

their work as it should be carried out. The Minister has the last say in the matter. He will decide whether a body is fit to be entrusted with this means of raising money. I hope the second reading of the Bill will be passed. I believe we could make it a workable measure.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH (North-East—in reply) [9.21]: I thank hon. members for the interest they have displayed in this Bill, but I would thank them a great deal more if they would vote for the second reading. The practice of selling tickets for raffles and art unions has been abused in the past and is illegal, though it has been countenanced up to the present by the authorities. This Bill seeks to alter that position. Mr. Sanderson lays stress on the education of our children. The proposed amendment is intended to protect the children. At present they are allowed to sell tickets from house to house and from person to person, and solicit money for various objects. This should not be allowed any longer. Children should not be engaged in selling tickets in lotteries, raffles, and art unions. Members who are opposed to lotteries have carefully avoided the fact that hundreds of thousands of pounds go out of the State every year to other States of the Commonwealth. Even the Leader of the House avoided that question. The Minister for Education has referred to the raising of £600 in half an hour for the Children's Hospital. This money was raised by sporting members of the community, and Mr. P. A. Connolly headed the list with £100. If it had not been for these gentlemen the hospital would have found great difficulty in raising the money. The sporting community of the metropolitan area have taken a prominent part in the Ugly Men's Association, but the willing horse has been ridden to death. Some other means must be provided for the raising of money for these deserving objects. No doubt some of these organisations that are at the back of this institution have in their minds the raising of money by these lotteries. If their work is retarded it will cause great hardship to certain sections of the community.

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

Ayes .. .. .	10
Noes .. .. .	13

Majority against .. 3

#### AYES.

Hon. R. G. Ardagh	Hon. A. Lovekin
Hon. V. Hammersley	Hon. T. Moore
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. A. H. Panton
Hon. J. W. Hickey	Hon. Str E. H. Wittenoom
Hon. J. W. Kirwan	Hon. F. A. Baglin
	(Teller.)

#### NOES.

Hon. H. P. Colebatch	Hon. J. Mills
Hon. J. Duffell	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. J. Ewlog	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. J. A. Greig	Hon. A. J. H. Saw
Hon. J. J. Holmes	Hon. H. Stewart
Hon. C. McKenzie	Hon. A. Sanderson
Hon. G. W. Miles	(Teller.)

#### PART.

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. J. E. Dodd

Question thus negatived; the Bill defeated.

### BILL—LAND TAX AND INCOME TAX.

#### Assembly's Message.

Message received from the Assembly notifying that it had agreed to make the amendment requested by the Council subject to the modification set out in the schedule.

### BILL—STATE CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT.

#### Assembly's Message.

Message received from the Assembly notifying that it had agreed to the Council's modification of the amendment made by the Council to amendment No. 2 made by the Assembly.

House adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 26th October, 1931.

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

### QUESTION—PUBLIC SERVICE RE-CLASSIFICATION BOARD.

Mr. PICKERING (for Mr. A. Thomson) asked the Premier: 1, How many days has the Public Service Reclassification Board sat? 2, What has been the total cost of the board to the 20th October?

The PREMIER replied: 1, The Public Servants' and Teachers' Appeal Board has held 73 public sittings and 25 private sittings. 2, Approximately £955.

### QUESTIONS (2)—OIL POSSIBILITIES, KIMBERLEY.

#### *Thorough Geological Survey.*

Mr. J. THOMSON asked the Premier: In view of the report furnished by Professor David to the "Sydney Daily Telegraph" of the 17th inst., in which he states that the "Kimberley region is far more settled in its structures than that of Papua and so should in this respect have the advantage over the latter region (Papua) in the existence of oil beds," will he, as Premier, while in Melbourne, make strong representations to the Commonwealth Government to have a thorough geological survey made as soon as possible under the auspices of Professor Sir Edgeworth David?

The PREMIER replied: We have a competent geological staff connected with our Mines Department. I shall discuss the matter of oil discoveries generally with the Prime Minister while in Melbourne if opportunity can be found.

#### *Company Formation and Government Control.*

Mr. J. THOMSON asked the Colonial Secretary, representing the Minister for Mines: In view of the fact that a number of oil companies have been floated and others are about to be floated for the purpose of boring for petroleum, would it not be in the interests of the State to exercise some Government control in the selection of sites under scientific supervision in order to obviate the possible loss of money and subsequent damage to the future prospects of the North-Western portion of this State?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: Subsection 4, Section 7, of "The Mining Act Amendment Act, 1920," provides for action in the direction suggested by the hon. member, and reads as follows:—"Every licensee shall furnish to the Minister monthly reports of the work done in searching for mineral oil, and if he discovers mineral oil, or any indication that renders the presence of mineral oil probable, he shall immediately report the discovery to the Minister. On any such discovery being made the Minister may direct the future working by the licensee, to such extent as may be necessary to guard against loss or waste of mineral oil, and such directions when given in writing by the Minister to the licensee shall be observed and

carried into effect by him. If a licensee makes default in the observance of this subsection in any respect, the Minister may cancel the license." Every assistance that can be justifiably extended to the licensees has been granted, and this policy will be continued.

### QUESTION—CATTLE SHIPMENT, WYNDHAM.

Mr. McCALLUM asked the Premier, representing the Minister for North-West: 1, Has his attention been called to the recent loading of cattle at Wyndham for Manila, in which it is reported that coloured labour was employed and the operations occupied four days to load 500 head, resulting in the loss of over 100 cattle in addition to the serious deterioration of the remainder of the shipment? 2, In view of the serious effect this happening is likely to have on future trade with Manila, will he take the necessary action to ensure the employment of white labour on this work in the future?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Exhaustive inquiries are being made with a view to such action being taken as may be necessary to insure that cattle shall be loaded under humane conditions. File herewith sets out circumstances. The loss will fall on Manila purchasers, and should teach them a lesson.

### QUESTION—RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT, LECTURER'S BONA FIDES.

Mr. TEESDALE asked the Premier: 1, Have the Government any information as to the bona fides of a gentleman now lecturing throughout the State on the subject of the Allies' hostility to the Russian Soviet Government? 2, If so, will the information be made available to the House?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1.

### JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—FEDERATION AND THE STATE.

#### *Extension of time.*

On motion by Mr. Angelo, the time for bringing up the report of the Committee was extended to Wednesday, 23rd November.

### PAPERS—A. C. KESSELL, RETIREMENT.

On motion by Capt. Carter (Leederville), ordered: That all papers in connection with the retirement of A. Colenso Kessell be laid on the Table of the House.

### PAPERS—"KANGAROO," ALTERATIONS.

On motion by Mr. Underwood (Pilbara) ordered: That all papers relating to the alterations of the State motor ship "Kangaroo" be laid upon the Table of the House.

## ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Electoral Act Amendment.
- 2, Fremantle Lands.
- 3, Official Trustee.

## BILL—NORTH FREMANTLE RATES VALIDATION.

Introduced by Minister for Works and read a first time.

## BILL—INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

### Second Reading.

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [4.40]: It will be seen from a perusal of the Bill that I am not attempting any comprehensive amendment of the existing legislation. I merely propose to extend its operations to a section of workers at present not included within its scope. The function of framing a comprehensive amending measure to the existing Arbitration Act is one for which the Government should take the responsibility. My immediate concern is to have the provisions of the Act extended to include a section of workers who have been excluded. Regarding the general principle of arbitration, I believe we are at a critical stage just now, and I would not be inclined to tamper too much with the existing law at the present moment. I believe we shall put the principle of arbitration to a real and very critical test during the next year or two. We are now on a falling market. The principle of arbitration has served us to a considerable extent with benefit to the community at large during recent years with a rising market. Now that there is a falling market, the principle will be put to a more severe test. The cry is being raised throughout Australia and throughout the world that wages must come down, and in order to achieve that end some people are taking up the stand that arbitration should be abolished. Although those people say that wages should come down because prices are said to be decreasing, nothing was heard from those same people while prices were soaring, that wages should go up too. The hue and cry throughout Australia that wages must come down is because, it is said, the cost of living is coming down. I would remind people who raise that cry that the effective wage throughout the Commonwealth is not now equal to what it was in 1914 and the increase in wages has not kept pace with the increased cost of commodities. In that case, the worker is worse off to-day and is not in such an advantageous position regarding the spending power of his money as he was prior to the war.

The Minister for Works: The taxpayers are worse off to-day than ever they were.

Mr. McCALLUM: That is not correct.

The Minister for Works: I know it is correct.

Mr. McCALLUM: The wealth of the country has increased by £250,000,000 and it has not gone into the pockets of the workers. This

has been produced by the workers and has gone into the pockets of a few, and the workers are worse off than they were before the 250 millions of wealth was produced.

The Minister for Works: I say the taxpayers are worse off.

Mr. McCALLUM: Well, the taxpayers are the wage earners. I agree that they are worse off, but the community who live on the products of the working men are to-day better off than they were before. I have supported the principle of arbitration and will continue to do so until such time as we can devise better means. But while the people are talking of establishing a basic wage, and while the argument is raging around the question of wages boards as against arbitration or some other system, there is no talk of a basic profit. No argument is put up to the effect that the profits derived from the efforts of the workers should be in any way limited. It cannot be expected for a moment that the workers of this State or of Australia or of any other part of the world are going to be satisfied with their wage limit, while the rest of the community have absolutely no limit placed upon what they can earn or the profits they can extract from the industries of the country. Those who argue that the Arbitration Court should be abolished and that all restrictions regarding the fixation of wages and control of industrial conditions should be wiped out are the same people who, during recent years when prices were rising, when the labour market was in a different position, and when skilled workers were scarce and could command almost any wages they asked, condemned the workers when they struck instead of going to the Arbitration Court, as disloyalists and enemies to their country. They were called direct actionists, and in some cases it was advocated that they should be deported.

Capt. Carter: What section is seeking the abolition of arbitration?

Mr. McCALLUM: The Premiers of two States, at any rate.

Capt. Carter: Total abolition?

Mr. McCALLUM: Yes, of State and Commonwealth arbitration. These men are the heads of their respective States and are responsible men. These very men were loud in their condemnation of the unions when they took direct action, and now they are asking to be given a free hand, and are telling us that the stand which the so-called direct actionists took in those times was the correct one.

Mr. Richardson: They have gone over to the Labour Party evidently.

Mr. McCALLUM: I have never known the Labour Party to stand for direct action.

Mr. Munsie: Never anywhere in Australia.

Mr. McCALLUM: I have attended many Labour conferences in the Commonwealth in the last 20 years and I can speak for the trades unions. I have never known one representative Labour gathering to pass a resolution supporting direct action as against arbitration.

Mr. Munsie: They never have done so.

Mr. J. Thomson: What about the last strike in Kalgoorlie?

Mr. McCALLUM: I am not referring to particular strikes. I do not deny that I have been at the head of strikes, but when it is stated that the Labour Party support direct action,

that is not correct. We have never stood for direct action. When any representative Labour body was called together to give a decision, on all occasions arbitration was supported as against direct action. These people who now wish to wipe out arbitration think they are on the box seat. They think the position of the labour market is such that, by a process of economic embarrassment to the workers who will not be able to secure employment, thus causing hunger and want, they will be able to force the workers to accept wages which no court of justice would accept as fair. This is the reason they think they can take advantage of the present industrial situation. They want a free hand to be able to use the force they can wield on a falling market and with an over-stocked labour market and with industries stagnant to compel the workers to accept something which no court in the land would lay down as just. I want to make my position perfectly clear. I have supported arbitration, and I think I have been at the head of as many strikes in this country as any other man. I suppose I have not seen the last of the strikes. I have been accused of creating more strikes than any one man in this country.

The Minister for Works: Have not you done so?

Mr. McCALLUM: Only on one occasion have I advised any body of workers to strike, and that was a body of girls. Only on this one occasion have I ever advised of my own volition any body of workers to cease work, and those girls won quickly and are to-day enjoying the best industrial conditions and wages of any girls similarly employed in Australia.

Mr. Johnston: Was that in the printing trade?

Mr. McCALLUM: No, hotel and restaurant employees.

Mr. Teesdale: How many are out of employment through that action?

Mr. McCALLUM: None; there are more employed than ever there were before.

Mr. Munsie: More than when they came out on strike. There are 70 more in the metropolitan area alone.

Mr. McCALLUM: If there are any out of work, it is not due to any action taken at the time of the strike. I wish to make my position perfectly clear. I have stood for arbitration. I have had to fight for it in the movement and outside the movement, and I propose to stick to it until a better method is devised by which we can adjust our differences. So long as the present social system lasts, I am afraid it will be a most difficult task. The fixation of wages by law is an absolutely degrading position in which to place the worker of any country. We have the spectacle of three men sitting on the bench, before whom the workers, men, women and children have to give evidence and be cross-examined as to how many loaves of bread, how many pairs of boots, how many suits of clothes and how many articles of clothing they require. They are questioned as to how much money they want to spend on the education of their children, and whether they cannot cut the education expense down by a shilling or two, whether they cannot do with a loaf of bread less per week or an article of clothing less per year.

Mr. Teesdale: It is your representative who gives the lead in those things.

Mr. McCALLUM: I have given instances in this House before. I have stood in that court on more than one occasion and have felt ashamed and disgusted at having to take part in the proceedings where a man, who now represents the Country Party on the wheat board, put girls through a most humiliating cross-examination as to the cost of their clothing and the amount needed. He, the best dressed man in this State, cross-examined girls as to the cost of their costumes and how long they were likely to last and whether they could not do with something cheaper. When he received an answer in the negative, and was informed that if they did not dress up to the standard they could not possibly hold their positions, he asked them whether, when their costumes grew shabby they did not turn them inside out and use the other side. That is the kind of humiliation to which employers are subjecting workers in the court.

Mr. Teesdale: How many have admitted they have been coached by the unions representatives?

Mr. McCALLUM: Coached by the unions representatives! Fancy talking of that when employers' agents go into the court and their witnesses have type-written questions and answers supplied by firms of solicitors which they read off in the court. How often have I witnessed that kind of thing. The whole system of having to prove what it costs to live, whether a family can do on a loaf of bread less per week or whether it is not possible to deprive the children of so much education, is degrading.

The Minister for Works: They never ask them about a loaf of bread less.

Mr. McCALLUM: They do. What is the use of the Minister arguing in that way? Have not the unions to produce documents, the butcher's, baker's and grocer's bills and particulars of the house rent, and is not each receipt questioned item by item? Does not the Minister know that? There is not an article in daily consumption regarding which the workers are not cross-examined and asked whether they cannot cut it out.

The Minister for Works: They are never asked to do with less bread for their children. I am satisfied about that.

Mr. McCALLUM: In how many cases have we been told that the working men are spending too much on their children?

The Minister for Works: Not on their food.

Mr. McCALLUM: Yes, on their food and education. How many times has it been put up that a workman has no right to spend money to allow his children to learn music? How often has it been said that the workers' children have no right to enjoy these higher attainments?

The Minister for Works: I am speaking of food.

Mr. McCALLUM: And food comes in with all the other items which have to be explained.

Hon. P. Collier: The wages are to fix their food supply.

Mr. McCALLUM: Of course. What is mainly the argument used against arbitration proceedings? Is not it all based on the statistician's figures? The statistician says that the cost of commodities has declined by .2 per cent. and the wages must come down. Why do they come down? Because of the decreased cost of com-

modities. Yesterday morning the newspaper contained particulars of groceries showing that these articles had come down in price. This was published within a few hours of the decrease taking place.

The Minister for Works: The quantities would not be less.

Mr. McCALLUM: Does not that amount to the same thing? What other explanation is there? Will the Minister deny that the effective wage paid, according to the statistician's figures, is less than it was in 1914?

The Minister for Works: I cannot speak as to that, but I do not believe that there is ever any suggestion to reduce the food of the children.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will have an opportunity to speak later on.

Mr. McCALLUM: I think my experience in the Arbitration Court will compare at least with that of the Minister.

The Minister for Works: Yes, but not in the way you put it.

Mr. McCALLUM: Or with that of any other member of this House. I am giving my own personal experiences. I know the position I have had to face; I know the arguments I have had to meet; I know what accounts and documents I have had to produce. It is of no use saying that this sort of thing does not exist when I have had to meet it on so many occasions. To say that the workers are to be confined to a mere wage that will provide sufficient to keep body and soul together and enable them to carry out their work, leaving nothing over, is a degrading system and, if it is at all possible, something better should be devised to replace it. This is the stand I take regarding arbitration. At present I am not able to propose anything better, but I wish to improve the system. I wish to suggest an improvement to the existing law, and to see the law made more effective. I wish to see it improved in order that the position of the great mass of the community may be improved, and that our local industries may be helped. I wish to get away from the system of strikes. I have never entered into a strike with any feeling of pleasure but always with a great deal of anxiety and worry, knowing what it means to a man holding the position which I held in the movement. No one has greater abhorrence of strikes than I have. Much as I dislike arbitration, I dislike strikes more, and I want to secure a system which will be effective in settling conditions without strikes. I am sorry that the Government have taken no action to adopt the ideas I expressed in my opening speech in this House or some modification of them. I made one or two proposals to the Government which did not need any amendment of the law. What I suggested could have been done by an administrative act which, in my judgment, would have facilitated the work of the court, and would have made for smooth working, and allowed the unions to get over difficulties in an easier and quicker way than they are able to do at the present time. I hope the Government will be able to see their way to adopt the suggestions I have put forward. The first one is that a permanent president of the court shall be appointed, a president who will be able to devote the whole of his time and attention to making the law effective, and who will work in the interests of industrial peace.

