

said they did not know. Of course, I know. Huelin said he would make a note of it. I told him he could have the lot. We leave the rest to you, hoping to find you in good health. I remain, yours for the lot, T. Dennis.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. BOYLAND: I am not one to run my head against a brick wall. I gave the Colonial Secretary the facts, but he would not do anything. The upshot was I wrote to the Press, and my opportunity has now come of placing the facts before Parliament. I have friends in South Africa with fibrosis or silicosis, who are being kept in a Government sanatorium at a cost of 16s. 8d. a day. It is a crying shame that the Government of this State cannot look after those men who have given their lives to the industry. I claim that the Government should assist the Medical Department by providing the money for an up-to-date X-ray plant. It would be the means of saving many lives to this State. It has been proved that the latest plant of this kind will cure cancer in its early stages, and often when it reaches the more advanced stages. It is claimed that at least 25,000 people in the Empire die annually from this disease. The Government should consider this question when the Estimates come forward, and give the medical authorities what they want in this direction. In conclusion let me express the sincere hope that the Government will take note of the matters which I have brought forward. We speak here empty every session; no notice is taken of our protests. We can say what we like, and it goes into "Hansard," and thus we can justify ourselves to our constituents as having spoken here on their behalf. But we can do nothing. The Government ask us to follow them blindly. Why cannot they help us out of these difficulties? Why cannot they do these things for the benefit of the State and for the benefit of humanity?

On motion by Mr. Richardson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.51 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 22nd August, 1922.

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

ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from Governor received and read notifying assent to Supply Bill (No. 1) £1,763,950.

QUESTION—STATE IMPORTATIONS, DUTY.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is it a fact that the Government have paid large sums of money in respect of duty on rails and other goods the property of the State? 2, If so, have the Government cognisance of the provisions of Section 114 of the Federal Constitution Act, which provides that the Commonwealth "shall not impose any tax on property of any kind belonging to a State"? 3, Has any question arisen between the Commonwealth and any State involving the interpretation of this section? 4, Has the interpretation of the section come before the Commonwealth or State Courts; if so, will the Minister supply reference to such cases?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, 2 and 3, Yes. Sec (a) Attorney General of N.S.W. and Collector of Customs for N.S.W., and (b) The King, etc., v. Sutton; both cases in Commonwealth Law Reports, Vol. V., 1907-8, pages 818 and 789.

QUESTION—RE-SLEEPING OF RAILWAYS.

Hon. H. SEDDON asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is the statement in the "West Australian" of the 28th ult., that the district engineer, Geraldton, saved the Railway Department 45,000 sleepers during the last financial year, correct? 2, Is it correct to say that there has been a reckless waste of sleepers in the re-sleeping operations recently carried out on the Government railways? 3, What conditions govern the disposal of sleepers removed from the road?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, No. The estimates for year 1921-22 provided for 53,407 sleepers for the Northern Railway on a basis of re-sleeping certain sections in a "face," but as a result of general instructions issued by the Chief Engineer,

Way and Works last year this method of re-sleeping previously in vogue was stopped, except where absolutely necessary, and the orders were reduced accordingly. The balance of the sleepers ordered will, if necessary, be put in the road during the current year. 2, No. 3, Sleepers that are fit for use again are replaced in less important sections for "patching" or in sidings. Others are sold or used on other departmental works, or for firewood, as their quality may determine.

QUESTION—IMMIGRATION, NARROGIN OFFICER.

Hon. J. DUFFELL asked the Minister for Education: Will he lay on the Table the file relating to the retirement of W. H. Leecase, formerly officer-in-charge of the Immigration Depot at Narrogin?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes. (Immigration Department file No. 145/20 laid on the Table of the House.)

QUESTION—ESPERANCE NORTHWARD RAILWAY.

Hon. H. SEDDON (for Hon. E. H. Harris) asked the Minister for Education: Is there a reasonable prospect of the Esperance-Northward railway being completed in time for the transport of the 1923 harvest?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Every endeavour is being made to have construction sufficiently advanced to permit of lifting the 1923 harvest about March next.

QUESTION—SOLDIER SETTLEMENT, COMMONWEALTH ADVANCES.

Hon. A. SANDERSON asked the Minister for Education: 1, How much money had been advanced up to 30th June, 1922, by the Commonwealth Government to the Western Australian Government for soldier settlement? 2, How much of this money has been repaid either as capital or interest? 3, How many soldier settlers are in occupation of their holdings?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, £4,083,782. 2 (a), Capital repayments to Commonwealth—£28,294; (b) Interest charged, £324,093 8s. 4d.; less rebate of 2½ per cent. under agreement, £139,093 7s. 7d. Cash paid to Commonwealth, £185,000 0s. 9d. 3, 4,552 A.I.F. soldiers have loans approved; 152 have abandoned properties, 81 of which have been re-occupied, 71 at present being on the Agricultural Bank's hands to be re-settled.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Debate resumed from the 1st August.

Hon. A. SANDERSON (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.40]: In common with every other member I congratulate you, Sir, most warmly

on your accession to the President's Chair. The sincerity of my good wishes does not prevent an expression of regret at the loss of our former President, and an appreciation of his public service. One is permitted, after having served in this House for some years, to extend a few words of welcome to new members. I am sure we are very glad to see them here, and, in the task before us, we look for much help from them. I certainly think that the country has suffered a loss as a result of the defeat of some members at the recent elections, and I shall not be considered offensive if I say that the new members I am welcoming to-day have a pretty high standard to live up to, if they reach some of their predecessors. I have never attempted to hide from myself that this Chamber has been the poorer as a result of the retirement of Mr. Drew. I am speaking from the public point of view; I have never been connected in any way with the Labour Party, but I certainly have learned to appreciate, not only outside the House but here also, the value of the Labour Party's public services. The responsibility rests upon us who remain when we remember that Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Panton have also fallen in the electoral fight. Whatever we thought of those gentlemen politically, we were glad to have them here personally. Politically, most of us who followed their utterances and criticisms must have formed a very high opinion of their intellect and calibre. An added responsibility is thrown upon us—I speak with special reference as a representative of the Metropolitan-Suburban Province. When we remember whom we represent, and when we remember that we are deprived of the services of the spokesman of many sections of our electors, it behoves us to see if possible in future that we are more representative of all sections of our electors than we have been in the past. I must express regret at the somewhat unfortunate reference made to the defeated president by the mover of the Address-in-reply. You, Sir, and I myself occasionally garnish our discourses with a Latin tag. The old tag "De gustibus non est disputandum" can be very fairly applied here. It is a matter of taste, and on matters of taste I would not wish to thrust my opinion forward, but in thinking of ourselves—even if we do not think of other people—when we remember that we are engaged in political life, when we remember the difficulties of political life, and the scanty recompense to even those who have the plums of political life, if there is one thing we can do, it is to show extreme chivalry to those who fall by the wayside. A man who had served for 25 years this country, and a man—I am speaking from a public point of view—certainly of marked ability and attainments and character, has been turned down, apparently without any very sufficient reason. Such an occurrence should call from all of us an expression of sympathy rather than any deprecatory remarks. If that is offensive to anyone here I would wish to withdraw it, because "De gustibus"—the tag is somewhat

ragged. Before touching on the only question of importance before the country, and that is the immigration proposals, I pass to another matter. I am going to say a word, a word which I consider justified, on methods of political argument and discussion. There was once in this country a Premier who likened himself to the Saviour. Very recently, in connection with the discussion of this most difficult and intricate and vexed question of immigration, we were told by the present Premier, before we even had time to read the proposition, that anyone who disagreed with it was a Judas, and that there were Judases here prepared to sell this country. That is what the Premier said at an extraordinarily enthusiastic public meeting held in a picture palace, and promoted by land agents. Judas! If there is any word that will cause the blood to rush to a man's face it is the word "Judas." Presumably the Premier knows who Judas was, although the hon. gentleman told us that he was not much of a churchman. If these are to be the methods of political discussion, the Premier may get a Roland for his Oliver before he is finished. I think it is much to be regretted that he should start on such a line. Now to touch on a matter which certainly offends my sense of historical accuracy, although members may think it a trifling matter, and in a measure no doubt it is. But here is a story which the Premier has told twice. I am going to read it from the report of another meeting, a "rousing reception" given to the Premier by the Commercial Travellers' Association. I am not surprised that the land agents and the commercial people should give the Premier a rousing reception, because if there is anybody who is going to get anything out of this six millions, it is those parts of the community. But to be regaled with these stories! Here is one of them against which I protest on the ground of the necessity for some accuracy in the discussion which we are entering upon, and on the ground of the necessity for accuracy in any historical or other reference which the Premier may make. The report says—

When he reached London he found the Imperial Government for the first time in the history of Australia willing to help us.

