

sense one showing that the interests of the employers as well as the interests of the employees have been considered. I have no doubt that the Irrigation Bill will pass this House on this occasion. It was brought down very late last session, and the Minister in charge of the Bill did not even attend the conference. How, therefore, could he expect a reasonable compromise to be arrived at on the last night of the session. I suppose that other measures will be introduced by the Government since the parliament of Western Australia has finished its sittings at Fremantle, and whatever those other measures might be I hope they will be on moderate lines, and that the leader of the other party will not be too much upset if we fail to pass their measures.

On motion by Hon. T. H. Wilding, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 9.13 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Wednesday, 6th August, 1913.*

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

### QUESTIONS (3)—POWELLISED TIMBER.

#### *Cost for Wagon Construction.*

r. GEORGE asked the Minister for Railways: 1, What has been the cost per 100 feet super—apart from royalty—to the Railway Department of powellising the timber for wagon and car construc-

tion? 2, What quantity of timber has been so treated?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Cost of powellising, 3s. 2d. per 100 super feet. 2, Quantity of timber treated to 30th June, 1913, 2,830,332 super feet.

#### *Royalty Paid.*

Mr. GEORGE asked the Minister for Works: What is the total amount to 30th June, 1913, paid to the holders of the powellising process for royalty on timber treated and used by the department in the construction of—(a.) the Port Hedland Railway; (b.) all other State railways.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: (a.) Royalty paid on timber treated for use in connection with Port Hedland Railway to the 30th June, 1913—£1,062 15s. 9d. (b.) Royalty paid on timber treated for use on all other State railways to the 30th June, 1913—£957 11s. 8d.

#### *Cost and Number of Sleepers used.*

Mr. GEORGE asked the Minister for Works: 1, What was the cost per sleeper apart from royalty of powellising the sleepers used in the construction of the Port Hedland Railway? 2, What number of sleepers were used in that railway—(a.) powellised; (b.) not treated.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, 8d. (eightpence) per sleeper. 2, (a.) 220,395; (b.) 2,539. In addition, 17,000 sleepers were treated with several other specifics against white ants.

### QUESTION—HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS, ALBANY.

Mr. PRICE asked the Minister for Works: 1, Have plans and specifications providing for extensive harbour improvements at Albany been prepared? 2, Have such plans and specifications, if any, been considered by Cabinet? 3, In view of the fact that £5,000 was placed on the Estimates last year for harbour improvements for Albany, will he indicate when such work is likely to be commenced? 4, Has his attention been drawn to the fact that certain interstate steamers, including a new steamer arriving next month, cannot

use the town jetty owing to the shallow water, and refrain from using the deep-water jetty owing to its dilapidated condition? 5, If so, will he cause early action to be taken so that the necessary berthage may be provided?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, A comprehensive report has been furnished to the Government by the responsible officers. 2, The report is receiving the consideration of the Government. 3, When a scheme has been adopted by the Government the question of a start being made with the work will receive attention. 4, One of the inter-state companies asked for certain information respecting the port, and it was supplied. 5, In view of the comprehensive scheme mentioned it is not deemed advisable to undertake any temporary work.

#### QUESTION—RAILWAY EXTENSION. YILLIMINING-KONDININ.

Mr. BROUN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Do the Government intend to continue the extension of the Yillimining-Kondinin line to serve the settlers east of the Wickepin-Merredin Railway? 2, If so, when?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Yes. 2, As soon as the works now under construction and others authorised by Parliament are sufficiently advanced.

#### QUESTION—H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA.

Mr. CARPENTER (without notice) asked the Premier: Is the Government aware whether the H.M.A.S. "Australia," now on her way to these waters, is calling at any Western Australian port. If not, will the Government endeavour to make arrangements with the Federal authorities for that warship to call, either at Fremantle or Albany?

The PREMIER replied: I have no official information with regard to the movements of the warship referred to, but I will make inquiries and inform the hon. member at a later stage.

#### QUESTION—RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK, PAYMENT OF DUTY.

Mr. GEORGE (without notice) asked the Premier: Have the Government paid any duty to the Commonwealth Customs Department on the State importation of rolling stock for the year 1912-13?

The PREMIER replied: Yes.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### *Sixth Day.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. GREEN (Kalgoorlie): 1, in common with other members on this side of the House, desire to congratulate the Premier upon his having had the chance of going abroad, and of having been able to go to the financial centre of the Empire and rub shoulders with the commercial magnates of the old world. It is rather a remarkable thing that whilst we are told in this Chamber that Labour men are unsophisticated so far as financial matters are concerned, and in dealing with business men and men of affairs, we find that Labour leaders on going to the old country leave their mark on leaders of the world's thought there. That was the position with regard to the late Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, Mr. Andrew Fisher, and I am satisfied from the reports which have appeared in the newspapers and from what we have heard here that the Premier of this State also made a very favourable impression on his recent visit to England. I have heard it said that "Home-keeping youth have ever homely wits," and I guarantee to say that, considering the opportunity Labour members as a rule have, their position is such that when they travel and come into contact with so-called University men of polish they more than hold their own. If a man has worked his way up in the world by hard labour and reached the position of a member of Parliament out of the ruck, that in itself distinguishes him as a man of more than ordinary grit. The question of the taking over of the Perth trams was one of the actually accomplished facts carried out by the Government since we last met, and

whatever criticism has been levelled from the other side of the Chamber upon the taking over of the Perth trams, and upon the futility of this policy, when we come to consider that it has had the approbation of nearly all the people in the State, there is not the slightest doubt that it will prove a wonderful asset so far as the whole of the State is concerned in the future. I do not contend that the Government should take over the trams in all the towns, at any rate for the present, but in the capital city where traffic is to a large extent supplied not only by the people living in the suburban areas, but also by the people who come from other parts of the State, the system should be a national concern. We are told in the Governor's Speech that the Minister for Lands and Agriculture has arranged—and it is a wise provision, I think—that a million acres in the dry areas shall be withheld from settlement, and as one who has had considerable experience with farmers in the dry areas, north of the Eastern goldfields line and around Merredin, I can say with the greatest assurance that it is indeed a wise provision. It is hardly too much to say that a big proportion of the present unsatisfactory state of the finances is entirely due to the fact that this Government have helped the farmer who has been placed in those particular areas by the boom and bust policy of the late Minister for Lands. We have had to nurse the baby with regard to that kind of settlement.

Mr. A. N. Piesse: No fear.

Mr. GREEN: The hon. member for Toodyay says "no fear," but he knows as well as I do that a number of people from the goldfields have gone to those areas and settled there under adverse conditions.

Mr. Heitmann: We are nursing the baby without even getting the bonus.

Mr. GREEN: The agricultural implement works are proceeding apace, and whilst there is a considerable amount of criticism directed at this enterprise on the part of the State, I think that our Government are very clear upon their line of policy concerning State undertakings. We take up this position, that just as soon as any implement or any of the necessities

of life, if it comes to that, are made a source of profit and are used as pawns in the game of this so-called great scheme of finance, or even the people's food and the necessities of life are bartered by so-called financial magnates who control trusts in Australia, just as soon will this Government, at any rate, with the limited means at its command, nationalise industries of that character. So we find they nationalised the agricultural implement works, and as has been stated, the catalogue price of these works was £18,000 and the value placed upon them by the expert was £14,000, whilst £8,500 was the price paid for them. When we come to consider that as late as February last £400 worth of plant was sold for other purposes, and that since that date the engine for the State brickworks was secured from the plant not necessary for the implement works, it goes to show that the Government have acquired a very good asset indeed. The Metropolitan Water Supply and the Goldfields Water Scheme are now under the aegis of the Minister for Works, and combined as they are under one head, I am satisfied that better working of the whole scheme will result. I have noted that recently the water supply authorities have started the creation of a second reservoir at Kalgoorlie, so that in the event of any failure of the supply from the reservoir on Mount Charlotte, the goldfields population will be assured of continuity of that necessary commodity. There is one point, however, on which I will never cease to agitate as long as I am in this Chamber, and that is that whilst we have one water supply administration and the meters in the metropolitan areas are not charged for, yet in Kalgoorlie and Boulder the householder is charged 10s. per annum. We do not ask that this 10s. should be entirely remitted, but we do contend that additional water should be allowed for that amount. It is not too much to ask, it has been frequently brought before the Minister for Works, and I trust the time is not far distant when this boon will be granted. It does not involve a large amount of revenue, but it disposes of the objection to a vexatious tax upon a small body of people, and a tax which is not

imposed upon metropolitan consumers. Members will agree with me that we should have one line of policy for the goldfields and the coast in matters of this kind. Workers' homes are being established, and I note that 56 mortgages have been discharged, making a total of £14,950. There have been several applications from Kalgoorlie and Boulder for assistance under the Act, and as a number were refused, I wrote to the chairman of the Workers' Homes Board to ascertain the exact position of the board with regard to the establishment of homes on the goldfields. I have received a reply in writing that so far as the goldfields are concerned, the members of the board consider that there are enough homes there and that the object of the board is to build new homes. With that policy I entirely agree, but I contend that in some instances where the security is undoubted the goldfields people should have an opportunity of getting out of the hands of the money lender who charges them an exorbitant rate of interest.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: Are there undoubted securities on the goldfields at the present time?

Mr. GREEN: There are, and the hon. member knows that. With regard to the prospects of the mineral industry outlined in the Governor's Speech, for the first time in several years I am pleased to hear a hopeful note struck. The hon. member for Pingelly (Mr. Harper), who has secured a fair competence in this world by methods peculiar to wealthy magnates in the mining market, took upon himself to say certain things against the goldfields generally. This calamity, this man who used the goldfields as a ladder to raise himself and then kicked the ladder from under him, showed base ingratitude, but at any rate he will not have an opportunity this session to cry stinking fish so far the goldfields are concerned. The prospects of the mineral industry are encouraging indeed. There is a £22,000 increase to the end of May over the production for the same period of last year, and a £63,000 increase in the total value of all minerals produced, and I must con-

gratulate the member for Collie on living in a centre that showed an increase in its coal output amounting to £10,000 over the same period of last year.

The Minister for Mines: Due to his absence.

Mr. GREEN: Not due to his absence, but to the arrangement made by him with the Minister for Railways before he left the State, an arrangement which has had a very beneficial effect, so far as the Collie constituency is concerned. The gold export for last year was worth £5,302,419, and as usual it was more than half of the value of the total export of commodities from this State, and whilst it may be wearying members to repeat this time after time, it seems absolutely necessary to do so in view of the fact that other industries are held in the public gaze altogether out of perspective in comparison with this wonderful industry which has done so much for the State and will continue to do much long after the member for York (Mr. Monger), the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George), and I have gone to our last long sleep. The wheat export for 1912-13 was £671,276 in a year which is held by our opponents to be a good year, yet that amount is just over one-eighth of the value of the gold export for last year. The mining industry has produced over £112,000,000 worth of minerals up to date, which is equal to the amazing amount of £356 for every man, woman, and child in the State. And those gentlemen like the member for York who have never seen the colour of gold outside a borrowed half-sovereign, I would recommend to visit the office of the Minister for Mines where they will see models of nuggets being gathered together by the Mines Department for a display in the exhibition at Genoa. They will see there a representation of the "Bobby Dazzler" which was discovered in 1889, and was a fine nugget, the original weighing 487 ounces, and also one discovered in the present year at Ruby Well, in the Peak Hill Goldfields, and weighing 169 ounces.

Mr. Monger: That is in the Kalgoorlie district, is it not?

Mr. GREEN: The Kalgoorlie district is responsible for nearly half of the gold yield of the State and of nearly one-quarter of that for the whole of the Commonwealth. The Minister for Mines is to be congratulated on the way in which he has helped the gold-mining industry. I frequently have reason to endeavour to get little things in regard to the gold mining industry about Kalgoorlie attended to, with a certain amount of indifferent success at times.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): You mean the gold about Boulder.

Mr. GREEN: The member for North-East Fremantle, who is essentially of a parochial mind, thinks by trying to play off Boulder against Kalgoorlie he will raise my ire, but the people of the gold-fields are solid on everything they go for, even to voting on the referendum. The Minister for Mines has spent £9,000 in remodelling and fixing up old batteries. This is a legacy from the hon. gentleman who has now a seat in the Federal Parliament, and who was continuously scrapped in this State and will no doubt find his level in due course amongst the Federal people. To give an illustration of how this gentleman bungled matters, I need only inform the House that the old Mount Ida battery cost approximately £11,000, and it has been necessary to build a new one at a cost of only £2,029, and yet the new battery has a greater capacity than the old one. There have been important advances not only in Kalgoorlie but in all the goldfields districts, and I propose to enumerate some of them. Yilgarn has put up a record for the whole of its gold mining industry; Coolgardie has done better than at any time during the past six years; Black Range has put up a record; Meekatharra has established a record for tonnage and is only eclipsed in the actual yield of gold by one previous year; whilst Collie was responsible for a record coal output last year. Another thing to be observed is that the present Minister for Mines has adopted a new policy in regard to the speed with which public batteries are erected. It was a

common thing under the old regime to take from six to seven months to erect a battery, and that was because of the method pursued by the Government. That method was to start to erect the battery just as soon as the first piece of machinery arrived on the site. The method of the present Minister is not to start to erect a battery until the last nut or bolt is placed on the ground. A caretaker is placed in charge of the machinery as it arrives, but the gang of men is not put on the work until the whole of the machinery is on the ground. The result is that the batteries are being erected at a record pace, and the taxpayer's pocket is being conserved in this direction. At Ora Banda it took 35 days to erect the battery. The Norseman battery will take 30 days; it was started on the 17th July, and will be finished about the middle of this month. Cheap water has been granted by the Minister for the northern end of the fields in the Kalgoorlie district and it has been of considerable help in assisting the low-grade shows. And I want to take this opportunity of thanking the Minister for grasping the situation and helping that particular locality with cheap water. The Minister, I find, has spent £140,000 in mining development on all accounts, such as water supplies, laying down tracks and roads, surveys, boring, erection of State batteries and loans to small companies, during the time he has been in office. He has established many water supplies in mining districts. He established one at Ora Banda at a cost of £26,896, and one which would not have been granted by any other man holding the position of Minister in this State, for he took a tremendous risk at the time. The population when the water supply was agreed to was a mere handful—somewhere about 100. Marvel Loch has been given a water supply at a cost of £11,000. Mt. Jackson a battery and water supply at a cost of £11,000, Meekatharra £10,000; Mount Ida £10,000, and new batteries are to replace the old ones at Norseman, Meekatharra, and Mount Ida. Twenty Mile Sandy and Moolyella are not included in these references. A new battery has been erected at Payne's Find at a cost of £4,500, and new

plants have been erected at Meekatharra, £4,000; Mount Egerton, £4,650; Ora Banda, £3,650; Bamboo Creek, £4,500; and Mount Keith £4,500. Eight new batteries have been approved of. Previously it took six or eight months to erect a battery, now it only takes four or five weeks. The Minister for Mines will have plenty of material with which to attempt to convince members of the House. Over four millions has been obtained by gold recovery in 38 batteries erected for the prospectors in this State. All new plants are on a different basis from the plants that have been scrapped. They are right up-to-date, and they are the last word of their kind in battery construction. Another matter in the Governor's Speech is with regard to the sanatorium, and I am very pleased indeed that the Government are taking steps to have a sanatorium of the most up-to-date kind erected in this State for the poor fellows who lose their health in the great mining industry. When I recall the number of miners I have known for several years who have had their health broken by following up the mining avocation, I feel inclined to ask myself if the game is really worth the candle. I was in a restaurant the other day and met a young fellow of 23 with a frame on him like a modern Hercules, and he called me over to the table where he was sitting and said, "Look here, I come from the fields; I want a word with you." He said "I am suffering from miners' complaint, and I have only six months to live. I have listened to you Labour fellows on the platforms at Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and I have heard what you are going to do for worn-out miners. Two years have gone by and not much has been done in that direction." He went on to say, "I do not mention that for myself, I have not long to go. We fellows do not ask much up there. You do not have us coming round whining for jobs"—and may I say right here the worn-out miners do not whine around; as Carlyle says, "they burn their own smoke." They go down into the grave in silence after fighting and working like Trojans in the mines. This is one industry I am closely intimate with. The workers on the

fields are "all out" and they are working for all they are worth. These men after a few years in the industry—they have worked so hard under poor conditions that they are hardly fit for anything else. The member for Toodyay, if he wished to speak, could tell you that he had met many fellows who have gone on the land who were not previously acquainted with that industry. They have buried themselves in the bush to get away from the actual facing of death.

Mr. A. N. Piesse: Some have been cured.

Mr. GREEN: If some have been cured it is because they have gone to the agricultural districts when they were in the first stages. Unfortunately the men working in the mining industry are like men in other industries, they are working in a groove, and it is very hard to get out of that groove. Most of the miners work in the industry until they realise that they have become hopeless wrecks. But to resume my story; this man said, "As far as the other workers on the fields are concerned I want you to do your very best, in common with others. We sent you there to help us. We know you are a reformer"—and let me say that I am proud that I am a socialist, that is my objective as a Labour man. This man said, "What we want you to do is to improve our conditions so that our wives and children will have their fathers saved to them for years to come." I acknowledge that the great gold mining industry has done a lot for the State; it is an industry which has paid 23½ millions of money in dividends, mostly to persons living beyond our shores, and members on both sides should see that our fellow-Australians should get better conditions, so that this dreaded disease could be staved off. We find from Dr. Cumpston's report—this is no mere play of words, Dr. Cumpston's report was issued in 1910—in Table 5 he states that ordinary lung diseases show a total percentage out of all diseases among people engaged in industries other than mining of 25.73 per cent.; of those working in mines it shows a total of 38.52 per cent., or an increase of 50 per cent. That is to show

that every man who engages in the mining industry and goes below has a 50 per cent. greater chance of contracting this disease than other men engaged in the ordinary avocations of life outside. That proves my contention that we as a Chamber should do something to pass regulations that will help the miner.

Mr. Foley: We did it last session, and it went down in the slaughter house.

Mr. GREEN: The sawmills have been started. They are there to stay. The members of the Opposition became frantic because they say we are going to interfere and compete and carry on questionable enterprises in order to fight enterprises in every walk of life. The intention of this Government is not such. We are going to be kept busy, though in taking our share and combating everything of a trust-like character, and I am free to say we fear that the timber industry has been a trust in the past which has resolved itself into one of an honourable understanding, so that the timber is 30 per cent. dearer to-day than it was some years ago. I want to tell hon. members that I was engaged in the building trade in Perth 18 years ago, and my wages then—I worked for Tom Molloy—were 11s. a day and two drinks, and I did not neglect to collect the drinks. I guarantee to say the wages to-day are very little more than that. That is over a total period of 18 years.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): What branch of the building trade?

Mr. GREEN: Bricklaying.

Mr. Monger: What are bricklayers' wages to-day?

Mr. GREEN: Not much more. I think you can get men to-day for 12s.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): Thirteen or fourteen shillings.

Mr. GREEN: We were underpaid at that time. The wage system was really only beginning to come into practice in the State a little before that time. The system of indented labour in an unmentionable way, which had been carried on since the foundation of the State was in progress, until the wage system was inaugurated, and

before I came into the State men had to go out to work for 2s. 6d. a day. But men came from the Eastern States and dug up the ground here and showed to the wondering eyes of the member for York and other natives that there was gold here. I had a conversation with an expert in timber some time ago with regard to State sawmills, and this expert had worked for some time, recently too, in the timber mills of the western coast of America, and he told me the State sawmills as fitted up are right up-to-date, and quite as up-to-date as the most modern American sawmill, so I have everything to hope from the results as far as the State sawmills are concerned. The Government, too, are starting State brickworks. I am pleased to say I have a personal knowledge of the manager of the State brickworks, Mr. Bradshaw, who was the man under whom I laid my first brick in Victoria many years ago. Mr. Bradshaw at one time was manager of the Hoffman brick-yards in Victoria, and at that time it was one of the largest brick-yards in the Southern Hemisphere. He knows his business from A to Z. He is not only an engineer but he is right at the head of his craft. He was the chief engineer on the Golden Horseshoe and retained that position for 14 years. He could have that position to-day were it not for the fact that he decided to take up duty in connection with the State brickworks. The Minister for Works is satisfied that in Mr. Bradshaw he has a man thoroughly up to the game.

Mr. Heitmann: One of the best in Australia.