Capt. Carter: Appoint him for life.

Mr. McCALLUM: I would be prepared to go even that far. We should have in the position a man who will make the study of economics his life's work. Such a man would be an invaluable member of the community. Up to the present time we have had presidents who have been in and out.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Bill does not affect that position.

Mr. McCALLUM: I thought I would be permitted to deal with the principles generally. I was hopeful that the Government would see their way clear to take some action in that connection which would be to the advantage of all the parties who had business with the court. That suggestion has had the approval of the Employers' Federation as well as that of the trades unions, and when both sides see the advantage of such a proposal, there should be no hesitation on the part of the Government to put it into force at the earliest moment. The position now is that a president may give a decision in one way to-day, and a month hence we may have another judge interpreting the law in the opposite direction. Up to the present time not one president has occupied his position with the intention of retaining it permanently. Each one has been anxious to get away from it at the earliest opportunity.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They go on strike.

Mr. McCALLUM: I believe one president issued an ultimatum to the Government. Another, after putting in his resignation as president, asserted that there were not enough bullocks in Western Australia to drag him back. I hope that a permanent appointment will be made, and that the president will recognise that he has been given a life job, that he must make a special study of the work and devote his whole attention to it. The president of the court should be freed from the ordinary routine work of the Supreme Court. The other suggestion is in connection with the administrative work. The Government have an excellent officer in the person of the clerk of the court, but that officer has no staff to do the work, and neither has he any conveniences. I have been at that court to attend a compulsory conference when the sole accommodation was four chairs for about 30 people. There is not even a cupboard there in which to store the records. In fact everything is neglected there. Half the work is done at the court and the other half at the Registrar's office. The work should be centralised. The object of the Bill is merely to extend the operations of the existing Act and to cover a section which is not at present included. The first portion deals with insurance agents. Hon. members will know that some years ago this class of worker applied for registration under the Act. The application was refused and they were told that their relationship with the insurance people was not that of master and servant, nor that of employer and employee. Owing to their being ruled out in this way they negotiated with the employers for some time, and ultimately they went on strike. The strike lasted for some weeks and eventually an agreement was arrived at and work was resumed. Between the time the previous decision was given and the period at which they went on strike, there had been a decision given in

Queensland where similar employees had been brought under the law. The definition under the Queensland Act is more limited than our own, and the employees here thought, owing to the decision in Queensland, that they too would have a chance of being included under the existing law. They decided to chance a case and put it up to the new president of the court. They made application to be registered as an industrial organisation, but their application met with the same fate as the previous one. The judge ruled that they held the position not as workers to their employers, but merely as agents of their employers, and that they did not come within the scope of the definition of worker as the term was defined in the existing law.

The Colonial Secretary: They get a fixed salary and commission.

Mr. Richardson: Will this have the effect of making them all salaried men?

Mr. McCALLUM: No. I do not think there is any chance of the companies putting them on a salary. This class of work is confined to what is known as the industrial section of the insurance companies. It does not include the ordinary agent who opens a little store and does insurance business as a side line. These are industrial agents as they are called, who canvass for business from door to door. They collect weekly payments and go out over allotted districts. Each one is given a book of a certain value.

Capt. Carter: What is it worth?

Mr. McCALLUM: The rates differ, but at the termination of the strike the companies agreed to give these people what they called a £20 book. That would allow a man to collect £20 each week. That, with a certain amount of business they would get, would bring them in £4 a week. The companies in their agreement said they would guarantee to these employees a minimum of £4 a week. The companies have now even repudiated that, and have not kept up to that guarantee.

Capt. Carter: Did they get that registered?

Mr. McCALLUM: They are not a registered organisation. I want to give them a legal standing so that they may be able to take their case to the court, and have their wages and conditions of labour fixed by the court just as is done with other sections of the community. This class of worker has had no increase in the rates of commission or pay since the insurance business was first established in this country. Only one company, the T. & G., recently increased the rates to a slight extent, but there is nothing to stop them removing that increase. As a matter of fact, some of the tables have been altered which make it harder for these people to earn the wages that they were earning a year or two ago. If there is a line of business that can afford to pay a better remuneration to its employees, it certainly is the insurance business. I do not think there is a chance of getting a fixed salary for the employees, because they have to suit their hours to the work. When they are engaged they sign an agreement, and I will defy any hon. member, unless he has had many years of experience in connection with insurance business, to understand what it means. If would require a Philadelphia lawyer to determine what it means. One of the clauses reads—

That this agreement contains the whole of the terms of the agency existing between the society and the agents and that it is intended here that the relationship shall be strictly that of principal and agent and not in any way that of employer and employee.

By signing that, these unfortunate people have contracted themselves out of the Arbitration Court. Although the Act says that there can be no such contracting the president of the court confined his decision to this document, and did not take into account the wording of our own law. I see no way out of the difficulty but to name the agents specifically as workers, so that there will then be no further argument.

The Colonial Secretary: I do not know how you will fix their wages because each town has 12 or 13 agents engaged in other businesses.

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter can be discussed in Committee.

Mr. McCALLUM: It will be confined to the industrial insurance business, to those who are canvassing from door to door and doing nothing else. The man who keeps a store and does insurance work as a side line will not be affected. If the Minister reads the clause he will find it says, "and who are principally employed in such work." A storekeeper who does insurance agency business as a side line is not engaged principally in insurance work, but principally in storekeeping. The Crown Solicitor has drafted the clause, and he assures me that it will not cover all the agents, as suggested by the Colonial Secretary.

The Minister for Works: The Crown Solicitor is not always right.

Mr. McCALLUM: I have given the clause a good deal of thought, and I fail to see how the Colonial Secretary's contention can be maintained. I do not wish to enter into a discussion as to how the agents' rates of pay and conditions of employment shall be fixed. Those matters have been settled by arbitration awards in the Eastern States, and the same thing can be done here.

Mr. Teesdale: The agents do not want rates of wages.

Mr. McCALLUM: No. They will ask for a commission, and the commission will be left to the determination of the Arbitration Court. That court fixes the remuneration of employees, whether it be in the form of wages or of commission.

The Colonial Secretary: Some agents could earn £500 in a month, whereas others only earn £15.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! That matter can be discussed in Committee.

Mr. McCALLUM: The measure does not refer to ordinary life insurance business, but simply to what is well known as industrial insurance, which consists of canvassing from door to door for weekly payments, whereas the ordinary life insurance companies adopt quarterly or half-yearly or annual premiums.

Capt. Carter: These industrial agents can do general work.

Mr. McCALLUM: They might do general work to the extent of a pound or two in the year. It counts for nothing. Their work is almost entirely industrial insurance. If industrial arbitration applies to one section of workers, it should apply to all sections. The

insurance companies are the wealthiest concerns in Australia, and can afford to pay their employees fair remuneration. At present those companies impose on their employees conditions which no other workers have to put up with. Before appointment, an industrial insurance agent has to put up a deposit of £25 cash, or provide two bondsmen at £25 each. If an agent writes new business and any of it lapses within five years of its being first written, he has to pay back the whole of the commission collected by him on that business. Indeed, the same thing applies in the case of an agent who takes over a district from another canvasser, in the event of some of that canvasser's business lapsing within five years of its being first written. These amounts are deducted from the deposit, and on leaving the employment of an insurance company an agent sometimes finds that the whole of his deposit has been absorbed in that way. Some of the companies, I should mention, limit the period of lapsing to two or three years. During the negotiations at the time of the industrial trouble, the companies undertook that nothing should be charged against the canvassers in respect of any business which lapsed owing to the cessation of work. However, the companies have repudiated that undertaking and are deducting in respect of lapses which have resulted from the industrial trouble. I hope the House will agree to include this class of workers in the Industrial Arbitration Act. They have made two applications to the Arbitration Court, but have been excluded, mainly owing to the nature of the agreement which the companies compel them to sign. The measure also proposes to include in the definition of "worker" the employees of clubs. In my judgment, the definition now includes club employees; but some doubt exists on the point. An argument is put up as regards residential clubs—which are not proprietary clubs—that their employees are exempt under our existing law, which excludes domestic workers, because a residential club represents a home set up in common by a number of men instead of each of them setting up a home for himself. Thus it is contended that the employees of residential clubs are excluded from the Arbitration Act, and that they are engaged in domestic work. I consider that all clubs should be compelled to observe the same conditions and pay the same wages as hotels and coffee palaces. Queensland and New South Wales include club employees in the industrial arbitration law. They have been ruled out here on one occasion, and there is a probability that they will be ruled out again. Paragraph (b) of Clause 2 proposes to strike out the only exemption in our existing Arbitration Act, namely the exemption of persons engaged in domestic service. I know it will be said this is a far-reaching amendment. Undoubtedly it is. But it is an exemption that is being abused. Here is another example of the disadvantage of having various presidents of the Arbitration Court giving varying decisions. There was the case of a wealthy squatter in King's Park-road employing a painter to paint his fence. He employed the painter direct, and not through a firm. The court held that the painter was engaged on domestic work, and that therefore the employer was not obliged to pay him the minimum rate of wages for painters.

The court held that that man was not employed in the painting industry. Were he employed in painting the squatter's shearing shed, the squatter would have to pay him the arbitration rate. Judge Burnside, however, ruled that this employer was not engaged in the painting trade for profit, but employed the painter in domestic work, and he therefore did not come within the scope of the definition of "worker" under the Industrial Arbitration Act.

Mr. Mann: Was he not doing gardening as well?

Mr. McCALLUM: No. But there is no reason why a gardener should not be under that Act.

Mr. Mann: But there are different awards for gardeners and painters.

Mr. McCALLUM: This instance shows the limits to which the existing law can be stretched in the matter of exemption. I therefore propose that all domestic workers shall be included within the scope of the Act. I am specially anxious with regard to the insurance agents, who are a body of workers employed under wages and conditions that no other body of workers have to put up with. Their work is hard and laborious—tramping a district from door to door day in and day out; and yet wealthy companies deny them the right to approach the Arbitration Court for adjustment of wages and conditions. The manner of adjustment will be left entirely to the court, of course; but I want all these workers brought within the scope of the existing law, so that they will be at liberty to appeal to an impartial tribunal for redress of their grievances. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Minister for Works, debate adjourned.

## BILL—RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS.

Received from the Legislative Council, and read a first time.

## BILLS (2)—RETURNED FROM THE COUNCIL.

- 1, Administration Act Amendment.  
Without amendment.
- 2, Wheat Marketing.  
With requested amendments.

## BILL—STATE CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's modifications.

A message having been received from the Council notifying that it had agreed to amendment No. 1, made by the Legislative Assembly, and to amendment No. 2 subject to modifications in which the concurrence of the Assembly was desired, those modifications were now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; Hon. W. C. Angwin in charge of the Bill.

'Clause 12.—Strike out the words "be admissible" and insert the words "be maliciously disclosed to any person or admitted"; and strike out the words "any official or other person who wilfully makes public or is privy to making public the fact that any child has been committed or convicted under this Act, shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence."

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: When the Bill was previously before the Committee a new clause to stand as Clause 12 was inserted on the motion of the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan). That new clause, as it left this Committee read—

"Whenever any child who has been committed to the care of the State, or who has been committed to an institution, or who has been convicted under this Act, attains the age of 18 years, the fact of such commitment or conviction shall not be admissible as evidence in any court of law. Any official or other person who wilfully makes public, or is privy to making public, the fact that any child has been committed or convicted under this Act shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence. Penalty: One hundred pounds."

Now the Council propose to strike out the words "be admissible" and to insert in lieu thereof "be maliciously disclosed to any person or admitted." During the discussion in this Committee it was thought that the word "wilfully" would have got over the difficulty. The second modification is to strike out the words "any official or other person who wilfully makes public or is privy to making public the fact that any child has been committed or convicted under this Act shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence." I think this, while making the position clearer, will equally well carry out the desires of members of this Committee. It was not intended that any person who made a statement about a child should be prosecuted unless it was done maliciously and wilfully. Therefore I move—

That the Council's modifications be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES 1921-22.

##### In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair.

Education Department; Hon. H. P. Colbatch, Minister (Hon. Sir James Mitchell, Premier, in charge of the Estimates):

Vote—Education £529,946.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5-35]: It will be noticed that there is an estimated increase in expenditure of £39,786. The total expenditure on education is estimated to be £529,946.

Mr. Underwood: That is not the total.

The PREMIER: It is the total under this Vote. It seems a very large sum, but there have been material increases in wages, salaries, and costs generally. In 1915 the expenditure

amounted to £312,298 and the cost of furniture, fuel, light, travelling, etc., totalled £31,000. As a matter of fact we then had 622 schools, whereas to-day we have 684. The children then numbered 46,000, whereas to-day their number is 49,000. Last year the Vote was exceeded by £34,000, due almost entirely to increased salaries and wages, amounting to £29,462, while the increased cost of supplies represented £1,970. The increase for this year as against last year is again due largely to increased salaries, representing £29,000, while driving allowances to children, together with incidentals, will reach an additional thousand pounds. The driving allowance is a very good system. It applies only to children living more than three miles away from a school. It is cheaper for the department to provide the driving allowance than to open new schools. And, apart altogether from that aspect, the more children that can be congregated at one school, the better the grade of that school. If the system could be largely extended without additional cost to the department, it would be of considerable advantage to the children.

Mr. Pickering: There is no objection to it.

The PREMIER: I hope not. Nevertheless we occasionally hear criticism of it. The department drives children to school because it is cheaper and, as I say, it allows the provision of better grade schools.

Mr. Underwood: Under the system a man could earn his living driving his children to school.

The PREMIER: Then he would have to live on boiled rice. Further contributions to the increase are—arrear following reclassification £3,000, Narrogin Farm School £3,000, and new schools, exhibitions and scholarships £4,000. The Modern school is being enlarged for the taking over of the senior classes from James street, and the Northam High school is being staffed. Then there has been the establishment of high schools in country centres. The member for Kanowna (Hon. T. Walker) will be delighted to know that the schools in which he is so much interested are being opened in country centres so that country children may receive the advantage of higher education.

Hon. P. Collier: He started the system.

The PREMIER: May be, but we are now extending it. We can only proceed step by step, and certainly the establishment of these high schools in country centres constitutes a step in the right direction. If I were the member for Williams-Narrogin I would say—"The children of this magnificent centre—meaning Narrogin—where there are thousands of most deserving people, will have an opportunity to go to a school equal in all respects to anything obtainable in the city."

Mr. Underwood: The farmers' children will have a nice chance of getting there.

Mr. Johnston: Am I to understand that you are building a high school at Narrogin?

The PREMIER: No, at Northam. Children will attend that school from as far away as Cue. Of course Northam, we know, is a most attractive place, and the children like to get there. Also there is ample room for them at Northam. The technical classes at Collie represent a small additional expenditure. A new manual training room has been built by the



boys at Maylands, and Wagin has a room ready for girls. I want hon. members who are disposed to criticise this expenditure to remember that nothing new has been started in connection with education.

Mr. Underwood: And nothing new ever will be started by this department.

The PREMIER: We have merely extended the system. New schools have been opened. There is scarcely any member who has not pointed out to the department that there are in his electorate children who ought to be considered. The increase in expenditure is largely due to increases in salaries and cost of commodities. As a matter of fact the only new expenditure, apart from salaries, is very limited indeed.

Hon. P. Collier: The Government have a pretty expensive representation before this board—a K.C. engaged. What fees are you giving him?

The PREMIER: The hon. member must give notice of that question, or, alternatively, ask my friend, the member for Kanowna.

Hon. T. Walker: There is no limit to his fees.

The PREMIER: The Narrogin farm school has been transferred to the Education Department and will be considerably improved. At our country high schools a form of education is provided that should teach the children to love the land, and teach them something which will be useful to them in their future lives. The system is a good one. It has been approved by the Commission which inquired into it. Past Ministers for Education had a great deal to do with the adoption of the present system and it has stood the test of time. I venture to say there are few members who could find serious fault with it. I should like to see an agricultural college in Western Australia. Agriculture is the great industry of the State.

Mr. Pickering: Is that to be at Northam?

The PREMIER: I should like it to be there. It is our great industry, and we should see to it that men are provided with a college in order that they may learn the work the agriculturist has to perform. If we want experts in agriculture to-day we have to send out of the State for them. There are agricultural colleges in the East where these men are trained, but it would be better if we could train our own experts within the State. It would be a good thing for us if we could do so, instead of sending away for the men we want. A great deal could be done with a college like that.

Mr. Johnston: You can improve your existing institutions.

The PREMIER: That is an unseemly interjection.

Mr. A. Thomson: I think I had better move for a 20 per cent. reduction.

The PREMIER: It could not be done now because the cost would be too great. It is almost a pity that the institution was not established some time ago, and the cost included in the £539,000 mentioned in this vote. It is a considerable sum of money to spend on education, and will be a great tax upon the people. It cannot be gainsaid, however, that there are great advantages to be derived from it. There is no doubt about the advantages of the present system of education, particularly from the point of view of secondary schools and other higher classes of

schools. Boys stay longer at school than they used to do. It is in these years that a boy absorbs much of the education that will be of such great use to him in after life. There are many who criticise our education system. I venture to say that in future we shall reap the reward of the money we spend. It is very difficult in this great and scattered country to cut down the expenditure on schools. We must have those schools. We have schools at Marble Bar, Port Hedland, and other outback centres.

