

Hon. G. W. Miles: I should like to see the bank that would advance so much against the security.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: If the land be mortgaged up to the hilt would he not be shoving it on to the Government?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: No. There are many of these institutions that give consideration to the individual. Personal equation plays a big part. The banks will help a man because they believe in him.

Hon. E. H. Gray: But they see to it that they are well secured.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That may not be. Oftentimes when a sale is made it does not realise sufficient to pay off the mortgage. Under this clause there may be instances of hardship, it may have the effect of curtailing interest on the part of the financial institutions in making advance to owners of country lands. I desire to see country lands holding as solid a position as town lands in the estimation of our financial institutions. But if we leave the clause as it is we shall prejudicially affect the position of the farmer and the pastoralist. I do not think that is wise. It is not in the interests of the country. Rather is it our duty to see that the position is safeguarded. Now I wish to touch upon Clause 11. Under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act there is a limitation on the area of land that may be retained by the owner. Here it is only such portion of the land as may be agreed upon between the owner and the board. It is a question of sustenance. But what is sufficient for the sustenance of one man may be quite insufficient for another. I overlooked one point in dealing with Clause 3. There is no limitation to the area of land that may be taken. I think there should be a limit. Suppose a man happens to have 1,000 acres. He is just as liable to suffer under the Bill as is another man with 20,000 acres.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: Well, if he is not using it, why not?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: But if he has acquired the land by performing the conditions of improvement, he is using it. The position here is in direct conflict with the provisions of the Land Act. The Land Act says, "These are the conditions"; this says the board, if it thinks the land is not being put to reasonable use having regard to its economic value, may take the land. This will be applied as much to the man with the small area as to the man with the big area. I think there should be some protection, some security of tenure given to the small man

who is battling along. There is no sense of security here at all. I will listen with great interest to the Chief Secretary, to see if he can furnish some answers to the questions I have raised. Those answers will enable me to decide which way I shall vote.

On motion by Hon. E. Rose, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.9 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 13th October, 1927.

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

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL SHOWS, INVITATIONS.

Mr. C. P. WANSBROUGH asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that apparent discourtesy is being shown to agricultural societies and members of this House by his departmental officers in that invitations for members of the Government to attend and open agricultural shows have in some instances not even been acknowledged? 2, In view of the importance of these functions to the districts concerned and to the State generally, will he see that replies at least are sent?

The PREMIER replied: 1. No; the hon. member has no ground for complaint, as records indicate that his invitation for the Beverley Show was replied to definitely and courteously over five days before the event. 2, Answered by No. 1.

QUESTION—MOOLA BULLA STATION, CARTAGE.

Mr. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Mines: 1, What was the total weight of goods carted to Moola Bulla station in each of the last three years? 2, What price per ton is paid for carting from Wyndham to Moola Bulla? 3, Is the carting paid for by contract or weekly wages?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, The weight of goods carried for past three years:—1924-25, 37 tons 2 cwt. 3 qrs. 16 lbs.; 1925-26, 35 tons 16 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lbs.; 1926-27, 38 tons 7 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lbs. 2, Up to 30 tons, £11 per ton, on a share basis; all weight over 30 tons at £20 per ton. 3, By contract.

INFLAMMABLE LIQUID BILL SELECT COMMITTEE.

Extension of Time.

On motion by Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) the time for bringing up the report of the select committee was extended for two weeks.

BILL—CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Employment Brokers Act Amendment.
- 2, Stamp Act Amendment.

Transmitted to the Council.

BILL—STATE CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 11th October.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [4.37]: The State Children Department has so frequently been applauded in this House and eulogised in the Press that there is little need to refer to its work. He would be a very foolish person and one not in possession of the facts that sought to level any adverse criticism at the department. The work is deservedly popular. The officers have proved themselves not only capable but sympathetic, and their sympathy has

always been of such a nature that the people brought into contact with the department have benefited by it. For many years the Government have provided money to enable widows, children and certain other persons in distress to procure a measure of relief. In the bad old days rations were provided. It requires no words of mine to show what a lack of sympathy limited the help to the issue of rations. Many years ago, here as elsewhere, it was customary to supply flour, meat and other necessities to people in distress. That was a bad and inefficient method of dealing with a big social problem. Under the present system there is admittedly no waste, because the necessary supervision is exercised. The social work of the department is of the greatest possible value to the State. It is not limited to the provision of certain sums of money; advice also is given, and the assistance thus rendered has proved most valuable. Under the Bill it is proposed to alter the name of the department. The present title does imply a measure of dependence, and it might be argued that it indicates some degree of pauperdom. Child welfare is a general term that is being adopted in other parts of the world. New Zealand adopted it several years ago, New South Wales adopted it in 1923, and it has also been adopted in South Australia and Victoria. South Australia had a particularly obnoxious name for the board charged with the distribution of relief, namely, the Destitute Persons Relief Board.

The Premier: That was worse than ours.

Mr. SAMPSON: It was a bad name. When we realise the possibility of almost anyone finding himself in a position of having to seek relief, it is difficult to understand why the old names for such departments were retained so long. When a family loses the breadwinner, the position of the widow becomes difficult indeed, and when added to that difficulty is the stigma attaching to the reception of relief from a department called the State Children Department and of the children being called State children, we realise that an alteration is thoroughly justified. Everyone will welcome the proposed change. The department is moving with the times. It should not be out of place to refer to boys who on attaining the age of 14, go out to work. The majority, if not all the boys from the department go to the country, which is the

right place for them, because there they should find greater opportunities for progress than in the town. But not every boy is fitted to undertake farm work. Some boys desire to learn a trade and devote their lives to a skilled calling. I would suggest to the Minister that further consideration be given to these wards of the State, or State children, when the boys are about to leave the care of the department, with a view to affording them, in certain cases, the opportunity to learn a trade. I see no justification for the treatment in the case of these boys being different from that given to boys who are under the care of their parents. Possibly the difficulty might be overcome by a regulation affirming that where it can be proved that there is a shortage of workmen in any particular trade, an added number of apprentices, subject to their being wards of the State, should be given opportunities to learn that trade. Again, to those lads who go into the country special consideration might be extended as regards the taking up of land. I believe it is a fact that in some cases influence is used in order to secure for young men the right to take up land. It might be possible for wards of the State, upon attaining a reasonable age, to be given the advantage of departmental influence in the same direction. I venture merely to make the suggestion. I am perfectly sure that the Government are anxious to give State children every possible assistance. I recall that in 1923 Mr. Trethowan, then Under Secretary in the Colonial Secretary's Department, visited the Eastern States and there inspected a number of similar institutions, and brought back a report to the effect that the Western Australian institutions compared more than favourably with those in the East. That is most gratifying, because the department deal chiefly with the seamy side of life; moreover, it is proof that Western Australia has made and is continuing to make progress in that highly desirable direction. Work that is being carried out, and in connection with which a good deal of success has been attained, is that of the probation officer. The gentleman at present occupying that position is Mr. Bulley, who has been frequently commended for the whole-hearted interest he shows in his work. Some little time ago I was told of the case of a lad who, for some misdemeanour or offence, found himself in Fremantle Prison. Because of the department's efforts, largely influenced by the probation officer, that lad

was taken out of gaol and was placed in a home; and to-day—so great has been his application to work and so persistent have been his endeavours to advance himself—he is the purchaser, under C.P. conditions, of a farm of 1,000 acres. That fact indicates what can be done with a boy, and also proves the beneficial work being carried on by the department. I understand there is no officer whose special work it is to look after delinquent girls. I presume a woman officer would be required for the purpose, but that is a matter for the department to consider. In view of the success obtained in applying the probation, parole or honour method to delinquent boys, it may be hoped that that principle will be extended to delinquent girls.

The Premier: There are relatively so few delinquent girls that it is not necessary.

Mr. SAMPSON: I agree with the Premier.

The Premier: It is a fact.

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes. The number is relatively small, but unfortunately there are various girls who are, I think, termed in the departmental phraseology "naughty girls," and a number of these are in various institutions.

Hon. G. Taylor: I have heard that phrase used in other places.

Mr. SAMPSON: It is only reasonable to suppose the hon. member has. Numerous institutions are doing wonderfully good work; in fact, all of them are; but some of them are specially looking after delinquent girls. The Seaforth Home at Gosnells is one example; but there are other examples, and all of them are good. If an officer carried on the same work for girls as is being done for boys, the result would be advantageous both socially and financially. I need not dilate upon this further. The Minister and all hon. members know the good work which is being done, but I do feel that the same consideration should be extended to girls as is extended to boys. The Bill gives the department the necessary legal power in regard to the work of the probation officer. Further, the Bill deals with the liability of a person who refuses to hand over, or hand back, a child that is in the care of the State. The provision in question is entirely proper, and I believe it will be readily approved. I know the department will exercise great care before putting up to the Minister a recommendation for the removal of a child from a parent or the parents.

Hon. G. Taylor: The foster parents.

Mr. SAMPSON: Not necessarily. I know that in many instances children are better away from their parents. During the brief period when I was Colonial Secretary I remember receiving a request from a boy's parents that they should be given charge of him again. Before considering the matter I inspected the parents' abode. It was a sordid, squalid, dreary, dirty place. The father was presumably in the condition sometimes described as half-stung or half-seas over. Generally the parents' home was not at all suitable for a child. Immediately after making that inspection I visited the Anglican Girls' Home on the Terrace, sometimes known as the Anglican Orphanage. There I was impressed just as Mr. Millington, I notice by newspaper reports, was impressed. Indeed, I was greatly struck by the different conditions existing in the Anglican institution as compared with the parents' home. If one were given the opportunity to make a selection between the two as a domicile for the child, one would not have a moment's hesitation in deciding that the orphanage should be chosen. In point of fact, those homes are without exception conducted in such a way that the children are very far from being proper subjects of sympathy, and have in fact very little to complain about. The department's work in regard to adopted children, it is gratifying to observe, makes splendid progress. I note from the report that the number of children adopted has increased. I will not deal further with that aspect now, as I can do so, if desirable, when the Estimates are before the House. Nevertheless I do not think it out of place to remark how gratifying it is to the people generally that the work of adoption is progressing so well. From the departmental report it would seem there is a far greater demand for adoptive children than there is opportunity of supplying. As regards the treatment of sub-normal children, a matter with which the departmental report also deals, the Salvation Army and its officers, Mr. McCall and Mr. Hill, have made excellent progress.

The Minister for Health: They are State officers, officers of the State Education Department.

Mr. SAMPSON: Their work is indeed excellent. The love and sympathy those officers lavish on the children under their care is remarkable, particularly when one remembers that the children are sub-normal and consequently not fully possessed of that

attribute of lovingness which exists in normal children. Generally speaking, there cannot be any objection to the measure. I propose asking for a little information on two clauses in Committee. I am glad, and we must all be glad, that the State Children Department has proved and is proving not only useful but sympathetic. As a result the State is now in a considerably better position than if those who carry out this work were less suited to the important duties they discharge.

MR. THOMSON (Katanning) [4.58]: I wish to say a few words in appreciation of the splendid work of the State Children Department, and I also desire to commend the Government for their sympathetic administration of that department. From what little I have seen of the departmental methods, it appears that the officers endeavour to convey a human touch and human feeling to the unfortunate children who are under the care of the State. I was particularly interested in the Minister's speech on this Bill, and I am thoroughly in accord with him. Indeed, it appears to me that the measure does not go quite far enough, and if the Minister considers that it can go further he will have my support, in the endeavour to ensure that people who evade their financial responsibilities to their children are brought to account. People who have brought children into the world should be compelled to pay for their support. Unfortunately there seem to be numerous men who consider it quite legitimate to let the State care for their children. I would like to see the powers asked for by the Bill in this respect made even greater. In my opinion the inspectors appointed have a heavy responsibility placed upon them. I am one of those who advocate that as far as possible the wards of the State should be placed with foster parents, so that they may have something resembling a happy home life. The duty that devolves upon inspectors is to see that the children are not being exploited. I commend the department upon the tact exhibited by inspectors in ascertaining whether the children are properly dealt with. I speak as one who has come into contact with at least one of the officers of the department. While possibly some foster parents may resent the apparent intrusion by an inspector into their homes in order to see that the children are receiving proper treatment, the Government would be lacking in their duty if

they did not cause their officers to pursue that course.

The Premier: And good foster parents will not mind that being done.

Mr. THOMSON: Certainly not. Good foster parents will welcome the opportunity to enable the inspector to see for himself that the children are receiving the same treatment as their own offspring, and to see that they are happy. I am pleased that it is the policy of the department to see that children have, as far as possible, an opportunity to enter private homes because, although I do not wish in any way to cast a reflection upon the institutions that are doing such good work, it cannot be gainsaid that those entrusted to the care of institutions lack the home touch. I commend the Minister for introducing the Bill, and I shall gladly do anything I can to assist the department in every way possible. Any case I have ever brought under the notice of the department has always received most sympathetic consideration.

HON. G. TAYLOR (Mt. Margaret) [5.3]: The Bill is one that we can all support. It is eminently desirable to change the name of the department and in future instead of being known as the State Children and Charities Department it will be designated the Child Welfare Department. I think that is very desirable. The Bill will extend the powers of the Minister and the department. This, too, is very necessary. There is one provision by which the Minister or the department, with the approval of the Minister, will be able to make parents accept their obligations. I know that such a question will have to go through various ramifications before it will finally get to the Minister, so that any case brought up will be thoroughly thrashed out. It is well known that some parents, and especially some fathers, will not shoulder their obligations. Under the provisions of the Bill such a parent will be made to pay towards the support of his or her offspring, if the parent is in a position to do so. That is a course that should have been adopted many years ago. We know that men shirk their responsibilities and allow the State to do what they should do themselves. At present, wards, as State children will be known in future, are sent to institutions and generally they are sent there until they are 18 years of age. It seems to me that in some cases that period is too long. The Bill will provide power for the Minister to take a child away from a

home without the necessity to go through any legal procedure. The Bill will enable that to be done legally, and that is highly desirable. We all know that boys of 10 or 11 years often get into trouble without really appreciating what they have been doing. There is no criminal instinct involved, but boys have, because of association with elder children, broken laws without knowing what they were doing. They sometimes become cheeky, and they are brought before the Children's Court. If similar legislation had been in existence in years gone by, some of us would probably have been in trouble.

The Minister for Health: Several times.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Yes. Under supervision, many of those children undergo a great change, in which event it is unfair to keep them in the institutions until they are 18 years of age. The authorities should know if a child so affected is so developed as to be able to do something for himself. He may be able to take a position in the country or learn a trade. That is the view I take of the question, and I am pleased the Minister has introduced the Bill. There is no doubt the Bill will become law. People who have come into contact with the department in the past will be pleased to know that the name is to be changed more in keeping with the progress of the times.

MR. GRIFFITHS (Avon) [5.7]: It is often suggested that select committees are of practically little use. I call to mind a select committee with which the present Minister for Health was associated, together with the member for North Perth (Mr. J. MacCallum Smith), Mr. Mullany, Mr. Roche, and myself. When our report was published, the "West Australian" said that our proposals were very commendable, but that we were looking too far ahead and that our suggestions were in advance of the times. It is pleasing to me, therefore, to note that the Minister, since he has been in charge of this department, has given effect to many of the proposals suggested by the select committee. The advisability of changing the name of the department was impressed upon us during the course of the select committee's inquiries. We were told that the institutional form of upbringing should be done away with. Instead of children being lined up and saying in unison, "Good-day, sir," folding their hands in exactly the same way while prayers were being said, and so on, all indicative of the institutional system, it was urged that the

children should be brought up in a freer atmosphere. The department is one respecting which no one will cavil. Having interested myself in child welfare in past years, I am pleased at the action the Minister has taken.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair; the Minister for Health in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment of Section 4:

Mr. SAMPSON: The clause proposes to omit from the principal Act the interpretation of the words "State child" and to insert a paragraph that will have the effect of changing the designation "State child" to "ward," with the following interpretation:—

"Ward" means a child who, under the provisions of this Act, is received into an institution, or apprenticed, boarded out, or placed out.

Section 4 of the principal Act contains the following interpretation of "State child":—

"State Child" means a destitute child or a neglected child, or an incorrigible or uncontrollable child, or who has been convicted as such, received into a Government institution or a subsidised institution, or apprenticed or placed out under the authority of this Act.

It seems to me that the proposed interpretation of "ward" is deficient in that it makes no provision for the control of the child from the time it is before the court until it is convicted and placed in an institution.

The Minister for Health: All that difficulty is overcome by Clause 9 of the Bill which makes the whole of the Act apply, instead of a part only.

Mr. SAMPSON: Do you say that you have power over a child all the while until it is received into an institution?

The Minister for Health: Yes.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 7—agreed to.

Clause 8—Amendment of Section 78:

Mr. SAMPSON: This proposes to give power to the court to forfeit securities to the department. Of course the Treasurer will not object to that, for it will give the department more money. Something was said the other evening about the cancella-

tion of a form in which the parent guaranteed to refund money advanced by the department. I did not see anything unfair in that form. If a parent is in a position to provide sustenance for his or her children, the liability should not be on the State. Such a form served to prevent the department from being exploited by unscrupulous persons.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: I understand the hon. member wants some explanation as to why the form was cancelled. It was because many really deserving people, eligible for support from the department, refused to sign the form. Although those persons were actually in need of the assistance, on principle they would not sign the form. I concluded it was better to let the department take its chance of recovering the money, and so the form was cancelled. We have had money repaid since the cancellation of the form. A widow who had drawn £147 in sustenance at 9s. per week for her children married again and, receiving a marriage settlement, repaid the advances made by the department.

Hon. G. Taylor: Is any form at all used now?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: Only the application form, which everybody has to sign after supplying certain necessary information.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 9, 10—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—MENTAL TREATMENT.

Received from the Council and read a first time.

BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT CONTINUANCE.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Northam) [5.23]: I do not think we need take up very much time over the Bill, for it has been before us on many occasions. It is merely designed to continue the operations of the Act for another year. Without it the securities we have would disappear. The Agricultural Bank advances money towards

the making of permanent improvements, and the repayment of that money has to be spread over a considerable period. Under this Act, however, the board advances money for cropping and, necessarily, the repayment must be made from the crop. The Minister gave us a good many figures relating to the Industries Assistance Board, but he did not mention that since the inception of the board the farmers assisted by the board must have created well over £9,000,000 worth of wealth. I do not think we quite realise what that means to the State. If there have been some losses inseparable from the production of that wealth, the country can very well stand those losses. It would take a good many of our other industries to produce the wealth produced by the agricultural industry. But for this institution, many of our farmers could not have carried on. Of course, in this State we have rendered assistance to agriculturists to a greater extent than has been done in any other State of the Commonwealth, or perhaps anywhere else in the world. We had to do it, because our lands had to be developed by men without money. So there has had to be a full measure of co-operation. Very few people understand the extent to which we have gone and the success we have achieved by this co-operation. Thousands of men have been settled on our lands, some of them just arrived from the Old Country, men from every calling in life. Before the war they went out and, unfortunately, bad seasons overtook them. This Industries Assistance Board was established, and it carried them over their difficulties to success. Whilst a few of the original settlers are still under the board to-day, a great many others that were helped obtained their clearances very speedily, and are now in a position of affluence in consequence of having been assisted just at the right moment. By that help given them the State has greatly benefited, for those men have made valuable additions to the gross production of the State. This system, of course, will have to go on for many years yet.

The Minister for Lands: The system is advantageous. It has not caused any discontinuement. It is perfectly satisfactory.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I know it is.

The Minister for Lands: But some people clamour for its discontinuance.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I have not heard much of that clamour for some

time past. I hope the system will not be discontinued. The State benefits to a great extent by the production of the farmers. Since we assist in the making of farms, it is eminently wise that we should assist also in the cropping of those farms. That is what this board does. It had to apply to soldier settlement in the early days of that scheme. It was a convenient way of getting the security necessary. In many cases it saved bills of sale and a great deal of cost. It was also a very convenient way of handling the advances. I know this Bill merely continues a system that has gone on for many years, and I see no objection to supporting it. I hope that the value of the security is realised by all sections of the community. A few years ago there was an outside demand for the discontinuance of this practice, but at the time that would not have suited the State, much less the individual concerned. Neither would it have suited the people who asked for its discontinuance. It has been a most useful institution, and was the natural corollary to the Agricultural Bank. I hope its value is fully realised, as well as the necessity for its continuance in a country that is developing such as this is.

MR. THOMSON (Katanning) [5.32] : I am not going to oppose the second reading of the Bill, but I sometimes wonder whether there is any necessity for bringing down a Bill like this year after year. It seems to me that the work of the Industries Assistance Board should properly be a function of the Agricultural Bank. I have wondered why Governments have not considered an amalgamation of these two institutions. The Minister will reply that so far as practicable they are one to-day, with the exception, as pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, that by continuing the Industries Assistance Board we are able to give the State its security without going through the form of taking out bills of sale and the like. I know the difficulties that arose when the Industries Assistance Board was first brought into being have been overcome. In the early stages the board, in many instances, undermined the securities of the Agricultural Bank. The two organisations were working on the same set of securities. I do not know whether to-day the accounts of these two institutions are kept together as one account.

The Minister for Lands: I cannot tell you.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It could not be so.

Mr. THOMSON: That is where the possible danger may occur. Suppose at any time we were faced with the unfortunate conditions that arose in 1914, when the board was brought into being! The demands that were made upon the board then exceeded all the expectations of the Government. Those who were administering the board were overwhelmed, and there was a considerable amount of chaos in the early stages of the board. It was Mr. Camm, the present Surveyor General, who took hold and eventually arrived at a reasonable solution of the difficulty. I am only drawing attention to what, God forbid, may occur in the future. The board has undoubtedly played a very important part in protecting the securities of the State. It also gave valuable assistance to settlers in the early stages, as well as to the State as a whole. When all is said and done it was a matter of book-keeping and entry. The same settlers still owed money to the Government. What was actually happening was that the board was paying the land rents to the Government and all the interest on the charges. On the one hand a fairly decent balance was shown, but money was being piled up on the other side. It is possible, and should be practicable to bring the functions of the Bank and the board under one Act, so as to avoid two separate sets of book-keeping. In a time of crisis, such as I hope will not occur, the position could more readily be handled. The bank trustees and their officials would know what was a safe margin on which to continue giving financial assistance. So long as they remain two separate and distinct bodies with two separate and distinct sets of bookkeeping for the one settler, there must be a certain lack of economy. It seems to me that in the interests of economy, and of the State and the settlers as well, the Government could well consider an amalgamation of the two institutions, and a broadening of the functions of the bank to enable it to do what is now done by practically the same set of officials. If financial assistance is given through the board, one still has to see either Mr. McLarty, Mr. Grogan, Mr. Hewby, or some other official of the bank. I commend this suggestion to the consideration of the Minister. If only one set of books was kept I think it would be possible to reduce costs in this direction. Instead of there being two separate sets of files, the business in each case could be done on

the one file. The Minister said that the main function of the board was to assist returned soldiers who came under the provisions of the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Act. I wonder whether the Government has given any consideration to returned soldiers who have qualified, but who by virtue of funds not being available—I refer to the cessation of the rebate in interest allowed by the Federal Government when they gave a rebate of £790,000 to meet any possible losses—were not so fortunate as others, and whether representations have been made to the Federal Government to allow the State Government to retain the money that is being paid back by the returned soldiers already settled, so that assistance may be rendered to those who have qualified to enjoy the privileges accorded to others in the earlier stages of the system. It seems to me that if we were to amalgamate the two institutions in the way I have suggested, that would obviate the necessity for passing a Bill of this nature every year, and would in the long run lead to economies.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. F. Troy—Mt. Magnet—in reply) [542]: The question of amalgamating the Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board is a matter of Government policy. Such an amalgamation has never come about, because it was contemplated that circumstances might arise when there would be no further need for the board. The security of the board is over the crop of the settler, but the security of the bank is over the property. It has always been held that the time may come when there would be no further necessity for the board. No new clients have come to it except those who have qualified to be settled under the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Act. These settlers are being assisted to-day, and represent the only new clients on the board. As these clients become established, they too will drop off the books of the board. Unless a situation arises such as occurred to 1914, there will not be much necessity for carrying on the board.

Mr. Thomson: The functions of the bank could be broadened in the way I have indicated.

Hon. G. Taylor: I cannot see any necessity for the amalgamation. There is a good staff of officers engaged in both institutions.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes. The member for Katanning has in mind that the bank might carry out the same functions as the board. If that were so, the bank would have to function everywhere. The resources of the bank are not unlimited, and it could not find assistance in the same way as the board finds it.

Mr. Thomson: You could make available to the bank portion of the funds that are handled by the board.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I have no doubt the bank would, in such circumstances, be called upon to find a lot of money to assist settlers in putting in their crops. Many people who take up land, set themselves out to get the full assistance that is available to them. They look upon the bank as a fair venture so long as it will continue to finance them.

Hon. G. Taylor: They want all to nothing.

Mr. Thomson: There are not many of those. Two swallows do not make a summer.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The important thing is to assist a settler as quickly as possible to reach a position where he can look after himself. That is the desirable state of affairs.

Hon. G. Taylor: That is right.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No Government desire to encourage settlers to lean unduly upon an institution of this character.

Mr. Thomson: They are foolish if they do.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I know of settlers who have had wonderful opportunities to get off the board but they have neglected to take them. Their neighbours, however, who were on the board, have got off it and are now worth many thousands of pounds. The former type of settler lacks a proper sense of responsibility. It may be that they are not capable of feeling that responsibility. The desirable thing in all classes of settlement is to encourage in the individual a full sense of responsibility. A settler should get off the board as soon as possible and finance himself. That should be his aim and object. When bad times come he can then be assisted, because the board will know that he is a person who is worthy of assistance.

Mr. Thomson: It is a sound policy to give them stock and sheep, and it should

be a sound policy to give them assistance for cropping.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes, but not to all settlers. The bank advances money for improvements. The board takes the risk of advancing money for stock and crop. It is a temporary institution, established to assist settlers to get on to a sound foundation.

Mr. Thomson: I am not objecting to it.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The institution put nearly 2,000 people on their feet. That is something. Whilst that kind of thing pays the State, the settler should remember sometimes that he is under an obligation to the State. That is not often enough stressed. I have always appreciated the fact that the State, in financing me, gave me a wonderful start. Nowhere else in the world that I know of, certainly nowhere in Australia, are there such liberal land laws as those that exist in Western Australia.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: They are good not only for the settler, but for the State.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is so, but the settler does not always recognise that.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK (SINKING FUND).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Norham) [5.52]: The Bill refers to a portion of the sinking fund, the total of which to-day is something approaching nine millions sterling, after paying off the Coolgardie Water Scheme loan. The Bill deals with loans raised in the Crown colony days and the amount involved is a little less than a million pounds. There is in the hands of the Crown agents sufficient money with the interest, to meet the amount of the loans before maturity. In the meantime, sinking fund payments to the extent of £11,500 annually need not any longer be continued, that is, for the next seven years. It shows us what a wonderful thing the sinking fund

is. Money was raised at cheap rates in those days and the investment of the sinking fund already held has been very much better than was ever anticipated.

The Premier: The loans were raised at a low rate of interest and we get a high rate of interest on the investment.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I repeat that it shows how valuable the sinking fund has been. The Bill means that the State will get another windfall. We shall reap the benefit by not having to make further payments to the sinking fund, which is a very good thing indeed. Our total sinking fund, of course, is in the hands of the trustees in London and at the beginning of this year it amounted to over £11,000,000—more than the sinking funds of all the other States combined—

The Premier: Very much more.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Out of that sinking fund we have liquidated the Coolgardie Water Scheme loan—the first loan ever liquidated in Australia.

The Premier: And we ceased to pay sinking fund on that loan in 1921.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: In 1922 I think it was, and we ceased to pay interest on the bonds held. We really provided more than we needed.

The Premier: Our contribution was a reducing one.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: In the case of the Crown agents' loans there is bound to be a surplus.

The Premier: Yes, it is anticipated that there will be a surplus; it will probably be a windfall for the hon. gentleman in 1934. I do not expect it to benefit me.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I do not think I shall wait all that time.

The Premier: I merely suggest that you continue where you are until that time.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I think it might be a week or two.

The Premier: However early you come in, you will have to wait for the windfall until 1934.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: At any rate it will benefit whoever is Treasurer at the time. In 1926 we had £10,650,000 in stocks and had paid £9,389,000 for those stocks. Thus we made £1,200,000.

The Premier: That is, covering the whole period.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Yes. That was the total profit. The State has had to pay interest in the face value to the sinking fund trustees, but it is a tremendous

advantage to have control of the sinking funds. If we invested our present-day sinking fund, it would, in 40 years, pay off our total liability.

The Premier: The present is a better arrangement than the other over which we have no control. The Crown agents did not invest in our own stocks.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: A very much better arrangement, but of course we were not free agents until we were granted Responsible Government. As soon as we were granted the right to govern ourselves we made the wise provision for the liquidation of our debts with the result that we have to-day. I hope it will not be forgotten that we are to continue to govern ourselves. That should be remembered when we are considering the Financial Agreement. We are entitled to ask the Crown agents not to take any more interest from us, otherwise we shall merely be making a savings bank of them.

The Premier. And by 1934, if we continue to pay them, we shall have a large surplus.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: There is no need for it. All we have to do is to see that our debt is liquidated from the fund, and that has been arranged. So far as the rest of the money is concerned, I tell the Premier candidly that I do not like the Financial Agreement, and when it comes before us it will have to receive careful consideration. We are giving up too much. Certainly there are advantages, but in my opinion the disadvantages will outweigh the advantages. The agreement is complicated and many-sided and it will have to be closely studied by the House. Our sinking fund is so large and valuable that I do not like the idea of surrendering the right to invest in our own stocks, as we shall do if we let go the sinking fund altogether. The sinking fund dealt with under this measure is one thing; the sinking fund in the hands of the trustees, who are our own appointees, is another thing, and it is such a valuable fund and has meant so much to the State that I should hesitate to hand it over. If we accept the Financial Agreement we shall necessarily have to make fresh arrangements, but in the meantime it is not pleasant to contemplate losing control of the sinking fund.

The Premier: There are many aspects of the Financial Agreement that I myself do not like, but the trouble is the alternative. The Commonwealth Government can do what they like with us.

Mr. Thomson: They can adopt the "take it or leave it" attitude.

The Premier: They can give us what they like or nothing at all. That is the trouble.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I agree that that is the trouble. The Commonwealth Government in effect say to the States, "Here you are, take it in this form or not at all." They acknowledge, however, that we are entitled to the £173,000 a year. Unfortunately, they are the representatives of the whole of the people of Australia, whereas we are the representatives of the people of one State only, and though we have control in Western Australia, we have not control over there. We are, as it were, only an infant with no more than an infant's voice in those matters.

The Premier: I do not think anyone could show that the Financial Agreement has not disadvantages, but it is a case of our accepting it or whatever else the Commonwealth like to give us, or nothing at all.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I admit that, but I wish to put the position as a Western Australian. I dislike the agreement, but that will not prevent my pointing out the advantages and disadvantages, and expressing my views on the whole situation. When I was in office I negotiated with the Commonwealth Ministers on the abolition of the per capita payments. I know what happened then and I know what has happened since.

The Premier: That was the occasion when the Commonwealth put up a very strong fight for the abolition of the per capita payments.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Yes. I know what a small part we as a State played on that occasion. Western Australia is 2,000 miles distant from Melbourne. Ministers of Victoria and New South Wales and South Australia are in touch with Federal Ministers by telephone daily, and Tasmania is not far off. Western Australia and Queensland are the isolated States, and the representatives of those two States realised the disadvantage every time Ministers met in conference. When we assembled in conference, we heard the details of the proposals for the first time, whereas the other States had more or less come to an agreement. Notwithstanding that, we must, so far as possible, preserve our liberty and right to govern ourselves, and give away as little as we can.

The Premier: The phase that I do not like is the giving up of our freedom to borrow how and when we like.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is a very serious matter and the conditions attached to it are rather difficult to swallow. It is an agreement that will control to a large extent the financial operations of the State. Our revenue expenditure will be influenced by the agreement.

The Premier: There is this to be said in its favour, that the borrowing control will be in the hands of the States and not of the Commonwealth. I much prefer a decision at the hands of the other States to having the full control of borrowing in the hands of the Commonwealth.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Ministers from the various States will determine the amount to be borrowed, the rate to be paid and the allocation of the money, but I am afraid we shall find we have nothing in common with the other States. In any event, the money to be borrowed must be allocated by State Ministers sitting in conference and under conditions that fairly protect us. Still, I do not like giving to anyone the right to say to us as a State, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther. Thou shalt not continue this work of development without our consent."

The Premier: That is one of the objections.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I do not like the idea of cancelling the sinking fund. Our sinking fund has been built up largely since 1911 when we unfortunately incurred our deficits that continued year after year until last year. The total amount of the deficit was represented by our payments to the sinking fund and the interest earned by the sinking fund; consequently we must ensure that the sinking fund is used to clear off the deficit that has been created. It will be a difficult matter to deal with the rest of our sinking fund, because the trustees have not sufficient money in hand to pay off the total debt, as have the trustees of the Crown debt. The Premier is not paying interest on the securities in the hands of the sinking fund trustees, according to the announcement made by the Minister in another place. He does not intend to contribute further to the sinking fund until the Financial Agreement is considered and finalised. That is so, is it not?

The Premier: Not quite.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Chief Secretary said there was a sum of £400,000 that was not contributed to the sinking fund.

The Premier: As from the present financial year we are contributing 5s. per cent. instead of 10s.; that is to say, the Financial Agreement is now in operation and we are contributing 5s. per cent.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The 5s. per cent. would represent £125,000, but I understood from the remarks of the Chief Secretary that the new arrangement represented a saving of £400,000, consisting of the interest on the bonds held by the trustees plus the contribution to sinking fund under the old rate.

The Premier: No, it is not so much as that. This financial year we are contributing 5s. and the Commonwealth is contributing 2s. 6d. on the old debts and 5s. on the new debts.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: We are contributing on that basis, but we are not paying on the bonds held by the sinking fund trustees. The Premier has in contemplation the cancellation of those bonds.

The Premier: So that would be interest saved.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It would amount to £300,000 or £400,000.

The Premier: Yes, I shall give the figures in the course of the Budget speech to-night.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That, of course, will be a saving to the State.

The Premier: That is the immediate advantage we get from the agreement and it is the only advantage we shall get.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is so.

The Premier: That is, until such time as the population of the State would cause what would have been received in per capita payments to overtake that amount. Under the old system the per capita payments would have overtaken that saving in years to come.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Yes, the growth of population would alter the situation. Meanwhile the Treasurer will have the advantage of £300,000 or £400,000 a year.

The Premier: And will have it for a number of years.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is so.

Mr. Thomson: Have you any estimate.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It is impossible to make an estimate. If our population remained stationary, it would be an advantage for years to come.

The Premier: It would be an advantage during the whole period of the agreement.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: But it depends upon the increase of population. The Financial Agreement has been wrongly based, insofar as it is substituted for the per capita payments, because of the uncertainty of the growth of population. Take the population of the State to-day as compared with 50 years ago: it has increased sevenfold. The population of the other States has not increased in anything like the same ratio. The future movement of population is in the lap of the gods.

The Premier: If we had another gold discovery like that of Coolgardie and the population doubled in ten years, we should lose enormously.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is so. Tasmania has increased its population by only 10,000.

The Premier: In the last few years Tasmania has actually lost population and naturally that State will welcome the agreement.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Yes, with both hands. When we had a population of 25,000, Tasmania had 100,000.

The Premier: I think that during the last two years Tasmania has actually been losing population.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Still, we should not mind Tasmania, with its smaller population, so much, but it may make a vast difference to the people of this State in that the Federal Treasury might not make good the per capita amounts. We may be paying to the Commonwealth far more than we get. Of course we are getting from the Commonwealth nothing that we ourselves do not pay.

The Premier: It goes to them from us and they pay us.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Whatever has to be paid to us by the Federal Government must come from our own people in the first place.

The Premier: We do not get it all back, either.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: We get only a small fraction of it.

The Premier: A good deal of it sticks to their fingers in the process.

Hon. G. Taylor: It always does.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: But the people of this State should benefit as a result of the relief from paying the sinking fund of £400,000 a year. That will be a real benefit to our people. By so doing we shall be handing to posterity some of the trouble that we so often say posterity should not be called upon to bear.

The Premier: But we are not doing it voluntarily; the Commonwealth are forcing us to do it.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Premier is in the fortunate position of reaping where he has sown but little, because he will get the sinking fund accumulation of the last 30 years or more.

