do his best to induce his Government to assist the people of Pingelly.

Hon. J. Cornell: At Norseman the people cannot get any water at all.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: The Government are to be congratulated on the work they are carrying out in connection with the mining industry. The Estimates indicate that they intend erecting further State batteries, and making provision for treatment plants. But the amount set out on the Estimates appears to be very small for such important undertakings. The two great primary producing industries of Western Australia to-day are represented by gold-mining and agriculture.

Hon. J. Cornell: What about the pastoral industry?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: The pastoral industry is undoubtedly important, and our wool is of recognised quality and the quantity produced, bearing in mind the number of sheep run in the State, is excellent.

Hon. J. Cornell: That industry produces as much wealth as all the others put together.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: I am not arguing from that standpoint. The fact remains that more money is required for the assistance of the gold-mining industry.

Hon. J. Cornell: How do you suggest it should be spent?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: If the hon. member asks me questions about agriculture, I shall

answer him; but I have so much respect for members representing mining provinces that I usually judge what is necessary from their remarks. Provision is made on the Estimates for £115,000 for the Department of Agriculture. I claim that that department is one of the most important under the control of the Government. Loan funds should be made available for the requirements of the department in order that activities making for the improvement of the industry may be promoted. The thanks of the primary producers are due to the Director of Agriculture (Mr. Sutton), and his most efficient staff for the splendid work that is being carried out. The requirements of the country residents are met by every branch of the department. Should a disease break out among stock, it is merely necessary to notify the department and an officer is promptly despatched to assist in coping with the outbreak. Experimental farms have played a great part in the development of the agricultural industry, and I would like to see one of those institutions established south of Narrogin and more particularly in the Mt. Barker and Albany districts, in order to assist in the problem of grass cultivation and fodder preservation. At Katanning the department has a representative in Mr. Wild, who is rendering excellent service to the settlers throughout the South-East Province. Despite that fact, I think money should be made available to establish an experimental farm in the Mt. Barker or the Cranbrook district where the rainfall is excellent. Such a farm would aid greatly in promoting the productivity of the southern parts of the State. The Government in their wisdom have leased the freezing works at Albany to a company for the purpose of fostering the fat lamb industry. I trust that that activity will expand and aid in developing the industry throughout the province. I think the Government have acted properly in that matter, particularly when a private company is prepared to spend capital in carrying out work that is essential for the State.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Has not private enterprise controlled those works for the past 18 years?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: Yes, as a butter factory, but that was given up. The Great Southern Butter Company has established a butter factory at Albany where we also have the woollen mills. Loan funds have been spend in developing some of these under-

takings, and I am glad that they are showing signs of progress. When the Minister for Agriculture was in Albany recently, he attended the local show, and I believe he was agreeably surprised at the quality of the products displayed. A few years ago a settlement was established at the Napier River, and it has proved very satisfactory. A marvellous display was tabled from that area at the Albany show. Only four years ago the land was taken up practically under group settlement conditions and the men in that area have done exceptionally good work. Let me give some particulars. A population of 44 adults and 30 children are resident there. Excellent road communication has been provided. The approximate area of each lot is 400 acres. This settlement is under the control of the Agricultural Bank. The settlers, during the period they have been working there, have drawn £2 per week in return for their labour, but every man works on his own holding. Under the group settlement system the men worked in teams and, I believe, under a foreman and made improvements on various holdings, moving from one to another. In this instance, it will be observed, the procedure has been altered. The community spirit at Napier is marvellous.