Mr. GREEN: I may tell hon. members on the other side that if Mr. Bradshaw votes anything, he votes Liberal, but he has not particularly biased views, I am saying this because I am sure that if Mr. Bradshaw had been a Labour man, we would have had the old cry of "spoils to the victors" raised. There was some difficulty in securing the site for the brickworks. The officer examined several pieces of ground and came to the conclusion that the present site was the finest of its kind in close proximity to Perth for

brickmaking purposes. He began to negotiate with the owner of the land (Mr. Clifton) through the Minister for Works—the price was somewhere about £8 per acre, but it was not known what the site was going to be used for exactly. Mr. Clifton, however, began to smell a rat, and thought he would be able to coerce the Government by putting it into the hands of Messrs. Coles & Coles, who call themselves “opportunity agents,” and who have their habitat in a building opposite to the Police Court in Roe-street. Directly Coles & Coles got control of the business, the price asked of the Government was £20 per acre, although for agricultural purposes it would not grow a carrot, and was worth practically nothing. They tried to squeeze the Government for £20 an acre. In dealing with the Minister for Works, however, they reckoned without their host. The Minister for Works stood firm. They tried to make several other conditions; they wanted the right of access to the railway siding which the Government was going to put in; they wanted a strip of land reserved in the first instance that would have prevented the Government putting in the siding, and altogether the surroundings were, as the leader of the Opposition would say, very suspicious in regard to the acquirement of this land. Coles & Coles, however, had to come down to earth, and the land was disposed of for £8 an acre. Coles & Coles have risen to their title of “opportunity agents,” and have issued a circular which sets forth the terms on which land in the locality is to be disposed of. It refers to the site as “Blytheswood Park Estate, the new model industrial city,” and states that the price to-day is £20 per block up to an acre. I commend the way in which these agents have endeavoured to make good, at the Government's expense, knowing that the Government are going to make a success of this great State enterprise. There is every promise that it will be a wonderful success, when we consider what has been done under State ownership in New South Wales. A Royal Commission was formed there to inquire into the cost of the production of bricks. Several hon. gentlemen in the business tendered evidence before the Royal Commission and swore

on a stack of bibles that bricks cost anything up to £2 5s. per 1,000 to make, and that they were getting only 2s. 6d. per 1,000 profit. The New South Wales Government stepped into the breach and has been making bricks at 22s. per 1,000—that was the price when I was over there. But the hon. member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. E. B. Johnston) may be able to give us some later statistics, showing even that small cost has been reduced. Mr. Bradshaw hopes to make bricks for the Western Australian Government at 25s. per 1,000. The present cost of wire-cuts, the poorest class of brick, is £3 per thousand delivered and £2 7s. 6d. at the kiln. Among the Bills that are going to be presented by the Government this session is one dealing with Constitutional Reform. If it is the intention of the Government to bring in a proportional representation scheme, I see in such a scheme a certain amount of risk in regard to my own seat, and I have not the slightest doubt that the hon. member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) and possibly the hon. member for Coolgardie (Mr. McDowall) would also be scratching for their places. In spite of that I believe that proportional representation is certainly fair, and I believe it is only under a system of that kind that we can prevent a gerrymandering scheme, if it is left for any Liberal Government who might succeed to office after us. It is a very difficult matter to explain anything of the character of a scheme of proportional representation without the aid of a blackboard. There is only one way to get a grip of the question, and that is to read literature on the subject for one's self.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): Everyone has a different scheme.

Mr. GREEN: In proportional representation you can have the single transferable vote. I myself am in favour of the Belgian list system. It is one that appeals to me as set forth in Mr. Humphreys' well-known book and provides for parties. I think we want to recognise now that the time of the independent has gone in Australia.

Mr. Munsie: Under the present system it is, but not under proportional representation.



Mr. GREEN: It will be under proportional representation. When we find that a man like Sir Josiah Symon, undoubtedly one of the finest and brainiest men in Australia, lost his seat as an independent, it fairly shows that the time for the independent in politics is past. We have got to get into holt as respective parties, each believing in his own political faith. I notice that the Irrigation Bill is also going to be brought forward again by the Government. I may say, after the way members of the Opposition have been criticised by their own friends in regard to their attitude on the last Irrigation Bill of the Government, that their opposition should be very small, and I hope that the Upper House will let us pass the measure. The proposed amendment of the Factories Act must commend itself to all members of this side of the Chamber. I do not put myself in any position of false security by imagining that members of the Opposition are not going to fight this measure, as they and their class have fought such proposals in the past. The initiative and referendum are subjects that must commend themselves to all democrats. The principle has been accepted in the United States of America and is a part of the laws of the republic of Switzerland, and will, I trust, at an early date be instituted in this State to give the people a direct chance of having their views heard. I notice that a Local Government Bill is to be placed before this House and I trust that in it there will be provision for the abolition of plural voting in municipal elections. The adult franchise should obtain there the same as it does for the Legislative Assembly. I know there are several good arguments that can be advanced against that.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): I have never heard them.

Mr. GREEN: There are certain arguments that can be advanced with a great show of weight, but I want to say that the further we extend the franchise, the more it becomes patent to us that the public can be absolutely entrusted to vote on the question of the Government of this country or any other question. It appears that the Public Works Committee Bill is going to be brought

forward again, and I trust that members of the Opposition will get evidence of the magnificent results of the operation of a similar measure in New South Wales and Victoria and will assist to place it on the statute-books of this State. The hon. member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) has reminded me that it was a part of their platform before the election, but I am not in a position to state, any more than members of the Opposition themselves are, what is any particular part of their platform. The Esperance railway is also going to be brought forward and I trust that the bitterness, and might I say unfairness, adopted by certain members of the Opposition towards this measure will be entirely absent on this occasion. It might be almost too much to hope, but I want to say that that railway has been surveyed for 11 years; the people of the goldfields have frequently asked for it and indeed the withholding of this line was one of the first reasons given to Her late Majesty, why that portion of the State should be separated from the rest of Western Australia. There has been a big division in the sympathies of the goldfields and those of the coast, and the withholding of this railway has had a great deal to do with the cause of it. I trust that hon. members will get away from the idea of centralisation. I might point out that according to the census of 1911 the population of the metropolitan area, including Fremantle, Perth, and the district as far up as Guildford, was 92,138, whereas the population for the whole of the State was 294,133, so hon. members will see that the centralisation problem is beginning to manifest itself in this State just as it has been such a conspicuous problem in other States of the civilised world.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: You cannot stop it.

Mr. GREEN: There is a method, but would the hon. member for Subiaco say that as we cannot stop it we should close every port in the State—Bunbury or Geraldton—in order that the centralisation should be more pronounced? Centralisation is not a blessing, but I think

it could be restrained in one direction, and that is by giving each particular district a natural outlet at its nearest port. We find that a third of the population of this State is in the metropolitan area, and yet we have a territory which is half the size of the United States of America. Such a position as that should have given the hon. member for Subiaco pause. There has been abundant evidence in this Chamber to convince any fair-minded man that the necessity for the Esperance railway is indeed very urgent. But there is an hon. member in another place who has lately made a visit down there, and surely his evidence should carry some weight. I may be permitted to read a few of the concluding remarks made in the report of the Colonial Secretary—

Altogether there are 33 new settlers between the 65 and 30 miles, and with their wives and families they total 101 persons. Already 9,000 acres have been cleared ready for the plough, and 2,000 acres rolled. Reference is sometimes made to the fewness of selectors. The wonder is that there are so many, with means to a market non-existent, and with the cost of fertilisers, machinery and goods so high—carriage to the 30-mile costs £4 10s. a ton and to Grass Patch over £7. To sum up my impressions: There are 34 miles of unsurpassable soil with, for the most part, a risky rainfall, 62 miles of good wheat growing land with a rainfall which in view of the climate and the retentive qualities of the sub-soil varies from satisfactory over one-third, to excellent over two-thirds, and 30 miles of second and third-class land fed by a heavy rainfall, and dotted with fertile valleys suitable for the growth of root crops. On the wheat lands where proper methods are followed, the results are gratifying, and where fallowing has been tried the production has been increased. Water conservation is removed from the region of doubt. There is room for 1,000 families in the agricultural belt if its width is as represented by the official classifiers. Only

one obstacle to settlement presents itself, and Parliament has the remedy. With the provision of railway facilities, I have no doubt the immense tract would be quickly peopled, and, reckoning labour necessary for developmental purposes, the rural population should easily reach 5,000. To me, after my visit—

And I notice that the bitter opposition from the member for Wagin (Mr. S. Stubbs), for instance, and other members, usually arises from members who had never visited the district. The member for Bunbury (Mr. Thomas) who has somersaulted over the matter since he was in Kalgoorlie, admits that he has never been to the district. He was in favour of the Esperance railway when in Kalgoorlie. However, I am not going to press the point, so far as he is concerned. Bunbury is a parochial little place, and he represents Bunbury. This is not a parochial matter; it is a national work and should have been undertaken long ago. Then the Honorary Minister is in favour of it as a Cabinet proposition.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): I am in favour of increasing Fremantle, of course.

Mr. GREEN: Yes, of course, that goes without saying. However, to resume the remarks of the Colonial Secretary—

To me, after my visit, it appears deplorable that this great source of wealth should continue to be locked up, owing largely, in my opinion, to the difficulty of realising the true position and to the unfortunate tendency of confusing the Esperance railway proposition of some years ago with the Esperance railway proposition of to-day. Parliament now knows only too well the calamitous blunder it committed when it rejected the Midland Company's offer of 1905. It is to be hoped there will not be a repetition of this egregious legislation to follow in dealing with another momentous question, the question of promptly providing the key in the shape of a railway, to open to permanent and prosperous activity an enormous area of dormant territory which

must otherwise remain practically valueless to the State.

Now I want to support my remarks by reading a letter from the commissioner for the wheat belt. I trust that even the most sceptical hon. member in regard to the railway will agree with me that this gentleman, who stands an unquestioned authority with regard to the growth of wheat, should be capable of giving us a valuable opinion. On the 8th August of last year I wrote to the commissioner for the wheat belt, asking his straightforward opinion on the Esperance wheat belt after his visit to that locality. Mr. Sutton replied as follows:—

In reply to your letter of the 8th instant, I beg to say that we purchased approximately 300 bushels of seed wheat from Messrs. Thompson and Shepherd of the Grass Patch, but I understand these gentlemen supplied other farmers with seed, and cut a considerable portion of their crops for hay.

This information I had asked for by way of reply to the member for York (Mr. Monger) who had got up some very reliable data to show that the output of wheat from Esperance was nil. His statements are generally on all-fours with his knowledge of most of the subjects discussed in this Chamber, namely, nil. The Wheat Commissioner's letter continues—

I am unable to say what the actual return of wheat was in the district, as I was not there at harvest time, and the actual returns were never sent to me. I saw the crops of Messrs. Lewis, Moore, Shepherd, and Thompson. These crops looked healthy and normal for the time they had been planted. The character of the country is on the whole similar to the mallee country in the Eastern districts. It is, of course, not as attractive looking as the forest country of those districts. In its natural state it is uninviting, but the appearance is immeasurably improved when it is brought under cultivation. This part of the country seems capable of producing favourable wheat crops, but personally, and in the absence of experience in that particular district, I

would prefer the forest country of the Eastern areas.

That is the whole letter. Hon. members will agree that on the whole the report is a very favourable one. With regard to the question of State steamers, the member for Kimberley (Mr. Male) was at some pains to state that some particular squatter friend of his had lost money on one particular shipment of cattle. I want to say that the small grower in Kimberley, for the first time for many years, has had a chance of placing his cattle on the market of Western Australia.

Mr. Male: How is that?

Mr. GREEN: By the addition of the State steamers.

Mr. Male: But there are no more steamers now than there were last year.

Mr. GREEN: The hon. member is holding up his arms in horror.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): He did not tell you they used to charge double the fees.

Mr. GREEN: That is quite right, and it is easy to understand that the gentleman referred to may have brought his cattle down and come upon a falling market. It is hard luck, but it is in the ordinary routine of trade. Still, if that man were a small grower he would never have had a chance of bringing his cattle down here under the condition of things as they existed before the inauguration of the State steamship service. Let me give the experience of a relative of mine who was a small squatter.

Mr. Male: And who sold his station to the Government.

Mr. GREEN: And who sold his station to the Liberal Government. This gentleman had to sell his station because it was impossible for him to get a single hoof on to the market under the delightful system of the friends of our friends opposite. At one particular time, in his salad days up there, he thought he would be able to sell to some buyers there, the same as he understood other men had done. He wrote to Messrs. Connor, Doherty & Durack, and they offered him a price, a very small price indeed. That is many years ago. They were only willing to take about a quarter of his cattle. This price being remarkably low he thought he would

be able to sell in the open market—the good old British idea, this Manchester school, of which the leader of the Opposition is an apostle. Of course it acted very well in the old country when the school was first inaugurated, when the rule was everyone for himself and the devil takes the hindmost; but when we get the meat ring on the scene it is a far different state of affairs. My friend wrote to Messrs. Copley and Co., and they replied that they were not buying any cattle in West Kimberley. In conclusion, they referred him to Messrs. Connor, Doherty and Durack, so there was no escape for this gentleman, who was in a dead end. The hon. member for Kimberley is not a squatter. I hope he would not intend to convey that idea.

Mr. Male: I am a squatter.

Mr. GREEN: Of course he has a small tin-pot station near Broome, but he has other interests as well. He has shipping interests in Broome, and is also interested in an industry which is sometimes classed as doubtful, namely, the pearl-buying industry, and other industries of that kind. Goodness knows how many fingers he has in the pie on that remote corner of our State. I simply point out this to show that the hon. member's interests are divided and, therefore, we could not expect him to view this position with the calm judicial air with which I myself can consider this question.

Mr. Heitmann: What knowledge have you of the squatting industry?

Mr. GREEN: I have the knowledge imparted to me by relatives who have been engaged in this industry, by the testimony they have supplied to me. Moreover, I have been in this part of the country, and have used the brains Providence has gifted me with to inquire into the industry. I think it is patent to every right-thinking man that the position in the past has been very unsatisfactory, so far as the consuming public is concerned.

Hon. Frank Wilson: What do they do in Texas—I understand you have been there?

Mr. GREEN: Yes, I have been in Texas, and I am rather proud of that experience. If the hon. member were in

Texas he would, no doubt, be among the other booblers that are saddling the United States at the present time. Let me tell him that the United States will be about the only place which he will be able to exploit after the Labour Governments have been in power in this State and in the Federal Parliament for a few years. I would commend his attention to Texas.

Mr. George: They are pretty drastic there, are they not?

Mr. GREEN: They lynch upon occasion.

Hon. Frank Wilson: How did you escape?

Mr. GREEN: Because I always worked hard and behaved myself. The leader of the Opposition spoke frequently of the State steamers as scrap iron, and said they were not worth anything.

Mr. Male: That is quite right.

Mr. GREEN: Now I want to give you, not a Labour man's idea, of these steamers, but the opinion of Mr. J. J. Holmes, who certainly cannot be regarded as a valuable member of our party. In an article in the *West Australian* in which Mr. Holmes cut the Government up for their management of the steamers—and I want to say that we recognise that mistakes have been made; but I want also to make the pronouncement that we are in the State steamers industry for keeps. We recognise that there is a shipping ring in Australia.

Hon. Frank Wilson: It has got you fast.

Mr. Munsie: We will come out of it all right.

Mr. GREEN: If the hon. member, through a temporary aberration on the part of a majority of the intellects of the people, ever resumes power, I challenge him to abolish State steamers. Now to return to Mr. Holmes' report, and, by the way the hon. member for Wagin (Mr. S. Stubbs) who is looking so owl-wise at this stage, might listen because he referred to the steamers, or tubs, or "stubbs" or something of that kind, as scrap iron. Let me recommend the evidence of Mr. Holmes to this wonderful business man.

Mr. S. Stubbs: I have more business acumen than you.

Mr. GREEN: The hon. member had considerable luck. I could not win a Tattersalls sweep or I might get into business too. I want to commend to him the remarks of Mr. Holmes, as set out in the *West Australian* on the 6th May—"Let me at this stage say that I am entirely with the Government"—let that soak in—"in connection with the purchase of steamers for the North-West stock route." We value evidence of that kind, not that we take very much notice of criticism that is jaundiced and bitter and which has its spring in the keeping of a few vested interests, not legitimate trade but vested interests of people who are trying to ride on the back of the consumers of this State. Further, Mr. Holmes says that he was on the mail steamer "*Macedonia*" during a heavy gale in the Australian Bight, it was so rough that even the "*Macedonia*" made 70 miles less than her ordinary daily run. During the gale he quite expected that the "*Kwinana*" and her shipment of stock would be very much knocked about, but on the contrary it proved the "*Kwinana*" a magnificent stock carrier; and we all know his evidence in regard to the steamer "*Western Australia*," Mr. Holmes said it is absolutely the finest boat on the North-West trade.

Hon. Frank Wilson: It is the only one.

Mr. GREEN: What about the "*Bullarra*"; is not she running as well?

The Minister for Lands: And the "*Gorgon*" and "*Minderoo*."

Hon. Frank Wilson: Only one is running to Wyndham and Port Darwin.

Mr. GREEN: There has been a temporary loss on these steamers. I say the word "temporary" advisedly as the indirect benefits to the people of the State have been altogether out of proportion to the loss incurred.

Mr. Male: What are the benefits?

Mr. GREEN: The benefits are so apparent that if ever members of the Opposition have an opportunity to resume office, which God forbid, they will not do away with the steamers. I had a conversation some 12 months ago with Mr. Lange. The leader of the Opposition must have met this gentleman at the Weld Club

when occasionally drinking cool drinks supplied by Chinese.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Did you meet him there?

Mr. GREEN: I never had an opportunity of being attended to by Chinamen in the Weld Club or out of it. Mr. Lange told me, "These boats will not be a success. They will not bring down the price of meat. Meat will go up within the next 12 months. Mark my words." What has been the result? Meat in the metropolitan area, where a State shop was established, is 1½d. to 2d. a pound cheaper than it was 12 months ago, not because of the quantity of meat sold out of the shop but because of the competition with these people who were holding up the consumers, and that occurred on a market in which meat was admittedly scarcer than prevailed 12 months ago.

Mr. S. Stubbs. Cat's meat.

Mr. GREEN: One hon. member says that the price has not been reduced; another hon. member admits tacitly that the price is lower but that the meat is not good. Between the divided counsel we shall, perhaps, get wisdom. At any rate, I have received an admission on the point I made.

Mr. Heitmann: What would the member for York say?

Mr. GREEN: The member for York will be in the same position as myself. The people of his district will be pushing him as the Kalgoorlie people are pushing me, to get a State butcher's shop established at York, as I trust one will be established in Kalgoorlie.

Mr. Monger: The people should have more sense.

Mr. GREEN: There is a shop in Perth which has had beneficial effects and there is one in Subiaco which I think I might say has also wrought beneficial effects, and one is being established at Midland Junction, and the logical conclusion is that there will be one in Kalgoorlie next week. The Address-in-reply at times does to a certain extent, and I do not exempt myself from the charge, waste a certain amount of the time of Parliament. We have not much time otherwise to speak during the session; our opponents are few in number

and limited in capacity. Their criticism can well be replied to by the Ministers, and anything we may have to say is of necessity superfluous during the course of the debates on the several questions brought up; so that we who have to save the time of the House in other portions of the session have a fling, if I may use the expression, during the debate on the Address-in-reply. There are a few matters regarding local wants which I desire to commend to the attention of the Ministers. I am not going to be parochial but I have to do as every hon. member has to do, look after the wants of my constituency. We are faced with this fact, that no matter what Government are in power, the further we are away from the centre of Government the less attention is paid to us. I think that even the benighted member for Kimberley (Mr. Male) will agree with me on that. There is a matter I commend to the Minister for Works for consideration when he is perusing *Hansard* and that is with regard to allowing the use of salt water on the mines. It seems an anomalous thing to me, though I know the object of the regulation, that small shows for instance—it might be limited to small grade shows, a number of which have very large ore bodies—exist in my electorate at the north end of the famous Kalgoorlie-Boulder field having their shafts nearly filled with water and yet under the regulations of the Goldfields Water Supply they are totally prevented from using that water for crushing purposes. This is a double-edged weapon as far as the industry is concerned. It prevents them from crushing ore with water at hand, which costs only a few pence per thousand gallons and it also prevents them from opening up shafts and exploring other ground that might considerably add to the gold yield of the district. The question of the tributers is an ever burning one.

Mr. Foley: Heart-burning in many instances.

Mr. GREEN: Yes, and I trust the Minister for Mines will stiffen his back on the question. To deal with this question requires a very firm Minister indeed. There are a large number of properties on the Golden Mile situated between the

north end for a couple of miles east to the Boulder deep levels which have been held for some years and many of them on which not a scrap of work has been executed, and I think the policy of working conditions or forfeiture should be carried out strictly in regard to some of these old offenders—not with regard to the new shows where they have spent their all and are waiting for breathing space to get going again, but these old sinners like Hannan's Proprietary, 200 acres of which has been held up for practically 15 or 18 years. And if the tributers we have in Kalgoorlie and in the Boulder and other fields in the North, with their knowledge of these particular districts, knowing as they do every foot of the country, are in their lifetime allowed on these properties, it will mean a greatly increased gold return. If the tributating conditions are made fair and not on the present Shylock bargain which at present obtains with some of the companies, it will be beneficial to those districts which are keeping up the finest industry we have in this State at the present time. As regards the diamond drill. I have laboured this point for some time. The department has done magnificent work and I desire to give credit where credit is due. When £2 out of £3 is advanced by the Mines Department to any prospectors or company who are prepared to put in the other pound for developmental purposes, it must be admitted that the Government are going a great way indeed. One of the immediately successful results from the use of the diamond drill is in Southern Cross, which has been opened up for the last 25 years at any rate, and where private enterprise unassisted has never got down into the earth to a greater depth than 500 feet. When the diamond drill was placed at the disposal of the citizens of Southern Cross on this basis of the Government providing two-thirds and the citizens subscribing one-third, they drilled down to 1,100 feet. At a depth of 800 feet, or 300 feet lower than was accomplished during the 24 years of private exploitation they struck a 4ft. lode, with one ounce value. That I heartily believe will be the means of giving a further fillip to the present

progressive and go-ahead mining industry in the Yilgarn district. I interviewed Dr. McLaren, who it must be admitted is one of the leading geologists of the world to-day, during his recent visit to Kalgoorlie, and I spoke to him with regard to diamond drilling. He told me that in sending the diamond drill into a depth of several hundred feet there is really no way whereby a continuous direction of the drill can be assured, therefore, the mine managers of late years have come to the conclusion that it is not so reliable as it is for shorter distances. Mr. Hamilton of the Great Boulder—the member for Hannans will correct my figures if they are wrong—has done about eight miles of diamond drilling in the Great Boulder with very beneficial results, and this has been done at only about one-third of the cost that driving would incur. Dr. McLaren said that for anything up to 300 or 400 feet the diamond drill is eminently successful, and, as I said, it means one-third of the cost of ordinary driving. Dr. McLaren recommends it for places like the outside of the Golden Mile, right through the gold-bearing area in approved places, and says the Government would be well advised if they sent their officers down the shafts and bored for gold say up to 300, 400, or 500 feet, in order to strike the lodes. There was a pamphlet issued prior to the advent of the present Government by Mr. Gregory when Minister for Mines, dealing with the abandoned gold leases in Western Australia, and in that pamphlet it was shown that some millions of pounds had been won from the leases then abandoned, and strange to say, the average won from the stone in those leases was about an ounce per ton. It seems clear that the Minister might direct his attention towards the Government wholly taking upon themselves the question of trying to locate the lodes that have been lost in some of these abandoned leases. The question of the School of Mines is one that I have been interesting myself in for some time past, and seeing that the University is a free institution I trust the Minister will see the necessity for no longer charging fees in the School of Mines.