That could almost go without comment, but I am hoping that this report will be sent to London so that the people there may have an opportunity of saying what they think of that statement. The whole history of Australia is one long appeal to the British Government by the people of this country, and one extraordinarily generous response to that appeal. The Premier's story continues—

It was said that many years ago a French Ambassador went to London to discuss with the elder Pitt the possession of Australia, and asked how much of the continent the English Prime Minister wanted. Pitt had answered, "I want the whole of it." After the Frenchman left, Pitt, it is said,

turned to his secretary, and asked, "Where is this Australia that he talked about?"

That story was given by the Premier at his recent reception by the Commercial Travellers' Association. My memory is not very retentive, but I had a very distinct recollection of having read the life of Lord John Russell, and of having noted in it a story about a Frenchman, not a French Ambassador. Now I am going to read from Spencer Walpole's "Life of Lord John Russell," Vol. I., page 339; and I am going to mention to hon. members that, in order to be accurate myself, I have looked up the life of the elder Pitt, and find that he died in 1778. The story which I am about to read appears in this "Life of Lord John Russell," and the date is 1840—

During my tenure of the Colonial Office a gentleman attached to the French Government called upon me. He asked me how much of Australia was claimed as the dominion of Great Britain. I answered, "The whole," and with that answer he went away.

I do not know where the Premier got the rest of his story from, but that is the original story. Before I have finished I shall show that a great many of the Premier's performances with regard to this great immigration scheme are about as accurate as that story he told of the elder Pitt, who died in 1778. I have not had time to look up the source of the rest of the Premier's story, but perhaps some of my friends will ascertain where he got that question, "Where is this Australia he talked about?" However, it is a bagatelle, and I leave it at that. I do trust that in the discussion of this all-important question of immigration which is beginning we shall try and keep ourselves within some bounds of, I was almost going to say, decency, and that as far as possible in making any reference we shall be accurate. That will help enormously in the discussion. I am going to deal this afternoon with the subject of immigration—I hope not repeating what has already been said, and very admirably been said, by previous speakers. It certainly would be of advantage if somebody would deal with this question from the Imperial point of view. That certainly has not been done up to the present, as far as I can see. We are in a very extraordinary degree at the parting of the ways; and when I say "we" I speak from the Imperial point of view. Apparently, the British Government have decided definitely, and without looking back, upon, I was going to say, the reversal of the whole of British Colonial policy such as we have known it from the days of Lord John Russell. Let no one tell me that this system which is about to be introduced of State aided immigration and preferential tariffs is anything else but a return to what used to be called "The old Colonial system." I should very much like someone who has the time and the inclination, and is

qualified to do so, to examine very carefully into this position, and see whether it does not amount to a reversal of high Imperial policy. Let us not forget that whatever the Liberal Party did—I am speaking now of the party to which up till this afternoon I had belonged—they gave us freedom. They freed the whole of the Empire, and they gave every part of the Empire freedom to make the best of its opportunities. This question of State aided immigration and the other question of preferential tariffs have been an utter abomination to the English people for 60 years, and in respect of those questions British policy is going to be reversed. That has a most intimate connection with the question of immigration as it affects ourselves. Now we come to the question of the Commonwealth interest in the Affair. What do we find there? Something very interesting indeed, something which also wants the most careful examination. We have a statement from Mr. Hughes. I shall not go into it at any great length, but shall merely refer to it to show that I appreciate the importance of this Imperial question and this Australian question. However, I am not here to protect Imperial or Australian interests. I take it that we are sent here to look after the interests of Western Australia. At any rate, that is how I regard the matter. I am going to examine from the Western Australian point of view the proposition which has been set before us, but certainly I realise clearly the Imperial and the Commonwealth aspects. I am going to tie members down to this statement of the Prime Minister of Australia, which they cannot ignore—

The Federal Government sets its face resolutely against bringing anyone to Australia for whom employment is not found on the land. I would not be a party to bringing one man to this country who is not going to settle on the land. Much as I recognise the necessity for peopling Australia, it would be crass folly to attempt to bring a population into a country without making such arrangements for their settlement on the land as would make them wealth producers rather than likely to congest still more the already over-crowded cities.

The Prime Minister says again—

I have set myself resolutely against bringing people to Australia unless they can go on the land.

Now through the whole of my criticism and remarks I hope hon. members will recollect that that is the policy of the Federal Government. It has a very important bearing on the position so far as it affects Western Australia. Now, here is the Speech that we are dealing with. What does it say?—

The recess has been devoted to the preparation of a comprehensive policy of immigration, the details of which will be submitted for your consideration.

I have been in this country during the whole of the recess, and what have been the striking features of this recess? The Minister for Railways going off to bring an elephant, a white elephant, back here. That was telegraphed all over Australia: everybody knows the performances in connection with that animal. What was the next striking feature in connection with our recess? Doles to the unemployed, doles granted them by the Leader of this House, who should have told the applicants that the position was impossible and absurd. However, I suppose they had taken the hon. gentleman's measure on a previous occasion. So they got their doles as they desired. Then we had the Como tram. Those are the three striking events, so far as the outside public are concerned, of the recess. What have the Government been doing during the recess? What carefully considered scheme of immigration have these Ministers been preparing during the recess? I admire the frankness of one of these paragraphs. It tells us of the difficulty Western Australia has had right through the piece, not so much the difficulty of getting people here, as of retaining them. On the first page of the printed Speech we read this—

Experience has demonstrated that it is one thing to obtain immigrants, and another thing to hold them.

I congratulate the Cabinet on the clearness and accuracy and importance of that paragraph. There is no attempt to mislead us or the country. The whole Speech is concerned with this immigration policy. It is of no use talking to me or to the country of our high Imperial destiny. Unquestionably we have a high Imperial destiny, but it is linked up, not only with our brothers in the East, but with our brothers all over the world. What does this policy of the Government involve? It involves tying up this handful of people, up to their necks in debt, through an Administration which is almost a by-word throughout Australia taking on itself the responsibility of settling the people on the land. Let us read the history of Western Australia. Let us take hold of "The Colonial Policy of Lord John Russell." Let us read carefully Trollope, who was here in 1870, and who gives an admirable summing up of the position in Australia at that time. Let us take up Sir Charles Dilke's "Problems of Greater Britain." To hear this present debate, one would imagine that this problem of the settlement of Western Australia had been discovered by our Premier! Why, from the first some of the ablest men in England, and some very able men here, have wrestled with this problem at close quarters and from a distance. No one can accurately and fairly deal with this problem unless he has saturated himself with the difficulties and solutions put forward by our fathers and forefathers in regard to this country. In discussing this question, however much we may differ, surely we can understand each other and attribute to each other the highest motives, or better still, no motives at all. During the course of my

public criticism I have never attempted to brand those who differed from me as being unpatriotic or disloyal. What absurd nonsense it is to suggest that a Minister of the Crown is unpatriotic or disloyal! If he were, he should be impeached. And we ordinary members of Parliament, how can we be disloyal, after the oath we have taken, or indeed apart altogether from that oath? Cannot we realise that, however different the angles may be from which we view a public question, we can give to the other side every consideration, and attribute to them the highest motives, admitting that they are just as patriotic as we are? I have been in Western Australia for some time, and I have the right to speak of my native land without being called a traitor because I do not happen to agree with some passing Premier of this State. We cannot understand the problems before us until we know the history of Western Australia from 1829 down to 1890, when we entered into the new era of Responsible Government. It has been said that our country is being sold. So far from that, our country was given away for a mess of pottage when we entered Federation. We have handed ourselves over to the Eastern States. The Eastern States have said, "We are going to establish secondary industries." I say that anyone who attempts at the present time to invest his own money in land in Western Australia is a very rash man. However, the Government are going to invest public money, going to borrow in order to put on the land people from the other side of the world. I do not pose as an agricultural authority, but let us take the speech of the President of the Primary Producers' Association at the annual conference. He gave a most admirable analysis of the position, and spoke as one having a full sense of his responsibility. I ask members to remember the circumstances in which this speech was made by Mr. Monger, who seems to have an extraordinary hold over the people who make their living off the land. No one can say a word against his loyalty—he is a native of Western Australia—and very few would question his exceptional authority and power in dealing with this settlement policy. This is what he said—

