

the States. Any other State which could produce sugar would be entitled to the same treatment as Queensland. I would like to say a few words about the capital site, to which the Minister also referred. I have always thought that it was almost one of the crimes of the Federal members that they did not remove the Federal capital from Melbourne to Canberra. I spent some considerable time in Melbourne, and I can say that the influence of the Melbourne people and the Melbourne Press, and the environment of members, counts for a great deal more than anybody who has not been there can imagine. I am quite sure that if the original tariff—I am not referring to the present tariff, because the position in the Federal Parliament is that practically all members favour a protective policy—had been fought out in the free trade atmosphere of Sydney, instead of in the high protective atmosphere of Melbourne, it would have made a difference of at least 10 per cent. Everyone, protectionists and freetraders alike, who were engaged in that contest, agreed upon that point. One of the troubles of Federation is that we have never yet had an Australian Parliament, and we shall never have an Australian Parliament until that Parliament sits in an Australian capital and breathes a genuinely Australian atmosphere. So long as the Parliament sits in any of the large cities of Australia, it is bound to be influenced more or less by its environment. That is a reason why in all other Federal countries, the Federal capital is not in the largest town. Take the United States. Washington was selected as the Federal capital by George Washington himself. When that was chosen as the Federal capital site, it was a miserable swamp, and he could not have selected a worse place. It was specified that the Federal capital should not be in a big city, and that the deliberations of the Parliament should be away from any State or parochial influence. Exactly the same thing happened in the case of Canada. When it was decided to have a Federal capital there, and in order to prevent any possibility of local influences, it was left to Queen Victoria to decide where the capital should be. Those who were appointed by the late Queen to determine the site, chose Ottawa, and Ottawa to-day is a small city in comparison with great cities like Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. In the United States too there are perhaps a dozen cities that are much bigger than Washington. In Australia it is one of the most pressing questions that the Federal capital should be removed from Melbourne. Expense is talked of and the Melbourne "Age" and the Melbourne "Argus" are working as hard as they can to retain Melbourne as the seat of government. Those newspapers are exaggerating the cost of removal to the Federal capital, but, as a matter of fact, the expense would not be nearly so great as is made out, for the simple reason that there are certain counterbalancing

economies that would be effected, such as large premises that are being rented or owned in Melbourne, the occupation of which would not be needed if the seat of government were at Canberra. With the removal to the Federal capital site there will be a greater Federal spirit in the Australian Parliament, and we will have what we have never had up to the present time, a genuine Australian Parliament.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 5.57 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Tuesday, 27th September, 1921.*

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

### URGENCY MOTION—UNEMPLOYMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) a letter intimating his desire to move the adjournment of the House in order to discuss the question of unemployment in this State. It will be necessary for seven members to rise in their places and indicate their approval in order that the request may be granted.

Seven members having risen in their places,

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle)  
[4.37]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

There is no questioning the fact that the matter of unemployment is a most pressing and urgent one in this State at the present time. I do not know what experiences other members of this House are having, but I find it impossible to move about at all without being pulled up and asked to answer inquiries by men urgently seeking work. I am not given half an hour's rest in my own home on a Saturday afternoon, and even on Sunday callers went to my home asking if it was not

possible to advise them where work could be found. There is no doubt that they feel keenly the present situation. On Saturday afternoon I remained at home in the hope of getting a little rest, because I cannot move along the street without being called upon to give men information as to where they might be able to find employment, and men came from as far as Leederville to my home in South Fremantle to inquire whether I could assist them in the matter of getting work. On that wet and stormy afternoon, one man had actually walked from Leederville because he had not sufficient money to pay his railway fare, in order to ask whether I could advise him where employment might be found. The case was presented to me also that the wives and children of these men are in need of immediate assistance. The Leader of the Opposition and I explained the position in this House a week ago, and since then the Premier has been good enough to send a Government officer to Fremantle in order to obtain a list of the men seeking employment and to ascertain exactly what the situation is. The Government officer on Thursday talked the situation over with the representatives of the unions at Fremantle. On Friday a notice appeared in the Press that the officer was prepared to interview men who wanted employment. I am advised that he has reported to the Premier that he received only 117 names.

The Premier: I have not got that report.

Mr. McCALLUM: I had a talk with the officer subsequently, and it appears that he put certain questions to the men. He asked them whether they were married or single, what their usual occupation was, and whether they were prepared to go into the country. They wanted to know the conditions on which they would be offered country work. Of course the officer was not in a position to answer and the men, therefore, were not in a position to give him a reply. The answer as to whether they would be prepared to go into the country or not would depend upon the wages offered and the conditions of employment surrounding the job. Each case, of course, would have to be dealt with on its merits. A number of the men took exception to the fact that this information was not available, and they left the room and conveyed the news to the crowd outside. Consequently, a lot of the men refused to go into the room, seeing that all the officer had to offer was work in the country and that he could give no information as to the wages and conditions. A lot of the men thereupon left and refused to enrol. We had another meeting at the port this morning, and I told the men that I disagreed with their action. I told them that they should have enrolled so that the officer would have known exactly where they stood and could have compiled the fullest report for the Government.

The Premier: I understood that the men would do that in order that they might be classified.

Mr. McCALLUM: So did I, but unfortunately the men took the other view and a lot of them left without enrolling. The officer was at Fremantle again yesterday but no notification had been given and, in consequence, very few men turned up. At the meeting this morning the book which I hold in my hand was passed around for the recording of those names which had not been handed in previously, and here are 196 names additional to the 117 taken by the officer the other day. This book is available for the Premier's information.

The Minister for Works: Is there any statement as to the work they can do?

Mr. McCALLUM: No; that question was not put to them. I thought information would have been obtained as to their usual occupation and what other occupation they could follow, but it appears that such information has not been obtained. I do not know whether it was intended merely to compile a list to show how many men were married and how many were single, and whether they were prepared to take work in the country. Those were the only questions put to the men on Thursday. In addition to the 117 names, therefore, we have 196 men who say they are unemployed and who desire that their names be added to the list already supplied. A question was asked at this morning's meeting as to whether the Premier would be prepared to repeat the experiment he tried some years ago when he took 50 lumpers from Fremantle and settled them in the Yorkkraine district. The men want to know whether the Government are prepared to assist those out of work at Fremantle on at least the same terms as immigrants are being assisted to settle on the land. This proposition was submitted to the meeting. We asked for the names of those men prepared to take up agricultural areas on the same conditions as immigrants are being settled on the land, and applications of this description were made by 34 men out of 200 or 250 who were present at the meeting. I have not the least doubt that if the Premier will arrange for group settlement of the men now unemployed at Fremantle, 50 men can be obtained easily. I hope the Premier will make some definite announcement on that score. The men urged this morning that the Premier himself should come down to Fremantle, as he did on the previous occasion, and meet the men personally and explain the terms to them. They are most anxious to learn the conditions upon which the land is available. If the Premier adopts that course, there is not the least doubt in my mind that he will secure from Fremantle at least 50 good settlers, men who are prepared at this moment to go into the country and take up land. Now as to the prejudice which men entertain against going into the country for work, let me mention a definite instance given by a man this morning. The man, whose name is Sims, states that he was engaged at the Labour Bureau on the 9th July, together

with two other men, to take up a clearing contract from R. J. Nicholson of Corrigin, and that he and the two others went to Corrigin to do the clearing work, but on arrival there found that the job had been let to local men. Thereupon there was nothing left for these three men to do but tramp the district in search of work, and they found that that condition of things was prevailing generally in the country. Now, if that is the case, one can easily understand how suspicious the men would be, and how carefully they would have to consider before they accepted from the Labour Bureau work in the country, lest on arriving on the spot they should find that the work was already in the hands of somebody else. Again, at the interview with the Minister for Works on a recent evening, there was a definite case stated where a man was engaged to go into the country and was told that all he need bring with him was a knife and fork and a plate and a pannikin—

The Minister for Works: And a couple of blankets, I said. I have all the particulars of that case and am prepared to show the hon. member the papers.

Mr. McCALLUM: The man produced a document showing the conditions under which he was to go out, and those conditions were that he need take with him only a very limited kit—the rest of the kit to be found at the other end. When he arrived on the job, he was told that he had to purchase a tent and cooking utensils, and a good deal more kit. After working on the farm for some days, he found that domestic conditions demanded his immediate return home. Then the whole of the work that he had put in was claimed as payment for the kit which the farmer had supplied. The man came away without a penny piece for the time he had worked on the farm. Those are two definite cases which have been given in the course of the two interviews that have been held since the matter of unemployment was last before the House, and those cases have been very largely discussed among the men. I hope that if other men are to be sent out into the country, the Government will take particular care that incidents of this sort do not occur again. A further instance was given this morning by a man named Chapple, who stated that he had enrolled with others to take on a group settlement scheme. He says he was told that he would probably be sent into the country to prepare the camps. Since that announcement was made some little time ago, nothing further has been heard from the Government. I understand that six weeks have elapsed without the man being advised whether he is likely to be given a lot, whether he is to be included in the group settlement scheme. Meantime his position at home has become very desperate. The men chafe under these things, and they want to know what is to be done, and what are the intentions of the Government—

whether work is to be provided, whether some relief cannot possibly be given, and that quickly?

The Premier: You say they will not take work in the country.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Where is the work in the country?

Mr. McCALLUM: There has been no offer made yet of work in the country. Surely it is the duty of the Government to do what they can to provide work, or to see that work is offered. The Government cannot stand idly by and see citizens slowly starving. Last Thursday a deputation from the Perth unemployed interviewed the Minister for Works in this building, and no reply has yet been made by the Government to the case which that deputation stated. The men want to know whether the Government intend to do anything, or whether the Government simply propose to leave the existing situation as it is. Is there no proposal or suggestion at all that work shall be found for the unemployed? We are of course anxious to see as many local works and industries started as possible. The Government departments will not agree to all the men who are out of work going away if that can possibly be avoided. The shipping authorities want a large number of men kept at the port, where, as we know, the work is only casual. The shipping authorities say that if many of the men drift away, they, the authorities, will be put in a tight corner when the shipping arrives. They insist that it is necessary for them to have a large number of men handy in order to cope with the shipping of the port. Some little time ago the Government announced that they proposed to construct a new berth on the north side of the harbour. Is there any intention of putting that work in hand? Will the Government indicate whether there is any likelihood of obtaining work on the construction of that berth; and, if so, when? The men want something to look forward to. We had the statement made here that there was a likelihood of the Government bringing down from the country the two million bushels of wheat which, we are told, are now in the State unsold. That will find work not only for men in the country districts, at loading the wheat, but also on the railways, from which men are now being dismissed by the score, and also at Fremantle. Thus there are two proposals which came from the Government themselves, and we ask whether those proposals cannot be put in hand and work thus provided. I would like, too, to know whether the Premier cannot make some suggestion whereby the lead mines can be re-opened, thus allowing the Fremantle smelter again to offer employment. The smelting works have been closed down now for some time, and their re-opening would provide work at the lead mines as well as at the port. I understand that the price of lead had something to do with the closing down of the smelter, but there is also some

financial difficulty in which the smelting company found themselves.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Unless the company get aid from the Government, the smelting works will probably never start again.

Mr. McCALLUM: There is some financial position into which the company were forced, and which they had never anticipated, for the reason that they believed themselves to be dealing with honourable men. The company are in difficulties, and if the Government could offer them some help, that would tend to provide employment for a good many men. Is there no hope at all of anything being done by the Government in that direction?

The Minister for Mines: Not unless the Government take over a liability which they are not entitled to take over. That is the only way I can see at the present moment.

Mr. McCALLUM: The assets of the company are good.

The Minister for Mines: Not to that extent.

Mr. McCALLUM: By helping the company, the Government will be re-opening an industry which will offer a good deal of employment and will, in addition, mean something to the State.

The Minister for Mines: It means £50,000 straight away.

Mr. McCALLUM: I do not agree with that, though I am not here to advocate that money should be spent uselessly. I am not going to argue that the unemployed should be put to work digging holes and filling them up again. But there is plenty of useful work in this country to which the unemployed can be put if only money can be found. I want to ask the Premier what is the logic of immigrants being brought out here, and of its going forth into the world that there is plenty of work here for new arrivals, if our own people cannot be found employment?

The Premier: There is work for newcomers if they will go to the country.

Mr. McCALLUM: Any number of men will go into the country if the wages and working conditions offered are at all reasonable. Surely it is not to be argued that the newcomers will go into the country and work for wages and under conditions that are not reasonable? On the other hand, I presume, it will not be argued that the new arrivals are better workers than the men we have already here. If there is work offering, the people we have on the spot should be afforded the first opportunity. I do not wish in any way to argue that this unemployed problem is a purely local one, or one in respect of which the State Government are solely responsible. But I want the State Government to do what they can to bring pressure to bear on the Commonwealth Government with a view to the putting in hand here of some Federal work, so that employment may be provided in Western Australia. We made an effort to place the situation before the Prime Minister when he was passing through here, and to make representations to him as to the necessity

of work being provided here by the Commonwealth Government. However, the Prime Minister hedged himself with barb wire entanglements, so that no one could get near him to present a case and, in consequence, nothing was done. But cannot the State Government make representations to the Commonwealth authorities that the latter must bear their share in providing work locally? I do not know that the matter should end there. I have here a cutting from the Melbourne "Age" of Saturday, the 16th September, containing the report of a conference held in Melbourne between the Employers' Federation, the Melbourne Trades Hall, the Chambers of Commerce and Manufacturers, and the various local governing bodies for the purpose of discussing the question of unemployment in Victoria. Our local governing bodies in Western Australia should bear some of the responsibility of finding work. Those local governing bodies which have already been approached in this connection, throw the responsibility back on the Minister for Works. They tell us that they have certain amounts of money available, but that they cannot get material for road construction. If that material was available, they say, they would be able to provide work. It may be worth while for the Government to consider whether it would not be well to call here a conference on the lines of that held in Melbourne, a conference of the various sections of the community that are affected, with a view to evolving some means of overcoming the unemployed difficulty. It is not a matter of surprise to me, nor to any member on this side of the Chamber, that the unemployed trouble is as acute as it is in this State to-day. I hope no one will run away with the idea that we on this side desire in any way to make party capital out of that trouble. We know that that has been done in every State with a Labour Government in office. We know that in those States the Press has made a great deal of capital out of the fact that a few unemployed were to be found. I happened to be in Sydney when the unemployed demonstrations were being held in that capital. I observed great placards on the hoardings throughout Sydney convening meetings of the unemployed, and asking the unemployed to march to Parliament House for the purpose of protesting against the failure of the Government to provide work. I saw huge advertisements in each of the daily newspapers, which must have cost scores of pounds.

Mr. Corboy: Who paid for them?

Mr. McCALLUM: The money to pay for those advertisements was supposed to come from men who had not the wherewithal to provide a meal or a bed. It was perfectly obvious that the expense was being borne by those who were interested to make political capital in opposition to the Labour Government. I am not going to be a party to that kind of thing here; neither am I going to be a party to asserting that the Government

should carry the responsibility of supporting a man who is not prepared to work. When the deputation came to the doors of this building the other day, I told the men exactly the same as I say now: that if there is work offered at reasonable wages and upon reasonable working conditions, wages and conditions which appear to be reasonable, and a man refuses to accept that work, he will not find me supporting his case. But I do say that it is a function of the present Government, as of all Governments, to see that work is offering. If no work is offering, no Government can stand idly by and allow the citizens to go hungry. If work is offering in the country for our unemployed, it will be necessary for the Government to see that the wives and children of the men taking that work are provided for until such time as the men receive wages. That is essential, because no man will go away leaving his home unprovided for. He would rather stop at home and starve with his wife and children. If the Government have it in their minds to send unemployed to the country, it will be necessary for the Government to see that provision is made for the keeping of a roof over the heads of the wives and children of those men until such time as the men are enabled to send wages for the maintenance of the home. In support of my previous remark that we on this side of the Chamber are not surprised at the acuteness of the unemployed difficulty now obtaining in this State, let me say that we tried long ago to impress on those members now sitting opposite who were formerly associated with the Labour movement what the position here would be immediately the war was over. We know from the teachings of history that in every country which has ever engaged in a great war the conclusion of peace has been followed by unemployment and hunger and poverty and starvation. Such has been the history of every country that has ever fought a great war since the days of Adam and Eve. We issued that warning to our friends and told them that we were sure there would be very little, if any, provision made to meet the situation when the war was over, and that in our judgment the only way to have the position met, was to have the Labour movement a live political force as well as an industrial force, so that the economic affairs of Australia would not become as they had been in other countries of the world. I want to know whether our friends are as good supporters of Labour as they formerly declared they were.

The Minister for Mines: What about Ryan and Theodore in Queensland? Have they not had an unemployed question there?

Mr. McCALLUM: They were not in full possession of the economic affairs of that State during the whole of the period. We here have had a Government operating in the national interests, a Government which has had charge of repatriation, and on whom in this regard, the main responsibility rested. Yet all our agitation has had little effect. I

do not want to say that Australia has not done anything; Australia has done something, and fortunately for us we have not to face the position here as it exists in certain other parts of the world. Europe is in such a condition at the present time the like of which has never been seen in the history of the world. If something is not done in Australia I fear that we may drift into a similar condition of affairs. I want to see some relief given, because the position is most pressing. There are hundreds of men out of employment in the city as well as at the port, and most of them have not the wherewithal to keep their wives and families on bare necessities. I ask the Premier to make a pronouncement on the subject which will be to the effect that he will see his way clear to do something to ease the present state of affairs.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.4]: I have listened to the very moderate remarks of the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum). I have had some conversations with him. I know of course that there are men out of work in Fremantle; I suppose there always have been some out of work there, and that this condition of affairs will always exist. I foresaw that there would be trouble, and so far as I could, I arranged that there should be work for men to go to, chiefly, of course, in the country and through the Agricultural Bank to a large extent. We have sent hundreds of men into the country. When the goldfields trouble came on us a few months ago I sent an officer to Kalgoorlie and he was instrumental in getting a number of men from there to undertake the work of land clearing. The men who went from Kalgoorlie are quite satisfied with their lot and some of them have written to their friends stating that they are doing even better than they did when they were employed on the mines. If those people are satisfied with their new conditions surely that should be an inducement to some of the Fremantle unemployed to do likewise. I have devoted more of my time—at any rate during the early stages of my term of office—to this work than to any other question, because I have always realised, as well as the hon. member does, that men must have work. I realise that a man who works for a daily wage must have constant work, otherwise he cannot keep his family. When the hon. member spoke to me about the Fremantle difficulty I promised that I would send an officer down there. Up to date that officer has registered 179 men for employment.

Mr. McCallum: Here is an additional 196.

The PREMIER: I think they, too, should register with our officer, and they should say what work they are capable of doing. I agree, too, with the hon. member that the Government cannot be responsible for the employment of all the men in the State. There have been times in every State, and under every form of government, when men have been out of employment. It is not an un-

usual thing. This is the after-math of war. Other things too have contributed to unemployment. Money has been hard to get and it has been very dear. The cost of living also has been very high. We have all been living in expectation of costs going down. I have appealed to the employers in the State to keep employed as many men as they possibly can, but of course we cannot expect them to do the impossible. They cannot employ people unless they have money with which to pay wages. I appreciate the fact too that the hon. member does not desire to make party capital out of this difficulty. I admit it is economically wrong to have men out of employment. We know what has happened on the goldfields. There are more men there than the mines can employ. That kind of thing is no good. The hon. member will also know that I offered to take 50 men from the goldfields and place them on the land under special conditions of settlement. Unfortunately we were only able to get 25, due to the opposition to the movement on the part of the Press in Kalgoorlie. It is a pity because those men who would have accepted the proposal of the Government were unfortunately those who were suffering to a slight degree from miners' phthisis. What the hon. member asks is that country work may be provided, but that before the men leave for the country they must be told what wages they will receive, what the hours of work will be, and just what conditions will prevail. The hon. member must realise that the work which will be provided will be financed by the Agricultural Bank, and the conditions will vary somewhat in the different districts. I should think everyone would know what farm work is and what it means. Clearing work is perfectly simple, and that is largely the work that has to be done. The conditions will be better in the country than those which obtain in the city. At any rate the men who will undertake this work will have constant employment when once they get a start. There is a good deal of work to be done in the country. I do not know that it will be possible for any officer to tell the hon. member just what will happen to a man who may arrive at Bruce Rock or Geraldton or Kununoppin. I can say, however, that the amount that will be paid for the work will be based on current wages. I venture to say that no section of the people can make more money than those who are engaged in clearing the land. So far as we know there are 179 men unemployed at Fremantle. There may be more.

Mr. McCallum: You can have this book with their names.