The Attorney General: That has already been done.

The Minister for Mines: The fact was published in this morning's paper.

Mr. GREEN: I am very glad to hear that. I would also commend to the Minister for Mines the desirability of a small battery and a treatment plant being erected at the School of Mines. It has been advocated by several of the managers of mines on the Golden Mile as well as by the teachers at the School of Mines. I admit there is a small gas producer engine at the School and that this shows the actual working and engineering conditions. I think, however, if a complete treatment plant were placed there it would prove valuable for those students who have not the opportunity of getting to the mines. I know, of course, the Minister intends to inform me that he will inaugurate the system next week. The Parks and Reserves vote will, I trust, engage the closer attention of the Government this year. When we consider that nearly three-fourths of that vote is spent in the metropolitan district where rains are falling continuously as they are doing at the present time, while on the goldfields in midsummer no rain at all falls, I think the Government would be well advised to let their minds hark back to their electorates, so that they might see that a bigger proportion of the vote is set aside for those people who cannot make even one blade of grass grow without the aid of scheme water. I do not get the opportunity of voicing matters such as these very often and I think it is my duty to bring them under notice when I get a chance like the present. I do not think that my criticism is captious. I have given the Government credit for a great deal. If I were not in accordance with their policy, I was going to say that I would be in opposition, but that, God forbid. But I certainly would not sit with the Government if I did not believe in their policy. These are matters of detail, however, which can be attended to and their ventilation in this Chamber will save a good deal in the way of correspondence.

Mr. Foley: And you are talking to your constituency.

Mr. GREEN: And as the member for Leonora wisely remarked it is a good way of talking to my constituency. I might direct the attention of the Agricultural Department and also of the Railway Department to the question of the extension of the railway to the abattoirs. This is a matter which concerns the member for Haunnaus and myself. It concerns me for the reason that at the present time cattle have to be driven from Kalgoorlie to the abattoirs yard, and some time ago a valuable member of our party who voted for me at the last election was surprised to see a bull jump a back fence and charge a lady, to the imminent risk of her life. After some trouble she was able to get into a dwelling, but even that dwelling was somewhat battered about by the bull. This is a state of affairs that should not be tolerated. No later than last week some of these Kimberley cattle became loose and charged 50 school children in Kalgoorlie. If the railway were extended to the abattoirs a charge could be made for their conveyance there and thus the eyesore of having cattle driven through the streets of the inland metropolis of the West would be obviated. The question of the train service to the Boulder Block is one that the Minister for Railways might give some attention to. I saw the Chief Traffic Manager on the subject and he informed me that the conveyance of passengers to the Block would not pay. One of the objections raised was that the line was unsafe, but it was proved that large trucks of wood were being taken over these sets of rails year in and year out, and the engineers of the railways and the railway employees made use of the line. Now the Department state that only 50 people go out to the Block at a time at each shift. I took upon myself to follow up this matter and I found that on an average 300 workmen went from Kalgoorlie to the Boulder Block each shift. If the Minister for Railways goes into this matter and proves to me that the proposition will not be a paying one or, if he is not sure of that, if

he is willing to give it a trial without the erection of any platforms along the route, and then proves that it is non-paying, I shall be prepared to hold my peace on the subject for all time. With regard to the monthly excursion tickets, I have brought this matter up by way of question, but the Minister for Railways declined to grant the privilege sought—that the period for which these tickets are issued should be for three months. The matter is one that is worthy of consideration. Lots of our women folk on the goldfields require a change to the coast occasionally, and it ought to be remembered that they are not able to come down year after year or even every second year, and it is not asking too much of this Government to extend the period of the tickets from one to three months. The question of providing camels for prospectors is one that might be given some attention by the Mines Department. Some time ago there were 120 camels at the disposal of the prospectors in this State, but at the present time there are only 18. I had a refusal not later than yesterday when I applied for camels for a prospecting team which intended to go out from Kalgoorlie 130 miles south-east into territory that it is impossible to prospect without the aid of camels, and then only in a very wet season. The prospector who intended to go there was going to avail himself of the opportunity of endeavouring to open up a new field. He is satisfied that the country is gold-bearing. He went there with horses but could not remain because of the absence of water and returned, determined to go there again with camels. The Works Department have plenty of camels and they were approached on this question, but I am surprised that the Minister for Works allowed his department to be enmeshed with red tape. The fact remains that the camels cannot be secured for the prospecting tour. There are 60 camels in one spot in Kalgoorlie engaged in the painfully slow process of dam-sinking—a work which could just as well be done with horses. I think that two or three camels could well be spared by the Works Department for the Mines Depart-



ment when they are required for prospecting purposes. The Government should encourage prospecting, especially when it is in outback country and in a season which is unique just as the present one is. Another question I would like to deal with is that of the appointment of Mining Boards. It is already the approved idea of the party, and I trust these Boards will soon be brought into operation. I recognise their work will be entirely of an advisory character. We are not going to let a body of men set themselves up and call themselves a Prospectors' Association, men who may be boddlers and who are trying to squeeze a few pounds from the Government. We want genuine prospectors, elected by men possessing miners' rights, and I believe the mining boards, vested only with advisory powers, will prove of considerable help to the Government. The question of finance is exercising the minds of hon. members opposite. The question is also exercising my mind and, I take it, the mind of every member of the Government, and I recognise that we have to adopt heroic measures in order to square the ledger. Admitting that, I want members of the Opposition to bear in mind that our taxation proposals will make for that end.

Mr. Monger: Why do you not let us know what they are?

Mr. GREEN: Will the members of the Opposition be as earnest as we are in trying to reduce the deficit and in helping us with our taxation proposals?

Mr. Monger: You know what they are, we do not.

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

Mr. GREEN: Before tea I was proceeding to deal with the present financial position of the Government, and expressing the hope that when the Government brought forward their taxation proposals, the Opposition would show their sincerity with regard to reducing the deficit by passing that taxation. I again express that wish, and trust that the members of the Opposition will show their sincerity in regard to the well-being of the country. The causes of the financial position of to-day have been fre-

quently stated. It has been stated, but will bear repeating, that the Government have looked after the position of Government employees by increasing wages to the tune of £107,000 per year. Something is to be said, too, for the amount of help extended to the farmers, and considering the small number of direct farmers' representatives on this side of the House, it only goes to prove that we are an absolutely fair party in our attitude towards the farming producers. I may state that the railway rate on manure, one farthing per ton per mile, is the cheapest rate in Australia, and that is a pretty good record when we consider that this is the most sparsely populated State in the group, and also that it has a larger percentage of railway mileage than any other country in the civilised world. Water, too, was carried during the dry period of last year for one farthing per ton per mile, and a halfpenny had to be remitted from the Treasury for every ton per mile to make good the deficiency to the Railway Department. For this water, coupons were accepted from the farmers, and from the present position of the farming community, without casting any reflection on that section of the people, I feel that they will not be in a position in the immediate future to redeem those coupons, and I will not be surprised if they find their way into the waste-paper basket. We hear a good deal from the Opposition about the building of spur lines. The member for Wagin, particularly, was very anxious to have several railways built in his district. This hon. member had a railway completed in his district by the Labour Government, and his unmeasured language in criticising the Government last night was in entire contradistinction to the language used in regard to the Government at the opening of that railway a year ago. Last night there was not a virtue in the present Government, but a year ago at the opening of that railway—

Mr. O'Loughlen: An after-dinner speech.

Mr. GREEN: Or an after-railway speech. The hon. member stated on that occasion that the present Government had done more for the farmers than any other

Government in the history of the State. It is necessary to repeat that statement in order to show that the member for Wagin has altered his attitude, and I have no doubt that if the Ministry will listen to his present importunities and grid-iron his electorate with railways he will continue to extol their virtues. I might add that not one spur line in the State has paid since 1906 except the Pinjarra-Marrinup Railway, which is really a timber line, and yet the Government are expected to go on building railways in sparsely populated country, in face of the fact that they are not paying propositions, and still finance without additional taxation. I cannot allow the occasion to pass without mentioning a statement made a few nights ago by the member for Pingelly with regard to the price of brickwork at the present time compared with the price some time ago. The hon. member was anxious to prove that the workman of to-day had gone slack, and that, compared with the workman of six years ago, is altogether an inferior person. A statement like that might be excused when coming from a globe trotter of the Foster Fraser type, but it is altogether inexcusable from a gentleman who has resided a few years in the State. I guarantee that the hon. member's figures, 22s. 6d. per thousand for Emanuel Buildings, are inaccurate. That brickwork could not have been laid for 22s. 6d. per thousand. I speak as a bricklayer and know what I am talking about, but his quotation of £3 2s. 6d. per thousand at the present time is altogether beside the mark, and I challenge that hon. member to point out to me a piece of brickwork that has cost more than £2 per thousand. So much for the hon. member's knowledge of building. It is on a parity with his knowledge of mining, which confines itself to financing.

Mr. Heitmann: Bulling and bearing.

Mr. GREEN: Yes, bulling and bearing, as the member for Cue so neatly puts it. The member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) is verbose in the pessimism he has adopted ever since the present Government have been in power. In the past he has been known as the "breezy optimist." Everything was all right so long as

the member for Northam occupied a seat on the Treasury bench, but when he was incontinently banished from office with a tremendous bump 12 months ago last October, everything became dark and gloomy. He stated that stagnation stared us in the face on every hand, yet he gave no financial advice and offered no suggestion to help us out of the difficulty. Let me point out that population, at any rate, has increased. For the half-year ended June of this year there was a greater increase than in any previous period since 1903, with the exception of 1911. In the last six months, the population has increased by 8,291. I might also tell the hon. member that the Agricultural Bank, controlled by a Labour Minister, has financed 2½ times as much as it did in the same period under the late "breezy optimist" for Northam, but now the "calamity howler" of the Opposition. In connection with an admission that was dropped by the member for Wagin, I might ask the hon. member for Northam if the attitude of the Banks has not had a great deal to do with the present stagnation of this State. The member for Wagin admitted that the banking corporations have tied their purse strings and that they are not prepared to advance their money to the extent that they were at the time when the Liberal party were in power. I want to ask the member for Northam, as an ex-bank manager of a little one-horse banking shanty in some remote country town, if he can tell me why the West Australian Bank, for instance, has seen fit to close down with regard to the lending of money, considering the fact published in the *West Australian* of the 11th December last that the West Australian Bank, with a paid-up capital of £250,000, made a profit in the financial year of £71,837. That is a profit of over 28 per cent., and the Bank declared a dividend of £50,00, which is equal to 20 per cent. The member for Northam might well direct his criticism against the financial corporations of this country that have done so well out of his friends, the farmers and the other producers, and showed a profit of 28.8 per cent. as late as last year. We have been

told that there is a financial conspiracy in this and other States. Whether this is so or not, I am not prepared to say, but the fact that they are making such large profits tends to support that contention. A banking corporation which is making profits to that extent, whilst the State banking concerns such as the Agricultural Bank have to be satisfied with a very small profit indeed, should not be tolerated by the Opposition, and allowed to escape criticism, any more than the Agricultural Bank would be in similar circumstances. The hon. member for Katanning (Mr. A. E. Piesse) has expressed some surprise at what he terms the disloyalty or want of patriotism on this side of the House in the supporting of the referendum proposals. I want to say I strongly supported the referendum proposals and so did the majority of members on this side of the House, because we believed they would be a good thing for Western Australia, and one of the reasons for supporting those referendum proposals, I freely admit, so far as I personally am concerned at any rate, was because I believe the State Constitution as it exists at present is outworn and is not satisfying the growing needs of a democratic State like Western Australia. I want to say that the attitude of another Chamber with regard to the legislation of this party for the last two sessions has placed me in the position of believing that progressive legislation is almost impossible in the present state of the Constitution. During the time another Government were in power in this State, not one of the Government measures was rejected by the Upper House. During the short period that the present Government have been in office another place has rejected eleven of our Bills, and several of these Bills were of vital importance so far as members of this party are concerned and so far as the country is concerned, because we contend that we are the party of the country. We had to drop several measures including the Irrigation Bill, the State Hotels Bill, and the Traffic Bill. The Irrigation Bill was mutilated, the Shearer's Accommodation Bill was dropped in the first instance, and the

Workers' Compensation Bill considerably mutilated. I might add that the other place, which is supposed to be a non-party Chamber, has taken on a strong partisan hue, and in support of that I might quote the fact that during the passage of the famous, or notorious, Redistribution of Seats Bill only four members out of the 30 in the other place voted against that measure, which was largely responsible for casting the present Opposition into the oblivion in which they now are.

Mr. Monger: And placed the hon. member in his proud position.

Mr. GREEN: And placed us in the proud position which we now occupy, as the hon. member for York remarks. During our first session, when the Industrial Arbitration Act was under consideration, the managers of another place refused to agree to the Government proposals, with the result that the Ministry had reluctantly to abandon the measure. The Norseman-Esperance railway proposal was defeated on the second reading by 13 votes to 8; the Public Works Act Amendment Bill was rejected by 16 votes to 6; the Public Works Committee Bill by 15 votes to 10; the Shearers' Accommodation Bill was received in the other place but was not further proceeded with; the Workers' Compensation Bill, introduced by Mr. Hudson, passed through all its stages in this Chamber and was received in another place, where the second reading was moved, but the measure was not further proceeded with. During our second session the Norseman-Esperance Railway Bill was rejected; the Fremantle Harbour Trust Bill was discharged; the Lands Act Amendment Bill was rejected by 18 votes to 7; the Land and Income Tax Bill by 20 votes to 7; the Public Works Committee Bill by 17 votes to 8; and in the Rights in Water and Irrigation Bill there were requested amendments, the result of a conference was reported but an agreement was not come to owing to the attitude of another place, and the Bill was abandoned; the Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill was rejected on the second reading by 20 votes to 6; the State Hotels Bill (No. 1) was thrown out on the second read-

ing by 13 votes to 11, and, when the States Hotel Bill (No. 2) came on the other place pressed their requests and the measure was withdrawn; the Timber Lines Traffic Bill, a private measure, introduced by the hon. member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) was rejected on the second reading by 14 votes to 12, the Traffic Bill had to be discharged, and the University Lands Bill was lost on the second reading by 11 votes to 9. That was what happened to the measures I have enumerated in another place that claims to be a purely non-party Chamber, notwithstanding the fact that it passed the famous or infamous Redistribution of Seats Bill with only four votes against the measure out of 30 members. An article appeared in the leading Liberal organ of the State, the *West Australian*, on 5th August, concerning the Federal position in relation to the Federal Senate. It just struck me how remarkably well the same remarks could have been applied to another place in this State which is not elected on an adult suffrage, but is elected by a privileged few, some of whom have as many as eight votes. This is what the article in the *West Australian* said with reference to some remarks of Mr. Frazer, M.H.R.—

What the late Postmaster-General means is that the Opposition confident of their strength in the Senate will so deal with Government measures as to take the control of legislation out of the hands of the Government while leaving the Ministerialists to shoulder the full burden of responsibility. If the Government resent this procedure business will be blocked. It is a pretty scheme.

We might very well read into that what local circumstances would supply. What the leader of the Opposition probably means is that the Opposition, confident of their strength in another place, will so deal with Government measures in that Chamber as to take the control of legislation out of the hands of the Government, while leaving Ministerialists to shoulder the full burden of responsibility. What would be justifiable in the Senate

of the Commonwealth could not be tolerated for one instant under the undemocratic franchise of another place. I want to quote the remarks of the leader of the Opposition who was interviewed by the *West Australian* on his return to this State. We notice that his opinion was sought upon Federal politics and also upon the present position of the smallpox outbreak. And I notice he expressed the opinion with regard to the smallpox that the Federal Government was doing all that possibly could be expected in this matter. Under the circumstances I cannot help reflecting what the opinion of the hon. member would have been had another party been still in power. I want to direct hon. members' attention to the leader of the Opposition's remarks regarding the Surplus Revenue Act and the Savings Banks, and I can almost recall the hon. member's thunderings against the Federal Government during the Labour regime. He said when questioned with regard to the Surplus Revenue Act and the Savings Banks—

I can, of course, only voice my own views because these are both matters of policy which the Federal Government, I understand, have not yet taken into consideration. I am very much afraid that the power granted to the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank is such as to give him absolute discretion in regard to the establishment of savings banks, and I think it would require an amendment of the Federal Act before anything could be done in the way of closing down the Savings Bank portion of the institution. So far as the Surplus Revenue Act is concerned, the old saying "Necessity knows no law," comes in. The Federal Government will certainly require all the revenue that they are likely to be able to raise during the next few years, and hence the chances of the States securing the surplus already transferred to trust accounts, appears to me to be very remote at the present juncture.

I think hon. members will agree with me, and the leader of the Opposition, on calm

reflection will candidly admit, that his attitude when the Labour Government were in power in the Federal House and when the party of reactionaries are in power, cannot be reconciled, and so far as the finances of this State are concerned, he is not troubled about them at all. Let me draw attention to what Sir John Forrest had to say on the Liberal party's programme in the classic precincts of Bunbury on 4th March last. This is what the Liberals would do—

1. Restore public confidence, and the financial credit of the country. 2. Reduce the cost of living. 3. Remove the obstacles in the way that increase the cost of agricultural machinery, implements of production, and tools of trade. 4. Restore the Savings Banks to the States as existing heretofore.

I trust the hon. member will see that this shadowy platform is at least adhered to in this particular measure and the Savings Bank restored to the country as Sir John Forrest promised, and that he will take the earliest opportunity of withdrawing his statements in the *West Australian* regarding the Savings Bank which do not agree with those of his trusted leader, Sir John Forrest. In dealing with the last referendum proposals the hon. member for Katanning (Mr. A. E. Piesse) need not have expressed his wonder at our attitude. I want to tell him that in my opinion, at any rate, the greatest enemies to the farmers are the people who voted "no."

Mr. Monger : Explain that.

Mr. GREEN : I am proceeding to explain it. I want to explain that one of these main referenda proposals was for dealing with the cost of living. We cannot gainsay the fact that the trust problem has come in Australia, and so long as the Labour party are kept out of office it will thrive and flourish. We recognise that this problem is not restricted to Western Australia, or to the Commonwealth, but crosses tariff boundaries and has established itself in all the commercially civilised countries of the world. The Federal Government some time ago appointed a Royal Commission.

At the time the Sunshine harvester people refused to give what their employees considered fair conditions. The harvesters were then being sold in Victoria at anything from £80 to £100. The Royal Commission went into the cost of a harvester; one harvester was placed in charge of Mr. Smith, the officer in control of the Newport works in Victoria, who found that by giving better wages than the contractor, and allowing for a 10 per cent. profit, these harvesters could be made for £50. He also proved that the seed drills for which the harvester trusts in Victoria—both the Sunshine Company and the International Harvester Company from America are in wonderful unanimity in regard to the prices charged for their respective machines—charged £36 (and I think the farmer pays up to £40 in this State), cost £20 each manufactured in the Newport workshops. But when I add that 8,700 harvesters were sold in Australia in 1911, it will be seen that that meant a loss to the farmers of £247,000 in that single year, and on seed drills of £239,400 in that single year. Some time ago in South Australia a commission went into the question of the wheat ring which was presumed to exist in that State. They found that there was an honourable understanding in South Australia, and they drew up this report. I am sorry the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) is not present, because I believe that when we are dealing with anything that directly concerns an hon. member he ought to be present in order that he may properly understand the situation. This is how the report reads—

Owing to a wheat ring the farmers of South Australia were robbed of 2d. a bushel on their wheat, and taking it on the yield of that year they came to the conclusion therefore that the farmers of that State had lost £167,000.

When I point out that the price in Western Australia is from 3d. to 4d. lower than in the Eastern States, it will be seen that it means that the amount of loss to the farmers in Western Australia is very much higher on that account, and I would commend the attention of farmers' representatives on the other side of the House

to this phase of the question. I am satisfied that if they paid close attention to the matter they would recognise that trusts and combines in this State and the other States are the greatest menace that any section of the producers can be faced with. It is true that some of their fellows or friends on the Opposition side of the Chamber are interested in acting the middleman and that their interests directly clash; but it is a remarkable thing that they can attend functions and meetings of farmers' leagues and Liberal leagues presided over by old women of both sexes and be in perfect amity over the flowing bowl. I might state that we fought for these referenda proposals because we recognise that in every line of industry, in every commodity of general use, the fact is plain that this trust has entered within the portals of the gates of Australia. We see that Joseph Palmer and Sons, leading sharebrokers in Sydney, made the following statement in their monthly share list in May last—

In industrials there has been much of interest during the month. . . . Colonial Sugar (Trust) paid the same rate of dividend, 12½ per cent., and shares are obtainable at £42 2s. 6d. Should the referenda be rejected at the forthcoming elections we expect to see a good rise in the shares.