Hon. W. J. Mann: There are some lumpers there.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: Several Albany lumpers are included. At the last Albany show when the settlement was barely in its third year, second honours were won. This year again the community settlement won second honours and came very close to the old-established settlement on the King and Kalgan Rivers. Where good settlers can be selected and the capitalisation can be kept low, I am satisfied many opportunities are still available for settlement in Western Australia. We heard Mr. Macfarlane say to-night that production could still be increased. If loan money were well and cautiously invested in that way, I am satisfied it would be reproductive. The Government must be proud that such a great success has attended the settlement there. Now I come to the contentious question of the Agricultural Bank. While I am not a supporter of political appointments, we have heard during this debate many reasons why Mr. McCallum should not have

been selected by the Government for the important position of chairman of the Bank Commissioners. The appointment was left by Parliament in the hands of the Government of the day and, although this House objected to the appointment of Commissioners unless confirmed by Parliament, I consider now that the appointments have been made, we as members of this House should give all possible encouragement and help to the men who have been appointed.

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

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: Let us give them fair criticism because they have a big job in hand. Surely Mr. McCallum with his administrative experience and the knowledge gained by him of Loan Council business and as Acting Treasurer and Acting Premier of the State, must possess considerable ability. Although many members do not like his politics, I think we should give him credit for his ability. It did not necessarily follow that the chairman of the Commissioners should be a banker. In my opinion, a banker's training was not absolutely essential. By no stretch of the imagination can the institution be called a bank. It was really founded to assist the primary producing industries of the State and set them on their feet. It was never suggested that the institution should be a bank in the ordinary sense of the word. If it was, why did it not have cheque books and credit accounts? No, the bank was created for one purpose and that was to assist the primary producing industries of the State. We have heard criticism of the Commissioners' use of motor cars. In a large undertaking the shareholders usually have sufficient confidence in the directors to give them a free hand to control the business. If the directors prove themselves inefficient and unable to control the business, the shareholders have a right to call them to book. We, as a Parliament, have a right to call the Commissioners of the Agricultural Bank to book if we consider they are not carrying out their duties.

Hon. W. J. Mann: What effect would that have on them?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: Parliament still has control. That was proved some time ago when legislation was passed to grant relief to Mr. Clydesdale in the difficult position in which he found himself. Statements

have been made against the Agricultural Bank Commissioners, but they have scarcely had time to settle down to their work. Surely we should give them an opportunity to prove their value to the bank and to the primary industries of the country. Any man taking control of a new business does not adopt a policy until he has made a complete study of the whole of the affairs. The chairman of the Bank Commissioners has made several statements indicating that they are securing complete information regarding the various activities of the bank's clients. Through a business which I control at Katanning, I come into close contact with officers of the Agricultural Bank, and from them I have received the utmost courtesy, even since the present Commissioners have been in office. Some members have taken exception to the fact that they cannot approach the Commissioners.

Hon. G. W. Miles: That is one of the best points in the Act.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: I quite agree with the hon. member. Any member of Parliament who wishes to obtain information from the bank can approach the general manager, Mr. Grogan or his assistant, Mr. Courtenay. Let me congratulate the Commissioners on having appointed Mr. Grogan to the important position of general manager. Suppose a client of one of the associated banks resident at Kondinin wished to discuss a matter of importance with the general manager of the bank at headquarters in Melbourne or Sydney, can we imagine his leaving Kondinin and seeking to gain an audience over there?

The PRESIDENT: I must ask the hon. member to confine his remarks to the Loan Bill.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: I will endeavour to do so. Whenever I refer to banks I always have loans in mind because I have had such large experience of them. No member can say that he is unable to approach Mr. Grogan or one of his assistants. Some remarks have been made about the appointment of Mr. Clarke as one of the Commissioners. As an old Western Australian I am proud that the Government selected Mr. Clarke. A son of an honoured man in this country, Mr. Clarke has proved himself very successful as a business man in the South-West. When his appointment was announced I was speaking to a leading business man in Perth who said, "I have