We have all heard much of the projected immigration policy of this State. Your executive realise that increased population is an imperative necessity, and are of the opinion that the State can absorb and safely provide for a steady stream of immigrants. Holding these views, we readily offered to co-operate with the Premier in his recent mission to London. We realised the time was opportune, and had no doubt that the Premier would be successful with the Imperial Government in his solicitations for financial assistance and general co-operation. Although we have identified ourselves with the movement, and will do all in our power to assist the Government in its scheme, I have to inform you that only recently were we favoured by the Government with an outline of its policy. You

will, therefore, understand that until we are taken into the full confidence of the Government and have had an opportunity of reviewing and studying the scheme, we cannot express any definite opinion thereon. We realise that whilst an immigration scheme, wisely launched and capably administered, will prove of immense value to this State, we also know full well that should the scheme not come up to expectations, or fall short owing to mismanagement, or through any other cause, the result, instead of being beneficial, might easily prove calamitous.

I am at one with that criticism; and I go further. I do not blame the Premier for the conditions in which he finds himself. He is in no measure responsible for the Federal tariff. But he is responsible to a very large extent in having accepted the assistance of the Imperial Government and the Commonwealth Government. The Imperial Government and the Commonwealth Government have got the best of the bargain. I say it with regret, but in the present circumstances, under present conditions, with the present Administration, I cannot see that this proposed policy of the Premier has any reasonable hope of success, and if it is carried out I feel convinced that the last state of Western Australia is going to be worse than the present condition. I say that with extreme regret, and I say also with regret that on three or four big public issues I have found myself at variance with the majority of my fellow countrymen in Australia; and I say further with regret that my criticisms and fears have been justified by the event. I refer to our going into Federation. The people were warned by several leaders, and in my own little way I raised my voice to try to stop that. Here, I thank the Minister for his kind notice some months ago. Then, in regard to Western Australia, a free-trade tariff policy was essential. We sent from this State those people who put on the high protective tariff. Owing to circumstances in which we find ourselves, we have been falling lower and lower, and this immigration policy now seems to be the last throw of a bankrupt gambler. I say the scheme has no reasonable chance of success from a Western Australian point of view and from a financial point of view. If you tell me it is going to benefit Australia, I admit it. Whether the immigrants coming here stay here or pass on to the Eastern States, the benefit to Australia is the same. Again, what does it matter to the people of England? Picture to yourself an individual, or a party, or 25,000 persons, coming here from England; if they succeed, what does it matter to them whether it is in the Eastern States or in Western Australia? The history of the State shows that people have come here and have gone on to the East. I cannot see that there is a reasonable hope of success for the scheme. Having quoted the local authority—and I do not know anyone better able to speak on behalf of the per-

manent residents of this State, the farmers who are the only class to be dealt with under this scheme, than the president of the Primary Producers' Association—

Hon. J. Ewing: He has not condemned the scheme.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: If the hon. member should ever find himself in as responsible a position as that of the president of the Primary Producers' Association, he will be uncommonly guarded in his language. Remember what Mr. Monger's language was—

We realise that whilst an immigration scheme, wisely launched and capably administered, will prove of immense value to this State, we also know full well that, should the scheme not come up to expectations, or fall short owing to mismanagement, or through any other cause, the result, instead of being beneficial, might easily prove calamitous.

The hon. member says Mr. Monger supports the scheme, but I look upon it as a most guarded support. If that statement is not a warning to the Premier, to the country, and the people concerned, I do not know what a warning is. During the recess I have worked out some of these propositions, and have delved into the past and, as far as possible, looked into the future, in order to ascertain what the actual position of affairs in the country is. Could we have a better illustration than the soldier settlement scheme, which I regard as merely a laboratory experiment, for seeing whether we can make a success of settlement on the land? Who will dare to say that the soldier settlement scheme is a financial success? Not a man who is acquainted with the outline of the position will say that the scheme, as we have it, is or is likely to be a financial success. That is almost common ground in discussing this question. Let us assume that none of the failures with regard to this scheme is due to the administration of either the State or Federal Governments, or to their policy. It cannot be claimed that the scheme has been a financial success. If it has been a financial failure it must be explained, if the position is to be analysed.

Hon. J. Ewing: Hear, hear!

Hon. A. SANDERSON: I am glad to have the hon. member with me. I must carry everyone with me as far as this point. If the soldier settlement scheme, as is admitted apparently by everyone, has been a financial failure and is likely to be worse in the future, how can we reasonably expect the Imperial settlement scheme to be a financial success from the point of view of Western Australia? Who is going to foot the bill for this experimental scheme?

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The taxpayers, as usual.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: The taxpayers of this country. That is where the shoe pinches. I feel convinced the British Government did not understand the position as explained by the Premier. I must take a

certain amount of responsibility for the Premier having gone to England. I certainly suggested it from my place here, and I asked the Leader of the House and he said it was a most desirable suggestion.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You will be more careful in future.

Hon. J. Duffell: That was said satirically, was it not?

Hon. A. SANDERSON: I am never satirical in public affairs. When my colleague and I were in England we drank out of gold cups, a privilege accorded to anyone who is sufficiently accredited. Even an ordinary member of Parliament is frequently given Royal hospitality in London. When I came back I said the Premier should go to England, and whilst there place his cards on the table and explain the impossible position in which we find ourselves—in a measure through no fault of our own. If his cards had been differently played, the British Government would have recognised the position, and would have said what childish nonsense it was to suppose that 350,000 people with a debt of 50 millions, embarrassed in a hundred different ways and without great experience in big financial matters, could be expected to deal with this enormous subject of re-casting the white population of the Empire. That would have been a much sounder, safer and more powerful line to take with the British Government, instead of talking unadulterated nonsense, such as appears from the cables to have been talked. I have a cable here indicating what the Premier said. It is difficult to be patient when one has to put up with such a statement as this. The cable was to the effect that Western Australia could grow all the cotton with white labour that was required by England, as well as all the wheat. This apparently was a public announcement at the Savoy Hotel.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: Was it an after dinner utterance?

Hon. A. SANDERSON: It was after a luncheon, a little déjeuner, where everything was quite respectable, *recherché* and moderate. After luncheon he made this remark, and I have no patience when I am asked to accept that as a serious contribution to this most important subject. If I had my way I would send the Premier back to London. I have nothing but the greatest personal admiration for Sir James Mitchell. He is one of the most popular men of the country. That is an asset not easily acquired. He is one of the most imperturbable members of Parliament I have ever seen. I wish him every success. I am speaking now purely from the public point of view, upon this highly important question, and the policy that is placed before us. It is, as I have said before, the last throw of a bankrupt gambler.

Hon. J. Duffell: What were you going to send him back to England for?

Hon. A. SANDERSON: To explain that he made a mistake. We must not imagine

that would cause a serious surprise in any circles in England.

Hon. H. Stewart: You join with Mr. Lovekin in that desire?