The PREMIER: They should state what they are capable of doing. The hon. member wants to know whether we can do for those who are now out of work what we did for the lumpers some years ago. The men who went to Yorkrakine have done very well indeed, but unfortunately we have no more land available in the wheat belt to-day. I should be glad to do for those men just what we did

for the others, and if they are suitable for work in the South-West, I shall be glad to have some of them. These men have had the opportunity of going on the land for years past, but they did not avail themselves of it. If they say they are willing to go to the South-West, I shall be willing to help them and will be able to put some of them on blocks very soon. Of course it has not been possible to send men down there during the winter months. I do not know whether the hon. member realises that the harvest is approaching, and that a good many men will be required in connection with it. The work will be temporary and the wages will be fair. Then after the harvest, men will be needed at the wheat stacks in the country, and at Fremantle where the shipping of the wheat will take place. Therefore I do not anticipate that there will be any trouble about work as soon as the harvest starts, that is, work for those who require temporary employment, and until the work of the port comes back to normal. I think we can assist a number of men to get positions in the country such as those I have described. We have two million bushels of wheat in the country at the present time which is about to be removed to Fremantle. As a matter of fact I saw a train load of it going down to Fremantle this morning. This wheat will find its way on to the ships very soon. That will provide work at Fremantle as well as some work in the country. Two million bushels of wheat cannot be handled without providing some work. I hope to find that at a later stage shipping will become more active than it has been in recent months and that things at the port will again return to normal. I do not know that we can get very far by discussing the question this afternoon, but I think the House will realise that the Government are most anxious that everyone should be at work. We have had less unemployed trouble than any of the other States. I am perfectly willing now to go into the question with the men or their representatives so that we may see what can be done. The men should register so that we may know exactly what they are capable of doing. Of course when normal conditions are restored at Fremantle, those men who are experienced in wharf work will again be required at the port. That in itself makes the position a little more difficult, because the ordinary man might be willing to go into the country and stay there. So far as I am able I will assist those men to find work. Representations have been made to us only during the past few days. I did what the hon. member suggested, but only 175 men have registered. As soon as the registration is complete, we can go into the matter and see what can be done. I cannot help them until we know what they are capable of doing, and their prospects in regard to future work on the wharves. As for the 34 who want to go on the land, I say, "Yes" to that proposal, if they are suitable.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Do not send them there if they are not suitable.

The PREMIER: No, but if they are suitable I shall be very glad to send them out. I would sooner take our own people than men from overseas.

Mr McCallum: Can you put any on the Peel estate?

The PREMIER: I have not the information with me, because I did not know of the motion until a few minutes ago.

Mr McCallum: Would they be eligible, or is it reserved for Imperial soldiers?

The PREMIER: It is for our own soldiers in the first place. The soldiers have preference, because it is largely repatriation money which is being expended there. We are also committed to a certain number of Imperial soldiers. I do not know just what the position is to-day, because I had no notice of the motion. I am perfectly willing to do all that can be done, and if the hon. member will see to it that the registration is completed, we shall be able to go into the matter. I hope that, having ventilated the question, the hon member will withdraw his motion.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.18]: The Premier is anxious to settle men on the land. I think I had better offer him my services again, as I did 10 years ago.

The Premier: I accept the offer.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I shall have no difficulty in supplying the Premier with all the men he requires, as I did on the earlier occasion. It is no use saying that all that can be done for these men is to provide work in the country.

The Premier: All I ask is that we be told what they can do.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier seems to think only of clearing work. Clearing work is not suitable for many now out of work, who cannot be allowed to starve. This is the first time, at all events for very many years, that the Government have refused rations to men out of work. Not all the unemployed in Perth and Fremantle are wharf labourers. The wharf labourers are dividing up amongst their numbers what wharf work is offering. It means, instead of a living for a few, semi-starvation for the lot. Something must be done to remove the existing difficulties. I am well aware of the difficulties the Premier is in. I regret that members opposite should have made allusions to Mr. Theodore and Mr. Storey. They have the same difficulties. If there had been a Labour Government in Western Australia to-day we should have heard very much more of unemployment. Many people would have made things lively for the Government. We should have been told that things were going to the dogs because work could not be found for the men. Only the other day I heard it rumoured that there was still a large balance in the Perth unemployment fund, which was collected during the drought of 1914, and that it is contemplated handing over the balance to some other appeal. The Government should make inquiries into this. If there is any

balance in the unemployment fund, it should be expended on the purpose for which it was collected.

The Premier: I will certainly make inquiries.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier declared that for years past those men had had opportunities for going on the land, but that they only started to complain now because others were going on.

The Premier: I said I was thankful for it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Apart from the putting of the public servants on the land, Yorkrakin has been the only opportunity for men to go on the land with Government assistance. That Tammin settlement is an eye-opener to all Australia. If only the Premier could get some other areas like that and open them up in similar manner, we should have many prosperous settlements. But the Premier should not regard clearing work as suitable for all who want employment.

The Premier: No, there will be a lot of other work now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Other work must be provided for at least some of them. On Friday last I heard a little story about a boy whose mother is in receipt of Government assistance. This boy, close on 15 years of age, secured a job on a farm. After working for a month he asked his employer if he could get his pay, because he wanted to send it home to his mother. The employer said—"It is impossible for me to pay you until I get my money for the wool." The boy said, "What am I to do?" The employer said, "Get to hell out of it." Unavailingly the boy searched the district for work, after which he came back to Fremantle. That story I had from the boy's aunt. Before people leave home to seek work in the country they should know what conditions they are going to. Only last week I told how a couple of immigrants, after being sent to the country to a certain farmer only to find that the farmer did not want them, hunted about and got work in the district at 30s. per week for the man and his wife. They remained in the job for just so long as it took them to earn sufficient to pay their return fares back to Perth, where the wife is now earning 30s. a week, while the husband has gone back to the country on his own.

Mr. Pickering: Think of the hundreds of men sent out by the Ugly Men's Association and from whom there has been no complaint whatever.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I admit that in many cases there are no complaints. The men being sent out by the Ugly Men's Association know nothing of Australian conditions. You cannot expect a Fremantle man with a wife and children to go to the country and work for 25s. a week.

Mr. Latham: Not many in the country are paid as little as that.

The Premier: I am afraid I should say to some of these men, "Don't go to a farmer,

don't go into the country at all. Stay where you are."

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It all depends on what class of farmer it is.

The Premier: The farmers are just as decent and honest as are the men of Fremantle.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Some are good, some bad. However, it is necessary that the conditions should be looked into. A man engaged in clearing has to wait until the inspector passes the work, and then go on waiting until the employer gets an advance from the Agricultural Bank. It means probably six weeks before there is any payment at all.

Mr. McCallum: And he has to await the burning off before he gets all that is owing to him.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, but he has to wait six weeks before getting anything at all, unless indeed the farmer is financial.

Mr. Latham: He would not have to wait more than a month.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is a month before the inspector gets there.

Mr. Latham: And he pays on the job.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I was in charge of the Immigration Department for three years, so I know what takes place. I can tell as many stories of country work as can the hon. member. I believe the Premier will do his best, but I do ask him to remember that not every man can take on country work, and I urge him to assist those also who cannot go into the country.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest) [5.29]: It is regrettable that the necessity should have arisen for discussing this question in the House. Unfortunately, the same conditions obtain in Western Australia as are being faced in other States, although perhaps they are not so pronounced in this State.

The Premier: There are only 175 names on the register.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: But the Premier knows that the registration is not complete, that it will run to a much larger number than that. The sympathy expressed by the Premier is in welcome contrast to the attitude of the Premier of a neighbouring State. The member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) said he would not use this question for party political advantages. All members of the House will agree that the Premier would never stoop to gain a party point on any question which had arisen. Any sympathy which he can extend towards the unemployed I think he will give. His attitude is in striking contrast to that of the Premier of South Australia, who was so callous in his public affairs as to tell the men to go and starve. In Western Australia we have a State rich enough to prevent anyone from starving. Unfortunately at present we have a big body of unemployed. We are informed by the Treasurer that the credit of the country is good. If it is necessary to resort to this credit, we should do so. This is neither

a Fremantle nor a Perth matter. Unemployment is fairly rife throughout the State.

The Premier: No!

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Take Bunbury and Collie, as instances. There are between 100 and 150 men idle in Collie, and I think a similar number of men are idle in Bunbury.

The Premier: There is trouble at Bunbury, is there not?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It is not a question of trouble. It is a question of a general depression. The Government are a party to it inasmuch as they have retrenched in the Government railways to a large extent. This is going on in some cases because of lack of work, and in other cases because they think they may get more efficient employees by putting off the old hands.

The Premier: I do not think that is so at all.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Two women, cleaners, came to the office this morning and inquired for a position. One of them sent four sons to the war and lost one, and the other sent her only son, who was killed. They have been for 19 and 20 years respectively engaged in that work. The matter, of course, is one for the Colonial Secretary, and the officers of his department were very sympathetic towards them. Unfortunately the old women had to go. They felt their position very keenly. After I had left them I met two able-bodied men, who asked me for money with which to buy food. They said they had no food and I took them to a coffee palace, and paid for a meal for them. Yesterday I was obliged to spend 9s. on telegrams wiring to mill managers who were friends of mine to see if they could place men. The position is acute. There is nothing more deplorable and heart-breaking than to see men who are willing to work and have families dependent upon them unable to get employment. The Premier suggests that the unemployed should take on clearing contracts. It is a pity that the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) was not able to give the Premier notice of this motion in order that he might fortify himself with the facts as to how far it was possible to absorb men. I walk past the Labour Bureau every morning and see there numbers of men who are waiting for something to turn up.

Mr. Latham: You see the same faces every day.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: They should not be there. If they are the same faces, there is a responsibility attached to every member of this House to see that those men get some useful occupation.

Mr. Latham: Many of them cannot work.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am not going to adopt that attitude of despair, and admit that we have a large number of unemployed. In every State there are people who cannot be employed but I hope not very many. There are men at the Labour Bureau every morning, men who would be good workers if they could only find employment.



The clearing contracts are not as profitable as they used to be. I have five brothers who are growing wheat. Generally speaking, I regard the farmers as a class as good as the next one. It is, however, only human nature on their part to be prompted to get the best deal that is going. If they can employ a man at 25s. a week who will perhaps be a little more servile towards them than the local man would be, they will certainly take him. Unfortunately clearing contracts do not offer that remuneration which they did some years ago. The commodities which the clearer requires have increased very much in cost. I have brothers who take on clearing contracts at times, but they have not been able to get good results out of them, especially during the last two years. Very much depends upon Providence and upon their good luck. I have letters from seven clearers around Emu Hill. They were originally lumpers at Fremantle who were obliged to leave the wharf. They tell me that they are working hard but are not able to show good wages. It is only fair that the Premier should try, after this debate is concluded, to get a stock-taking made of the actual position of the country from the point of view of clearing in order to ascertain how many men the country can absorb in profitable employment. It is no good merely saying that clearing work can be had in the country.

Mr. Latham: It is too late for clearing.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That makes the position worse and we want the position improved. I admit that during the winter it is the best time for chopping down or ringbarking and doing other necessary preliminary work, but the House ought to know, and the unemployed ought to know, how many jobs are offering if they are willing to take them on and are fit to take them on.

The Premier: We have done all we could up to the present in this direction.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The position which exists now did not always exist. When it does exist it is of sufficient importance and seriousness to prompt the Government to give it the most earnest consideration. I hope indeed they will do so. Personally I do not think the amount that is allowed by the Agricultural Bank for clearing enables a man to make very much in the way of wages. The Minister for Agriculture will, I am sure, agree with me in that. Last session, before he occupied the exalted position he now holds, he voiced the same complaint, namely, that the settlers were not getting sufficient by way of allotment from the Agricultural Bank to enable them to get their areas cleared. In the eastern districts the men had to pay subsidies in various ways. One man might give meat free of charge, and another might make a special allowance of 5s. an acre for clearing. They were obliged to do that. Today the position is different.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is in the heavy class of country.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I hope that they will continue to clear that heavy class of country. On the goldfields the position was also very bad, due to the fact that depression set in there as well. I suppose there are considerably over 1,000 men who have flocked to the coast from the goldfields. Six hundred or 700 men are now working in the timber industry who formerly worked on the goldfields. That industry is working full time and there is no room for additional men. It is practically unable to employ any more for the present. This is not a metropolitan matter. I hope work will be started in various places so as to absorb those who are ready and willing to take it on. Whatever happens, I trust the Government will never adopt the attitude that, if a man is unable to do heavy manual work, or if he goes to a position in the country, the family will be left in want until the bread-winner has earned sufficient money to send to them. Although the cost to our Charities Department may be great, some provision has to be made to help these people. Western Australia stands out rather well in that regard. It has had a fair reputation in the past for giving help to those who were in need. I trust the Government will not turn a deaf ear to any request that may be made for temporary assistance until the head of the household has been able to make sufficient money to send to his family. I have worked on both the Lancefield mine and the Consolidated mine at Woolgar, and I consider that both those mines should be working to-day. The employers in that area are, if I mistake not, marking time until the expiration of the award, which runs out at the end of the year. We often hear about workers slowing down, but in Western Australia I fear that some of the employers are slowing down. There is considerable evidence of that.

The Minister for Works: There is not much encouragement to the employers to find work.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: What about the lumpers in Bunbury?

The Minister for Works interjected.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: They have not stopped ships from being loaded.

The Minister for Works: Ships are not going there. An inquiry is now going on.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There has been very little publicity given to it. If any shipping had been driven away from Bunbury the newspapers would have given publicity to it.

The Minister for Works: They did not drop upon it.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The journalists must be very slow if that is so, or they would have had something to say if the lumpers had been responsible for driving a ship away from that port.

The Minister for Works: It was in connection with Powellised timber.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I could debate that question for an hour.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not on this motion.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That is so. We have had conferences and generally have been able to fix things up in the past, but now we have a question facing us which stands apart from any ordinary industrial matter. There is no doubt that there are many people out of work. They are continually appealing to members on both sides of the House. No one is in a position to help them unless out of his own pocket. No one should be called upon to do this. I trust that the Premier will arrange for a conference to be held between various private employers and representatives of the unemployed. If the employers cannot give sufficient work to absorb the unemployed it behoves the Government to see that they do not go hungry. I believe the Premier will rise to his responsibility in a different way to the method employed in the Eastern States. I do not think he is anxious to force the workers to accept lower wages and so reduce the standard of their living. He should get to work in a couple of days on behalf of the Government and see if the position cannot be relieved at the earliest possible moment, so that the men and women who are out of work shall be given an opportunity to earn their living in the country, which teems with production and opens up possibilities for everyone who is willing and anxious to work.

Mr. SIMONS (East Perth) [5.43]: The seriousness of the position with which we are faced cannot be minimised. There may be a number of members on the other side of the House who do not come so close to the problem as those sitting in opposition. We can speak from daily experience of almost countless claims upon our consideration. This afternoon the member for Canning (Mr. Clydesdale) and the member for Leonora (Mr. Heron) attended a meeting of the city unemployed. There were 247 men present who were anxious and eager to work. I am familiar with the fact that at every meeting of unemployed one finds the professional unemployable. I will be perfectly fair in admitting that probably 10 per cent. of the men one meets on these occasions belong to that professional class which looks for work but hopes to Heaven they will not find it. Apart from that 10 per cent. I believe that the men with whom we discussed the position to-day were genuine. One man who is known to me personally has nine children and a wife to keep. There are thus 11 souls dependent upon him and upon his earnings. Even though he has been in constant work for 10 years and has been unemployed for only two months, he has with his responsibilities been unable to set aside any reserve fund upon which to draw at this stage. When we find citizens of that description suffering in our midst we must see that it devolves upon the Government to give earnest attention to their cases. We do not wish to use this issue in order to harass the Government. What we seek is the sympathetic atten-

tion and consideration of those now sitting on the Government benches and those supporting the Government. It is not much use talking about the matter unless we are able to suggest something. It does not seem to be an impossible thing to undertake the sewerage extensions at Subiaco and North Perth, which suburbs are in an unhealthy condition because of the absence of sewerage, especially now that summer is approaching. This is work which can be done by men who cannot go to the country and carry out more difficult work. This afternoon, with the two members I have mentioned, I attended a conference and a proposal was made that there should be a march to Parliament House for the purpose of making a demonstration to parade their force before members of Parliament. We said that the Premier was a reasonable man and that the Ministers were also reasonable men and that we would prefer to have a delegation of six from the unemployed, who would seek a conference with the Premier and discuss calmly and dispassionately with him the whole of the situation. We did not wish to indulge in heroics or to have a parade round the walls of this Chamber. Rather than that we shall rely upon the kindly consideration of the Premier in his office to-morrow when listening to the delegation of six appointed to place the position before him. We know that demonstrations of unemployed have been stage-managed in the Eastern States in order to embarrass Labour Governments. We do not wish to take any such action in this State. This is a matter which can be handled calmly and effectively. In making our representations to the gathering, we relied upon the Premier dealing with this position calmly and considerately rather than have any noisy demonstration to draw attention to the requirements of the unemployed. I hope that the importance of the position will not be minimised, because if it goes much further, it will get to a stage that will make it difficult for us to handle it with clearness and calmness.

Mr. J. H. SMITH (Nelson) [5.47]: I begin to think members of this Chamber and more particularly the metropolitan members, do not realise what unemployment means. I agree entirely with the Premier when he says that if these noisy demonstrators who come to his office would get away to the country districts and help to develop the State, there would be no need for representations regarding unemployment. There is one man who stands to-day in the way of employment, and that person is the present Conservator of Forests. Hon. members will remember that when I spoke on the Address-in-reply I said there was room for thousands of people to be employed in our forests at work which would be of direct benefit to the State as a whole. I reiterate that statement and can prove conclusively that if we did away with this individual's regulations and threw open the Crown lands, there would be no need for the

unemployment cry. The telephone poles which are being supplied to-day throughout the State come from timber condemned by the Forestry inspectors. For that timber up to 37s. 6d. per load is being received right throughout the South-West from Bunbury, through Manjimup and down to Pemberton, and up the Preston Valley. That is the price they are receiving for sleepers cut from timber on private property. The price they receive ranges down to 15s. per load at a distance of some seven miles from the railway. We have thousands of loads of jarrah adjacent to the railways that will bring in anything up to £2 per load. If Crown lands were thrown open, employment for thousands of people would be provided. I have no sympathy for those persons in Perth and Fremantle who come crying to the Premier about unemployment.

Mr. Clydesdale: What about the married man with a family?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I blame the Government for this position in that they have not got rid of the hampering regulations. If Parliament is in control there should be no dictatorship by an individual who can say "you shall not go here," and "you shall not go there." Why should we not receive the benefits of these prices ranging up to 30s. or £2 per load for timber which can be cut on Crown lands? Why depend upon a few individuals who have taken up timber leases? Why not throw open the Crown lands and secure to the State the same benefit? There are hon. members in this Chamber who have spoken about this subject, but who know nothing about it. I could name those hon. members if I liked. On the other hand there are a few who know the facts about the position. Fires go through the forests and burn the bottom of the timber. It is said that men cannot cut jarrah under a certain size. Practical men—not the Conservator of Forests, for he will not admit it—know, as forestry inspectors will tell one, that such a tree is blighted. When the fire passes, it burns a small hole in the bottom of the tree and later the top begins to wither. That tree is undersized and it is damaged, yet it cannot be cut. I am, of course, referring to Crown lands. Why cannot we get rid of this individual who dictates to Parliament? I do not know why the Government have not brought in some provision to deal with this position, or whether the Government are tied to this man. I have no sympathy with him. He has turned prosperous towns in the South-West into a state of stagnation. If we took action to rectify this position there would be no need to come to Parliament with talk of unemployment.

Mr. Clydesdale: But what about the married men?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Men can make up to £7 and £8 or £9 a week cutting sleepers in the timber country. Even men from the Old Country can make from £4 to £5 a week when they go down there. The present Arbi-

tration Court award provides a rate of 40s. or 50s. a week.

Mr. Clydesdale: Not every man can cut sleepers.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: It only requires a certain amount of physical strength.

Mr. Clydesdale: I would like to see you cutting them.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I could cut more sleepers than the hon. member could handicap horses, and make more money out of it. It is a farce metropolitan members coming here talking about unemployment. It will always exist until we give the country districts a fair chance. It will always exist while metropolitan members especially have this curse of centralisation, as they seem to have, in their minds. It will always exist while members want tramway extensions to Como and elsewhere, instead of railways through the Warren River District or on to Denmark. While such an attitude continues, we will never prosper. There is no need to preach, prattle and make a "holy show" about unemployment. The Premier says there is no need for it and he is right. I will back him up. While he insists on people going out into the country districts and upon people doing some good for themselves, I will back him up. There is only one way of dealing with this problem and that is by throwing open Crown lands. I could mention the names of a dozen people who are prepared to pay 30s. a load for timber from Crown lands along the railways. The Government should deal with this position by way of calling for tenders. They should get the forestry inspectors—we have enough of them, goodness knows, under Mr. Lane-Poole—and let them mark out the trees they require, and then let individuals like Lewis and Reid, the contractors to the South Australian Government, Millars' or anyone else, go through and let them subsequently put in their tenders. Let the Minister in charge—I would not permit the Conservator of Forests to decide any such question—go through the tenders and say who should secure the right to take the timber. I guarantee that if this were done, there would be no men out of employment to-day. No matter who the man is, if he has a particle of manhood in him, he will be able to make good money hewing sleepers on Crown lands in the South-West. That is the solution of this difficulty.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You know that such a person could not get a license.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Why not?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Because it is against the law.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Is it because Lane-Poole is a dictator and Parliament will not give him a lesson? Is it on account of the State Sawmills? Are we afraid of the Conservator?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I had unemployment in the State Sawmill at Manjimup.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Why cannot we give men licenses to cut in the way I mention? Is not Parliament capable of giving men li-

censes? Is not Parliament the ruling body in Western Australia?

The Minister for Works: Not in forestry matters.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Why is that? Is it because we have a dictator in the Conservator of Forests?