never met Mr. Clarke personally, but in all business dealings with him I have found him prompt, honourable, and efficient." We all know Mr. Berkeley. We have had many opportunities to judge his capabilities.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Is this a mutual admiration society?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: No, but the Commissioners have been discussed, not only in this House but in another place, and it is only fair that we should state our views. The Agricultural Bank is a most important loan venture and on it depends the success of our primary producers.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Are they paid by loan money?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: Loan money is advanced to the Commissioners; I cannot imagine that the revenue of this State is sufficient to finance the Agricultural Bank. We know that Mr. Berkeley will carry out his duties without fear or favour. The reforestation work at Narrogin is a most necessary undertaking and I am pleased that the men controlling it are carrying it out in such an excellent fashion. Provision is made for £150,000 for roads, bridges and public buildings. The time is long overdue for considering the erection of public buildings to house the various departments. A loan for this purpose, I feel sure, would be reproductive in that the economy effected would more than pay the interest on the money. It has been suggested that Government House site should be utilised for Government buildings. As an old Western Australian I should not like to see Government House or the gardens interfered with. I remember when a lad talking to my father about Government House, and he said that the land was held by the Imperial Government for the purpose of Government House. I gathered he was under the impression that the title deeds were held by the Imperial Government. I should like to hear from the Chief Secretary whether the land could be utilised for public buildings. In casting around for a suitable site for Government buildings, it has occurred to me that Parliament House grounds might be used. The grounds are bounded by Hay-street on the north and by Malcolm-street on the south and consist, I believe, of 10 to 12 acres. What better spot could be suggested for public buildings? Even if the site were no longer used for Parliament House, we could resume part of the Observatory block or perhaps take over the old offices of the Depart-

ment of Agriculture as a site for Parliament House. If necessary, the old High School grounds could be resumed and there would thus be sufficient land to provide for all the buildings required for the carrying out of the work of the various Government departments. When we realise what the buildings at the corner of Barrack-street and St. George's-terrace would bring if sold, and how far the revenue from that sale would go towards erecting premises on the sites to which I have referred, we should not hesitate to seriously consider the proposal. We have a precedent in Melbourne, where Government buildings are almost attached to Parliament House. Under the heading of Roads and Bridges in the Schedule to the Bill there is an amount of £150,000. I am pleased that Mr. Holmes is not in his seat because he might say that I am associated with a glorified admiration society. I do, however, wish to express the belief that Western Australia is fortunate in having a man like Mr. Tindale as Director of Works. That gentleman and his executive officers have done remarkably good work throughout the State. One has only to travel over the splendid roads in the country to realise this.

Hon. L. B. Bolton. The Government should engage you as publicity agent during the next elections.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: My colleague the other evening referred to the good work that had been done at the Narrogin School of Agriculture. I cordially endorse his remarks and can add without hesitation that any loan money spent on effecting improvements at that and other agricultural schools will be repaid a thousandfold by the knowledge that will be acquired by the students at those colleges. It is my privilege to be president of the Old Boys' Agricultural College Association and at a dinner held in Perth during Royal Show week, amongst those who attended was the Minister for Agriculture, who was a student at the Gatton College in Queensland. There were 80 ex-students present and of that number at least 50 per cent. had been students of the Narrogin school. They are a fine type of citizen and have developed an agricultural sense. The majority of them are occupied in farming and grazing pursuits. The Narrogin school and the college at Muresk are rendering splendid service to farmers' sons and other young men who wish to study the science of agriculture. They have also the

opportunity of gaining practical knowledge which should be of great assistance to them in the future. Finally, I sincerely hope that the Government will make money available for public buildings, particularly the Agricultural Bank buildings in the country, as the premises that house the manager and staff at Katanning, as well as those occupied in that town by the Lands Department, are a disgrace to any Government. I support the second reading of the Bill.

On motion by Hon. H. Seddon, debate adjourned.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Limitation.

2, Adelphi Hotel.

Received from the Assembly.