The Premier: And of course you will get the benefit after me.

Mr. Davy: Just try to recognise the possibility of your not always being on the Treasury benches!

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The people of Western Australia will benefit to the extent of £400,000 a year. That will be something saved, but it will be a matter of putting off the evil day. In other words, they will be relieved to the tune of £400,000 for the present, but the future will have to make good the amount. That, I should say, is the only advantage to be derived by Western Australia from the Financial Agreement.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I know the Premier is anxious to make a start with his Budget, so I will not detain the House much longer. No doubt the music he will have to face to-night will be pleasant.

The Premier: It never is.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: In certain circumstances it may become very pleasant. All the circumstances have been such as to make possible the announcement of a very considerable surplus.

The Premier: Do not anticipate things.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It ought to be, shall we say, £600,000. The Premier is very fortunate. To-night we are dealing with a Bill which has reference to the sinking fund. The Premier will admit that if the financial agreement is carried through, it will provide a very considerable saving for the next 20 years. No doubt the Premier will let us know the exact amount, but the Minister in another place said it would be £400,000. During the same speech the Minister in another place averaged our deficits to make them look worse. In the way of politicians he averaged them up. The Premier is fortunate. I, as well as he during the last two or three years, contributed considerable sums to the sinking fund. He will therefore be able to frame his Budget relieved of the necessity for making

contributions to a very considerable amount. I congratulate him and envy him. I was never in a position to draw upon the past. During my years of office I contributed to the future.

The Premier: Yours were hard luck days.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Now all is changed, but only temporarily, though sufficient to tide over the delivery of the Budget to-night. When we do consider another Bill, which must come down for dealing with the balance of this enormous sinking fund of ours, and when we consider the Financial Agreement, perhaps all will be changed again. In the meantime I congratulate the Premier upon the fact that he can draw upon the past to the extent that he will to-night, and can from the past present a very considerable credit balance for the current year.

The Premier: You are getting in a foreword.

Mr. Mann: An old dog for a hard road.

The Premier: We will print this foreword as an introduction to the Budget.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I am entitled to say this. During the last campaign the Premier indulged in averages over the last nine years. I felt a little resentment when I read what had been said in another place when the election was well over.

The Premier: Especially in a non-party House.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Premier might have more easily, and with greater effect, criticised his friends concerning their methods during the elections. After all, it was election time, and it is over now. I content myself with again congratulating the Premier upon the happy position in which he finds himself. We shall be compelled to destroy that position in a few days when we come to consider other proposals. This £11,584 is a small thing, as the member for Pingelly would say, but it is something from which we are justly and properly entitled to ask relief. The Premier in this Bill has my whole-hearted support. To the extent of £11,584 I support him. This proposal is right, whatever the other may be.

The Premier: There is no question about this.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: No. Although this is a very little matter, it is a very useful amount.

The Premier: A very useful contribution.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: This sinking fund of ours is a wonderful thing. It is a pity that the other Australian States are not in the same position as this one. If that were so, the credit of Australia would stand very much higher in the British Empire than it does to-day. A sixteenth of the people of Australia have more than one-half of the sinking funds in Australia. Our fund is properly invested and is in the hands of trustees, and is not held by the Government. Against this, the sinking funds in the other States are merely myths. If Victoria had to hand over its sinking fund it would have to go on the market in order to get the money, because it has already been used in the business. I support the Bill.

On motion by Mr. Thomson, debate adjourned.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1927-28, and recommending appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1927-28.

In Committee of Supply.

The House resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1928; Mr. Lutey in the Chair.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER

(Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [7.40]: I propose to-night to confine my remarks to an explanation of the results of last year's operations, and to an explanation of the Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure for the present year. I think the general work and activities of the various departments might best be dealt with when we come to consider the Estimates in detail.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I have heard that said before.

The PREMIER: As anticipated, last year resulted in a small surplus. Since 1910-11 there have been 15 consecutive deficits ranging from £58,000 to £732,000. During that period there have been six Governments in power, representing both sides of the House.

Turn of the Tide.

I am sure that relief will be felt by all at the knowledge that the tide has at last turned, and we all hope that the change will continue. Should it do so, it will give an opportunity to concentrate more fully upon important phases of development which could not of necessity receive the attention they deserved in the past. During the past 15 years the financial stringency has been so great that many things that might have been considered highly desirable had, of necessity, to be held over. During these years the State passed through strenuous and difficult times. The 1911-12 season was a partial failure, and in 1914-15 we had the most disastrous year since wheat-growing has been seriously undertaken. The war broke out in that year and the State, I think, suffered relatively greater than the other States by the extent of the enlistment of its young men, and also because of the fact that we had no industries through which we might profit by contracts for war supplies, as was the case in some of the Eastern States of the Commonwealth. In those years the gold yield showed a steady annual decline, falling from a value of £6,000,000 in 1910-11 to £1,800,000 in 1925-26. It is pleasing, however, to know that our prospects have considerably improved during the past few years. All things considered, I think the State has made a wonderful change over from mining to agricultural and pastoral. The wheat yield last year, hon. members are aware, exceeded 30,000,000 bushels, this being 6,134,219 bushels greater than in any previous year. The increased acreage under wheat this year, with a continuation of favourable weather conditions, should return us a yield of at least 35,000,000 bushels. Increased attention, too, has been given to this State by people from other States, and its great possibilities are gradually being recognised. We have a steady stream of land-seekers coming West. The year 1918-19 saw our record number of sheep, namely 7,183,000; and although the next year showed a slight decline, since then the numbers have increased. Many pastoralists of a very fine type have come over from South Australia and other States with capital and now control vast interests and sheep stations in the northern goldfields country. Both the quantity of wool and the number of sheep may confidently be expected to increase, and the quality, I think, to improve. Altogether I believe we are justified in being optimistic about Western

Australia's future, and confident also that our expectations of further surpluses may be realised. Hon. members have been supplied with the usual financial returns, in which will be found the fullest information on every phase of these Estimates. The estimates both of revenue and expenditure were close to the actual figures, but I take no undue credit to myself for that, because there were many variations of revenue and expenditure—

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I bet there were!

The PREMIER: —as is usual.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Invariable.

The PREMIER: Return No. 1 sets out these variations in detail.

Receipts compared with estimate.

The estimated receipts from all sources last year totalled £9,791,611, and we actually received £9,750,833, or a short collection of £40,778. The greatest individual shortage was in the Railway Department, whose returns were £3,574,269 as against an estimate of £3,650,000, so that there was a falling-off in the returns, as against the estimate, of £75,731. On the other hand there was naturally a saving of expenditure to offset the shortage of revenue. But the most disappointing feature of the whole was the failure of the receipts from income tax to reach the estimate, more particularly in view of the large increase for the preceding year. However, before finally deciding on last year's reduction of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rd per cent. I went very closely into the matter, and I concluded that the reduction was fully justified. Hon. members will note from the Estimates, however, that there is an increase this year. The increase is due wholly to the activities of the Commonwealth Government. An action recently taken in Melbourne, and to which I referred in my Budget Speech of last year indicating that it might transpire during the financial year just closed, has only now come to fruition. This year's income tax returns, however, will benefit fairly considerably—by something like £50,000.

Mr. Griffiths: You are referring to the Abrahams case?

The PREMIER: Yes. The Leader of the Opposition will no doubt refer to that amount as a windfall.

Mr. Davy: There is £10,000 for costs. What about that?

The PREMIER: I think the Commonwealth will collect all the costs. It will interest hon. members to know that these investigations have been proceeding for the past two years, and that they were really initiated by the State's Taxation Department.

Members: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: A special officer from our Taxation Department has been in Melbourne for the past two years in connection with the matter, and the result has been disclosed in the information made public by the Commonwealth Government during the past week or two. While it brings to this State, for the current year at any rate, something like £50,000, according to the published statements the Commonwealth will benefit to the extent of approximately half a million sterling. I think the Commonwealth might allot a percentage or commission to this State upon the results to the Federal Treasury. There will be further payments, although not nearly so large as this year's; that is to say, the payments by the people in question are being spread over two years. Looking at the estimate of the income tax, it is apparent that but for this sum the return for the current year would be below the amount actually received last year.

No changes in taxation.

It is not intended to make any change in taxation at present. I do not think it desirable that we should make frequent changes in taxation.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: If you reduce all the time, it will be all right.

The PREMIER: No. What we require more particularly is stability. If one is frequently changing taxation, even though the change be in the direction of reducing, the effect is disturbing on trade and commerce generally.

Mr. Davy: Take the risk!

The PREMIER: In business and trade citizens must be able to look ahead for some years, so that they may make their arrangements accordingly. Certainly, frequent changes in taxation have a disturbing influence upon the people.

Mr. Davy: The proper time to reduce taxation is the last year of the three.

The PREMIER: Inasmuch as a considerable reduction in taxation was made last year, it is not desirable to go on making reductions or even alterations this year. A few

years of stability in this respect are desirable.

Mr. Mann: Leave it for another two years!

The PREMIER: However, if the returns from income tax continue to decline I shall have to consider the situation not from the aspect of reduction, but possibly from that of increase. Whilst on this subject I may recall the fact that last year, when the 3½ per cent. reduction was being considered, the only member of the Chamber who gave me a warning word of advice was the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo). He said that perhaps the reduction was too great, and more than the amount which could be compensated by the Commonwealth special grant. Thus the year's results show the hon. member to have been a good prophet, because really by that transaction the Treasury lost.

Mr. Davy: No, Sir.

The PREMIER: I can prove that it did.

Mr. Davy: It gained £27,500.

The PREMIER: The hon. member is mistaken.

Mr. Davy: No, Sir.

The PREMIER: Very well; but I am sure that we lost on the deal.

Mr. Davy: I am sure I could convince you otherwise in a private conversation on the subject.

The PREMIER: Probably we shall discuss the matter elsewhere, when I am sure I shall be able to convince the hon. member. Dividend duty was also below the estimate, and probate duty was over-estimated by £8,634. The latter item, of course, is impossible to estimate with any degree of reliability. Stamp duty, which is a fairly reliable index of the growth of business and property values, slightly exceeded the estimate. Titles Office revenue also increased. Another good indication of the State's increasing business was the return from the remnant Harbour Trust. The amount paid to the Trust into the Treasury by way of interest, sinking fund, and surplus revenue during 1925-26 was £225,183, as against last year's total of £258,884, showing an increase for the year of £33,701.

Mr. Mann: You will consider the dropping of that surcharge now.

The PREMIER: That will be a matter to come up for consideration when there is a general review of taxation.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Transport is life.

The PREMIER: It is a good indication of life. When we find increases in the volume of trade that flows through our harbours, and when we find returns increasing, it is evidence of a healthy state of things throughout the country. Taking the increases under these heads, it is all the more difficult to understand the decline in revenue from the income tax. Departmental, which included the collection of the whole of the ordinary Government departments, last year showed an increase on the estimate of £129,000. This increase is due to the operations of nearly all our departments. With the exception of the railways, to which I have already referred, public utilities came fairly close to the estimates. A regrettable feature of the decline is the falling-off in receipts from the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, indicative, naturally, of the decline of gold mining on the fields served by the scheme. But taking things all round, we have cause for congratulation in last year's collections. Return No. 1 will supply hon. members with all information on this head.

Expenditure compared with estimate.

Turning now to expenditure, I find that last year there was a saving as compared with the estimate. The figures were—estimate £9,780,651, and the actual receipts were £9,722,588, the saving on the estimate thus being £58,063. Separating the expenditure into three divisions showing the expenditure under the headings of special Acts, ordinary Governmental expenditure and that of public utilities, and comparing each with the Estimates, we find the results in the following table:—

	Estimate. £	Actual. £	Saving. £
Special Acts ...	3,813,132	3,802,450	210,682
Governmental ...	2,436,044	2,041,144	205,100
Public Utilities ...	3,531,475	3,478,994	52,481
			<u>Saving.</u>
Total ...	£9,780,651	£9,722,588	£58,063

The saving under the special Acts was principally in respect of interest and sinking fund payments. This was in the main due to the proposed Financial Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States. The actual reduction due to it in respect of interest and sinking fund payments for last

year was £154,890. This was adjusted by another item of expenditure amounting to £150,000, included under the heading of Governmental. This, hon. members will recollect, was the amount placed in reserve pending the signing of the Financial Agreement. It was set aside as a reserve to meet losses in connection with group settlement.

Mr. Davy: That will be found under the heading of "Miscellaneous Services."

The PREMIER: It does not matter what the item is; the fact remains that was the amount set aside as a reserve. So that the fact that £150,000 on account of interest and sinking fund was not paid last year, did not affect the revenue because the money was transferred to suspense account.

Departments and Estimates.

The only other variation of consequence in this division was under the heading of Education, the amount payable under the reclassification of the teachers being approximately £45,000. When presenting the Budget, I specially drew attention to the fact that provision had not been made for any increased expenditure which might result from this reclassification. So to that extent my estimate was out by £45,000. Except for this, the departments as a whole kept well within their estimates and expenditure was curtailed in every way. The expenditure on public utilities is on a different footing. We have little control over it, further than to see that economy is practised. The Leader of the Opposition is aware that that is so.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: There are the railways, and so on.

The PREMIER: Yes. We are bound to meet the public demand in connection with these concerns, and must provide funds rendered necessary by the increase in that demand. In only two instances were there excesses of any note. These were: Goldfields Water Supply £5,699, and Electricity Supply £13,000. The Railway Department, as I have already stated, did not come up to its estimated expenditure, thus compensating its failure to reach its estimated revenue. Apart from the savings of interest and sinking fund and the reclassification of the teachers, it will be seen that the actual expenditure differed very slightly from the estimate. The full details regarding items, other than those quoted, in which there were variations from my estimate, will be found in Return No. 1, which has been supplied to hon. members.

Estimate for the year.

Turning to the Estimates for the present year, I expect to collect—

From all sources	...	£9,877,59
And to be called upon to provide for an expenditure of	...	£9,843,39
Thus showing a surplus of ...		£34,19

Mr. Thomson: That is a wonderful revenue for such a small population.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It is no really revenue, but on account of service rendered.

The PREMIER: It has been misclassified revenue for many years past.

Mr. Davy: You refer to money received from all sources.

The PREMIER: Yes, from public activities generally. The money received a revenue is relatively small.

Mr. Davy: That would include the 3d paid by a man who rides in a tram.

The PREMIER: Yes, and railway revenue and so on from all sources. The amount I expect to collect is just under £10,000,000.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Nevertheless, it is sound finance.

The PREMIER: Yes. However, I estimate that there will be a surplus of £34,199. Except for the amounts received from the Commonwealth under the heading of disabilities grants, there is not a very great departure from the results of last year.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Why are the disabilities payments down by £200,000?

The PREMIER: The hon. member will recollect that last year's figures include payments under the grant for two years.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Yes, that was so.

The PREMIER: That was the position regarding the Federal payments last year. It will be recollected that two years' payments under that heading were taken into revenue last year and, incidentally, with the exception of £200,000, were taken on again.

Estimated Revenue.

Although no fresh taxation of any kind has been imposed this year, I expect to receive £122,157 more than I did last year. The land tax should increase by £12,585. I hope hon. members sitting on the Opposi-

tion cross benches will not be unduly disturbed by that fact.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: We may alter that for you before we have finished.

The PREMIER: I hope not. I think it is a healthy sign to see the revenue derived from the land tax increasing in this way.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Do you?

The PREMIER: It means that new country is being brought into production, and that land values are increasing. It does not, of course, mean that there has been any increase in the rate of taxation. The estimated increase is due to increased valuations and also to some extent to the delay that occurred in issuing assessments last year. The income tax returns show an increase on last year's figures but, as I have already explained, this was due to Commonwealth action in the East. Dividend duty also shows a substantial increase, largely the result of one large assessment. Stamp duty is again expected to show an increase, for transactions in real estate are continually showing increasing values, and these deals are frequent and continuous. Slightly more than was received last year is expected in respect of probate duty, but this is an item that cannot be forecasted with any degree of certainty.

Mr. Davy: If we had a plague it would, of course, help you.

The PREMIER: Of course. Very little variation occurs in regard to land and mining revenue, but we anticipate an increase in timber receipts. I have included an amount of £40,000 in respect of the sale of the Savings Bank site. I will deal with the disposal of that later on.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I think we might cut that out too, before we have finished.

The PREMIER: That simple little Bill dealing with the question gave some hon. members considerable concern, but I hope that the method of distribution of the funds that I will suggest, will meet with their approval.

Mr. Davy: Does your surplus depend upon such items as that?

The PREMIER: No, it is quite apart from such considerations. The receipts in connection with the timber industry did not reach the estimate submitted last year, principally on account of the sandalwood position. The stocks on hand were not as quickly moved as was expected, the cause of which was the unsettled conditions in

China. My estimate for this year is practically the same as that for last year. Under "Departmental," the figures show an all-round increase, as is to be expected. Our activities are gradually growing and the revenues of the various departments grow with that trend. The Treasury revenue covers the recoups of interest on the various advances of money for developmental purposes.

Commonwealth Grants.

It will be noticed that I have based the estimated receipts from the Commonwealth on the proposed Financial Agreement. Should it fail to be passed by the various Parliaments, or to obtain the approval of the people at a referendum, something else must take its place next year. At present, as the Leader of the Opposition stated when speaking earlier in the day, we are dependent upon the Commonwealth Government. The Surplus Revenue Act was abolished last year, and that included a provision for the diminishing grant to this State.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But shall we not get a payment this year?

The PREMIER: Yes, we shall receive a payment this year of £473,000, representing the per capita payment for last year. That is in accordance with the proposals embodied in the Financial Agreement to the effect that the amount of that payment shall continue to be paid to us and that it shall become an annual payment covering the Agreement for a period of 58 years. In place of the payments under the Surplus Revenue Act there was provided a special grant of £300,000 per annum which is to continue for five years. Last year was the first year in which we received the payment, and this year will be the second, so that it has three more years to run. At the end of that period the grant will be subject to revision. Whether the Commonwealth Government who will be in power three years hence will continue to make the special grant available, is, of course, unknown. We hope that they will.

Public Utilities.