The Minister for Works: He has his Act.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I have heard no Minister talk of making alterations. Are Ministers afraid of the Conservator? Why do the Government not do something? It is no good speaking on this subject. I will not waste breath talking about it. I am sick of the whole thing. I am sick of Parliament. A man is wasting his time sitting here. The £400 a year I get here, does not pay me, for I lose more than that, because of my position as a member of Parliament. Why do not the Government do something? I will support any Government who will take action in this matter. If we had a Government drawn from the Country Party, I would support them if they took action. I do want this talk of unemployment stopped by the provision of work in the country districts. I admire the Premier for the stand he takes when he says that these people should go into the country districts. If they do so, there will be no need to talk about unemployment. I have no sympathy for the individual who walks along Wellington-Street, up Barrack-Street, and along Murray-Street, and then says that he cannot find work. I blame the Government for allowing a dictator to interfere with the position. I know the position from A to Z and the member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) knows it better than I do. He knows, as I do, that so long as we have that dictator in his present position, the existing state of affairs must continue. Thousands of men could be employed in connection with the timber industry. Why do the Government not act? What are they afraid of? Is it that Millars, perhaps, have told the Government that they receive a certain price for timber and have asked the Government not to throw open the Crown lands yet awhile. Is there anything of that nature afoot? I would regret to think that anything of that sort happened. I do not think it has. I believe it is the dictator, in the person of the Conservator of Forests, who has created all this trouble and unemployment in Western Australia. The timber industry is the one live industry in the South-West to-day. The agricultural industry—and I believe everyone will admit that the present Premier, when Minister for Lands, really established the agricultural industry in Western Australia—is not keeping the South-West going; it is not keeping the Sussex electorate going, as perhaps the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering) will admit. We can all admit that the wheat growing areas are doing a lot for Western Australia, but the timber industry is keeping the South-West alive. Yet we are suffering because of the dictatorship of the Conservator of For-

ests, Mr. Lane-Poole. I do not know why the Government, with such a strong majority behind them, do not do away with that dictatorship and throw open the Crown lands in the manner I have indicated, so as to receive the benefit of the money available for sleepers. There is no need for unemployment in Western Australia if the Premier will only do something to throw open our Crown lands. If he does so, I am satisfied that, given a fair trial, this country will never look back.

Mr. CLYDESDALE (Canning) [6.0]: I was indeed pleased to hear the member for Nelson say that married men could earn from £8 to £9 per week.

Mr. J. H. Smith: I said £4 to £6, £8 to £9.

Mr. CLYDESDALE: Well, even taking it at that, it is pleasing to know that they can earn so much money. Such being the case, it is surprising that the Government have not despatched them out there ere this. I have just returned from a meeting of the unemployed. I am not one of those extremists, who, like the member for Nelson, are carried away and make extreme statements, yet I say there were 247 persons at that meeting, and that on inquiry I found that 140 of them were married. That is in Perth alone. They assured me there were twice as many in the metropolitan area. It is all very well for the member for Nelson to talk about married men being able to earn this big money at sleeper hewing. A lot of those men have never cut a sleeper in their lives. How much could they earn at it?

Mr. J. H. Smith: Up to £4.

Mr. CLYDESDALE: Or about as much as the hon. member himself could earn.

Mr. J. H. Smith: I have earned £9 a week at it.

Mr. CLYDESDALE: It must have been a long time ago. The Government must do something for the unemployed married men in the metropolitan area.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Send them into the country.

Mr. CLYDESDALE: And if you do, what provision is there in the country for their wives and families? There is not even a decent hut. And some of those women and children have never been out roughing it in pioneer districts. Have a heart, man, do! Given a little experience, those people would make as good settlers as any others, but the Government must first provide accommodation for the wives and families before sending them into the country. At that meeting of unemployed this afternoon a motion was moved that all present march to Parliament House. But we expressed our satisfaction with the genuineness of their protestations and reminded them that they did not want to make a show. They agreed, and said that all they wanted was work. It is our duty to try to provide work for them. I have little to say on behalf of the single men. Numbers of them there to-day should have

been out in the country. Since the arrival of the English boat last Thursday, 160 immigrants have been placed in the country. Surely local people also can be placed there! If the immigrants are receiving preference over local people, it is time that sort of thing was altered. I do not say it is the case. I appeal on behalf of the married men out of work. We intend to seek a conference with the Premier to-morrow. We hope that he will be able to afford some relief to the married men who are out of employment through no fault of their own.

Mr. Sampson: Are they tradesmen?

Mr. CLYDESDALE: Because we want to work on practical lines, I have asked that every man register his name and occupation, so that to-morrow we shall be able to give the Premier full particulars. If the Premier has reason to believe that any of those men has been living on unemployment, I will agree with him that such men should be denied all consideration. Unfortunately there is genuine distress in the city. Nobody knows it better than do I. I hope the Premier will give the married men and women the consideration they are so justly entitled to.

Mr. A. THOMSON (Katanning) [6.5]: We all deplore the unemployment of married men, but it is strange that we should have a section of the Trades Hall who tell men not to go out and earn decent incomes, who will not permit them to go to work. I refer, of course, to the shearing dispute. This paragraph was published in the Press quite recently:—

The dispute between the Trades Hall and the Pastoralists' Association has now lasted several months, and shearing has also been in active progress during that period, chiefly at 1920 rates and conditions. Nothing could be more deplorable in the interests of the genuine workers and the State than the manner in which the disputes committee have handled the whole business. Right from the start the disputes committee has refused to consider the merits of the case, and has held out for its "irreducible minimum," relying solely on might being right. There are probably not 20 men among the shearers who were not satisfied to continue on at last year's rates, and what are known as the 1921 demands emanated entirely from the Trades Hall. The position as it now stands is that the Pastoralists' Association still offers to pay last year's rate of 30s. per 100 sheep, while the disputes committee has stated that it will allow the men to shear at 33s. 4d. per 100, provided they contribute 20 per cent., or 6s. 8d. per 100, from their earnings, to the Trades Hall to carry on the fight. This will leave the men with 26s. 8d. per 100, instead of the 30s., which is the rate at which the pastoralists are now getting their sheep shorn, being the same rate and under the same conditions as obtained last year.

Mr. Simons: What authority is that?

Mr. A. THOMSON: The hon. member knows that the statement is perfectly correct. A large number of men are willing to go out and earn good money shearing.

Mr. Clydesdale: How many in all are engaged in shearing in Western Australia?

Mr. A. THOMSON: The shearing work offering will help to absorb some of the numbers you referred to.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You know that Mr. Noble said that most of the shearing was done.

Mr. A. THOMSON: But not the whole of it. The Trades Hall have refused to permit men to take the work offering.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Did they not go to the Pastoralists' Association and agree to accept the terms offered? That was a fortnight ago. The pastoralists backed out.

Mr. A. THOMSON: That statement is not correct. The men said they were willing to work, provided they got the difference between what was offered and what was provided in the award.

Mr. O'Loughlen: No, they accepted the offer of the pastoralists.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Mr. Secretary Millington turned it down, and his statement appeared in the Press.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What happened four days later?

Mr. A. THOMSON: At all events, there should not be any quarrel about the unemployment of married men.

Mr. Munsie: There would not be if you could induce them to work for two bob a day.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I have never paid two bob a day in my life. My men have always worked 18 or 20 years for me, and so they must have been satisfied with what they got. As I say, we should not quarrel over unemployment. I commend the Premier for his desire to send the men into the country, and I commend the member for South Fremantle, who is backing up the Premier in that desire. Here is an opportunity which will have the effect of stopping this centralisation policy.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Centralisation be damned!

Mr. A. THOMSON: It is all very well for the hon. member to make a show of indignation, but this party stands for decentralisation and there are plenty of men behind this party who are just as good as the hon. member.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But the hon. member is just as good as you, any day or anywhere.

Mr. A. THOMSON: It is passing strange that while we have one section of the Labour Party drawing attention to unemployment, we have another section preventing men from accepting employment.

Mr. Clydesdale: But all the shearing in the State would not absorb one-tenth of the unemployed in Perth.

Mr. A. THOMSON: It would absorb some of them. Why cannot they exercise common sense and take what work is offering? Men

are sent out to the various stations, but are not allowed to get down to work on arrival. Surely when we have men willing to work we should see to it that they are allowed to do the work! If hon. members opposite are sincere in their desire to assist the Premier—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Premier can get more assistance from this side than he can from your party.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I will do all I can to assist the Premier and members opposite to find employment for unemployed men, particularly married men. It is the duty of the State to find work for the married men first. There is plenty of work for single men if they are prepared to go out and get it. I hope that some members will withdraw their opposition to a certain measure and endeavour to assist the speedy establishment of bulk handling of wheat.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No fear! That is going to result in a loss.

Mr. A. THOMSON: If it were brought into being it would help to absorb the unemployed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Talk sense, do! You know there is no possibility of that scheme being started within the next twelve months.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I believe a certain amount of work can be found for those who want it. I will do all I can to assist the association of which the member for Canning is president, which has been sending a large number of men into the country.

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [6.15]: I ask permission to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

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

#### QUESTION—FIREWOOD GETTERS, RATES.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Is he aware that under the permit system firewood getters in the hills district are called upon to pay exorbitant rates to the roads board? 2, Is he aware that the rates on permit 1210 amount to £14 1s. 3d. for a man with two horses and drays? 3, In the interests of the industry, will he have inquiries made to see if relief can be given by the reduction of rates?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, 2, and 3, The fees fixed in respect to vehicles used for heavy carting such as firewood, gravel, stone, etc., on the hills district are considered equitable. Many of the roads leading from the hills to the plains have been entirely ruined by this traffic, and it is beyond the means of the local authorities to keep the roads in safe usable condition, and the Government cannot find funds for this work. Heavy winter carting must be restricted in the interests of the majority of the settlers who use these roads.

#### QUESTION—ESPERANCE-NORTHWARD RAILWAY.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (for Hon. T. Walker) asked the Minister for Works: When does he anticipate the further supply of rails necessary for the construction of the Esperance-Northward Railway will be delivered on the works?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: It is difficult to fix a date, as the present prices asked for rails is so high as to render it a matter for grave consideration. At present quoted prices rails would cost about £1,500 per mile as against £600 per mile pre-war prices. It is the general opinion amongst the iron and steel trade that a heavy fall in prices must eventuate during the coming 12 months.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. O'Loghlen, leave of absence for two weeks granted to Mr. Lutey (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) on the ground of ill-health.

#### BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, State Children Act Amendment.

Received from the Council.

2, Mining Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Mines.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read transmitting the annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1921-22, and recommending appropriation.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1921-22.

*In Committee of Supply.*

The House having resolved itself into Committee of Supply to receive the Annual Financial Statement, Mr. Stubbs in the Chair,

The PREMIER AND COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [7.37]: This is my third budget, and my task to-night is no less difficult than it has been on previous occasions. The Committee will naturally ask why I failed to realise last year's estimates. Members are entitled to know and I shall endeavour, as I go along, to explain why we failed to finish the year with a deficit of £400,000, and will also closely scrutinise to-days proposals. I want the Committee to realise that the war disabilities still continue. After the cessation of war there was a trade revival in some directions. It lasted for some little time, but during this year there has undoubtedly been considerable trade stagnation. This is due largely to the world's financial position. When one remembers just what is happening, how the world's

finance is disorganised and how impossible it has been for many of the nations to trade because of the exchange difficulty and through want of credits generally, one realises just how difficult the position is. The world's markets have not freely absorbed our products, and much of what they did absorb was absorbed only at reduced prices. In submitting the budget last year I estimated that the deficit would be £399,000. The actual deficit for the year was £686,726. This increase was due to the loss on public utilities, and largely owing to the railway strike. I anticipate that the position will improve during this year, because I doubt very much if the trade depression will last. No one can foretell just when the improvement will come, or just what will happen, but indications are not wanting that there will be an improvement in trade. Therefore, before the year closes I hope that the earnings of our public utilities will show a very material increase.

#### *Factors contributing to Unemployment.*

We have passed through a very trying time, and naturally the railway traffic has fallen off. The ports have had less shipping and the building trade has suffered a depression, both of which factors have affected our public utilities considerably. For a time there was a very great activity in the building trade, but it was quite obvious to everybody that it could not last, and to this is due largely the fact that there are so many men out of work. Unfortunately, many men were drawn to the city by the prospect of constant employment and the wages offered. The city is a very attractive place, especially when there is plenty of work and settled work to be obtained. All this falling off in trade has affected our public utilities. Mining has also experienced a setback. There is no need for me to dwell upon this, because the position is well understood by every hon. member. I shall just mention some of the items to show where the falling off has occurred. Our lead, copper, and tin mines have practically shut down. The sandalwood industry has almost disappeared. This industry in the past has provided a great deal of work, not only at the port of Fremantle, but in that part of the country where the timber is pulled and carted to the railways by which it is conveyed to the seaboard. All this represents a very considerable loss. Pearl shell is practically unsaleable, and on account of the operating costs of our meat works, meat cannot be exported. It is quite true that, due to the falling off of activity in many of the directions I have indicated, men have been thrown out of employment, but there is work in the country for every worker in the State. I am quite aware, of course, that a number of married men in the city cannot find permanent employment just at present. This is to be regretted because, when a man makes a home for himself, he naturally expects to be able to obtain employment sufficiently near to his home to enable him to live. It is our

duty to see that work is provided, but I must point out that work cannot be provided for everybody in the city. With a revival in trade, the position will undoubtedly improve, but everything depends upon the trade which our people do. Our revenue depends altogether upon it, and a great deal of employment depends upon it. I do not expect that there will be any very material change in trade immediately, but I believe that the tide has turned, that we are again on the up grade, and that trade will gradually become better and better. Shipping certainly should be more active, and when that happens the position all round will improve.

#### *Revenue and Expenditure, 1920-21.*

I must refer to the financial position for the year 1920-21 before coming to the Estimates for the present financial year. A comparison between the revenue and expenditure for 1920-21 and the estimates will be found in Return No. 1. The total revenue was £6,789,565 and the total expenditure £7,476,291. The actual deficiency was £686,726, whereas the estimated deficit was £399,413. I will show why the estimate was not realised, and the causes to which this was due. Amongst other things we have had to pay increased salaries to the civil servants. There has also been the increased cost of commodities. When hon. members realise the extent to which purchases have to be made by the Government, they will see how easy it is for a large expenditure to be incurred in this connection. There were also other expenses which could not be controlled. Then there was the loss of revenue. Return No. 6 will show the details of these losses. There was also the failure of public utilities to reach the Estimates.

#### *Deficiency on Public Utilities.*

The total deficiency on public utilities was £714,800, railways, including sinking fund, £594,862; and water supply £155,631. There is some small consolation to be had from the fact that we have contributed largely to the sinking fund. Last year we contributed £342,277, equal to about half the deficit. There is also the interest on investments on account of sinking fund of £460,761, making a total improvement on account of sinking fund of £803,038. This exceeds last year's deficit by £116,313. I do not contend that the sinking fund has not to be paid. It has to be paid because we have agreed to pay it. The earnings I have mentioned in interest are the earnings of the sinking fund invested over many years. Return No. 4 shows the position regarding the deficit. On account of governmental there was a surplus of £28,074, the loss on public utilities was £714,800, and the net deficiency therefore was £686,726. I have divided the revenue and expenditure under two headings, governmental as distinct from public utilities. I will refer later on to the method of making up the accounts.

*Estimates for 1920-21.*

I anticipated last year that we would receive revenue to the amount of £6,606,404. We actually received £6,789,565, or an increase of £183,161. Details regarding the departments and the results will be seen on Return No. 2, which hon. members will find very useful. I over-estimated on account of revenue to the tune of £124,981. The chief items were as follows: probate duty £22,000, Commonwealth £12,000, land revenue £13,000, mining £5,000, railways £36,000, Yandanooka estate £8,000 and the Royal Mint £6,000. I also under-estimated to the tune of £308,142. The chief items were as follows: Income tax £59,000, dividend duty £100,000, timber £12,000, Colonial Secretary £10,000, tramways £11,000, electric works £10,000, Fremantle Harbour Trust £12,000, water supply and sewerage £17,000, and trading concerns £20,000. It will be seen that our revenue was better by £183,000 than was anticipated, but, notwithstanding that, we finished up with a deficit larger than was anticipated. I will briefly refer to the Estimates and actual expenditure. The estimated expenditure for 1920-21 was £7,005,817, and the actual expenditure £7,476,291, making an increase of £470,474. The details of this expenditure will be found on Return No. 3. I over-estimated the expenditure by £26,703. That is not a very great amount. Under special Acts I over-estimated that we would expend £20,000, on account of agriculture £1,000 and on the Yandanooka estate £4,500. I under-estimated the expenditure by £497,177. That is a more serious matter. In my own department I under-estimated to the extent of £12,000, in the Treasury £32,000, Lands £17,000, Education £34,000, Health £16,000, Colonial Secretary £27,000, Printing £17,000, Railways £237,000, Tramways £25,000, Electric Works £20,000, and Water Supply and Sewerage £21,000. Hon. members will see the particulars set out on Return No. 1.

*Increased Wages and Salaries.*

During the past two years we have had to face considerable increases in wages and salaries. In the railways we had to pay in 1919-20, increases to the amount of £250,000, and in 1920-21 £295,500, a total increase of £545,500. In the tramways for the former year we had to pay £10,200, and in the latter year £17,000, a total of £27,200. Under the heading of electricity supply we had to pay last year an increase of £2,100. In connection with our water supplies the increase was £7,000 for the former year and £24,000 for the latter, a total of £31,000. In the civil service there was an increase of £35,000 for the former year and £50,500 for the latter, making a total of £85,500. The teachers received in 1919-20 an increase of £24,000 and in the following year £60,000, a total of £84,000. The police received £15,000 and £7,600 respectively, making a total of £22,600; while on other accounts the increases

were £10,000 and £16,850 respectively, making a total of £26,850. Members will see that we are paying £824,750 per annum more under these headings than we were paying two years ago. It is due chiefly to these increases that the deficit is as large as it is. I hope the Committee will remember that we are paying these additional sums mainly because of arbitration awards and the reclassification of the service.

*Revised form of Estimates.*

I have, as hon. members will see on turning to the Estimates, slightly revised the form in which they appear. The previous method of showing the revenue and expenditure was misleading. The position I think ought to be defined under the headings of governmental and public utility, and the Estimates have been remodelled on this basis. Hon. members will see that there is in the Estimates a main general summary, a summary preceding governmental expenditure, and a summary preceding public utility expenditure. I think this form will be found convenient to members, and it should make the position more clear. Under the old system some departments showed their gross receipts, other departments, the Savings Bank, for instance, showed only the profits, and other departments such as the Harbour Boards, showed only the excess revenue after providing for interest and sinking fund. These various methods caused confusion. It is not right that we should regard as revenue money brought in as earnings from public utilities, when these earnings have cost us more than the amount we received. I think the system I have adopted is the right one, and I hope the Committee will agree with me on that point.

*Ministerial Control of Finances.*

The Government have absolute control over certain of our activities, but to a certain extent our public utilities are managed under Acts of Parliament; the Railways by a Commissioner, and the Harbour at Fremantle, for instance, by a board or Trust. The real financial position can, I think, now be more easily ascertained by members. Our total expenditure for 1920-21 was £7,476,291, but our governmental expenditure was only £3,002,302. Hon. members will find the particulars set out in Return No. 4. People say it is easy to economise, and they are apt to believe that the expenditure actually controlled by Ministers was the whole expenditure, in the present instance £7,500,000. If it were £7,500,000 there would have been no trouble about reducing it by a good round sum. The public have got into the way of believing that the whole expenditure of Government is upon the civil service. That is not the case at all. The total expenditure under the direct control of Ministers was £3,000,000. It embraced special Statute payments of £187,000, education



£490,000, charities £88,000, medical (including hospitals), homes for aged, etc., £169,000, police £175,000, lunacy £97,000, gaols £28,000, and aborigines £10,000, while it also included interest charges on loan works other than public utilities of £1,087,000. Ministers, therefore, really controlled an expenditure, apart from the management of public utilities, of something under £1,000,000, a very different figure to £7,500,000. There are other returns besides those I have mentioned, all being designed on simple lines with the object of giving the fullest possible information.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Who controls the expenditure of £1,000,000?

The PREMIER: Ministers do.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Who controls the expenditure of £3,000,000 on public utilities?

The PREMIER: The Ministers control them to a certain extent, but they are largely under Acts of Parliament: the Commissioner of Railways controls the Railways, and the Harbour Trust controls the harbour at Fremantle, for instance, as the hon. member knows. There are other Acts which place the control under certain boards and individuals.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You only get the surplus from the harbour boards and do not control them at all.

The PREMIER: We get the surplus from the Trust, but we get the reverse from the others.

#### *Estimated Revenue and Expenditure, 1921-22.*

The revenue and expenditure for 1921-22 is expected to be as follows: Governmental expenditure £1,898,428, expenditure under special Acts applicable to governmental £1,294,227, a total of £3,192,655, while the revenue is expected to be £3,194,371, which should leave a surplus under governmental of £1,716. That is the revenue apart from that received from public utilities. It seems to me we ought to make the expenditure under this heading balance itself.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You put that very nicely—"ought to."