BILL—RESERVES.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West) [9.25]: The Bill embodies three areas in the province I have the honour to represent and the object of the Bill is to give effect to requests of the local authorities as far as those areas are concerned. The areas are comparatively small. One of the blocks was originally reserved for cemetery purposes, but it has never been used as a cemetery. The land is adjacent to an old cemetery that was closed many years ago and it has been a camping area for a considerable time. During the Christmas season this is used extensively because it is covered with very fine shade trees. It is served by a water supply and there is also a properly controlled sanitary service. The idea of the Busselton municipality is to have this land vested so that it can be properly controlled. The next area referred to is a strip of land which is a few feet in width and which apparently in the original survey of the town became out of alignment. The time has arrived when the Government should definitely set aside the land along the coast which is suitable for camping purposes. I do not know that there is very much land adjacent to the sea-front in the South-West, but there are some areas, and one, a particularly fine area, which was an old townsite, and which I should like to

see the Government convert into a camping area.

Hon. H. Tuckey: The local authorities can move in that direction.

Hon. W. J. MANN: Some local authorities desire that it should remain a townsite and that nothing should be done with it. I would prefer to see it a camping reserve for people from the city who care to go there in the summer time. The Bill embodies the wishes of the people, and I support the second reading.

HON. J. M. MACFARLANE (Metropolitan-Suburban) [9.30]: I have pleasure in supporting the Bill. Annually we have such a Bill giving leave to local authorities to improve their localities, where difficulties have arisen by reason of some section in an Act. The only item in the province I represent is the reserve at Hollywood, and I am glad to see it is intended to use the reserve as a site for a State school. It is a rapidly growing district, and in the near future it will require a larger school to meet the needs of the locality. But my reason for speaking at all is to give notice to members that I desire to move that an addition be made to the Bill in the shape of a request from the Cottesloe Municipal Council. They have an area of three acres situated between Marine-parade and Napier-street on the Warren-road at Cottesloe, and they wish to excise it from the town trust and to have the privilege to sell it in fee simple so that with the proceeds they might develop an area of 14 acres which is adjoining endowment land. I had a chat with the Cottesloe Municipal Council and the Minister for Lands about it some time ago, but by some means delay occurred in having it brought forward, and so it does not appear in the Bill. But it is now very urgent, and the municipality have requested me to bring it before the House, as they have an opportunity to sell those three acres at a satisfactory price which will serve to develop the other area of 14 acres for the purpose of a recreation and picnic ground back from the foreshore and Marine-parade. The area lies between the Hotel Cottesloe and the Ocean Beach Hotel. Close by are the grounds occupied by tennis courts, down in a hollow. The area is surveyed and blocked off for settlement, but it is a very rugged piece of country, so rugged that the council could not use it for any purpose. As I have said, the urgency of the matter is that they have an

offer for this piece of land, and the proposed purchaser wishes to get it completed before he leaves for England shortly. The Minister told me last night that he recognised it was a fair proposition. The municipal council, on the authority of the Crown Solicitor and of the council's own solicitor, have advised that an Order-in-Council granting them permission to sell the three-acre block and spend the money on the development of the endowment block of 14 acres would not meet the case. I have here a rough graph which shows the position and size and shape of the land. It is proposed to make a street through the sandhills on to Marine-parade, which will give another clear get-away from the beach to Stirling-highway. The purchaser of this block is to put a street through from Warren-road to Napier-street, and he proposes to build cottages on the block. The council will have to move 300,000 square yards of sand in order to bring down a hill 80 feet high and terrace it off. They anticipate being able to do this, and have 6,000 or 7,000 loads to spare. The convenience that will accrue to people in the district will be immense. At present there are endless complaints of flying sand, which annoys everybody, but under the proposed improvements this cause of complaint will disappear. I will have the necessary amendments ready for to-morrow's Notice Paper. Even then the matter will have to go back to Cabinet for full consideration, but as time is the essence of the contract it was suggested that this course should be taken so that we might have the matter finalised before the session closes.

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

BILL—ST. GEORGE'S COURT.

In Committee.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—METROPOLITAN WHOLE MILK ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 21st November.

