

utmost to make the interests of the employees secure. They have honestly endeavoured to keep the State free from unemployment. There may be a little unemployment at the present time.

Mr. Hughes: A little unemployment!

Mr. MANN: But as regards unemployment this State is not in such a bad position as the other States of the Commonwealth, and the Government are to be commended for their efforts in keeping in employment those who are engaged in industries. Having commended the Government for their past work and administration, I can only conclude by expressing confidence regarding the future and what may be done here to the end of the session.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are not going further than the end of the session?

Mr. MANN: I have pleasure in submitting the motion.

Mr. BROWN (Beverley) [4.17]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.18 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 31st July, 1923.

	PAGE
Questions: Wyndham Meat Works	10
Railway projects—(1) Dwarda-Narrogin, (2) Brookton-Westward, (3) Kondinin-Karlgarin	10
Late Clifton lime concession	11
Metropolitan Water Supply, pipes	11
Address-in-reply, third day	11
Papers: Pithara-Eastward railway project	13

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

QUESTION—WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN asked the Minister for Education: During the year ended 31st December, 1922, 1, What was the capital of the Wyndham Meat Works? 2, How much of such capital was the result of past working losses? 3, What was the amount (a) of interest charges? (b) of sinking fund charges? 4, What was the amount of (a) fixed working charges? (b) other overhead

costs? 5, What was the number of cattle slaughtered? 6, What prices were paid for same? 7, What were the selling prices? 8, What was the profit or loss on the year's working?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, £1,221,410. 2, The losses on working account from 1-1-19 to 31-12-22 (excluding interest) totalled £213,490. 3, (a) £76,743; (b) Nil. 4, (a) Fixed working charges—fire insurance £3,700, other £5,220, total £8,920; (b) other overhead costs £1,480. 5, 22,670. 6, From £5 15s. 2d. to £1 10s.; average £3 17s. 5d. 7, Average £11 17s. 8, Loss, working account, £10,330; interest, £76,743; total £87,073.

QUESTIONS (3)—RAILWAY PROJECTS.

Dwarda-Narrogin.

Hon. J. A. GREIG asked the Minister for Education: 1, Have the Government given any effect to the following resolution, carried without dissent by this House on 24th January last:—"That in the opinion of this House the Government should instruct the Railway Advisory Board to furnish an up-to-date report on the advisability of constructing the Dwarda-Narrogin railway, or to recommend alternative routes for the purpose of shortening the distance between the Great Southern districts and the metropolitan area, so as to serve the greatest number of people and the best interests of the State as a whole; and also to report where, in their opinion, the line from Dwarda should proceed to, if not constructed to Narrogin? 2, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1 and 2, No. The resolution was transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, asking for its concurrence, but was discharged from the Notice Paper.

Brookton Westward.

Hon. J. A. GREIG asked the Minister for Education: Will the Government introduce a Bill this session for the purpose of constructing a railway from Brookton westward?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: An inspection of the land to be served is nearing completion, and it is intended to introduce a Bill.

Kondinin-Karlgarin.

Hon. J. A. GREIG ask the Minister for Education: Have the Government given consideration to the question of railway facilities for the settlers at Karlgarin area, from 20 to 30 miles east from Kondinin?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes.

QUESTION—LAKE CLIFTON LIME CONCESSION.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER (for Hon. F. E. S. Willmott) asked the Minister for Education: 1, Are the conditions of contract being fulfilled in connection with the Lake Clifton lime deposit concession? 2, If not, will the Government take the necessary action?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Inquiries will be made. 2, Yes, if conditions of lease are not being observed.

QUESTION—METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, PIPES.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER asked the Minister for Education: What provision has been made for the supply of pipes for the extension of the hills water scheme to the metropolitan area?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Tenders will be called at once.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Second Day.

Debate resumed from 26th July.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH (North-East) [4.44]: I wish to offer my congratulations to Mr. Ewing on his having attained to the high position of Leader of this Chamber. I am confident that he is a worthy man for the position. I am somewhat disappointed over the matter contained in the Speech. Reference has been made to land questions in the South-West, but very little has been said about goldfields matters. During the last few months there have been several burning questions on the goldfields, and I thought something would have been said about them by the Government. Probably we may hear from them later on.

Hon. J. Duffell: Keep on believing.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH: We will continue to hope. It is pleasing to note that the recent visit to the Esperance district of the Minister for Agriculture and Mr. Cornell has been the means of throwing considerably more light upon that part of the State.

Hon. J. Cornell: You are getting on to my fishing grounds now.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH: There will be plenty of matter for the hon. member to talk about. I am just as anxious about that district as he is. The Minister for Agriculture declared his emphatic approval of the land there as suitable for wheat growing and mixed farming. Quite recently the Premier stated in the Press that at least three million acres had been adjudged as land suitable for agricultural purposes in the Esperance district. This has been known for many years, but for some reason the information has been kept back.