The PREMIER: The figures did balance last year. I will show the hon. member just what happened last year when there was a surplus under this heading of £28,000. However, public utilities are expected to account this year for an expenditure of £3,048,339, and interest and sinking fund under special Acts debited to public utilities for £1,381,640, or a total of £4,429,979; and those public utilities are expected to produce a revenue of £3,856,539. I wish to point out that the expenditure on public utilities covers all charges—interest and sinking fund included, of course. It is expected that there will be for the current year a deficiency of £573,444 on public utilities, which leaves a shortage on the year's operations of £571,728. May I ask the attention of the Committee to this statement: The domestic expenditure, that is to say expenditure on Education, Medical

and Public Health, Police, Gaols, Lunacy, Charities, and Aborigines, will be for the current year £1,110,760. The revenue from those departments for the current year is estimated at £76,289, and from taxation we expect to get £1,033,000, or a total of £1,109,289. This represents the whole of our taxation, and the whole of the revenue earned by the departments which I have mentioned. It will be seen that expenditure under this heading will absorb not only the taxation and revenue, but will leave a deficiency of £1,471. In other words, the whole of our taxation, every penny of it, and more, goes to provide these services which I have mentioned, which are free services to the people, or almost exclusively free. We get this money by taxation, and we hand it back in this fashion, and there is not a penny for anything else from taxation. I do not know that this division has been made before.

Hon. P. Collier: You are always making new discoveries.

Mr. O'Loghlin: There was a time when we had no income taxation.

The PREMIER: I am pointing out that the expenditure on these services, which are free, or practically so, absorbs the whole of our taxation. Now, on administration the expenditure is £776,274, with a revenue of £1,318,036, leaving a surplus of £541,762. Under general, for interest and special Acts we require £1,294,227. While Parliamentary expenses are estimated at £11,394, there is a deficiency of £1,471 on the domestic section, which brings the total deficiency up to £1,307,092. Against this we have the surplus from administration of £541,762, and we shall get from the Commonwealth £582,345, and from the State trading concerns £184,701, or a total of £1,308,808, which shows a surplus on governmental activities of £1,716.

#### *Comparison with 1915-16.*

There was a time, of course, when the position was very much easier; and there was a time, too, when a return such as I have mentioned was published by my friends opposite. That was for the year 1915-16. That statement showed a governmental revenue of £2,488,088, and a governmental expenditure of £1,908,320, and an expenditure under special Acts of £648,368—not half as much as this year—and a deficiency of £68,600. Last year on governmental activities we had a revenue of £3,030,876, and we expended £3,002,802, and we had a surplus of £28,074. My friends showed in their year a revenue from public utilities very much less than ours, of course. Their revenue was £2,868,890, and their expenditure was £3,148,513, leaving a shortage of £279,623. The deficit for that year was £348,223. From public utilities we get in £3,758,682, and we expended on them £4,473,489, showing a shortage of £714,800. As I have already shown, that was accounted for by the higher cost of running the railways due to increased cost

of commodities and increased cost of wages and salaries. As a matter of fact, the deficit last year was £686,726, as against £348,223 in 1915-16. It will be seen that the loss on public utilities was about £435,000 greater than in the year which I have quoted, when my friends were in office. Now, the estimated revenue collection for the current year is £7,050,910. If hon. members will turn to returns 2 and 5 they will find the details. The estimated revenue is in excess of last year's collection by £261,345. It is divided up as follows:—Governmental £3,194,371, showing an increase of £163,495; and public utilities £3,856,539, showing an increase of £97,850. The principal increases will be—from taxation £78,000, from the Lands Department £25,000, Treasury £92,000, Electricity Supplies £11,600, Metropolitan Water Supply £12,600, Railways £69,000, and Tramways £30,000. The estimated expenditure for the current year is £7,622,638, and the details of this will be found in returns 3 and 5. The expenditure is in excess of last year's by £146,347, divided up as follows: Governmental £3,192,655, showing an excess of £189,853; and public utilities £4,429,983, showing a decrease of £43,506. "Governmental" includes interest and sinking fund on loan works other than public utilities. That, I think, ought to be kept apart. I want it to be clearly understood that the expenditure on public utilities includes interest and sinking fund. Now, it is true that Ministers are responsible for expenditure by all departments; but it must also be borne in mind that the permanent heads and under secretaries are responsible to the Ministers. We have a system which will keep them up to the mark, I think; and certainly the system will enable us to know from month to month just how every item of expenditure is being utilised. I believe that greater economy is now being practised in the Government departments than ever before. True, economy was never before so much needed; but I think I have shown that we are spending less this year than last year. There is, I believe, a desire on the part of the senior officials to economise, and to live within their votes. The principal increase is, naturally, the increase under special Acts, an increase of £259,000. When we remember that 10 years ago our interest and sinking fund bill was £1,046,237, and that it is now £2,229,282, we realise that in the past 10 years we have increased our expenditure under this head by £1,183,045. Naturally, the amount is increasing year by year; but we are to-day spending a great deal of money that will be paid for out of special Acts—on soldier settlement and in other ways. By the way, during the past two years most of our loan moneys have been expended on development of the land, and in such a way that interest will be paid by the users of the money. Now, the total of the deficit to the 1st July, 1920, was £4,086,705, and the deficit for 1920-21 amounted to £686,725, making a total deficit at the 30th June, 1921, of £4,773,430. I said

that I estimated the deficit for this year would be £571,728. I have pointed out how this deficit is made up. Of the total accumulated deficit we have funded £2,807,652. We have remaining unfunded an amount of £1,965,778.

#### *Reduction of the deficit.*

I know that we cannot face a deficit year by year. I want to make this point, however, that whilst I say the sinking fund has been part of our deficit, we are of course compelled to contribute to the sinking fund. We have agreed so to contribute, and we ought to do it; and our friends demand that we shall do it, as part of the compact which was made. However, if we could bring our deficit down to our sinking fund contribution, we should be in a very happy position. I admit that we cannot afford to continue to have even a deficit equal to our sinking fund contribution. What we must do is to ask ourselves how soon we can balance the ledger, and by what means we can balance it. I consider that this year we should endeavour to reduce our deficit to at least £200,000 less than last year's deficit. I think that we ought after this to endeavour to reduce our deficit by, say £100,000 per annum, so that in less than four years we might again balance the ledger. Hon. members will ask how this reduction of the deficit is to be accomplished. I have said that the Budget this year shows an estimated deficit of £571,728, and that it will take £89,000 more revenue or less expenditure, or some of each, to bring the deficit down to £482,000.

#### *Inquiry into public utilities.*

I propose to ask that there be an inquiry into the public utilities. This I think the Government are entitled to ask. The people are paying a great deal for those services. I mean that the revenue of the country is contributing a great deal towards the services rendered in the form of public utilities. When the inquiry has been made and the report has been received, then I must, if necessary, come down to this House with proposals designed to bring about the result which I have mentioned. I know that such a course is unusual, but hon. members will realise that the times are out of joint. I consider that Ministers are entitled to ask for an inquiry into the management of our public utilities. Largely that expenditure is under public Acts, but portion of it is, of course, contributed to by activities under the control of Ministers. While I do not doubt the ability of the Commissioner of Railways, or of others who are in control of these public utilities, still, further economies may be possible, and proposals may be made, as the result of the inquiry I suggest, for improving the financial results from the utilities. I believe that if we regard our timber as an asset, we shall be able to get more revenue from it. Probably we shall be able to get more revenue from various public utilities than we are now getting, if the course I sug-

gest is adopted. I should like the public to note that last year we bonded the users of our public utilities to the extent of £714,800. This sum, of course, was debited to revenue. I do not for a moment claim that development works can pay their way now, but I do say that the public ought to know what the position is. I contend that it ought to be determined whether such losses as we must make on these utilities can be met by additional taxation. I do not think we can cover the loss by additional taxation. There will be increased trade and a gradual improvement which will bring about in time, I hope, the balancing of the revenue and expenditure in connection with the public utilities. It is right that the House should know, and that the public should know, just what has happened in this regard.

#### *Public Works Committee.*

Members will know there is a proposal before the House to appoint a Parliamentary public works committee, to inquire into and report not only in connection with those matters I have referred to, but in connection with all public works. What we want to know is: Are these undertakings well managed generally in the interests of the State and for the development of the State as a whole. We want to know if trade will be restored and when. We want to know whether we are making the fullest possible use of our public utilities, of our railways and harbours, and if the methods of fixing freights and charges are sound. It may be that some members will want to know whether the land adjacent to railways can be further developed or whether the land at present is being sufficiently developed. We will want to know what is needed to correct the position. So far as I can see, if we could have another million acres under wheat crops, it would go a long way towards restoring our natural progress. It may be that the position can be improved by repurchase or by resumption of the land adjacent to the railways, or it may mean taxation to secure the land being used, or it may be by other means that we will see that the land is brought into fuller use. We will want to know if it is possible for other industries to be established adjacent to our railways. If it is possible to establish them, we should arrange for that to be done because it is of the utmost importance that our railways should come much nearer to balancing than they do now without the necessity for increasing freights and charges. Then there is the question to be considered: Can mining be developed? We want to know if the output can be increased. Is there anything more that can be done to increase the output of gold and copper, tin or lead as well? We want to know if the sandalwood trade can be restored. That trade gave us very fair revenue in former years. Policy does govern the position so far as the management of some of these concerns goes, and I have told the House what that policy is.

#### *Position of Public Utilities.*

That policy, in connection with our public utilities, cost us £714,800 last year, and this year I estimate it will cost us £573,444. We always talk about business management, but if we were to apply cold-blooded business methods and said that these things must pay their way and the revenue meet the expenditure, the position of the users of these concerns would be materially altered. We do apply a policy of control to these concerns, and it is a developmental policy. I have said that the Governmental revenue must balance with the expenditure. I believe that the public utilities could balance if we liked to increase the fares and freights. But would it be wise to do so? It would be a very simple matter if we charged the users of our railways as much per ton as it cost us to haul their goods per mile, but that policy would be against the development of the State. There are many returns dealing with the public utilities, and I hope hon. members will study them closely. I do not believe these developmental concerns can pay at the present stage. If we were to endeavour to make them pay to-day, it would be at the cost of further development. We have to see that our producers are as favourably placed in order to compete in the markets of the world, as the producers elsewhere. So it is that we have lost year by year on the operations of our railways, and until we increase our trade and tonnage, we must continue to lose on those operations. It is important that this matter should be decided. I believe it would be better to spend a very considerable sum in setting up new industries and increasing the production of the State, than to continue losing considerable sums on these concerns without the necessary development being achieved.

#### *Revenue from Trading Concerns.*

It will be seen that the revenue from the trading concerns last year amounted to £187,342. I estimate that the revenue this year will amount to £184,701, largely, of course, comprised of recoups on account of interest and sinking fund. I do not anticipate there will be a profit to that amount; it will be almost all recoup. We have capital to the extent of £2,125,631 invested in these trading concerns. It is an enormous sum and I think hon. members will realise that it is a sum that cannot be made up by many of them. The Wyndham Meat Works is one particularly expensive item and just at present those works are closed down, showing, of course, a very considerable loss for the year.

#### *Government Property Sale Fund.*

Members will see from the returns that there is a considerable revenue and expenditure to be charged against the Government Property Sales Fund. This fund is made up from revenue, to some extent and from loan, to some

extent. That is to say, money has been invested in loan and has been returned to this fund; money has been invested in other directions and it comes back to this fund in many ways. For instance, it comes back by way of sales of material purchased for works which, when completed, are sold and returned to the fund. On June 30, 1920, there was a total of £159,478 credited to this fund. The total receipts for the financial year 1920-21 amounted to £74,951, made up of £62,900, on account of loan and £12,051 on account of revenue and trust funds. For last year, we paid away £91,110, leaving a balance to the credit of the fund as at the 30th June, 1921, of £143,319. Provision is made for the expenditure of £130,067 from this fund during the present year.

#### *Loan Expenditure.*

Regarding loan expenditure, last year's expenditure amounted to £2,586,404. Members will see in return No. 12 how that expenditure is debited. They will see that railways are debited with £146,000, tramways and power house, with £53,000, water supply with £194,000, and other utilities with £66,000. The greatest expenditure was on account of soldier settlement which represented an outlay of £1,528,000, and through the Agricultural Bank, £152,000. Other items covered comprise the following: State trading concerns, £95,000; harbours, £72,000; goldfields, £44,000; public buildings, £25,000; and roads and bridges, £32,000. A great deal of the money spent on soldier settlement and by the Agricultural Bank will earn its own interest. This represents money advanced to individuals who pay interest which will cover the interest which the State pays on the money so advanced. This form of expenditure should commend itself to all people, because by this expenditure, we will secure increased revenue for our public utilities.

#### *Loan Authorisations and Flotations.*

We have loan authorisations and flotations as follow: Total authorisations, £55,300,000; flotations, £49,934,000, leaving available for flotation a sum of £5,366,000. These borrowings cost us in 1920-21 interest totalling £1,913,628 and payments on account of sinking fund £315,654, making a total of £2,229,282. For the present year 1921-22, the estimated figures are: interest £2,165,862 and sinking fund £317,929, making a total of £2,483,791. There is a considerable increase due largely to the expenditure on soldier settlement. Of the £49,934,000 we have invested in public utilities, £27,780,130 and in trading concerns, £2,125,631. Of the balance at least £9,000,000 is earning or should earn interest in the future. We have funded deficits amounting to £2,807,652. There are, of course, some works which are not directly reproductive and work of that description has been undertaken every year since we

first started borrowing. On the other hand, the amount involved in such works is not very great. The gross public debt as at the 30th June, 1920, amounted to £46,822,003. I have explained that there has been during the past year a considerable increase in the loan expenditure. We secured an advance from the Commonwealth amounting to £2,039,883 on account of soldier settlement which naturally forms the greater portion of the increased loan indebtedness for the past 12 months. We have authority to borrow £5,366,000. We have borrowed £2,000,000 in London on Treasury bills at 5 per cent. discount per annum plus 3s. per cent. as interest. I think it can be contended that the money borrowed and invested in this State has been well invested and it is represented by works which are worth more than the total loan indebtedness. There are people who continually decry the financial position of the country, but they forget that we own these concerns, that we own a great mileage of railways, harbours, and a great many other public works all of which are certainly worth as much as they have cost us. There has been a small amount year after year during the past 30 years spent on non-reproductive work, such as the rabbit-proof fence, but, as I have already indicated, the total of that expenditure is not very great. We should be perfectly satisfied that we have secured value for the money we owe. I have referred to revenue from taxation and I have told hon. members just where it goes. We expect that the dividend duty will decrease this year to the extent of £65,000. Last year was a particularly good one, but this year we do not expect to receive so much from that source. We expect to receive altogether from taxation about £68,000 less than we received last year.

#### *New Taxation.*

We propose that there shall be some new taxation which will bring in £110,000. I refer to additional taxation on liquor sales. A proposal will be brought down in due course to effect the change. Instead of charging a license fee, we propose to charge a percentage on the liquor consumed. This will bring us in a considerable sum over and above that which we receive at present, namely, £40,000, represented by licensing fees. Under the new system we propose we should receive £150,000. When it is remembered that the amount of money received for the sale of liquor by retailers is well over £3,000,000 per annum, I do not think it is too much to ask that we should receive £150,000 for the right to use the State monopoly. It is a State monopoly and we have licensed certain people to sell liquor. They should pay us in return for that monopoly something more, at any rate, than they have paid us in the past. I do not quite know what the total would be that would be received from the right to sell liquor for the first 20 years, but it should mean a considerable amount more than we

have received in the past. I hope the House will agree to that proposal, because it will mean between £40,000 and £150,000 from this source.

#### *The Sinking Fund.*

I want to refer to our sinking fund. We have contributed from revenue £1,767,693; interest on these investments amounts to £1,992,124, and discounts on purchases, etc., £899,232, or a total of £7,659,054. This money is invested in our own stocks to the extent of £6,265,369, and in other stocks to the extent of £1,376,195. The contributions for last year totalled £342,277, and the interest on investments and discounts amounted to £460,761. The total sinking fund improvement for the year was £803,038. During the last 10 years our sinking fund has improved by the amount of £5,178,106. During the same period the deficit has been £4,786,728, or less than the total amount of the sinking fund by £391,378. This sinking fund has to be kept intact and it will help to balance the ledger without our having to make any payment. It is well that this should be known, because there are so many croakers who go about the country saying that the position is so much worse. As a matter of fact it is no worse than it is in other parts of the world. For instance, there is hardly a railway company in the world that can be said to be paying its way at the present time. In Australia alone the losses on the railway systems are considerable. I believe also that the Canadian, South African, and British railways are not paying at the present time. We often have our financial position compared with the financial position of the rest of Australia. I would point out that whilst the other five States had a sinking fund totalling £4,932,080 at the 30th June, 1920, Western Australia's sinking fund totalled at the end of the same period £6,848,826. Whilst during the past 10 years the other five States contributed between them a sum of £2,377,736 towards the sinking fund, Western Australia contributed an amount totalling £4,293,513. It will be seen, therefore, that the sinking fund set aside by Western Australia is much greater than the sinking fund set aside by all the other States of Australia put together, and those States are borrowing seven or eight times more than we are doing.

#### *Imports and Exports.*

I would like to refer to the industrial and commercial position. The imports for the year 1919-20 totalled £12,368,331, while in the year 1920-21 the figures were £14,851,051. This increase is due, of course, to some extent to the increase in the cost of products. Our exports, excluding gold, for the year 1919-20 amounted to £12,619,962, and for 1920-21 the total was £10,442,220. Unfortunately, there is a difference of over two millions, whilst the increase in the imports was also considerably over two millions.

Gold shows a considerable decrease in 1920-21 over the previous year. The figures for last year were £1,369,234, while those for 1919-20 were £3,448,828. The clearing house figures from the 1st January to the 1st August, 1920, were £47,739,972, while for the corresponding period of this year the total was £40,558,304, a decline of £7,181,668. I merely point to these figures as an indication of the loss of trade we have suffered during the past 12 months.

#### *The North-West.*

During the year we established a department to control the North-West. It is not a very expensive department, but its activities should be fairly considerable. Hon. members know there is not a very great annual expenditure in connection with the North-West, though there has been of course considerable capital expended there. The department was created in December of last year, and it will be worked in co-relation with other departments. There are special conditions applying to the North-West that do not apply to other parts of the State. I visited a portion of the North-West in May of this year, and I can say that until I went there I had no idea of the magnitude of that part of Western Australia, or of its possibilities, and I fear that, in common with most other members, I had not very much idea of what could be done there until I visited the place. It is true that I had not a great opportunity to see as much of the country as I would have liked, because of the floods, but I did look fairly closely into the pearling industry and the coastal industries. We have appointed a resident Commissioner, Mr. Brockman, who commenced his duties in August, and who is now engaged on an extended tour of inspection with Mr. Tindale, the engineer for the North-West.

Hon. P. Collier: Are there any more of that family left, because I see there is a vacancy advertised in the Northern Territory?

The PREMIER: Mr. Brockman will take over the responsibilities of the Works Department in the North-West. He will have power to deal with minor matters at once. Questions of any importance will, of course, be referred to the Minister. The Loan Estimates will provide funds for works which will be under the direction of the Commissioner. Special attention will be paid to tropical agriculture. It is necessary that we should produce such things as bananas, pineapples, peanuts, and other articles of tropical production, more especially since the Federal Government have increased the duties so considerably. What we propose to do is to get enough men there to produce for the requirements of Western Australia. It is doubtful whether we shall be able to produce enough tropical produce for export. Areas are to be selected and surveyed at once, and an instructor will be appointed shortly.

### *The Kimberleys.*

We have been exploring in the Kimberleys lately. Mr. Easton is there at the present time and we expect his report shortly. I believe it will contain useful information. The vast areas of country which he is inspecting should be brought to use. The locating of a suitable harbour is another important matter, which is engaging attention there. Pedigreed shorthorn cattle are being provided for Moola Bulla and for Ascot, and their progeny will be available to pastoralists. This will mean an improvement of stock breeds. A number of people travel through the North-West, and except in very few places there are no hotels at which those people can stay. Something should be done to provide accommodation in the way of overland shelters. We are supposed to have considerable areas of pine forests in the Kimberleys. These forests are being investigated and I hope they will be worked before very long. Altogether there is great scope for the newly appointed Commissioner.

### *Education.*

With regard to education, we spent last year £490,160, while this year it is expected that we shall spend £529,946, an increase of £39,786. This increase is largely accounted for by salaries, which last year were not paid because of the strike, as well as payments at the Narrogin Farm School, new schools, and an increased staff. We do not propose anything new in connection with this department except expenditure on such schools as are already in existence or expenditure on small schools which must be opened. There are 684 schools open, and the number of children attending those schools is just approaching 50,000. The Royal Commission which sat recently reported that, "having made full inquiry . . . we are convinced that the department's estimates cannot be regarded as affording opportunity for material reduction." The Commission also urged, subject to financial circumstances, the establishment of an agricultural college and the extension of educational facilities for the adolescent. There is no chance of creating that agricultural college, nor of extending our system of education, but what we must do is to keep the present system going, and that is being done this year by the additional expenditure of £39,786.