HON. H. J. YELLAND (East) [9.43]: This Bill is for a continuance of the Act

which was introduced two years ago by the previous Government. We can safely say the operations of the board dealing with the metropolitan whole milk supply during the past two years have been fairly satisfactory. I should say that the results are such that we are entitled to recommend the House to continue the operation of the Act. In 1932 little short of chaos reigned amongst the milk producers. They got what price they could for their milk, and there was no organisation that would enable them to get a better remuneration for their labours. There was no one to say at what price the milk should be sold. In consequence many of the milk producers began to despair of finding a market for their commodity. When the supply became greater than the demand the price at which milk was sold became less than a payable one. The producers then urged that legislation should be brought down, because they recognised that any form of protection would be better than the conditions then existing. Thus it was that the Act came into operation. I can say without fear of contradiction that 90 per cent. of the producers are anxious to see the Act continued. These facts speak for themselves. In 1932 under the then conditions the producer was receiving anything from 7d. to 10d. a gallon for his milk. Since the Act was passed he has been receiving 1s. 1d. a gallon, representing a clear gain of 3d. a gallon. It might have been expected that the cost to the consumer would go up. Strange to say, although the change has meant an increased cost to the producers the average price per gallon to the consumers is one tenth of a penny per gallon less than it was two years ago. The effect of the Act has been to assist the producer and in no way detrimentally to affect the consumer. The only persons interested in this legislation are the producers, the consumers and the distributors. I have shown that the two first mentioned parties have benefited from the operations of the Act. I will leave the distributor, or middle man, to other members. The fact that the producers and consumers have been assisted supplies sufficient inducement to us to pass the Bill. The Act has only been in operation for two years, and is to a certain extent experimental. There are bound to be some dissatisfied persons. There has been room

for dissatisfaction, through no fault of either the board or the Act, but owing to the conditions under which the Act operates. During the last few years the aim has been to increase the supply and improve the quality of the milk, as well as ensure that proper hygienic conditions are associated with its production. Because strict attention has been paid to these points the consumption of milk has increased. Two years ago in the metropolitan area the consumption of milk was 3,832,000 gallons, whereas last year it was 4,367,000 gallons, showing an increase of over half a million gallons in that short period. This indicates that the community are recognising the value of this improved milk supply as a food. Everyone knows that milk readily absorbs flavours and odours and is a prolific receptacle for disease. It is, therefore, necessary to take special precautions in connection with its production. The board have recognised this and taken such precautions, with the assistance of the health authorities. That is another reason why the board should retain its hold upon the industry. The whole cost of these hygienic conditions has been borne by the producer. They have not cost the consumer anything. The producer has rightly been compelled to see that his yards are built of concrete, and that the excreta from the stock is not allowed through dust to find its way into the milk, while the cost of making the buildings satisfactory for the production and storing of milk has been borne by the producer without extra cost to the consumer, in fact at less cost than was the case under the old regime. Unclean milk is a source of great danger. In the laboratory it is possible to recognise that milk has not been produced under hygienic conditions. There is a special germ which develops from the intestines of the animal. If that is found in the milk it shows that the product has not been dealt with under clean conditions. It is possible to discover this by means of certain laboratory methods, and thus put one's hand upon any cause of filth connected with milk. By a system of acid tests it is possible to test the growth of acid in the milk, which indicates whether it has been properly treated, even though it may have been produced under cleanly conditions. It is possible to ascertain whether there has been neglect in respect to the cooling down of the milk, or whether it has been kept under warm conditions, which allow