Hon. J. Cornell: Go easy, or you will have the Country Party after you.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH: The hon. member will be able to deal with them. The Minister for Agriculture has been well acquainted with land for many years, and in view of his statement, and that of the Premier, let us hope that the area in question will be surveyed and thrown open for selection. If that is done I believe the land will soon be occupied. If the Esperance district were given the same opportunity as the South-West it would not be long before a new province was opened up in that area. It is necessary for the sake of the district that the remainder of the line between Esperance and Norseman should be constructed. The plant is already there. It is foolish of the Government to think of removing the rolling stock, plant and machinery which are already on the spot. As it is, there will be two dead ends. Until the line is constructed throughout, the country will not be opened up as it would be if railway communication were provided to its full extent. The sandalwood question is also a burning one on the goldfields.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is as dead as Julius Caesar.

Hon. J. W. Hickey: The Primary Producers solved that problem.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH: The Government called for tenders. The matter was eagerly taken up by the people on the goldfields, the indication being that one firm would be given a monopoly of the industry. Whether that is right or wrong, I hold the opinion that before the Minister took that step he should have consulted the people who are engaged in the industry on the goldfields.

Hon. J. Duffell: Hear, hear!

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH: For many years people have been making a living by pulling sandalwood, and other people have purchased plants costing a good deal of money to enable them to cart the sandalwood to railway sidings. Some of the sandalwood has been carted 90 miles. Before anything is done the Minister should, by manifesto or otherwise, notify the people in the back-blocks in what way they would benefit by the Government giving a monopoly to one firm.

The Minister for Education: It has not yet been decided.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH: No, but the Premier, when visiting the goldfields, indicated that this would be done. The people are earnestly waiting to see what will be done. The question should be settled one way or the other so as to give those, who have invested money in plants, an opportunity of deciding what they will do with them. Last session Parliament decided upon the appointment of a licenses reduction board. Much delay has occurred in this respect. Hundreds of people are anxiously waiting to see what will be done. A lot of preliminary work will have to be accomplished by the board, and the Government should make the appointments so that the people may know where they are.

Hon. J. Cornell: There are no funds to administer yet.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH: Probably not, but a start could be made. The Government, which brought down the Bill, should know something about it. Delays like this cause a great deal of trouble and anxiety to the taxpayers. Practically no reference was made in the Speech to the mining industry, although a slight allusion was made to prospectors. We all know what mining has done for Western Australia. It has been and still is the backbone of the country. Millions of pounds worth of gold have been won in this State, and this has kept Western Australia going. It is because of its gold mining industry that Western Australia has such a world-wide reputation. Something more should be done by the Government to assist the industry than they have done in the past. The Federal Government have drawn large sums of money by taxation from the mining industry in this State. It would not be too much for our Government to approach them, and ask them to furnish a sum of at least £100,000 to assist in prospecting. This could be done through the Prospecting Board. Since 1886, according to the official records, the value of the gold won in Western Australia is £149,000,000. For the first six months of this year the yield of gold was £1,017,225. In June there was a decided increase. I am optimistic enough to believe that this will continue. There are many old districts now being opened up, and a good deal of gold is being found. In the Laverton district the industry is flourishing for many miles around. Several new companies have been formed to work old mines, and I think these will be beneficial to the State. The prospecting boards in Western Australia have done a good deal of useful work during the past two or three years, and will probably continue to do so. It is only by assisting prospectors that mines can be found and opened up. In the early days the reefs outcropped and were easily found, but that is not so to-day. We, therefore, have to rely a great deal upon our prospectors. These men know their business, and if they are helped they will no doubt discover many new fields. The water supply question is also a burning one on the goldfields. It has been discussed between the Chamber of Mines and the Minister. For years past deputations have waited on various Governments in the hope of getting cheaper water for low-grade propositions, but so far without success. Reference was made in the Speech to better water catchments being provided for the benefit of our farmers. They are entitled to that consideration because they have been put on the land, and we want them to make a success of their venture. The mining industry, however, is greatly in need of cheaper water and lower railway freights on mining requisites, to enable it to pull through. To-day, if there is salt water in a mine, which can be used in the working of

the mine, double rates have to be paid for the fresh water. Take the Hammans Reward mine as an illustration. The owner was working ore, going about $4\frac{1}{2}$ dwts., employing a good many men, and circulating a good deal of money in the district. He was paying 7s. 6d. a thousand gallons for the water. Because, however, he found salt water in his mine and wanted to use some of it, he was told he would have to pay 15s. per thousand for the fresh water. That was an unfair handicap to place upon him, and the result is the mine is now shut down. The State battery question is an important one on the goldfields. These batteries have been serving a useful purpose for many years; and a considerable amount of gold has been won by means of this system. Since the State batteries were started 1,365,795 tons of ore have been milled at these plants. After going through various forms of treatment the total value of the gold won from the ore was £5,607,060. This has meant a good deal to the State. If it were not for the parties of prospectors engaged in developing new finds, this gold would probably have still remained in the ground. In many places, however, the State battery system is not a success. More up-to-date gold saving apparatus should be attached to the Government batteries. I notice that the goldfields Press is concerned about the State battery arrangements at Mt. Ida. One paper referred to the matter in the following terms—