And the people of Australia are to be exploited in the meantime. If the member for York (Mr. Monger) wants any further evidence to prove that trusts do exist, let me read a quotation from the *London Times*, which, after a careful examination of the situation, came to the following conclusion:—

American farmers are so much at the mercy of the beef trust that they find it is hard to make grazing pay, just as it is for our farmers at home. The farmers are met by a prohibitive cost of transportation—

It seems to me the State steamers represent an honest attempt on the part of the Government to combat this prohibitive cost in this State. The quotation continues—

when they attempt to get away from their tyrant. Possibly the American

people may break down this grinding monopoly. Between 1899 and 1904 the beef trust in America depressed the price of cattle by 25 per cent. and raised the price of meat by 20 per cent. A year or two ago a Sydney journalist, who is now on the staff of this paper—

This is from a Sydney paper—

when in Chicago, walked into a stockyard full of cattle. An intelligent American in the employ of one of the meat works of the trust was with the Australian. "When are the sales?" The American winked. "Where are the auctioneers?" "Say," the American drawled, "we don't have any auctioneers. They take the price we give them."

Mr. Monger: This is highly interesting.

Mr. GREEN: I am afraid that at the hon. member's time of life it is impossible for him to discriminate between right and injustice. Here is a further quotation from the *London Times*—

We have had the preliminary stages—the inquiries, the organisation, and now the beginning of the works. There is nothing subtle about the methods. They consist in the remorseless crushing of competition by the power of vast capital. Graziers are first tempted into the trust's tentacles by higher prices—easily enough paid by a combine with £40,000,000 at its back. Competition is beaten out of existence, or rival firms are forced to fall in the tail of the trusts, as happened in the Argentine—And I may say that the English Beef Trust in the Argentine is trying to beat the American Beef Trust, with disastrous results to the smaller combine.

where the British firms have already begun to surrender. The time then comes for the screw to be put on the graziers.

Mr. Monger: I do not see what this has to do with the Address-in-reply.

Mr. GREEN: Well, it is this way: I want the hon. member to have this information, and as I could not expect him to read it for himself I am reading it to him, and so long as he remains in the Chamber so long will I keep on. Here is

another quotation which might also interest the land and stock jobbers represented in this Chamber, as well as the ordinary representative of the poor farmer—

There are ten men in the city of New York, said Senator Depew, who can, in twenty-four hours, stop every wheel on all the railways, close every factory, lock every switch on every telegraph line, shut down every coal mine and iron mine in the United States. What a travesty on the declaration that this is a Government of the people, for the people, when ten men can make starving beggars of 100,000,000 people in twenty-four hours.

We fought for the referenda because that problem is menacing Australia. Whilst I believe in fair competition, whilst I would not be one to embark on any industry in which fair-minded business people were prepared to fight out the question of the supremacy of the fittest in the industrial world, as long as we see these aggregations of capital coming together in an honourable understanding and trying to catch the people of Australia by the throat, I am going to enter my voice and protest, and am prepared to put into the melting pot the Constitution of the State in order that such a condition of affairs should be ended. There has been sufficient to show us that the beef trust has already got its cloven hoof in Australia. It has works in Queensland costing £350,000, and before very long the beef barons of Western Australia, of which the member for Kimberley is the tail of the kite, so to speak, will be shaking in their shoes. They will either have to sell up or give up before the beef trust of America when it gets settled in Australia.

Mr. George: They do not seem to be dealing very strictly with them in Queensland.

Mr. GREEN: They have a Liberal Government there, and that Government is not likely to interfere with them. Yet no one suggests that the £350,000 invested in the great works on the Brisbane river represents anything else but the American Beef Trust. As a party we have an ob-

ject in view. We do not take any particular honour to ourselves, nor claim all the virtues, but we honestly believe we are right, every man Jack of us. Without any reflection upon the intelligence of the other side, or their ideas of right and wrong, I am satisfied that some of the members on the other side have an inkling that what I have been saying has a considerable amount of truth in it. But I recognise they are in a pretty tight corner in their twisting to take their seats on this side of the House. But our party is world-wide. For years the working class were satisfied to vote for Liberal or Conservative, Protectionist or Free Trader, according to the country they were in, Democrats or Republicans in the United States. They have come to see in every country—and the evolution, I am happy to say, has come more quickly in Australia than in any other country in the world—that there is one interest for the workers and another for the exploiters of the State. My interests are identical with the farmers of the State, but I contend that the people represented by some members in this Chamber, people who have offices in St. George's-terrace, and who are interested in acting as middlemen, I contend that their interests are opposed to the farmers. Fifty years ago the great majority of people in Australia were forced out of their native country, England. They were no less patriots than we are to-day, but they were forced to leave their homes in order to get decent conditions. They were forced to leave the country which is more highly civilised than any other country in the world; the country where, we are told, ten millions of people are continually on the border line of hunger. In that country, if they introduce anything of a Labour character they are told legislation of that kind will destroy the home. We find legislation of either a Liberal or a Conservative character in that country; yet in Scotland one family in five lives in a single room, and in Glasgow one family in three lives in a single room, while in London, the hub of the universe, one million people live on less than £1 1s. per week per family. As the children of the fathers who were forced out of the country at that time we are determined to see

that the same pitfalls into which the people of the old country have fallen shall not become pitfalls in this new sunny land of ours, and we are determined that come what may, whether in office or out of it, we have to keep a great ideal before us. And we feel cheered by this prospect: The social democrats of Germany are amassing their numbers by leaps and bounds, and are constantly growing. We are cheered by that prospect. Then in France, also, the Democratic forces are gaining strength, and so, too, in England. The people of America are beginning to wake up. When these people came here they were satisfied for some time in Victoria to vote for either Conservative or Freetraders. But there came a time, in 1891, when there was a great strike. These unionists—such a bugbear to the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George)—got tired of voting Liberal or Conservative. They saw that it did not matter which party was in power, they did not get justice; so they said, "A plague on both your houses," and for the first time in the history of the world the Labour party came into being and walked into the Legislative Chambers of the country. When Mr. Glassey, the first Labour member who took his seat in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, went into the corridor and hung up his hat, the snobs of that day, the Liberals, of which the hon. member for Murray-Wellington is a direct relic, lifted their hats from the pegs and took them down. The Labour party have come to stay, and they are here to stay and keep in power. It is true there may be times of temporary check.

Mr. George: Temporary aberration.

Mr. GREEN: But it is nevertheless true that in the aggregate the Labour vote is gaining all over the world and with the trust force and the forces of evolution, which are always on our side, and with the justice which we have on our side we must win. The leader of the Opposition was hurling charges of corruption, thinly veiled, across the Chamber the other evening, and in reply to him I say that sort of thing might go on unchecked as far as other parties are concerned and such practices may happen once or twice in connection with the Labour party, but once a Labour

man is found guilty of corruption out he goes directly. We stand for clean politics and therefore we have a future. The future rests with the Labour party of Australia.

Mr. McDOWALL (Coolgardie): I rise with some trepidation to speak on this occasion, because after the exhaustive speech of the member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green) I find it somewhat difficult to discover anything to talk about; he certainly has cut the ground from under my feet so far as mining is concerned. I do so also, because after having listened attentively to the debate on the Address-in-reply, I have not heard from the Opposition any very solid or sound arguments which call for a reply. We have heard the hon. member for Northam, the leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Kimberley, the hon. member for Pingelly, the hon. member for Katanning, and the hon. member for Wagin speaking from the Opposition benches.

Hon. Frank Wilson: And the hon. member for Murray-Wellington.

Mr. McDOWALL: What has been the cry of these hon. members? Stinking fish. The cry has been on every possible occasion that this country is going to ruin in consequence of having a deficit of £311,000.

Mr. Underwood: Disaster must follow.

Mr. McDOWALL: Disaster must follow, as the hon. member interjects, and when I realise these things hon. members will understand my perturbation on rising to speak, because I said to myself, "Is it worth while; is it worth talking; would it not be best of all to get out of such a wretched country, a country which, according to the Opposition, is going to ruin?" That is the feeling I possess on this particular occasion.

Mr. Underwood: But it must look a bit painful from their point of view.

Mr. McDOWALL: I dare say it does. When we have to listen to the criticism of the members of the Opposition we expect that their criticism will be at least fair and just, but it is nothing of the kind. The hon. member for Kimberley comes along with a doleful tale and tells it in a plaintive voice, saying what will occur in the North-West on account of the State steam-



ers. He says that an unfortunate individual could have got £4 a head for cattle in the Kimberley district, and that he sent them to Perth, and the account sales showed him a return of £1 6s. per head. All this is blamed to the State steamers. I would like to know what the State steamers have to do with it. Any man of business knows that we meet with misfortunes of this kind on many occasions. I have a vivid and emphatic recollection of taking part in the land boom in Melbourne—I confess I was one who took part in that boom—and before we had finished putting down our deposit or completed the purchase we could have cleared out with £1,500 a man, but in the end I had to pay £300 to get rid of my liability. This is a case of somewhat the same kind—this man thought he could do better by sending his cattle to Fremantle, and by some unforeseen circumstances, did not do so well, but lost on the deal. Why the State steamers should be blamed, I am at a loss to understand. Again, let me say that when these gentlemen criticise members on this side of the House, they should at least pay more attention to facts, and should not make rash statements about what the present Government have done, and what they have not done. When speaking last night, the hon. member for Wagin (Mr. S. Stubbs) drew a most pathetic picture regarding the State steamers. The State steamers seem to be absolutely embedded in the brains of the Opposition—they cannot speak without mentioning the State steamers. I do not mind their mentioning them if they are anything like accurate, but the hon. member for Wagin said that these steamers had cost the State £200,000. Then he went on to illustrate what an immense advantage it would be to the State if this money had been spent on agricultural railways in his own district. I do not know that he mentioned his own district, but his statement was tantamount to that. The leader of the Opposition told us that we have lost £30,000 on the State steamers, but I say he is not in a position to state what the loss is any more than I am, because without a proper profit and loss account and a

statement of assets and liabilities no man can tell the position of this concern. Reverting to the hon. member for Wagin, the following are the facts placed before the House by the Premier on the 17th October last: The "Eucla" cost £10,500; the "Kwinana" £17,000; the "Western Australia" £39,500, but alterations, electric light and so on ran into another £10,500, making a total of £50,000; and the "Una" cost £2,000, making a capital expenditure of £79,500. I want to ask what reason there is for saying that there has been a loss of £200,000 on these steamers? The receipts and expenditure to the end of July, show a deficit of £23,216 and the total thus arrived at is £102,716, that is putting the concern in the very worst possible light. Then say for the sake of argument, that there is interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on that amount, that runs into £3,975. Say there is depreciation at the rate of 5 per cent., which is a reasonable rate to allow for depreciation on a steamer because the vessels have been kept in fair order, and that would be done out of revenue. Everyone knows that the life of a steamer would be 20 years.

Mr. Male: No.

Mr. McDOWALL: It is immaterial if the depreciation is set down at 10 per cent., for it means only another £3,975. Therefore if we take capital expenditure, interest, and sinking fund and the loss up to the present time, we have a total of only £110,666. What right have hon. members to keep on making the statement that this undertaking has involved an expenditure of £200,000? The hon. member for Wagin, as a business man, knows that if he started business and expended £79,500 in machinery and plant, he would place that to the debit of plant and machinery account and it would stand in his ledger as an asset. No one expects that these steamers will pay in one year; but what I object to most strenuously is the class of criticism coming from business men who know better. The leader of the Opposition and the hon. members for Murray-Wellington and Kimberley know perfectly well that they are talking nonsense when they say that they can tell what the loss on these steamers has been.

If we put this loss down as I have stated, and these figures are irrefutable—

Hon. Frank Wilson: They are wrong.

Mr. McDOWALL: They are not. They are the official figures from the Premier's speech, and I presume the Premier's speech is correct.

The Premier: Hear, hear!

Hon. Frank Wilson: Your calculations are wrong to start with.

Mr. McDOWALL: They are nothing of the sort.

Mr. Male: Your additions are wrong.

Mr. McDOWALL: Even supposing they are, just for the sake of argument—

The Premier: Do not suppose it—they are not.

Mr. McDOWALL: I want to allow the hon. member to have a fling to a certain extent; he has not had too good a time so far as his own figures regarding the State are concerned. When looking into the past history of the leader of the Opposition as the Treasurer of this State, it is only graceful and decent to give him a little bit of a fling.

Mr. George: Your own figures do not balance.

Mr. McDOWALL: I do not know about that. I have not had time to thoroughly check my figures, but they are pretty accurate.

Mr. George: They do not balance at any rate.

The Premier: In any case, he is not balancing.

Mr. McDOWALL: The hon. member for Murray-Wellington cannot put me off like that.

Mr. George: I am trying to keep you accurate.

Mr. McDOWALL: If the hon. member for Murray-Wellington multiplies £80,000 by 10 he will get £800,000, and then if he divides by 100 he will get £8,000 which will be the interest at 10 per cent.; half, of course, will be 5 per cent., therefore he will find at a glance I am not far out in my figures. Still I am not going to bandy figures or words with these hon. members; when I have had time to make calculations I shall forgive them for correcting me. On this particular occasion I want to point out

that they pretend to know what the loss on these steamers has been. It is absurd to suppose that a business that involves £70,000 or £80,000 could be conducted without outstanding accounts. It is equally absurd to suppose that such a business could be conducted without owing money. It is equally absurd to suppose that such a business could be conducted without a certain amount of stock in hand, or without a certain amount of coal in hand. When we have these things crystallised into a profit and loss statement and checked and balanced with a statement of assets and liabilities, as these hon. members know very well, this is the only way to arrive at a profit and loss in connection with these trading concerns.

Mr. George: Why not let us have it?

Mr. McDOWALL: The hon. member will get it as soon as possible. The hon. member is trying to bamboozle me and to make out that I have made a slight slip in my figures. If I have made a slip of the slightest possible consequence, it does not affect the tenor of my arguments or of the facts I have stated, and I defy any member of the Opposition to refute the premises upon which I am arguing.

Mr. George: What I want to know is—

Mr. McDOWALL: Never mind what the hon. member wants; it is not what he wants just at this particular juncture; it is what I want.

Mr. George: You want correcting.

Mr. McDOWALL: If I stood as much in need of correction as the hon. member for Murray-Wellington, then indeed I would badly want it, but I do not. The hon. member so frequently enters into rash arguments here that it is unwise for him to attempt to interrupt anyone.

Mr. George: Take the figures in *Hansard's* report, and then you will be right.

Mr. McDOWALL: I am satisfied about the figures in *Hansard*; they are here, but I am not going to waste hon. members' time by reading them. It is unnecessary. The facts are as I have given them, and there is no getting away from that. But supposing they are not, and that they are what were given by the member for Wagin (Mr. S. Stubbs) last night. J-

the statement of the loss of £200,000 in capital and other expenses a fact? Is it not in excess of nearly 100 per cent. of the actual amount, and I use these figures to illustrate the unfair and improper criticism from the Opposition side of the House, and the members who use that criticism expect the people to believe them when they make such statements. I think I have definitely and emphatically shown that the statements about the loss on the steamers are absurd. The leader of the Opposition puts it down at £30,000. Again I tell him that he does not know that that is so any more than I do. No one can possibly know until the full accounts are made up.

Mr. Male: It is about time we did know.

Mr. McDOWALL: Suppose there is a loss, is that a serious matter in the first year's operations of a big concern? Nothing of the kind. Every one knows that a concern that runs into £80,000 or £90,000 can well afford in its first year's operations to lose even a sum such as that which has been mentioned. Let me just point out something in connection with the railways. If we take the report of the Commissioner of Railways, on page 9 we will see that this appears in connection with the district railways—

The results of working light lines which have been declared district railways under the provisions of the Government Railways Amendment Act, 1907, are shown in the usual form in Appendix R. Two sections carrying a considerable timber traffic return profits, but the net return is a deficiency amounting to £36,448.

We find on turning up the appendix that it is the timber which brought the profits to nearly £7,000, but that there is a net loss of £36,000 on these district railways. Some of them are certainly mining lines, but they are principally agricultural lines. What I want to illustrate here, and what I want to ask is, are we going to discontinue building railways because there is a loss upon them for a year or two? If we are not going to discontinue the building of railways, why should we discontinue the steamer services which are equally

for the development of a portion of this country? That I maintain is a fair and square and proper way of looking at the matter.

Mr. Male: Not at all.

Mr. McDOWALL: The hon. member says it is not. I would ask him why? Is not the steamship a carrying service just as the railways are? The only difference between the railways and the steamers is that we have a monopoly of the railways and we have not a monopoly of the steamers, but in regard to our railways we do not want a position as we find it in America. Would members like to see our large estates in the hands of land jobbers, and allow them to exploit us? We could do away with monopolies, so far as railways are concerned, but we are not likely to do so in regard to the steamers.

Mr. Male: The Premier said it was the intention of the Government to compete with the steamers.

Mr. McDOWALL: The Premier said it was not the primary intention to make a profit in connection with these steamers. The intention was to develop the country, and I maintain that in providing these means of communication that is being done. In any case, it is a necessary reform, it is part of the policy of the leader of the Opposition. What I rose to point out was the unfair and improper criticism of members opposite. The figures that are used against us in connection with these steamers are absolutely unreliable. I believe that the State steamship service will prove of great advantage to this State. That is only one illustration of the absurd criticism of hon. members opposite. The member for Wagin (Mr. S. Stubbs)—I am sorry he is not here at present—when dealing last night with what is known as the Eucla land grab, stated that if the Premier had made an explanation about the artesian water supplies in that district some time ago, it would have been a different matter, and he said there were thousands of references to this water having been found which were kept secret by the Premier until he and his colleagues availed themselves of the opportunity to get this land. That is practically what the hon. member's refer-

ences amounted to. Now the member for Wagin must have a poor memory if he does not recollect the legislation that he is interested in going through this House last session when we brought in the Irrigation Bill. It was passed through the Legislative Assembly, but was defeated in the Legislative Council, and in passing the Bill we placed before the House a work on artesian water, a copy of which I have in my hand. It is a report of the Interstate conference held in May, 1912, and in this work, long before the Premier took up his land there appears a large plan, and a very nice and interesting plan it is. It shows the great artesian basin of Australia; it shows the artesian basin of the North-West, the artesian supplies in South Australia, and the Eucla artesian basin, and absolutely shows it in all its naked boldness. This is proof that it was public property, and the document was on the Table of this House and was open to anyone to look at long before the Premier thought of taking up the land.

Mr. George: When was it on the Table of the House?

Mr. McDOWALL: When we were discussing the Irrigation Bill, but it certainly could not have been printed before the 17th May, because that was when the conference finished. I presume it was out shortly after the conference had finished its labours. Let me inform the hon. member that this basin was found not when this document was printed, but many years before. Anyone who knows anything about artesian waters in Australia will know that; yet we have gentlemen aspersing the reputations of honourable men and insinuating that this information was not known, and that it was not available to the public. Here is a complete refutation.

Mr. George: How long was the report on the Table before the Premier took up his land?

Mr. McDOWALL: I am not here to answer every question that the hon. member likes to ask. I have not had time to ascertain that point. If the hon. member chooses he may look up *Hansard* to see when the Irrigation Bill was introduced and when the papers were placed

on the Table of the House, if he is competent to do that, at least I believe he is competent, he can do it for himself. That is enough for him. That portion which is coloured red on this plan is the Premier's property, and even supposing all this were not so, I maintain that a man should not use his public position to take an unfair advantage, but it is absurd to make such a fuss about this land when there is nothing dishonest or dishonourable about the method in which it was taken up.

Mr. George: Nothing has been charged that way.

Mr. McDOWALL: Throughout the Federal elections that was insinuated everywhere. Even within the last few days it has been insinuated, and even on this Address-in-reply, and it is only when members are beginning to see that they are on false ground that they change their attitude and say, "I never intended to insinuate dishonesty." That is the position in connection with this alleged land grab. Several members have pointed out in mournful tones that the country is going to destruction on account of the Labour Administration, and everyone has pointed to the deficit, and said "Look at it, what a terrible thing it is." The leader of the Opposition interjected last night that the only way to save the country was to put out the Government and put him in. Everyone who has spoken has in a doleful manner referred to the financial position. Even the *Sunday Times*, the official organ of the Liberal party, came out last Sunday with this—

On Wednesday the leader of the Opposition returned to the attack which he began at the inception of the session and in the course of a speech which lasted 2¼ hours he raked the Ministry fore and aft and made it visibly angry. Acute and telling was his criticism of the administration of the finances.

That is the testimony of the *Sunday Times*. Of course it is splendid in this way—

Hon. Frank Wilson: What does the *Kalgoorlie Miner* say?

Mr. George: What does the *Worker* say?

Mr. McDOWALL: I would recommend to the hon. member's serious perusal what the *Kalgoorlie Miner* says. The leader of the Opposition most eloquently tells us that the deficit anticipated at £287,000 had, during the year swollen to £311,000. The Minister for Lands the other evening, gave us figures showing how this deficiency has been made up to a great extent—deferred accounts outstanding £70,727, Agricultural Bank, arrears of interest £24,740, Agricultural Department outstanding accounts £8,509, amounts owing to the Water Supply Department £120,000 or £130,000, increased sinking fund charges £110,000, increased education expenditure £70,000, making a total of £403,976, and to this the Minister might have added increased wages to railway employees, £107,000, or in all £510,976. And our deficiency is £311,000. Is there any reason for fear in a country like this, for notwithstanding the croakings of the members of the Opposition, I maintain that this is one of the finest countries on earth; that our great mineral resources, our magnificent agricultural resources and the various other resources we possess, are so great that £311,000 is a mere trifle.

Mr. George: Even your party cannot ruin the country.