the acid bacillus to develop rapidly, and produce that lactic acid with which we are familiar in the form of sour milk. By having tests carried out in the laboratory the board are able to keep in touch with milk production generally, find out what the producers are doing, and how they are carrying out their job. More important still is the inspection of herds for disease. A little while ago I read an article in the "British Medical Journal" dealing with bovine tuberculosis. There was a discussion as to whether bovine tuberculosis could be transmitted from the beast to human beings. Opinion greatly differed. Most children are brought up on fresh milk; that is their principal diet when young. The theory was advanced that the bovine bacillus finding its way into the human system could not develop until it became, as it were, acclimatised to the new conditions. It developed sufficiently to be able to reproduce itself from year to year and still live in the new environment. It does not assert itself until the human being is between 16 and 20 years of age. The theory has been formulated that milk given to a child of to-day, if impregnated with bovine tubercular bacilli, would make itself felt 16 to 20 years hence. That is why we find so many casualties from this disease between the ages of 18 and 25. The theory is one of which we should take some notice, and is well within the bounds of possibility. If this is the case the inspection of milk-producing animals is of very great importance, especially in respect to the two deadly diseases, bovine tuberculosis, and anti-nomycosis. The latter disease develops mostly in the throat of the animal, and the other in other organs. It is considered that both are transmittable to human beings. It will readily be realised that whilst curative measures are of no use, the best thing to do is to take preventive measures. According to the "British Medical Journal," preventive measures may mean the saving of many lives. I consider that the milk standard is rather low. The average content of butter fat is 3.5 per cent. Under the Act it must be 3.2 per cent. before the milk can be passed by the Board of Health. There are indeed quite big variations in the butter-fat contents of fresh milk. With the improvement of herds there should also be an improvement of the quality of the milk produced. The Health Department would be well advised to look into the question of raising the

standard. It would be no hardship on the producer if the minimum standard for milk were slightly increased. The system of herd testing throughout the Commonwealth points in that direction. However, our department are still sticking to their 3.2 standard.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: That applies throughout the Commonwealth.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: I am aware of it. By the herd testing system it is possible to eliminate any cow not producing a standard of good milk as regards both quantity and quality. That system has been adopted throughout Australia. By the selection of milkers it is possible to raise the quality of the milk supplied to the consumer. That is practically all I want to say in connection with the generalities concerning the supply of milk. With respect to the Bill itself, however, there have been a few difficulties in the administration of the parent Act. I mentioned at the beginning of my remarks that I would refer to those difficulties. I reiterate that two years' operation has proved the efficiency of the Act. The price to the producer has been increased without increase of price to the consumer. The commodity here in question is, of course, totally unlike the commodity with which the Acts relating to dried fruits and dairy products deal. Therefore administration under the Whole Milk Act must be very different from administration under those two measures. As regards dried fruits, the home consumption is fixed at a certain figure. The quantity of fruit consumed in the home land compared with the quantity to be sent oversea is reckoned out, and the same percentage is allotted to every producer, no matter how much he produces. Thus every producer gets the benefit, pro rata, of the home consumption price and shares the export price. That principle cannot obtain in connection with the distribution of milk, a commodity that cannot be treated similarly. The milk has to be brought in, and, as we know, there are peak periods and lean periods of production. During the latter, practically the whole of the milk produced is required, whereas during the peak period a great quantity is not required. In order to see that each producer shall have a fair proportion of the quantity required during the peak period, the board find it necessary to formu-

late individual quotas; and that is where the difficulty has arisen. There are complaints against the judgment of the board in dealing with the individual instead of being able to deal equally with everyone. I do not blame the board, who in my opinion have done remarkably well in a difficult position; but the difficulty is there. It presents itself. No matter how unbiased the board may be—and I believe they are thoroughly unbiased—in making individual quotas they are bound to dissatisfy some members of the producing fraternity. That would be so whatever the quota might be. Of course it is not possible to please everybody. One instance brought under my notice was that of a man with two sons, who had been given a fairly low quota to begin with. He appealed, and eventually got as high as 21 gallons. Now, 21 gallons at the present price of 1s. 1d. cannot possibly represent a living for a man and two sons, aged 21 and 18. Yet that man has been given the same advance as others have received. It is utterly impossible for us to maintain that that man has been treated unjustly; and yet, looking at the matter from his point of view, we cannot blame him for saying that he has not been treated justly. He has not been given a quota enabling him to make a decent living. Allowing that the two sons are doing the work and that the father is working, even then the returns mean only about 12s. a day for each, and out of this amount has to be bought extra feed for the cows. I asked the father what he was doing with the surplus milk. He replied that he was pouring it into the sand, as he could not do anything with it. The proper course, undoubtedly, is to deliver the surplus to a manufacturer and have it turned into butter.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Or else separate it at home.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Yes, and sell the cream. This is the only way out of the difficulty. Operations under the Act cannot be on the same general plan as in a case where the surplus product can be held together and maintained under conditions admitting of its being sent to other parts of the world. The board's duties are unenviable, and naturally there must be some abuse of the board. There is another point to which I may refer in passing. I once heard the Minister for Agriculture say that the vendors of milk have benefited by the re-