Mr. Underwood: There is no school at Marble Bar.

Mr. Harrison: Are there no children there?

The PREMIER: There is a very good school at Port Hedland, and wherever children are found, from Wyndham to Eucla, schools are provided. No member of the House would have it any other way. It cost a considerable sum to establish and run each of these small schools. Apart from this vote there is the vote to do with school buildings, which also is considerable.

Mr. Pickering: And there is the University.

The PREMIER: I am afraid we are not able to do much for that, or any more this year than we did last year. The authorities are asking for money for the University but there is none included in this vote. I ask the House when considering this expenditure, which they may say is large, to remember that the increase is due to increases in salaries over which the Minister has no control, and is also due to the opening of new schools. Each year schools are re-opened, but they are not increasing in number as they have done in years gone by. The country is pretty well settled by now. The development of new land must mean the opening of new schools, but the development in the older districts has not meant additional educational expense. I hope the House will agree to this vote. If any hon. member, who is inclined to criticise it, would himself face the responsibility of educating the children of the State, he would perhaps view the matter in a different light. Quite apart from the amount expended by the Government in this way, large sums of money are spent annually by the private schools. This has an effect on the education of our children, and also assists in cutting down the cost of this department.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Pilbara) [5.53]: I intend to move that this vote be reduced by £50,000.

Mr. Wilcock: Another motion of want of confidence?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I do not say whether it is or not. Judging from the debate last night one can indicate one's intentions to move in a certain direction and can debate that intention.

The CHAIRMAN: That is so.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Once a member has moved in a certain direction he cannot debate anything else. I am only indicating. The debate, therefore, will be on the indication and not on the motion to reduce the vote. This is my own particular section of the Estimates, and I am not prepared to cloud the matter by any point of order. It seems

to me full time that the Standing Orders Committee met—they have not met for 10 years—and endeavoured to get over this break we have on the Estimates. Members desire the power to move to reduce a total vote. It is absolutely logical that they should be allowed to do so. Anyone trying to reduce an item would want the fullest detailed information regarding the administration of the department concerned, which members of Parliament cannot be possessed of, but members of Parliament should be allowed to say, on a vote of this kind particularly, "We will give you £500,000 and the officers should work out the details of where that reduction has to be made."

The CHAIRMAN: You have that power now.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If so, I will move to reduce this vote by £50,000. Will you accept that motion?

The CHAIRMAN: In my humble opinion the Committee would be perfectly justified in going through each item and reducing it. An hon. member could then move at the end of the vote, after all other reductions have been made, to reduce the vote by another £50,000, or any sum that he liked.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: You will accept my intention to move. I am not opposed to education, although I have never had much of it. I totally disagree with the remarks of Sir Edward Wittenoom, that education unfits a man for work. I have known of bootmakers who have become masters of art. I would say that masters of art would be equally good bootmakers but they do not remain bootmakers. We have known men in the bush, particularly in connection with engineering works or the working in iron, who could scarcely sign their names but who, when put on to erect a battery or do a job with iron, could do the work as well as anyone. I am prepared to say that if these men had been educated they would have been still better men.

The Minister for Works: They might not have been.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: They might not have been, but I think they would have been.

The Minister for Works: I think so too.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I wish to call attention to the statements which have so repeatedly been made by the Minister for Education. I take it he gets his information from his departmental officers in regard to the cost of our education system. It has been repeated and reiterated that we are not paying as much as some other countries. In last Saturday's paper we saw a statement by the Minister for Education that education in Western Australia costs 30s. per head of the population. The statement is utterly and absolutely wrong. I, as a sort of irresponsible person, may make statements, but when one is at the head of a department one's statements should be correct. If we count up the vote we are considering now, we find a sum of £530,000. Our population is 330,000 and if we divide that number into the number of

pounds we find the system costs about 31s. per head. That is not the total cost of our system. We have had again and again from the Minister for Education quotations from New Zealand, and he has pointed out where New Zealand is spending 41s. per capita, but New Zealand includes the cost of buildings, interest and sinking fund on buildings renewals and repairs, which are borne in Western Australia by the Public Works Department. If we look through the Estimates we will find £30,000 or £40,000 has been expended by the Public Works Department in connection with schools. If we take into consideration the interest and sinking fund shown in connection with the Treasury Department's figures, we will find that the Treasury has paid a considerable sum for interest and sinking fund on buildings. We know that we pay £15,000 a year for the University. When comparing the conditions in New Zealand—I have the figures here—with those operating in Western Australia, we find that New Zealand includes in the cost of her education system, the university grant, grants to private schools, repairs and renewals and interest and sinking fund on buildings, as well as the cost of teaching the Maoris and the cost of the deaf and blind and industrial schools. If we take into consideration all those aspects in connection with Western Australia, we find that here the contributions towards the industrial schools are paid by the State Children Department; the cost in connection with the aborigines, who compare with the Maoris in the New Zealand figures, is paid by the Aborigines Department, and the grants in connection with the deaf and blind institutions are paid from the funds of the Charities Department. When the Minister is making comparisons, I think he should put up the figures fairly. As it is, he simply takes the Estimates and runs the cost out at 30s. per head. That is one shilling per head under the actual cost. He says nothing about what is included in the New Zealand and New South Wales costs. I take it the Minister speaks upon the information he gleanes from his department, and I suppose—only suppose—the department are ashamed to put up the actual costs. If they are not ashamed of their costs, why do they not put them up? Why keep on reiterating the statement that we are not paying as much as other countries? I have read about the position in other countries. I have already referred to New Zealand New South Wales is away below us in the matter of costs. We have heard about the position in Britain. I have taken the figures for 1919 from the "Statesmen's Year Book," and the expenditure for that year in England and Wales was less than 10s. per capita. I am not endeavouring to make out a case to show that we should come down to 10s. per head in Western Australia, but I am endeavouring to combat this continual statement made by the Minister for Education and his department. I have the figures for 1919 with regard to America. We are told by the Minister

that in America they are spending more upon education than we are doing in Western Australia. On looking into the matter I find, however, that different conditions operate in America. When the United States was established, a certain amount of land, ranging from one-sixth to one-thirty-sixth of the area of the different States, was allotted for the purposes of education. As the country became rapidly populated, the lands increased in value, and in many States throughout America they have built up huge funds arising from these lands, which funds are set aside for educational purposes. For instance, the State of Texas had in 1918 a fund of over 70 million dollars, and they were drawing interest from that fund to pay for their educational services. In such circumstances, members will realise that America can spend more money than a State like Western Australia with its continually recurring deficit and which, for this year already stands at about half a million pounds. When we talk about New Zealand, we have to consider our position compared with that of the Dominion. Although we have our deficit, the Treasurer comes along quite complacently and still puts before us his deficit of £500,000.

Mr. O'Loughlen: That is only an estimate; it may exceed that.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: That is the best the Treasurer can make of it. We cannot go on having these deficits year after year. We must look around to see what we can do.

Mr. J. Thomson: Why talk about reducing the education bill? Why not reduce the liquor bill?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I admit the member for Claremont is doing his best regarding the drink bill and he is paying a fair tax on it.

Mr. J. Thomson: I am prepared to pay an increased tax.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am with the hon. member to a certain extent, but I hope the increase will not be very considerable. I agree with the Minister for Education that educated people are infinitely superior to uneducated people, and I agree that expenditure on sound education is a good investment.

Mr. J. Thomson: Then why talk of cutting it down?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I said "sound education." That is the point. If we examine our education system, we will find that much money is expended in order to employ teachers who are not imparting sound education.

Mr. J. Thomson: You are no judge of that.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am one of the soundest judges in this country. During last session we opposed the Education Estimates and the Government promised that they would appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into our system.

Mr. Pickering: The Minister kept his promise.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: He did not keep his promise. I say, as definitely as I possibly

can, that the Minister flouted this House. He appointed as chairman of the Education Commission, Mr. Peter Board, who is running the education system in New South Wales, which system we have slavishly copied. If Peter Board had found anything wrong with our system he would have—

Mr. Pickering: Condemned himself.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Exactly. The Minister appointed Dr. Saw, a member of another place, and Mr. Pitchford, of whom we never heard before. Why was not a member of this Chamber appointed on that Commission? Why did we have a Commission of the description I have mentioned? It will be seen, as I state, that the Minister for Education flouted this House. I wanted an inquiry to be held and I want one to-day. There are many things in our education system that should be inquired into. Peter Board came across to Western Australia and inquired whether our teachers were carrying out that system. Yet we were complaining of the system! No member of this Chamber has said anything regarding the teachers. Our teachers are among the best people we have in this State, but they are working along wrong lines. That is where Peter Board missed the point. No one ever suggested that our teachers are not doing their utmost.

Mr. O'Loughlen: He is recognised in New South Wales as being 15 years behind the times.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: That is so.

Mr. J. Thomson: Do you want us to go back to the dark ages?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I do not think the hon. member was ever there.

Mr. J. Thomson: That is where you want us to go.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I would not like to say I have ever emerged from there, to any extent.

Mr. J. Thomson: You are right there.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Although the Commission conducted the inquiry, there were many things that members of this Chamber desired should be examined thoroughly. The Commission never touched one of them.

Mr. Pickering: The Commission was not appointed for that purpose.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I know why the Commission was appointed. It was appointed to justify and glorify the Minister for Education and the Director of Education. Having been appointed for that purpose, the Commission did what it was appointed for.

Mr. Johnston: Dr. Jones has a similar job.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I would not be permitted to discuss the Lunacy Commission.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Do you think there is any lunacy in our Education Department?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If we submit to the Minister for Education putting up such a Commission as he did, then we should be examined by the Lunacy Commission to see if we are all right.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I wish to point out that there is much expenditure in connection with our Education Department which I think is serving no good cause and could be cut out with advantage to the State and without detriment to the pupils. I come to the question of cooking. All modern schools, so-called contain a cooking class, and we have a large number of teachers to teach cooking.

Mr. Pickering: Very useful, too.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If properly taught it may be of some use, but it is not properly taught.

Mrs. Cowan: Who is the judge?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am. The first essential of a cook is to keep her pots and pans clean.

Mrs. Cowan: Hear, hear!

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Under our education system, we do not teach the children to clean the pots and pans.

Mrs. Cowan: Don't we?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: No, we keep a number of maids to do that work—common women, working women.

The Minister for Works: No one is common.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Under our education system a maid is common, because the teacher is too superior to wash the pots and pans. I am speaking of what I know is true. Cleanliness is the first essential of a cook, and we do not teach our children cleanliness. We teach them to use scales and measures to determine the quantities of certain ingredients, to put them in the oven and then to put in a thermometer to ascertain whether the oven is at the right temperature. If it is not, a maid is called in to put some more wood on the fire.

The Minister for Works interjected.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: They would burn salt water. We have huge buildings in James-street where cooking classes are held. We could utilise those buildings for the education of a large number of children, but they are retained for the cooking class. At the same time we are paying rent to other people for buildings in which to teach our children. Regarding the Education Commission, the white-washing Commission—an insult it was—they had a banquet at James-street alleged to have been prepared by the pupils. I happen to know that the pupils never touched a feather on the duck nor did they break one of the shells of the green peas that were served up. I would not protest if the children were taught to pluck a duck or a fowl and clean it, but they are not. If they want to cook a duck, they go to the poulterer and get one ready trussed up, and then they put it in the oven with a thermometer and cook it.

Hon. P. Collier: That is a bit towards it.

Mr. Pickering: That is the frill of cookery.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It has been the privilege and pleasure of almost all members to travel through our agricultural and pastoral areas. There is one outstanding feature of these areas wherever one goes whether to

functions or to the homes of the settlers, and that is good cooking.

The Minister for Works: Because they take a pride in their work.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: But who taught them how to cook?

The Minister for Works: Their mothers I suppose, or else their commonsense.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: They were never taught at a State school. It is not necessary for the State to spend money on teaching cookery, because the Australian mothers can teach it.

Mr. Munsie: They should be the best teachers, too.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: They are the best teachers, infinitely the best. If there is one thing on which we should pride ourselves, and in this every member will agree with me, it is that in the back country the Australian wives and daughters of our settlers are first class cooks. Why should the Government spend money to teach cookery? What we are teaching is not cookery at all.

Mr. Munsie: The theoretical side of it.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: There is no theory in it. The hon. member has baked his damper just as I have without putting a thermometer into the oven to see if it was getting on all right.

Mr. Munsie: You did not have a thermometer.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: This is absolute waste. We have quite a large staff. There is one woman who, I believe, travels around the State teaching this sort of cookery, a woman receiving about £400 a year and about £600 a year for travelling expenses. This is what takes up a great portion of the room in our modern schools in the country towns. Something else is taught under our education system, namely, laundry work. I know that the children have to take some article to school, a d'oyley, or pillow slip, or some small garment, and that article must have been washed either by the child or its mother before it is sent to school. They will not have anything at the school unless it is perfectly clean.

Mr. Munsie: If a child takes a dirty article they send it back. They have done so times out of number. They cannot teach washing on those lines.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If they took the dungarees of the Minister for Works and learnt to wash them, there would be some sense in it, but the mothers can and do teach the children to wash. After they have taken a clean d'oyley or a pillow slip to school mother has to wash it.

Mrs. Cowan: What sort of a mother is she if she has not taught them?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The mother has taught them. Why should we pay to teach that?

Mrs. Cowan: You are showing that the mother has not taught them.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am showing that the mother has taught them and that we are wasting our money on teachers to instruct children how to wash clean clothes.

This is an absolute fact. During last Parliament I spoke about fancy work. We have teachers of fancy work, and yet we know it is the natural inclination of girls to learn this for themselves. We do not need to spend money to teach it.

The Minister for Works: A lot of fancy work is becoming a lost art.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Exactly, and these teachers do not teach it. Then we come to the care of children. I have been accused of making harsh remarks. If my remarks are harsh, I am merely speaking in this way with a view to removing this useless expenditure. I have spoken about old maids teaching girls how to dress a baby. The mother can teach that much better, and mother does teach them.

Mrs. Cowan: Another job for mother.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Of course it is. When I spoke of instructing girls how to dress a baby by practising on a celluloid doll, most people thought it was one of my alleged jokes, but it is true. We have women with celluloid dolls attempting to teach girls to dress a baby. It is an extraordinary thing.

Hon. T. Walker: Would you give them a real baby for the job?

Mr. Munsie: No; cut out the class altogether.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes, cut it out.

Mr. Munsie: It is a wilful waste of money.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Of course it is. Suppose we agreed, and this House has never been asked to agree, that it was necessary to teach our young girls the care of children or the dressing of babies, let us do it properly.

Mr. Pickering: Have the real thing?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Take sections of classes and give them a fortnight's practice at the maternity hospital. Then they would be doing something sensible. Let them learn to dress the real baby, not a celluloid doll. The member for West Perth knows there are things about a real baby that cannot be reproduced in a celluloid doll, and they are vital. That is some more of our expenditure on what is called higher education; that is, what the modern schools are teaching. We have spent hundreds and thousands of pounds in putting up buildings to make room for instruction of that description.

Mrs. Cowan: Nothing of the kind.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: We have, and I can assure the hon. member that if the present Minister for Education remains where he is he will have a modern school in every fifth rate town in this State. The latest he is talking about is at Narrogin. Then we will have one at Busselton, and then one at Port Hedland. The building of modern schools in country towns is going to cost a million unless it is checked. Every country town that has a member representing it in this House will have its modern school. To teach what? To teach the washing of clean

clothes, to cook with the thermometer, and to teach to dress celluloid dolls.

The Minister for Works: Do you mean modern schools or high schools?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Modern schools.

The Minister for Works: We are building high schools.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I desire that we should have a genuine inquiry into, and an overhaul of the education system. I am convinced that we can impart good or better education than we are imparting at a considerably lower cost. I thought last year we would have that inquiry, but the Minister and the Government defeated the objects of the House. I intend to move later on that we reduce this vote by £50,000, with the object of getting an inquiry into our system of education. I come again to the technical schools. I know that applications have been made for £10,000 or £20,000, or more than that, to put another storey on the building in St. George's Terrace, a building which is on an absolutely unsuitable site. There should never have been a school built there. If you want a school on proper lines get out into the open country. We have 975,000 square miles of open country and we do not need to put a school in St. George's-terrace. This is what has been reported to me: We have lawyers, fully qualified barristers, and fully qualified accountants going through a course of engineering at that school. Should we waste our money on them? We have another proposition, and it is one I would like the House to bear in mind. It is in regard to the apprenticeship of boys. It has been reported to me that the Midland Junction workshops will only accept apprentices who have done a year or two in the technical schools. If that is so it is one of the greatest injustices I know of, because a person who, perhaps, like myself can keep his boy at school has an advantage over the man who has to send his boy to work. We want to inquire into that and we should do so. With regard to the technical school, I spoke last year, and I have read a good deal since then, and I find that the countries that are making the greatest headway in regard to technical education are those countries which will only take scholars who are working at a trade. That is the German and Danish system and it is also the system which is in vogue in many parts of America. I have said before that it is impossible, or almost impossible, to teach anybody a trade at a technical school, but if a boy is working at a forge he can go to the technical school and learn the theory of his trade. That boy makes an infinitely better tradesman with that teaching, but to put a boy at the technical school and attempt to teach him blacksmithing you utterly fail. Look at the waste. That boy could be earning money, whereas at the technical school he is sticking iron together and breaking it up, and sticking it together again. That boy could be doing useful work. The technical school teaches bricklaying and masonry. A boy puts up a wall and pulls

it down again. If you want to teach him bricklaying put him on to a wall that will stand, and then he can go to the technical school and get the theory of his trade. The boy gets the practice he needs in the actual work. We are spending scores of thousands of pounds on technical education and the great bulk of that money is wasted. The Royal Commission proposed to cut out only one item in regard to technical education. They said they would not allow a woman or a girl to learn dresscutting or millinery unless she intended to follow up that as an occupation for her living. To my mind dresscutting and millinery are about the only useful things a woman can be taught.