### *The Land Policy.*

I would like to refer now to our land policy. We have sold 9,197,099 acres, under C.P. conditions we have disposed of 7,544,062 acres, under grazing lease 5,887,426 acres, and under pastoral lease 254,688,287 acres. There are still in the hands of the Crown 342 million acres of pastoral lands and 26,500,000 acres in the south-western part of the State. Of course the pastoral areas quoted—perhaps not more than one-half would be suitable at the present time for leasing and for develop-

ment as pastoral holdings. In the South-West we still have a considerable area of land to sell. During the past two years we have inspected about 170 million acres of our pastoral land. These inspections are made in order that the land may be appraised under the amended Land Act. Last year 45 million acres were inspected in the North-West. We anticipate before long completing this inspection and completing also the appraisal of our pastoral leases. To date we have appraised 87 million acres, and for this year 75 million acres. A number of appeals have been lodged against the appraisal. Of these the board has heard 103, while 56 more are pending. We have classified also a great deal of land between the outer edge of the eastern wheat belt and the rabbit-proof fence. In all 4,750,000 acres have been classified, 660,000 being first class, and 600,000 second class. We are inspecting land from Southern Cross southwards. I do not know whether those lands will prove fit for settlement as wheat farms, but certainly we ought to get many grazing farms in that district. We propose to survey forest land between Burracoppin and Westonia. We have surveyed a considerable area at Esperance. A number of blocks are already open, and a number in course of survey. About 400 in all will be surveyed. We have surveyed 1,000 blocks in the South-West. All this work has meant considerable expenditure. Last year we dealt with 2,620 applications for 1,468,046 acres of rural land, as against 2,870 applications for 1,726,505 acres this year. Last year we sold town and suburban blocks to the number of 797, whereas this year we have sold 1,066 blocks. Applications for pastoral leases last year numbered 290, comprising 18,961,478 acres, whereas this year there have been 335 applications for 20,308,474 acres. These increases are very gratifying, and will mean a great deal to the State. I should like to see the whole of the pastoral areas of the North allocated to cultivation. We have surveyed this year 926,824 acres as against 785,307 acres last year.

### *The Agricultural Bank and the I.A.B.*

The Agricultural Bank has outstanding £2,983,287. There are 8,044 clients, the average advance outstanding being £371. The Industries Assistance Board, which was established to assist the farmers through a period of drought, is now being used to advance to our soldiers. The Act lends itself to that work. The indebtedness on the 31st March last was £1,317,514. Since then we have received £736,174, so that the net indebtedness is really £581,340. We have an estimated equity in wheat pools of £272,000. The area under crop by board clients is 588,154 acres, and we expect to get from the crop at least £1,400,000. Since its inception in 1914 the board has paid Government departments £880,824. Sometimes we discuss the amount owing by the board's

clients to outside creditors. It is a serious matter for the creditors, because they have had to wait all these years for their money. Their original claim was £678,228. They have been paid £334,595, and they have outstanding £343,633. I should be glad if this could be paid off. Those creditors have been very patient. As the result of the board's work they have received a considerable sum of money which otherwise they would not have got. Since the inception of the board the assisted settlers have produced and delivered to pools nearly 20 million bushels of wheat, worth £4,964,682. So it will be seen that the board's work has been very beneficial to the State. Of course it has been particularly helpful to the assisted farmers, but also the £5,000,000 has been very useful to the State. Most of the farmers under the board have made big efforts, and before very long the great majority of them will be free of the board. Many of them have paid off their accounts, men whose positions seemed quite hopeless a few years ago. If it were not for the amount owing to the outside creditors, the general position would be very satisfactory. In the early stages of the board's experience necessarily some losses were made, but to-day all current accounts are quite sound. I do not know how far we shall be able to meet the claims of outside creditors out of the coming crop, but I hope to see a material reduction in the aggregate amount.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will make no advances for bulk handling until the claims of outside creditors have been met?

The PREMIER: The claims of outside creditors must come first. Their position must not be prejudiced in the slightest degree. No assistance will be given to the elevator company without the authority of the House. I hope the company will get into operation and will prove successful even if they should require a little assistance under the I.A.B. My friend will have an opportunity for approving or disapproving before any money is paid over, and I can assure him that the position of the outside creditors will not be in the least degree prejudiced by assistance rendered to the bulk handling scheme.

#### *Soldier Settlement.*

On the settlement of soldiers we have spent, from the Agricultural Bank £3,227,471, and through the Lands Department £658,326, or a total of £3,885,797. In all 4,091 soldiers have been settled. We have approved expenditure by the Agricultural Bank to the total of £3,919,556, and our total commitments under all headings for soldier settlement amount to £4,577,882. The average commitment per head is £1,118, but this includes all expenditure on work in connection with settlement, such as drainage etc. We shall settle our men in this State at about an average per head of £1,100, which will compare favourably with the cost of settling soldiers on the land in any other part of Australia. It is

true that Queensland has settled 4,310 men, but many of them are on comparatively small holdings. Our soldiers are doing well, many of them remarkably well. During this week-end I saw a number of them and their holdings. They will be a great asset to the State. I doubt if any other 4,000 men in Western Australia are working as hard as those 4,000 soldiers.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It would have been better if 2,000 of them had been on Crown land.

The PREMIER: I admit that. It would be even a greater advantage to have 2,000 other people on Crown land. It was impossible to put the soldiers on Crown land, because no preparation had been made for them when they returned. Apart from that, it was decided that they should be settled as near as possible to the districts whence they enlisted. The Agricultural Department has been reorganised to a considerable extent. Some savings have been made, and the accountancy has been placed under the Lands Department. It is proposed to appoint three qualified assistant agricultural advisers for outside advice on holdings. If anything is wanted in our State, settled as it is largely by men who went on their holdings with but very little agricultural experience, it is this advice which it is now proposed to supply. In addition to the three qualified assistant advisers, the Minister for Agriculture intends to appoint some boys who can be trained to assist in this work.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Minister for Agriculture is a very good man.

The PREMIER: I agree with that. The expenditure of the department will not be much increased by these changes. While we shall be able to proffer advice to a greater extent than before, there will be fewer clerks employed.

#### *The Wheat Belt.*

On the wheat belt the area under crop this year is approximately 1,850,000 acres. It would have been greater but for the rain that fell in the early part of the year. We expect to have at least 13,000,000 bushels of wheat. Personally, I think it will be considerably more than that. There has been a considerable increase in the area under wheat, about 100,000 acres. There has been an increase in development all along the line, accompanied by increased values in the farms. Much good work has been done by the department in inducing farmers to adopt improved methods of cultivation and to sow better wheats. This year the green feed is abundant. But for the difficulty in connection with the Fremantle Meat Works, we should have had a considerable trade in the export of frozen lambs. In the South-West there is a great deal to be done. We have spent a considerable amount in the development of the South-West during the past year. There must be drainage before there can be

irrigation. We propose to assist farmers in their draining by making available for hire a ditching machine. We have experimented with bottle brush country near Albany. If the experiment proves satisfactory, it will serve to bring a very large area of land cheaply under cultivation. The dairy expert is of opinion that we shall be producing sufficient butter for our own use within the next four years. I hope we shall. It is not much to our credit that we are not doing it now. Last year the butter factories distributed £150,000, and it is expected that this year the amount will show an increase of 20 per cent. Butter and bacon factories and farm butter have produced over £250,000 worth. Factories are now open at Northam, Narrogin, Gnowangerup and Albany, and a new factory will open at Geraldton within a few days. Cream is being supplied to these factories by 2,000 farmers. The little Government butter factory at Busselton produced 130 tons of butter last year and made a profit of £1,352, which was unusual for a Government concern.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Where do they procure the butter used at Parliament House?

The PREMIER: I do not know. Ask the Speaker.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is not so good as the Bunbury butter.

The PREMIER: The area under fruit is increasing. Last year 22,792 acres produced  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million cases, valued at £707,658. We exported only 187,905 cases, because the refrigerating space available was so short. I hope that shipping will be more plentiful in the coming year and that we shall be able to send away much more fruit. It is important that we should bring money into the State by every possible means. If we can export our fruit and get cash for it, so much the better for all the people of this State. We have experienced trouble in past years owing to the rabbits having destroyed considerable areas of crop. This year very little crop has been destroyed. I do not know what has happened to the rabbits, but there appears to be a marked decrease in their numbers. Wild dogs are much in evidence and, as it is impossible to get wire netting to protect the sheep, a number of farmers have had to go without stock. There has been a great saving to the State by reason of the production of high class sheep for the North-West; 4,000 rams were sent to the North from the Great Southern, while 2,000 more were imported. The fall in the price of wool has been a serious matter, but the position in this connection is improving. I hope that the freezing works which have been erected at Fremantle and Carnarvon will be able to commence operations before very long. At the moment the cost of operating these works would be too great to admit of profitable working, because the price of meat is so low. This state of affairs will not last, however, and these works should be in operation before long.

### *Wheat Production and Pool Returns.*

I have already referred to the area of land alienated. The total area of land improved is 7,573,453 acres, of which 4,672,398 acres have been cleared. We have under wheat this year about 1,545,026 acres, or 100,000 acres more than last year. I have quoted these figures to show that we have not improved the lands which have been sold to anything like their full extent. It would be a simple matter in the near future to double the area cleared and even to double the area under crop. It ought not to require any great effort or any great period of time to accomplish this, and if it were done I am sure that our financial troubles would be over. The wheat pool has been established for six years, during which times there has been delivered to the pool 64,281,076 bushels of wheat and certificates have been issued and payments made to the amount of £16,277,987. The interesting part of this statement is the estimate that the amount still to come from the pool to the growers of this State is approximately £1,750,000.

The Minister for Agriculture: That represents the equity remaining.

The PREMIER: Yes, and it is a very large sum. I hope that this money will be forthcoming soon. The Australian wheat pool has been closed down and as soon as the wheat on hand is sold this money should come to our farmers. The payment of such a large amount to the farmers of this State would make a very considerable difference to the position here.

### *Railways, Tramways, and Water Supplies.*

I have discussed the position of the railways at great length already, but I want to impress upon members that our railway operations last year cost the State a very considerable sum of money. The total deficit for the year is due to the loss on our invested money and a great portion of it is due to the loss on the railways. Last year the railways cost the State no less than £594,862; this year it is estimated that they will cost the State £404,700, or an improvement over last financial year of £190,000. It is reasonable, of course, to expect that the tonnage carried over the railways will increase considerably year by year. Last year, however, the increase in tonnage over the previous 12 months was only 5,000 tons. This is explained by the fact that a great deal of the wheat and wool produced last year is still in the country. The railways have had to meet tremendous increases in working expenses made up of higher wages and higher cost of fuel and materials totalling in all £392,500. I believe that we in this State pay several shillings a ton more for coal than the Government of New South Wales. Last year the tramways showed a loss of £3,031, but this year it is estimated that they will make a profit of £7,855. The goldfields water scheme naturally is suffering by reason of the closing down of some of the mines. Last year the scheme returned a revenue of £195,975, while this



year the estimated revenue is £180,850, or a decrease of £15,125. Owing to the slump in mining the mines at Kalgoorlie and Kanowna will pay much less for water than they did in the previous year. The water shortage in the metropolitan area will, I think, be met by the success of the bores at Osborne Park, which will yield an extra supply of over four million gallons per day during the coming summer.

#### *Mineral Production.*

The gold production has been a magnificent thing for Western Australia. To the end of August the gold produced was valued at £144,836,674. Coal of an aggregate value of £2,939,912 has been produced in Western Australia, and it is worthy of note that the year 1920 showed an increased value for the 12 months of nearly £80,000. The total of other mineral production to the end of August last was £7,702,817, all of which has meant work for a considerable number of men. Though the number of employees is smaller than in the palmy days, our mining industry is still a magnificent thing for the State. Western Australia continues to produce more gold than all the rest of the Commonwealth put together. Unfortunately, the yield is decreasing to some extent. During the 12 months ended December last the gold production was valued at £2,624,427, while during the eight months ended August, 1921, the value was £1,482,520. Our production of copper, lead, and other minerals has assisted to make up some small portion of the decreased gold output, but of course not anything like sufficient to counterbalance the shortage. Asbestos is now being produced, and to date between £5,000 and £6,000 worth has been sold. It is hoped that this industry will do something for Western Australia. I do not know that I can say much about the oil prospecting in the Kimberley country and at Bremer Bay, except that I hope that oil will be discovered speedily and as speedily worked. Many licenses to search have been issued, and many prospecting parties are out. We assist many prospecting parties who go out in search of gold and other minerals. I do not know whether the coal on the Irwin will prove as good as the coal at Collie, but if it does we shall be able to save a considerable sum of money in connection with the running of our railways in the north. Last year we advanced £35,206 for the development of mining as against £25,024 in the previous year. Our State batteries have done a great deal towards opening up the mining resources of this country, and we have spent a tremendous amount of money in this direction. There are 28 batteries operating which to the end of 1920 represented a capital expenditure of £384,577. We have lost on working £91,790, but when it is remembered that the output has represented no less than £5,433,463, it will be admitted that we have been compensated to some extent for the loss incurred. It is hoped that shortly a battery will be in operation at St. Ives.

#### *Public Service.*

I have already told the Committee that I believe the administration of the Civil Service on the part of the higher officials is very much keener than it was formerly. Ministers of course have to control the departments, but they have to control them through the members of the senior staff. I believe that a wrong system had grown up in the Public Service, in that senior officers ceased to control to the extent expected of them. This was no doubt due to the frequent changes in Government. Too often it appeared there was an idea that there was no very great need to pay serious attention to the criticism of a Minister because the idea seemed prevalent that the Minister would go first and before there would be time to get rid of the officials at fault. Officers must get this idea out of their minds. They must realise that even though there might be frequent changes, government will continue. Ministers cannot satisfactorily manage the departments except through the senior staff, and unless the members of the senior staff are capable, we can achieve very little in the way of reorganisation or economy. Let me say that these officers are doing their work as never before. If senior men prove incapable of doing all they should do, they will have to make way for others. We can submit to having our departments controlled only by men who are interested and capable.

#### *Development of Secondary Industries.*

Secondary industries have shown an appreciable development during the past year. We have cement works established and doing well for the State. We have asbestos sheet and slate works; we are making cement pipes and we have glass bottle works. These works distribute £108,000 annually in wages and use material of a value of over £150,000. It is interesting to note that secondary industries are springing up in this State. We cannot afford to put all our eggs in one basket. It is very much better that there should be a spread of industry. Personally I am very glad to find these industries making their appearance, and even if they do mean an increase in the number of people who live in the city, I hope they will mean a decrease in our importations from Eastern Australia. What we desire is to manufacture so far as we possibly can all our own requirements.

#### *Immigration.*

The immigration policy is naturally a very important one to this State because there is great need for development in Western Australia. We are limited of course by finance. I think the Federal Government should remember that their taxation is severely handicapping our opportunities. It is true that the development of the State and the responsibility for building up the population devolves upon the State. The cost of all this is borne by the State. The advantage, how-

ever, is very much with the Federal Government. If Australia is to be developed, it must be developed by the States, and therefore the Federal Government should share in the cost. We cannot borrow large sums of money for development purposes without seriously handicapping our finances. What we are asking the Federal Government to do is to share the burden of interest over the first few years of settlement of people on the land. If the Commonwealth would put up one half of the interest which we would have to pay for the money needed, I think we could afford to pay the other half and to wait the four or five years before getting any great return from the money. When we settle people on the land, especially in the South-West, we have to wait a considerable time before we get any return from the money expended. I believe that the Federal Government will consent to take some share of this burden. If they do, it will mean that we shall be able to do very much more in the way of immigration than we are doing now. Under existing conditions, the cost is all with the State while the benefit is with the Federal Government. As a matter of fact a man cannot escape contributing to the Commonwealth revenue five minutes after he lands in Western Australia. The first cup of tea or glass of beer he drinks means a contribution to the Commonwealth Government, whereas the State advantage comes only after years of work and great expenditure from the State funds. I have nothing more to say upon the financial position.

#### *General.*

In conclusion I should like to repeat that but for strikes and other troubles last year our deficit would not have exceeded £400,000. Any increase in production from the soil will mean an increase in our railway earnings. The area under crop has increased, and our wheat yield promises well. Our timber trade may be regarded as normal, but our other primary industries are under a cloud. The copper output has been reduced, sandalwood and pearl shell are practically unsaleable, and it is almost impossible to sell any meat outside the State. Wool has been selling at a low price, and generally speaking trade has been bad. The position is improving so far as the price of wool is concerned, and matters are looking more promising in other directions. I do not suppose we shall be able to export any meat from either the Wyndham, Fremantle or Carnarvon works. I do not know what will happen with regard to pearl shell or sandalwood. No one can say. I believe that ordinary trade will gradually improve and that our industries will by degrees look up. For the past six months merchants and storekeepers have been reducing their stocks. The public have been on strike against purchasing at these prices, and will not buy unless they must do so. Whilst this may be said to be good for the country it is certainly bad for our revenue, for railways and taxation. There

is some hope that there will be an increase in the coal bunkering trade from Collie. Every effort must be made to develop that trade. I do not know whether our lead and copper mines will be working soon, but we sincerely hope this will be the case. We can, I suppose, do something to restore activity in the sandalwood and pearl shell industry; at all events we hope to do so.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If you keep on in that strain you will be called a pessimist.

The PREMIER: I am merely setting out the facts. Last year we spent a great deal of money in preparing land for settlement, which is proceeding apace. New pastoral areas are being leased, and large areas are being cleared in the wheat belt. There is active settlement going on in the South-West.

#### *Local Manufactures.*

I am also informed that the output of our butter and bacon factories has largely increased, and that new factories are being opened up. Manufactures are being established and increasing in number. An important factor that is operating against us is our imports from the Eastern States. Last year we imported from that source £7,619,703 worth of goods, and only sold to them £1,332,415 worth of goods. It ought not to be necessary to import so much into Western Australia, and the difference between the imports and the exports is altogether too great. Probably the increase in the imports from the Eastern States is due in a great measure to the increased value of many of the articles brought in. Gradually we are producing and manufacturing more and more of our requirements, but we are going along too slowly. Our public utilities are capable of much greater activity if the demand is put upon them. If we could only use them to a greater extent the future would be assured. The difficulty is to stand the strain until the change occurs.

#### *The Work of the Government.*

I claim that the Government have done satisfactory work during the past year. Our soldier settlement scheme has been well managed and employment has been fairly well provided. Land settlement has been active and land improvement progressive, whilst the departments have responded to the tightening up of control. We have perhaps given too much in free services. Finance has been and is very difficult. We are paying by way of increased wages and salaries £824,750 a year more than we were paying two years ago. I desire to acknowledge the work and the help that has been accorded to the Government by members of this Chamber. It is only right that the State should be assisted as far as possible by every hon. member. It is, however, unusual to find so much assistance accorded to the Government from all sides of the House and from every party represented in it. It is right, of course, that members should concern themselves closely

with our financial position and our work of development. It is not possible for the public to have a very wide and general knowledge of public affairs, because they have little opportunity afforded to them of studying the question. On the other hand, we have our reports and we have our officials, and we know what is going on.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have some of our reports.

The PREMIER: The public have not any of them.

Hon. P. Collier: We have had a budget of them to-day.

The PREMIER: The hon. member has quite enough to keep him going for the next three months.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I want to see some reports that we have not had for two or three years.

The PREMIER: The public cannot clearly understand the financial position from the published returns. Least of all can they understand how it is we have this deficit. I have endeavoured to explain this evening that one must expect criticism. I believe the Government have succeeded in doing as well as could be done the work expected of them. Our soldier settlement scheme has been well managed and successfully carried out. Men have been kept employed, and our management of affairs has I feel been satisfactory. There remains, however, this deficit, due to the causes I have set forth, and to the position being what it is. There is undoubtedly a falling off in trade, and there has been a decrease in activities in many directions due to the fact that we cannot export much of the material we have been in the habit of doing. I suppose no one can control that. I do not object to criticism. We have our critics; we must have them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Monger provides them.

The PREMIER: Some of our critics would no doubt be more useful if they were better informed. I do not know how that difficulty is to be got over. In this great and free country everyone believes that they are perfectly competent to criticise Government, Ministers and members of Parliament. When I meet some of these people I am reminded by them that all the fools are not in Parliament.

Hon. P. Collier: That is a nasty one. It is true, too.

The PREMIER: I do claim that as far as has been possible we have conducted the affairs of the country on economic and satisfactory lines. We have done the best that it has been possible to do for the people, and if we have not succeeded in pleasing them we have at all events tried to do our duty by them. I know it has been impossible to carry on during the past year or so as satisfactorily in some directions as was possible in the years that have gone before. That was only to be expected. We are bound to suffer in some respect or other as the result of the war. We are being affected by the aftermath of the war. We have to pay dearly for the war and we are still paying for it. How long we shall have to go on paying I am unable to say. The people of this country are striving to get back to normal conditions. That is not easy to do. The financial position throughout the world is so upside down at the moment that it is almost impossible to restore trade to its old prosperity. I have pleasure in moving the first item of the Estimates—

Legislative Council, £975.

Progress reported, and leave asked to sit again on the 4th October.

[Return No. 1.]

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1920-21, COMPARED WITH THE ESTIMATE.