striction of licenses. From that I gather there has been restriction of licenses either by reduction of the number then in existence or by the refusal of applications for licenses. I take that statement and I place it side by side with the statistical figures which indicate that in the two years there has been an increase in consumption from 3,832,000 gallons to 4,367,000 gallons—an increase of over half-a-million gallons in two years. It does seem that there must have been an increased demand. Restriction of licenses is a pretty good thing, I should say, for the middleman.

Hon. L. Craig: "Vendors" means retailers, and not producers.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: That must be the meaning. Taking those figures into consideration, this is a reply to the question which I did not answer at the beginning of my remarks, as to whether the operations of the Act have been satisfactory to the distributors. At the same time, consumers are getting a better quality of milk at a lower price. Therefore the Bill should receive general support, and I should expect representatives of producers, distributors, and consumers to stand solidly by the Bill. Since the Act has been in operation, a period of two years, it has increased the cash to the producers by £30,000—a fairly large sum for a comparatively small number. The improvement in the quality of the milk must also be considered a highly valuable asset.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Do not they put water in the milk nowadays?

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: The improvement I refer to is due to cleanliness and also the system of herd testing. The supply to the metropolitan area to-day is better in point of quality and cleanliness.

The Honorary Minister: The board are assisting in that direction.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: In the year 1933-34 600 samples were taken, and tested at the laboratory; and in the next year a similar number. Of these in 1933-34 33.0 per cent. were considered to be first-grade quality milk. In 1934-35 the same number of samples yielded first-grade quality milk in 73 per cent. of the cases. That fact in itself is a compliment to the inspectors.

The Honorary Minister And to the board.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: And also to the producer, who has stood behind the board, and is doing his best to put

on the market a milk food free from disease and dirt.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Have not the health inspectors something to do with it also?

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Quite right. I am simply stating facts. Whether the inspector is under the board or under the Health Department, I give him credit for having assisted to lift the first standard quality of milk in that highly remarkable way.

Hon. L. Craig: The producer is responsible for a good deal of the improvement.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Yes. The producers are falling into line.

The Honorary Minister: In other words they have been co-operating with the board?

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Quite so. That is another way of saying that things have worked out satisfactorily. There is one other point I will mention, and it refers to bad debts as between the producer and the distributor. The board have been able to step in and gradually put on the screw when necessary. The elimination of bad debts is a factor that has been of considerable assistance to the producers.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Yet a member in another place wanted a bond to be put up in this regard.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: I do not think that is at all necessary. It is superfluous for me to say that I support the Bill. I notice Mr. Nicholson has an amendment on the Notice Paper, and I can inform him that I am not at all in favour of it.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I suppose the ladies who desire a good milk supply will be sorry to hear that you do not favour the amendment.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: I hope the board will be given another opportunity to carry on the good work, and still further prove themselves.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan-Suburban) [10.17]: The legislation when introduced originally was purely experimental. That it was so has been indicated by the many amendments that have been introduced, and no doubt were necessary, as Parliament agreed to them. The Metropolitan Whole Milk Act is a striking example of what I describe as extremely bad legislation in that it represents legislation by regulation. I defy any member of Parliament, including Ministers of the Crown, to

find out what actually is the law, as outlined in the Act. A month ago I had occasion to go into this matter, and I had to ascertain what the position was in view of the regulations that had been issued. One of my clerks had to spend one whole day at it, and finally he brought me a great pile of "Government Gazettes." I had to go through them and add a bit here, take away some provision there, and add something else. The regulations were continually being amended, and as a result it is quite impossible for a layman, and extremely difficult for a lawyer, to ascertain definitely what the regulations really state.