Mrs. Cowan: Not cookery?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: You come along with me and I will teach you how to cook a "goanna." We teach them French, Latin, Algebra, shorthand and typewriting, subjects that they are not going to use in after life. I do not care what subject it is, if it is not proposed to use it subsequently it can well be cut out.

Mr. Latham: How can you tell whether they are not going to use these afterwards.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I can tell the hon. member that women are going to use dresscutting and millinery all their lives, and that is what the Commission proposed to strike out.

Mr. Munsie: That recommendation is just about on a par with all the others in the report.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I want to get a little further in regard to the technical schools and to come to the question of apprentices. Many of us know the great difficulty a man has to get his boy taught a trade in this State. One of the biggest contractors here speaking to me a month or two ago told me that in a few years time there would not be a Western Australian bricklayer or stonemason. He said that he had been contracting nearly 20 years and in that time had taught only one apprentice. What we are arriving at is that under our education and our apprentice system, the imported man will be the tradesman and the Australian will be the labourer. There is not a shadow of a doubt that we are running right on to that position where Western Australian boys are becoming either clerks or unskilled workers. I might be permitted to say that the unskilled worker is the most unfortunate being on this earth so far as I know. Every man's hand is against him. His fellow unionists—I will not say, push him down—use the unskilled worker to lever themselves up. We have had it laid down that the skilled worker must get 50 per cent. more wages than the unskilled worker.

The Minister for Works: Not 50 per cent.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: That is laid down. Let me remind the Minister for Works that when the Scaddan Government came into office they said that 9s. a day was low enough for any man to receive, and they raised the wages from 8s. to 9s. That extra shilling

a day was for the unskilled worker. Then the tradesmen immediately demanded an increase of 1s. 6d. per day, 50 per cent. higher.

The Minister for Works: I mean there is a difference between them.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: So far as we in Western Australia are concerned, most of our boys are becoming unskilled workers or clerks. I have every respect for a clerk, but one of the most pathetic things anyone can strike is a clerk, who has reached 40 or 45 years of age, out of employment. He is utterly useless for anything else. That is the position we are coming to. I do not know that it has a great deal to do with education, but still it has something to do with our technical schools. There is another point I desire to mention in regard to education, and it is that I favour the expenditure of all this money which I propose to save, on the establishment, not of high schools or of modern schools in the towns or cities, but of farm schools, which would give the children who are actually on the farms a chance of education. The town high schools do not provide for the farmers' children. I have read in the proceedings of the Appeal Board how the man who appeared for the school teachers said that the teacher who goes outback deserves very great credit. Just imagine calling it being outback where there is a school! If such a school teacher deserves praise, my parents ought to be canonised.

Mrs. Cowan: So they should; your mother especially.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Of course I admit that the man who is putting up the case for the school teacher has a very bad case indeed, and must utter some piffle or other. But let us come to the settlers on our wheat areas particularly, whose children require education. The parents cannot spare the time or the money to send the children to, say, Northam or Bunbury or Narrogin or Kellerberrin; they cannot spare the children off the farm. But they could spare them at some time of the year, for two or three or four months, and then send them to a farm school. There the children could take up whatever subjects they felt inclined to take up; and that instruction could be followed up by a correspondence education. Then we should be getting to the people whom I desire to get to. But by building cookery schools in country towns or in the cities we are not getting to the people we want to get to, the people whose children we want to educate. There is one other branch of this question—the age of school children. That matter also stands on its own, and the Committee would do well to take it into consideration. I find that the Education Department are slipping right back to that system which we abolished, to an extent; the system of making our schools practically nurseries, taking children of any age. The last speech made by the Minister for Education was delivered at the opening of an infant school at North Perth. Now, I hold the view that no child should go to school before the age of eight years. I think that the teaching

given to children under eight years of age is not only useless expenditure, but is not good for the children. If I had my time over again, no child of mine should go to school before it was eight years of age. This American book "Comparative Education" deals pretty fully with the age question. The beginning age in America ranges from six years to nine, and the leaving age from 12 years to 16. The great majority of the States of the American Union believe in seven or eight years as the proper beginning age; and the majority of them have 15 years as the leaving age. My view is that from eight years to 15 is absolutely the best time for sending a child to school. If we cut out the children under seven years of age, we can save £100,000 a year. I claim that we are doing no useful service to those young children by teaching them; I believe that in many instances we are injuring them by having them at school. This is another point which should have been investigated by the alleged Royal Commission. It is one of the things that demanded inquiry. But we were burked in our efforts, and that is why I ask this Committee to support my motion and so demonstrate to the Minister for Education that the Assembly is determined to have a full and thorough inquiry into the working of our education system.

Mrs. COWAN (West Perth) [8.8]: I want to express my disagreement from the last speaker. It seems to me that the ideal set up by that hon. member is that the mother should be not only wife, but cleaner and cook and washerwoman, and that, in addition, she should educate the family in various important matters, matters in which she herself has never had the advantage of being trained. Things were very different in the olden times, when the mother had the leisure to teach her children these necessary things, things which I, for example, was taught by my relations, who had leisure to do it because they had assistance with regard to those other matters. Nothing is more important to the community than the proper training of girls and women in domestic science and household management. I cannot agree with the remarks of the member for Pilbara in that respect.

Mr. Underwood: Is not cleaning pots a domestic science?

Mrs. COWAN: As regards domestic science in household matters, the schools do teach the children to clean the pots, and to clean the silver and the brass and everything that is necessary in the home; and they teach it in a very thorough and competent manner. I have myself been there and seen it done, and it is done with the utmost regularity. Am I to be told that a girl is going to make any the worse wife or mother because she learns such things as cookery, including special cookery for invalids? I am sure every hon. member is more than pleased to have the results of such training when they are given to him by a woman who has been educated to

know the true value of food. It is still true that the royal road to a man's heart lies through—well, not his heart. The mothers of hon. members had, in their turn, mothers who were able to give them proper instruction in cooking; the mothers of members were the daughters of mothers who knew those things. But during the last 50 or 60 years many of those things have been taken out of the home—pickling, jam making, etc. Men have made money by establishing preserving works, for instance. Sixty or 70 years ago there were done in the stillroom such things as brewing, and the concoction of medicines. Of later years women have not had any training in those things. Not every woman nowadays is competent, owing to the lack of educating the daughters. When I was very young, one could not get pastry outside the home.

Mr. Munsie: I can get better pastry cooked in my home than I can get in any shop in Perth.

Mrs. COWAN: I agree, but the majority of women nowadays do not know how to make pastry, and therefore do not know how to teach their daughters to make it. We know very well that that is so, because otherwise men would not be making out of pastry and confectionery shops the money that they are making at the present time. The member for Pilbara said it would be a shocking thing to take away the teaching of millinery and dresscutting. Why should we be so anxious to pander to the vanity of girls, or even to pander to a side of men which is certainly not the highest?

Mr. Munsie: It is good for the mother to be able to make a few clothes, anyhow.

Mrs. COWAN: We get a lot of admiring talk concerning the woman who is good at domestic science and capable in the home; but I notice that when it comes to the test, even the member for Pilbara prefers that a woman should turn out in a very pretty dress and a nicely trimmed hat, and he makes no inquiry as to her capability otherwise. I am sure that the average man when he marries, speedily realises that it would have been better for him had such a girl possessed a little more knowledge of domestic science. Domestic science is a most necessary thing in the country districts and elsewhere. I wonder at the attitude of men in thinking that they are so competent to deal with these matters. They only know the results; and one of the results is that very frequently a man is experimented on very considerably and very liberally during the first years of his married life, until poor old mother has got her hand in. And by that time she is supposed to be teaching her daughters what she has so perfunctorily learned herself, and has no time, amid her varied duties to do the instruction properly, even if experience has made her competent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Two-thirds of the girls can cook before they are married, having been taught in their homes. That stuff

about experimenting on husbands is only fit for pictures.

Mrs. COWAN: I think I would have just about as much right to instruct the members of this House about the correct way of running an office or a mine or a factory, as they have to suggest what kind of training it is necessary to give a woman for the life she is to lead. I absolutely deny the hon. member's statement in respect to soiled clothes. Soiled clothes are taken to school to wash, but not in the way the hon. member suggests. The children are invited to take along clean things to be starched and ironed, but that does not prevent their taking also soiled clothes and being taught how to wash them. I know these things, for I have had a daughter in charge of household management centres, and I have been there myself often enough to know what goes on. The children are taught these things and are shown how to use, not only the proper utensil but some other utensil, and to make shift with it; because one of the last things that "father" is willing to do is to provide the best possible outfit for the kitchen, no matter whether "mother" has been properly trained or left untrained. I am going to ask that we have these classes not only continued but, if possible, increased in number, and in our country centres as well. I deprecate any other attitude being taken on this question, because it is of very great importance, and we should provide the best possible training if we desire to get the best type of wife and mother.

Mr. TROY (Mt. Magnet) [8.17]: I will support the remarks of the member for West Perth, even though by so doing I bring upon myself the criticism of my colleagues.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Why, have you been practised on?

Mr. TROY: No, I have not, nor do I, think the hon. member has been practised on. But then, he has been married but once. If at any time he should be so unfortunate as to require a second wife, he may then find himself practised on. After an experience of married life I have come to the conclusion that half the troubles of matrimonial existence arise from bad housekeeping. Show me a home where the wife is neat, capable and economical, and I will show you a happy home. If our girls were more competent, if they were trained to be good housekeepers, there would be many more happy marriages than there are. Let me put to hon. members this aspect: Most of our mothers and sisters were reared in the country, under wholesome conditions, and lived and worked in their own homes, or alternatively in other people's homes. But of the girls in the city 90 per cent. go to offices and shops and, in consequence, do no domestic work. In fact many of them get the idea that it is not right that they should do domestic work. As a result a large number of city girls have no opportunity to learn those things which their mothers did of necessity. They are at work in the city when the cooking is going on at

home. Twenty years ago it was a rare thing for a girl to go out to work. To-day it is the custom. Of course a girl cannot work all day in a shop or office and go home and do the cooking.

The Minister for Works: She has not the chance. Her parents have not the means to give her the chance.

Mr. TROY: I am not surprised at the eloquence of the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) in dealing with this subject, because nobody can be so eloquent as one in total ignorance of his subject. I have heard the hon. member say the household centre at James-street occupies a large building. As a matter of fact it occupies the most high-giggledy place I have ever seen devoted to the purpose. There is proof that the hon. member knows nothing about it, else he could not have made that statement. So too, at Midland Junction, the household management centre is in a hotch potch of a place and, in addition, has but very little equipment. Yet the hon. member suggests that millions of pounds are wasted in extravagant buildings for these centres.

Mr. Chesson: He never made such a statement.

Mr. TROY: I heard him. And he said furthermore that at the same time we were renting places for general teaching.

Mr. Latham: He did not mention Midland Junction.

Mr. TROY: No, that is my statement. But the member for Pilbara stated distinctly that the household management centre in James-street occupied large premises which could well be utilised for general teaching purposes. I deny that. I have been there myself.

Mr. Munsie: So have I, and I have been to Leederville as well.

Mr. TROY: I have heard members say that at these household management centres a girl is compelled to use expensive material which she could not hope to find in her home unless she married a rich man. I say, on the contrary, girls are taught to make the most of the least. It is a thoroughly sound principle. The girls are taught not only cooking, but jam making, fruit preserving, and even upholstery. I have seen girls take a kerosene box and make and upholster a suite of furniture.

Mr. A. Thomson: Out of one kerosene box!

Mr. TROY: No, out of many boxes. The hon. member is very funny, is he not? It has been said that all women are good housekeepers. I do not wish to deprecate any woman's capacity in that respect, but I must say that it is not so. Whenever I go to the Arbitration Court I always take a number of women witnesses, and in order to become acquainted with the evidence I make inquiries into their housekeeping methods and ask to see their bills. What has always struck me has been the large quantity of expensive tinned stuff which they buy. On one occasion I asked a man why this stuff was



brought into his home, and he said frankly it was because his wife had never learnt to cook.

Mr. Chesson: A woman like that never would learn.

Mr. TROY: But I have seen others. I have known women who could not maintain the home except in an extravagant fashion, because they had never been taught anything better. I have been to these household management centres, and I must confess that it appears to be a very popular science among girls. I have gone there to scoff and remained to pray. On the question of country schools, I have heard it said that the education system of Western Australia is based on that of New South Wales. I say it is not so.

Mr. Latham: The Education Commissioners said it was so.

Mr. TROY: Yes, but it is not so. Our system was framed by Mr. Cyril Jackson, who came from England. It is dissimilar in many respects from that of New South Wales. One thing I deplore in our system is the want of facilities for imparting proper education to children in the back blocks. In this State those children enjoy very few of the facilities and advantages that obtain in New South Wales. In Western Australia a teacher qualifies for a higher grade by merely passing a certain examination. All that he has to do is to study and secure his "B" or "A" class certificate, whereupon he moves up. In New South Wales he has to do more than that. He must get results from the children under his control. Many men can pass any examination, and yet be quite unable to get practical results from their teaching. In New South Wales, at all events in the old days, every teacher had to pass through a country school and get results from his scholars before he moved on. Here in Western Australia if he is a poor teacher he is sent into the country, but if he be a good teacher he remains in the metropolitan area. That is an entirely wrong system. In many of our centres teachers will not bother to give lessons to children in the afternoon, or to take any pains with backward children. On the goldfields, so severe is the summer climate that teachers cannot be expected to sustain the necessary physical and mental labour. In any case, the education system does not demand it. Another objection I have to the system is the qualifying of a boy to serve as an apprentice in, say, the Midland Junction workshops, the State Implement Works or any other Government activity. It has been stated by the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) that a boy is debarred from apprenticeship unless he has had his training at a technical school. I do not think that is correct.

The Minister for Works: Neither do I.

Mr. TROY: I have known of boys being taken at the Midland Junction Workshops who have never seen a technical school.

Mr. Davies: That will not appertain today.

Mr. Latham: And that is due to the progress of education!

Mr. TROY: It is the want of education.

Mr. Latham: I should say so.

Mr. TROY: Children in the back country are at a disadvantage because they are obliged to pass the seventh standard. There are very few seventh standard schools outside the bigger localities. The back country school children are, therefore, penalised because they have not the advantage that children in the populous centres have in the way of securing this more advanced education. I do not think education is the only thing that a boy needs for his training in life. Adaptability is one of the chief things in a boy. I know of boys who have not had a day's education but who have become very competent tradesmen. I had a boy at my own place who came from an orphanage. He was one of the handiest boys I have ever seen in any class of mechanical work. The reason for this was that he had a natural capacity for that sort of thing. To compel a boy to pass the seventh standard of education before he can be apprenticed is wrong. It places an obstacle in the way of boys in the back country, and causes too much attention to be given to mere book knowledge as against the capacity or natural ability that a boy may have for his job. I do not know that I can criticise the report of the Royal Commission on Education. I am disappointed with it. It embodied nothing that I desired so far as education in the back country is concerned. I do not set myself up to criticise a man like Mr. Peter Board. The member for Pilbara might, of course, do so. Probably there is no person in the world that he would not think a fit subject for criticism. Mr. Peter Board rose from the ranks by his own natural ability. He had no influence to assist him. He started off in life as the son of poor parents. I heard the member for Pilbara the other night reading something from "Smile's Self Help," showing how certain young men had proved themselves. So has Mr. Peter Board. He has risen above his fellows. He has reached a high position, although there are many other capable men in his State. There must be some reason for his having reached that position. If he managed to get through the ranks above them all he must have shown more than ordinary capacity. I do not know, however, that he was the most competent man we could have obtained. What this House desired last year was that there should be every possible economy in spending the vote for carrying on our education system. My opinion was that the Commission was not necessary that we had at the head of affairs a Minister whose business it was to see that we obtained the benefits of our expenditure.

Mr. Pickering: The House did not believe the Minister.