The public utilities are responsible for the major portion of this year's increase in revenue. It will be noticed that not all of these concerns are showing increases, for a number disclose small decreases. The most important of the public utilities

showing a decrease is the Fremantle Harbour Trust. Hon. members will wonder at that result, having regard to the large increase of shipping last year. This result is not due to any unexpected decline in the volume of business to be handled. A considerable quantity of dredging became necessary consequent upon the railway wash-away, as the result of which large deposits of sand were washed away from the embankment and precipitated into the harbour. That resulted in the Harbour Trust having to engage upon extensive dredging operations. The decline is not due to a falling-off in revenue. By far the most important source of revenue under this section is the Railway Department. Out of the total estimated revenue under the heading of public utilities of £5,320,925, the Railway Department is set down for £3,890,000. Anything having an adverse effect upon the railway receipts, such as an unfavourable season, operates most disastrously on the State finances as a whole.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: By Heavens, it does.

The PREMIER: The season promises favourably to date, so I am justified in taking an optimistic view of the railway position.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: If we get tin have racing 100 miles or so away from Perth it will serve to increase the railway revenue.

The PREMIER: And we might be able to impose taxation on it and so make still more revenue out of it. A small increase is shown in connection with the metropolitan water supply and the tramways, and a fairly substantial one in connection with the electricity supply. The revenue as a whole is only slightly greater than that of last year. That is the revenue side of the Estimates for this year.

Estimated Expenditure.

Turning now to the expenditure side, I estimate to expend £120,809 more than last year. As in previous years, the expenditure has been rigidly curtailed. I have not felt justified in taking any very liberal view of expenditure because of the fact that we had a small surplus last year. That would soon be disposed of if I took my foot off the brakes for five minutes. But it is impossible to control the expenditure in certain directions. For instance, over the expenditure comprised in the section "Special Acts"

we have no control, and we have very little control over that under "Public Utilities." All we can do is to insist upon every economy in the conduct of those concerns. We must, however, provide funds for carrying them on as required. The estimated expenditure under each section of the Estimates is, Special Acts, £3,489,308; Governmental, £2,583,582; Public Utilities, £3,770,507; total, £9,843,397. The decrease under Special Acts, namely £113,142, is mainly due to the effect of the proposed Financial Agreement. The Leader of the Opposition, speaking on another Bill earlier in the evening, referred to this. I wish to say the actual saving under this head is interest, £220,000; sinking fund, £131,000; net saving, £351,000.

Mr. Davy: You will be very much better off next year than this year.

The PREMIER: This year than last year.

Mr. Davy: Then it is rather disappointing that you should budget for only £34,000.

Financial Agreement.

The PREMIER: I will explain that. I do not wish to discuss the merits of the proposals in the Financial Agreement to-night but merely to explain them in order that members may more readily understand some aspects of the Budget. From the beginning I have taken the view that a piecemeal discussion of so important a subject is undesirable, and that we should have the whole of the Financial Agreement, with its possible effects and influences on the finances of the State and every other aspect of it, discussed when the Agreement comes before the House for ratification. So whilst I state that the actual benefit is £351,000, I do not propose to-night to deal with the merits of the Agreement in any way whatever. I regret I have not been able to afford the House an opportunity to discuss the Agreement before giving consideration to the Budget. That has been rendered impossible because of the delay in having the Agreement finalised. Although it was discussed at the conference of Premiers in Melbourne in June, and again at the conference in Sydney, and its main principles agreed upon, nevertheless since that time slight alterations have been made, merely with the view of improving the drafting or of rendering certain clauses more readily understood. I am advised by telegram that the Loan Council, sitting at Canberra during

the past few days, have now finalised the Agreement and that I may expect to receive it for signature within the next week or two. I propose to submit it for the consideration of the House just as early as possible.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: If we turn it down, it will upset your calculations.

The PREMIER: No, I have looked into that. Actually it would appear that if the Agreement failed to become law it would upset the whole of the calculations in the Budget.

Mr. Davy: You will be short of £351,000.

The PREMIER: No, I shall not. The estimated amount we should have had to provide to meet sinking fund obligations, if there had been no Agreement, would have been £290,000. The amount to be provided to cover sinking fund on the basis of the Financial Agreement, namely, 5s. per cent. on all existing net debts, less debt on which sinking fund contributions are already sufficient, and the debt on which a full year's contributions are not due, amounts to £159,109. So we have a saving on the sinking fund of £130,891, plus the estimated saving of interest on securities held by the sinking fund trustees which may be cancelled under provisions of the Agreement, £220,654, or a total saving per annum of £351,545.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That £351,000 is not being paid now.

The PREMIER: The Agreement is actually in operation as from the beginning of the financial year. Both the States and the Commonwealth are carrying on as from the beginning of the financial year as if the Agreement had been adopted.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: So we are saving that £351,000.

The PREMIER: Yes. For this year, instead of contributing 10s. per cent. to the sinking fund, we will contribute 5s. per cent. under the terms of the Agreement. It may be asked what will be the position if the Agreement should fail to find endorsement. It will mean that we shall have to revert to the position we were in last year, and that the Commonwealth contribution to the sinking fund of 5s. per cent. on new debts will have been a present to the States. They do not propose to ask us to refund the amount of their contributions to the sinking fund pending the decision of the Parliaments and the people as to the final adoption of the Agreement. That will be a small present to the States.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I think you will get that present, for I do not think you will get the Agreement.

The PREMIER: I do not know about that. The member for West Perth (Mr. Davy) a little while ago remarked upon the surplus of £34,000, having regard to the fact that under the Agreement we are saving £351,000. In the Estimates, under the heading "Miscellaneous Services," I have provided an amount of £350,000 being carried to a suspense account to be kept intact until the Agreement is finally adopted, which leaves me a surplus of £34,000. If the Agreement is adopted, the position I shall be in is this: I will have a surplus of £384,000—assuming, of course, my Estimates are realised. But I am carrying £350,000 of it to a suspense account. Having regard to the uncertainty of the fate of the Agreement, I should not be justified in proceeding to expend the whole of that £350,000, or to give it away by reduced taxation. So I am carrying it to a suspense account to be afterwards appropriated by Parliament if the Agreement goes through.

Mr. Davy: Assuming it goes through, you are budgeting for a surplus of £384,000.

The PREMIER: Yes, and the £350,000 placed in the suspense account will be appropriated by Parliament next year. We shall then be in a position similar to that we were in respecting the first disabilities grant by the Commonwealth. We had that for a year.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You are not paying the interest on sinking fund debentures in London; you are holding it here.

The PREMIER: Yes, holding it here. If the Agreement becomes law, it will be necessary for us to get Parliamentary authority in respect of our payments of sinking fund. That will be embodied in the Agreement. So the money is really being held. The position is that this year we shall have in suspense £350,000. Last year we placed there £150,000. So actually we have half a million in suspense pending the fate of the Agreement.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That, otherwise, would go to the sinking fund trustees.

The PREMIER: Yes. So if the Agreement should fail to pass, we shall then have that money to meet the obligation under our Acts of Parliament for payment to our sinking fund trustees. If it should not pass, we shall close the year with a surplus of £34,199, and if it does pass we shall end up in the same way; but with this difference.

that we shall have £350,000 to appropriate for whatever purpose Parliament should decide next year. At present I have in mind to set aside £150,000 of it to strengthen the reserve for losses on group settlement, but it will be for Parliament next session to decide what shall be done with that amount. There have been losses as a result of soldier settlement, bad debts, concessions and heavy writing off, and it cannot be expected that we could carry on such a large and experimental scheme as group settlement without heavy losses. That is the whole position regarding the Financial Agreement, and I have no desire to discuss the merits of it further. Personally I believe the Agreement will become law.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I think you are optimistic.

The PREMIER: I think it will be accepted.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I hope it does not become law in its present shape, anyhow.

The PREMIER: I know the hon. member's views on the Agreement, but still I hope it will become law. Incidentally, I may say I am not supporting it because of any immediate advantage that it will bring to the Treasury.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That is the only merit of the Agreement.

The PREMIER: The Agreement must be considered on its merits.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But the immediate advantage is its only merit.

The PREMIER: But that in itself would not justify our accepting it. We have to consider the whole of the surrounding circumstances and the question whether we can get anything better than the Agreement, having regard to the fact that we are in the hands of the Commonwealth authorities.

Governmental Expenditure.

Under "Governmental" a decrease of £57,652 appears, principally as a result of having appropriated last year the disabilities grant that was received from the Commonwealth in the previous year and held in suspense. Now I come to a question about which some members have expressed concern, and that is the disposal of the £40,000 received from the sale of the land on which it is proposed to erect the new building for the State Savings Bank. There is an item on the Miscellaneous Services section of the Estimates, No. 37, which states that the proceeds of the purchase of the

Barrack-street site are to be placed to a suspense account and applied (a) towards the cost of resumption or purchase of land for central Government offices, if proceeded with, or (b) in erection of further Government office buildings. I do not think we can do better with the money than devote it either to the purchase of land for additional offices, or for the erection of further Government buildings as they become necessary from year to year. If we do that, it will be in the nature of applying the money to the same source whence it was derived. I hope that will satisfy members.

Mr. Davy: Really then, you will not be taking it from the State Savings Bank?

The PREMIER: The State Savings Bank will pay us for the land, but the Government intend to use it for the erection of Government offices, not necessarily the new building for the Savings Bank.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You ought to invest it at 5 per cent. and let it grow.

The PREMIER: If we decide eventually that it should be applied to the purchase of a large site to house all Government offices, probably it will earn a little interest meanwhile.

Mr. Mann: That would be the preferable course.

The PREMIER: In the event of our not selecting a site, it is proposed to use it for the erection of other Government offices.

Mr. Thomson: The sooner it is used the better.

The PREMIER: Several departments show increases, the most important of which are the following:—

Agriculture	...	...	£9,444
Police	...	...	5,303
Works and Labour	...	...	24,577
Education	...	...	15,128

Mr. Davy: Does the latter amount include the expenditure on the Newcastle-street school?

The PREMIER: That will probably come out of loan money. The Department of Agriculture is expanding as a result of the State policy of providing expert advice to farmers and establishing experimental farms in new districts.

Mr. Angelo: It is money well spent.

The PREMIER: That is so.

Observatory to be Discontinued.

On reference to the Estimates of the Chief Secretary's Department members will see that only six months' provision has been made for the Observatory.

Mr. Mann: Where is the member for Coolgardie?

The PREMIER: I have done that deliberately because I am firmly convinced that the conduct of the Observatory is a function of the Commonwealth Government. They already control the Meteorological Bureau, which deals with weather forecasts and issues reports. The Commonwealth Government have established an observatory at Canberra. At a conference of astronomers held early this year it was agreed to recommend to the Commonwealth Government that only two observatories were necessary in Australia, one on the eastern coast—that is at Canberra—and one on the western coast—at Perth, and that the observatories now existing in the other States could be closed. Two would be sufficient for the Commonwealth. If the Federal Government are prepared to carry on and bear the cost of an observatory in the eastern part of Australia, it is equally their obligation to bear the expense of one in the western part of Australia.

Hon. G. Taylor: That is sound logic.

The PREMIER: I have made strong representations to the Prime Minister to that effect. Whether the Federal Government agree to take over our Observatory or not, I have decided to close it at the end of the half-year. Perhaps that will have the effect of hastening a decision by the Federal Government.

Hon. G. Taylor: You will keep it going until the end of December next?

The PREMIER: Yes; I think that is a fair proposal. The Federal Government have been advised of the decision.

Federal Aid Roads Agreement Expenditure.

The increase under "Works and Labour" is entirely due to the provision of our quota under the Federal aid roads agreement that must come from revenue. By the agreement we must find for revenue one-eighth of the total sum to be expended by us. The annual allotments by the Commonwealth to this State out of the £2,000,000 provision is £384,000 per annum, and we have to provide a sum equal to 15s. for each £1 made available by the Commonwealth. Consequently our total commitment for the year is £288,000. Under the agreement one-eighth of that sum, equal to £36,000, has to be provided out of revenue funds.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You will get that from the petrol tax.

The PREMIER: That, unfortunately, is not a permanent institution.

The Minister for Works: No, the Act sets out how the money has to be spent. The greater part of it has been spent.

The PREMIER: It has to be spent on the maintenance of roads.

Mr. Sampson: I hope that road board subsidies are not going to suffer.

The PREMIER: A considerable portion of that money has been spent, and the whole of it will be spent before long. I am sorry we have been deprived of that tax because it was an important factor in the maintenance of roads in this State.

Growing Demands of Education.

The expenditure on education, as in the past, continues to increase. This also is one branch of expenditure over which the Government have little control. We must provide schools in new districts as settlement extends. I know that will appeal to the heart of the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is so.

The PREMIER: I agree with him that the more often we are called upon to erect schools in new districts, the better it is for the State.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: And provide better schools, too.

The PREMIER: Yes, as well as increased accommodation.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I believe that is the best investment of all.

The PREMIER: It is certainly a sign that the State is expanding. We must also provide for the growing demands of the metropolitan area and the expansion of the larger country towns. All we can do is to ensure that the rate of increase of expenditure is kept as gradual as possible. Last year's increase over that of the previous year was £51,852, which was largely the result of the teachers' reclassification. In some circles it has been stated that insufficient attention is being paid to education. It is interesting to note the growth of direct expenditure by this department during the past few years. In 1910-11 it was £202,176; by 1915-16 it had grown to £317,656; five years later it had reached £490,160, and only after strenuous efforts to keep it within bounds was I able this year to estimate £662,000. That is a considerable sum for a comparatively small population to find. Although none of us is

anxious to hand over any of our activities to the Commonwealth—

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: For God's sake don't hand over the kiddies to them.

The PREMIER: One might hope that the Commonwealth could help us to find the money for some of the non-revenue-earning departments.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Rather let us get rid of the Commonwealth.

The PREMIER: The increase of education expenditure during the last 17 years has exceeded 200 per cent.

Domestic Expenditure.

There is a section of our revenue expenditure referred to as "Domestic Expenditure" over which we have only limited control and education is the principal item in that section. The total expenditure for the section is £1,320,868, made up as follows:—

Education	...	...	£662,189
Police	...	...	221,211
Gaols	...	...	25,905
State Children	...	...	104,540
Lunacy	...	...	104,312
Medical	...	...	167,966
Health	...	...	34,745
Total	...	...	<u>£1,320,868</u>

That is a large expenditure for non-revenue-earning departments. The expenditure under the heading of "Governmental," which includes domestic expenditure, totals £2,583,582. Excluding domestic expenditure there is only £1,262,714 to cover the costs of all other governmental functions. This is a very small sum with which to carry on the ordinary service required.

Importance of Public Utilities.

As in the case of revenue, the public utilities are responsible for a large portion of the expenditure. The amount asked for on behalf of the public utilities is £3,770,507, and of this sum railways absorbed £2,932,500. The importance of these public concerns is rapidly increasing, and the demand for funds is becoming greater. New railways are required to open up our lands.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You ought not to regret that.

The PREMIER: No. Land is being surveyed and classified, and will shortly be thrown open. There are areas between the Great Southern railway and the South Western line which must be given railway facilities,

in order that they may be closely settled and more highly developed.

Mr. Thomson: I hope you are not neglecting the Magenta extension from Pinstrup.

The PREMIER: I have never heard of it.

Mr. Thomson: Yes, you have.

The PREMIER: I thought I was well acquainted with most districts that want railways, but of Magenta I have never heard.

Mr. Angelo: The Premier does not like the colour of it.

The PREMIER: The country between Jarnadup and Denmark has long been promised a railway, and that promise must be fulfilled at an early date. Although the metropolitan water supply, the tramways, and the electricity supply serve the metropolitan area only, they must be kept up to a certain state of efficiency in order to meet the public demands upon them. Large capital expenditure has been incurred in connection with the metropolitan water supply. Last year we spent on water supply £208,858, on sewerage £96,829, and on drainage £1,576, a total in that department of £307,263.

Mr. Angelo: No wonder the water is heavily charged.

The PREMIER: I should have thought it would be clear. The expenditure to be incurred under the present proposals is £430,000—partly on water supply £194,248 and partly on sewerage £59,552. The Electricity Department continues to expand at a very rapid rate. It is quite impossible to avoid extending the plant. The output of current last year was 17 per cent. greater than for the previous year, and more than doubled itself in the last four years. Altogether 1,000,000 more passengers were carried on the tramways than in 1925-26. Another large undertaking that is in the transition stage is the Goldfields Water Supply. The consumption on the goldfields is declining, but that in the agricultural areas is fortunately increasing. I am endeavouring to keep the expenditure as low as possible in this department.

Mr. Thomson: I hope you will endeavour to keep the rates low as well.

The PREMIER: In putting forward the Estimates I have endeavoured to meet the reasonable requests of the public for additional services, but we must insist upon economy. It would appear that the impression exists that last year's surplus warrants proposals involving much addi-

tional expenditure, but that impression cannot be allowed to exist.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You cannot draw on your sinking fund for anything more.

The PREMIER: In any case the surplus was a very small one.

Mr. Angelo: And bad years will come again.

The PREMIER: Although we will effect a saving under the Financial Agreement there are many urgent matters that will require attention, upon which we can expend this money. It would be a very great mistake to think that because we have turned the corner we can become in any way over-generous with regard to expenditure or with regard to a reduction in taxation.

Mr. Griffiths: I hope you will have enough with which to build the Yarramony railway.

The PREMIER: If the surplus in years to come should be as bountiful as I anticipate it will be, it is possible we may be able to make a start with the Yarramony railway.

Mr. Davy: And build it out of revenue.

The PREMIER: Yes. The hon. member would be somewhat disturbed at the report of the Engineer-in-Chief on the Fremantle harbour. It would appear that we should have to find a considerable amount of loan for that work. I am not making any promise but I hope it will not interfere with the hon. member's railway.

Loan Expenditure.

Last year's loan expenditure amounted to £4,113,054. Members will recollect that I had authority to spend £4,800,000 odd. That was the amount of the loan estimates. The amount I actually expended was £4,113,054. It was slightly more than that of the previous year. This has been the average loan expenditure, round about £4,000,000, for the past five years. I think we can say that the money has been spent in a direction that will yield returns to the State. It has been spent upon developmental works of various kinds, most of which will be immediately reproductive. Our State is at present passing through that stage when it is impossible to avoid, to a great extent, the expenditure of very considerable sums of loan money. I am personally not a plunger with regard to loan money. I realise the important effect

it may have upon the State in the way of building up our interest bill yearly. We have to bear in mind all the time that we cannot saddle our citizens with too heavy a contribution to interest payments, or rather a contribution out of proportion to the increase in our population. It is, therefore, essential we should see that the money is spent upon works that will be reproductive, give a return that will result in increased wealth production, and give a return to our people to enable them to meet the increased interest bill consequent upon the increased loan expenditure each year.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Unless interest is earned by the investment you must have a deficit.