Hon. J. Nicholson: And that applies to a lot of other Acts as well.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: But I think the Metropolitan Whole Milk Act is the most striking example. Many people have spoken to me regarding the legislation, but they seemed to have different ideas. I know nothing about milk or about dairying, and I find it most difficult to determine which of the views expressed to me is the correct one. It seems to me that the Act should be reviewed and placed on a proper sound basis that will be understandable by everyone. At present the Health Department, operating through the inspectors employed by local governing authorities, inspect milk. The same task is undertaken by inspectors employed by the Milk Board. That tends to create friction and does not make for smooth working and good administration of the Act, nor does it make for the general welfare of the consumer. I certainly think the time has arrived when the whole position should be reviewed, and I hope that next session a Bill will be introduced that will embody the law in such a way that it can be readily understood so that there will be no need for an enormous number of regulations to supplement the Act. I trust that those in authority will cause inquiries to be made, either by means of a select committee or a Royal Commission, with a view to having the Act redrafted so as to include what now appears in the form of regulations and at the same time give every facility to the board to control the milk supply in a proper, efficient, and thorough manner.

Hon. L. Craig: That is being done now.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I am not suggesting that the board are not doing the work effectively, but some people say they are, and others that they are not. I find it extremely difficult to form an opinion as

to the correct position. There is such a difference of opinion disclosed that I think an inquiry by a select committee or a Royal Commission is necessary to delve thoroughly into the matter. If such an inquiry were entered upon, those who have grievances to air could have an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Commission and perhaps their complaints would be proved unfounded. If such an inquiry were launched and the legislation drafted in a more satisfactory manner than it is to-day, it would tend to the simplification of the management of milk control. It is necessary that a board shall be in existence, but it is equally essential that we shall understand the law as it applies to the industry. From what I can gather, the board have a perfect right to agree to or refuse a license as they may deem fit. With the numerous regulations in force and amended from time to time, no one seems to know where he stands. There are so many varied interests to be dealt with that Parliament should see to it that the Act is made more definite without leaving too much power in the hands of the board. In most Acts of Parliament under the provisions of which licenses have to be obtained, there are generally broad principles laid down with which the licensing authorities must comply. That is not the position with the milk board. They can do as they like, and under such circumstances it is easy for a person whose application for a license has been refused, to urge that it has been because of some personal consideration.

Hon. L. Craig: But the board consists of people representing all sections of the industry.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: No fear, that is not so.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: It has been contended that the board are not properly representative of all sections connected with the industry. Whether the board are thoroughly representative or not, in the circumstances I have indicated there will always be a tendency for individuals to allege personal considerations. I do not say that it is at all probable that the members of the board act in that manner. One great complaint has arisen in that a man recently had action taken against him, and the action went on through the courts. It reached the High Court, and one of the judges of that Court said that as this was experimental

legislation it was not proposed to quash the conviction, as the amount involved was so small. He added that he understood that the whole matter, the contents of the Act, would be gone into very shortly, and that all matters would be considered in that way. That was the opinion of the High Court judges, namely that this Act required revising, being only experimental legislation. So I sincerely trust that during the next session of Parliament the Act will be revised and put on an improved footing.

On motion by Hon. L. Craig, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.2 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 27th November, 1935.

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

QUESTION—WORKERS' HOMES.

Land at Daglish and Jolimont.

Mr. MOLONEY asked the Treasurer: 1, Is he aware that there is an area of idle land situated between Jolimont and Daglish, and also near Peel-street, Jolimont, which would be eminently suitable for workers' homes? 2, Would it be possible for the Workers' Homes Board to gain control over this land in order to establish