Mr. TROY: The Government merely appointed a Royal Commission, not so much to inquire into whether or not the money was being properly spent, but to inquire into

whether or not the system was good, bad or indifferent. There may be considerable overlapping in that system. There may be subjects taught in two schools in one area which could be taught in one. There may be rivalry between teachers and inspectors to create large departments, in order to make a name for themselves. I think that is so to a certain extent. I fear there may be gentlemen in the service capable of inducing a Minister to take up this system or that, this principle or that, in order that they may rise a little above their fellow men and gain an advantage by their advocacy. This is the danger of the whole system. It ought to be the responsibility of the Minister to see that this does not occur. We have a Minister for Education, and he is the one who should see that the best results are obtained for the money provided by Parliament. I shall not vote for the motion moved by the member for Pilbara. I understand he made a comparison between the cost of education in New Zealand and Western Australia and between the cost in England and in Western Australia. We all know that the cost of services in Western Australia cannot be compared with New Zealand or England. The conditions are not similar. We cannot compare the cost of any service in Western Australia with the service in, say, Victoria, New South Wales, or South Australia, because those States are well populated. They have populous localities that are large and closely settled, and where everything is on a different plane. Victoria is a country in which a great deal of developmental work is going on. It is populated relatively, so far as Australian populations are concerned, within small areas; whereas our services and schools serve, say, 100 people, theirs serve 2,000 people. What is the use of making any comparison? I understand that one of the objections of the member for Pilbara is that there is waste of money on the teaching of domestic science. In my experience, if this science is properly taught, it is one of the best forms of education that girls can have. If that is the only weakness in the system pointed out by the hon. member, then I shall certainly not vote for his amendment. Those girls who are working in factories and shops all the day cannot in their own homes be taught much about the domestic side of life, and unless somebody else gives them this teaching, they cannot become competent wives and mothers.

Hon. T. WALKER (Kanowna) [8.37]: I am firmly convinced that there is not a single member in this Chamber who disapproves of the expenditure of money, large though it be, for educational purposes in this State. There is no need therefore, to convince anyone of the wisdom of the course we are taking. It is an observation that everyone looking out on the broad world has made, that only those countries where schools exist—in proportion to the freedom of those schools, to the extent to which they distribute knowledge in the lower strata of their society—do the nations

prosper and advance. It is knowledge that moves the world, and lifts it from the savage stage and from a brutal condition to the semi-civilised condition in which it is now. It is wonderful to see the working of the great law of nature, atavism, and see men turning back to the savage with the venge of civilisation upon them. Even in our legislative halls we hear the voice of the savage. It is better to have our grandmothers' method than our modern methods.

The Minister for Works: I believe it would be more wholesome.

Hon. T. WALKER: My genial friend, the Minister for Works, has always exhibited that spirit of conservatism, that reverence for the past, that adoration for the by-gone which distinguished the individuals that are subject to the law I am describing. It only shows us the need there was for education in their youth. When they were young they had not the chance; they can, however, now appreciate the blessings of it. All merit is due to those who, in spite of these disadvantages, have brightened their intellects, have accumulated a store of knowledge, and become possessed of all those qualifications which make them distinguished members of society. I say, all honour to them. The struggle for existence has brought renown to them. I deprecate them not, but surely they, looking upon the world to-day, can recognise what advantages their children and their grandchildren have over them. How much better a start in life have these children than they had, and it all comes from the spread of education. Every day of our lives we meet people who are circumscribed in their views and who depreciate those who have passed beyond the circumscriptions and have got outside the bond of their limitations. How they depreciate and discredit and sneer at those who have got beyond them! We see it in our school children. A little child goes for the first time to school in a new frock and a nice little hat, and lifts her head a little higher in consequence. All the other children turn round and see her, and say how proud and conceited a little fop she is. All these things we see. Manhood is not devoid of that weakness. We have some numbers here, accustomed to feed on the tails of kangaroos, who object to our children being taught scientific cooking because, forsooth they have had their dampers baked in the ashes or mud, and have eaten as much dirt as they have eaten food.

Mr. Latham: And they are none the worse for it.

Hon. T. WALKER: I know the hon. member is a type of that sort.

Mr. Latham: A jolly good type.

Hon. T. WALKER: I do not deny that. It is the type I respect in its place, but for goodness sake do not let it pretend to be a teacher.

Mr. Latham: I do not.

Hon. T. WALKER: Do not let it pretend to be a judge of the ambitions and advancement of the world. They cavil at education. They are at home in the wilds. They are at home in the hut, at home on the mud floor, at home in the windowless dwelling, at home with the damper and the kangaroo's tail for diet. They are at home in these surroundings. But for goodness' sake do not let us depreciate those who desire to have their food properly cooked, so that their systems may assimilate their food in accordance with modern conditions of civilisation. Do not let us exalt them over others who are advancing.

Mr. Pickering: Are they not entitled to their opinion?

Hon. T. WALKER: Of course they are.

Mr. Pickering: Just as much as you are.

Hon. T. WALKER: Quite as much as I am.

Mr. Pickering: And their opinion is of just as much value.

Hon. T. WALKER: But let it be known how far their opinion reaches, what has formed that opinion, the amount of study they have given to the question, the investigations they have made, the time they have spent in learning, the rate at which they have got out of their little grooves and got into the wider circles of civilisation.

Mr. Pickering: They will demonstrate all that.

Hon. T. WALKER: The hon. member for Sussex would demonstrate anything. There is no mortal question under the sun but the hon. member glibly talks about it, and there is no hon. member in this House or in any other House of Parliament who embraces so many opportunities to reveal the hollowness of his mind and his lack of understanding as the hon. member for Pickering Brook does.

Mr. Pickering: On a point of order. Is the member for Kanowna in order in referring to me as the member for Pickering Brook? I object to his statement and I ask for an apology and withdrawal.

Hon. T. WALKER: I most certainly agree to that, but surely this is evidence of the hon. member's lack of education, for a man who cannot stand a joke like that, is only fit to live among savages.

Mr. Pickering: On a point of order I ask for a withdrawal of that offensive statement.

Mr. Troy: That is quite in order.

Hon. T. WALKER: It is not a matter of a point of order. That is an honest expression of my opinion.

The Minister for Works: Therefore he lives among us.

Mr. Pickering: I ask for a withdrawal of the statement.

Mr. Johnston: It is most defamatory.

Hon. T. WALKER: I was referring—

Mr. Pickering: I asked for a withdrawal of that offensive statement.

Hon. T. WALKER: I said he was fit.

The CHAIRMAN: If the member for Sussex will stand up and say what he objects to, I will listen to him.

Mr. Pickering: He accused me of a lack of education and having no ability and everything else.

Hon. T. WALKER: I do not know that I said that.

Mr. Pickering: The member for Kanowna said I was not fit to live with savages. I take exception to that.

Hon. T. WALKER: I did not say he was not fit to live with savages. I said the hon. member was fit to live with them. However, if we are to understand our education aright we understand it as fitting the child from the time of the first opportunity, to develop himself through all the stages he is passing in his educational career, to be of usefulness to himself, to the home, to society, and to the world.

Mr. Money: Is it to meet the requirements of the child or of the State?

Hon. T. WALKER: Both, it is true. The great unselfishness of the great people of this great State in spending this money on children it has never seen and can never know, has for its object not particularly the benefit of the individual but because all society is interested in the education of the whole community in its composition. It is because we want to do away with all those anomalies and diseases in society that necessitate our gaols, police force, houses of correction, homes of reformation, lunatic asylums and even charitable institutions themselves. It is because we want to bring up children healthy physically, mentally and morally, to take their places in society, that we spend all this money. It is building up the future.

The Minister for Works: What is society?

Hon. T. WALKER: Society is the organic composite of all the individual human units within it.

The Minister for Works: I did not know what you meant. I agree with you, however.

Hon. T. WALKER: We are compelled to live in groups and with each other. We cannot avoid each other. Now we want to see that we create in ourselves the least possible pain, anguish, distress and disease, and the least possible sorrow, disease or distress in our fellow beings, that we may be the receptacle of all human happiness and be the disseminators of joy and happiness among our fellow men. That is the true object of education. No strictly ignorant individual can be a good citizen. Even all those mentioned as having made themselves, are none the less affected. They have imbibed conditions of society intuitively by example or by inheritance. In some way society has made them. They are fitted in that sense for the success they have achieved. But the ignorant man can never benefit or in any way advance us. This great continent of ours was inhabited by people before white men came here. How was it that there were no magnificent cities, no splendid highways or railways spreading throughout the country? It was because the people were ignorant and undisciplined savages. It is only by knowledge that we have the power to turn the waste places of the

earth into glorious fields of golden harvests and beautiful cities.

Mr. Latham: Is art any better now than it was in the ages past?

Hon. T. WALKER: It is more general and widely distributed. I can go with the hon. member through all the efforts of art in bygone days. I can stand and shiver as it were with admiration at the marvel in marble of Phidias or the statue chiselled by Praxiteles. I can admire all of them, but these things took place in educated Greece. They are the product of the education of bygone days.

Mr. Money: What was the end of that education?

Hon. T. WALKER: I can stand with admiration under that sublime product of architecture—the Egyptian temple of Karnac—I can stand under those sublime pyramids and feel the same reverence and thrills as Napoleon felt. Egypt was a civilised country, the mother of a great deal of the civilisation that has been handed down to us. What was the result of this? What destroyed the magnificent art of Babylonia, Assyria, Egypt and Carthage? It was the inroads of the ignorant unconquered hordes of barbarians, men who believed that the quintessence of good cooking was the damper. It was the hordes of the Underwoods of those days if hon. members prefer to put it that way. These hordes of barbarians marched with their armies and destroyed these civilisations. I agree with the hon. member that we have much to learn from these ancient civilisations.

Mr. Latham: True, we have.

Hon. T. WALKER: But if it had been left to the hon. member for York to have acquired that learning, the world would have waited long in ignorance. He is satisfied with these things. What is true education? It is the discipline, instruction and influence that develop the child and all its faculties and qualities for fitness for citizenship. It is the blessings of education that enable one to best live, as it were, in the glory of these bygone days. I agree with the hon. member for York; there was great art in those days. I can still, as it were, see in fancy the magnificent colouring in the blocks and tiles in the temple of Tanith in old Carthage. I can walk with him and admire the palace of Hamilcar, the father of Hannibal, the conqueror of Rome, and admire all these wonderful internal shades of colouring that mark the steps and flooring of his palace.

Mr. Money: What is this on, the amendment or the motion?

Hon. T. WALKER: It is on both. I can do it even if I am indulging a little in my own wanderings back into the bygone past whither I was led by the hon. member for York. How is it that I am able to do this? Of course, the member for Bunbury who interjected is a solicitor. I am one myself. We are conservative to a degree, and some are narrow-minded too. We are too often narrow-minded. However, I can enjoy all this: I can revel in the art that the world

has produced and I can claim a due appreciation of the beauties created by the ancients. What enables me to do that? Only education. Only the training of my faculties; only the wandering back through the language of the historians of the past who have handed down the bygone days to the present. Ignorant men cannot do so because their sympathies are not developed and their minds have not become more or less world-wide in their sympathies. Education has been responsible for that quality enabling one to enjoy the art and the marvels of the past. To-day, this is what we are doing for our young. We are enabling every son of the State and every daughter in our midst to enjoy the blessings that belonged to such a small proportion of the community in past ages. In the days of those great marvels, only a few men stood high above their fellows; the mass below was in dense ignorance, black, slavish darkness, gloom, slavery, and semi-starvation. Only a few stood above that misery. To-day every child born in our midst has opening to it the pathway of learning that leads it through the fair mazes of history back to the days of these ancient masters and their glories which the hon. member for York so much admires. And not only does it do that, but it takes us from the flat world of Ptolemy and lifts us into the glories of space and we start measuring the infinitude of the empyrean and feel how insignificant this little speck of dust in the great universe about us is. It teaches us humility and reverence. There is no end to its possibilities. But let me say that the first and the essential requisite of this education is to see to our proper food supply and nutrition. The schools that teach us how to scientifically prepare food for assimilation and impart scientific knowledge of what is required in weakness as well as in strength, in sickness as well as in health, is of inestimable value. The great question of all questions in our life is food. It is the very basis of all. Malnutrition on the part of the mother who is bearing the babe means a weakened babe and a sickly, weakly, weedy citizen afterwards. Health in the home, health during maternity, health from the cradle upwards—that is the way to build a nation strong, a nation stronger than your guns or your bayonets or your swords can make it. Build your ammunition of healthy flesh and blood and noble minds. That is the object of education. It therefore annoys me more than I can tell, though I quite agree with some of the critics of our education system, when I hear of a professor of our University going to political meetings to try to force this House into voting for fees at the University. Unless we can have free education all through that University up to its highest altitude, we have no right to support it at all. If it is to become the property of the rich, it ceases to be national; it ceases to effect the purposes I have described; it becomes an ulcer instead of a life giver in the community; it saps our life from us instead

of giving life to us. I trust that if ever there is a proposal to impose fees in the University, to close the door, however slightly, against the humblest citizen to prevent him obtaining the full development of his nature and acquiring all the knowledge we can impart, I trust, I say, that every such proposal that comes before us will be turned down immediately. I had this chiefly in mind when I rose to speak.

Mr. Johnston: Will we have a say in the matter?

Hon. T. WALKER: Undoubtedly, and I trust that every member will take his share then. Our education is not worth a snap of the fingers unless it is national, unless it is designed to make true, good and noble citizens of this State, unless it is to improve the social organisation, unless it is to get rid of the deformities of our society. It is of no use whatever unless it is conducive to the health of the whole body politic, and is the free right and heritage of every child born into this community.

Mr. LATHAM (York) [9.5]: I intend to support the amendment moved by the member for Pilbara. I do so, not because I desire to have other than the most efficient education for the State, but because I wish to see non-essentials cut out. Those non-essentials, I think, were very well demonstrated by the member for Pilbara. I do not see how it is possible to get any good results from this expenditure. If a child stands out particularly in one subject, it is considered to be the duty of the Education Department to assist that child to develop that particular line. The teachers are there for the purpose, and if they cannot do this, it is about time they made room for others who can. Our country schools do not enjoy the same privileges that the city schools do, but will anyone say that the country child is not as good as the city child? If we wish to educate a child, necessity is the best education. All the teaching and all the work of the teachers counts as nothing compared with necessity.

Mr. Corboy: That is so; bring down the wages.

Mr. LATHAM: I do not wish to bring down wages. The hon. member's interjection is quite out of place. No one stands more strongly for a fair and decent wage than I do. If a girl shows that she is fitted to be a cook, it is right that the State should help her, but the child of to-day is not better than the child of 100 years ago so far as house work is concerned. I believe the child of to-day is inferior. We are told that the girls drift into offices. Then where does our education system come in that is supposed to be teaching them cookery?

Mrs. Cowan: You do not want to teach them cookery at all.

Mr. LATHAM: No, because their mothers can do more for them than any outside individual. If we want to get the best results we can get them from a voluntary worker better

than from one who is forced. Fancy sending girls to school to be taught washing! It is natural for girls to learn cooking and washing, and they do not require to be taught these things at school. With just a little consideration on the part of the mothers, they can develop proficiency in these directions better than with all our help.

Mr. Johnston: If this vote is reduced the country schools will suffer.

Mr. LATHAM: I do not say that this would apply to the country, but if there are non-essentials in the country schools, they should be cut out. I have visited a good many country schools and have not seen anything taught which was not essential to the welfare of the children.

The Minister for Works: How can you cut off 10 per cent. of the teachers in the service?

Mr. LATHAM: I said nothing about 10 per cent. of the teachers.

The Minister for Works: I would not mind if the proposal were practical, but it is not.

Mr. LATHAM: I have been particularly singled out by one hon. member, but I do not think it is any detriment to a man who has been unfortunate enough to miss the privileges of a good education if he succeeds in winning his way to the fore. He deserves credit for it.

Mr. O'Loughlen: But you should not withhold those privileges from others.

Mr. LATHAM: Such a man is probably more valuable to the community than one who has had an advanced education. I support the amendment.

Mr. A. THOMSON (Katanning) [9.12]: I do not know that I shall support the member for Pilbara who has moved for a reduction of 10 per cent. That 10 per cent. seems to be rather an unpopular suggestion, judging by my experience of last evening. I think we might reduce the vote by a small amount as an indication that, in the opinion of this Chamber, savings might be effected. I am afraid that any reduction will result in difficulty, because whenever a reduction is suggested, the member suggesting it is twitted by the member for Kanowna and others with a desire to curtail the privileges of those entitled to receive educational advantages, and a desire to keep them in a state of ignorance. I do not say I shall support a reduction of £50,000. I know the whip which has been held over members ever since I have been in this House, a period of seven years; whenever this vote has been discussed, we have been given to understand that if a reduction was made, the country schools would suffer. I know the difficulties of the department in the country districts. Excellent work has been done, but when one considers the extraordinary facilities enjoyed by the children more fortunately situated in the metropolitan area, one must confess that the country children are not getting anything like equal facilities. Take the technical

school; I was desirous of getting my son in there in order to finish off, but there was no room. When the State is providing facilities, every child should have an equal opportunity. When education is supposed to be free, my child is entitled to the same opportunity as any other. When one speaks on this question his remarks are apt to be misconstrued. It has been given to me on the best authority that, of the money expended by the Education Department, 93 per cent. represents salaries. If that statement is correct, and I believe it is, then I am afraid it is not of much use the Committee reducing the vote. We have other alternatives of course, and one would be to increase the number of children that the various teachers should teach. The Education Department say that the present number is the maximum.

Mr. Mann: How can you increase the number if the children are not there?

Mr. A. THOMSON: I am dealing with the metropolitan area.

Mr. Mann: You did not say so.

Mr. A. THOMSON: That is one difficulty with which we are faced. I feel that when one looks through the Estimates, and notices how much the Training College costs—and no doubt it is a distinct advantage to the education system of the State—it seems unfortunate that about 75 per cent. of those who are trained there do not give the full benefit of the knowledge which they acquire to the State. The State does not get value for the money it expends. The ladies who are trained are naturally inclined to follow the usual course of getting married.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Your opinion is that the individual gains and the State loses?