Mr. McDOWALL: Our party is not going to ruin the country; we are going to make it a better country for the majority of the people who are in it and not for the minority of the people. The official organ of the Liberal party once more comes out with this, "Credit balance of £107,207 in June, debit balance of £75,744 in July. Extraordinary!" Nice, is it not? To read this kind of balderdash one would think that this country never had a deficit before, that the Heaven-born financiers on the Opposition side went through their career untroubled by a deficiency, and that everything was nice and rosy; but let us look at the facts. Mr. Rason came into power in 1905, but I will pass him over because he was Colonial Treasurer dur-

ing that time. Then we come to the Moore Ministry which came into power on the 7th May, 1906, and let me here say that the Hon. Frank Wilson was Colonial Treasurer from the 7th May, 1906, till the 15th May, 1909, and then from the 15th May, 1909, till the 30th June, 1909, or from the 7th May, 1906, to the 30th June, 1909. Then there followed a reconstruction of the Ministry and Sir Newton Moore became Treasurer. Mr. Wilson again returned to the Treasury and from the 16th September, 1910, to the 7th October, 1911, the present leader of the Opposition was Colonial Treasurer of this country. And he does not let us forget it. He boasts that he only borrowed five millions during the six years he was in office, whilst the Labour party have borrowed six millions in a year or so. He lays the flattering unction to his soul that this was a splendid record.

Hon. Frank Wilson: You have the wrong figures.

Mr. McDOWALL: I will hand over the *Statistical Register* to the hon. member. For May, 1906, the deficit was £83,626, making the accumulated deficit at that time £102,291. In June, 1907, the estimated deficit was £116,386 and the actual deficit £208,728, or a difference between the estimate and the reality of £92,342. Now, where is the vast difference between the late Ministry and the present Government in that respect? There is no difference, and that being so why should all this fuss be made over the deficiency? Let me continue. The estimate for June, 1908, was £286,047, the actual deficit £211,093, or a difference of £74,954. Actually £74,954 less than the estimate! Where does this Heaven-born financial genius come in in those estimates? In June, 1909, the estimate was £208,568 and the actual deficit £312,630, or a difference of £104,062. Again we see this great discrepancy. I am only pointing these things out because I am sick and tired of listening to speeches from the Opposition side, eternally alluding to the deficit and mistakes in the Estimates, and I am only showing that the mistakes in the Estimates

were more pronounced when the leader of the Opposition was in power than they are under the present Government. In June, 1909, there was a surplus of £73,313, and in July a deficiency of £56,944. In the language of the *Sunday Times* I say, "extraordinary!" To listen to the virtuous speeches from the Opposition side and the virtuous expressions of opinion from the Press, one would have thought that there never had occurred in the previous history of the State a surplus in June and a deficit in July. Is it not lovely? I had better complete these figures. They get monotonous, I must confess, but at the same time it is just as well to dispose of these accusations entirely. In August, 1909, the deficit stood at £396,086. That was the highest deficit the Liberal party ever had, I will admit, but was there any croaking that the country was going to ruin? Did the members on this side then say that the country could never recover the deficiency, and practically make out that the State was going to perdition? Nothing of the kind. They endeavoured to boost up the country and to develop its resources and to pull the ship of State out of the troubled waters.

Mr. Male: You look up *Hansard*.

Mr. McDOWALL: Some members may have said a little, but there was never the cry of "stinking fish" that has been recently heard in this House.

Mr. Monger: Do not use such nasty expressions.

Mr. McDOWALL: As the hon. member knows, I am usually the mildest mannered of men and I never use offensive expressions, but my vocabulary is so limited that I cannot find any other word suitable to describe the language used by members on the Opposition side. In June, 1910, the estimated deficit was £252,450, the actual deficit £102,692, or a miscalculation of £149,758. We cannot beat that; it is a glorious record. No wonder the leader of the Opposition smiles and feels proud of the close estimates which he made when he was Treasurer.

Mr. Heitmann: What did he do with the money?

Mr. McDOWALL: I will not say that he did anything but what was honourable with the money. I am not attempting to asperse anybody, but I am trying to show that it would be well if members on the Opposition side would be more moderate in their criticism of the Government, or we will start to look up things which they will not find to their liking. In June, 1911, the surplus was £61,164; in July there was a deficit of £59,397. Why, this is two occasions on which this occurred under the Liberal Government. They were twice as bad as we are, yet one would never think that there had ever before been a credit in June and a deficit in July. Again, in the language of the *Sunday Times*, I say "extraordinary!"

Mr. Monger: Why the *Sunday Times*? Give us something else.

Mr. McDOWALL: I am very sorry for the member for York, but I thought he was well aware that we look upon the *Sunday Times* as the official organ of the Liberal party. As a matter of fact, the *Sunday Times* practically claims to occupy that exalted position so far as the Liberals are concerned. It has prophesied on various occasions what would be done by the Liberal party, and sometimes has had the audacity to predict what would be done by the Labour party. In the face of those claims I cannot help alluding to the *Sunday Times*.

Mr. Monger: What about your own official organ, the *Worker*?

Mr. McDOWALL: The *Sunday Times* claims to be the best paper in the world, and to have the largest circulation of any newspaper in the British Empire, and I cannot understand why the member for York feels ashamed to be associated with such an important publication. He ought to be proud to be associated with the greatest paper in the world and the one with the largest circulation in the British Empire. I do not propose to bother any more about the finances. I think I have said quite enough in connection with past financing to satisfy the leader of the Opposition for the present.

Mr. George: But you have not balanced them.

Mr. McDOWALL: They will balance all right; do not worry. The statement of facts is my own; I leave the balancing to the hon. member. I wanted to touch a little on the mining industry, but, as I have already said, the member for Kalgoorlie has completely taken the ground from under my feet. At the same time, it is very gratifying indeed to find that the gold mining industry, which, after all, is our greatest industry, has turned in an upward direction once more. The Speech refers to the fact that to the end of May there was an increase of £21,998 in the gold production compared with that for the same period of last year. I think that is very satisfactory indeed, and the State should be congratulated upon it. It must be remembered that last year the gold yield was worth £5,448,385; the gold produced to date is valued at £112,010,493, and the dividends paid £23,429,172; whilst there are still 14,961 men employed in the mining industry. Hon. members must admit that the industry is the one which has raised the State from its former mediocre position to the high position it now occupies.

The Minister for Mines: From the sandalwood stage.

Mr. McDOWALL: Agriculture is certainly going forward, and I hope it will continue to go forward, because I am one of those who hold the prosperity of the State should not be dependent on one industry, but that the whole State should be inter-dependent. The more the agricultural industry prospers the better pleased I will be, and I hope members from the agricultural districts will be equally pleased as the mining industry prospers. I have great faith in the State, so much faith indeed that that £311,000 does not trouble me a little bit.

Mr. Monger: What about the other £75,000?

Mr. McDOWALL: Unfortunately there seems to be a disinclination on the part of some hon. members of this House to take the slightest trouble to look into other matters in connection with this State. The hon. member for York is continually and constantly interjecting, and when he does so he only shows what

little knowledge he has of the subject. During the speech of the hon. member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green) he interjected to this effect: the hon. member for Kalgoorlie was stating that the Minister for Mines was erecting a battery at Norseman and the hon. member for York, with his rushing in where angels fear to tread, the same as he has done at Esperance, remarked, "What is there to do there for a battery?"

Mr. Monger: You have these batteries.

Mr. McDOWALL: If the hon. member will only look at the gold return for July he will find that Norseman produced 4,253 ounces of gold, or nearly £17,000 worth, and yet we have these hon. members coming along and asking questions which show a want of knowledge of the gold-fields. That is a thing which irritates me beyond all measure, as I and most of the members on this side of the House endeavour to understand something about the great agricultural industry of the State. We are always sympathetic when something comes forward in the interests of the State as a whole, but when it is a matter of gold, which is the most potent thing in the world, we find what a little knowledge is possessed by some members of the Opposition.

Mr. Monger: Are there any public batteries there now?

Mr. McDOWALL: I am addressing Mr. Speaker just at present. I want to say that I congratulate the Minister for Mines upon bringing the battery system up to date. There is no doubt it is gradually becoming a great system, but at the same time I maintain that there are many trials and troubles that prospectors have to put up with which could be altered with the expenditure of a very little money. There are conditions under which they work which should be taken into consideration. There is the question of salt water, which was mentioned by the hon. member for Kalgoorlie, and also many other things which come under the same category, but I need not attempt to go into details concerning them. I hope sincerely that the Minister for Mines will even at this late hour look into the famous report of the Prospectors' Associa-

tion which met at Coolgardie last January, and see if he can attend to what is required in some reasonable way.

Member: It is a publicans' association, not prospectors'.

Mr. McDOWALL: Its official designation is the Prospectors' Association, and it must be admitted that many of the requests are reasonable. Without wearying hon. members by giving details, may I say that I sincerely hope some effort will be made to help the mining industry. I am not saying that it has not received sympathetic treatment, as I think it has, but at the same time it deserves a great deal more, as one good gold mine makes a great deal of difference to a State like this; and to say that, with all our auriferous country, we have not another Golden Mile or several Golden Miles, is to my mind ridiculous. I trust that every effort will be made to foster this industry to the greatest possible extent. I feel that it will be only doing what is right in the interests of the State, as in a large mining population we find the best market for the agricultural portions of the State.

Mr. Heitmann: You are burying a good many with it.

Mr. McDOWALL: The hon. member for Cue is on his pet subject again. I agree with him that a good many do find their graves through working in the mining industry, and I say the Minister for Mines should look into the question of seeing the conditions made better, as he is endeavouring in the Mines Regulation Bill to minimise the curse of consumption. I may remind the hon. member for Cue, however, that so long as gold exists men will delve after it, and the best thing that can be done is to see that the men work under the best possible conditions. It might be said by some people that a purely agricultural country is better than a mixed country, but I contend that no purely agricultural country in the world has ever been a great country. The great countries are those having manufactures, minerals, and good land, and among the great nations of the world purely agricultural countries must always be poor to a great extent. So that under the conditions which exist in this country

let us develop the mines for all they are worth. The hon. member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green) has entered into details of the mining industry, and it would be simply tedious for me to go over them again. I have in a general way given my opinions, and have brought under the notice of the Minister the report of that conference. I ask that the Minister will give his serious attention to the requests contained therein. I have already exceeded the length of time that I had allotted to myself for speaking on the Address-in-reply, but I feel that I cannot resume my seat without some reference to the Esperance railway.

Mr. Monger: Oh!

Mr. McDOWALL: I quite appreciate and understand the applause and astonishment caused by my mention of this railway.

The Premier: They think you were mentioning the Wickepin-Merredin railway.

Mr. McDOWALL: I am going to mention the Esperance railway, but I am not going to labour the question.

Mr. Monger: Give us the latest statistics.

Mr. McDOWALL: I am not going to weary hon. members in any way whatever as the time for arguing and presenting statistics in connection with the Esperance railway is past. The land on the Esperance line has undoubtedly been proved, and the necessity for the line has been proved again and again, so why keep on arguing about this question? I hope some measure of justice will be obtainable in connection with this matter. The hon. member for Wagin (Mr. S. Stubbs) in speaking on the question last night ran this railway down to a great extent, and in speaking on another question—that of the steamers I think—he said that if we spent £20,000 or £30,000 on the Arthur River it would be possible to get all the water required for the South-West. Of course the hon. member's constituency is what he had in mind, and he said something about running the Esperance railway from east to west; he seemed to consider there would be no objection to it if the line ran in that direc-



tion, bringing everything towards Perth and the agricultural districts in the South-West. Is that a proper and just way to look at the question? There is no consideration for the 30,000 people on the goldfields! They are to go right down to Wagin or Katanning and branch out from there to get to Esperance, instead of going in a direct way from the goldfields, so that miners could take up lands, work in the mines to keep things going, and run down at various times to their holdings. But if they had to drag around many miles it would be impossible for them to do that, and moreover it would be quite unfair and improper. The line from Kalgoorlie to Esperance is one which should be constructed, as the agricultural worth of it has been proved beyond doubt. Let me commend to the notice of the hon. member for York (Mr. Monger) the report drawn up by the Hon. the Minister in another place. If he digests that and looks at a few other facts in connection with this important country he will be satisfied without me entering into details. If he will do as I suggest, and has an open mind capable of receiving facts in connection with this matter, and does not look at it with the jaundiced eye of prejudice, he will see that the Esperance railway is one that should properly be built. We find the leading Liberal organ of this State saying that railway construction will be indefinitely delayed because Parliament refuses to construct the Esperance railway, and we also find the *Daily News*, the second in command, the paper that has the leaderettes which give hon. members such flattering notice, saying that there is no justification in spending money in that direction.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): Have we had a speech in this House from the writer of those articles?

Mr. McDOWALL: Oh yes, environment makes a great deal of difference. I think that in connection with this matter there should be a unanimous desire on the part of the Liberal party to put this line through. Over and over again we have passed agricultural railways in all directions without a murmur. I want to say it is not a question of passing this par-

ticular Bill in this House. We know it will pass here readily enough, but I think the spirit of the Liberal members and the farming members in this House should go forth and permeate their colleagues in another place so that this railway might be constructed.

Mr. Monger: On a three and a half bushel return.

Mr. McDOWALL: The hon. member knows his figures have been disproved and if I were to look at the latest *Statistical Register* I could still further disprove them. They say that the Government have put only this line on the programme, but it is no use putting dozens of railway proposals down. Other important railway measures have been passed and it will take a long time to construct those particular lines. Let hon. members show they are just and fair towards the goldfields and towards this long needed Esperance line, and I can assure them we will be even more sympathetic with them in the future than we have been in the past. I admit it will be difficult to be more sympathetic because we on the goldfields are men of the world and realise the importance of the agricultural industry. I shall leave the question of the Esperance railway now hoping that the few words I have said will bear at least some fruit in the Liberal field. There is another small matter I want to mention. Hon. members have heard of the historical town of Coolgardie, the town which made Western Australia famous throughout the world. I might say it is one of the nicest towns in Western Australia; everyone will admit that. We know it has met with a little misfortune, but as has been pointed out the output of gold has recently been greater than at any time during the past six years. The place is now advancing rapidly. In consequence of being the real centre of the goldfields it obtained every concession in the early days, but somehow, one by one, these concessions are rapidly disappearing. There is one, however, a last one, which we do not think ought to be removed. I allude to the Mines Water Supply workshops. These workshops are situated on

a splendid piece of ground. They are used for distributing stores to Norseman and to Southern Cross and all over the goldfields. The camel paddocks are in close proximity to the workshops and they are easy of access to the railway, in fact in every possible way they are in an ideal position. It is now contemplated on the score of economy to remove these workshops, and the people of Coolgardie say that while these workshops may be of no consequence to Kalgoorlie, their removal from Coolgardie would be a serious matter to that town. The curse of centralisation, they say, kills the country. We see the curse of centralisation in connection with the Esperance railway. Why should everything be centralised in the larger towns? Centralisation in Kalgoorlie is as bad as it is in Perth. We say that the saving which will be effected will be trivial. It is estimated that there will be a capital expenditure of £1,000 to remove these works, but the people in Coolgardie say that the cost will be over £3,000. Supposing it does cost that, what is going to be the advantage of the removal of the shops to Kalgoorlie? Their removal will throw out of occupation houses which are the property of the Government, and houses which have been built by the men who are now in occupation of them, and they ask, I think with reason, what effect the amalgamation will have in connection with the residences of private persons within the vicinity of the shops, and also what the effect will be on the Coolgardie employees who are property holders, to be removed to Kalgoorlie. I know that to some people this is a very small matter. That might be true, but it is not a small question to the town which now ought to have every reasonable consideration, so long as that consideration is not at the undue expense of the taxpayers. I have taken this opportunity of bringing the grievance forward in the hope that the Minister for Works, even at this late period, will see his way to allow the shops to remain in Coolgardie. I think that the saving to be effected by the removal will be infinitesimal. As a matter of fact, we all know,

at any rate those of us who have had experience, know, that estimates are easily exceeded, and if the estimates are exceeded by any considerable amount the saving will be so trifling that perhaps it will be committing a wrong to remove the shops. We hope, and we have grounds to hope, that Coolgardie will come again. We know its wealth lies hidden, but that undoubtedly it is there, and that being so, we say what use is it shifting these workshops when probably in a few years time it will be necessary to take them back again or provide other workshops for the town. I do not think it necessary to enlarge on this question, but I do sincerely hope that the Minister for Works will take note of my remarks and endeavour to do what the people of Coolgardie consider is the right thing and not keep on taking away, day after day, this little thing and the other. It is only a few months ago that the Mines Water Supply Department and the Goldfields Water Supply Department were amalgamated. A few men were taken away from Coolgardie, and so it goes on from time to time. We say there is no occasion for the centralisation and that it would be wise to let the shops remain where they are.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: If they take another man or two away they will have to close another public house.

Mr. McDOWALL: I am not speaking about the public houses, I am speaking for the people of Coolgardie. I am not going to labour the question any further. I hope the Minister for Works, and Cabinet for that matter, will look into this question very seriously and if there are no overwhelming reasons for the removal, that the requests of the people of Coolgardie will be acceded to. I have exhausted my first lot of notes, but I will take mercy on hon. members and will not proceed with my second line of defence; I have it here only in case of accidents. In conclusion, let me congratulate the Government on the improved prospects of the State, the possibility of a good harvest and the prosperity I feel convinced will follow. I am sure it is only the game of politics which makes our friends yonder croak. They believe with

us that the country is great, that railways should be built, that we have only to tickle the soil to a certain extent and that our deficit will disappear, but out of pure cussedness they tell us that there is no salvation except by placing them on the Treasury bench. I believe the present occupants of the Treasury bench are quite capable of guiding the destinies of this country, and I feel sure that in a short time we will find ourselves out of deep water sailing along smoothly, and that the prosperity of the State will be assured.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY (Moore): Hon. members on the Government side have occupied nearly four hours of our attention this evening, so that I trust I may ask the House to bear with me for a short time while I give my views with regard to the position of the country as it appears to me. I am pleased to be following two members who represent the mining industry of this State. No one knows better than I do what the mining industry has done for Western Australia. There was a time when I was intimately connected with that industry. It might not be known perhaps to those hon. members, or many of them who sit on the Ministerial side of the House, that I was the first to start the public battery system of which they speak so highly at this juncture. I was the first to start one of the batteries on the goldfields and I was proud to be able to do that. I am also pleased to know the great advantage these batteries have been to the State. A few words that fell from one of the Ministers this evening reminded me also of the fact that the School of Mines which exists in Kalgoorlie at the present time was started by myself. I am pleased to know that that school has proved of such advantage to the mining industry, because I know full well at the time the school was started in Kalgoorlie there was a very strong feeling on the part of many that it should be established in Perth. I held the view that the proper place was the capital of the goldfields. I had my way, the school was started there, and I am glad to hear that it has proved of such benefit

to the State. I make these remarks perhaps to show hon. members that I am not out of touch with their ideals regarding the mining industry; at the same time they know this, that although at any rate I have that feeling of regard for the mining industry, I represent one of the most liberal constituencies in Western Australia, and that my constituents will agree that I can afford to be generous to the Government which sits in opposition to me to-night. I think I may also on this occasion, or at any rate at this juncture of the sitting of Parliament, and I do not think it would be out of place to do so, thank the Ministers of the Crown for the courtesy they have always shown me as a representative of an agricultural district and as a Liberal representative in this House. In the earlier part of this debate hon. members were twitted with bringing too much of the personal element into the discussion. In the earlier part of my Parliamentary career we were nearly all twitted about being too parochial. I am pleased to think that at this stage of the proceedings we have drifted gradually from the personal to the parochial element, because for my own part I would prefer to be parochial rather than personal. Much has been said with regard to the question of the Premier of this State taking up land in the Eucla district. Now, I am one of those who do not think for one moment that the hon. gentleman was possessed of any knowledge that was not open to the rest of the people of the State, if they had chosen to look for it, when he took up this country in the Eucla district. When I heard that the Premier and some of his colleagues had taken up this country, I said to myself, "All power to him," and I thought to myself, "Now the Premier is going to be one of us."

[Mr. Price took the Chair.]

The Premier: You nominate me as a member of the pastoralists' association.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: But this is what we object to; the Premier is inconsistent. His party, not only in the House, but always on the hustings, were

running down all those who acquired large areas of land. They were continually howling about the bloated squatter, about the quantity of land that individuals had ; but here we find the Premier blossoming out into a full-blown squatter, and I hope in the course of time that he will even be a bloated squatter. I wish the hon. member every possible success, but I do think he is inconsistent, and that if he wished to be true to all the principles of his party the hon. gentleman had no right to take up that land.

The Premier: That is absurd.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: And this is the opinion of the party I represent here in this House. We admit that the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House are as sincere in their convictions as we are, but we like them to be consistent, and we like to see them carry out in their own private lives the policy they preach publicly. The member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green), has said this evening that he was pleased to find that when the Premier went to London he was well received as a Labour representative, and that the right hon. gentleman who has just relinquished the reins of office in the Federal Parliament was also thought highly of in the Old Country. I am pleased to think so, and I am quite sure that the Premier of this State has, in his personality alone, sufficient to imbue the people of England with the conviction that he is a good sample of an Australian. The hon. gentleman is a very different gentleman in England from what he is in Western Australia. When we find him in England he is a much bigger man than when in Western Australia, big as he is here. In England he talks in a broad-minded way, talks about filling all the waste places in this vast territory. He talks in that way because he knows it appeals to the people of the Old Country. But in the Governor's Speech I find no word about filling up the waste spaces of the State. We do not see anything in the Governor's Speech of any well-organised immigration policy, a policy which I consider is vital to the interests of this country, and a policy which I know appeals more than

anything else to the financiers of the Old Country ; because they do not gauge our strength or our ability to pay interest on our loans by our enormous territory or our broad acres, but by the people of the country.