REVENUE.						£	£
The actual amount received was	...	...	...	...	...	6,789,565	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	...	...	...	...	...	6,606,404	
Or a total net under-estimate of	...	...	...	...	...		183,161
EXPENDITURE.						£	£
The actual amount expended was	...	...	...	...	...	7,476,291	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	...	...	...	...	...	7,005,817	
Or a net under-estimate of	...	...	...	...	...		470,474

## DETAILS.

HEADS.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Over-Estimate.	Under-Estimate.	Over-Estimate.	Under-Estimate.
<b>TAXATION—</b>	£	£	£	£
Land Tax ...	...	7,791	...	...
Licenses ...	...	1,020	...	...
Income Tax ...	...	59,320	...	...
Dividend Duty ...	...	99,969	...	...
Totalisator Tax ...	...	7,447	...	...
Stamp Duty ...	2,596	...	...	...
Probate Duty ...	22,593	...	...	...
Commonwealth ...	11,856	...	...	...
<b>TERRITORIAL, ETC.—</b>				
Land Revenue ...	13,638	...	...	...
Mining ...	5,082	...	...	...
Timber ...	...	11,796	...	...
Law Courts ...	...	2,710	...	...
<b>DEPARTMENTAL—</b>				
Premier ...	...	...	...	12,782
Colonial Treasurer ...	16,983	...	...	32,720
Minister for Lands ...	...	1,806	...	17,454
Minister for Mines ...	...	1,888	...	5,884
Minister for Mines—Woods and Forests ...	...	829	...	2,374
Minister for Education ...	...	1,635	...	34,038
Minister for Agriculture ...	390	...	1,359	...
Minister for Public Health ...	...	2,536	...	16,652
Attorney General ...	...	187	...	3,782
Colonial Secretary ...	...	10,640	...	27,871
Minister for Works ...	...	793	...	7,525
Printing ...	...	5,797	...	17,606
Police ...	854	...	641	...
Special Acts... ..	...	...	20,264	...
Residue ...	...	1,322	...	623
<b>TRADING AND BUSINESS—</b>				
Railways ...	36,389	...	...	237,275
Tramways ...	...	11,000	...	25,054
Electric Works ...	...	10,690	...	20,050
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	...	12,469	...	...
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	...	3,000	...	...
State Batteries ...	...	8,717	...	3,645
Water Supply and Sewerage ...	...	17,054	...	20,901
State Trading Concerns ...	...	20,800	...	...
Yandanooka Estate ...	8,112	...	4,439	...
Royal Mint ...	5,995	...	...	...
Tourists, Cave Houses, etc. ...	...	384	...	1,152
Butter Factories ...	...	3,498	...	2,946
Government Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	...	2,335	...	2,938
Aborigines Cattle Station ...	...	709	...	3,801
Residue (net) ...	493	...	...	102
<b>Totals</b> ...	<b>124,981</b>	<b>308,142</b>	<b>26,703</b>	<b>497,177</b>
<b>Net under-estimates</b> ...	<b>£183,161</b>		<b>£470,474</b>	

[Return No. 2.]

## REVENUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1914-15 TO 1920-21 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1921-22.

Heads.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	Estimated 1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>TAXATION—</b>								
Dividend Duty ...	93,916	103,585	105,554	109,462	133,062	144,748	244,969	180,00
Stamp Duty ...	64,398	64,858	67,035	80,719	112,104	173,543	177,404	175,00
Land Tax ...	36,453	47,711	42,431	63,388	34,182	46,415	57,791	65,00
Income Tax ...	80,646	91,630	90,667	98,501	226,560	271,386	334,320	335,00
Totalisator Tax ...	12,125	12,442	14,775	18,713	42,499	45,911	57,448	57,00
Probate Duty ...	40,156	44,284	40,963	38,710	40,329	121,951	42,406	70,00
Licenses ...	44,288	43,448	40,912	39,993	40,325	40,243	41,020	151,00
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>371,962</b>	<b>407,958</b>	<b>402,337</b>	<b>449,456</b>	<b>629,061</b>	<b>844,197</b>	<b>955,358</b>	<b>1,033,00</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL—</b>								
Land ...	296,606	322,670	282,223	267,368	300,604	330,740	342,362	350,00
Mining ...	56,935	23,408	20,547	19,291	17,643	24,050	24,108	24,72
Royal Mint ...	28,389	29,215	30,616	30,213	30,992	37,318	23,005	17,00
Timber ...	43,003	35,367	27,379	39,248	26,818	54,010	70,796	75,00
Departmental Fees, etc.	334,421	395,546	431,608	418,537	453,938	564,934	759,702	858,10
Law Courts ...	23,140	21,217	21,279	20,754	19,724	23,497	25,210	24,00
Harbour Dues ...	36,952	34,564	37,384	31,705	32,930	36,790	49,159	45,50
Commonwealth ...	631,287	616,104	594,467	599,239	585,668	598,273	593,834	582,34
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,450,733</b>	<b>1,478,091</b>	<b>1,445,503</b>	<b>1,416,355</b>	<b>1,468,317</b>	<b>1,669,612</b>	<b>1,888,176</b>	<b>1,976,67</b>
<b>BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS—</b>								
Harbour Boards ...	115,739	102,234	87,355	85,168	106,287	157,687	185,470	185,00
Railways ...	2,049,762	2,096,304	1,878,434	1,828,853	1,878,753	2,275,426	2,688,611	2,767,50
Tramways ...	114,028	118,946	125,714	141,480	134,058	187,709	225,000	255,00
Batteries ...	39,562	70,014	61,200	69,355	57,876	49,067	69,467	54,10
Avondale, Harvey, and Yandawooka Estates, etc. ...	17,545	28,279	26,675	29,346	19,529	14,565	12,020	14,06
Water Supply and Sewerage ...	404,501	414,580	404,737	379,925	371,615	361,583	402,354	395,35
State Dairy Farm ...	3,108	2,700	2,924	2,576	3,476	2,844	3,250	3,60
Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	15,668	20,377	30,651	27,542	28,726	32,138	35,735	34,94
Tourist, Cave Houses, etc. ...	...	10,414	8,053	6,493	5,457	11,079	13,884	14,50
Electric Works ...	...	...	10,007	32,580	47,164	62,972	95,350	106,98
Butter Factories ...	...	...	...	15,771	19,189	18,717	27,548	35,50
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>2,759,913</b>	<b>2,865,848</b>	<b>2,635,750</b>	<b>2,619,059</b>	<b>2,675,130</b>	<b>3,174,087</b>	<b>3,758,689</b>	<b>3,856,53</b>
<b>TRADING CONCERNS—</b>								
Ferries ...	5,885	5,609	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hotels ...	23,511	27,051	...	...	...	...	...	...
Steamships ...	101,919	158,167	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Fish Supply ...	4,889	10,555	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saw Mills ...	393,118	236,818	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shipment of Nor-West Cattle ...	...	26,835	93,417	137,666	172,343	175,605	187,342	184,701
Brickworks ...	991	10,220	...	...	...	...	...	...
Quarries ...	10,306	11,101	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meat Stalls ...	29,275	30,272	...	...	...	...	...	...
Implement Works ...	73,713	88,453	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>558,117</b>	<b>605,081</b>	<b>93,417</b>	<b>137,666</b>	<b>172,343</b>	<b>175,605</b>	<b>187,342</b>	<b>184,701</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,140,725</b>	<b>5,356,978</b>	<b>4,577,007</b>	<b>4,622,536</b>	<b>4,944,851</b>	<b>5,863,501</b>	<b>6,780,565</b>	<b>7,050,911</b>

[Return No. 3.]

## STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1914-15 TO 1920-21, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1921-22.

Head.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	Estimate 1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts ... ..	1,700,641	1,821,159	1,910,901	2,012,927	2,112,108	2,232,199	2,416,565	2,675,871
His Excellency the Governor	1,523	1,540	2,094	1,549	1,807	1,935	2,343	2,227
Parliamentary and Executive Council	12,101	12,198	12,329	11,587	9,520	10,111	11,350	11,447
Premier ... ..	1,430	1,326	1,488	1,744	1,766	a 11,540	a 24,044	10,492
Treasury ... ..	9,325	11,803	12,567	11,150	9,946	12,927	11,087	14,422
Audit ... ..	8,871	8,269	8,847	8,946	9,023	10,387	11,587	11,947
Compassionate Allowances...	1,792	3,002	8,700	4,882	4,167	6,425	6,480	1,210
Government Motor Cars	9,770	2,698	2,366	1,866	4,459	3,000	2,590	1,364
Government Savings Bank...	22,067	21,240	21,752	21,515	22,428	26,474	30,470	32,193
Government Stores	10,087	15,368	13,359	10,980	12,172	14,510	15,580	19,271
Literary and Scientific	11,190	9,353	10,507	10,442	8,230	8,750	8,900	9,250
London Agency	9,748	7,935	8,472	7,871	8,210	10,840	12,502	11,921
Public Service Commissioner	2,513	1,766	1,853	1,555	1,192	1,923	3,498	2,698
Taxation ... ..	12,351	14,305	17,861	18,001	21,040	25,404	33,872	12,776
Workers' Homes ... ..	4,934	4,554	3,558	3,112	3,230	3,515	4,048	4,335
Miscellaneous and Refunds...	45,246	47,784	b 90,203	48,717	47,838	75,210	77,873	97,839
Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc.	59,940	62,694	64,608	60,030	57,302	63,957	73,551	70,458
Woods and Forests ... ..	10,458	8,565	10,088	11,220	10,873	12,962	10,129	16,344
Land and Surveys	62,093	45,565	46,286	46,326	44,703	59,816	90,182	102,956
Land Settlement for Soldiers					2,860	14,432	11,753	14,300
Agriculture ... ..	26,891	46,275	57,600	54,438	62,455	68,410	65,893	59,883
Rabbits and Vermin	15,940							
Stock ... ..	6,031							
Agricultural Bank and L.A. Board	11,372	30,736	22,341	38,394	41,130	52,224	53,134	61,063
Crown Law and Branches ...	77,216	74,527	68,615	69,597	59,060	71,760	87,186	81,198
Education ... ..	312,209	317,656	334,132	353,793	366,054	414,330	490,180	523,946
Office of Colonial Secretary	c 26,934	30,252	31,189	32,297	27,322	27,655	c 37,718	36,892
Aborigines ... ..	10,259	8,449	9,710	9,422	12,447	6,134	10,423	9,627
Charities and State Children	85,787	87,545	86,575	88,411	90,485	113,852	88,281	90,428
Fisheries ... ..	3,725	4,106	4,494	4,726	6,277	6,438	7,146	6,574
Goals ... ..	21,658	22,295	20,705	20,126	21,596	25,791	28,684	28,750
Harbour and Light and Jetties	28,198	23,758	26,247	27,087	19,587	21,985	22,470	21,980
Lithographic ... ..	6,279	5,262	5,742	4,718	4,685	e	e	
Lunacy ... ..	50,585	59,197	62,770	60,533	64,578	80,146	97,422	94,018
Medical and Health	109,692	118,898	131,087	129,922	155,673	210,868	197,640	177,210
Police ... ..	180,428	126,699	120,560	130,563	132,157	164,097	174,829	179,881
Printing ... ..	42,703	40,937	44,484	36,085	38,216	54,749	78,688	75,640
Public Works ... ..	132,780	86,505	107,161	98,702	104,615	116,488	123,988	106,765
Department of the North- West	...	...	...	...	...	...	270	2,629
Total Departmental...	1,387,136	1,369,061	1,470,556	1,440,324	1,486,892	1,808,201	2,012,320	2,009,833
BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.								
Railways ... ..	1,508,317	1,515,613	1,455,879	1,454,650	1,572,107	2,009,823	2,427,075	2,288,200
Tramways ... ..	75,237	81,244	90,571	104,931	107,705	144,028	198,266	212,145
State Batteries ... ..	49,756	71,839	83,367	71,642	59,574	61,552	69,221	63,450
Water Supply ... ..	222,701	234,172	248,208	220,112	227,232	245,967	284,495	263,705
Yandanooka ... ..	29,248	33,022	26,771	8,281	10,041	8,842	4,581	3,000
Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	11,548	15,780	21,364	19,078	19,099	20,505	24,238	27,899
Avondale and Harvey Estates	1,481	4,519	3,796	3,768	3,376	1,853	1,461	1,500
Tourists ... ..	8,895	11,957	10,231	6,415	8,476	10,985	13,115	12,766
Aborigines Outfit Station	5,153	4,426	4,982	5,610	5,219	8,079	11,814	11,563
Electric Works ... ..	...	...	8,254	20,486	28,297	43,019	83,088	95,997
State Dairy Farm ... ..	3,548	3,152	3,141	2,776	3,066	4,664	4,338	3,855
Butter Factories ... ..	...	...	...	16,666	20,537	18,920	26,503	34,250
Trading Concerns ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	8,446	c	...
Total Business	1,915,884	1,975,724	1,956,544	1,934,415	2,064,729	2,586,383	3,145,173	3,048,339
TRADING CONCERNS.								
State Steamers ... ..	109,117	139,592	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Brickworks ... ..	2,764	9,927	...	1,430	...	...	...	...
State Implement Works ... ..	142,300	150,875	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Quarries ... ..	11,384	8,884	...	1,450	...	...	...	...
State Sawmills ... ..	411,994	231,862	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Hotels ... ..	26,472	26,497	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Fish Supplies ... ..	6,255	14,702	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Meat Stalls ... ..	30,229	26,215	...	3,200	...	...	...	...
Shipment of Nor'-West Cattle	...	...	...	34,489	...	...	...	...
Less Rebates, etc. ... ..	5,744,166	5,774,498	5,338,001	5,428,235	5,663,729	6,626,783	7,674,058	...
	37,624	69,297	61,237	99,956	66,884	95,058	97,767	111,405
Total	£ 5,708,542	5,705,201	5,276,764	5,328,279	5,596,865	6,531,725	7,476,291	7,622,638

a Includes transfer from Miscellaneous.

b Includes £45,071 for loss on operations Royal Commission

Control of Trade. c Includes Public Gardens, Registry, Friendly Societies, Immigration, Messengers'

Exchange, and Observatory. d Increase in rebates £3,091.

e Included under Printing.

[Return No. 4.]

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR 1920-21.

	REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.				Net result on Estimate and Actual.		Net result on Year's Transactions.	
	Esti- mated.	Actual.	Inc.	Dec.	Estimated.	Actual.	Inc.	Dec.	Better.	Worse.	Surplus.	Defi- ciency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Governmental ...	2,706,036	2,843,534	...	...	1,737,239	1,914,920	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trading Concerns	166,542	187,342	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Acts ...	...	...	...	...	1,102,773	1,087,882	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2,872,578	3,030,876	158,298	...	2,840,012	3,002,802	162,790	...	...	4,492	28,074	...
Public Utilities ...	3,733,826	3,758,689	...	...	2,831,749	3,144,807	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Acts ...	...	...	...	...	1,334,056	1,328,682	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3,733,826	3,758,689	24,863	...	4,165,805	4,473,489	307,684	...	...	282,821	...	714,800
Totals ...	£6,606,404	6,789,565	183,161	...	7,005,817	7,476,291	470,474	...	...	287,313	28,074	714,800
Net ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£686,726	





## [Return No. 5.]

## SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR 1921-22.

	REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.			NET RESULT.	
	Estimate.	Compared with actual Revenue for 1920-21.		Estimate.	Compared with actual Expenditure for 1920-21.		Surplus.	Deficiency.
		Increase.	Decrease.		Increase.	Decrease.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Governmental ...	3,194,371	...	...	1,898,428	...	...	...	...
Special Acts ...	...	...	...	1,294,227	...	...	...	...
	3,194,371	163,495	...	3,192,655	189,853	...	1,716	...
Public Utilities ...	3,856,539	...	...	3,048,339	...	...	...	...
Special Acts ...	...	...	...	1,381,644	...	...	...	...
	3,856,539	97,850	...	4,429,983	...	43,506	...	573,444
Total ...	7,050,910	261,345	...	7,622,638	189,853	43,506	1,716	573,444
NET ...	...	...	...	...	146,347		571,728	

## [Return No. 6.]

## STATEMENT SHOWING SPECIAL EXPENDITURE AND REDUCED REVENUE NOT FORESEEN WHEN ESTIMATES WERE PRESENTED, YEAR 1920-1921.

Department.	Increased Salary or Wage.	Increased Cost of Commodities.	Other Special Expenditure.	Loss of Revenue.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	£	
Civil Service ...	50,500	...	...	...	
Education ...	60,000	1,100	...	...	
Railways ...	295,500	28,000	...	...	Coal.
Do. ...	...	43,000	...	...	General supplies.
Do. ...	...	...	...	153,000	Strike.
Tramways ...	17,000	...	...	...	
Electricity ...	2,100	9,180	...	...	Coal.
Lunacy ...	7,006	6,000	...	...	
Gasols ...	1,150	250	...	...	
Aborigines ...	...	500	...	...	
Harbour and Light ...	676	...	...	2,000	Shipping strike.
State Children ...	...	200	9,500	...	Is. increase per day.
Immigration ...	...	...	1,950	...	Increased activity.
Labour Bureau ...	...	...	1,710	...	Unemployment.
Hospitals ...	5,900	3,500	5,500	...	Increased subsidies.
Homes ...	853	1,750	...	...	
Health ...	...	...	2,000	...	Pneumonic Influenza.
Do. ...	...	...	1,000	...	Venernal Disease.
State Dairy ...	285	...	...	...	
Mines ...	...	...	1,500	...	Increased subsidy Mine Workers' Relief Fund.
Batteries ...	1,000	...	...	...	
Police ...	7,800	950	1,400	...	Increased Travelling Allowance.
Goldfields Water Supply ...	13,000	...	...	29,000	Strikes on Fields.
Metropolitan Water Supply ...	11,000	...	...	...	
Total ...	473,550	94,430	18,650	181,000	

[Return No. 7.]

**STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED  
REVENUE FUND, ALSO ANNUAL AGGREGATE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS  
1900-01 to 1920-21.**

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Annual.		Aggregate.	
			Surplus.	Deficiency.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance 30th June, 1900 ...	...	...	...	...	12,372	...
1900-01 ...	3,078,033	3,165,244	...	87,211	...	74,839
1901-02 ...	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	...	123,184	...
1902-03 ...	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	...	231,659	...
1903-04 ...	3,550,016	3,698,311	...	148,295	83,364	...
1904-05 ...	3,615,340	3,745,225	...	129,885	...	46,521
1905-06 ...	3,558,939	3,632,318	...	73,379	...	119,900
1906-07 ...	3,401,354	3,490,183	...	88,829	...	208,729
1907-08 ...	3,376,641	3,379,006	...	2,365	...	211,094
1908-09 ...	3,267,014	3,368,551	...	101,537	...	312,631
1909-1910 ...	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	...	...	102,692
1910-1911 ...	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	...	13,299	...
1911-1912 ...	3,966,673	4,101,082	...	134,409	...	121,110
1912-1913 ...	4,596,659	4,787,064	...	190,405	...	311,515
1913-1914 ...	5,205,343	5,340,754	...	135,411	...	446,926
1914-1915 ...	5,140,725	5,706,541	...	565,816	...	1,012,742
1915-1916 ...	5,356,978	5,705,201	...	348,223	...	1,360,965
1916-1917 ...	4,577,007	5,276,764	...	699,757	...	2,060,722
1917-1918 ...	4,622,536	5,328,279	...	705,743	...	2,766,465
1918-1919 ...	4,944,851	5,596,866	...	652,015	...	3,418,480
1919-1920 ...	5,863,501	6,531,725	...	668,225	...	4,086,705
1920-1921 ...	6,789,565	7,476,291	...	686,725	...	4,773,430

[Return No. 8.]

**SYNOPSIS OF BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH JUNE, 1921, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.**

Dr.	1919.			1920.			1921.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
London County Westminster and Parr's Bank ...	106,215	0	3	461,200	14	3	1,805,000	0	0
Commonwealth Government ...	53,934	1	11	...	...	...	27,937	6	9
Sinking Fund ...	6,157,257	17	6	6,846,128	1	5	7,742,692	0	11
Treasurer's Advance ...	19,326	7	11	...	...	...	...	...	...
General Loan Fund ...	227,519	0	3	589,132	12	3	369,167	14	6
Government of Victoria ...	250,000	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Savings Bank ...	5,504,059	2	1	5,797,619	4	8	5,918,475	4	3
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits ...	195,000	0	0	220,000	0	0	245,000	0	0
Trust and Deposit Accounts generally	2,629,817	6	5	3,038,329	8	10	2,457,095	11	6
	£15,143,128	16	4	£16,952,410	1	5	£18,565,367	17	11

## [Return No. 8—continued.]

## SYNOPSIS OF BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH JUNE, 1921, AND PREVIOUS YEARS—continued.

CR.	1919.		1920.		1921.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Soldiers' Settlement—Advances by Commonwealth Government ...	53,934	1 11	...	...	...	...
Investments ... ..	12,499,632	10 8	13,510,060	6 4	14,642,912	5 4
Stores on hand ... ..	519,893	8 2	551,762	18 11	792,007	3 0
Treasurers' Advance, and other Advances ... ..	...	...	55,422	7 1	a 524,871	0 5
Cash in hand—						
Treasury ... ..	7,898	0 7	...	...	4,507	5 5
Wheat Certificates ... ..	723,349	9 11	164,118	13 2	41,965	5 6
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits ...	5,000	0 0	...	...	...	...
General Account ... ..	191,029	9 5	568,591	18 2	351,680	18 7
Government Savings Bank Account ...	274,835	8 4	360,819	18 2	154,770	9 11
Fixed Deposits with Bank ... ..	10,000	0 0	10,000	0 0	...	...
Eastern States ... ..	85,369	6 6	74,199	13 11	76,320	9 10
London ... ..	114,260	8 6	375,345	16 2	10,555	15 2
Remittances and Drafts in transitu ...	2,465	14 10	...	...	...	...
Consolidated Revenue Fund ... ..	652,014	9 11	668,224	12 7	686,725	11 4
Deficiency Account ... ..	...	...	610,827	0 10	1,279,051	13 5
Sundry Debtors, etc. ... ..	3,446	7 7	3,036	16 1	...	...
	£15,143,128	16 4	£16,952,410	1 5	£18,565,367	17 11

a Includes £191,500 temporarily advanced for redemption of Debentures and Treasury Bonds.