Mr. A. THOMSON: I would prefer to see more male teachers.

The Minister for Works: You do not lose the influence of the woman.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I am merely dealing with some of the difficulties with which we are faced. Coming to the secondary schools we find that there is provided £15,000 for the staff. I presume that that amount is in connection with the high schools. I am not going to say that I am opposed altogether to high schools, but I claim that we would get better results in the country districts if we established agricultural colleges. I would prefer to see what I might term rural schools, where the children would have an opportunity of assimilating a liking for country life, and where they would be given practical knowledge of farming pursuits. We find on the Estimates that provision is made to the extent of £1,620 for the Narrogin school staff. Further down there is £4,850, which I presume is to be expended in providing additional facilities such as increased buildings. For the School of Mines there is set down a sum of £5,400. I do not wish for a moment to say that that amount of money should not be spent in giving instruction to those who are desirous of assimilating knowledge in mineralogy. The members for West Perth

and Kanowna argue that there should be a certain amount of teaching in connection with household management and technical knowledge which is essential. I claim that we should also give instruction in farming and pastoral pursuits. My point, however is, that taking into consideration the financial position of the State, we cannot afford to continue as we have been doing.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Let this be the last department to be attacked.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Exactly. The statement has been freely made in the House that it is a deplorable thing to find a member of the Country Party attacking the Lands Department vote. The same thing applies in other directions. We may find members speaking on the Mines Department vote and on other votes, and asking that the particular votes in which they are interested shall not be touched, but that others shall be reduced. We have arrived at the stage when we must ask whether we can afford to continue what, at times have been called the frills.

Hon. T. Walker: You cannot afford to neglect them.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I will admit that the hon. member is an example of what can be accomplished by personal effort. The hon. member qualified and became a member of an honourable profession simply because he applied himself to his studies.

Hon. T. Walker: And education taught me how to do it.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I presume the hon. member is like the majority of members in this House. At any rate I should speak for myself and say that I only attended a State school until I reached the age of 14, and that many of us were only educated in what the member for Pilbara terms the three R's. While all these things are essential and mean knowledge, we must also remember that when we left school we became specialists in the particular calling to which we applied ourselves in order to gain a livelihood. How many hon. members have been able to retain that knowledge which they acquired in their school days? The majority of us specialised in the particular lines we decided to follow.

The Minister for Works: And which were taught at school.

Mr. O'Loghlen: The Minister for Works has been through a hundred different schools in his life.

Mr. A. THOMSON: He has been through the hard school of experience, which is a great advantage. I do not consider the Government are acting wisely in continuing the expenditure on high schools. In my opinion and in the opinion of quite a number of teachers in the Education Department, in central schools such as those at Katanuing, Wagin, Narrogin and various other towns in the State, it is quite possible by the selection of a teacher of a higher grade to give a limited number of children attending the school the opportunity of reaching the eighth standard. If those children show exceptional ability, then it is the duty of the

State to give them the opportunity of going on to the Modern School, and from there to the University. Our secondary schools give only what might be termed a commercial training. I consider that the trend of the Education Department is in the direction more particularly of commercial training. That is where the money is being spent.

Hon. T. Walker: We can alter all that if we find that we do not need so much commercial training.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Unfortunately that is not being altered. I have quoted figures to show the small amount of money that is being spent on agricultural education, and the Premier is banking on the primary products of the State to pull the State out of its difficulty. Therefore, it is essential that those who are following primary pursuits should have the opportunity of becoming experts. Farming is just as much a science and a profession as any other, and instead of erecting high schools it would be better to provide an agricultural college.

Hon. T. Walker: Once you cut down the Estimates you get no more schools.

Mr. A. THOMSON: There is an item in connection with manual training and cookery which takes £13,585. I am not going to say that the manual training is not good, and I am not going to say that the teaching of children to cook is not good, but the question is whether we can afford to continue to impart this particular instruction. I shall not support the reduction proposed by the member for Pilbara; but I should be glad to see the vote reduced by a small sum, as a direction to the Government that they must discover ways and means of effecting economies.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex [9.31]): The member for Pilbara has said that he took his action mainly by way of protest against the nature of the report of the Royal Commission on education. When that Royal Commission was first appointed, considerable exception was taken throughout the State to its constitution. As a member representing a country district, I waited, with other country members, upon the Minister for Education and suggested that there should be country representation on the Commission. I believe a corresponding request came from the women's organisations for the representation of women on the Commission. It would have been a fair thing if the different sections of the community had been so represented. To this extent I support the member for Pilbara, but I am quite unable to support him in asking for any reduction of the vote. Ever since I have been a member of the House, I have, in spite of the arguments of the member for Pilbara and those of Mr. Pilkington, formerly member for Perth, consistently maintained the cause of education. I may draw attention to the report of the Education Department, which shows that the increase in the vote this year is relatively small—92 per cent. of it being due to higher

salaries, against which the Minister has no remedy. I have always supported the extension of our education system throughout the country districts. Members representing city constituencies are a strong safeguard for city education. I am glad to note that the standard of teachers going to the country is improving and that the number of country schools is increasing. This progress in connection with education in the country is no doubt due to the persistent efforts of country members to secure better facilities. I regret that the member for Kanowna spoilt his peroration by a gratuitous insult to myself. The insult was quite uncalled for, since my interjection to him was due to a reflection cast by that member on country members. He reflected upon their intelligence, and reflected upon the diet which occasionally they have to resort to in the course of their daily life. The hon. member refused to withdraw.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Sussex has made a statement which is incorrect. The hon. member stated that the member for Kanowna gratuitously insulted him, and refused to apologise and withdraw.

Mr. PICKERING: Yes, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: That is absolutely incorrect.

Mr. PICKERING: I am glad of your assurance to that effect, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: When you rose and demanded an apology, the member for Kanowna said he would willingly give it. Is that not so, Mr. Walker?

Hon. T. Walker: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish the member for Sussex would withdraw his remark, because it is a reflection upon the Chair.

Mr. PICKERING: I will withdraw it upon your assurance, Sir. Capt. Marryatt's "Midshipman Easy" contains an incident in which a gratuitous insult was given, in a certain direction which is not quite polite; and I understood that the apology of the member for Kanowna was in the nature of the apology tendered to the lieutenant in Capt. Marryatt's book. The insult of the member for Kanowna was a gratuitous one.

Hon. T. Walker: I did not think you were so thin-skinned. Why cannot you take a joke?

Mr. PICKERING: If the result of the wisdom and learning of the member for Kanowna is to produce such indiscretions, we should not follow him. I am very glad indeed to know that it is the intention of the Education Department to go far in the direction of improving the facilities for acquiring knowledge in the country schools, and thus of increasing the capacity of the students. In that connection it occurs to me that there must be in the country schools some students who are unfitted for the country life. The same facilities should be afforded them of fitting themselves for other avocations as are granted to children in the city schools. Similarly, in the city schools there must be many students who are unfitted for city life, and would be advantaged by opportunities of

agricultural training. Unlike the member for Pilbara, I am not opposed to the teaching of cooking and sewing in schools, if that teaching is on sound lines. But I do contend that nowadays people have not the same good digestions as in years gone by. I attribute the change to the dolled-up diet of to-day, as against the plain cooking of our youth. In the matter of teaching plain cookery, I am with the department every time. I agree with the member for Pilbara that it is absurd to send children to school at too young an age, but the influence of this particular item upon the attendances is great. To exclude children as the member for Pilbara suggests, would lead to the closing of many country schools. Though not much good has come out of the recommendations of the Royal Commission, I would draw attention to a remark in that body's report to the effect that the number of students being trained as typists and book-keepers is out of all proportion to the requirements of the country. In spite of what the member for Pilbara has said about the technical schools, I hold that if we desire to increase the number of our trained artisans we must continue the operation of those schools. I endorse the remarks of one hon. member—I think it was the member for Pilbara—as to the scarcity of skilled artisans in this State. I regret that under our system of education it is not possible to train youths in that direction. It has been stated, not so much on this side of the Chamber as on the other side, that to train artisans is impossible under our present apprenticeship system.

Mr. McCallum: Who said that?

Mr. PICKERING: The member for Hannans. By attending technical schools youths obtain a more intimate and more accurate knowledge of their trade than otherwise they would. The member for Pilbara reflected upon the situation of the technical school. I contend that if that school were placed in a remote situation, difficult of access, the number of students would fall off. In Sydney the technical school was very accessible, and was largely attended. I myself put in 12 months there, going through a course; and I consider that I derived considerable advantage from the training. If I, as an architect, could gain advantage from being trained at a technical school, surely that training must be of great assistance to youths learning a trade. I should regret very much any attempt to cut down the expenditure on technical schools. Consolidation of schools I regard as a step in the right direction. The Minister for Education afforded me, with other members, an opportunity of seeing the consolidated school system in operation at Toodyay; and I was much impressed with the system, which I think should be applied to any centre where it can be applied. One centre I would recommend in this connection is Donnybrook, where the Minister for Works has recently erected a spacious school, which I am told will shortly need extension. I hope the Minister for Education will keep that matter in view. To some extent I agree with

the member for Katanning that we should increase by every possible means our agricultural schools, on the lines—if we cannot do better—of the Narrogin school. I hold that the Narrogin school has done yeoman service; and I am assured that since its transfer from the Agricultural Department to the Education Department it has improved considerably. I am glad of that assurance. From my own knowledge I can say that the accommodation at that school is to-day inadequate.

Mr. Johnston: That is the main complaint.

Mr. PICKERING: I have met farmers who have attended courses at the Narrogin school and have declared their intention of going back again. If practical farmers, who have made a successful trade of their farming without any prior knowledge, can obtain so much advantage from the course at this school, it should be the object of the Education Department to extend the benefits of that institution in the widest possible measure. I think such a school should be established in every district where there are conditions requiring investigation. The conditions in the South-West, for instance, are entirely different from those at Narrogin. But, while that is so, Narrogin has my best wishes. I am convinced, as the result of the statement of the member for Kanowna, of the futility of arguing against a reduction of the vote in this matter. I do not believe there are more than one or two members of this Committee who would vote for a reduction of the amount. I honestly believe that we could increase the facilities to the people outback and thus, we, as a young nation, would have a better educated community. If that were done, I think it would be endorsed by the community as a whole. I hope the Vote will be agreed to as it stands.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [9.46]: All the States of Australia, including Western Australia, should be congratulated on the education systems in operation. In each case, it is a free, national educational system. But we should not lose sight of the fact that when the systems were introduced, the financial conditions in the several States were different from those existing to-day. In the earlier days, there was an elastic method of raising revenue through the Customs, but under Federation that very useful method was taken from the States. Our troubles did not end there, because, as time went on, the Federal Government gradually took over other avenues of taxation. In no single instance, did they suggest taking over a department or function which meant the expenditure of large sums of money, without the benefit of larger returns.

Mr. Lutey: Do you suggest the Federal Government should take over the education systems of the States?

Mr. ANGELO: We know that Western Australia has a large deficit. Reports in the Press show that other States will either have deficits or small surpluses. We also know that the Federal Treasurer anticipates a



'surplus. That being so, it would be reasonable for the various State Governments to ascertain whether the Federal Government will take over the educational facilities of Australia or subsidise them liberally and leave them under the control of the several States. That is a question which should be seriously considered before the Federal Convention is held. The Federal Government provide a maternity bonus to encourage the birth of children. It is only another step for the Federal Government, having encouraged the advent of children, to see that they are educated. If the Federal Government, however, provided the States with a sufficient subsidy to cover the cost of primary education, the States could be left to shoulder the burden of the cost of the higher branches of education. This is an aspect that should be seriously considered by the Government, and the Premier might be in a position to confer with other Premiers at the forthcoming Premiers' conference with regard to it.

Mr. Johnston: It could be discussed at the Federal Convention.

Mr. ANGELO: It would be better for it to be discussed first by the Premiers so that they might go to the Convention with a unanimous proposal. The Government might also consider the advisability of suggesting to the Western Australian members in the Federal arena that they might ascertain whether something of the kind could be done. I want to emphasise the fact again that Western Australia and the other States established their education systems when they were in a far better position to do so than they are to-day. In those days, they had a better chance of raising the necessary money. Since then, the Federal Government have encroached time and again upon every avenue of taxation, leaving the States with hardly sufficient to carry on domestic government and expensive departments such as that under discussion.

Mr. McCALEM (South Fremantle) [9.50]: I do not know whether it is of any use members giving expression to their views in connection with education matters, seeing the lack of attention which is apparently given by Ministers to the speeches of members. I think it would be well to issue a warning, as the member for Kanowna has already done, that if the proposal to charge fees in connection with the University is proceeded with, the authorities can expect trouble. If it is a question of talking to defeat that proposal, I will be prepared to talk as long as I can stand. I hope the House will stand solidly against this proposal, and it would be as well for members to let their views be known on the point. If that were done, the Senate of the University could be acquainted with the position and they could drop the scheme and formulate some other proposal to raise money to finance the institution. I am disappointed that there is no increased vote provided in favour of the Workers' Educa-

tional Association. I was hopeful that the Country Party would lend material assistance in the direction of securing support for that scheme. A proposal was laid before the Government for a paltry £1,500 in order to link up the Workers' Educational Association with the University and extend the ramifications of the scheme to the country districts. It would have been a fine extension of the education system in a field that has not been touched up to the present. As it is, we are limiting the education facilities to children in a large measure, and there is no reason why the education system should not be extended to adults in order that they may endeavour to repair the mistakes of their youth when, perhaps through economic considerations in the home, they were unable to continue their education in their younger days. I believe Western Australia stands alone in this direction. The Workers' Educational Association offers a means by which that position can be rectified. It is a scheme which provides facilities which are not available at the present time, and under that system, youths and adults generally are able to pursue studies in any direction they may desire. An application was made to the Government to provide £1,500 to enable this work to be done; the University was to provide the lecturers; the classes were to be extended throughout all the main towns in the State, and in addition to the lectures and discussions, correspondence classes were to be established, bringing the scheme into the home of every individual who desired to participate. Such a scheme would enable any individual to take a course of study in any subject he might desire. The Government, however, have denied the Workers' Educational Association the opportunity of going on with that scheme. The work cannot proceed without financial support. To-day the lectures are practically confined to the city; they cannot be extended into the country, and even the operations in the heart of the population of the State, are limited. I am very disappointed that the Government have not seen fit to provide the small amount I have mentioned. Western Australia is the only State in the Commonwealth that has not come to the financial assistance of the Workers' Educational Association. Regarding the criticisms hurled at the apprenticeship system in this State, I cannot understand the trend of that criticism. Our system challenges comparison with that in any other part of Australia. The finest class of tradesmen is turned out in Western Australia. Very good work is done by the Arbitration Court and to-day over a thousand youths are examined by skilled men, and these youths have to pass an examination before they become entitled to the increases provided under the Arbitration Court award.

Mr. Latham: Is there a sufficient number of apprentices turned out to serve all requirements in the different trades?

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: Our one drawback here is that we cannot absorb all the men who are turned out.

Mr. Latham: Does that apply to bricklayers?

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: That is the one exception that proves the rule. In the building trade, the fault lies entirely with the employers, for they will not take on apprentices.

Mr. A. Thomson: You know the reason.

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: It is contended by the contractors that they have small intermittent jobs and, in the circumstances, they cannot see their way clear to assume the responsibility of indentures covering a period of five years, because they cannot secure continuous work. We went to the Builders' and Contractors' Association with a deputation representing the combined building trades and urged that body to adopt the apprenticeship system. We suggested that they should transfer lads from one job to another. We did everything possible to get them to take on apprentices, but the employers would not do so, because they would not accept the responsibility.

Mr. A. Thomson: They cannot accept it.

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: There is a certain amount of strength in the attitude they take up but there should be some way of getting over the difficulty.

Mr. A. Thomson: Can you suggest that way?

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: Take a firm like Millars. I do not know that I am giving away trade secrets, but I believe Millars are practically at the back of the majority of the contractors in the city at the present time. Contractors may operate under various names, but really Millars stand behind the work. That firm have big joinery works and big inside works so that, should there be no work available outside, apprentices could be transferred to the workshops. That is one way of getting over the difficulty.

Mr. A. Thomson: Do you not think there should be one apprentice to one man?

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: And they will not take one apprentice to 20 men!

The Minister for Works: This does not come under the Education Vote.

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: Practically every speaker, including the mover of the amendment, has discussed the question of apprentices.

The Minister for Works: The question of apprentices is not dealt with under this vote.

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: The member for Pilbara discussed this matter at some length and he talked out of the back of his neck. He did not understand a thing he was talking about. He does not know anything about labour conditions. He spoke about unskilled men receiving more than skilled men. He did not give cases where that happened. The man does not know the head from the bull's foot as far as trades unionism is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member confine his remarks to the Vote?

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: Am I not entitled to reply to arguments which have been put up?

Mr. A. Thomson: They would not let me do that last night.

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: I was kept out of my bed last night and the Minister need not growl at the present stage. The evening is quite young. So far as apprentices are concerned in Western Australia, they have to pass examinations and secure certificates before they become entitled to the increases provided by the Arbitration Court award.

The Minister for Works: The Education Vote does not deal with that.

Mr. Troy: Technical schools deal with the apprentices and provision is made for technical schools.