The Premier: Not by that alone.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: And whilst we are continuing to borrow, those financiers of the Old Country, from whom mainly we get our money, want to see us actually filling up these vast spaces. I am pleased to think that the hon. gentleman visited the Old Country, and I think it is quite right that he should do so. To my mind the Premier of the State, when he has the opportunity should visit the Old Country. I am not going to say it broadens his mind, because I hope the Premier has a mind which is scarcely in need of broadening ; but I am sure that coming into touch with the people of the outside world must assist him considerably in the duties he has to carry out. The hon. gentleman told the people of this country on his return that he had been able to tell the people of England that we have a sinking fund attached to our loans, and that he had been able to tell them that the money we borrowed was spent in reproductive works. Well now, the people of London, the financiers from whom we get our money, did not require to be told this, and the hon. gentleman knows it very well. I do not believe the Premier's visit to London had any effect upon the loan which was floated about that time. Our State, like other States, has to go on the market at a time when opportunity offers, and when the time had arrived when Western Australia should go on the market, the people at Home did not require to be told that we had a sinking fund. Such information always appears in our prospectus, and the prospectus lays it down distinctly what money is to be borrowed, and, further, that it is to be borrowed for reproductive works. Nevertheless, I am sure it has been reassuring, at any rate, to the people of the Old Country, to find that the Premier was not at heart, at any rate, the wrecker that at times members of the Labour party are repre-

sented to be. The member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green) has said that members on this side of the House have spoken in depreciation of this country. Now I have never heard any word of depreciation of this country from members on this side. Hon. members on this side know full well what this country is capable of, but they do not believe that the policy of the party which is now in power is in the best interests of the State. It is not the individuals that the party on this side of the House object to, but it is the policy of the present Government, and mainly the socialistic policy of the present Government which members of our party object to. The member for Kalgoorlie informed the House that he was a socialist. Well, I like a man to be frank and honest, and am pleased to know exactly what the hon. member is. I may tell the House that I am not a socialist, and that the members of the Liberal party are not socialists.

The Premier: Why you started the State batteries, and you inaugurated a State school.

Mr. Underwood: And you started the State mills.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I cannot answer all these questions at once. You may call anything socialism, but what I wish to imply is that where socialistic enterprise interferes detrimentally with the interests of private individuals who are struggling to benefit themselves, then socialistic enterprises are wrong.

The Premier: The Railways, the Post Office, the State batteries, all interfere with private enterprise.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: Never.

Mr. Heitmann: Our State Education Department does, and always has done.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I would like to say I am opposed, and this party is opposed, to any of these socialistic enterprises which interfere with the individual energy and enterprise of the people. If this country is to be developed it will not be on the lines of socialism. If the best is to be got out of the people of the country they must be encouraged to feel that when the fruits of their energy have ripened, those

fruits will not be wrested from them. A feeling which is rampant throughout the country, and which is at the present moment most detrimental to the interests of the country, and at the same time detrimental to the interests of the Government now in power, is that no matter how far an individual may go, no matter what he may acquire, as soon as he has got a position for himself, and as soon as by his energy, hard work and thrift, the fruits are within his reach, those fruits will be wrested from him in some way or other. We have been told this in more ways than one; it has been told us by inference and in fact, that this is the policy of the party now in power. We have been told about the bleeding process. What is it? It is simply that when the people have acquired by their own energy positions in this country, the fruits of their labour are to be wrested from them.

Mr. Heitmann: Have you ever been interfered with by these schemes?

Hon. B. H. LEFROY: That is not the point. I am not speaking on behalf of myself, but on behalf of the country, and I consider this socialism gone mad is not in the best interests of Western Australia. I say without hesitation that at present there is a want of confidence by people in the country. There is a feeling of mistrust. It is not that they are afraid of the country. They know that it is a great country and capable of great things. We want the people of the State to feel confidence in the country, and if that mistrust which the people feel at the present time could be removed I am certain the country would go ahead by leaps and bounds in a way it never did before. Some hon. members and those whom they represent say that what is required is the workman's hand. We want the workman's hand. I recognise the nobility of work as well as anybody, but at the same time we want the ability to guide the hand, and we want the money to pay the worker. This lack of employment in Western Australia at the present time is largely due to the fact that those who have interests in the country are fearful of spending money in developing

those interests, because they do not know at what moment by some legislation, taxation or otherwise, the fruits of their labour will be wrested from them.

Mr. Heitmann: That is a mere statement.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: It is a fact, and even the supporters of members on the Government side are beginning to feel it. They are beginning to feel that there is not that confidence in the development of the country that there should be.

Mr. Heitmann: Was there less confidence during Fisher's time than previously?

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I know that a good many people who own land are careful not to spend money on that land. Perhaps they have not the money of their own to spend, and they require to borrow it, but those from whom they wish to borrow have not the confidence in the country that they ought to have, and consequently the owners are not able to carry out the developments which they otherwise would. Since Parliament last met this country has passed through a most trying experience, and I fully recognise the difficulties the Government of the day have had to contend with. We have had one of the most devastating droughts in the pastoral areas of the State that we have ever experienced.

Mr. Underwood: Are the Labour party responsible for that?

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I do not say the Government are responsible for that. I say I recognise fully that the Government have had a difficult time in the past owing to this fact, but I am pleased to say the drought is breaking up, and notwithstanding the fact that in the older settled districts they had a magnificent harvest, in the far eastern districts the settlers have had a very trying period. We have to pass through these periods in Australia from time to time, but the dry period is now over, and I believe we shall have nothing but prosperity in this country for some time to come. Yet that prosperity is not likely to be as great as it should be if the Government follow

to its ultimate goal the policy which we on this side feel they are engaged in. Now, with regard to the railways in Western Australia, I think that it is unwise to settle people in country years before the railway is likely to come to them. When the Government are satisfied that an area of country is suitable for agricultural purposes they should at once start to build a railway to it, and the people would go with the line. In the past the policy has been to put the people there first and the railway afterwards. My opinion is that the best way is to put the railway there, and let the people follow it. I am certain that anybody engaged in a business of that kind would adopt the policy I am indicating. When the railway goes with the people they are able to take their plant to their holdings without having to drag the whole of it over difficult roads, and also their produce and the seed they require for the first few years. The history of the past has been that large areas of land have been thrown open for settlement, people have rushed this land seeing that it had the Government brand on it, and believing that a railway would shortly go there, and in many instances they have had to develop their country for three years before the railway reached them.

Mr. Underwood: How far out did McGibbon go, or Walter James, or Glowery, or I?

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I know many farmers have suffered a great deal on this account and lost all the capital they had in endeavouring to keep on the land for some years before the railway got there. We know at the present time there is a large area of country known as Dalwallinu on which people have been for three or four years, expecting a railway to come to them. Many of them have been disheartened and have left the district. Now I am pleased to believe that the railway will soon be there and I hope that it will be a success. In other places railways are proposed, and I often think that sometimes they are authorised too soon. The Government of the day know that

it is not in their power to carry out a railway because the finances will not admit of it, and I think it would be better in the interests of the country and of the people themselves that they should be seized of that knowledge and feel that it was no good Parliament authorising a railway until the Government were in a position to build it. It sounds well to pass through the House railway Bill after railway Bill, but it would be better if, before encouraging people to go into those localities, we were quite certain when the railway would get there. Ministers are placed in a very awkward position indeed. I know full well they are often asked when the railways are to be started, and sometimes they make promises. On occasions these promises are made in absolute good faith, but the Ministers are not able to fulfil them, because the finances of the State will not permit them to do so. It would be better for the Ministers if they had not to put themselves in that position. There is a railway authorised to Mount Marshall. The people are languishing for the line, but they have no guarantee when it will be built. Some twelve months ago a railway was authorised from Bolgart northwards, but nothing has yet been done. It would have been better if the authorisation had been withheld for another twelve months and then the people would not have been misled. They would like to know for certain if they were to wait one year or two years before the railway would reach them, and if they knew that they would be in a better position to deal with their holdings, and would know exactly where they were.

Mr. Taylor : It is not a new departure. All Governments have done the same.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY : I am aware it is not a new policy, but it should be altered. We on this side of the House and the Liberal party disapprove of enterprises which are likely to interfere with the development of private business on legitimate lines. We have State butcher shops, and we are told that these butcher shops are to be placed in every town in Western Australia.

If Perth is to have a Government butcher shop why should not Kalgoorlie and Bunbury also have one? Subiaco has a State butcher shop, and why should not every section of the community be placed in the same position if it is a good one? But I do not think it is a good policy, because it is interfering with the enterprises of those individuals who in these places have started businesses in the interests of themselves and those with whom they trade. In Subiaco the Government have started a small butcher shop, and what is that shop doing? I do not know anything of the conditions there, but I suppose it will interfere with some butcher who is established there, and I presume the object is to cut this butcher out. I do not think that is fair. Moreover, I do not believe for one moment that this policy is going to cheapen the price of meat. We know full well that of all businesses conducted in this State that which has paid the individual the least has been butchering. It is one of the most difficult businesses to carry on at a profit, and I am sure the Government will find that out to their cost sooner or later.

Mr. Munsie : Why has it been unprofitable to the butcher?

Hon. H. B. LEFROY : If the hon. member asks the butcher the butcher will be able to give him more information than I can on the subject, but there have been more failures among butchers in business in Western Australia, I believe, than among people connected with any other line of business, and that serves to show that there is not a great deal to be made out of butchering. Then we have the question of day labour. Hon. members supporting the Government are pledged to day labour.

Mr. Munsie : We believe in it.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY : I do not doubt that hon. members believe in it. We, members of the Opposition, represent those who to a large extent employ labour. Many of us have employed labour for years ourselves, and many of us have gained the confidence of workmen, and although perhaps members on the other side of the House

might not believe or recognise the fact, everyone on this side knows full well that if we wish to get the best and the most for our money we should adopt contract every time. The roads boards know full well if they want to get the best for their money it is contract every time. The individual knows full well that if he wants to get his land cleared, or ring-barked, or fenced, or a well put down, the way to do it is by contract every time, and moreover I believe that the workmen, at any rate in the rural industries, prefer the contract system. There is something that appeals to workmen in the contract system. Some of us Providence has made weakly; to some Providence has given great ability, and to some of us Providence has given great physical strength. My opinion is that the man of great physical strength has been given it to be used, and the man who has great physical strength should be allowed to use it in his work if he wishes to do so.

Mr. Foley: There is nothing to prevent an employer under the day labour system from giving that man more because he is a better man.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I am glad the hon. member touched on that point because it will be found in every direction in the country, where wages are not fixed, that men are paid according to their ability to work.

Mr. Mullany: They only fix a minimum.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: There are many men who are good honest workers and whom those engaged in rural industries will employ by day labour on certain work and pay high wages, and it pays to give as high wages as the men in the mining industry earn. I have known many instances of where men engaged in work in rural industries have been paid wages equal to those paid for mining. In fact, where I have known a man to be a good honest workman I have paid him the same money as he would be paid if he were working in a mine.

Mr. Mullany: No one would complain about that.

Mr. Foley: They would eulogise you for doing so.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: A man ought to be paid according to his ability to work, and the Liberal party consider it is not in the best interests of the country that these great public works of ours should be carried out under the day labour system. I think that is one of the important planks in the platform of the party opposing us to which we most object, excepting perhaps those questions of social concern. This question has connected us intimately with the development of this country and we feel that that policy is detrimental to the interests of the country, and it is likely to cost a great deal more to develop the country under these conditions than it would under the contract system. We have perhaps five great primary industries in this State. I will mention the pearling industry as I would not like to offend the hon. member for Kimberley (Mr. Male), and there are also the agricultural, mining, pastoral, and timber industries. To encourage these should be the main object of the Government.

Mr. Munsie: Which they have done.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I believe the country fully recognises this.

Mr. Underwood: What about the liquor industry?

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I do not care a rap about the liquor industry, and if there was no liquor in the country it would not trouble me. I think it has done more to harm our race than anything else I know of. Although I am not a teetotaler, I consider that, at any rate, I am a temperate man. The Government are doing a great deal to encourage the agricultural industry.

Mr. Munsie: A great deal more than any other Government.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I congratulate the Government, and as a representative of the agriculturists I wish to be generous to the Government. I think they are doing everything in their power to assist this great industry. We have an Agricultural Department, certainly it was established by the Liberal Party, but the present Government have not attempted in any way to shut the doors of that department, but have endeavoured



to assist it in every possible way. I think the department is a credit to Western Australia, and I think the experts we have are most useful to our farmers. Hand in hand with the work which is going on in the Agricultural Department and the work which is being done by the agriculturists themselves, if confidence could only be returned to the country, that confidence which the country needs so much, Western Australia will develop to such a degree that it has never developed before.

Mr. Munsie: It will if the leading Liberals will only stop crying "stinking fish."

Mr. Monger: Do not cry like that.

Mr. Munsie: I do not care what the hon. member for York says.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: In view of the words I have addressed to the House I am sure that I cannot have failed to impress hon. members with the belief that I have every confidence in this country. I hope, too, that the Government will offer that assistance to the mining industry that I think the mining industry in every way requires. I would like to see something more done—though having administered the Mines Department I know how difficult it is—to encourage prospecting. Good prospecting is what we want at the present time in Western Australia. I have the belief, and I hear of someone in the old country having a dream the other day, that a second Kalgoorlie would be discovered in Western Australia in the next 12 months.

Mr. Munsie: I believe it is in Ora Banda now.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: If we experienced such a discovery it would give such a fillip to this country that we would hardly know it. I would like the Minister to give every possible encouragement to the prospector.

Mr. Monger: Hear, hear!

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: I know that many of the old prospectors have gone. The prospector is a class of his own. Many of them have gone and, alas, gone for ever, but at the same time I believe there are still those who have the strength and energy, and would be

prepared to prospect this country, men who have the knowledge, if they were only offered the necessary assistance. No money can be better spent in this country than money spent in assisting the prospector to go and search for the gold which all those who know the enormous extent of auriferous country in Western Australia consider must exist below the surface, and has not yet been discovered. I want to mention this because, as an agricultural representative, I desire hon. members supporting the Government to feel that not only I, but those with whom I am associated, the old residents of Western Australia who know what this country was years ago, realise that they have everything to thank the mining industry for, and we feel that the mining industry uplifted Western Australia as if in a night from a position of insignificance to a position of importance among the States of Australia. We recognise this and we want to feel that the mining industry is working hand in hand with the agricultural industry, but strange to say, whatever the reason is I do not know, ever since I entered Parliament in 1892, mining members have always been opposed to the agricultural members.

Mr. Foley: No.

Mr. Monger: Yes.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: Then I will say the mining members have always been in opposition to the agricultural members, though, strange to say, the interests of the two ought to be common in every way. If the agricultural industry is prospering it is to the advantage of the mining industry because it cheapens the produce used, while, if the mining industry is prospering, it provides a market for the people who raise the produce and it gives a fillip to business generally.

Mr. Foley: Have you known one mining man to have voted against an agricultural railway?

Mr. Monger: Yes.

Mr. Foley: Name him.

Mr. Monger: Monger, against the Esperance railway.

Mr. Foley: Are you a mining man?

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: This is one of the factors which is causing a feeling of unrest and lack of confidence on the part of members sitting in opposition in regard to the Government of the present day. Those with vested interests, be they small or be they large, feel that the policy of the Government is that constant amelioration of the social conditions of the labouring classes must be effected at the sole and exclusive expense of other classes than which no doctrine, in the words of Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister of England, is more fatal to the sound principles of democratic government.

Mr. Underwood: Give us Lloyd George on land.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: No doctrine is more contrary to the true principles of democratic government than that the interests of one party or class of people should be exploited entirely at the expense of the interests of another class.

Mr. Green: Hear, Hear! We entirely agree with that.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: We on this side of the House have felt and those with vested interests in this country have felt of late years that their interests are to be exploited for the interests of some other class. If hon. members on the other side of the House can relieve that feeling, I am sure they will not only be doing good to the workers of Western Australia, but would be doing a great work in the interests of Western Australia itself.

Mr. Green: Do not you think that that is a bit of a bogey?

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: The Premier said that hon. members on this side of the House represent the interests of a few only, but we claim that we are not here for the interests of a few. We are here as the true democrats of Western Australia. We are here, not in the interests of one section of the community but in the interests of the people and of all the people.

Mr. Munsie: Why do not you advocate the reform of the Upper House?

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: The Liberal party has been called by the Premier "a rabble." I regret that such words should

come from an hon. gentleman occupying the position he does.

Mr. George: I think he is ashamed of it.

Mr. Munsie: He has no reason to be.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY: The time will come when the so-called "rabble" will be seen as a great army which will march to power and establish a Government in which the people of this country will have entire confidence, and that Government will develop this country to the extent which we on this side of the House know it is capable of being developed.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): To hear the gentleman who has just sat down speak makes one think how little he knows of the views of the people of Western Australia. It shows clearly that he is entirely out of touch with the opinions of the large majority of the people of this State. If he were not, he would not have concluded his remarks in the manner he has just done. The hon. gentleman in speaking made use of the words, "It is not the individuals on the Ministerial side of the House but their policy that members of the Opposition object to." When we hear the remarks that have been made from almost every member opposite, we come to the conclusion that it is the individual whom they oppose equally with the policy. Is it not being continually thrown up to us, "How can anyone expect men who come from the bench, the mine, and from all classes of manual labour, carry on the destinies of this State?" It has been contended repeatedly by hon. members opposite that even the Premier himself has not the ability to occupy the honourable position in which the people have placed him.

Mr. Monger: I have never heard that from this side of the House.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): That has been the opinion of nearly every member who has spoken from the Opposition benches, and when we realise that this was their principal topic, we can only come to the one conclusion that it is the individual as much as the policy they are opposed to. The

hon. member for Moore said in his belief the policy of the Government in the building of railways should be to put down the railways first for the people to follow. All I can say is that I hope that when the Government bring down a Bill for the Esperance railway the hon. member will put into practice what he preaches because the Government are of opinion that the land there is of a quality that warrants development, and once the railway is built the people will follow its construction.

Mr. Monger: Will your figures prove that?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): We will prove it directly.

Mr. Munsie: Give us the railway and we will quickly prove it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: (Honorary Minister): There is another matter which I think it is necessary to refer to. I was greatly surprised when the leader of the Opposition was addressing this Assembly to hear him refer to the appointment of the manager of the State Steamship Service, Mr. Sudholz, and say it was because the latter had assisted me at the last State election. I would ask any hon. member present what chance would any one in the position of an accountant in the Adelaide Steamship Company have to support or assist any member of this side of the House at a State or any other election? The position would be that in a very short space of time that gentleman would be looking for some other employment, and although the hon. member refused to withdraw his statement, I want to say I had never spoken to Mr. Sudholz up to the time the advertisements had been placed in the Press for a manager to control our steamship service. I want to go further, and say that that gentleman did not live in the East Fremantle electorate until a few months prior to the last general elections, so the hon. member will realise that when he thrusts out insinuations of this kind it proves clearly what is the policy he has followed in the past. Members of the Opposition have repeatedly referred to the Governor's Speech as not dealing with immigration; they have asked repeatedly what is the policy of

the Government with regard to immigration, and whether the Government intend to stop immigration. They have pointed out that the Premier when he visited England took certain action, and that the action taken by the Premier was necessary in the best interests of Western Australia. I want to remind hon. members that during the financial year 1911-12 the number of persons who came to this State as assisted and nominated immigrants amounted approximately to 10,000. During 1912-13 the number of persons who came to this State as nominated and assisted immigrants was 7,159. Of this number, there were 5,525 who were nominated and 1,634 who were assisted, and the total number is made up of 2,226 males over the age of 12 years, 2,650 females over the age of 12 years (including 400 domestics) and 2,273 children under 12 years of age. In regard to this matter, I wish hon. members to take notice of these figures, and remember the fact that the last two years were admittedly the worst Western Australia had ever experienced as far as its agricultural and pastoral industry is concerned. Although a number of men were not able to develop their holdings we see that no fewer than 17,000 people have come into this State as assisted immigrants, and yet to-day we have very few unemployed in Western Australia. It is true that just before the election for the Legislative Council, about 12 or 13 months ago, an unemployed agitation was brought into Perth, and again, just prior to the Federal elections, an unemployed agitation was likewise brought about in Perth. But, when we consider those who were responsible for that, and when we consider the action of the gentlemen sitting on the Opposition benches, then we can see that so far as the unemployed difficulty at that time was concerned, Western Australia had never been in a better position in the matter of employment throughout the State. It was purely an election dodge and I want to say that at almost every unemployed meeting the leader of the unemployed was followed to the office of the leader of the Opposition.

[*The Speaker resumed the Chair.*]

Mr. Monger: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Honorary Minister to refrain from making these absolutely incorrect statements?