Hon. A. SANDERSON: I endorse what the hon. gentleman said. The Premier has been in close touch with the British Cabinet. If he had explained the position fairly, fully and accurately with regard to Western Australia he would have had all his processions and picture palace demonstrations on his return, and would have been on the right side so far as this State is concerned. My fear is that the proposal, as put forward in the Speech, will be found in the future to be equal almost to the Federal vote of 22 years ago. I say without hesitation this scheme cannot succeed from the point of view of Western Australia, or from the financial point of view. I have quoted the authority of Mr. Monger. I am now going to quote another authority. There is no one in the country who can speak with more authority on the question of land settlement and this proposal than the president of the Primary Producers' Association. There are very few people who can speak with more authority than Mr. Christopher Turnor, who made an official report to the Royal Colonial Institute, on land settlement for ex-service men in the Overseas Dominions. Upon this question of immigration the amount of literature that has been published during the last four years is enormous. The Royal Colonial Institute itself, the Colonial office, all Governments and all Parliaments have been debating this question at considerable length. Mr. Turnor has not only been all round the Empire to inquire into the matter of land settlement, but has paid a special visit to Western Australia. The whole pamphlet would repay most careful attention. I am going to quote first of all the paragraph dealing with Western Australia. I must ask members to recognise this gentleman as an authority. He would not have been sent out by the Royal Colonial Institute to make an independent inquiry, apart from the Government, unless he had been a man of some outstanding merit. No one could have written this pamphlet or analysed the position so clearly or so forcibly unless he had been a man of first-class ability. I have only been able to test Mr. Turnor, from personal knowledge, from what he says about New Zealand, which he visited, from what he says about Australia, and in a minor degree from what he says about South Africa. Everything he says seems to me to testify to the fact that he is a person of great practical ability on the land question, and able to sum up the position so that the ordinary person can follow him. He says the first step must be the creation of a central and Imperial migration authority, with requisite power to deal with this great problem as a whole. The second step of the Imperial Government, through the medium of the above authority, is to come to a definite understanding with the overseas Governments in regard to

migration. The time is passing, he says, and yet comparatively little is being done in that direction. The third step, he claims, should be the appointment of Imperial land settlement representatives in our dominions. If the Premier had gone to London, having mastered this analysis made by Mr. Turnor, I believe he would have made an equally favourable impression on those with whom he came in contact. He would have done great work for this country and I believe, although it is open to question, this policy of immigration, of peopling the lands of Western Australia, would have had a reasonable chance of success. When this gentleman came to Western Australia he sized up the Premier fairly accurately. He is favourably disposed to Western Australia, as, indeed, are most people. He says:

Western Australia, with its population of 300,000, is perhaps in more urgent need of settlement than any other State, and the Premier is anxious to encourage immigration in every way possible. There is no hostility to Western Australia there—

... The Premier told me that his department had already placed on the land about one half of the 4,000 Western Australian ex-service men who had applied for land. Further, that he was quite willing to deal with English settlers at once, and that he considered that they could handle 1,000 settlers a month; that does not, of course, mean that they could put 1,000 men a month upon holdings of their own, provided with houses, etc., but that they could place them as wage earners and then gradually place them upon the land. Even then it is quite clear to me that most of such settlers would have to make up their minds to living on their holdings in tents for a year or two, which would be no hardship in the Australian climate.

We could not wish to have a more experienced assembly of Western Australian people, men in representative positions than we have here, and I ask: Is that not a fairly reasonable and even favourable view of Western Australia? Then Mr. Turnor goes on to say:

Apart from the question of providing houses, I find it very hard to understand how Western Australia can have the administrative machinery for dealing with anything like a thousand settlers a month, and it would not do to have thousands of English settlers waiting an undue length of time to get on their land. I can only conclude that although Mr. Mitchell—

The Premier was not Sir James then—
—is in favour of organised group settlement, he has something very far from scientifically organised settlements in his mind; possibly considering that our new settlers should be pioneers and make their own holdings out of virgin land. My feel-

ing in regard to this is strengthened, for when discussing the question of finance, Mr. Mitchell told me that he thought that if the Imperial Government would arrange for loans on the basis of £200 per settler, it should be sufficient.

I hope hon. members will remember that particular point.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Who wrote that?

Hon. A. SANDERSON: Mr. Christopher Turnor, whom I claim to be the best authority on this immigration movement I have discovered after considerable reading. He was sent out to study land settlement all over the Empire. He was despatched on that mission by the Royal Colonial Institute. I think he is a Lincolnshire farmer and he is a man of great practical ability and capacity. He understands land matters and sizes them up admirably. I can quite believe that he is the first class man he has been represented to be, if he can be judged by this pamphlet. He continues:

But it is very different from the views expressed by responsible Ministers in other Australian States, and it is impossible to achieve organised settlement at such a low rate of working capital per man—

Hon. T. Moore: He was very modest then.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: Yes, that is so. Mr. Turnor proceeds:

It is evident that the question of the number of settlers Western Australia can probably handle, and the method of placing them on the land, must be carefully considered by the Imperial authorities. Western Australia has an interesting feature in its State Agricultural Bank, with its capital of over £4,000,000; it makes loans to farmers for all purposes of land development, and is the only institution of this kind in Australia, and if it is prepared and able to supplement the English settler's capital to the needed extent, then the provision of £200 per settler from extraneous sources would suffice.

I do not wish to weary hon. members and, therefore, with the greatest reluctance, I shall stop and shall not quote further from this able and admirable analysis. It really amounts to this: All the spade work regarding the immigration and land settlement questions has been done by first class experts and, as far as we can understand the Premier's proposition and his proposed methods, they will not square with those laid down by the experts. If we are to load ourselves up with debt trying to get these people here and settled on the land, it is difficult for any man of understanding, who looks upon Western Australia as the home for himself and his children, to have anything whatever to do with this scheme—after he has examined the position. That is the attitude I take up. I have seen this country during the last 28 years—that, Mr. President, is a fair proportion of one's life—and I contend it is a very difficult country to handle at best. It has

shown itself such from the inception, and since we entered into Federation the worst anticipations of those who opposed that step from the financial point of view have been realised. Now this spells the end! I cannot see—it will be with the greatest difficulty, I do not care who you get—even if we do not have any immigration scheme at all, how we can carry on. With this scheme added to our difficulties, I am not surprised that people on the land, who look upon the country as their own, and are not like the commercial travellers who simply buy and sell goods in which they are particularly concerned, regard the scheme with fear and trembling. I will only occupy another five or six minutes with another point which will bring my remarks to a conclusion. I have taken some little part in trying to understand and assist in a small way this great question of land settlement in Western Australia. I can bring evidence which I think will convince anyone that, over a period of a good many years—I think about 25 years—starting with virgin bush and with a loan of £50 from the Agricultural Bank, I have taken a part, with neighbours, in carrying out what this chief, and all authorities, say is the only sound system of settlement—the group settlement. We have gradually built up in our little area in the Darling Ranges, this small group settlement scheme, and I maintain if only the Government and departments had been sympathetically inclined, we would have had by now a model settlement to which any hon. member could have taken visitors from London or from the Eastern States, and said, "This is what we have done here and we can do better in other parts of the country." During the recess, I made it my business to go about among our settlers there. We have about 50 returned soldiers and I am told by others that, as returned soldiers go, and they go pretty far, those we have in our district are as fine a lot as could be seen anywhere. I ask the Premier and his Ministers to note this: I have been negotiating with public departments during the last six months. The departments included the Railway Department, the Post Office, the Agricultural Bank, the Repatriation Department, the Forests Department, the Water Supply Department, and the road board. It has not been at all difficult to sort those departments out, but it has been amazing to me to see the hopeless lack of co-operation and co-ordination between these departments. If the heads of those departments sat down and examined the position, even now that settlement could be made a model with enormous advantage to the country and those who live in the part where I dwell. I admit that if the scheme can only be pushed forward, it will put money into my pocket, but what could we have better than that? Is that not what we ask people to come here for? We do not ask them to come here to be paupers, but that they shall come here to build up their own homes, put cash in their pockets and live pleasant lives. I would weary hon. members if I went into details,