During the last round of crushings at Mt. Ida battery one crushing in particular gave six dwts. over the plates and 17 dwts. in the sands, and the concentrates assayed six ozs. per ton. This prospector was obliged to cart and stack his tailings, likewise his concentrates. The writer considers that the battery should be equipped with a grinding or amalgamating pan at least, which would no doubt give the prospector a better return. Again, would it be too much to ask the Government to purchase the concentrates at this battery from the prospectors on a percentage basis? They could be carted in as back loading, and sent away for treatment. The concentrates are always fairly high at this battery and by getting them treated the prospector would in many instances materially benefit. At present they are stacked in little dumps and are blown away by the wind, and consequently lost to the prospector for ever.

I would add that the values of those concentrates are lost to the State as well. In such places as Mt. Ida where the prospectors have to battle through and live hard lives, they should be given every facility at the State batteries. There is not much more for me to say at this stage. I sincerely hope that the Redistribution of Seats Bill, which will be before us shortly, will be approved by both branches of the Legislature. We have not had much opportunity to look through the Royal Commissioners' report regarding the electoral boundaries, as it is

a long document. I hope, however, that the Bill, when presented, will meet the wishes of both sides of the House.

Hon. J. MILLS (Central) [5.3]: I move—
That the debate be adjourned.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I would ask hon. members in their own interests to expedite the debate on the Address-in-reply, so that we may get through the business more promptly than will be possible if we are to have only one speaker each sitting day. In those circumstances, it will take a long time to get through the debate.

Motion put and passed.

PAPERS—PITHARA EASTWARD RAILWAY PROJECT.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [5.5]: I notice that Mr. Mills has on the Notice Paper a formal notice of motion regarding papers in connection with the proposed railway from Pithara eastward. I have pleasure in placing those papers upon the Table.

The PRESIDENT: We cannot deal with the notice of motion until the business before the House is disposed of. Will Mr. Mills be satisfied with the production of the papers, thus obviating the necessity for moving his motion?

Hon. J. MILLS: I will be satisfied with the production of the papers and will withdraw my motion.

The PRESIDENT: In that case, we need not continue placing the notice of motion on the Notice Paper.

SUPPLY BILL, CONSIDERATION.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: May I ask you, Mr. President, to leave the Chair until we receive a message from another place.

The PRESIDENT: I understand the Supply Bill is expected from another place.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: I am given to understand that the Supply Bill will meet with a certain amount of obstruction in another place and that it may be 9 or 10 o'clock before it reaches this Chamber. It seems absurd to ask us to wait till that time in order to receive the Bill from another place. It would not make much difference to the Government if we received the Bill to-day or to-morrow. I suppose the Minister will ask, in accordance with the usual custom, for the suspension of so much of the Standing Orders as will permit him to put the Bill through all stages at the one sitting. If we are to wait till 10 o'clock to-night for a Bill of such importance to reach us, the Minister will be well advised if he allows the House to adjourn till the ordinary time to-morrow, when we can get the

Bill quickly and deal with it as circumstances commend themselves to us.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The request put forward by the Minister is a reasonable one. I do not think we should anticipate trouble before it reaches us.

Hon. J. Duffell: It is coming.

Hon. J. CORNELL: If we refuse the request, it will be the first time such a course has been adopted. The President might well fix a time, however, when he will resume the Chair. He and the Leader of the House will know soon when the Bill is likely to reach us. I am satisfied that the Leader of the House will not ask us to do anything unreasonable.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I thank the hon. member for the suggestion. It does seem unusual to ask hon. members to wait till a late hour for the Supply Bill to reach this Chamber. I would ask you, Mr. President, to leave the Chair till, say, 6 p.m., at which time we will be in a position to know when the Bill is likely to reach us. If the Bill is not ready for us to deal with it after tea, I shall not ask hon. members to wait any longer.

Hon. J. Duffell: That is more reasonable.

The PRESIDENT: I had intended, on leaving the Chair, to say that I would resume it at 6 o'clock. That is the procedure I will adopt now. I will resume the Chair at 6 o'clock unless the Bill reaches us before that time.

Sitting suspended from 5.10 till 6 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: As the Supply Bill will not reach us for some time, I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.1 p.m.