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: Apprentices are compelled under the award of the Arbitration Court to spend a certain amount of time at the Technical School. Examiners are appointed and they are drawn from skilled men working at their trade by day, who go to the Technical School at night and supervise and examine the work of the apprentices. The unions and the employers appoint representatives to visit the boys in the workshops once every half year. They examine the lads on the job, and issue certificates if they come up to standard. If they do not pass the test, they do not get their certificates and cannot claim the increases provided by the court.

The Minister for Works: There is nothing in this Vote dealing with that question.

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: There are funds in this Vote to provide for the Technical School, which furnishes part of the apprenticeship training. We are turning out the finest tradesmen in Australia. When the Leader of the Opposition and I were in Newcastle a few months ago, we visited the big works there and were delighted to find that a number of the departments were in charge of young men who had learned their trade in this State. It is a striking testimony to the thoroughness with which our lads are instructed. However, those are the two points I wish to stress, namely, that when the University Senate comes here to ask for authority to impose fees, they can rely upon some very strong opposition. In the second place I hope the Government will yet see their way clear to make some grant to the W.E.A. As for the apprentices, I say the system in force here will challenge comparison with anything in the Eastern States.

Mr. A. Thomson: Why not give our boys an opportunity to learn a trade?

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: I have pointed out that we have more trained boys than we can provide work for. To waste a lad's time between the ages of 14 and 21 by apprenticing him to a trade which will furnish no opening for him in after life, is to impose upon him a very grave injustice.

The Minister for Works: Men who learn a trade can go anywhere in the world.

Mr. Mc'ALLUM: But we do not want to lose our young fellows. They should be trained for an occupation which will give

them a livelihood. The whole force behind the argument of one journeyman one apprentice is the desire to secure cheap labour. I talk as one who has served as an apprentice, and who in turn has taught apprentices. To put in one apprentice to one journeyman is an absolute fallacy. In my trade the proportion is limited to one in six.

The Minister for Works: I wonder that the members of the trade stand it. I suppose everyone of the six has boys.

Mr. McCALLUM: Every apprentice in my industry in this State during the last ten years has had to go elsewhere for work; or else take on navvying. You want boys to work for five years at low wages.

Mr. A. Thomson: You are going to condemn them to unskilled labour.

Mr. McCALLUM: I want to put them to something in which they can use their knowledge in after life. What is the use of putting them to a trade in which they will not be able to secure work as journeymen? The fundamental reason behind it all is cheap labour. You want the benefit of the boys' cheap labour for five years. The Arbitration Court has discovered the reason of it all, and has limited apprentices accordingly. If there be any sincerity in the hon. member, why does he not take apprentices?

Mr. A. Thomson: I have them.

The CHAIRMAN: I think this discussion is now going beyond the scope of the Vote.

Mr. McCALLUM: I should like to see the apprenticeship system in the building trades improved, but the employers will not have it. I appeal to the Minister to reconsider the question of making a grant to the W.E.A.

The Minister for Works: I cannot make it.

Mr. McCALLUM: We have had no reply at all from the Government on the question. We got a most sympathetic hearing from the Minister for Education, but no definite answer from the Government.

Mrs. Cowan: They practically promised the grant.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin) [10.5]: I oppose the proposal to reduce this Vote because I am quite certain that if such a reduction were made, the schools to suffer would be those in small country districts. I have here a return taken from the annual report of the Education Department. It shows the status of primary schools in Western Australia and the cost of educating children attending those schools. There are 61 primary schools with an average attendance of over 200. The cost per head per annum of educating those children is £8 9s. 4d. We have 105 schools with an average attendance of from 52 to 200, and the average cost per head per annum of educating those children is £6 14s. 5d. We have 149 schools with an average attendance of from 20 to 50, and the cost of educating those children per head per annum is £11 2s. 5d. We have 335 schools of an average attendance of under 20, and the cost per head per annum of educating the children at those schools is no less than £14 9s. 5d. I

find that over 54 per cent. of the schools in this State have an average attendance of under 20 children. In those small schools the cost per head rises to £14 9s. 5d., or more than double the cost of educating the children in large schools. It is apparent therefore that if the amendment be accepted the smaller schools out back are those which will be made to suffer. This report points out that it will be seen how greatly the scattered population increases the expenditure. In the half-time schools the cost per head per annum is over £18. I should like to point out that with the expanding settlement taking place to-day in the agricultural districts, all the cry is for more new schools. I hope the Government will not accept any reduction in this Vote, which would only put difficulties on the settlers in the new districts in getting the education facilities to which they are entitled. I want the Minister for Works to realise that the demand he will have to face in this connection during the next year or two will be for more small schools, in consequence of the increasing settlement. In regard to the Narrogin farm school, to which some reference has been made during the debate, I congratulate the Government on the transference of the control of this school from the Agricultural Department to the Education Department. While the school was controlled by the Agricultural Department it was starved, and nothing whatever was done for it. During the few months which have elapsed since Mr. Colebatch, the present Minister, took over the administration of this school, very great improvements have been made, for which I thank him. To-day it is an institution of which the Government might well be proud. The only thing is, as pointed out by the member for Sussex, the demand for accommodation there is so great that even with the improvements already made would-be students are unable to obtain accommodation. I hope the Government will take this matter into early consideration with a view to increasing accommodation at the school, so that it may meet the requirements of boys in the agricultural districts who are desirous of obtaining tuition at that institution. It has been urged that an agricultural college should be built. Personally I hope to see it some day, but in the existing state of our finances the Government would be well advised to improve the institution at Narrogin and let it meet all demands for tuition in agriculture. Then later on, when an agricultural college is built, the institution at Narrogin could still remain to serve for the earlier course, to train students for the agricultural college, in the same way as the Modern School trains students for the University. That is, of course, assuming that the school at Narrogin is not ultimately converted, as I hope it will be, into the agricultural college itself. For the present I think the Government should improve and maintain the existing institution at Narrogin, and when opportunity offers should also establish in the leading towns of the Great Southern district

high schools on the lines of those recently established at Northam and Bunbury. Today Katanning, Wagin, and Narrogin are almost as important as Bunbury and Northam, serving larger if more scattered populations. The Government ought to consider the advisability of establishing high schools in those leading towns of the Great Southern, as they have done at Northam and Bunbury.

Mr. Teesdale: Why, we cannot get a tin pannikin in the North, much less a high school.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I thought you got a Commissioner up there lately. I am not suggesting that he is a tin pannikin. However, the point I impress on the educational authorities is that we have big growing centres on the Great Southern, and it should not be necessary for parents, desirous of giving their children the advantage of our free educational system, to send their boys to the metropolitan area or to Northam or Bunbury. I hope the Government will consider the necessity and desirableness of extending the system of high schools to the localities I have mentioned, and particularly to Narrogin. If further money is required for the purpose they can rely upon my support in the same way that they can rely upon my opposition to this ill-timed proposal to reduce the education vote, which can only have the effect of closing down a large number of those country schools which have an attendance of fewer than 20. I am not prepared to support such an undesirable proposal.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [10.16]: I must confess that the debate has been very instructive in all respects. Hon. members have, so far as cookery is concerned, dealt with it from the humble damper which has, at any rate, bred and reared virile men and women in Australia, to the more modern fricassees, ragout and souffles which are ruining our digestions and are destined to bring about the conditions of enervated luxury which permitted Hannibal with his privation-reared warriors to conquer Rome and its luxury debased citizens, as depicted by the member for Kanowna (Hon. T. Walker). Members have addressed themselves to the question of reducing the vote by £50,000. I am quite satisfied that those who are supporting this proposal have not studied the Estimates, but have spoken from what they have gleaned from the speeches of other members. This they are quite entitled to do, but if they had studied the Estimates, they would have realised how futile it was to attempt in any shape or form to reconcile their utterances with their desires. If there is one vote on these Estimates which, reduced by £50,000, would revolutionize the department and the facilities which the State is enjoying, it is the education vote. Nearly the whole of it represents the salaries of the teachers, not only in the towns, but throughout the country districts, and a reduction of £50,000 would mean the closing up of quite a number of schools, some in Perth and a

number in the country districts and on the goldfields. Yet there is not one single member who has addressed the Committee but has made it quite evident that he is not prepared to close a single school. The member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) made some very drastic remarks about cookery, laundry, fancy work, celluloid babies and things of that kind. I was quite astonished at some of his remarks although I do not agree with some of the subjects taught in our schools. I visited the James-street school two or three years ago and, although I have been a shorthand writer for something like 46 years or 48 years and still am proud to say I use it with skill, I was appalled to find the number of youngsters learning shorthand and typing in our Schools. The State cannot absorb them. This sort of thing is all right in its way. I do not mind anyone learning any subject which will help to make him or her a better citizen, but I do say that the education imparted should be directed towards the sources from which it is expected a living will be obtained. The learning of shorthand undoubtedly strengthens the memory, but it will not help any girl to make a bed or any man to handle an axe or an artisan with his trade. I think we are devoting considerable efforts to matters of this sort which are not directly connected with the callings in which people have to earn a living. We are turning out a thousand shorthand writers and typists from our schools and from the business colleges every year. Perth cannot absorb them. What is to become of them? I know nothing about typewriting, except that my observation of typists in my department tells me it is a nerve-racking calling for the girls who practise it. In the Works department there is a considerable amount of illness amongst the staff. It is seldom that there are not two or three of the typists absent through illness, which I am satisfied is due to this nerve-racking business of typing. I cannot speak on some of these subjects as I would be able to do if I were in charge of the department, but I want members to consider this question: If they cut down this vote how will they distribute it? If it is to be a question of a 10 per cent. reduction—and that is what it appears to be—how will they deal with it in the country districts where there is only one teacher? It is impossible to cut 10 per cent. off one teacher. So much might be cut off the salary if that were permissible, but we are not allowed to do that. How can we cut things down in connection with the towns unless the reduction is made general in the country districts as well? Reference was made to lawyers and accountants studying mechanical and other trades at the technical school. I can quite understand a lawyer endeavouring to learn something about the various trades, but this was not the reason for the establishment of the technical schools. If it is a fact, as has been stated, that it is impossible for students to obtain admission to the technical school because of those persons

studying there, I shall ask the Minister for Education to rectify the matter. Regarding the statement that at Midland Junction loco. workshops apprentices are not received unless they have spent some time in a technical school, I can quite understand the desirableness of this, but I do not think it is fair, and I shall bring it under the notice of the Minister for Railways to see if an alteration can be made there. Other things dealt with include farm schools. I believe we should have these schools and agricultural colleges as well, and I am satisfied that my colleague the Minister for Education, if he could get the money, would be only too happy to establish them. Many matters have been mentioned by various members and I have noted them, but I shall advise the Minister for Education that he would do well to look through the report of the debate which has taken place. Putting on one side things that are immaterial, quite a number of matters have been mentioned which require considerable thought and attention, and will be well worth the time devoted to studying them. I shall put that aspect before him, and if he endeavours to ascertain how far he can meet the desires of members, the debate will prove to have been not without effect. The member for Kataning (Mr. A. Thomson) mentioned the Training College at Claremont. He probably is not aware that, when the Training College was established, there was great difficulty in finding suitable teachers and the number of teachers required to staff our schools. We could find quite a number of persons who had had some experience of teaching, but they had not been trained in the way that modern requirements dictated. As for the State losing money because the ladies get married, that is what they are for; it is their business in life to get married. It would be a sorry time for the men if ladies were not prepared to get married. If the State does not get full value from them as teachers, we can rest assured that these persons, having been properly educated, will make their influence felt in whatever sphere they happen to be placed. It might be that the State would receive a greater return in pounds, shillings and pence if they remained as teachers in the schools but we want to get an atmosphere of usefulness and real practical knowledge disseminated throughout the State, and these ladies who marry are carrying with them an influence which this State cannot afford to belittle. I do not care twopence for the fact that when they get married, the State makes some allowance to them. I think the question has been well discussed. I do not think it is the intention of the Committee to push this amendment. At any rate I hope it is not, because I am satisfied that if a reduction of £50,000 is carried, a great difficulty will be created right through the country. It is not right for members to suggest a reduction of this kind with an eye to the probable effect of it on their particular constituencies. Any member sitting in this House should consider the effect on the whole of the country and not on

his particular constituency. This is what we tell the people when we go up for election; we tell them that we are out to represent not only the constituency, but Western Australia as a whole. The man who simply takes stock as to how a particular vote will affect him and his constituency is unworthy to be a member of this Assembly or to take his position as a West Australian. I hope the Vote will be passed as printed. I am at a great disadvantage, because I am one of those who in earlier life did not enjoy the full advantages of education that some of those who have spoken enjoyed, but I can say that I have done my best to repair the deficiency, and I claim to have done not too badly as one who started business quite young in life without sixpence to his name, and who has had to fight his way ever since without friends or influence to back him.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I move an amendment—

That the vote be reduced by £50,000.

Amendment put.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Divide!

The CHAIRMAN: I heard only one "aye."

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The motion is, that the vote be reduced by £50,000. You did not put it clearly.

The CHAIRMAN: I did put it, but I heard only one "aye."

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Put it again. I will guarantee you will get two "ayes."

The CHAIRMAN: I put it twice and could only hear one "aye."

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The last time you put it you did not put it correctly. Put it again.

The CHAIRMAN: I will give the hon. member another chance.

Amendment again put and negatived.

Vote put and passed.

Department of Public Health, Hon. H. P. Colebatch, Minister (Hon. F. T. Brown in charge of the votes).

Vote—Medical and Public Health, £177,210:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Brown—Beverley) [10.33]: This is one of the main departments under my control and is a most important one. The vote has been cut down by £20,000 odd in various directions. Last year the expenditure amounted to £197,640 or £16,652 in excess of the vote, but this was £43,296 less than the expenditure for the financial year 1919-20. The large reduction in expenditure was due to the fact that for the year ended 30th June, 1920, there was an expenditure of approximately £50,000 included for the influenza outbreak. During the year recently passed there was only a sum of £2,000 under this head, which was carried over from the previous year. The excess of £16,651 on the expenditure for the year up to the 30th June, 1921, compared with the estimate, was mainly

caused by the increase in salaries £7,409; increases in the cost of provisions and clothing, and an increase of 10 per cent. in the patients' treatment in the Government hospitals, making a total of £3,500; and a special grant to the Perth and Fremantle public hospitals over and above the vote allocated on the Estimates last year of £4,700. The vote on the Estimates last year for the Perth public hospital was £20,000. In addition to that, owing to the hospital committee not being able to meet its expenditure, the Government had to assist with a further sum of £3,450, making a total of £23,450. The Fremantle public hospital, which is included in the £4,700, had the sum of £5,000 placed on the Estimates last year, but was unable to meet the expenditure during the year, with the result that we had to give a sum of £1,250 by way of special grant. The increase in the cost of provisions and clothing amounted to £1,747. There was also an unanticipated expenditure on venereal diseases above the estimate of £1,000 and other residual expenditure arising out of the influenza outbreak amounting to £925, making a total excess expenditure of £16,651. This department is one of the main spending departments of the service and controls many hospitals in the State. There are 26 assisted hospitals and 22 Government hospitals, as well as three public hospitals, making a total of 51 hospitals under the control of the department. In the Government hospitals there are 473 beds. In the Wooroloo Sanatorium there are 308 beds and in the King Edward Memorial Hospital 25 beds. There are also the Old Men's Home and the Old Women's Home with an average total number of inmates of 650. The department subsidises and supervises the operations of the two public hospitals and 25 assisted hospitals, accounting for a total in the Government hospitals of 800 beds. In the Public Health Department, a deal of expenditure is incurred, and in taking two departments together there is very little revenue or chance of revenue. The Public Health Department absorbs about £30,000 per annum. In addition to the general administration of the Health Department and the supervising of the 120 local authorities, it maintains the meat inspection service, the administration of the pure food regulations, the organisation of medical examination of school children; it has control of the public buildings and the sanitary services in connection with all public buildings; and it administers the Factories and Shops Act and the legislation dealing with venereal diseases and the registration of midwifery nurses. In dealing with all these various branches, it naturally incurs large expenditure. Nevertheless, I am in the position, as Minister controlling the Medical and Health Departments, of finding that we are able to obtain very little revenue. In that department during the year which has closed revenue to the amount of £37,337 was raised. Of this amount hospital revenue, mainly due to patients' fees, produced £19,969. The homes

for the aged produced £8,037, mainly made up of payments by the pension authorities for the maintenance of old age and invalid pensioners. The public health side produced £9,321, principally made up of fees for meat branding, of Commonwealth subsidy on venereal diseases expenditure, and registrations, fees for factories, shops and other registerable premises. Members will see from the Estimates that there has been a reduction. In one of the institutions, namely the Wooroloo Sanatorium, there has been a large reduction. The expenditure there has been growing considerably during the last few years. Drastic action has now been taken with a view to economising in several directions. We found that by going into the working of the institution thoroughly we were able to effect considerable economies without doing anything detrimental to the patients. At this sanatorium and the farm we found it possible to make economies right through, and we anticipate bringing about considerable savings. We have taken into consideration the matter of provisions, the cost of which will fall materially, we hope, very soon. We have also taken into consideration the matter of drugs used at other institutions. These are now permitted to come into the Commonwealth free of duty. After a good deal of agitation we have induced the Federal authorities to agree to allow these drugs used for hospital purposes to come in free of duty. This will make a big difference in the expenditure. The cost of the Wooroloo Sanatorium has been steadily increasing for years past, but drastic action has recently been taken to enforce economies there. A total of £25,521 is provided on the Estimates for the current year, showing a decrease of £5,583 as compared with last year's expenditure. It is anticipated that by the time all possible economies have been enforced at this institution, the expenditure will be down to the rate of about £23,000 per annum; but the economies made will not be available for the whole of the current year. In the case of the Old Men's Home also, the department concerned have effected various economies, the result of which is a decrease on this year's Estimates, compared with last year's expenditure, of over £5,000. In regard to public hospitals, a reduction of £3,700 is shown. This reduction is in respect of the Perth and Fremantle hospitals. So far as the Perth Public Hospital is concerned, the amount provided on this year's Estimates, £20,000, is the same as that provided for last year, although last year certain special grants were made, amounting to £3,450, in addition to the amount voted. In view of the need for bedrock economy, and of the economies enforced at the department's own institutions, it is necessary to fix the vote for the Perth Public Hospital for the current year at £20,000. The fact that this hospital receives very little support financially from the public constitutes a continual reproach to the present system, and compares most unfavourably with the amounts raised by various

country and goldfields hospitals. If the utmost economy be practised at the Perth Public Hospital, and if efforts are made to increase the revenue, the institution should be able to carry through on the £20,000 provided. As regards the Fremantle Hospital, the Estimates provide for a total expenditure there of £6,000, as compared with £6,250 last year. On the amount received, however, the hospital went back to the extent of £600 during the year; so that, taking that fact into consideration, Perth and Fremantle Hospitals are both being reduced in about the same ratio. In the vote for assisted hospitals a total diminution is shown of £1,676. This is due to the reduction of Broad Arrow hospital to the basis of a district nursing scheme, and to the fact that last year's expenditure was swollen by certain special grants to Wagin, Meekatharra, Yarloop, and Westonia, and to the reduction of subsidies at Laverton and Leonora. Laverton is at present practically operating as a district nursing scheme although a subsidy of £200 per annum is being paid. The subsidy at Leonora has been reduced in view of the reduction of the work at the hospital to about one-third of what it was when the mines and the hospital were in full swing. As to the health section, last year's Estimates provided for the appointment of a second school medical officer and a dentist. The positions, however, were not filled last year; and in view of the financial position it has been decided to defer this extra provision for school work for the present. We were not able to obtain the services of a dentist at anything like the salary we felt disposed to give.