but I can give them chapter and verse and prove up to the hilt everything that I have said. There is no co-operation whatever between those departments. The Water Supply Department is trying to buy people out and push them on the land altogether. Is it the policy of the Water Supply Department and of the Government to take off the land, people who have spent 20 years in building up their homes there? It is necessary that the people should be taken from their homes in the interests of the water supply for the city of Perth, then the settlers must be bought out and their homes must be sacrificed. It will be a pretty severe sacrifice for those men, whatever cash may be paid to them. In the Governor's Speech itself, however, the Caning scheme is the one mentioned for the City of Perth and, therefore, this objectionable department need not have gone on these lines at all! Then the Forests Department with millions of acres to work over have started reforestation within 10 or 15 miles of Perth, shooting people off their properties in order that they may put the area under a few jarrah trees. As to the Railway Department I do not wish to say anything worse than the Royal Commissioner, Mr. Stead, has already stated in his report. Mr. Stead has justified every word that has been said about the Railway Department. That is the Government's business, and I can leave it at what Mr. Stead himself has said. Turning to the Post Office, that affects everyone who is concerned with letters, telegrams, and telephones. The department, so far as they have been able, have been sympathetic, and have helped where possible. There is one bright feature, however, and that is in connection with the Electric Lighting Department. That is the only department, representatives of whom have come forward and helped us to push matters ahead. I congratulate Mr. Taylor, the head of that department, even if it involves a compliment to the incompetent Minister for Railways, who is the ministerial head of the department. I wish, however, to show my appreciation of what has been done by that department. With my knowledge of what has gone on all through, how can I be in favour of this scheme, which will start these operations and try to do the whole thing in a few months, when we have been battling away for 25 years within 14 miles of the Lands Department and of the Premier's Department, and fighting all the time against these departments where there is no co-operation and no co-ordination, and most inefficient administration. That is my personal experience, and if I am twitted with being a city representative, and twitted also with not knowing anything about land settlement, I can only reply that for the past 25 years I have devoted my energies to the subject, and can therefore speak with some authority on it. I will leave that matter, and refer to another to which I have also given great consideration. I have come to the conclusion that I must advise all those who have at heart the best interests of Western Aus-

tralia as a State, to join up with the only party which can be of any assistance to us in working on sound and just lines—I refer to the Country Party. That is the conclusion I have come to with some hesitation; but the circumstances have been too strong. For a long time past I have belonged to a party which I am now told that in England and throughout the Empire has disappeared. We may never see the Liberal Party resurrected in Western Australia, and I am not going to adopt the attitude of my friend, Mr. Kirwan, who, in a plaintive voice, and mild regrets, expresses the belief that things are very bad. I certainly would join him in these expressions if I thought they would do any good. We all know it is much easier to sit here after luncheon or dinner and sleep comfortably while hon. members are talking. The speeches of some hon. members may have that soporific effect. One can sleep here, or look wise and say nothing, and it is much less exhausting to do that than to bend oneself to discussion on most difficult and important public questions. I cannot retire from the political arena, and I am not going to do so, but I say that present conditions, recognising that the Liberal Party to which I belonged has become extinct, compel me to review the situation and act as Liberals have always done, and that is to see what best can be done with regard to future public events. I have no hesitation in asking all those who are interested in Western Australian politics, Federal or State, to join with me in pushing Western Australia forward, and the only way in which that can be done is by joining the Country Party.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: I thought this was a non-party House?

Hon. A. SANDERSON: That is a strange interjection to come from the lips of one who with other members of his party is bound by an outside junta. I can tell hon. members why the public insist on members being bound by executive councils outside: it is because they cannot trust those members when they get into the House. Whether it be the party with which the hon. member is associated, or whether it be the party with which I hope to be associated from this afternoon, I can tell the hon. member, whether he likes it or not, that those executives outside—whether it be against constitutional government or not—are going to win all along the line, and that if he will not obey his executive, he will not be permitted to remain here.

Hon. T. Moore: Now we know.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: The Liberals in the past were able to trust their members to carry through all public questions, but since we have had other parties, there have been developments, and executives outside are now going to control members of Parliament.

Hon. T. Moore: Your leader in another place does not say that.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: I repeat that these executive bodies outside Parliament are going to join forces. That is the state of public life into which we are about to enter. We

can see the power that these executives are going to wield and whether hon. members like it or not, they will have to obey those executives. I am prepared to act in the manner I have indicated, and I trust that even at this late hour the Country Party may be successful in protecting Western Australia from the dangerous proposals outlined in the Speech.

Hon. H. SEDDON (North-East) [5.53]: May I, as a new member, add my voice to those of the hon. members who have already spoken on the Address-in-reply. As one who cannot claim to have that familiarity with public affairs held by other members, I would like to place before the House the views I have been able to form as the result of my residence on the goldfields, and from my knowledge of things as they are in the old land. We have heard a great deal of criticism in this House regarding the immigration policy of the Government. The matter has been approached from various standpoints. I would like to place before the House the standpoint of the man whom we are going to bring to this country, and to ask hon. members to consider the standpoint of the man who is at present putting up a most severe battle, not only against hard conditions, but against actual starvation, and a man who has behind him the knowledge that he is leaving a set of conditions which he will find non-existent on his arrival here. This man will be prepared to fight an infinitely harder battle but under better conditions than was in any way possible in the Old Country. I would draw attention to the records of achievement on the part of the Barnado boys. These boys have been taken out of the big cities of England. None possessed a knowledge of farming life, but all the same they have been sent out to various parts of the Empire. The record of these boys is a credit to any section of the community; they have made good everywhere. Therefore, if only from that standpoint there is held out to us a foundation of encouragement, and in that way we may hope to establish in this country a class of citizen who, if warmly received and encouraged, will not fail to make good. There is one aspect which has been lost sight of, and it is that to which we might refer as psychological. May I give an illustration: A regiment was drawn from men of the city of Manchester during the period of the great war. These men were taken from workshops, warehouses, and all kinds of occupations which did not go to make physique or develop initiative. During one of the great battles on one of the Western fronts that regiment stood in its place and was wiped out to a man. They stood there because they were taught it was their duty as Englishmen to stand fast. I will say that the men coming out here, ex-service men, have been trained in similar conditions and can be trusted to face the difficulties which will confront them, as well as the loneliness of the life in the bush, and make good. Therefore, we see the possibility of success for the immigration scheme, but

we must not fail to encourage these people, remembering all the time that they are entirely ignorant of the conditions pertaining to farming life. They will only require some help to make successful citizens in Western Australia. It is for the reasons that I have given that I intend to support the proposals outlined in the Governor's Speech. I would like to see the principles which it is proposed to apply to the South-West applied also to more remote districts of the State, districts which we are somewhat inclined to lose sight of. Moving about the city of Perth one cannot help gathering the impression that the people in the coastal areas have entirely lost sight of the gold-mining industry which unfortunately at the present time is languishing. Coming down here one feels that he is entering another country. One feels as if the possibilities of the great goldfields are not being realised as should be done. While the goldfields are suffering from serious natural disabilities, there exist also possibilities which are offered to the student and which will well repay research. There is no industry which offers better opportunities to the student than that of gold mining. We must recognise that mining has become more and more a chemical industry. When we examine the great chemical industries, we find that they have made good only because they have made use of every by-product. All have been built up in this way. The great progress made in Germany and in America has been due entirely to careful study in the direction of the use of by-products, and the effecting of economy in every possible direction, as well as using every fraction of power and heat to reduce costs. If we went into the question of utilising all material which is now wasted, we would find that it would be possible, even under existing conditions, to make good and put the industry on a sound footing. May I give an illustration. In connection with the great South African mines there was established some years ago a mines' trial committee. This committee was appointed by various groups of mines to consider what economies could be effected in working the mines. One of the subjects to which attention was directed was that of the steel used in the drills and the kind of point on the drills. A series of experiments extending over six months resulted in the discovery of means of saving thousands of pounds in that particular item alone. This is a line of action which might commend itself to members of the Legislature, because we are vitally concerned in seeing that our industries are carried on successfully. If, as an outcome of the co-ordination of work between the Chamber of Mines and the Government, the scientific aspects of these questions could be investigated, I am confident results would be obtained of tremendous importance and assistance to the industry. I was grievously disappointed to find no reference in the Speech to the serious matter of miners' phthisis. I do not think members realise the position of the industry as regards this terrible scourge. The splendid report placed in the hands of members by Mr.