The PREMIER: Of course. When we borrow relatively large sums, unless that money earns interest, there is no escape from deficits.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: None at all.

The PREMIER: I believe that the money is being expended in a direction that will be beneficial to the State. Particulars of the loan expenditure for the past 12 years will be found in Return No. 9. The bulk of our loan expenditure is in furtherance of our land settlement policy. Under the heading of development of agriculture we spent just on £2,000,000. To be exact we spent £1,969,204 last year, or approximately 50 per cent. of our loan expenditure. By the common consent of all members of this House, and of the people of the country, loan expenditure upon the development of agriculture was regarded as a sound proposition for this State. Had it not been for the fact that in past years a large portion of our loan money was spent in the development of agriculture, we would not be reaping the reward that we are reaping to-day, and the financial position of the State would not be as sound as it is to-day.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Neither the State nor trade would be so sound.

The PREMIER: Half of our loan expenditure was on the development of agriculture. Of this £1,428,486 was on group settlement, a very considerable sum; £105,678 for the Agricultural Bank; £176,921 for soldier settlement; and £132,854 for wire netting for settlers. That makes up the total I have mentioned.

Mr. Angelo: That is all returnable.

The PREMIER: We hope so. It is all returnable less losses.

Mr. Angelo: You have mortgages over the properties.

The PREMIER: We are bound to have some losses. I do not think we need worry too much about it. In addition we spent £189,187 on harbours and rivers, and £125,410 on country water supplies.

Railways and other Services.

Our loan expenditure on railways has been high. New lines absorbed last year £373,238. For additional rolling stock £112,567 was provided. That is an important item in our development. As we add to our railway mileage, and as our production from the land increases, so of course have we to spend money on the provision of rolling stock.

Mr. Thomson: We could have even more than we possess.

The PREMIER: I think we shall be able to meet the position, because there is a fairly substantial programme of rolling stock construction now in hand. We spent £148,492 on additions and improvements to opened railways. The latter included re-grading, laying heavier rails, and re-organising the railway yards. This, of course, is a profitable investment, for it enables the department to carry heavier loads. It is also a great aid in overcoming the difficulty of moving the harvest. Traffic facilities must be provided for. We constructed last year 126 trucks, and a further 280 trucks are in course of construction.

Mr. Thomson: I think you want a lot more.

The PREMIER: On the completion of those that are now in hand a further 175 trucks will be put in hand.

Mr. Thomson: Steel or wood?

The PREMIER: They will be mostly 16-ton steel wagons. Last year six locomotives were built, and the programme includes a further 19. Of these four will be completed almost at once. In addition to that we have in hand 10 two-berth sleeping coaches for the Perth-Kalgoorlie service, that is to say, ten coaches, which are estimated to cost £70,000. These are very necessary.

Mr. Thomson: They are.

The PREMIER: Our small 4-berth compartments, although up-to-date when they were first introduced, are to-day inadequate, and out of keeping with the railway services in the other States.

Mr. Angelo: I hope you are looking to the second-class 6-berth compartments

The PREMIER: I am not saying it will be done, but we may be able to turn the present four-berth compartments into second-class carriages. That reminds me of the fact that it was when I was Minister for Railways, during the regime of the Scaddan Government, we first introduced the second-class sleepers. Not only in this State were they the first second-class sleepers, but they were the first of their kind in any railway service. That was in 1912. Although people were somewhat overcrowded in the 6-berth compartments, passengers were afforded an opportunity to lie down.

Mr. Angelo: Those compartments are not so comfortable as shearers' sheds, you know.

The PREMIER: They are more comfortable than having to sit up all night. On extension of plant for Electricity Supply £104,752 was expended. That department for many years has involved fairly heavy expenditure.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Never-ending expenditure.

The PREMIER: It never ceases. There is a continual demand for expenditure in that department.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The demand for electricity is growing.

The PREMIER: Yes; as the city and the State grow, the demand for power increases. On trading concerns we spent last year a total of £263,843, made up as follows:—steamships £178,353, sawmills £50,000, brickworks £9,537, hotels the modest sum of £953, and implement works £25,000. With the exception of the expenditure on steamships, these amounts were due principally to normal expansion. No new enterprises were undertaken; there was just the ordinary expenditure. In the case of the sawmills the amount was required for the removal of the No. 4 mill at Wuraming, and for the erection of No. 8 mill and installation of plant at Carlisle. The £25,000 spent at the State Implement Works was for plant. The expenditure on steamships, as hon. members know, was required principally for the purchase of new steamers, the "Kybra" and the "Koolinda." These boats are now both in commission, and have proved very successful, especially the "Koolinda." Return 11 gives hon. members information with regard to the position of the sinking fund for last year. Since then the position has changed considerably as the result of the Commonwealth financial proposals. In addition to having a sinking fund, we had on

the 30th June last approximately £19,000,000 of loan moneys not provided for in that respect.

Indebtedness.

During the year our net public debt increased by £2,492,813. Loan flotations during the year amounted to £3,189,624. The redemptions were £2,594,369, the Coolgardie Water Scheme loan redemption accounting for £2,500,000 of that sum. The balance was made up of various small amounts of stock redeemed. Thus last year our net public debt increased by only £2 9s. 9d., the smallness of the amount being the result, naturally, of the redemptions I have mentioned. With regard to public works, the Ejanding Northward railway will be completed in January next year. The 77 miles of line are being constructed in exceptionally quick time. The Bill authorising construction was passed only last session, and the line will be opened for traffic in January. I hear the member for Avon (Mr. Griffiths) heave a sigh; no doubt he has in mind his many years of waiting. But the Ejanding Northward railway is a really urgent line, and will tap new country.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It will serve more than one purpose.

The PREMIER: I do not think that. It will serve new country. What is the classical phrase for "Evil be to him who evil thinks"?

Mr. Richardson: "Honi soit qui mal y pense."

The PREMIER: The Ejanding railway will, I say, tap a large area of new country which otherwise could not and would not be cultivated.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The railway is perfectly justified.

The PREMIER: Yes, and its early construction is justified, for there is a great difference between districts that have been settled for many years and, although situated at a considerable distance from railway communication, are nevertheless able to carry on and produce, and, on the other hand, districts which without railway communication would remain in their virgin state.

Mr. Thomson: Those who went out and pioneered can just carry on, I suppose?

The PREMIER: The Ejanding line opens up country which, without railway communication, would remain idle. The Bill authorising the line received the unanimous support of the House.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Could you transfer the plant to the route of the Yorkkrakine railway?

The PREMIER: We shall have to transfer the plant somewhere, and that will be one of the matters to be taken into consideration. Certainly, if one considers distance of transfer, the Yorkkrakine line is not far away. However, I do not know that distance of transfer will be the governing factor to decide where the plant will go after the Ejanding line has been completed. The Albany-Denmark railway extension of 35 miles will also be completed in January next. That work, of course, has been going on for some time.

Hon. G. Taylor: You will have some openings in January, then.

The PREMIER: Yes; January will be a busy month for openings. Moreover, these lines will be opened in time to carry the coming season's harvest; and this applies especially to the Ejanding line. Surveys are in hand for the Lake Brown-Bullfinch, Manjimup-Mt. Barker, and Brookton-Dale River lines. The Chief Engineer for Water Supply reports that good progress is being made with the construction of district water supplies in the wheat areas. The Kondinin district water supply was completed some months ago, and it is anticipated that the Narembene and Barbalin supplies will be completed and at work in September of next year. New supplies are also nearly completed in the subdivisions 13 miles east and west of the Norseman-Esperance railway.

Lands Department.

The Lands Department, it is pleasing to know, has shown great activity during the year; and classification and survey of blocks in advance of selection is proceeding vigorously. Last year 7,435 applications were received for conditional purchase and grazing leases, etc., representing a total of 3,694,783 acres. Under pastoral lease conditions the applications numbered 111 and comprised 9,843,643 acres. The following applications were approved under conditional alienation during the year:—

Conditional Purchase	...	387,715 acres
Conditional Purchase, A.L.P.		
Act	...	39,644 "
Homestead Farm	...	76,603 "
Grazing Lease	...	1,673,676 "
Total	...	2,177,638 "
Pastoral Lease	...	10,709,963 "

The Lands Department employ 45 surveyors, 15 of whom are engaged on new surveys between Southern Cross and the Lake King country, while nine are classifying new country. It will be recognised, therefore, that the Lands Department have been fairly active; and we hope that this condition of affairs will continue. As regards wheat, the area under crop last year was 2,571,187 acres, and this year it is estimated that 3,000,000 acres will be sown. There has been great development of the pastoral industry during the past five years. Five years ago the pastoral areas comprised 200,000,000 acres, and in June last 230,000,000 acres had been taken up. Between Menzies and Wiluna there has been a remarkable settlement of pastoral lands during the past two years. A vast belt of country there has been converted into sheep stations carrying many thousands of high-class sheep imported from the best Eastern strains. This country has been mainly taken by big pastoralists from the Eastern States, who are in a position to stock their holdings with the best classes of sheep obtainable in Australia. The sheep census for the year ended 31st December, 1926, showed the State to be carrying 7,456,433 sheep—a record for Western Australia. The previous record was 7,183,747. During 1926 wool was produced to the extent of 50,328,768 lbs., a greater quantity than produced in any previous year. During the last two years the number of sheep in this State has increased at the rate of over half a million annually. Fortunately, high prices are being realised for our wool this year; and reports indicate that the prospects of the pastoral industry are really excellent.

Fruit, Wine, and Dairying.

Fruit-growing, too, had a record year. The production was approximately 800,000 cases of apples, being nearly 40,000 cases more than the previous record. The export was 548,201 cases—the largest quantity ever sent out of the State. The previous record was 347,342 cases. The prices obtained by growers, both locally and overseas, were highly satisfactory. Advice has been received that already agents are buying next season's crop of apples at remunerative prices. Last year we sent our first large shipment of wines to the English market, 22,000 gallons being despatched in one consignment. It is satisfactory, too, to know that our dairying industry is advancing as

it ought to be, having regard to the heavy expenditure on it during recent years. Dairying has been the one weak link in our rural development for many years past. In 1916 Western Australia had 31,065 dairy cows; last year the number had increased to 67,160. In 1916 our butter production was 1,080,466 lbs., whilst the production for 1926 was 3,800,000 lbs.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Twenty tons of butter were produced in Bunbury last week.

The PREMIER: At present there are eight butter factories in the State, and I have no doubt that dairying will become one of our continuing and prosperous industries.

Hon. G. Taylor: There is room for more.

Muresk College.

The PREMIER: I should like to inform hon. members that the Muresk Agricultural College,* which was opened last year, has accommodation for 45 students, who were enrolled at the outset. The applications from students have far exceeded the accommodation available, and the Government have decided to erect an additional dormitory that will admit of another 45 students being enrolled.

Mr. Davy: Is the college self-supporting?

The PREMIER: I do not think it is self-supporting yet. I do not suppose the fee-would cover the expenditure.

The Minister for Agriculture: They could not possibly do so.

The PREMIER: Of course, they would not cover the whole cost. However, it is gratifying to know that the college has proved so popular from the very commencement.

Mr. Thomson: It shows that the college was required.

The PREMIER: That is so.

Mr. Davy: How do you select the students who are permitted to attend the college?

The Minister for Agriculture: That is done by a board.

The PREMIER: I am not aware of the exact details of the method of selection, but there is a board that deals with that phase. Should the applications increase, I shall gladly provide the necessary money to make available further accommodation. We hope our young men will take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves at the college to acquire a knowledge of farming.

Assistance to Mining Industry.

Turning to that other industry that has done so much towards promoting the growth of this State—I refer to the mining industry—we have not such a satisfactory story to unfold. The amount set aside last year from the Federal Disabilities Grant for the assistance of mining has not been expended. That is due to the fact that for a considerable time the Commonwealth Government were investigating matters in connection with the mining industry, through the Migration and Development Commission. The members of that body conducted an inquiry that extended over many months.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Commissions will rule Australia altogether soon.

The PREMIER: I have lost track of many of them. I would not attempt to name a fourth of the Commissions in existence today. After many months of inquiry, it ended up in the Commonwealth Government deciding that they were not prepared to render any assistance at present to the mining industry.

Hon. G. Taylor: Have they actually decided that?

The PREMIER: Yes. We took no action to spend money that was set aside for mining development pending the decision of the Federal Government. That course was pursued so that if the Federal Government decided to render assistance we could co-operate with them in spending the money to the best advantage. Now we know definitely that the Federal Government do not propose to participate, we shall have to consider what is to be done. The course we shall pursue will depend to a considerable extent upon the attitude of the mining companies themselves, particularly as to what they are prepared to do to fall into line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission appointed in this State a few years ago, the recommendations I refer to having been subsequently endorsed by the technical committee appointed by the Migration and Development Commission to inquire into mining operations in the Kalgoorlie and Boulder districts. During the present week the Government decided to assist the industry to the extent of the payment of premiums under the Third Schedule of the Worker's Compensation Act. That Schedule relates to miners' diseases. Hon. members will recollect that under that Act, which came into operation last year, there was levied a charge of £4 10s. per cent. of the wages

paid by the mining companies. That represented a heavy additional impost for the companies to bear, and we have decided that out of the Disabilities Grant for the year we shall meet that payment of £4 10s. per cent. on wages, in respect to miners' diseases. That will amount in the aggregate to about £30,000, and will be of considerable advantage to the industry at present, especially to those mines that are close to the non-paying stage. We hope it will enable them to continue until the directors of the various companies in the Old Country come to some decision on the question of amalgamation.

Mr. Mann: Is that possible?

The PREMIER: I believe it is. It will be to the advantage of the industry and I believe that the amalgamation of some of the mines will take place, but probably not of all of them.

Prosperity of the State.

That concludes my statement for this year on the finances of the State. I have endeavoured to make a plain statement of the financial position of the country. I think we can say, regardless of any party views we may hold, that the condition of the State is healthy and sound. Fortunately, our primary rural industries are prospering. The season is one of the best we have yet experienced in the history of Western Australia. The outlook for the future is bright in that direction. With a succession of good seasons and, we hope sincerely, of good prices too for our agricultural and pastoral products, there is every reason to hope that the State will continue its present fairly prosperous condition. We, too, hope and believe that the long night of deficits is over, and that we shall be able, now that we have turned the financial corner, to balance the ledger in the years that are to come. I feel that the people of this State are fairly fortunate in comparison with those of our sister States during the present season.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You are referring to the season; I thought you were speaking generally.

The PREMIER: That is so.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Of course we do not hope that they will have bad seasons in the Eastern States.

The PREMIER: No. I am sure I am not belittling the possibilities of any of the States in the East when I say that Western

Australia offers greater opportunities at the present time to people desirous of making a start in life with the object of securing a competence, than are presented by any of the older States of the Commonwealth. That fact is being recognised in the East. Everyone knows that attention is more and more being directed to this State. Whilst a few years ago we were considered to be a country of mere sand and desert, we came to be regarded as of some importance because of the great impetus that our gold-mining gave to Australia. The fact is that this State became known in the East only because of the discovery of Coolgardie and the wonderful mining development that followed. Up to comparatively recently it was considered that we were a mining State only. Fortunately, however, the country turned its attention some years ago to the development of agriculture. From that standpoint I want to state frankly that had it not been for the fact that some 15 or

18 years ago the State Parliament seriously turned its attention to the development of our agricultural resources, our position today, due to the decline of the mining industry, would have been very serious indeed. We are fortunate that our great agricultural expansion during past years has enabled us to meet the effects of the decline in the mining industry without any serious dislocation in the life and position of our people. In this respect, as hon. members well know, the Leader of the Opposition played an important part in turning the attention of people to land settlement 15 or 16 years ago. I have no more to say except to submit the Estimates for the consideration of the Committee. I move the first Division of the Estimates, namely—

Legislative Council, £1,667.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 9.27 p.m.

[Return No. 1.]

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1926-27, COMPARED WITH THE ESTIMATE.

REVENUE.

The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	£	9,791,611	£
The actual amount received was		9,750,833	
Or a total net over-estimate of			40,778

EXPENDITURE.

The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	£	9,780,651	
The actual amount expended was		9,722,688	
Or a net over-estimate of			58,063

DETAILS.

HEADS.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Over- Estimate.	Under- Estimate.	Over- Estimate.	Under- Estimate.
	£	£	£	£
TAXATION—				
Land Tax	7,585	...	...	...
Income Tax	54,478	...	...	...
Dividend Duty	16,387	...	...	...
Totalisator Tax	447	...	...	...
Stamp Duty	...	2,693	...	...
Probate Duty	18,684	...	...	...
Licenses	...	676	...	...
Commonwealth	3,872	...	...	...
TERRITORIAL, ETC.—				
Sandalwood	8,926	...	...	...
Land Revenue	...	12,531	...	...
Mining	...	189	...	...
Timber	3,042	...	...	...
Law Courts	...	6,441	...	...
Royal Mint	2,229	...	...	...
SPECIAL AOTS—				
Interest	...	...	155,191	...
Sinking Fund	...	...	60,251	...
Forests Act	...	...	...	1,629
Pensions	...	...	...	3,727
Residue	...	...	598	...
DEPARTMENTAL—				
Parliamentary	...	...	...	299
Premier	2,233	...	...	6,383
Treasurer	...	129,595	...	170,023
Minister for Forests	...	851	1,064	...
Minister for Lands, Immigration and Industries	...	63	7,390	...
Minister for Justice and Police	...	3,903	...	6,850
Minister for Mines	458	...	...	8,101
Minister for Agriculture	836	...	6,807	...
Minister for Public Works and Labour	...	2,934	11,991	...
Chief Secretary	5,357	...	1,170	...
Minister for Education	...	1,587	...	41,623
Minister for Public Health	497	...	...	63
State Trading Concerns	...	6,207	...	...
PUBLIC UTILITIES—				
Aborigines Cattle Station	...	1,288	1,631	...
Albany Cold Storage	...	...	...	102
Bunbury Harbour Board	1,850	...	...	...
Butter Factories	14,423	...	14,328	...
Fremantle Harbour Trust	...	23,884	...	...
Goldfields Water Supply	4,855	...	...	5,699
Government Refrigerating Works	2,207	...	2,656	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs	...	630	...	339
Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale Yards	...	2,599	2,098	...
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage	666	...	2,480	...
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	4,208	...	...	748
Perth City Markets	9	...	80	...
Railways	76,731	...	45,272	...
Tramways (Perth Electric)	...	32	3,492	...
Electricity Supply	4,779	...	...	13,000
State Batteries	3,204	...	107	...
Cave Houses, etc.	...	79	277	...
Totals	236,908	199,130	316,679	258,616
Net over-estimates		£40,778		£58,063

[Return No. 2.]

REVENUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1918-19 TO 1926-27 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1927-28.

Heads.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	Estimate, 1927-28.
TAXATION—										
Land Tax ...	£ 34,182	£ 46,415	£ 57,791	£ 42,549	£ 79,983	£ 71,449	£ 113,687	£ 145,830	£ 147,415	£ 160,000
Income Tax ...	226,560	271,386	334,320	320,874	390,003	502,265	478,642	566,344	345,527	390,000
Dividend Duty ...	133,062	144,748	244,989	177,005	189,057	216,895	237,467	265,885	273,613	310,000
Totalsator Tax ...	42,499	45,911	57,448	57,792	54,411	53,910	52,905	54,529	54,553	57,000
Stamp Duty ...	112,104	173,543	177,404	184,928	173,453	194,176	204,108	231,407	252,693	263,000
Probate Duty ...	40,329	121,951	42,406	76,817	45,997	66,989	68,114	84,635	66,368	80,000
Licenses ...	40,325	40,243	41,020	41,194	54,654	87,904	68,927	69,410	71,176	73,500
Total ...	629,061	844,197	955,358	881,159	987,558	1,173,568	1,224,030	1,418,050	1,211,343	1,333,500
TERRITORIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL—										
Land ...	300,604	330,740	342,362	338,729	311,360	330,234	334,109	336,791	350,531	390,000
Mining ...	17,643	24,050	24,108	22,929	19,880	17,376	16,328	16,306	16,689	16,700
Royal Mint ...	30,992	37,318	23,005	24,446	22,696	16,397	24,294	18,231	15,271	16,500
Timber ...	28,818	54,010	70,796	73,529	72,095	115,047	151,787	188,641	183,602	190,000
Departmental Fees, etc.	453,938	564,934	769,702	864,848	992,989	1,034,451	1,231,736	1,361,047	1,582,351	1,545,267
Law Courts ...	19,724	23,497	25,210	26,353	23,009	30,070	33,978	37,568	45,441	51,000
Harbour Dues ...	82,930	38,790	49,159	46,009	53,017	51,828	56,504	54,667	54,417	56,100
Commonwealth ...	685,668	598,273	693,834	583,767	583,186	585,723	583,134	588,510	1,153,132	810,365
Total ...	1,468,317	1,669,612	1,888,176	1,980,610	2,084,032	2,181,126	2,436,870	2,601,761	3,401,524	3,075,932
PUBLIC UTILITIES—										
Harbour Boards ...	106,287	157,687	185,470	173,188	163,223	224,850	262,124	245,283	279,034	270,000
Railways ...	1,878,753	2,275,426	2,688,611	2,805,385	2,866,370	3,189,894	3,334,008	3,317,140	3,574,269	3,890,000
Tramways ...	134,058	187,709	225,000	248,024	263,688	275,402	282,418	287,774	295,032	312,000
Batteries ...	57,876	49,067	69,467	57,663	56,691	39,235	17,816	27,336	21,921	17,875
Avondale, Harvey, Bucklands, and Yandooke Estates ...	19,529	14,865	12,020	7,543	4,943	2,966	...	...	...	...
Water Supply and Sewerage etc. ...	371,615	361,533	402,354	406,151	416,633	424,835	441,962	469,519	498,272	511,000
State Dairy Farm... etc. ...	3,476	2,844	3,250	2,514	a	a	a	a	a	a
Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	28,726	32,138	35,735	40,615	43,918	32,120	24,669	56,569	59,654	53,550
Cave House, etc. ...	8,457	11,079	13,884	14,482	13,576	16,680	14,011	16,190	16,279	16,500
Electric Works ...	47,164	62,972	95,350	119,120	128,938	162,796	186,867	205,073	221,221	250,000
Butter Factories ...	19,189	18,717	27,543	17,756	17,187	17,310	13,329	15,224	4,577	...
Total ...	2,675,130	3,174,087	3,758,689	3,893,291	4,000,147	4,388,088	4,577,204	4,640,108	4,970,259	5,320,925
TRADING CONCERNS ...	172,343	175,605	187,342	152,047	135,755	122,813	143,342	148,247	167,707	147,239
GRAND TOTAL ...	4,044,851	5,863,501	6,789,565	6,007,107	7,207,492	7,865,595	8,381,446	8,808,166	9,750,833	9,877,596

a. Included in Departmental.

[Return No. 3.]

**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1919-20 TO 1926-27, AND ESTIMATE
FOR 1927-28.**

Head.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	Estimate 1927-28.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts	2,232,199	2,416,566	2,644,609	2,792,793	3,081,850	3,352,720	3,592,273	3,802,450	3,480,308
Parliamentary and Execu- tive Council	10,111	11,350	11,423	12,258	11,855	12,568	13,657	13,901	13,793
Premier	11,540	12,044	12,185	15,522	15,420	18,788	16,529	15,516	13,896
His Excellency the Governor	1,835	2,343	2,227	2,188	2,356	2,399	2,549	2,508	2,495
London Agency	10,840	12,502	12,032	14,190	12,817	11,973	12,256	12,572	11,691
Public Service Commis- sioner	1,623	3,498	2,553	2,701	2,569	1,374	1,345	1,873	1,584
Government Motor Cars ...	3,006	2,500	1,703	2,193	1,053	3,047	5,534	5,338	6,656
Printing	54,749	78,688	71,681	68,270	63,889	62,875	64,946	67,053	65,986
Literary and Scientific ...	5,750	8,900	9,250	9,250	9,250	9,200	9,707	11,115	11,271
Treasury	12,627	11,067	14,900	14,877	13,882	18,169	18,513	18,515	19,740
Audit	10,337	11,587	12,613	11,701	11,830	12,772	12,431	13,375	13,934
Compassionate Allowances	6,425	6,460	4,964	2,509	3,076	5,425	5,216	7,441	1,776
State Savings Bank	26,474	30,470	31,798	38,150	32,856	34,589	35,404	44,413	46,078
Government Stores	14,810	15,580	21,480	15,879	16,015	16,511	16,637	18,096	17,231
Taxation	25,404	33,872	14,486	13,200	13,635	14,341	13,937	30,224	30,000
Workers' Homes	3,515	4,048	6,047	11,368	12,853	12,014	12,459	13,722	18,128
Miscellaneous and Refunds	75,210	77,873	117,156	104,229	149,410	117,766	86,394	230,328	482,840
State Accident Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,550	3,316
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
Metropolitan Market Act, 1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Commonwealth Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	365,905	...
Land and Surveys	59,816	90,182	108,192	101,056	100,897	82,963	72,689	72,191	75,350
Settlement for Soldiers ...	14,432	11,753	13,207	13,106	9,787	...	...	...	...
Agricultural Bank and I.A. Board	52,224	53,134	61,016	68,804	83,865	82,398	85,511	83,061	82,055
Group Settlement	...	...	...	...	8,401	9,865	9,243	10,825	12,149
Immigration ... ..	...	...	...	...	8,430	6,788	6,904	5,728	5,855
Council of Industrial De- velopment	...	...	...	...	1,065	1,437	1,088	1,168	1,176
Mines, Explosives, Geo- logical, etc.	63,957	73,551	67,010	67,817	63,002	61,481	68,492	86,160	86,040
Forests	12,962	16,129	16,439	15,246	15,835	17,816	23,191	23,192	23,874
Agriculture ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rabbits and Vermin	68,410	65,863	58,973	56,398	50,657	63,225	73,865	77,963	87,407
Stock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Crown Law and Branches	71,760	87,189	78,077	76,819	62,334	80,715	81,932	94,233	91,643
Police	164,097	174,829	178,005	175,332	180,079	187,240	209,459	215,908	221,221
Public Works	116,488	123,988	93,587	70,042	87,220	89,538	82,688	88,671	111,262
Labour ... ..	...	...	...	...	5,386	5,251	4,415	10,228	12,514
Office of Chief Secretary ...	27,655	237,718	234,814	232,277	227,110	228,584	29,308	30,478	30,709
Aborigines	6,134	10,423	10,244	6,108	6,623	6,899	6,307	8,562	11,626
Fisheries	6,438	7,146	6,377	5,789	5,414	5,465	5,211	5,448	5,603
Goats	25,791	26,684	26,088	24,022	23,166	23,366	23,351	25,400	25,605
Harbour and Light and Jetties	21,985	22,479	22,073	20,466	20,213	21,606	22,290	23,082	25,025
Lithographic ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lunacy	80,146	97,422	89,840	87,847	88,813	97,095	99,467	102,658	104,312
Charities and State Children	113,352	88,281	93,569	95,626	93,623	100,498	109,220	105,425	104,540
Medical and Health	210,868	187,840	180,093	181,277	181,018	196,357	205,673	199,895	202,711
Education	419,330	490,180	556,028	663,183	580,548	585,485	595,209	647,061	662,189
Department of the North- West	...	270	2,942	20,989	21,813	10,005	23,229	...	...
Tourist and Publicity Bureau	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,579	1,738	1,009
Total, Departmental...	1,808,201	2,012,820	2,049,278	2,026,554	2,127,346	2,126,794	2,170,143	2,795,715	2,743,788
PUBLIC UTILITIES.									
Railways	2,009,823	2,427,075	2,337,391	2,210,851	2,307,380	2,361,760	2,519,712	2,684,728	2,932,500
Tramways	144,028	198,264	202,095	207,542	225,678	229,382	234,332	234,508	255,500
State Batteries	81,552	86,221	64,891	75,149	35,889	22,336	29,215	29,817	28,779
Water Supply	246,967	284,495	281,486	276,447	283,596	284,162	291,053	299,919	308,744
Yandankoke	8,842	4,561	2,311	94	...	...	...	...	...
Refrigerating Works, etc.	20,505	24,238	27,707	24,987	24,558	25,070	31,180	32,562	31,387
Avondale and Harvey Es- tates	1,853	1,461	1,671	1,584	1,702	...	...	...	...
Tourists, Cave House	10,985	13,115	14,176	15,841	14,412	14,610	14,379	14,139	14,029
Aborigines Cattle Station	8,079	11,814	12,030	10,580	7,643	6,074	6,232	7,254	7,068
Electricity Supply	43,019	83,088	95,784	91,557	116,154	136,731	147,934	172,000	192,500
State Dairy Farm	4,664	4,338	3,940	...	...	...	...	...	...
Butter Factories	18,620	26,503	15,073	16,433	16,807	13,068	14,673	4,587	...
Trading Concerns	8,446	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Public Utilities	2,686,383	3,146,173	3,059,815	2,925,025	3,033,819	3,099,196	3,288,710	3,478,994	3,770,507
Less Rebates, etc.	6,628,783	7,574,058	7,753,702	7,744,372	8,242,515	8,578,710	9,051,126	9,877,159	10,003,613
	95,058	97,767	114,400	131,516	147,768	138,868	143,817	164,571	160,216
Total	6,531,725	7,476,291	7,639,242	7,612,856	8,094,752	8,439,844	8,907,309	9,722,588	9,843,397

a Includes transfer from Miscellaneous. b Includes £45,071 for loss on operations Royal Commission Control of Trade. c Includes Registry, Friendly Societies, Correspondence Despatch, and Observatory, and Labour Bureau. d Included under Printing. e Includes Tourist and Publicity. f Included in Lunacy.

[Return No. 4.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED
REVENUE FUND, ALSO ANNUAL AGGREGATE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS
1900-01 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Annual.		Aggregate.	
			Surplus.	Deficiency.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Balance, 30th June, 1900 ...	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900-01 ...	3,078,033	3,165,244	...	87,211	12,372	...
1901-02 ...	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	...	123,184	74,839
1902-03 ...	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	...	231,659	...
1903-04 ...	3,550,016	3,698,311	...	148,295	83,364	...
1904-05 ...	3,615,340	3,745,225	...	129,885	...	46,521
1905-06 ...	3,558,939	3,632,318	...	73,379	...	119,900
1906-07 ...	3,401,354	3,490,183	...	88,829	...	208,729
1907-08 ...	3,376,641	3,379,006	...	2,365	...	211,094
1908-09 ...	3,267,014	3,368,551	...	101,537	...	312,631
1909-1910 ...	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	...	...	102,692
1910-1911 ...	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	...	13,299	...
1911-1912 ...	3,966,673	4,101,082	...	134,409	...	121,110
1912-1913 ...	4,596,659	4,787,064	...	190,405	...	311,515
1913-1914 ...	5,205,343	5,340,754	...	135,411	...	446,926
1914-1915 ...	5,140,725	5,706,541	...	565,816	...	1,012,742
1915-1916 ...	5,356,978	5,705,201	...	348,223	...	1,360,965
1916-1917 ...	4,577,007	5,276,764	...	699,757	...	2,080,722
1917-1918 ...	4,622,536	5,328,279	...	705,743	...	2,766,465
1918-1919 ...	4,944,351	5,596,866	...	652,015	...	3,418,480
1919-1920 ...	5,863,501	6,531,725	...	668,225	...	4,086,705
1920-1921 ...	6,789,565	7,476,291	...	686,725	...	4,773,430
1921-1922 ...	6,907,107	7,639,242	...	732,135	...	5,505,565
1922-1923 ...	7,207,492	7,612,856	...	405,364	...	5,910,929
1923-1924 ...	7,865,595	8,094,753	...	229,158	...	6,140,087
1924-1925 ...	8,381,446	8,439,844	...	58,398	...	6,198,485
1925-1926 ...	8,808,166	8,907,309	...	99,143	...	6,297,628
1926-1927 ...	9,750,833	9,722,588	...	...	28,245	6,269,383

[Return No. 5.]

SYNOPSIS AND BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH JUNE, 1927, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1923.		1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
DR.										
Westminster Bank, Ltd. ...	735,000	0 0	210,000	0 0	a		445,000	0 0	b	
Commonwealth Government...										
Sinking Fund ...	8,744,353	9 5	9,331,624	0 0	10,017,500	12 5	10,652,929	7 3	9,129,910	0 0
General Loan Fund ...	740,675	0 11	2,046,097	11 6	571,425	6 7	113,965	12 11	...	
Australian Wheat Board ...	400,000	0 0								
Government Savings Bank ...	5,951,882	17 9	5,967,536	12 8	5,978,002	3 9	6,460,834	14 1	6,986,310	0 0
Insurance Companies Act, De-										
posits ...	265,000	0 0	260,000	0 0	275,000	0 0	290,000	0 0	290,000	0 0
Trust and Deposit Accounts										
generally ...	2,959,122	16 9	2,937,335	11 7	2,918,238	18 11	3,450,491	19 1	3,855,660	0 0
	19,795,534	4 10	20,752,643	15 9	19,760,176	1 8	21,413,271	13 4	20,261,880	0 0
CR.										
Investments ...	15,774,801	2 1	16,226,637	6 5	16,860,165	1 3	18,350,203	10 1	17,313,293	0 0
Stores on hand ...	822,836	0 1	810,263	12 11	801,794	6 3	725,078	6 9	826,418	0 0
Treasurers' Advance, and other										
Advances ...	204,948	7 6	214,642	17 0	261,560	11 8	582,347	0 1	438,686	0 0
General Loan Fund ...									292,038	0 0
Cash in hand—										
Treasury ...	10,065	16 4	4,128	1 11			22,541	4 11		
Wheat Certificates ...										
General Account ...	478,860	6 0	614,594	5 0	811,664	9 4	739,651	13 10	170,356	0 0
Government Savings Bank Ac-										
count ...	126,016	14 5	476,508	2 4	516,703	15 10	320,151	8 8	207,949	0 0
Fixed Deposits with Bank ...							300,000	0 0		
Government of South Australia									600,000	0 0
Eastern States ...	143,585	19 10	197,439	18 11	29,100	16 5	151,357	16 3	90,957	0 0
London ...	6,857	15 3	6,780	17 10	12,164	3 1	2,952	8 11	2,187	0 0
Remittances and Drafts in										
transit ...	5,075	6 2	2,064	2 9	2,866	17 3	37,745	5 9	61,350	0 0
Consolidated Revenue Fund	1,824,224	5 9	2,058,382	15 1	58,397	9 2	157,540	8 4	129,296	0 0
Deficiency Account ...	301,363	7 5	141,363	7 5	403,509	17 10	15,892	12 9		
Sundry Debtors, etc. ...	97,899	4 0	4,538	8 2	2,248	11 2	7,809	17 0	128,452	0 0
	19,795,534	4 10	20,752,643	15 9	19,760,176	1 8	21,413,271	13 4	20,261,880	0 0

a £2,340,000 incorporated with General Loan Fund. b £1,465,000 incorporated with the General Loan Fund.

[Return No. 6.]

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH FROM 1909-10 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Payment per Head, 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Transferred Properties at 3½ per cent.	Disabilities Grant.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1909-10 ...	703,723 ^a	...	Nil	...	703,723
1910-11 ...	569,578 ^a	...	Nil	...	569,578
1911-12 ...	365,614	232,265	40,648	...	638,527
1912-13 ...	382,591	222,554	30,465	...	635,610
1913-14 ...	400,855	212,751	27,358	...	640,964
1914-15 ...	403,772	203,127	24,388	...	631,287
1915-16 ...	398,076	193,544	24,485	...	616,105
1916-17 ...	386,008	183,974	24,485	...	594,467
1917-18 ...	386,779	174,350	38,110	...	599,239
1918-19 ...	391,809	164,696	29,163	...	585,668
1919-20 ...	414,068	164,937	29,268	...	598,273
1920-21 ...	419,448	145,287	29,099	...	593,834
1921-22 ...	418,966	136,738	29,063	...	583,767
1922-23 ...	428,193	126,038	28,955	...	583,186
1923-24 ...	442,269	116,301	27,153	...	585,723
1924-25 ...	455,155	106,589	26,391	...	588,135
1925-26 ...	465,229	96,890	26,391	...	588,510
1926-27 ...	473,432	87,207	26,588	565,905	1,163,132
Totals ...	7,905,565	2,556,248	462,010	565,905	11,489,728

^a Surplus Revenue returned.