MR. SPEAKER: May I ask the hon. member for York to refrain from interruption.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): If anything confirms my statement it is the objection that has been lodged by the hon. member. The immigration policy of the present Government has not in any way brought about an unemployed problem in Western Australia, and when we cast our eyes around and compare the state of affairs that existed two years ago, I think I am safe in saying that there has never been greater prosperity among the workers of Western Australia than during the last two years. I remember when in going through the metropolitan area you could see dwellings vacant in almost every street. What is the position to-day? We know that rents have gone up and they have been increased because there are not sufficient dwellings for the people residing in the metropolitan area. We know that the prosperity brought about by the advent of the present Government is such that every landlord to-day ought to praise the Government for the action they have taken in regard to the development of Western Australia. The question of immigration brings me to some remarks of the hon. member for Katanning (Mr. A. E. Piesse) and the matter, I think was also referred to last night by the hon. member for Wagin (Mr. S. Stubbs). Some exception has been taken because the Government Labour Bureau has sent out instructions to its various branch offices to protect the immigrant when he arrives in Western Australia from being victimised by those who should encourage him and his family to settle in this State. A circular was sent out and I want to show that cards have been printed and every immigrant who arrives in Western Australia to-day as an assisted passenger is supplied with one of these cards. He

is reminded that farm hands and men over 20 years of age for clearing land, according to experience, should receive 25s., 30s., 35s., or 40s. a week and keep, and lads from 14 to 20 years of age, for farm work, according to experience, should receive 10s., 12s. 6d., 15s., 17s. 6d., and 20s. per week and keep. The hon. member for Katanning (Mr. A. E. Piesse) pointed out that this is doing a great deal of harm to the immigrants, that it is stopping them from getting employment. I find during the year 1912-13 the number of farm hands who passed through the Labour Bureau and to whom wages were paid from 25s. to 45s. a week and keep, numbered 1,248 and close on a thousand of those received from 25s. a week and upwards. Clearers for farms were paid from 20s. to 40s. a week and keep and they numbered 875 persons.

Mr. Munsie: Another socialistic institution.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): That brings me to the remarks of the hon. member who has just sat down. He stated that contract work was preferred in the rural districts, but while men have been employed at fixed wages, numbering 875, only 171 persons were employed during that period through the Government Labour Bureau by contract. It shows, so far as the farmers themselves are concerned, they prefer paying wages to having their work carried out by contract. Lads for farms at from 10s. to 25s. per week and keep who were engaged through the Bureau numbered 370. That shows very clearly that the schedule of wages set out here and supplied to the various agents throughout Western Australia, was only fair and that it would block any person from victimising a new arrival when he came to the State. We know there are a number of persons in the State who are willing and anxious to obtain new arrivals at low wages, and I am afraid the member for Katanning has come across some of those persons who object to pay the wages which we have set out. I have a number of letters here which have been sent to the Labour Bureau

and I will read extracts from a few of them—

Will you kindly supply me with two new arrivals of good appearance to learn farming; wages to start 10s. per week and board. On no account send a man unless he has references showing good records.

Will you kindly send me along a hand to fallow and plough and work cultivator; wages 15s. a week and keep.

Kindly send me one young man, must make himself generally useful; strong and healthy; wages 10s. to 15s. a week.

Mr. Munsie: That letter is from York:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): Here are others—

Will you please send me a young man for farm work; he must be strong and willing, will give him 15s. a week and keep.

Will you send me strong young man for clearing; I prefer an immigrant; experience not necessary. Will give 15s. a week and keep.

Will you send me a man for picking up sticks and stones off fallowed land; immigrant preferred. Will give him 15s. a week.

Mr. Lewis: And live on the sticks.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): There are many others—

Please send me one young man, new arrival, immigrant, must be healthy and strong, willing to learn clearing. Wages 15s.

Please send me a new arrival from England for farm work; wages 15s.

Will you send me a farm labourer, must have a knowledge of horses. Wages 15s.

Here is the latest.

I notice in the *West Australian* to-day that the "Belgie" is due next Wednesday. If you have got a good strong farm hand to spare please send me one along. Wages 17s. 6d. a week. I want to say that before asking persons to come out from the Old Country to receive wages such as these I would prefer to close down on immigration. I maintain that in the rural districts

of England farm hands can get better wages. Indeed the people of England would be ashamed to offer a man 10s. a week to work on farms, and it is necessary, therefore, in the interests of immigrants themselves, that a fair schedule should be set out so that they should not be victimised.

Mr. Monger: Who are those people?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I am not going to give the names; some are in the hon. member's electorate.

Mr. Monger: I would like those letters placed on the Table of the House.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): You are not going to get them. During the past year the Government have maintained their policy of rendering that assistance which has been so much sought and which has been beneficial to the fatherless children of the State. No fewer than 432 families received assistance and the number of children was 1,352. I am rather proud of this because I am of the opinion that Parliament cannot do too much in the way of assisting the children whose bread winner has passed away, and to enable them to live comfortable lives. There is one thing I am also proud of and that is that the Government have prevented the Charities Department compelling the mothers to go the State Children's Court for the purpose of receiving the assistance that they should have handed to them voluntarily, and children are not made State children, but they are rendered assistance without having to go within the precincts of the police court. During the past year the Medical and Health Department has been subjected to a great deal of criticism. There is no doubt that this department has at last made a move, and I want to say that it is not because the officers of the department have not been anxious in the past to see that proper provisions were taken to protect the lives and health of the people, that they did not move, but it has been owing to past Governments retarding their actions and refusing to permit them to carry out what was necessary for the protection of the lives of the

people of the State. There has been no department in the whole system of Government in Western Australia toward which past Governments have been so parsimonious as to the Medical and Health Department. When it was necessary to grind down any department, then, I am sorry to say, the Government always took this department, which had the care of the sick and afflicted, the weak and those unable to look after themselves in the manner which others could do, and in every instance it was the Medical and Health Department that had to give way when it was necessary to economise. The member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green) declared that scarcely anything had been done to assist those who are suffering from tuberculosis.

Mr. Green: No, I did not say that. I congratulated the Government on having established the sanatorium.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I want to point out that we have done everything possible to make provision for the relief of those afflicted with this terrible disease. We have unfortunately, in the Coolgardie sanatorium 45 males and 24 females, and we have in Subiaco 37 males and 18 females. Our sanatoria to-day are full, and I regret to say we have several patients begging for admittance. I hope that at an early date, through the go-ahead policy of the Minister for Works, we will have the sanatorium at Woorooloo constructed, and will then be able to provide accommodation of a proper class for all the patients. Dr. Mitchell, the resident medical officer of the Coolgardie sanatorium, is now visiting the Old Land, and the Government have commissioned him to make enquiries in Europe with a view to, if possible, bringing out to the State the newest and best treatment possible for our sufferers. During the year a notification appeared in the Press to the effect that a new cure for tuberculosis had been discovered. The Government immediately got into touch with the Agent General in London and, with the assistance of the principal Medical Officer, Dr. Hope, then in England, we were enabled to be the first in any part

of the world outside of London to take steps to see whether this cure was really a cure for consumption. We have had two supplies of serum forwarded to Western Australia, and the condition of the patients under this treatment to-day is, I am informed, such that the medical gentlemen who are treating those patients are not yet able to express an opinion as to whether that treatment will prove successful. But they inform me that those patients who have been under treatment can eat better, they feel better, sleep better, and show some improvement. And I am hopeful that the result of this trial will be some sort of comfort as far as the sufferers are concerned. During the year the Health officers have done their utmost with a view to purifying the milk supply of Western Australia.

Mr. Lander: Hear, hear. They have done good work.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): We do not hear to-day, as we heard during the administration of my friends opposite, that the milk supply is in a bad condition. Moreover, the health officers are endeavouring to protect the public of Western Australia from the impositions and frauds placed upon them in regard to proprietary medicines. I am very much surprised to find the objection offered to their action in this direction. Yet, Mr. Speaker, it should not come as a surprise, because we know that similar action taken in other parts of the world has met with the same opposition. We know there is a properly organised association to attack any legislation which interferes with proprietary medicines in any part of the world, and we have been told during the past week that this Government, in their attempt to protect the people, have been guilty of what has been termed in some sections of the Press a dirty trick. It has been said that we tried to force legislation on the people of the State without first giving Parliament an opportunity of discussing it. That, of course, is wrong. I maintain that Parliament, at the time when we were discussing the amendment to the Health Act, knew full well what the new regulations were in-

tended to carry out; and the Act itself shows in clearer words than I could use what was intended. The Act provides that regulations should be made for ordaining that any food or drug shall be labelled. Our new regulations provide for that. Then the Act states that the regulations shall prescribe that information relative to the food or drug shall be set out on the label. Our regulations provide for that. The Act goes on to provide for the framing of regulations prescribing that any label used in compliance with a requisition of this Act shall contain information in addition to that required by this Act; regulating generally the wording, printing, size, colours, and styles of labels to be used in conformity with any requisition of this Act or any regulation; prohibiting the sale or offering or exposure for sale of any food or drug, which is not labelled as prescribed; granting conditional exemption from any requisition of the regulations regarding labelling in respect of any food or drug, and prescribing the conditions of such exemptions. When the measure was placed before hon. members in both houses of Parliament an explanation was given pointing out that it was found necessary, and on the advice of the advisory board appointed by our friends opposite it was found necessary that the manufacturers of proprietary medicines should either label their packages showing their contents, or deposit their formulæ in secrecy with the Commissioner of Public Health. That is all these regulations have provided, and I am very pleased to say that at the conference which was held lately in Melbourne, a conference representing every State of Australia, and comprising men of the highest ability, men who can speak with a certain amount of knowledge and experience on matters of this description, a recommendation was passed that the very regulation to which objection has been taken in this State would be adopted by the whole of the States and the Commonwealth as well.

Hon. Frank Wilson: You are climbing down on it now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I am not. I intend to-night to give my hon. friends some information in regard to the drugs that are imported into Western Australia. It is known that in every part of the world to-day, not only in Western Australia, there is an agitation in regard to patent medicines and drugs. As a matter of fact, restrictions are placed on the sale of patent medicines in almost every country outside of English-speaking ones. In France, the restrictions are such that they cannot sell patent medicines. In Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Argentina, and other States of South America the restrictions are similar, and whilst men connected with the London Chamber of Commerce are objecting to lodge their formula in this State they are to-day lodging their formula in the Argentine. In various states of South America they are obliged to lodge their formulæ before they are allowed to sell their medicines. I might add that the British Dominions are far behind other countries in protecting the lives and health of their people. It is asked why we want the formulæ lodged, and why it is necessary to state the contents on a label. It is necessary to see, when we request the analyst of this State to analyse a medicine, that the ingredients are such as the manufacturer declares them to be. It is necessary also to see that these medicines do not contain drugs detrimental to the life and health of the people. And in every instance where an analyst analyses a patent medicine and gives the contents of that medicine, the only reply he gets from the manufacturers is that his analysis is not correct. There is to-day sitting in England a select committee for the express purpose of dealing with this question. Amongst those who have given evidence before the committee is a gentleman of high qualification by the name of Harrison. This is the gentleman who did the analytical work for the British Medical Association when they prepared their book called *The Secret Remedies*, and the proprietary medicine owners have been issuing pamphlets, one or two of

which I have here, in order to disparage the work of this gentleman. Here is a portion of his evidence—

I said that beside worthless ingredients they may be made of dangerous or harmful ingredients. In that connection I would mention "Acetanilide" or "Antifebrin," which is generally regarded now by medical men as distinctly dangerous. It is liable to cause collapse, and also liable to establish a habit, and I might mention that by the United States laws it may not enter into any medicine now without being declared on the label. It is regarded as dangerous enough for that. It is the sole or chief constituent of various powders and tablets for headache, neuralgia, and rheumatism. Morphine, a poisonous alkaloid, was found in cough lozenges and cough pills without any declaration on the label of its presence. Strychnine, another poisonous alkaloid, was found in medicines for nervous debility, alcoholism, tobacco habit, and some others, in most cases without any declaration on the label of its presence. Thyroid gland, or an extract of the thyroid gland, was found in several medicines for obesity. "Lobelia," found in a mixture for rheumatism, which is described as consisting of perfectly innocent ingredients which combined may be taken without fear or hesitation. "Savin," an irritant drug, found to the extent of more than 50 per cent. in a pill of the class called "female pills." The next point is as regards the serious diseases for which proprietary medicines are put forward, and the guaranteeing of cures. "Congreve's Elixir" is described as "the best remedy for consumption, also for asthma, chronic bronchitis, coughs, colds, and whooping cough." It is also stated that "it has been successfully prescribed in consumption cases regarded as hopeless by the first physicians." Of course, I am not suggesting for a moment at this stage it does not do all these things; I quote this as an example of the serious diseases for which these proprietary

medicines are put forward. "Steven's Consumption Cure," the maker says, "I do not say in my advertisements 'consumption can be cured,' 'consumption is curable,' or any such evasive remarks, but I say 'I will guarantee to cure you if you are consumptive, or return your money in full.'" "Clark's Blood Mixture," the advertisement says, 'It is a guaranteed cure for all blood diseases.' 'It never fails to cure scrofula, scurvy, cancerous ulcers, syphilis, piles, rheumatism, gout, dropsy, and skin diseases of every description.' "Doan's Pills" are stated "To cure diabetes, gravel, Bright's disease." "Dodd's Kidney Pills" is the only remedy that has cured Bright's disease. "Diabetes—Dodd's Kidney Pills will cure this disease," "Bright's disease, stone in the bladder, dropsy, eczema, scrofula, can be speedily cured by Warner's Safe Cure. "Diabetes, Dill's Diabetes Mixture is the only known remedy for this deadly disease." A series of preparations called Pacidernia Preparations; these are put forward as a "Guaranteed cure for eczema, bad legs, sore hands, and all skin eruptions." They are guaranteed efficacious in every case, no matter what has previously been tried and failed. An article made in Wisbech is put forward as "A cure for cataracts, films, white specks, etc., without operation," "and is guaranteed the greatest and most marvellous remedy in the world for such." There is a very comprehensive claim, "Whatever you may be suffering from, do not worry or fear, as Dr. Martin's miracle pills will be certain to cure you. Levasco applied freely will cure lumbago or sciatica in one night, headache cured in a few minutes; earache cured in two minutes; toothache cured in two minutes. We guarantee magic foot drafts to cure any case of rheumatism." "Mersyren," it is stated, "possesses the wonderful property of permeating every part of the organism . . . its special healing actions are principally directed to any part labouring under diseased or disordered action."



Mr. Monger: I hope *Hansard* will record all this rot.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The evidence continues—

"Mer-Syren immediately operates upon any organ or tissue whose functions may be in any way deranged"—

Hon. Frank Wilson: Take it as read.

Mr. Monger: Is it necessary for all this nonsense to be read out to the House?

Mr. Lander: It is not nonsense; it is the truth and you do not like it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for York must not interrupt.

Mr. Heitmann: You battle for these blood pirates.

Mr. Monger: Let us take it as read.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The evidence goes on—

"Mer-Syren immediately operates on any organ or tissue whose functions may be in any way deranged, or whose structures may be breaking down in consequence of disease; and it cures in one dose." An advertisement from which I will quote an extract: "There is no guesswork, no pain, no experimenting, no lying up, no operation, no relapse, no failure, no matter how difficult the case may be, no matter what form it may have assumed, no matter how many doctors, specialists or hospitals may have failed to help you, the Tremol treatment, the new therapeutic discovery for bad legs, is certain to cure you and may save your life."

Mr. Monger: Mr. Speaker, without again unnecessarily interrupting may I suggest that instead of this being read out, it be given to *Hansard* or is the Honorary Minister going to give us a lot more of it?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Heitmann: It would be better if you took some bile beans.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. Foley: Come out and have a lysol.

Mr. Monger: Well, let the Honorary Minister read us some sense and not all this piffle. Mr. Speaker, I ask is the Honorary Minister in order?

The Premier: You want to try some of Dr. Morse's Indian root pills.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I hope the hon. member for York will restrain himself.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Honorary Minister is speaking and is entitled to continue.

Mr. Monger: He is not speaking: he is reading.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Give this evidence to the Press.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I want this opportunity to show what the people of the State have to contend with, and I regret very much that we find some public men who will assist in this fraud as it exists in the State to-day.

The Premier: Hear, hear!

Hon. Frank Wilson: Your colleagues are divided on it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): The evidence continues—

Wallace's No. 1 specific is recommended for dropsy, insanity, tubercular diseases, consumption, bronchitis, asthma, heart, stomach, and liver diseases, smallpox, diphtheria, erysipelas, piles, pleurisy, epilepsy, leucorrhæa, squinting, sunstroke, Bright's disease, diabetes, cataract, and there are dozens more, I think, of others.

Mr. Monger: There are none of those complaints prevailing among members on this side of the House.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): The evidence goes on—

There is another of Wallace's specifics, which is referred to as "the absolute specific for all or some of their phases, for syphilis and every form of venereal disease, cancer in every form, whether situated in the stomach, womb, bowels, kidneys, liver, lungs, breast, brain, throat, tongue, mouth, nose, or any other part of the body, deafness, necrosis, hernia, aneurisms, confluent smallpox," and so on.

Mr. Monger: Mr. Speaker, may I ask if the Honorary Minister is in order in reading out this peculiar mixture to the House? May he not be allowed to place

it on record and may we not take it as read?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for York must not interrupt further. He must not bring about farcical proceedings here.

Mr. Monger: Give it all then; that will please the Honorary Minister's friends.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been very tolerant with the member for York so far; I cannot be tolerant too long.

Mr. Monger: It will please the Honorary Minister's friends.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I could read out an additional number on the same lines.

Mr. Heitmann: The Press will not publish it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): I do not expect the Press to publish it.

The Premier: That is why we are putting it into *Hansard*.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): This evidence goes to show that the action of the officers of the Health Department is necessary in the interests of the people of this State. There is a work which has been compiled entitled *Secret Remedies*, and a second volume has been issued under the title of *More Secret Remedies*. Analyses of these various compounds have been challenged, and it has been stated repeatedly in the Press that the analyses were not correct. There is a Mr. Umney, managing director of Wright, Layman and Umney, of Southark Street and Park Street, Southward, S.E. London, who was the mouthpiece of the proprietary medicines section of the London Chamber of Commerce, and when he was challenging various analytical reports published in *Secret Remedies*, he used these words—

I can state from my own knowledge that the composition of many of the articles referred to in *Secret Remedies* is not accurately set out, the inaccuracy not being merely trivial but the omission of ingredients of medicinal value. I know this of my own knowledge of what the articles contain. I might give many, but I give one as an example: In Woodward's gripe water, the most im-

portant constituent is omitted and those given are inaccurate.

I have mentioned this one as an example. The Chairman of that committee, Sir Henry Norman, took the opportunity of sending a portion of Woodward's gripe water to the Government Analyst in London for the purpose of testing whether the two reports would be similar. The analysis shown in *Secret Remedies* was as follows:—

Sodium Bicarbonate 1.08 parts—

This is really common baking soda—

Essential oil (carraway, dill and perhaps anise) 0.03; alcohol (by volume) 3.8; sugar, 20.5; water, 74.59; total 100.00

The Government Analyst's report gave the following results:—

Sodium Bicarbonate, 0.92; essential oil (carraway, dill, and perhaps anise), 0.04; alcohol (by weight), 3.35; sugar, 18.87; capsicum extract, traces; water, 76.82; total, 100.00.

I referred this matter to Dr. Atkinson and he states that the specific gravity of alcohol is .8. This fact would bring the figures for alcohol in the above analysis more nearly into unison.

When that report was presented to the select committee by the chairman, Sir Henry Norman, he stated—

I have to say that the committee have now received the official analysis from the Government laboratory of Woodward's celebrated gripe water, which I will read. The analysis of the samples gives the following results:—(The following are percentages by weight.)

Then he quoted the figures which I have just given with the following additions:—

Mineral constituents.—In addition to sodium bicarbonate these include small proportions of salts of magnesium, calcium and potassium, amounting to 0.06 per cent.; these are probably adventitious and due partly to the sugar, and partly to the water used in compounding the preparation. Essential oils.—The quantity of essential oil is too small for the chemical discrimination of the constituents, but judging by its odour it consists of a mixture of the oils of

carraway and dill. Capsicum extract. —The proportion of capsicum in the sample corresponds, in our opinion, to about 0.05 per cent. of the official tincture of capsicum. That is signed by the Government Analyst.

Mr. Monger: How long do you want to keep on with this?

Mr. Heitmann: Hold your tongue.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): Sir Henry Norman added—

Now it will be recollected that the committee sent this preparation to be analysed because it was one of those mentioned by Mr. Umney in connection with which he charged the analysis made by Mr. Harrison and supported by him before us with inaccuracy. Now, Mr. Umney, there is the analysis which I have read, and which I shall be glad for you to see if you wish, and I ask you if you desire to make any comment on that.

Mr. Monger: Take it as read.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): Mr. Umney's reply was as follows:—

The only comment I can make is that it is not more accurate than Mr. Harrison's. The particular ingredient has not been found. Certain ingredients that are not in it have been found, and I think practically it is a general confirmation of the statement that these drugs cannot be determined readily by analytical methods.

Regarding the Government Analyst for Western Australia, I think we can claim that he is one of the smartest men in Australia to-day.