Cornell is enlightening and indicates a course of action which might be the means of lessening the terrible toll of human life which the industry is exacting at present. After all, the most serious question we have to consider is that affecting the life and health of our citizens. I have no hesitation in saying that if the question of miners' phthisis were investigated by a committee acquainted with the facts, recommendations could be made and embodied in a Bill which would be the means of our having removed from the mines those men who are inevitably doomed to early death. Means could be devised to deal with these men in such a way that their lives might be prolonged to the ordinary span, but action must be taken early. The disease is so insidious that the victim is not aware of its approach until too late. A few weeks ago I attended the funeral of a miner on the fields, and I left the cemetery with a man of not more than 45 years of age. We walked slowly for a distance of about half a mile and then we had to stop. That man was suffering from the disease in its first stages; he was doomed. Among all the important questions before Parliament, I cannot conceive of one which demands more urgent attention, or which will return more fruitful results to the people than this question of miners' complaint. We should take prompt action to minimise the evil; we should assist the relief fund instituted a few years ago, and we should do all in our power to ensure an extension of life to these men who, at the present time, are being sacrificed in order to win the gold which is of such great value to this country.

Hon. J. A. GREIG (South-East) [6.5]: The most important question in the Speech is that relating to immigration. I am not one of those who go into ecstasies and applaud the Government and the Premier on the immigration scheme and the method by which it has been handled so far. More especially do I refer to the preparations made at this end for the reception of the new settlers. I am not going to criticise the scheme, or offer any obstruction to it. I realise that the Government are up against a very difficult proposition. As far back as two or three years ago, the Government knew that it would be possible to obtain a large number of emigrants from England, and the fault I have to find is that they did not then start the work of preparing for them. The action of the Government during the past three years has led to our own people being denied the right to select land. They have closed all agricultural land from selection before survey, and while I do not disapprove of this, I do complain that they did not carry on the survey of land in order to supply the wants of our own people. Many of our own people want wheat-growing land. We have millions of acres of it within the assured rainfall line. This land would be taken up if the Government had only had it surveyed and had given the people an opportunity to select it. There are many

people in this State who know the value of our best wheat-growing land. They do not want land in the South-West; they have not been brought up to that class of farming. They know their business as wheat growers and they want wheat land. They are not prepared to take the inferior land lying idle adjacent to the railways when they know that good land is available further out. They are quite prepared to go out further in order to get good land. We know that Western Australia is a very difficult country to deal with because our good land occurs in patches and requires a great mileage of railways to serve it.

Mr. Willmott: Members will not agree with you on that. They did not agree with me last year, though it is quite true.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: The hon. member on that occasion was referring to the South-West. During the last three years the Government have closed down on all railway construction, and during that same period our deficit has been increasing. I would not mind the deficit increasing if only the State were progressing. If the Government were opening up new land so that there would be a chance of obtaining quick returns from production, the position would not be so serious; we would then have a chance of overtaking the deficit. During the last three years from 50 to 100 men have asked me to put them on to good wheat land in this State. They had no objection to going 20 or 30 miles from a railway, provided they could get good land. I had to tell them I did not know where to send them; the conditions were that there could be no selection before survey, and there was no good wheat land surveyed. It is two or three years since I was promised that surveyors would be sent to survey a quarter of a million acres in one patch at Newdegate. Last week the Government were able to throw open 40 odd blocks in that area. I realise that the Government have been short of money for building railways and making advances to settlers. They have had to economise and I quite agree that economy should be the keynote of the Government at the present time, but to sacrifice development for economy is a very serious mistake. The government during the last three years have been Micawber-like in their actions. They have not made preparations as they should have done. They have made preparations in other ways, but why retard the progress of the wheat belt when that is the portion of the country where the most prosperous farmers are located to-day? Why not survey that land by the hundreds of thousands of acres and make a stipulation, if necessary, that a railway will not be built until a certain number of settlers are located in a particular area. I do not believe in keeping the land locked up if settlers will go out and take the risk of getting a railway. We have heard a lot about the good land lying undeveloped alongside existing railways. I have honestly tried to find any quantity of good land idle

alongside existing railways and have failed. From experience I am opposed to the Government repurchasing land alongside our railways, because it is decidedly cheaper to build new lines to new lands and better lands in the wheat belt. Our experience of repurchased estates has not been satisfactory. In 1912 the Government purchased quite a number of estates and only managed to get rid of the last of them through the Repatriation Department to returned soldiers.

Hon. J. Nicholson: It depends how they are repurchased.

Hon. H. Stewart: And only by reducing the price.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: Yes, by reducing the price by over 50 per cent. in many instances. Even where the Government bought properties at less than the value of the improvements and the rent paid and placed new settlers on them, the latter have not been able to pay their way and make a success of their holdings. This policy has resulted in taking experienced men off the land and putting inexperienced men in their places, and I am afraid the inexperienced men will not be able to make good even with the liberal conditions under the repatriation scheme. I am not in favour of increasing the land tax on those men who hold large properties beside existing railways. Some people advocate the imposition of heavier taxation in order to increase the State revenue. I do not believe in treating land owners unfairly in that way. They took up the land in accordance with the Land Act and they complied with the conditions; otherwise the land could have been forfeited. These men are justly entitled to hold their land. I do not believe we have any more right to interfere with a man's freehold than we have to interfere with his bank account. Reference is made in the Speech to land for fruit and vine growing. I do not think there is any necessity to go to the heavily timbered country in the South-West to find land suitable for this purpose. There is a million acres of poison land in my province, situated between Brookton and Albany on the eastern side of the Darling Range, having an ample rainfall and being in every way admirable for fruit and vine growing. This land in my opinion is not worth 1s. an acre as a grazing proposition on account of the poison, but the poison is no detriment to vine and fruit growing. The land has a good clay subsoil and the poison grows during the summer. When the land is properly worked, it will grow excellent raisins, currants, and other fruit without irrigation.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: Before tea I was referring to the poison lands of Western Australia as suitable for fruit and currant growing. Western Australia is a country of surprises and peculiarities. Some of these poison lands will not grow a payable crop

of wheat or oats, and yet are excellent for growing currants and raisins, and especially stone fruit. At Woodanilling and also at Popanyinning some of the farmers have started currant growing. A Popanyinning man told me that he is planting an extra five acres every year, and that now currant growing is one of the best paying propositions he has on his farm. He thinks that in a few years' time currant growing will be his main line, with sheep raising and wheat growing as side lines. These people have taken £60 per acre off land for currants. Moreover, this climate is very suitable for sun drying.

Hon. J. Duffell: But they have to take the fruit in at night because the dews are too heavy.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: In this locality they find it sufficient to put the trays on top of one another at night. That protects them from a shower of rain.

Hon. J. Duffell: The dews do no damage at all?

Hon. J. A. GREIG: These people do not find any damage from that cause. The product is sold in Western Australian markets, and top prices are got for it. Thousands of acres of poison land are lying unused in close proximity to the railways, unused simply owing to the poison. I am indeed pleased that the Government have started in real earnest to introduce settlers. If we do not populate the country, we have no right to hold it. In the past a great drawback to production has been the inability of the farmer to get sufficient farm labourers. The man already on the land would have done much more development had he been able to secure sufficient assistance. Speaking in this House two years ago I prophesied that within five years Western Australia would be growing 40 million bushels of wheat. When I uttered that prophecy, however, I did not know that the Government would be so dilatory about surveying wheat lands. The wheat belt must be opened by surveying, and railways must be constructed to it, if the State is to become prosperous. I know that to-day our railways are not paying, but if the wheat belt is opened up it will be our method of salvation. We cannot remain as we are, with a deficit accumulating at the rate of about three-quarters of a million per annum. I again urge the Government to grasp the situation, to survey more land and build more railways. I consider that the State requires at least 25,000 immigrants annually for the next 10 years; that is, if the Ministry is composed of men big enough to grasp the significance of the position. Though we are stepping out very boldly with our immigration policy, this country is quite capable, in my opinion, of absorbing such numbers of people. The carrying out of that policy means that the Government must go in for a big borrowing policy; but they must be careful to see that the money they borrow is spent judiciously and wisely.