Mrs. Cowan: Are you having only the one school medical officer?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, as at present.

Mrs. Cowan: We have one this year, then?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. Last year the revenue of the department was £37,337. It is estimated that the revenue for the current year will be £38,500. The principal reason for this anticipated increase is the fact that hospital fees have been raised from 6s. to 7s. 6d. per day. The increase will, of course, only affect the people who can afford to pay such fees. Indigent cases will continue to be treated gratis; but in connection with patients who cannot pay full fees, the system existing, of accepting that portion which a person can pay, will be continued. Personally, I should like to have more money at my disposal, especially for the purpose of assisting hospitals in the country districts. However, it is my intention to introduce very shortly, if possible to-morrow, a Hospitals Bill which will assist considerably all the hospitals throughout Western Australia, but will not throw on the Government such a responsibility as they are now shouldering. Under the Bill the Government will not benefit to any great extent so far as money is concerned; but the measure will be of such a nature that the people throughout the length

and breadth of this State will be able to control their own hospitals, and raise sufficient funds, with every assistance from the Government, to bring about efficiency and economy in the administration of the hospitals. I feel certain that if the Bill goes through, the control of hospitals will be very much better than it is at present. The measure will leave it open to country districts to decide whether they will have a hospital or not. The present system of hospital administration is not uniform, and does not give satisfaction. We have in one town a Government hospital, and in an adjoining district a hospital managed by a committee and not giving anything like the assistance rendered by the institution under Government control. Any information desired by hon. members on the items I shall be glad to furnish.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [10.50]: I congratulate the Colonial Secretary upon his forecast of the early introduction of a measure to deal with hospitals. I would like to point out one difficulty.

The Minister for Works: Not now. Let us discuss the Bill when it comes forward.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. member to confine his attention to the Vote before the Committee.

Mr. PICKERING: Some of the reductions shown in the Estimates in connection with the assisted hospitals are unwarranted. I understand that the District Medical Officer at Busselton, for instance, has had his salary cut down by £50. He has a large district to cover and the amount he receives is only a small one. Hon. members can quite understand that medical officers in the country districts very often do a considerable amount of work in relieving sickness and pain, for which they do not receive recompense.

The Minister for Works: This is all a matter of opinion.

Mr. PICKERING: I am entitled to give expression to my opinion. I consider the reduction unwarranted. The system of district nursing should be extended. I know of instances where a great deal has been done in this way, but difficulty has been experienced in retaining the services of qualified nurses. In one particular instance, the nearest hospital is some 16 miles away, and in such cases it is necessary that a nurse should be on the spot, particularly for the purposes of maternity cases. It should be possible for the Government to augment the funds raised by the local people, and thus assure the presence of nurses in the outlying districts. There is another important matter regarding which the people are entitled to receive some authoritative assurance from the Government. I refer to the plague.

Mr. A. Thomson: That is in Queensland.

Mr. PICKERING: Statements have been made by the Commonwealth medical officers emphasising the seriousness of the position and I fear the plague will not be confined to Queensland. I think the people generally would be much relieved if there was some

statement by the Minister for Public Health indicating that every precaution was being taken against the introduction of the disease into Western Australia. I regret it has not been possible for the Government to provide the extra medical assistance which was forecasted regarding the State schools. The Education Commission drew particular attention to the importance of that aspect, and if a Commission selected by the Government make a recommendation of such an urgent nature, Ministers should give effect to it. The number of medical officers should be increased so that their attention may be devoted to country schools as well as to the metropolitan institutions. Another important question affecting the country schools, as well as those of the city, is the dental attention that should be given to the children. The question of dentistry as affecting the school life of the children, is one of vital importance. If we only realised the significance of pyorrhea to which can be attributed so many diseases in after life, the importance of early examination of the teeth in order to arrest any tendency towards that dental complaint, would be at once appreciated. I cannot attempt to picture the effects of this dread disease, but it should be the duty of the Government to appoint a Government dentist to conduct examinations in the various schools.

Mr. TROY: It is only a question of money.

Mr. PICKERING: I would not advocate it, if it was not such an important matter.

Mr. TROY: We would look after the individual from the cradle to the grave if we only had the money.

Mr. PICKERING: If a dentist were appointed, he should make a tour of the country districts and examine the school children there.

The Minister for Works: You would want 50 dentists to tour the State, and do this work effectively.

Mr. PICKERING: I will give expression to my opinion; I will not be dictated to by the Minister for Works. This is an important matter.

The Colonial Secretary: Hear, hear. You are quite right.

Mr. BOYLAND (Kalgoorlie) [10.56]: I was rather pleased at the announcement made by the Minister regarding the patients at the Wooroloo Sanatorium. I was concerned when I heard that the Vote for that institution had been cut down by £10,000.

The Colonial Secretary: It is £5,000!

Mr. BOYLAND: I was so much concerned that I went to the Minister and he gave me his assurance that the patients would not suffer. I am more interested from the humanitarian standpoint than from any other, and I think it will be realised that we must treat our sick and needy with every kindness. It must be recognised that the Wooroloo Sanatorium is a safeguard for the health of Western Australia generally. The patients who have the misfortune to suffer from

these dread diseases should be made comfortable at the sanatorium, and by this means they will be encouraged to remain there. Their suffering is great and their life, as a rule, is not prolonged. People do not care to go to the institution because of the pain and suffering to be witnessed. In these circumstances, I am pleased indeed that the Minister has given his assurance that the patients will not suffer because of the reduced Vote.

Mr. CHESSON (Cue) [10.59]: I trust the Minister will not cut down the amounts given to assisted hospitals in the country districts. The hospitals in the Murchison district are maintained partly by the people themselves, and partly by means of a Government subsidy. Up in Cue last year we contributed over £1,200 to the maintenance of our hospital. We had occasion to apply to the Government for assistance to the extent of £120 in clearing off an outstanding liability. We were firmly turned down. The people who are prepared to tax themselves for the support of the hospitals should be given every encouragement. Although we receive over £600 subsidy from the Government, yet by the time the doctor's salary is paid and all expenses met, the committee are thrown on their own resources for the upkeep of the hospital. Almost everybody in the Cue district pays 1s. 6d. weekly to the medical fund. That entitles them to go to the hospital if necessary. It brought in last year £730 18s. 6d., and by collections and other means another £500 was secured. Such generous givers ought to be generously treated by the Government.

The Colonial Secretary: We do treat them generously.

Mr. CHESSON: I do not know that. Many appeals have been made to the Government for that £120, but without success. If we still had the Great Fingal mine going, we could manage with the Government subsidy and an individual contribution of 1s. weekly, whereas under existing circumstances we have no hope of getting through on 1s. 6d. weekly. Therefore I say the Minister should show more consideration. I am glad to know that the patients in Wooroloo are not to suffer through this reduction. Anything that can be done to relieve their condition should be gladly done.

Mr. TROY (Mount Magnet) [11.3]: As one representing a district the hospitals in which are subsidised to a small extent, but where the greater part of that cost is raised locally, I ask the Minister what he proposes to do by way of putting all the hospitals of the State on the same footing. It is a most unsound policy under which people living in remote areas are compelled to pay a large proportion of the cost of hospitals, while people in the more populous districts go practically free. On the remote goldfields all the hospitals are maintained by the local residents, who in this way contribute thousands



of pounds per annum. At Mt. Magnet recently a movement was set afoot to raise money for the hospital, with the result that a mere handful of people subscribed a very considerable sum. Yet in towns like Geraldton, Northam, Albany, York, and Narrogin the people are not called upon to pay anything in this regard.

The Colonial Secretary: All those places have Government hospitals.

Mr. TROY: That is so, the Government are responsible for the whole of their maintenance.

The Colonial Secretary: I want to alter that.

Mr. TROY: The Minister will have my cordial support. If in the days of the Labour Government there was any difference of opinion between the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) and I, it was over this very question. Whilst he as Minister was cutting out help from the people of the back country, he was making no attempt to compel the people of populous towns to pay anything at all towards the maintenance of hospitals. It is very unfair. If the Minister will endeavour to remove this anomaly I will cordially support him. I hope the Minister will do his best to assist the hospitals in the back country. There is on the part of some Ministers a tendency to urge to still greater efforts the people already paying. Those people, under some financial embarrassment, ask for a little extra assistance from the Government, and the policy of Ministers is to say "We have not the money, and our advice is that you make a special effort." They are prone to ride a willing horse beyond his strength.

Mr. Latham: I agree with that.

Mr. TROY: It is a very unfair policy, one to which no Minister should lend support. When people are doing their best, they should have a claim on the sympathy of the responsible Minister. I once had occasion to go to a former Colonial Secretary. The people in my locality had raised for a hospital £9,000 in three years, and so paid for the whole of the buildings. The Government were then subsidising to the extent of 10s. in the pound. The Colonial Secretary expressed himself as very pleased with what those people had done, and by way of encouragement he informed them that he would have to reduce the subsidy. I must say I have received very fair and generous consideration from Mr. Colebatch, and have always found him very sympathetic with the people in the back country. Can the Minister give an assurance that the £5,000 reduction of the Wooroloo Sanatorium item will not result in the patients suffering any inconvenience? He has not explained how he intends to effect the reduction.

The Colonial Secretary: The patients will not suffer. We will be making a saving in provisions, and the dairy will be combined with the institution.

Mr. TROY: As the Minister contemplates making a saving in provisions, it looks as if the patients must suffer.

The Colonial Secretary: I assure you they will not.

Mr. TROY: It must be remembered that a majority of the patients gave their lives to an industry which has done much for Western Australia. Had they had the good fortune to work in some other industry, they would not be in the institution to-day. Their presence in the sanatorium is the result of their occupation in a certain industry, and because of their misfortune they should receive the best that the State can give them. I understand it is the intention of the Medical Department to utilise motor ambulances in the back country to bring patients into the central hospitals when necessity arises. I suggest that one of these ambulances be provided at Mt. Magnet. There is no doctor at Sandstone, which is 100 miles from Mt. Magnet. I do not say that the population of Sandstone is very large, but a big area of pastoral country beyond that is being occupied, and accidents might occur at any time. The train runs only once a fortnight, and if an accident occurs 100 or 150 miles out, there is no possibility of getting the patient to the hospital unless some such facilities are provided. Mining development in the Yalgoo district is progressing. After many years the district is going ahead. Yalgoo is a very prosperous town, the centre of a pastoral district, and probably one of the best business towns in the State. South of Yalgoo there is a mine being developed on which 54 men are employed, and within a few weeks the number will be 100. South of that country there are other properties being developed, and I have great hopes that the mining industry in this locality will revive. If an accident occurs at any of these mines 100 miles from Yalgoo, the only way to get medical attention is to bring the patient into Mt. Magnet. The Minister should realise that Mt. Magnet is the centre of all these districts, and is the only place having a resident doctor, and as he serves the people within a radius of hundreds of miles, the motor convenience I ask for is warranted.

Mr. ANGELO (Gaseoyne) [11.18]: I wish to touch on the question of subsidised hospitals and the appointment of district medical officers. Many of the appointments are only subsidised. They are given a small sum to act as district medical officers. When the Government appoint a man and subsidise him, they really create a monopoly, because he is given the run of the hospital.

The Colonial Secretary: I intend to alter that.

Mr. ANGELO: Some of these men have been reasonable in their fees, but others have profiteered, and unfortunately there has been no way of preventing them from profiteering.

The Colonial Secretary: We have no control over that.

Mr. ANGELO: I suggest that a scale of charges be drawn up and that a medical officer, before being appointed, be made to agree to the charges.

Mr. Mann: They would not accept these positions under such conditions.

Mr. ANGELO: I think they would.

Mr. Mann: But you have difficulty now in getting them to go out.

Mr. ANGELO: Not to some districts. Some doctors have been so reasonable in their fees and charges that there has not been a single comment or complaint, but others have come along and bought the practice and have charged double the previous fees. There is no appeal; the pioneer has to put up with it. I hope the Minister will insist on the adoption of a scale of charges and fees.

Mr. Mann: But they will not accept the positions.

Mr. ANGELO: I think they will. We should provide in the terms of the appointment that the scale of fees be adhered to.

Mr. Mann: You will not get first-class men under those conditions.

Mr. ANGELO: We have had first-class men whose fees have been reasonable.

Mr. Mann: But they were not appointed under your suggested conditions, that they be bound down to certain conditions and travelling expenses.

Mr. ANGELO: The fees charged should be reasonable. If some medical men can make a good living by charging reasonable fees, why should others be allowed to come in and charge 100 per cent. more? Yet such cases are happening to-day. Metropolitan members, with numbers of doctors to choose from, do not realise the unfortunate position in which the men and women in the back country are placed. In some of these cases I have known of 10s. a mile being charged for travelling expenses, although the doctor could hire a motor car to take him to the patient and bring him back for 2s. 6d. a mile. I know of one case where a patient was charged £140 for travelling expenses, although the distance did not exceed 90 miles. I have fortunately been able to get this charge reduced to £80, but this was only done as an act of grace on the part of the doctor. I hope the Minister will see that some arrangements are made to remedy this difficulty and see that doctors are subsidised under such conditions that the fees they charge are fair and reasonable.

Mr. Mann: Did the £140 include the doctor's fee?

Mr. ANGELO: No, that was an additional amount. I ask the Minister to give earnest consideration to this important matter.

Mrs. COWAN: When the department is dismissing nurses, I hope due regard will be had to the service of those who were engaged with the military forces. I understand there were two nurses whose services were dispensed with a little while ago and that one of these was a military nurse. These nurses rank as soldiers and should have preference of employment.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11.24 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 27th October, 1921.

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

### QUESTION—WOOROLOO SANATORIUM.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Minister for Education: 1, Have regulations or instructions been issued that in future any persons being admitted to the Wooroloo Sanatorium shall, irrespective of their state of health, report at the office of the Health Department, Perth? 2, If so, what provision has been made to prevent persons afflicted with tuberculosis, particularly those in indigent circumstances becoming a menace to the health of the community? 3, Why the necessity for intending inmates to the sanatorium having to report first to the Health Department, Perth, instead of proceeding direct to the institution, thereby avoiding delay and minimising the danger to the public?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, All persons desiring admission to the Wooroloo Sanatorium from the metropolitan area have first to make the necessary business arrangements at the Public Health Department, or, alternatively, friends or relations may make such arrangements on behalf of intending patients. 2, Attendance of patients at the departmental office adds nothing to the danger to the community. 3, Such attendance is necessary in order that business and transport arrangements may be concluded.

### QUESTION—ENDOWMENT LANDS.

Hon. A. SANDERSON asked the Minister for Education: 1, What is the area of Crown lands reserved for endowment? 2, What is the estimated capital value? 3, What income is derived from the property, and who control the reserves? 4, Is a report on the matter available for members?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, 9,740 acres 3 roods 17 poles. 2, It is impossible to give the estimated capital value of the lands at such short notice. 3, (a) Total income derived from properties is £150 14s. 10d.; interest from Treasury £64; interest from Savings Bank, £8 10s. 6d.; estimated total income for this year, £223 5s. 4d. (b) Educational Endowment Trustees. 4, A copy of the Annual Report of the Education Endowment Trustees was forwarded to the