Mr. Monger: When are you going to send him away?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): And he has informed me that he himself has analysed several of these patent medicines, the analyses of which appeared in the books entitled *Secret Remedies*, and he found the reports in *Secret Remedies* correct as regarded the medicines he himself analysed. And, further, he has used the argument, supposing we do not get the formula and I analyse the medicine? It is a matter of impossibility for me or the Health Department at any time to bring about conviction for selling

medicine deleterious to the public health, because the only answer I can get is that the analysis is incorrect. If the formula is lodged it is compulsory then for these persons not to change the ingredients of that medicine without notifying the department, to prevent the possibility that one lot of medicine might be analysed one day and one coming in next week might be quite different. That is the position as it stands to-day in connection with these regulations, which every member of Parliament knew were to be issued, as it was as plain as A B C in the Act that was carried, and no objection was raised in this House. The only object the Government had in view was the protection of the people they are appointed at the present time to govern. It has been said that we are playing into the hands of the doctors and that if we are stopping the sale of patent medicines the poor man will have to go to the doctor. We have not in one instance stopped proprietary medicines from coming into Western Australia, but we do say that the persons who send their proprietary medicines to Western Australia should state what the contents of those medicines are, so that the people who purchase those medicines should know that they are not buying anything that will be detrimental to them. There is no doubt to my mind, so far as the question of assisting the doctors by the stopping of patent medicines is concerned, that we will lessen some of the patients that the doctors have to-day. What is the position in regard to patent medicines so far as intoxicants or alcoholic liquors are concerned? There are as many wines or other alcoholic preparations sold to-day as patent medicines as there are wines in the market. Claret, which is known as an alcoholic wine, has 9 per cent. of alcohol, hock 10 per cent., champagne from 10 to 15 per cent., sherry 18 per cent., and port 20 per cent. I have here a list which I could read consisting of 34 medicinal wines, which range from 10 to 20 per cent. of alcohol, and some of them are not named to be wine at all. As a matter of fact, the spreading among the people of these alcoholic drinks has done as much injury almost as hotels have done. There is actual proof that many drunkards, both men and

women, have been brought into existence through patent medicines sold to them, which were not labelled as alcoholic. I have quoted some instances outside the State. I wish for a few moments to deal with matters that have come under the notice of our analyst. I have here a report from Mr. Mann concerning a medicine said to have been brought into existence by some poor man who was stated to be a gardener in the employ of the Emperor of Germany for some time. This man, we are told, had found some of the plants were withering away and, as he was suffering himself at the time, he came to think from the effect on the plants that he might get something to cure him, so he found out that a certain action took place in relation to certain diseases in the plants and he started to take it himself, and now he sends it over the world as the curative of almost all known diseases. I want hon. members to consider the value of this medicine. Mr. Mann has analysed it. The certificate of analysis shows—

Material: One sample microbe killer. From whom received and when: Secretary of the Health Department. 13th June, 1913. Result of analysis: Sample consists of water containing 0.42 per cent. of sulphuric acid with a trace of sulphurous acid.

We have more than 99 per cent. of water there and this is the microbe killer sold to the people of Western Australia, at 4/6 a bottle, to cure almost every known disease.

Mr. Foley: All it needs is the addition of a little cyanide.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister): Then there is a preparation called the "Murine" eye remedy. This is the letter which was sent to Mr. Dodd, the Honorary Minister—

For your information I attach an extract from the American Medical Journal giving some interesting information about Murine Eye Remedy, and its promoters shortly stated that Murine Eye Remedy is one of the numerous nostrums whose sale is pushed by skilful and extravagant advertising. According to the analytical report, the preparation is a liquid consisting of 97

per cent. water, 2.6 per cent. of borax with traces of an astringent. The price charged is one dollar an ounce. The cost of the mixture is, according to the analyst, about five cents. per gallon.

This letter shows what we have to contend with. The Government are trying their best to protect the people. The question has been raised of lodging the formula. Regulation 61 prohibits certain drugs to be included in medicines, and these drugs are mentioned in the regulation. There are 60 or 70 of them, and there is a foot note to that regulation which covers every poisonous substance in existence. When this was brought into force it was thought necessary that the regulation should be complied with by the pharmacists in the State, and Regulation 3 provides as follows:—

This regulation shall not apply to a drug dispensed or supplied on a prescription or order signed by a legally qualified practitioner, or to a mixture supplied by a registered pharmacist to a proprietary medicine compounded by any such pharmacists, provided the formula of such medicine has been deposited with the Commissioner of Public Health.

That regulation clearly sets out the intention of the committee, at the time, so I have been informed. Mr. Garner, who represents F. H. Faulding & Co., and who is the man who has been fighting these proprietary medicine regulations very strongly, and whose patent medicines are manufactured in Perth, but are not manufactured by professional men, was spoken to on this matter by telephone and he subsequently wrote this letter to the Principal Medical Officer in Perth—

Confirming our conversation per telephone I have pleasure in agreeing to the following clause being included in the regulations passed by the Food Standards Committee:—"Clause 3—Or to a proprietary medicine compounded by a pharmacist duly registered in Western Australia, always provided that the formula for same be deposited with the Commissioner of Public Health."

Why should it be necessary for an importer to put a provision such as that

against a pharmacist registered in Western Australia if the medicine was not good? But Mr. Garner was taken aback because the advisory board eventually decided that this regulation should not only apply to medicines manufactured in Western Australia, but to all, whether manufactured in Western Australia, Eastern Australia, or in any other part of the world. That is where the objection now comes in. I want to point out before I conclude that it is anticipated there will be no support for the Government from the Press. We realise that the Press are strong opponents of our action. I read an article on this matter the other day—I am not going to say that it was published in Western Australia—and I noticed that in 1904 in the United States of America the patent medicines organisation there paid during the year an amount of 8,516,000 dollars, and out of that, their legislative committee, the committee which watches legislation throughout the United States, and protects the interests of the patent medicine proprietors, spent no less a sum than 6,695,000 dollars. Hon. members will therefore see the amount that is at stake to prevent Governments or Parliaments doing anything that will wipe away these frauds and protect the lives of the people. One of the best known patent medicine makers in America is Dr. Humphreys, who has said to his fellow-members of the Patent Medicine Association—

The 20,000 newspapers of the United States make more money from advertising the proprietary medicines than do the proprietors of the medicines themselves. Of their receipts one-third to one-half goes for advertising.

I also learn this from a publication called *The Great American Fraud*, by Samuel Hopkins Adams—

More than six years ago Cheney, the president of the National Association of Patent Medicine Men, estimated the yearly amount paid to the newspapers by the larger patent medicine concerns at 20 million dollars, more than 1,000 dollars to each daily, weekly, and monthly periodical in the United States. Now I will quote to hon. members Mr.

Cheney's plan, which was also reported in this publication—

We have had a good deal of difficulty in the last few years with the different legislatures of the different States. . . . I believe I have a plan whereby we will have no difficulty whatever with these people. I have used it in my business for two years and know it is a practical thing. . . . I, inside of the last two years, have made contracts with between fifteen and sixteen thousand newspapers and never had but one man refuse to sign the contract, and by saying to him that I could not sign a contract without this clause in it he readily signed it. My point is merely to shift the responsibility on our shoulders. As you all know, there is hardly a year but we have had a lobbyist in the different State legislatures—

And I want to inform hon. members that there has been one in this House to-day.

one year in New York, one year in New Jersey, and so on. There has been a constant fear that something would come up, so I had this clause in my contract added. This is what I have in every contract I make. "It is hereby agreed that should your State, or the United States Government, pass any law that would interfere with or restrict the sale of proprietary medicines, this contract shall become void." . . . In the State of Illinois a few years ago they wanted to assess me three hundred dollars. I thought I had a better plan than this, so I wrote to about forty papers and merely said: "Please look at your contract with me and take note that if this law passes you and I must stop doing business, and my contract cease." The next week every one of them had an article, and Mr. Man had to go. . . . I read this to Dr. Pierce some days ago, and he was very much taken up with it. I have carried this through, and know it is a success. I know the papers will accept it. Here is a thing which costs us nothing. We are guaranteed against the 75,000 dollars loss for nothing. It throws the responsibility on the newspapers. . . . I have my contracts

printed, and I have this printed in red type right square across the contract, so there can be absolutely no mistake, and the newspaper man cannot say to me, "I did not see it." He did see it, and knows what he is doing. It seems to me it is a point worth every man's attention. . . . I think this is pretty near a sure thing.

I am reading this, Mr. Speaker, for one purpose. I am showing what we have to put up with when we try to introduce a reform to protect the people of Western Australia. I am doing this for one purpose. It may be asked, "Even if this happens in America, what has it to do with Australia; why not come nearer home?" But my object in reading this is to prove that exactly the same conditions exist in Australia to-day as existed in America at the time this book was written. Now here is a block showing a telegram, which is as follows:—

Binghamton, New York, March 10th, 1905.—Spy, Taunton. House Bill 829 discriminating against proprietary medicines passed Lower House. Up in Senate Monday. Quick work necessary. Use your influence. (Signed) Willis Sharpe Kalmer, Adv. Agent.

Here is another letter dated Toledo, Ohio. February 14, 1905. It is to the publishers of a certain newspaper, and it reads—

Gentlemen,—Should House Bills Nos. 829, 30, 607, 724, or Senate Bill 165 become laws it will force us to discontinue advertising in your States. Your prompt attention regarding the Bill we believe would be of mutual benefit. We would respectfully refer you to the contract which we have with you. Respectfully, Cheney Medicine Co.

This was written on the 14th February, 1905, and I want hon. members to take particular notice that it points out that unless prompt attention is given to the Bills enumerated "it will force us to discontinue advertising in your States." Now I have here a letter which was forwarded to me with the intimation that if I wished to make use of it to forewarn the people of Western Australia in regard to proprietary medicines I was at liberty to

do so. This letter is addressed to a country newspaper, printed and published in Western Australia. The letter reads as follows:—

Vickery's Chambers, 74 Pitt-street, Sydney, 23rd January, 1913. Foster, McLellan and Co., proprietors Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, Doan's Ointment and Doan's Dinner Pills.

It is scarcely necessary for me to say that Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are sold at 2s. 9d. a box, but I may tell the House that their value is stated about one half-penny per box. The letter reads—

Dear Sir,—Enclosed with this we are sending you a general letter relating to the new West Australian health regulations. We would ask you to be good enough to carefully read same, and also do all you possibly can to have the regulations so altered that it will still be possible for us to continue selling and advertising our goods in your State. We are, yours faithfully, Foster McLellan, per P. Britz.

You see the coincidence between the two. Here is the American, and here the Australian. I have here a copy of a circular letter which I intend to read. It proves conclusively the difficulties which any medical department, or any professional gentleman occupying a position in any medical or health department in any part of Australia, will have to contend with in trying to rid this country of the frauds and nostrums sent here to-day. Addressed generally to "The newspaper proprietors of W.A.," the circular letter reads as follows:—

A situation of grave concern to the people and to the Press of the State has arisen by reason of the gazetting of Regulation No. 62 under the Health Act, 1911, making compulsory the labelling of proprietaries, so as to show all ingredients and their proportions. We cannot think it was realised at the time what the full effect of the regulation must necessarily be. It is now apparent that a number of unfortunate results are inevitable. 1. The effect of the law must be (if complied with generally by the large manufacturers) to put on an equality the long-established

article skilfully combined from selected ingredients, and the careless compound, nominally of the same composition, but put together to trade on the reputation of the known article. Instead of protecting the public, therefore, the latter would be led to use the cheap and uncertain mixture in the belief that they were getting the equal of the established preparation. 2, The merit of popular remedies, for instance, is the result in most cases of distinct skill and knowledge in selecting and combining certain medicinal ingredients. Certainly there has thus been acquired a property interest which would be violated just as surely would be the right to, say, a house if the title deed were annulled without cause. 3, The drastic regulation referred to is to-day in effect in no Australian State, nor in New Zealand, nor in Great Britain, Canada, or America. In fact, similar legislation is not on the books of a single English-speaking country in the world. The law here is an anomaly, and was certainly not desired or asked for by even one per cent. of the people of the State. 4, We are reliably informed that the proprietors of practically all the well-known and largely advertised preparations will absolutely abandon the Western Australian market if the law in question becomes effective. Rather than accept disaster to their trade in the more populous States, they prefer to withdraw their lines from the market entirely. The effect will be to deprive absolutely a large proportion of West Australian families of household remedies of undoubted value. Particularly will the hardship be felt in the remoter districts. Favourite preparations will, in the present cheap and convenient forms, be wholly unprocurable. 5, Every merchant and storekeeper will find his trade seriously affected, and the injury to the State as a whole must inevitably be very great.

Now this is what I want hon. members to pay particular attention to—

6, Many thousands of pounds now spent with the newspapers in advertising will be absolutely cut off. How

serious must be the consequences in the aggregate will be apparent to every newspaper proprietor; and such revenue can never be regained or replaced, for there will not be the slightest inducement to anyone to advertise a preparation which anyone may pirate. Proprietary advertising will be absolutely dead. In brief, the Act will not only fail to protect the public in the slightest degree, but it will probably open the door to a flood of cheap and carelessly compounded mixtures to be imposed on the people as the "same as so-and-so; just compare the two formulae and see for yourself, et-cetera." If not rescinded the new regulation will become effective on 1st May next and there is little time in which to take steps to arouse the people, the members of the Assembly, and the State Ministry to its serious evils. We wish to urge, therefore, the importance of beginning immediately a campaign of education in your columns. Once the people of the different constituencies realise the gravity of the situation, it is believed they will begin to protest to their members in a way which must be heeded. Members of the Assembly have generally, we are sure, every wish to serve their constituents rightly, and when they realise that their hastily passed legislation is distinctly opposed to the interests of the people as a whole, they will, it is confidently hoped, take steps to annul the regulations.

There was also the following letter:—

*Re the West Australian Health Act and regulations.* Dear sir, Under the new Health Act lately passed, and which comes into force on 1st May of this year, it is proposed to make it compulsory for owners of proprietary medicines to state clearly on the principal label the exact formula of the ingredients used. We consider, if this law comes into force in its present form, it will be very hard on the public of W.A., as they will be prevented from buying practically all the well-known proprietary medicines which are at present on sale in that State. This will be brought about by the fact that if

the proprietors are compelled to divulge their trade secrets, we, in common with most other manufacturers, will at once withdraw our goods from further sale in W.A. We cannot understand how, in a large State like W.A., where thousands of people live far away from doctors and chemists, and who have to rely solely on proprietary medicines, such a drastic law could ever have been passed. The seriousness of its results could never have been taken into consideration. There are many people, even in the big cities, who use nothing else but proprietary medicines, and there is not the slightest doubt that they derive great benefit from them. To prove this, we might mention that our sales in W.A. and other parts of the Commonwealth have been steadily increasing ever since our proprietaries were first placed on the Australian market, over fourteen years ago, and this would certainly not be the case if they did no good. What will the public gain by knowing the ingredients of any medicine they have to take? Very few people would be able to understand anything about the formula of the article, and it cannot possibly be more effective because the ingredients of which it is composed are stated. The only protection we, as manufacturers, have from widespread imitation lies in the secrecy of our formulas. When once these are published, worthless imitations will spring up and, instead of the public benefiting, they will suffer considerably. In no other English speaking country in the world has such a law been passed, and we feel sure that the people of W.A. never asked for or desired such a law. A proprietary medicine, like other things, sells on its merits alone: no matter how much you advertise it, if it is no good it will not continue to sell. If this law comes into force, there is a matter that will affect all the newspaper proprietors of W.A. to a considerable extent, and that is advertising. You will readily understand that immediately the well-known proprietary medicines are withdrawn from sale in your State, the advertising

of same will cease. This will be a big loss to you and other newspapers, as the advertising of proprietary medicines must add very largely to the revenue of a paper. We feel sure you will see, apart from the fact that the new law is unnecessary and unfair, that it will be for your interests to do all you can by personal influence and private interviews with Ministers of the Crown and others to have the law amended in such a way that will prevent the loss to W.A. of practically the whole of the proprietary medicine trade. Yours faithfully, Foster McClellan Co.

That is a circular letter sent to the newspaper proprietors of Western Australia, and it must be realised that the opposition to these regulations is coming entirely from the newspaper proprietors and the importers of these medicines. I am pleased to say, however, that there is one newspaper in Western Australia that refused to be led by these bribes and said to me, "I am with you in the reform that you are trying to bring into effect." I have here also a copy of an advertisement published in the *Australasian Traveller*—

#### We Refuse Them. Important Notice.

This paper will not advertise any medicine (or the proprietors of same) claiming to cure cancer, consumption, or other organic disease, diseases of the nervous system, blood disorders, female complaints, nervous debility.

It is very pleasing to see that there are some papers which refuse to print these advertisements. I want to go a little further and point out that, not content with having used the Press to try to stop these regulations, the persons interested have thought it necessary to do a house to house canvass in the district I represent, and on the street corners a petition was presented to the public for signature. I may say that we have no less than 1,120 formulæ lodged under our regulation and of these 250 have come from outside the State. But I would recommend my friends in the country, if they do want a patent medicine to get the article manufactured by the local chemist who is a professional man, and they will be taking something more beneficial than the



stuff they have to swallow at present. I was saying that these patent medicine vendors went into my electorate and dragged a petition from door to door, and here is a letter that was added to that petition—

These few streets in North Fremantle having obtained signatures from every house almost without exception, and those only on account of absence from home, shows how enthusiastic the people are against this regulation when they recognised that well-known household remedies will not be obtained. The whole of Fremantle can be worked, if necessary, with the people equally enthusiastic, but we do not wish to thoroughly spoil Mr. Angwin's chance of re-election as we fully believe that Mr. Angwin fully believes himself conscientious in trying to impose the obnoxious regulation.

One of the objections which has been taken is that it will not be possible for a formula, which has been lodged, to be kept confidential, but that it is bound to leak out. We were told in the usual smoothing way that the proprietors would have no fear of any formula lodged not being kept confidential, while the present Government were in office. But we were told that there was a possibility of other gentlemen getting into power at some future date, and that then there would be no guarantee. My answer to these statements has been that I knew very well, as far as the Labour party were concerned, that the confidence reposed in the Commissioner would not be divulged, and I am satisfied that if hon. members of the Opposition, or their party, again come into possession of the Ministerial benches, any compact entered into by the present Government would be faithfully observed. I want to say also that the statement that it is impossible to keep the formulæ confidential is an insult to the Government officers, and I would point out that in regard to explosives sent to Western Australia, the formulæ has to be lodged. This is done for the purpose of enabling the analysts to see that the composition of the explosives is such that no

alteration can be made at any time without the Government officers being notified of it. This regulation has been found necessary to facilitate the analysts in protecting the lives of people who use the explosives, and this confidence has always been kept secure and the formulæ have always been kept strictly secret, and if that can be done in regard to explosives it can be done equally in connection with patent medicines. Then again, we are told that the formulæ of patent medicines should not necessarily be lodged, though at the same time we insist upon the composition of manures being declared to the department. Yet one is done with the object of protecting the lives of the people, while the other aims at protecting merely the pockets of the people who cultivate the land. If it is necessary in one instance, it is more than necessary in the other. I am satisfied that the officers of the Health Department and the Advisory Board have taken a right step in framing the regulations as they have done to ensure that the medicines sold in Western Australia, and especially those which are coming into the State from outside, are such that they can with a certain amount of assurance be recommended to the people. I want to point out that the lodging of the formulæ does not guarantee on behalf of the State of Western Australia that these medicines are fit for the people. It is the intention as time goes on that officers of the department should analyse these medicines to see whether they are fit for the people, and I am satisfied that when this is done it will be shown clearly that the reason why some of these manufacturers object to the lodging of their formulæ is the fear of being black-listed later on account of their having been robbing the people too long. If their medicines were genuine there would be no fear on their part in connection with lodging their formulæ. It is well known that their medicines cannot achieve what they claim to do as they are not genuine, and consequently their manufacturers have been defrauding the people. I regret that the Act does not go far enough. We have under Section 186 the right to give notice in the *Govern-*

ment Gazette as to what these medicines contain if the Commissioner thinks it necessary to adopt that course for the protection of the people. In one or two instances we have given that information to the *Government Gazette*, and when it is once published in the *Government Gazette* in this way, any newspaper which republishes the particulars is safeguarded against legal proceedings. Under another section of the Act we have the right to call upon any newspaper which publishes an exaggerated or untruthful statement in regard to the effect of these supposed remedies to withdraw any advertisement likely to be detrimental to the people, and the Government have already taken action in this direction. I was asked just now by the member for Albany (Mr. Price) and the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. E. B. Johnston), what the people in the country would do without these remedies.

Mr. E. B. Johnston : We are afraid you are going to hit the standard household remedies.

Mr. Heitmann : What does the hon. member call "standard household remedies"?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister) : The people in the country will be protected and their lives will be preserved by the enforcement of these regulations. I have before me a large advertisement, which anyone can read without his spectacles, headed : "After baby was born; mother's terrible ordeal; five doctors fail to give relief; operations prove a failure; bile beans saved my life, says a Perth mother."

Mr. Monger : Have you interviewed the lady ?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (Honorary Minister) : Yes, the lady has been interviewed. Immediately Dr. Atkinson, the Deputy Commissioner of Public Health, saw the advertisement he realised the danger into which the women in the country were likely to be led if that advertisement was allowed to continue. He realised the possibility of women in the country, where a doctor was not immediately available, losing their lives as a result of an advertisement of that description. According to the advertisement bile beans is held

out as a supposed cure for septicaemia, or blood poisoning after childbirth, and it is a known fact that it is impossible to cure it except by operation, and a woman perhaps attended by a maternity nurse who has not had proper training, after reading such an advertisement, might, in the absence of a doctor, buy a bottle or a box of bile beans, and lose her life through trusting to this remedy to cure her. Dr. Atkinson notified the Press that the advertisement must be discontinued, and after that notification it did not appear again. The people of Western Australia will need to go a little further and prevent the use of advertisements of the nature of those used on the wrappers around the various packages in which these remedies are put up. It is necessary that we should go beyond the Press because, while the Press advertisements are bad enough, the advertisements around some of these packages are nothing but lying statements, and steps should be taken at an early date to secure, as the Commissioner is requesting, an amendment of the Act to deal with advertisements of this class. I regret very much that there has been any necessity for me to refer to this matter in the manner I have done, but I know from the advice of the officers of the department and from the advice of the Advisory Board as appointed by the leader of the Opposition when he was in office that they have given this matter a good deal of consideration, and have weighed it from every point of view, and they have come to one conclusion and one conclusion only, that in the best interests of Western Australia the formulæ of patent or proprietary medicines should be lodged with the Government. Whether an attempt will be made in another place to wipe these regulations out or not, I cannot say, but this I do want to say that if they are wiped out then it will be an indication that the influence of the Press is of more importance than the lives and health of the people of this State.

On motion by Mr. E. B. Johnston, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 12 o'clock (midnight).*