Hon. J. Duffell: In reproductive works.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: Yes; and there is no better reproductive work than the opening up of new country in the South-West and in the wheat belt. I do not advocate the opening up of the wheat belt only: I realise that we must open up every possible avenue of production in this State. The mining industry, too, must be encouraged, in common with every other form of primary production. Such a policy will put this State in a sound financial position. I shall not blame the Government for having as big deficits for the next five years as during the past five years if only they will get the country on a sound foundation for production by embarking on a policy of development works. So it will be rendered possible for Western Australia to overtake the deficit. Development and primary production should be the aim of every public man in the State, and any Government in power should be assisted to achieve those ends. All past Governments of Australia have failed to grasp the fact that the first essential towards the establishment of a powerful Australian nation is the creation of a contented and prosperous rural population. If the tariff were removed to-day, 90 per cent. of the protected industries would shut down within 12 months. Many people are of opinion that a better class of immigrant might have been obtained, men with more capital. From what I have gathered during the past two or three weeks, probably that impression is correct; but it must also be realised that if we had none but men with capital coming here, then we Australians would very soon have most of the capital and our Government would have on their hands a lot of disappointed immigrants—men who had come out here and had bought properties without the necessary knowledge of the properties to buy or what to do with them after they had been bought. Provided the men and women coming here from the Old Country are physically and mentally sound, they will soon produce wealth for their employers and for themselves. I should add, for the employers if the employers are given an opportunity of employing these people. To me it seems absolutely necessary that the Government should push on with their survey parties. If the surveyors required are not to be had in this State to-day, let us get men from the Eastern States, or even from overseas. But let us get the country surveyed: that is the main thing to do. So many people with capital have come to me during the past 12 months asking for land, that I feel certain we should be in a better financial position had we adopted a year or two ago the policy that I advocate. I regret one incident which has occurred since we met last year, namely, the building of the Como tram line. Not that I am opposed to the construction of that line. Probably it will pay in the future. Tramway extensions are necessary around the city. I am not going to advocate everything for the country and nothing for the city, but I certainly consider the Government ought to have let the municipalities take over the trams and build lines where they choose. My main objection

to the building of the Como tram is that the Premier and at least one other Minister gave a definite promise to members of Parliament that the line would not be built during recess.

Hon. T. Moore: It was a Country Party Minister, too.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: I do not care what party he belongs to; that makes no difference to me. If a definite promise of Ministers cannot be relied upon, then responsible Government has gone to the four winds of heaven. Since the Primary Producers' Conference we have heard a great deal from the "West Australian" about an outside party trying to upset responsible government; but we do not find that newspaper blaming the present Administration for having endangered constitutional government by ignoring a pledge definitely given to members of Parliament. It seems to me that the building of the Como tramway arose from the fact that the Trades Hall had succeeded in organising an army of unemployed and unemployables. The army marched to the office of the acting Premier, and possibly talked red revolution, and possibly the acting Premier saw the ghost of that piece of pig-iron which came over the side of the Fremantle bridge, and so in a moment of weakness the hon. gentleman promised to build the Como tram and to undertake other relief works at a cost of 13s. 4d. per day per man under conditions which I think would have prevented the men from earning half that amount of money if they had tried to earn it, the work being done at the wrong time of the year. However, the Government saw the error of their ways in that respect, and put the men on clearing, which is reproductive work.

Hon. T. Moore: Is this a good time for clearing in the South-West?

Hon. J. A. GREIG: This clearing is not in the South-West. I am referring to the men put on out at Newdegate, and other agricultural areas, clearing wheat lands, which are always chopped down during the winter and burnt up during the summer. But there is a parallel to the building of the Como tramway which is more serious from the financial point of view. I refer to the building of the Dwarda-Narrogin railway, which was authorised in 1915. Why the House ever passed it I cannot understand. This connection, 34 miles in length, is in between two other railways, and the settlers of the locality are already within 15 miles of a railway.

Hon. J. Mills: All of them?

Hon. J. A. GREIG: I do not know that any of them is more than 15 miles away. Those about half way along are within 14 miles of Williams. Apart from poison land, all the country along that route is already selected. The line is estimated to cost £140,000.

Hon. T. Moore: Is there not a large estate there, Wilkie's?

Hon. J. A. GREIG: Yes, but that is already served. That large estate was sold a little time ago at 4s. per acre. It contains 35,000 acres. Eight years ago I saw Mr.

Wilkie and asked him if he would lease me one of his paddocks. He said yes, I could have any paddock, or the whole 35,000 acres, if I would pay the Federal land tax. I asked how much per annum it represented, and he said a little under £200. Then I asked him if he would allow me to have 5,000 or 10,000 acres on the same terms. As the result of a two-day examination of the estate, I turned down the proposition because I could not see how I could make it pay, notwithstanding that a sum of £1 per acre had been spent on improvements. It was all fenced into paddocks, chiefly wire netting, water was provided in every paddock, there was a house, stock yards, sheep dips, windmills and every requirement. The point was that the poison had beaten him, and I knew it would beat me. Most of the country along the proposed line from Dwarda to Narrogin is rather better than that, but the unselected portion of it is similar. If that line be constructed—the Government have 20 or 30 men clearing along it—it will make a junction with Narrogin, and will shorten the distance to Narrogin by 17 miles. But I understand from the Railway Department that they will not send anything to Narrogin or from Narrogin to Perth by that route, because the grade through the Darling Range is one in 40. They say they can carry so much more tonnage the other way that they could not afford to use that line, although it is 17 miles shorter than the existing route, in consequence of which the people of Narrogin, and from Narrogin southward, can only be charged on the shorter route. Just think what it means! Here is a line, the building of which will really serve nobody. Yet 34 miles of line added to the Narembeen section would open up many thousands of acres of good wheat land, while 34 miles of line would just reach from Lake Grace to Newdegate or, added to the proposed Pingrup line would open up a vast area of good wheat land. I hope the Government will stop the construction of that line, and wait some time to see whether things will develop, to see whether we shall get sufficient immigrants to go in for closer settlement along the route to warrant the construction of the railway. I am only opposing this line because, in the interests of the State, we cannot afford to lose £140,000. The building of the Como tramway cost only £40,000, and the line may pay for itself, whereas this other line will not only fail to pay for itself, but it will render the working of the railway system more difficult than it is to-day, because the Government will lose 17 miles on all freight from Perth to Narrogin or any station south of Narrogin. The grade between Dwarda and Pinjarra is one of the worst in the State, and the curves are so short it will be impossible for an engine to haul a decent load. I hope the Leader of the House will put this question before Cabinet and ask his colleagues to reconsider it. Only to-day have I given notice of questions designed to elicit the opinion of heads of the Railway Department on this question. Since we criti-

cise the Commissioner of Railways as severely as he has been criticised, we ought to allow him a say in the running of the system. However, I would not favour leaving this line with its terminus at Dwarda. I suggest it should be continued 12 miles, turning northward by the river, to serve the number of old settlers who for 25 or 30 years have been carting 25 miles to Pingelly.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Was not a report on that line made recently?

Hon. J. A. GREIG: Yes, within the last fortnight. I hope to see that report before long, and I commend it to the attention of the Leader of the House. We have heard talk of pulling up the Sandstone and other railways. It seems to me ridiculous to suggest pulling up the Sandstone railway where we may tap a rich gold find any day, and at the same time to build a line from Dwarda to Narrogin, which may prove to be prejudicial to the profitable working of the railway system. Instead of that line, there are many others which the Government could have taken in hand, as for instance, the Narembeen-Merredin, the Katanning-Pingrup, the Margaret River and the Esperance lines. While I favour the building of authorised lines which will open up new settlement, I trust the Government will seriously consider the building of the connection between Armadale and Brookton. For many years past settlers have been developing the country 30 miles west of Brookton. I came through there the other day and was agreeably surprised to find the country was so good. At this end it is only ordinary range country, good for fruit. So much have we of good fruit country that we do not value it, although if it were in the Eastern States it would be bringing a good price.

Hon. T. Moore: Is there not a lot of poison there?