[Return No. 7.]

LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

						£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1926 (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	...	74,702,629	
Do. 1926-27	...	...	...	...	...	4,370,000	
Total Authorisations							79,072,629
Flotations—							
General Loans	...	...	...	...	...	42,578,253	
Local Debentures	...	...	...	...	...	8,374,462	
Local Inscribed Stock	...	...	...	...	...	10,869,352	
Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	...	1,177,318	
Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock under Deficiency Acts	...	...	...	...	...	6,263,750	
Commonwealth Advances	...	...	...	...	...	5,463,782	
							74,726,917
Balance available for Flotation							a 4,345,712
Actual Loan Indebtedness—							
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1926	...	...	...	...	...	70,010,920	
Flotation during year—							
Inscribed Stock, London, 5 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	1,500,000	
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	44,493	
Local Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	...	3,395	
Local Inscribed Stock (5 and 5½ per cent.)	...	...	...	...	...	486,130	
Local Debentures (5½ per cent.)	...	...	...	...	...	1,155,606	
							73,200,544
Less Redemptions—							
Inscribed Stock, London (3 per cent.)	...	...	...	...	...	2,500,000	
Debentures, Loans, 1881-4 (Crown Agents), 4 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	7,700	
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	28,600	
Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	...	58,069	
							2,594,369
							70,606,175
Less—							
Sinking Fund (as on 31st March)	...	...	...	...	...		8,756,935
Net Indebtedness, 30th June, 1927							61,849,240

						£	s.	d.
Net Public Debt per head of Population on 30th June, 1927	...	...	...	...	...	160	14	1
Do. do. do. 1926	...	...	...	...	...	158	4	4
Do. do. do. 1925	...	...	...	...	...	148	2	2
Do. do. do. 1924	...	...	...	...	...	148	7	6
Do. do. do. 1923	...	...	...	...	...	142	9	6
Do. do. do. 1922	...	...	...	...	...	137	1	0
Do. do. do. 1921	...	...	...	...	...	*124	15	11
Do. do. do. 1920	...	...	...	...	...	119	7	3
Do. do. do. 1919	...	...	...	...	...	116	7	0
Do. do. do. 1918	...	...	...	...	...	118	0	8
Do. do. do. 1917	...	...	...	...	...	116	5	5
Do. do. do. 1916	...	...	...	...	...	109	19	9
Do. do. do. 1915	...	...	...	...	...	101	12	10
Do. do. do. 1914	...	...	...	...	...	94	4	11
Do. do. do. 1913	...	...	...	...	...	85	17	2

* NOTE.—Compared with the previous year, £2 16s. 11d. of the increase is due to an adjustment in the figures of the population at the Census.

a Includes surplus of £56,249, under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Act, 1924.

[Return No. 8.]

LOAN FLOTATIONS, DEBT AND EXPENDITURE ON 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Indebtedness on Works	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£	£
Railways, Tramways, and Electricity Supply	23,685,874	23,013,628	22,792,405
Harbours and Rivers	5,256,171	4,980,884	4,874,150
Goldfields Water Scheme	2,903,078	721,759	2,689,824
Water Supply Generally	3,753,375	3,748,531	3,665,230
Sewerage	1,574,915	1,573,994	1,562,200
Erection of State Batteries and Treatment Plants	333,586	333,310	318,196
Development of Goldfields	2,092,885	2,067,194	1,952,885
Development of Agriculture	3,657,443	3,626,442	3,680,788
Agricultural Group Settlement	4,228,072	4,226,072	5,217,460
Assistance to Settlers	2,831,401	2,831,401	2,602,000
Agricultural Bank	2,963,280	2,963,280	2,808,830
Telegraphs	276,724	215,972	269,308
Roads and Bridges	909,716	880,315	921,984
Public Buildings	1,328,230	1,317,992	1,292,332
Immigration	64,216	64,216	556,392
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	553,244	553,244	525,500
State Hotels	83,355	83,355	77,680
State Steamships	674,270	674,270	751,973
State Saw Mills	260,459	260,459	288,764
State Implement Works	153,656	153,656	168,270
South Perth Ferries	24,447	24,447	12,967
State Milk Supply	4,590	4,590	4,496
State Brickyards	51,337	51,337	48,990
State Quarries	27,885	27,885	26,092
State Fish Supply	3,286	3,286	3,162
Crawley, Dalkeith, and Harvey Estates, Aborigines Stations, Avon Valley Native Station, Savoy House, Purchase of Land at Nedlands, Purchase of House for Residence of Agent General and Site at Point Heathcote for Mental Reception Home	131,441	131,441	117,119
Stores and Stock Suspense Accounts	192,195	192,195	178,872
Miscellaneous	168,180	168,094	175,500
Wyndham Freezing Works (Working Capital)	388,602	388,602	286,014
Fisheries	12,208	12,208	11,806
Land Settlement for Soldiers	7,823,935	6,995,356	7,581,222
College of Agriculture	31,256	31,256	46,507
Purchase of Wire Netting for Settlers	16,618	16,618	132,854
Carnarvon Meat Works	46,624	46,624	45,000
	66,504,554	62,383,812	65,086,772
Redemptions ... ..	...	4,120,742	...
Cost of Raising ... ..	...	...	2,583,177
Less Balance General Loan Fund ... ..	...	...	1,165,395
	66,504,554	66,504,554	66,504,554

a Includes £717,877, expended on Wyndham Freezing Works. b An additional amount of £416,466 was expended upon Agricultural Immigration from Development of Agriculture.

RECONCILIATION WITH PUBLIC DEBT (RETURN No. 8)

Indebtedness as above	£
Local Inscribed Stock, issued under Agricultural Bank Act, for conversion of Mortgage Bonds	62,383,812
Issues under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Act	1,566,000
Issues under Insurance Companies Act, 1918	6,263,750
Treasury Bills under Loan Act 1923 issued for payment of arrears of interest	290,000
	102,613
Gross Public Debt	£70,806,175

[Return No. 9.]

LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1926-1927 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Undertakings.	1926-27.	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1919-20.	1918-19.	1917-18.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1914-15.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions ...	642,225	534,103	501,968	519,557	323,296	145,724	75,780	154,720	131,394	246,894	350,865	520,344
Tramways—Perth Electric ...	32,444	26,571	57,815	72,057	95,835	34,419	27,473	7,239	3,073	29,445	33,528	22,909
Electric Power Station ...	104,752	90,661	31,717	87,761	184,345	18,783	17,890	25,386	23,506	61,033	63,170	149,865
Fremantle Harbour Works ...	62,652	56,437	37,891	42,726	49,009	40,080	51,855	46,345	42,449	46,004	58,704	106,055
Fremantle Dock and Slip ...											14	1,291
Harbours and Rivers generally ...	128,535	124,576	103,122	77,414	42,632	72,245	50,322	23,603	42,485	72,854	55,510	58,014
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle ...	118,414	114,798	39,762	47,190	21,348	19,436			15,167	11,056	47,268	120,473
Water Supply ...	338,431	535,497	395,903	153,667	196,231	104,172	49,115	46,636	53,080	66,426	118,275	127,660
Development of Goldfields ...	87,598	85,731	84,221	64,618	43,530	43,902	32,581	16,152	10,661	19,829	19,142	47,263
State Smelter, Ravenshorpe ...											78,967	60,000
Development of Agriculture ...	51,238	100,826	74,941	91,952	58,692	73,075	112,807	159,421	156,083	169,483	165,727	79,271
Assistance to Settlers ...	84,960	192,710	441,546	400,000	74,674	31,695	5,458	80,000	478,170		199,890	602,110
Agricultural Group Settlement ...	1,428,486	1,124,252	822,910	506,803								
Land Settlement for Soldiers ...	176,921	588,649	778,603	958,132	983,914	1,527,664	1,947,772	283,319				
College of Agriculture ...	25,859	15,598										
Immigration ...	11,203	7,148	16,229	11,209	8,278	12,024	5,205	1,867	1,107	2,362	4,640	16,665
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital ...	105,678	257,072	204,027	286,410	13,516	151,825	118,285	73,048	25,000	93,165	172,335	271,612
Purchase of Wire Netting for Settlers ...	132,854											
Steamships ...	178,353			6,658	200,000	10,000	14,691			409	141,065	
Workers' Homes Working Capital ...												97,500
Saw Mills ...	50,000					38,863				214	511	29,069
State Hotels ...	953	1,424	2,831	3,108	6,858	5,056	2,767	1,793	117	589	10,000	6,546
Agricultural Implements Works ...	25,000	7,500				39,929	16,772			1,292	4,627	18,436
Brickyards ...	9,537	7,500		141		705	1,326	1,165	20		547	11,507
Ferries ...												5,974
State Fish Supply ...										131	3,031	
Public Buildings ...	117,483	91,140	88,595	18,380	44,440	24,963	10,602	21,570	17,536	23,350	40,661	81,004
Roads and Bridges ...	184,911	92,608	77,744	34,331	12,566	32,121	14,719	4,231	2,473	2,557	6,152	5,026
Perth-Fremantle Road Reinstatement ...										20	7,663	21,198
Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account) ...		30,500	30,000	10,000		50,000						55,000
Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge ...					19		1	79	108	2,482	4,622	1,562
Sundries ...	c 23,108	25,140	23,280	18,802a	9,710	7,841	3,089	2,262	1,720	2,676	2,738	5,225
Wyndham Freezing Works—Working Capital ...				14	86,000		100,000	100,000				
Fisheries ...					32	5,870	5,804					
Urgent Minor Works throughout the North-West ...		1,714	5,708	2,979								
Purchase of Site at Point Heathcote for Mental Home ...		7,068										
Purchase of Avon Valley Native Station ...	6,450											
Totals ...	64,113,054	4,089,021	3,936,833	3,289,299	2,454,925	62,586,404	2,863,320	1,049,736	1,054,178	855,163	1,584,642	2,521,608

a Includes Loans to Local Authorities for erection of Country Hospitals, etc., £8,057.

b Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £592,541.

c Includes Loans to Local Authorities for erection of Country Hospitals, etc., £21,626.

[Return No. 10.]

PUBLIC DEBT AND SINKING FUNDS.

Loan.			Sinking Fund as at 31st March, 1927.		Remarks.
Year.	Amount.	Maturity.	Rate per cent.	Accumulation.	
LOANS CARRYING SINKING FUNDS.					
Inscribed Stock.					
	£			£ s. d.	
1899-1915 ...	998,353	1934	1	831,611 10 8	Controlled by Crown Agents. Stock issued for conversion of Debentures.
1896 ...	1,500,000	1935	1	870,729 7 6	
1897-1900 ...	3,500,000	1935	1	1,837,231 12 5	C.S.R. Purchase.
1897 ...	1,100,000	1936	1½	982,910 12 11	
1900-1902 ...	680,000	1935	1	295,709 15 7	Issued for redemption on £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund.
1902-1905 ...	2,600,000	1935	1	1,028,740 7 4	
1907-1908 ...	2,000,000	1947	1	589,341 5 10	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1909 ...	1,445,000	1955	½	175,079 17 5	
1910 ...	1,342,000	1955	½	160,480 7 4	Issued for redemption on £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund.
1911 ...	1,660,000	1955	½	261,921 15 6	
1912 ...	1,000,000	1960	½	91,880 3 5	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1912-1914 ...	6,000,000	1962	½	485,778 5 8	
1916 ...	140,000	1936	3½	57,697 10 0	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1922 ...	2,000,000	1945	½	18,016 18 4	
1920 ...	1,500,000	1940	½	33,611 8 7	Issued for redemption of Local Stock; £172,407 was taken from the Sinking Fund.
1922 ...	3,000,000	1940	½	51,326 8 1	
1923 ...	3,000,000	1965	½	18,998 17 3	Issued for redemption of Local Stock.
1926 ...	520,327	1976	½	190,268 6 9	
1925 ...	1,541,149	1952	½	6 8,099 4 3	Commonwealth Overseas Loan.
1925 ...	500,000	1975	½	6 2,627 13 1	
Local Inscribed Stock.					
1912 ...	370,790	1932	½	91,662 7 5	Issued under Agricultural Bank Act.
1913 ...	297,045	1934	½	32,045 8 1	
1915 ...	78,185	1935	1½	30,047 3 5	Issued for redemption of Local Stock.
1913 ...	309,130	1933	½	44,602 13 7	
1914 ...	1,566,000	1964	½	198,734 15 1	Issued for redemption of Local Stock.
1922-1926 ...	1,490,135	1928/38	½	366,610 5 4	
1922 ...	164,950	1927/32	½	5,714 1 10	Issued for redemption of Local Stock.
1923 ...	306,345	1928/33	½	8,869 15 1	
1923 ...	126,349	1933	½	13,937 15 2	Issued for redemption of Local Stock.
1923 ...	755,000	1943	½	210,168 13 1	
1923 ...	225,400	1929/34	½	57,556 14 9	Issued for redemption of Local Stock.
1926 ...	664,100	1931	½	66,745 19 7	
1923 ...	250,000	1947	½	736 19 7	Under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts; currency is maintained up to thirty years.
Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock.					
1917-1926...	5,704,820	...	½	{ 28,728 14 4 6 15,851 3 6	Under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts; currency is maintained up to thirty years.

[Return No. 10—continued.]

PUBLIC DEBT AND SINKING FUNDS—continued.

Loan.			Sinking Fund as at 31st March, 1927.		Remarks.
Year.	Amount.	Maturity.	Rate per cent.	Accumulation.	
<i>Debentures.</i>					
1918 ...	£ 697,000	1927	$\frac{1}{2}$	£ s. d. 60,568 18 6	Redeemable by Annual Drawings; Controlled by Crown Agents.
1919 ...	106,603	1940	$\frac{1}{2}$	2,283 2 6	
1872-1888 ...	10,800	...	1	3,973 18 10	
1926 ...	1,290	1936	$\frac{1}{2}$	455 4 9	Issued for redemption of Local Stock.
1923 ...	61,697	1942	$\frac{1}{2}$	173 2 0	Migration Loans.
1923 ...	750,000	1945	$\frac{1}{2}$	b 13,469 13 4	
1926 ...	1,538,584	1975	$\frac{1}{2}$	b 5,666 18 2	
	Other 109,193	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	b 1,115 12 6	
Various ...	BALANCE OF DEBT 19,015,930	Various	...	...	Consisting of Local Inscribed Stock (£4,095,861), Debentures (£3,178,139), Inscribed Stock London (£5,479,673), Issues under the Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts (£558,930), for which Sinking Funds have not commenced, Treasury Bills (£1,177,318), which carry no Sinking Funds, and Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement (£4,526,009),
		Accrued Sinking Fund ...		9,151,779 8 4	
		Less advances by Westminster Bank		394,843 14 11	
Total Debt	70,606,175			8,756,935 11 5	
Previous year's totals	70,010,920	...	...	10,654,493 4 3	
Increase on year ...	a 595,255	Decrease (due to Redemption of £2,500,000 Loan)		1,897,557 12 10	

<i>a</i> Consisting of—						£
Treasury Bonds (Net) ...	...	...	...	...	...	15,893
Commonwealth Advances ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,155,506
Local Inscribed Stock (Net) ...	...	...	...	...	...	486,130
Inscribed Stock, London (Net) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,500,000
Local Debentures (Net) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						3,157,629
Less—						£
Debentures, London, redeemed ...	...	...	...	...	...	7,700
Coolgardie Water Scheme Loan, redeemed ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500,000
Treasury Bills (Net) ...	...	...	...	...	...	54,674
						2,562,374
Net Increase	...	...	...	...	...	£595,255

b. Sinking Fund held by National Debt Sinking Fund Trustees as at 30th June, 1926.

[Return No. 11.]

SINKING FUND AND INVESTMENTS.

ANALYSIS OF FUND.										£.
Contributions from Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,807,774
Interest on Investments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,242,747
Discounts on Purchases, less Brokerage, Expenses, and Premiums on Purchases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,121,443
										<u>12,171,964</u>
Less utilised for Redemptions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,415,028
Total of Fund, 31st March, 1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>8,756,936</u>

INVESTMENTS.

Maturity.				Rate.		Nominal Value.	
						£	s. d.
Western Australian Stocks	1935	...	...	3	per cent.	1,493,943	2 5
	1936	...	...	3	per cent.	494,003	8 3
	1935	...	...	3½	per cent.	1,570,161	2 9
	1927-1947	...	...	3½	per cent.	547,399	10 10
	1935-1955	...	...	3½	per cent.	1,091,196	4 10
	1940-1960	...	...	3½	per cent.	108,042	4 8
	1942-1962	...	...	4	per cent.	1,034,817	2 3
	1930-1940	...	...	5½	per cent.	445,106	16 7
	1930-1940	...	...	6	per cent.	251,600	0 0
	1935-1945	...	...	5	per cent.	241,136	15 5
Western Australian Debentures	1935-1965	...	...	4½	per cent.	275,137	11 1
	1945-1975	...	...	5	per cent.	222,738	12 10
	1939	...	...	4½	per cent.	8,295	0 0
Total				...	...	7,783,577	11 11
National Debt Sinking Fund Trustees Investments				...	...	46,830	4 10
Other Stocks—Crown Agent's Investments				...	...	831,505	4 8
Victoria, 4½ per cent.				...	...	80,721	1 6
New South Wales, 5 per cent.				...	...	347,367	10 7
Payments on Assurance Policy towards redemption £140,000				...	...	57,697	10 0
Cash				...	...	4,080	2 10
				...	...	9,151,779	6 4
Less Advances by Westminster Bank, Ltd.				...	...	394,843	14 11
Total Sinking Fund				...	...	8,756,935	11 5

[Return No. 12.]

SINKING FUND AND DEFICIT.