Hon. J. A. GREIG: No. About 20 miles out there is a little, but it is nothing like so bad as between Dwarda and Armadale, on the old Perth road. If this line were built, it would reduce the traffic on the Spencer's Brook line, and would also be the first section of a main trunk line running from Fremantle out east to the No. 1 rabbit proof fence.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: And it would reduce the mileage.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: Yes. We have a connection between Brookton and Corrigin. If that line were extended from Corrigin to Kondinin, it would bring Kondinin 74 miles nearer to Fremantle than it is to-day. Only a few weeks ago the Government threw open for selection before survey, land out east of Kondinin. According to the report there was not sufficient good land to warrant the building of a railway, so the Minister said that if they wanted the land they could select it before survey, but he would not promise the building of the line. In consequence, to-day men are out 40 miles, picking the eyes out of the

country. At about 90 miles out there is to be found the biggest patch of good wheat land I know of in Western Australia, some half-million acres in one lot. For 17 years the rainfall records have been kept along the rabbit-proof fence, and from those records it seen that the average rainfall there is 13 inches, of which 9 inches fall during the growing months. Wheat growers consider that an excellent rainfall. Many people went out east from Kondinin despite the understanding that no assistance would be given them. Only the other day a man came to me and said he had come from England 18 months ago, that he had worked for farmers for 12 months and had gained colonial experience, and had selected a block of land east of Kondinin upon which he had been working ever since. He told me his money had run out. He wanted to know if the Government would advance him enough to keep him in tucker if he went on clearing. He was prepared to stay on the land and work for the next five years for tucker only. He also asked if the Government would not give him 30s. an acre, whether they would advance him £1 an acre for clearing, and said that if they would do that he would stay on in the hope of getting a railway. I suggest to the Leader of the House that in a case of that sort and in that particular area the Government should say, "We will not promise you a railway until you have 100 settlers there. When 100,000 acres have been taken up and men are working on the land we will build you a railway." I am certain 100 settlers would soon go out there and improve their holdings. This man told me he would give me the names of some of the settlers already there, and the names of those who would go there if a railway was assured and Agricultural Bank assistance granted. I was at Kondinin about three months ago. The people told me that during one week about 20,000 acres had been selected, and that some of the settlers were 40 miles out. This shows how hungry men are for land in this State. The Railway Department have a dam at Kondinin of 20,000 cubic yards, which catches water from a flat rock of 10 acres in extent. I am informed by the department that the rock has crevices and fissures in it which allow the water to get away from the catchment, and the settlers tell me that the dam does not hold. I have inspected the dam and agree that it leaks. It holds about 7ft. of water, but does not fill any higher. There is an agricultural dam about eight chains below it of about 2,000 yards capacity, which holds well. I suggest that the Railway Department should put a pipe through from their main to the small dam, which fills and runs over for several weeks of the year, and use that water for railway purposes in the winter and thus save the water in the big dam for the summer. The Railway Department will not admit that the big dam leaks.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott: There are many leakages in the Railway Department.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: Apparently some Government departments are hostile to each other. I think the two departments concerned in this matter have now come to an understanding, and that something will be done. I ask the Leader of the House if he will have a sum of £1,000 put on the Estimates for a permanent water supply at Kondinin. I do not think it will cost that much. All the crevices can be cemented up, and the dam can be asphalted for less than that amount. Kondinin is a rising township, in a centre comprised of excellent wheat-growing land, and one of the best districts I have seen in the State. The water catchment around Kondinin is very bad. That is why I should like to see the Agricultural Department and the Railway Department join together in using the two dams in the way I have suggested. Last summer the farmers had to pay 4s. per hundred gallons from the Railway Department. The wheat-growing industry cannot afford to pay that, and the Railway Department cannot afford to cart water at a loss. I hope the Government will use their influence with the Federal authorities to induce them to give a rebate in the tariff on articles essential to the successful development and settlement of our State. It is not fair that we should have to pay such high duty on rails when these are required for the development of the country. If the Federal authorities desire to foster local industry, it would be better to give the iron manufacturers of Australia a bonus rather than to charge every State this excessive duty on iron rails and the like. When the local market is supplied with the produce of the settlers these people will be compelled to sell on the overseas markets, and compete with the cheap labour of other countries, in some cases black labour. The Australian primary producer could hold his own against the world if the world were all free trade. Because of the climatic conditions he can put in and take off more wheat than any other man. The adverse conditions under which we have been compelled to produce wheat have caused us to invent more up-to-date machinery than is found anywhere else. The conditions also make it possible to use big machines. At Kondinin a man put in over 800 acres himself with a Sunshine cultivator drill. The excessive tariff, over which we have no control, is crippling Australia. Mention has been made in the Press about the drift to the city. Until the Government can do something to make country life more attractive, and assist people to become more prosperous in the country, this drift will continue. The only way to make the State prosperous is to induce people to go on the land and to keep them there. I hope the Government will endeavour to sell the State trading concerns. The function of government should be to govern. When the Government step in against private enterprise it means driving private enterprise out of the country. When the State enterprises were first started we thought the cost of articles would be reduced to the consumer. The State Sawmills, for in-

stance, have tended to increase the price of timber instead of to reduce it.

Hon. T. Moore: That is because they joined the combine.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: The Minister in charge naturally tries to make the undertaking pay, and joined the combine in order to keep the price up. A number of farmers have been buying their machines from the State Implement Works, and some feared that if the Government sold the works it would not be possible to get duplicate parts. That difficulty could be overcome by the insertion of a clause in the agreement between vendor and purchaser that the purchaser must supply duplicate parts for so many years, say, for the life of the present machines. It is ridiculous to think that a purchaser of the State Implement Works would not manufacture duplicate parts. At all events, the price could be fixed at which the duplicate parts must be sold. I agree with the policy of building workers' homes. It is a State undertaking which has proved successful and of great benefit to the workers. The Government should provide better homes for the farmers. There are farmers who are living in shacks, and whose wives have reared families under dreadful conditions. I have no desire that they should have elaborate homes, which will keep them hard at work for the rest of their lives in paying off the capital, but I do ask that the farmers should be given homes as good as are given to the workers in the city. This will tend to make them more content and lessen the drift to the metropolitan area. I desire to assist the Government in every way to make this immigration scheme a success. I am not opposed to the Government. A few weeks ago the "West Australian" quoted me amongst others as being opposed to the Government. I have never been opposed to them and I have always done my best to assist them. I may have criticised them, but it has never been obstructive criticism or such as to hinder them in their work. I have always endeavoured to make my criticism of a helpful nature. I appeal to all people in the State to assist in making this scheme a success. I admire the good work of the New Settlers League. Had it not been for that practical body of men coming to the assistance of the Government, we would have been in great difficulty to-day. The league does not allow politics to enter into its business. It has done splendid work, and I was so pleased with what had been achieved by the league that I joined it the other day in order to assist in rendering help to the Government. If the people do not join together in helping the Government the immigration scheme will be a deplorable failure. If it is a failure, I can see nothing ahead of Western Australia but failure for many years to come.

On motion by Hon. G. Potter, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 22nd August, 1922.

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

ELECTORAL—SWAN VACANCY.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have a letter from the Minister for Justice (Hon. H. P. Colebatch) as follows:—

Electoral Act, 1907, Section 66 (4b)—I have to inform you that Hon. Richard Stanley Sampson, member of the Legislative Assembly for the Swan electoral district, has accepted an office of profit under the Crown, to wit, the office of Colonial Secretary. Will you be good enough, therefore, to issue your warrant for the vacancy thus created.

It is necessary for a motion to be passed declaring vacant the Swan seat.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.33]: I move—

That owing to the acceptance of an office of profit under the Crown, the seat of the member for Swan be declared vacant.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Tenth Day.

Debate resumed from the 17th August.

Mr. DURACK (Kimberley) [4.35]: The conclusion I have drawn from the speeches that have been delivered during the debate is that the subject overshadowing all others is immigration. With other members, I congratulate the Premier on the success which attended his visit to the Old Country. He proved himself a worthy ambassador in our cause. Since his return hope and confidence have radiated throughout the State. It is also noticeable that there has been an improvement in the business affairs of the city and the country. Many of us, if we are not prosperous already, feel that we are becoming prosperous.

Hon. P. Collier: Probably you have good ground for feeling that.

Mr. DURACK: At all events it is something to feel that we are prosperous. I was present at the reception given to the Premier at the Melrose Theatre. He told us in his usual optimistic way that the greatest work had been done in getting the money. I give him every credit for that, but I feel the greatest work is ahead of us, that of placing the immigrants on the land.

Hon. T. Walker: That is so.