Year.	Contributions.	Interest and Discount (less Brokerage and Expenses).	Total Accretions.	Redemptions.	Increase in Sinking Fund.	Deficit on Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911-12 ...	245,274	136,148	381,422	7,500	373,922	134,409
1912-13 ...	244,555	153,756	398,311	7,700	390,611	190,404
1913-14 ...	250,100	140,558	390,658	7,900	382,758	135,411
1914-15 ...	258,792	126,193	384,985	8,200	376,785	565,817
1915-16 ...	265,457	206,842	472,299	12,755	459,544	348,223
1916-17 ...	280,883	239,445	520,328	7,600	512,728	699,757
1917-18 ...	306,782	237,405	544,187	9,300	534,887	705,743
1918-19 ...	319,101	257,457	576,558	8,400	568,158	652,014
1919-20 ...	319,692	386,628	706,320	12,200	694,120	668,225
1920-21 ...	342,277 ^b	460,761	803,038	10,300	792,738	686,725
1921-22 ...	322,130	416,066	738,196	9,600	728,596	732,135
1922-23 ...	242,319	351,879	594,198	183,307	410,891	405,364
1923-24 ...	225,649	377,471	603,120	10,600	592,520	229,158
1924-25 ...	236,742	380,918	617,660	6,200	611,460	58,398
1925-26 ...	247,168	428,894	676,062	6,600	669,462	99,143
1926-27 ...	282,326	327,816	610,142	2,507,700	cl,897,558	d 28,245
Totals ...	£4,389,247	4,628,237	9,017,484	2,815,862	6,201,622	a 6,282,681

a The Actual Deficit on 30th June, 1927, was £6,269,383, the difference being due to a credit balance of £13,298 at the commencement of the period included in the return. b Includes £21,375 by Trading Concerns. c Decrease. d Surplus.

[Return No. 13.]

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEARS 1921-1922, 1922-1923, 1923-1924, 1924-1925, 1925-1926, 1926-1927.

	Capital Cost.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Sinking Fund.	Total Cost.	Revenue.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921-22 ...	28,975,469	3,050,090	1,105,647	242,050	4,397,787	3,890,777	...	507,010
1922-23 ...	29,819,380	2,923,476	1,136,606	190,886	4,250,968	4,000,147	...	250,821
1923-24 ...	30,841,698	3,032,232	1,186,766	192,751	4,411,799	4,388,090	...	23,709
1924-25 ...	32,290,890	3,097,680	1,230,788	196,158	4,524,626	4,577,204	52,578	...
1925-26 ...	33,675,991	3,291,186	1,294,398	197,745	4,783,329	4,640,108	...	143,221
1926-27 ...	34,606,907	3,476,997	1,318,674	199,593	4,995,264	4,970,259	...	25,005

[Return No. 14.]

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR 1926-27.

	Capital Cost.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Sinking Fund	Total Cost.	Revenue.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways	21,566,262	2,684,728	887,740	126,000	3,698,468	3,574,269	...	124,190
Tramways	983,140	234,507	46,236	2,408	283,241	295,032	11,791	...
Electricity	895,629	172,000	42,340	2,387	216,727	221,221	4,494	...
Metropolitan Water Supply...	4,103,759	139,004	125,646	23,374	288,024	290,334	2,310	...
Goldfields Water Supply ...	3,266,603	133,432	60,055	10,335	203,872	171,145	...	32,727
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	429,797	27,483	18,120	4,440	50,052	36,702	...	13,260
All other	3,361,717	85,843	138,537	30,500	264,880	381,466	126,586	...
Total	34,606,907	3,476,997	1,318,674	199,593	4,995,264	4,970,259	145,181	170,186
Net Deficiency ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	£25,005	

[Return No. 15.]

RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

	1926-27.	1925-26.	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	
Number of miles open ...	3,918	3,865	3,733	3,629	3,555	3,539	
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment of Lines open	£	£	£	£	£	£	
	Loan ...	20,923,104	20,368,658	19,520,070	18,310,711	18,297,240	18,073,088
	Revenue	643,158	658,134	798,050	827,333	862,962	862,515
	21,566,262	21,026,792	20,318,120	19,638,044	19,160,202	18,935,603	
Working Expenses ...	2,684,728	2,519,712	2,361,760	2,307,380	2,210,851	2,337,391	
Interest Charges ...	887,740	860,225	813,849	787,221	768,244	756,737	
Total Annual Cost ...	3,572,468	3,379,937	3,175,609	3,094,601	2,979,095	3,094,128	
Gross Revenue ...	3,574,269	3,317,140	3,334,008	3,189,894	2,886,370	2,805,335	
Surplus ...	1,801	...	158,399	95,293	...	...
Deficiency debited to Consolidated Revenue, being burden on Taxpayers ...	...	62,797	...	...	92,725	288,793

These figures do not include Sinking Fund, estimated to be £126,000.

[Return No. 16.]

RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

	1926-27.	1925-26.	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	983,140	949,929	932,317	912,089	850,965	779,081
Working Expenses	234,507	234,332	229,362	225,678	207,542	202,996
Interest Charges	46,236	45,155	44,835	42,843	40,419	35,524
Total Annual Cost	280,743	279,487	274,197	268,521	247,961	238,520
Gross Revenue	295,082	287,774	282,418	275,402	263,668	248,924
Surplus	14,289	8,287	8,221	6,881	15,707	10,404

These figures do not include Sinking Fund, £2,498, nor payments to Local Authorities £8,100.

[Return No. 17.]

RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

	1926-27.	1925-26.	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	895,629	880,042	864,128	800,227	754,921	530,997
Working Expenses	172,000	147,934	136,731	116,154	91,557	95,784
Interest Charges	42,340	41,540	40,039	37,261	26,475	24,684
Total Annual Cost	214,340	189,474	176,770	153,415	118,032	120,468
Gross Revenue	221,221	205,073	186,867	162,796	128,937	119,120
Surplus	6,881	15,599	10,097	9,381	10,905	...
Deficiency ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1,348

These figures do not include Sinking Fund, £2,387.

[Return No. 18.]

RETURN RELATING TO METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE.

	1926-27.	1925-26.	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	4,103,759	3,796,396	3,313,032	2,777,080	2,426,376	2,277,802
Working Expenses*... ..	139,004	134,286	124,756	123,302	114,678	113,550
Interest Charges	125,646	113,665	104,389	96,093	81,638	74,504
Sinking Fund	23,374	21,855	20,206	18,004	16,222	15,167
Total Annual Cost	288,024	269,806	249,350	237,399	212,538	203,221
Gross Revenue	290,334	250,729	236,386	221,867	204,935	194,145
Surplus	2,310	...	...	...	...	...
Deficiency ... ..	...	19,077	12,964	15,532	7,603	9,076

*Includes Interest and Sinking Fund on debentures, £33,510.

[Return No. 19.]

RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

	1926-27	1925-26.	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	3,266,603	3,250,086	3,154,727	3,099,816	3,056,926	3,044,178
Working Expenses a	133,432	128,858	131,457	132,450	131,381	132,502
Interest Charges	60,055	79,893	75,579	74,211	79,223	86,448
Sinking Fund	10,385	8,698	7,356	6,459	6,059	43,448
Total Annual Cost	203,872	217,449	214,392	213,120	216,663	262,398
Gross Revenue	171,145	180,942	171,850	170,748	182,109	187,122
Deficiency	32,727	36,507	42,542	42,372	34,554	75,276

a Includes interest on Debenture Capital.

[Return No. 20.]

RETURN RELATING TO OTHER HYDRAULIC UNDERTAKINGS.

—	1926-27	1925-26	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	429,787	406,191	400,350	394,745	397,984	295,837
Working Expenses	27,483	30,385	27,949	27,844	29,388	31,456
Interest Charges	18,120	18,725	20,951	20,401	19,248	12,509
Sinking Fund	4,449	5,807	7,951	7,822	7,805	5,508
Total Annual Cost	50,052	54,917	56,851	56,067	56,441	49,473
Gross Revenue	36,792	37,848	33,726	32,220	29,589	24,888
Deficiency	13,260	17,069	23,125	23,847	26,852	24,585

[Return No. 21.]

RETURN RELATIVE TO OTHER UTILITIES FOR 1926-27.

Utilities.	Capital Cost, etc.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Total Annual Cost.	Gross Revenue	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	2,317,075	...	94,094	94,094	258,884	164,790	...
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	464,498	...	20,400	20,400	20,150	...	250
State Batteries	410,177	29,316	14,857	43,673	21,921	...	21,752
Aborigines Station	23,040	5,258	979	6,237	4,786	...	1,451
Albany Cool Stores	20,915	312	937	1,249	...	...	1,249
Govt. Refrigerating Works ...	...	3,108	500	3,608	1,463	...	2,235
Perth City Markets	20,000	836	1,000	1,836	1,441	...	395
Metropolitan Abattoirs ...	74,190	25,402	4,666	30,068	48,025	18,017	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs	9,000	2,844	415	3,259	3,880	621	...
Butter Factories ... ..	...	4,537	174	4,711	4,577	...	134
Tourist Resorts	22,322	14,140	1,015	15,155	16,279	1,124	...
Total	3,361,717	85,843	138,537	224,380	331,466	184,552	27,406
Estimated Sinking Fund...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,500
NET SURPLUS ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	£126,586	...

[Return No. 22.]

**ESTIMATED CASH POSITION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR ENDING
30TH JUNE, 1928.**

Items.	Estimated 1927-28.		Balance.	
	Receipts.	Payments.	Deficiency.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£
Bunbury Harbour Board	20,000	...	...	20,000
Fremantle Harbour Trust	250,000	...	...	250,000
State Batteries	17,875	28,770	10,904	...
Aborigines Cattle Station	3,050	7,038	4,018	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs	3,500	2,608	...	892
Metropolitan Abattoirs	45,500	27,879	...	17,621
Perth City Markets	1,500	650	...	850
Metropolitan Water Supply	304,000	144,311	...	159,689
Goldfields Water Supply	170,000	132,783	...	37,217
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	37,000	31,650	...	5,350
Railways	3,890,000	2,932,500	...	957,500
Tramways	312,000	255,500	...	56,500
Electricity Supply	250,000	192,500	...	57,500
Cave House, etc.	16,500	14,029	...	2,471
Albany Cold Stores ... ..	...	250	250	...
	5,320,925	3,770,507	15,172	1,565,590
NET SURPLUS ... ..	...	...	£1,550,418	

[Return No. 23.]

RAILWAYS.

STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE AND EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1926-1927.		1925-1926.		1924-1925.		1923-1924.		1922-1923.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	242,473	7.26	268,929	6.69	212,940	6.89	199,761	6.32	214,274	8.46
Ores and other Minerals ...	580,232	17.33	523,862	16.89	560,951	17.64	604,245	17.32	404,745	16.97
Wool ...	21,354	0.64	16,941	.54	15,242	.48	15,666	.54	16,184	.64
Hay, Straw and Chaff ...	89,849	2.69	109,113	3.19	113,533	3.57	116,102	3.07	111,500	4.40
Wheat ...	663,745	19.88	499,066	15.90	567,419	17.85	458,381	15.66	323,399	12.76
Other Grain and Flour ...	166,698	4.99	175,277	5.53	159,945	5.03	162,531	6.55	184,233	6.80
Firewood ...	351,457	11.43	441,828	14.08	422,293	13.29	455,345	15.66	439,885	17.30
Local Timber ...	803,040	18.08	619,937	19.72	596,510	18.75	649,870	18.78	454,138	17.92
Imported Timber ...	4,861	0.15	4,135	.13	5,535	.16	5,052	.17	3,769	.15
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	64,441	1.93	56,977	1.76	55,362	1.67	59,388	2.03	61,938	2.44
Fertilisers ...	190,897	5.72	170,834	5.44	147,481	4.64	123,119	4.23	112,526	4.48
All other goods ...	326,699	9.85	322,022	10.26	319,438	10.05	277,352	9.49	257,754	10.17
Total ...	3,838,113	100.00	3,139,010	100.00	3,170,749	100.00	2,927,512	100.00	2,684,113	100.00

Class of Goods.	1926-1927.		1925-1926.		1924-1925.		1923-1924.		1922-1923.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	£ 127,638	5.61	£ 112,289	5.54	£ 108,142	5.23	£ 104,891	5.49	£ 114,750	7.02
Ores and other Minerals ...	132,862	5.85	120,765	5.96	126,447	6.07	118,084	6.18	99,298	6.08
Wool ...	80,011	3.52	58,061	2.89	50,274	2.43	53,220	2.79	46,561	2.97
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	68,858	3.03	73,045	3.60	85,261	4.13	83,865	4.39	79,543	4.87
Wheat ...	404,029	17.77	302,945	14.95	349,253	16.90	233,798	14.66	188,911	11.60
Other Grain and Flour ...	92,748	4.08	96,885	4.78	91,811	4.45	90,579	4.74	76,739	4.64
Firewood ...	37,575	1.65	44,075	2.17	44,146	2.13	51,146	2.63	51,070	3.18
Local Timber ...	422,873	18.00	416,839	20.55	404,200	19.59	334,711	20.14	311,946	19.10
Imported Timber ...	3,712	.14	2,764	.14	3,322	.16	3,492	.18	2,919	.18
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	76,650	3.37	71,346	3.52	71,062	3.44	71,519	3.74	74,892	4.58
Fertilisers ...	68,025	2.90	57,132	2.82	61,123	2.47	40,885	2.14	84,791	5.18
All other goods ...	759,129	33.39	670,586	33.08	682,351	33.03	624,023	32.07	551,186	33.74
Total ...	2,273,519	100.00	2,027,000	100.00	2,066,892	100.00	1,910,128	100.00	1,633,595	100.00

TRADE, PRODUCTION, POPULATION, Etc.

	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Railway Revenue ...	£2,163,790	£2,217,250	£2,004,148	£1,970,333	£2,012,811	£2,463,136	£2,913,811	£3,054,258	£3,150,037	£3,465,297	£3,616,426	£3,804,914	£3,869,300
Railway Mileage ...	3,332	3,332	3,425	3,491	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,555	3,626	3,733	3,865	3,918
Wool exported ...	£817,630	£1,273,183	£1,420,291	£535,819	£1,952,141	£3,937,106	£2,389,119	£3,202,145	£3,232,596	£1,237,152	£3,736,300	£3,527,865	£3,518,313
*Wheat produced (bushels)	2,624,190	18,236,353	16,103,216	9,803,787	8,845,387	11,222,950	12,248,080	13,904,721	13,857,432	18,920,271	23,887,397	20,471,177	30,021,616
*Hay produced (tons)	156,932	395,172	236,989	267,163	250,014	379,025	264,244	368,720	457,371	368,122	448,525	355,269	423,839
Gold produced ...	£5,196,732	£4,803,208	£4,361,698	£3,924,197	£3,580,650	£2,637,932	£2,425,852	£2,385,753	£2,204,257	£2,186,563	£1,391,310	£1,890,141	£1,781,662
Timber exported ...	£808,392	£442,014	£310,983	£274,230	£332,980	£465,734	£1,137,223	£1,040,640	£997,454	£1,367,713	£1,477,997	£1,522,958	£1,658,018
Coal produced ...	£137,575	£140,368	£182,852	£192,248	£219,260	£311,731	£393,424	£404,521	£372,130	£365,567	£371,152	£364,304	£405,770
Other Minerals (exported)	£169,094	£166,213	£189,124	£275,356	£247,691	£218,067	£199,394	£75,634	£143,898	£140,153	£151,896	£118,021	£76,655
†Number of Sheep ...	4,456,186	4,803,850	5,529,960	6,384,191	7,183,747	6,697,951	6,532,965	6,606,177	6,604,135	6,595,867	6,396,564	6,361,795	7,453,766
†Number of Cattle ...	863,835	821,048	863,930	927,086	943,847	880,644	849,803	893,108	939,596	953,764	891,564	835,911	827,303
†Number of Horses ...	161,625	163,006	169,730	178,151	180,094	174,919	178,664	180,334	181,159	181,944	175,116	170,563	166,463
Area of land selected (acres)	602,551	808,690	235,640	547,583	611,135	1,469,684	1,728,455	1,924,129	1,830,270	1,836,083	1,584,963	2,023,671	2,179,616
Area of land leased (acres)	7,855,984	8,175,594	9,845,516	20,383,357	39,571,703	19,178,124	20,354,765	28,641,868	7,605,229	20,389,232	20,899,952	8,381,282	10,823,845
c Area of land under cultivation	7,548,768	8,056,374	7,822,549	7,587,820	7,582,716	7,325,519	7,583,272	7,704,242	8,305,232	8,896,204	9,069,933	9,757,189	10,474,183
*Area of land under crop (acres)	1,367,547	2,180,456	2,004,944	1,679,772	1,605,088	1,628,163	1,804,936	1,901,680	2,274,998	2,323,070	2,710,856	2,932,110	2,924,500
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	2,366,855	2,491,537	2,548,339	1,094,000	2,122,439	2,660,040	2,843,470	3,231,392	3,168,116	3,097,386	3,696,226	3,268,883	2,694,932
Tonnage Shipping, Outward	2,794,822	2,492,875	2,557,986	1,102,295	2,111,894	2,659,302	2,825,536	3,231,386	3,037,946	3,101,166	3,657,529	3,256,132	2,707,615
Exports, including Gold ...	£5,352,140	£8,040,484	£14,693,027	£5,807,335	£10,922,976	£10,668,790	£12,258,639	£13,628,883	£11,105,220	£14,123,289	£14,664,548	£14,581,657	£15,151,959
Exports, excluding Gold ...	£3,062,276	£4,795,057	£5,562,966	£3,607,335	£5,927,471	£12,619,962	£10,440,617	£10,647,324	£8,558,726	£11,796,689	£13,976,719	£13,521,377	£14,048,867
Imports ...	£8,301,280	£9,983,000	£9,385,010	£7,649,233	£8,023,990	£12,368,331	£14,839,241	£12,037,779	£13,777,679	£14,344,145	£18,074,035	£16,462,572	£18,374,450
State Savings Bank Deposits d	£3,743,135	£3,640,874	£3,523,851	£3,606,075	£4,415,732	£6,045,930	£6,142,756	£5,276,218	£5,321,616	£5,696,912	£5,796,113	£6,312,143	£7,057,617
State Savings Bank Withdrawals d	£3,878,854	£3,828,187	£3,471,959	£3,549,293	£4,123,161	£5,936,575	£6,223,806	£5,571,830	£5,380,578	£5,304,923	£5,940,535	£6,061,332	£6,742,399
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	b 8,092	b 14,116	b 12,063	b 2,754	7,488	6,795	b 1,077	1,557	3,132	7,374	2,749	2,368	4,348
Population ...	321,440	313,048	306,297	308,232	319,636	330,172	333,644	340,059	348,119	360,352	368,027	375,158	384,448

* Season ended 28th February.

Arrivals.

† Year ended 31st December.

c Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc.

‡ Including Perth Tramways.

d Not including School Savings Bank.

a Preliminary figures, liable to revision.

e Exclusive of premium realised on export sales.

b Excess of Departures over