## [Return No. 9.]

## STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH FROM 1909-10 TO 1920-21.

Year.	Payment per Head, 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Transferred Properties at 3½ per cent.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1909-10 ... ..	703,723a	...	Nil	703,723
1910-11 ... ..	569,578a	...	Nil	569,578
1911-12 ... ..	365,614	232,265	40,648	638,527
1912-13 ... ..	382,591	222,554	30,465	635,610
1913-14 ... ..	400,855	212,751	27,358	640,964
1914-15 ... ..	403,772	203,127	24,388	631,287
1915-16 ... ..	398,076	193,544	24,485	616,105
1916-17 ... ..	386,008	183,974	24,485	594,467
1917-18 ... ..	386,779	174,350	38,110	599,239
1918-19 ... ..	391,809	164,696	29,163	585,668
1919-20 ... ..	414,068	154,937	29,268	598,273
1920-21 ... ..	419,448	145,287	29,099	593,834
Totals ... ..	5,222,321	1,887,485	297,469	7,407,275

a Surplus Revenue returned.

[Return No. 10.]

## LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1920 ... ..	50,709,173	
Do. for 1920-21 ... ..	4,591,549	
<b>Total Authorisations</b> ... ..		55,300,722
<b>Flotations—</b>		
General Loans ... ..	28,578,253	
Local Debentures ... ..	1,166,413	
Local Inscribed Stock ... ..	8,190,063	
Treasury Bills ... ..	5,541,940	
Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock under Deficiency Acts ... ..	2,916,415	
Commonwealth Advances ... ..	3,540,980	
		49,934,064
<b>Balance available for Flotation</b> ... ..		5,366,658
<b>Actual Loan Indebtedness—</b>		
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1920 ... ..	46,822,003	
Flotation during year—		
Treasury Bonds ... ..	80,000	
Local Treasury Bills ... ..	200,570	
Local Debentures ... ..	9,658	
Local Inscribed Stock ... ..	108,265	
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement ... ..	2,039,883	
		49,260,379
<b>Less Redemptions—</b>		
Bonds Loans, 1878, 1881-4 ... ..	10,300	
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement ... ..	19,162	
Local Debentures ... ..	84,160	
Treasury Bonds ... ..	107,090	
		220,712
		49,039,667
<b>Less—</b>		
Sinking Fund (as on 31st March) ... ..		7,641,564
<b>Net Indebtedness, 30th June, 1921</b> ... ..		41,398,103
<hr/>		
<b>Net Public Debt per head of Population on 30th June, 1921</b> ... ..	£	s. d.
Do. do. do. do. 1920 ... ..	*124	15 11
Do. do. do. do. 1919 ... ..	119	7 3
Do. do. do. do. 1918 ... ..	116	7 0
Do. do. do. do. 1917 ... ..	118	0 8
Do. do. do. do. 1916 ... ..	116	5 5
Do. do. do. do. 1915 ... ..	109	19 9
Do. do. do. do. 1914 ... ..	101	12 10
Do. do. do. do. 1913 ... ..	94	4 11
Do. do. do. do. 1912 ... ..	85	17 2

\* NOTE.—Compared with the previous year, £3 16s. 11d. of the increase is due to an adjustment in the figures of the population at the Census. When further adjustments are completed, corresponding corrections will be made for the years 1913-20.

[Return No. 11.]

## LOAN FLOTATIONS, DEBT, AND EXPENDITURE ON 30TH JUNE, 1921.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Indebtedness on Works.	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£	£
Railways and Tramways (including Electric Power Station)	19,854,491	19,438,917	18,687,505
Harbours and Rivers ... ..	4,149,524	4,083,231	3,931,854
Goldfields Water Scheme ... ..	2,903,078	2,901,818	2,689,824
Water Supply Generally ... ..	1,589,052	1,581,223	1,382,047
Sewerage ... ..	1,270,604	1,270,597	1,120,682
Erection of State Batteries and Treatment Plants ... ..	307,160	305,767	297,532
Development of Goldfields ... ..	1,592,135	1,567,518	1,523,771
Development of Agriculture ... ..	4,690,472	4,642,357	4,574,698
Telegraphs ... ..	276,721	225,028	269,308
Roads and Bridges ... ..	518,407	491,753	412,552
Public Buildings ... ..	877,387	869,070	854,199
Immigration ... ..	63,314	62,752	b 56,392
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	553,244	553,244	525,500
State Hotels ... ..	58,382	58,382	61,540
State Steamships ... ..	272,448	272,448	271,972
State Saw Mills ... ..	208,718	208,718	238,764
Agricultural Bank ... ..	1,647,283	1,647,283	1,672,616
State Implement Works ... ..	99,466	99,466	135,771
South Perth Ferries ... ..	14,397	14,397	12,967
State Milk Supply ... ..	4,590	4,590	4,496
State Brickyards ... ..	32,475	32,475	30,101
State Quarries ... ..	6,294	6,294	7,410
State Fish Supply ... ..	3,286	3,286	3,162
Crawley and Dalkeith Estates, Harvey Estate, Aborigines Stations, Savoy House, Purchase of Land at Nedlands, and Purchase of House for Residence of Agent General	123,760	123,760	103,502
Stores and Stock Suspense Accounts ... ..	114,469	114,469	105,000
Miscellaneous ... ..	73,423	73,423	71,260
Wyndham Freezing Works (Working Capital) ... ..	127,766	127,766	200,000
Fisheries ... ..	10,402	10,402	11,774
Land Settlement for Soldiers ... ..	3,205,980	3,186,818	3,758,755
	44,648,728	43,977,252	43,014,954
Redemptions ... ..	...	671,476	...
Cost of Raising... ..	...	...	1,599,606
Unexpended Balance ... ..	...	...	369,168
Commonwealth Advances unallocated ... ..	335,000	335,000	...
	44,983,728	44,983,728	44,983,728

a. Includes £721,597, expended at Wyndham Freezing Works. b. An additional amount of £356,149 was expended upon Agricultural Immigration from Development of Agriculture.

## RECONCILIATION WITH PUBLIC DEBT (RETURN No. 9).

	£
Indebtedness as above ... ..	43,977,252
Local Inscribed Stock, issued under Agricultural Bank Act, for conversion of Mortgage Bonds ... ..	1,566,000
Issues under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Act ... ..	2,918,415
Issues under Insurance Companies Act, 1918 ... ..	245,000
Commonwealth Advances unallocated ... ..	335,000
Gross Public Debt ... ..	49,039,667

## LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1920-21 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Undertakings.	1920-21.	1919-20.	1918-19.	1917-18.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1911-12.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions ...	145,724	75,786	154,720	181,394	246,994	350,855	520,344	1,080,910	1,406,602	1,320,309
Tramways—Perth Electric ...	34,419	27,473	7,239	3,073	29,445	33,528	22,909	16,026	497,389	...
Electric Power Station ...	18,783	17,890	25,386	23,506	61,033	63,170	149,865	69,648	...	...
Fremantle Harbour Works ...	46,089	51,855	46,345	42,449	49,004	53,704	106,055	66,142	77,379	35,813
Fremantle Dock and Slip ...	...	...	...	...	...	14	1,291	1,868	11,330	80,842
Harbours and Rivers generally ...	72,245	50,322	23,603	42,485	72,854	55,510	58,014	21,860	61,790	69,109
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle ...	19,436	...	...	15,167	11,050	47,268	120,473	140,582	160,931	93,572
Water Supply ...	194,172	49,115	46,636	53,080	65,426	118,275	127,669	191,528	234,184	31,417
Development of Goldfields ...	43,902	32,581	16,152	10,661	19,829	19,142	47,263	50,659	78,143	92,345
State Smelter, Ravensthorpe ...	...	...	...	...	...	78,907	60,000	...	...	...
Development of Agriculture ...	£1,600,739	£2,060,579	£442,740	156,083	169,483	165,727	79,271	156,752	155,432	362,406
Assistance to Settlers ...	31,698	5,458	80,000	478,170	...	199,890	602,110	...	...	...
Immigration ...	12,024	5,205	1,867	1,107	2,352	4,640	16,665	56,218	63,447	96,805
Steamships ...	10,000	14,501	...	...	409	141,065	...	5,907	100,000	...
Workers' Homes Working Capital ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97,500	278,000	150,000	...
Saw Mills ...	38,863	...	...	...	214	511	29,069	126,416	43,691	...
State Hotels ...	5,056	2,767	1,793	117	589	10,000	6,546	17,091	17,580	...
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital ...	151,825	118,285	73,948	25,000	93,165	172,335	271,612	506,638	259,808	...
Agricultural Implement Works ...	39,929	15,772	...	...	1,202	4,627	18,436	43,070	...	...
Brickyards ...	705	1,326	1,165	20	...	547	11,507	13,710	1,121	...
Ferries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,974	2,000	4,993	...
State Fish Supply ...	...	...	...	...	131	3,031	...	...	...	...
Public Buildings ...	24,963	10,602	21,570	17,536	23,350	40,661	81,004	44,166	38,699	91,707
Roads and Bridges ...	32,121	14,719	4,231	2,473	2,557	6,152	5,026	6,167	37,818	23,106
Perth Fremantle Road Reinstatement ...	...	...	...	20	839	7,663	21,198	...	...	...
Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account) ...	50,000	...	...	...	...	...	55,000	...	...	...
Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge ...	...	1	79	108	2,482	4,622	1,582	...	...	...
Sundries ...	7,841	3,089	2,262	1,729	2,676	2,738	5,225	17,652	8,861	12,121
Wyndham Freezing Works—Working Capital ...	...	100,000	100,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fisheries ...	5,870	5,904	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	£2,586,404	£2,663,320	1,049,736	1,054,178	855,183	1,584,642	2,521,608	2,913,010	3,409,218	2,309,552

a Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £283,319. b Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £1,933,340. c Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £83,063.

d Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £1,527,664.

e Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £80,107.

[Return No. 13.]

## PUBLIC DEBT AND SINKING FUNDS.

Loan.			Sinking Fund.		Remarks.
Year.	Amount.	Maturity.	Rate per cent.	Accumulation.	
LOANS CARRYING SINKING FUNDS. <i>Inscribed Stock.</i>				£ s. d.	
1899-1915...	£ 998,353	1934	1	644,182 4 0	Controlled by Crown Agents. Stock issued for conversion of Debentures.
1896 ...	1,500,000	1935	1	547,477 10 6	
1897-1900...	3,500,000	1935	1	1,124,814 2 9	G.S.R. Purchase. Coolgardie Water Scheme Loan.
1897 ...	1,100,000	1936	1½	690,789 14 6	
1896 ...	2,500,000	1927	3	2,284,745 4 11	Issued for redemption on £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund.
1900-1902...	680,000	1935	1	168,681 17 6	
1902-1905...	2,600,000	1935	1	595,173 13 4	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1907-1908	2,000,000	1947	1	274,142 14 6	
1909 ...	1,445,000	1955	½	74,739 4 2	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1910 ...	1,342,000	1955	½	62,998 11 11	
1911 ...	1,650,000	1955	½	132,126 16 9	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1912 ...	1,000,000	1960	½	34,796 15 7	
1912-1914...	6,000,000	1962	½	156,410 0 1	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1916 ...	140,000	1936	3½	26,197 10 0	
<i>Local Inscribed Stock.</i>					
1903 ...	556,550	1923	1½	820,680 17 0	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1904 ...	322,470	1924	1½		
1911 ...	1,922,305	1926	½		
1912 ...	1,380,540	1932	½		
1913 ...	867,965	1934	½		
1915 ...	78,185	1935	1½		
1913 ...	716,708	1933	½		
1914 ...	1,566,000	1964	½		
<i>Debentures.</i>					
1904 ...	246,100	1924	1	...	Issued for redemption of portion of Debentures matured 1st January, 1921.
1921 ...	32,550	1924	½		
1918 ...	697,000	1927	½	...	£139,839 was issued for redemption of Local Inscribed Stock. Redeemable by Annual Drawings; Controlled by Crown Agents.
1872-1888...	62,400	...	1	3,606 19 6	
	34,904,126				
Various ...	BALANCE OF DEBT. 14,135,541	Various	...	...	Consisting of Local Inscribed Stock (£598,765), Debentures (£106,603), Inscribed Stock, London (£1,500,000), Treasury Bonds (£2,866,415), for which Sinking Funds have not commenced, Treasury Bills (£5,541,940) which carry no Sinking Funds, and Commonwealth Advances (£3,521,818).
Total Debt	49,039,667	Accrued Fund	Sinking	7,641,563 17 0	
Previous year's totals	46,822,003	...	...	6,848,825 11 5	
Increase on year ...	2,217,664a	...	...	792,738 5 7	

a. See note on following page.

## [Return No. 13—continued.]

a Consisting of—		£
Treasury Bonds	...	80,000
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement	...	2,039,883
Treasury Bills under Insurance Companies Act, 1918	...	25,000
Treasury Bills generally (Net)	...	175,570
Local Inscribed Stock	...	108,265
Local Debentures	...	9,658
		<u>2,438,376</u>
Less—		£
Treasury Bonds, redeemed	...	107,090
Debentures, London redeemed	...	10,300
Commonwealth Advances—		
Soldiers Settlement, redeemed	...	19,162
Local Debentures	...	84,160
		<u>220,712</u>
		<u>2,217,664</u>

## [Return No. 14.]

## SINKING FUND AND INVESTMENTS.

## ANALYSIS OF FUND.

	£
Contributions from Revenue	4,767,698
Interest on Investments	1,992,124
Discounts on Purchases, and Cash held for redemption of Debentures...	899,232
	<u>7,659,054</u>
Less Brokerage and Expenses	17,490
Total of Fund	<u>7,641,564</u>

## INVESTMENTS.

Maturity.		Rate.	Nominal Value.		
			£	s.	d.
Western Australian Stocks.	1935	3 per cent.	1,257,771	6	4
	1936	3 per cent.	394,952	16	6
	1927	3 per cent.	737,343	15	2
	1920-1935	3½ per cent.	969,050	14	8
	1935	3½ per cent.	202,060	12	1
	1927-1947	3½ per cent.	422,478	14	10
	1935-1955	3½ per cent.	871,213	5	5
	1940-1960	3½ per cent.	64,079	6	4
	1942-1962	4 per cent.	915,763	3	5
	1930-1942	5½ per cent.	430,655	0	0
Total			£6,265,368	14	9
Other Stocks: Crown Agent's Investments			644,107	16	9
National War Bonds, 5 per cent., 1927			552,000	0	0
British Government Treasury Bills			50,000	0	0
War Gratuity Bonds, 5½ per cent.			95,651	10	9
Payments on Assurance Policy towards redemption		£140,000	26,197	10	0
Cash (Less over investments)			8,238	4	9
Total Sinking Fund			£7,641,563	17	0



[Return No. 15.]

## SINKING FUND AND DEFICIT.

Year.	Contributions.	Interest and Discount (Less Brokerage and Expenses).	Total Accretions.	Redemptions.	Increase in Sinking Fund.	Deficit on Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911-12 ...	245,274	136,148	381,422	7,500	373,922	134,409
1912-13 ...	244,555	153,756	398,311	7,700	390,611	190,404
1913-14 ...	250,100	140,558	390,658	7,900	382,758	135,411
1914-15 ...	258,792	126,193	384,985	8,200	376,785	565,817
1915-16 ...	265,457	206,842	472,299	12,755	459,544	348,223
1916-17 ...	280,883	239,445	520,328	7,600	512,728	699,757
1917-18 ...	306,782	237,405	544,187	9,300	534,887	705,743
1918-19 ...	319,101	257,457	576,558	8,400	568,158	652,014
1919-20 ...	319,692	386,628	706,320	12,200	694,120	668,225
1920-21 ...	342,277 <sup>b</sup>	460,761	803,038	10,300	792,738	686,725
Totals ...	£2,832,913	2,345,193	5,178,106	91,855	5,086,251	4,786,728 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The Actual Deficit on 30th June, 1921, was £4,773,430, the difference being due to a credit balance of £13,298 at the commencement of the period included in the return. <sup>b</sup> Includes £21,375 by Trading Concerns.

[Return No. 16.]

## PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Items.	Estimated 1921-22.		Balance..	
	Receipts.	Payments.	Dr.	Cr.
	£	£	£	£
Avondale and Harvey Estates ...	2,515	1,500	...	1,015
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	18,000	...	...	18,000
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	167,000	...	...	167,000
State Batteries ...	54,100	63,450	9,350	...
Albany Cold Stores ...	200	264	64	...
Aborigines Cattle Station ...	5,550	11,563	6,013	...
Dairy Farm (Claremont) ...	3,600	3,855	255	...
Government Refrigerating Works...	5,000	7,450	2,450	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	4,744	3,813	...	931
Metropolitan Abattoirs, etc. ...	23,000	15,103	...	7,897
Perth City Markets ...	2,000	1,269	...	731
Yandanooka Estate ...	6,000	3,000	...	3,000
Butter Factories ...	35,500	34,259	...	1,241
Tourist Resorts, Caves House, etc.	14,500	12,766	...	1,734
	341,709	168,292	18,132	201,549
Net Surplus ...	...	...	...	183,417
Railways ...	2,757,500	2,288,200	...	469,300
Tramways ...	255,000	212,145	...	42,855
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage ...	194,000	120,481	...	73,519
Goldfields Water Supply...	180,850	130,903	...	49,947
Other Undertakings, Hydraulic ...	20,500	42,321	21,821	...
Electricity Supply ...	106,980	95,997	...	10,983
	3,514,830	2,890,047	21,821	646,604
Net Surplus ...	...	...	...	624,783

[Return No. 17.]

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR 1920-21

	Capital Cost.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Sinking Fund.	Total Cost.	Revenue.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways ... ..	18,160,980	2,427,075	716,398	140,000*	3,283,473	2,688,611	...	594,862
Tramways ... ..	654,047	198,264	29,767	3,000*	231,031	225,000	...	6,031
Electricity ... ..	456,274	83,088	20,644	2,000*	105,732	95,850	...	10,882
Metropolitan Water Supply	2,182,403	111,276	64,613	14,052	189,941	181,376	...	8,565
Goldfields Water Supply...	3,039,232	130,896†	99,098	80,645	310,641	195,975	...	114,666
Other Hydraulic Undertakings ... ..	231,500	42,321	10,027	5,055	57,403	25,003	...	32,400
All other ... ..	3,046,694	152,252	114,564	28,819*	295,635	347,374	51,739	...
Net	27,780,130	3,145,174	1,055,111	273,571	4,473,856	3,758,639	51,739	766,906
							£715,187	

\* Sinking Fund subject to final adjustment. † Includes Interest on Debentures.

[Return No. 18.]

## RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
Number of miles open ... ..	3,491 miles	3,539 miles	3,539 miles	3,539 miles
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment of Lines open	£ 16,914,106	£ 17,147,931	£ 17,211,977	£ 17,318,344
Loan ...				
Revenue ...	846,460	848,010	850,377	851,636
Working Expenses ... ..	1,454,650	1,572,107	2,009,823	2,427,075
Interest Charges ... ..	654,059	665,100	690,618	716,398
Total Annual Cost ... ..	2,108,709	2,237,207	2,700,441	3,143,473
Gross Revenue ... ..	1,828,853	1,878,753	2,275,426	2,688,611
Deficiency debited to Consolidated Revenue being burden on Taxpayers ... ..	279,856	358,454	425,015	454,862

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

## [Return No. 19.]

## RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	£ 586,900	£ 592,361	£ 619,874	£ 654,047
Working Expenses ... ..	104,931	107,705	144,028	198,264
Interest Charges ... ..	27,274	27,007	28,223	29,767
Total Annual Cost ... ..	132,205	134,712	172,251	228,031
Gross Revenue ... ..	141,480	134,058	187,709	225,000
Surplus ... ..	9,275	...	15,458	...
Deficiency ... ..	...	654	...	3,031

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

## [Return No. 20.]

## RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	393,665	419,308	437,362	456,274
Working Expenses ... ..	20,486	28,297	43,018	83,088
Interest Charges ... ..	17,382	18,726	19,643	20,644
Total Annual Cost ... ..	37,868	47,023	62,661	103,732
Gross Revenue ... ..	32,580	47,164	62,972	95,350
Surplus ... ..	...	141	311	...
Deficiency ... ..	5,288	...	...	8,382

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 21.]

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

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	1,983,039	2,014,762	2,054,913	2,182,403
Working Expenses ... ..	83,440	84,959	95,090	111,276
Interest Charges ... ..	53,384	56,736	60,514	64,613
Sinking Fund ... ..	12,379	12,931	13,353	14,052
Total Annual Cost ... ..	149,203	154,626	168,957	189,941
Gross Revenue ... ..	152,728	150,065	155,996	181,376
Surplus ... ..	3,525	...	...	...
Deficiency ... ..	...	4,561	12,961	8,565

[Return No. 22.]

RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	3,005,472	3,005,464	3,013,437	3,039,232
Working Expenses ... ..	104,920	98,476	116,938	130,898
Interest Charges a ... ..	97,611	97,685	97,679	99,098
Sinking Fund ... ..	80,236	80,260	80,255	80,645
Total Annual Cost ... ..	282,767	276,421	294,872	310,641
Gross Revenue ... ..	200,170	196,974	180,464	195,975
Deficiency ... ..	82,597	79,447	114,408	114,666

a Includes Interest on Debenture Capital.

[Return No. 23.]

## RETURN RELATING TO OTHER HYDRAULIC UNDERTAKINGS.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	186,182	184,413	201,505	208,970
Working Expenses ... ..	31,752	30,005	33,939	42,321
Interest Charges ... ..	7,970	8,044	8,416	10,027
Sinking Fund ... ..	4,808	4,822	4,798	5,055
Total Annual Cost ... ..	44,530	42,871	47,153	57,403
Gross Revenue ... ..	27,026	24,576	25,126	25,003
Deficiency ... ..	17,504	18,295	22,027	32,400

[Return No. 24.]

## RETURN RELATING TO OTHER PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR 1920-1921.

	Capital Cost, etc.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Total Annual Cost.	Gross Revenue.	Surplus.	Defi- ciency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fremantle Harbour Board	2,027,714	...	77,241	77,241	168,470	91,229	...
Bunbury Harbour Board	420,469	...	14,000	14,000	17,000	3,000	...
Batteries ... ..	389,513	66,222	13,633	79,855	69,467	...	10,388
Estates ... ..	7,045	6,022	2,389	8,411	5,881	...	2,530
Aborigines Station ...	25,170	11,814	850	12,664	6,139	...	6,525
Albany Cool Stores ...	19,920	188	940	1,128	430	...	698
Govt. Refrigerating Works	51,849	5,756	1,000	8,012	5,125	...	920
Perth City Markets ...		1,256		...	1,967		
Metropolitan Abattoirs...	50,909	13,798	2,313	16,111	23,199	7,088	...
Butter Factories ...	6,268	26,503	428	26,931	27,548	617	...
Tourist Resorts ... ..	19,790	13,115	891	14,006	13,884	...	122
Dairy Farm, Claremont	5,436	4,338	202	4,540	3,250	...	1,290
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	22,611	3,241	677	3,917	5,014	1,097	...
Total ... ..	3,046,694	152,252	114,564	266,816	347,374	103,031	22,473
Net ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	£80,558	
Less Estimated Charge on account Sinking Fund ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	28,819	
Total Shortage ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	£51,739	

## RAILWAYS—STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE AND EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1909-1910.		1913-1914.		1918-1919.		1919-1920.		1920-1921.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ... ..	174,584	7·97	202,668	6·53	179,613	7·80	215,779	8·58	270,227	10·71
Ores and other Minerals ... ..	233,292	10·65	396,346	12·73	242,182	10·52	281,387	11·18	347,448	13·78
Wool ... ..	6,314	·29	6,945	·22	31,915	1·39	33,089	1·32	15,836	·62
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ... ..	86,442	3·95	111,604	3·60	83,245	3·62	114,677	4·56	100,802	3·99
Wheat ... ..	107,439	4·90	299,143	9·64	410,852	17·85	467,009	18·58	299,483	11·87
Other Grain and Flour ... ..	59,193	2·70	93,574	3·02	183,344	7·97	223,995	9·10	128,019	5·07
Firewood ... ..	656,384	29·96	677,944	21·86	535,282	23·26	429,011	17·05	476,434	18·85
Local Timber ... ..	514,788	23·49	749,092	24·15	299,360	13·01	349,076	13·87	497,345	19·72
Imported Timber ... ..	15,572	·71	22,733	·73	942	·04	2,325	·09	4,547	·18
Fruit and Garden Produce ... ..	25,847	1·18	26,773	·86	45,828	1·99	50,153	1·99	50,607	2·07
Fertilisers ... ..	a	...	73,325	2·37	61,363	2·67	79,457	3·18	87,849	3·48
All other goods ... ..	311,235	14·20	441,771	14·24	227,385	9·88	265,033	10·54	243,659	9·66
Total ... ..	2,191,090	100·0	3,101,918	100·00	2,301,309	100·00	2,515,971	100·00	2,521,256	100·00

Class of Goods.	1909-1910.		1913-1914.		1918-1919.		1919-1920.		1920-1921.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ... ..	£ 53,903	5·39	£ 56,373	4·04	£ 53,355	5·12	£ 70,795	5·51	£ 129,815	8·61
Ores and other Minerals ... ..	39,466	3·94	69,218	4·96	48,094	4·62	58,699	4·57	87,170	5·78
Wool ... ..	10,281	1·03	12,058	·86	54,972	5·28	47,475	3·69	41,266	2·74
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ... ..	53,298	5·33	66,403	4·76	49,455	4·75	68,773	5·35	67,047	4·44
Wheat ... ..	47,066	4·70	133,607	9·93	133,948	13·34	173,055	13·46	166,594	11·05
Other Grain and Flour ... ..	40,501	4·05	45,420	3·26	75,864	7·28	99,481	7·74	71,607	4·75
Firewood ... ..	63,226	6·32	62,268	4·46	56,056	5·38	40,924	3·18	50,272	3·33
Local Timber ... ..	181,775	18·17	289,294	21·44	125,700	12·06	167,432	13·03	319,656	21·19
Imported Timber ... ..	13,915	1·39	10,916	·78	669	·06	1,103	·09	2,302	·15
Fruit and Garden Produce ... ..	32,371	3·23	34,253	2·45	48,074	4·61	52,358	4·07	60,966	4·04
Fertilisers ... ..	a	...	33,830	2·42	12,501	1·20	19,709	1·53	26,803	1·77
All other goods ... ..	464,799	46·45	567,262	40·64	373,152	36·80	485,609	37·73	485,160	32·16
Total ... ..	1,000,801	100·00	1,395,911	100·00	1,041,840	100·00	1,235,413	100·00	1,598,658	100·00

a Figures not available.

## TRADE, PRODUCTION, POPULATION, ETC.

	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
Railway Revenue ... ..	£1,840,397	£1,858,914	£1,896,579	£2,047,823	£2,382,022	£2,163,790	£2,217,250	£2,004,148	£1,970,333	£2,012,811	£2,463,136	£2,913,811
Railway Mileage ... ..	2,145	2,376	2,598	2,854	2,967	3,332	3,332	3,425	3,491	3,539	3,539	3,539
Wool exported ... ..	£969,904	£1,047,456	£1,008,858	£964,938	£907,363	£817,680	£1,273,183	£1,420,291	£535,819	£1,952,141	£3,937,106	£2,388,110
*Wheat produced (bushels) ...	5,602,568	5,897,540	4,358,904	9,168,594	13,331,360	2,624,190	18,236,353	16,103,216	9,303,787	8,845,387	11,222,950	12,246,080
*Hay produced (tons) ... ..	105,182	178,891	299,695	255,751	278,665	156,932	395,172	236,989	267,163	250,014	379,025	266,324
Gold produced ... ..	£6,553,314	£6,003,789	£5,634,004	£5,493,072	£5,478,932	£5,195,732	£4,803,206	£4,361,698	£3,924,197	£3,580,650	£2,637,932	£2,425,352
Timber exported ... ..	£907,702	£932,800	£1,001,593	£965,308	£1,142,280	£808,392	£442,014	£310,983	£274,280	£332,930	£466,734	£1,137,223
Coal produced ... ..	£114,487	£104,016	£121,109	£150,184	£153,374	£137,575	£140,388	£182,852	£192,248	£219,260	£311,731	£393,424
Other Minerals (exported) ...	£328,471	£155,277	£150,490	£195,764	£215,819	£169,094	£165,213	£189,124	£275,856	£247,801	£218,067	£196,767
†Number of Sheep ... ..	4,731,737	5,158,516	5,411,542	4,596,958	4,421,375	4,456,186	4,803,350	5,529,960	6,384,191	7,163,747	6,697,951	6,582,965
†Number of Cattle ... ..	798,217	825,040	843,638	806,294	834,265	863,835	821,048	863,930	927,086	943,847	880,644	849,803
†Number of Horses ... ..	125,315	134,114	140,277	147,629	156,636	161,625	163,006	169,730	178,151	180,094	174,919	173,664
Area of land selected (acres) ...	1,904,780	1,922,112	1,973,565	1,403,108	993,851	502,551	308,590	235,640	547,593	611,135	1,469,684	1,728,455
Area of land leased (acres) ...	10,330,373	9,314,310	11,595,445	21,170,037	8,622,488	7,855,984	8,175,594	9,845,516	20,383,357	39,571,708	19,178,124	20,354,785
Area of land under cultivation ...	4,685,607	5,309,832	5,659,628	6,717,226	7,320,533	7,548,768	8,056,374	7,322,549	7,587,820	7,682,716	7,325,510	7,576,376
*Area of land under crop (acres) ...	722,086	855,024	1,072,053	1,199,991	1,537,923	1,867,547	2,180,466	2,004,944	1,879,772	1,605,086	1,628,163	1,804,999
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards ...	2,279,852	2,408,803	2,597,156	2,767,276	3,381,304	2,866,856	2,491,537	2,648,339	1,094,000	2,111,899	2,658,379	2,321,684
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards ...	2,271,879	2,419,078	2,615,952	2,755,500	3,376,282	2,794,822	2,492,875	2,557,966	1,102,295	2,121,070	2,672,524	2,322,161
Exports, including Gold ... ..	£8,576,659	£8,177,272	£10,443,570	£8,846,039	£10,415,065	£5,352,140	£8,040,484	£14,083,027	£5,807,335	£10,922,675	£16,068,790	£11,811,454
Exports, excluding Gold ... ..	£3,530,560	£3,752,783	£3,300,473	£4,549,126	£5,429,954	£3,082,276	£4,795,057	£5,662,966	£3,607,335	£5,927,471	£12,619,062	£10,442,220
Imports ... ..	£6,932,731	£8,450,855	£9,283,722	£9,689,745	£9,727,473	£8,301,280	£9,830,000	£9,362,210	£7,617,683	£8,023,990	£12,366,331	£14,851,051
Savings Bank's Deposits d ...	£2,400,099	£3,170,345	£3,504,626	£3,716,184	£4,551,872	£3,743,135	£3,940,874	£3,523,851	£3,606,076	£4,415,732	£6,045,930	£6,142,766
Savings Bank's withdrawals d ...	£2,070,776	£2,667,377	£3,316,113	£3,684,046	£4,000,884	£3,878,854	£3,628,187	£3,471,959	£3,549,203	£4,128,161	£5,036,575	£6,223,506
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	3,487	11,632	9,418	5,852	3,851	67,752	613,280	611,469	62,098	8,183	7,215	736
‡Population ... ..	271,162	287,826	302,341	313,940	323,952	332,520	314,687	308,530	311,121	323,220	334,884	331,728

[ASSEMBLY]

\* Season ended 28th February.

† Year ended 31st December.

‡ As on 30th June.

§ Including Perth Tramways.

a Preliminary figures, liable to revision.

b Excess of departures over arrivals.

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

d Not including School Savings Bank.

e Exclusive of premium realised on export sales.

f Based on Census, 3-4-21. Figures for preceding years will in due course be adjusted by the Census Office in Melbourne.

**BILL—GOLD BUYERS.****In Committee**

Resumed from 22nd September, Mr. Angelo in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clause 51—Magistrate may authorise samples to be taken.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Progress was reported on this clause because it was felt that it might lead to the sampling of a mine, from which rich pockets of gold had been taken, but which on sampling might show no evidence that any such gold had ever been taken from it. The power given by this clause is not for the purpose of enabling the magistrate to arrive at a determination in connection with the matter, but only for the purpose of assisting him in certain directions. This is one of the essential clauses of the Bill. I told the committee that if the question were postponed I would obtain the opinion of the Solicitor General, who has submitted to me the following minute—

Clause 51. This clause does not affect the law of evidence, that is to say, the effect of evidence, or the weight to be given to it. If in any proceedings it is alleged that the gold which the defendant is called upon to account for was obtained from some particular mining tenement, it seems to me that it is quite reasonable that the magistrate should have power to authorise some person to enter upon that mining tenement and make an inspection, and, if necessary, take samples. The sampling may be a material but would not be a determining factor in the case. The value of the evidence obtained by an inspection would depend on the circumstances. The proceedings must necessarily be before a resident magistrate, and it appears to me that a magistrate can be relied upon to take all the circumstances into consideration. It is true that there is no corresponding provision in the Victorian Act from which this Bill is taken, but in any proceedings under the Victorian Act evidence derived from an inspection of the mining tenement from which the gold ore is alleged to have been taken would be admissible. What is provided for by this section is, that where it is alleged that the gold is taken from some mining tenement, in case an impediment is put in the way of an inspection of that tenement, the magistrate may, if he thinks fit, authorise an inspection to be made; so that the person so authorised may enter without being a trespasser. The value of the evidence so obtained would, as I have stated, depend on the circumstances of the case, and I do not think there is any risk of the evidence having any undue weight in the mind of the magistrate, and, in any case, should the magistrate go wrong, there is always the right of appeal.

Such being the case, I hope the Committee will agree to pass the clause as printed. The

provision can only operate when a person is appearing before a magistrate, by which time a *prima facie* case must have been made out—and generally a *prima facie* case has been made out on pretty strong grounds. The magistrate should have power to authorise the inspection and sampling of a mine in connection with any gold stealing charge brought before him.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I fear that the Solicitor General's minute does not assist us very much. In fact, I am more inclined to oppose the clause now than when it was under discussion last week, prior to the Solicitor General's views being placed before the Committee. I should very much like to have a copy of the Solicitor General's minute. After all, some of the points raised by him deal with questions of policy, which really do not come within the purview of a public officer at all. Others, relating to the law of evidence, really have no application. So far as I have been able to follow the opinion just read by the Minister, it has no bearing whatever on the question, except to bring home to us the fact that a similar provision to this is not found in the Victorian Act. This provision was, I think, first recommended by the Royal Commission of 1906 or 1907. The Minister says that there is not much danger, because, after all, the magistrate must be satisfied that a *prima facie* case has been made out. That means a *prima facie* case in the minds of the police officials, or of those who are concerned with the administration of this measure.

The Minister for Mines: In the mind of the magistrate.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The clause does not say so. The clause leaves it quite optional on the part of the magistrate to order an examination at any time, even at a stage in the proceedings when there may not have been any evidence whatever presented for the prosecution, when a *prima facie* case cannot have been made out. The Minister of course assumes that the magistrate, in the exercise of his judgment, would not order such an examination until, at any rate to his mind, a *prima facie* case had been made out.

The Minister for Mines: Unless there was suspicion surrounding the conduct of the person owning the mine.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That does not alter the fact that the magistrate may order an examination at any time. Moreover, nothing expressed in the document read by the Minister alters the fact that the result of such a sampling would be the determining factor in the mind of the magistrate. The Solicitor General, of course, assumes that the magistrate will take into consideration all the facts and all the evidence in the case; but that is merely an expression of opinion by the Solicitor General, and is not worth more than an expression of opinion by any other citizen. There is no warrant for assuming that the magistrate would not be almost entirely



guided by the result of the sampling and examination, in arriving at his decision. Having ordered the sampling and examination, he would feel more or less bound to accept the results. I do not think the Committee would be justified in passing the clause. If Victoria has been able to get along without it, Western Australia should be able to get on without it. Parliament should be very careful before passing legislation which may result in an innocent person being lodged in gaol.

Mr. CHESSON: I am entirely opposed to the clause, which I do not think represents any assistance to the magistrate. The result of a fire assay is pure gold, and therefore no comparison would be of value. One could take stone from various parts of the State and bring it to the Murchison or the Kalgoorlie field, and any comparison that might be attempted would yield very little in the way of results. I have known 70 or 80 ounces of gold to be got in specimens during a single week, and 30 or 40 ounces more during the next week, and then no more gold to be obtained for 12 months on end. The taking of an assay of a mine would not be likely to assist the magistrate, but would be likely to result in the conviction of an innocent person. I shall vote against the clause.

Mr. MUNSIE: I am sorry I was absent when the Minister spoke on the clause, but I have read the Solicitor General's comments on it. The Solicitor General does not give an interpretation of the clause at all. Like the Leader of the Opposition, I fail to see that if a magistrate orders the sampling of a mine, that sampling is not going to be the deciding factor. If it was not going to be the deciding factor, the magistrate would not order it. The position would be that on the evidence adduced before him the magistrate could not make up his mind, whereupon he would say, "We will have the mine sampled." Then, if the sampling did not satisfy him that the gold in question came from the mine, he would convict. The clause now seems to me far worse than it appeared last week, especially when read in conjunction with Clause 35. There is no time limit imposed. A man might be called upon to prove where he obtained certain gold, 12 months after selling it, and then the magistrate, at that late stage, could order a sampling. What does the Minister really want the clause for, or what do the people responsible for the drafting of the Bill really want it for? If, as was suggested by the member for Perth, the object was to decide whether there was telluride in the mine, it would be a different thing altogether. But this clause does not refer specially to telluride: it simply refers to "gold." The gold-mining districts of this State are very patchy: a man might get 500 ounces from a pocket, and then get no more gold out of the mine. Certainly a magistrate should not convict on the result of a sampling.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not accept the same view of the clause as that advanced by the Leader of the Opposition,

the member for Cue, and the member for Hannans, because the other clauses of the Bill set out the real conditions under which gold may be treated, sold, and bought. This clause only deals with a case when it comes before a magistrate. It is quite as likely as not that the clause will operate in the interests of a defendant who may ask for an official inspection to be made in order to prove his assertion that exactly similar gold matter or ore would be found in his mine as that in respect of which he is charged before the court. The clause might operate to secure the dismissal of the defendant quite as much as it might operate to secure his conviction. If this provision is not made in the Bill, there will be no method provided empowering the magistrate to have an official inspection of a mine made. If the police raised the contention that an inspection of a mine would prove that no such gold as that concerned in a case would be found there, it would be impossible to make such an inspection. Such a provision as that embodied in the clause exists in other cases of a more serious nature. In cases where it is a matter of life and death, courts have been known to adjourn in order to inspect a particular site to see whether it coincided with the evidence before the court, thus assisting the court to arrive at a determination. If such a provision can apply in the case of life and death, it is not too much to ask that in the interests perhaps of the defendant himself, power should be given to the magistrate to order a mine to be inspected. As I have already pointed out, and as the Solicitor General points out, the inspection and sampling of a mine is not the determining factor.

Mr. Munsie: It is not only gold matter but at this refers to; it may be fine gold.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Gold taken from different classes of stone gives different results.

Mr. Chesson: Not by fire assay.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes, it can. Three sovereigns minted at Melbourne, Sydney and Perth, although containing the same gold contents and the same alloys, will show a marked difference in appearance. So it is with other gold samples. If the police made a raid on a smelting works, and took gold matter from them, and if the owner said it was taken from a telluride lode or a sulphide zone, whereas the owner had a claim in an oxidised zone, surely it is right to have the power provided for the magistrate to order an inspection of the mine and see if the gold could have been obtained from the particular mine.

Mr. Chesson: It should not be necessary to sample a mine if you knew the level from which the ore was taken.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If he knew the level, the magistrate might not require to have the inspection made, but the defendant may put forward some such plea. This clause will not provide the determining factor in connection with cases. It may not be raised in one out of 50 cases brought be-

fore the court. I agree with the Solicitor General's opinion that an appeal would lie against a conviction if this clause were made the determining factor.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no analogy between the question of life and death referred to by the Minister and cases such as are under discussion. It is quite possible that gold taken from a mine can be sold to a gold buyer and a subsequent investigation show that there is no more gold in that mine. That fact would raise suspicion in the minds of officers and would influence the court accordingly. Under this clause, there is a possibility of an innocent person being sent to gaol. I do not agree with the view put forward by the Solicitor General and I think that in nine cases out of ten, the fact that the sampling of a mine showed that there was no more gold of the description in question, would result in the man going to gaol. This Bill has been drafted for the Kalgoorlie district, and it may be applicable to mines in that district because they are very similar. To apply the clause to Western Australia generally, will be dangerous. We are not justified in passing laws which may result in making criminals. There is that possibility under this clause.

Mr. SAMPSON: The member for North-East Fremantle suggests that the object of this clause is to make criminals. The object of a magistrate will be to obtain all the evidence possible and he will be just as anxious to release a man in accordance with the facts as to find him guilty.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That does not apply in this case. It is possible that all the gold in the mine may be before the magistrate.

Mr. SAMPSON: This gold, which it is suggested is the determining factor, can be identified to some extent.

Mr. Chesson: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. SAMPSON: Gold varies, and that being so, the magistrate should be provided with powers to have a mine inspected and so secure all the facts possible in the case. When that is done, the magistrate can give his decision in accordance with the facts. The clause is equally to the advantage of the accused person as to those who bring a charge against him.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If the arguments of the member for Swan are those adduced by Mr. Bloxsome when he had this Bill before the executive of the Primary Producers' Association, I can understand how it happens that the only member present who was at that meeting can be induced to support the Bill in its entirety without understanding it. Seeing that the hon. member has expressed these views and was present at the meeting of the executive, I am justified in concluding that he has put forward the arguments of Mr. Bloxsome in support of this particular clause.

Mr. Sampson: These are self-evident facts.

Hon. P. COLLIER: They are self-evident facts that the hon. member does not understand the A.B.C. of the subject.

Mr. Sampson: But it is in accordance with the law of evidence.

Hon. P. COLLIER: This has nothing to do with that law. The hon. member cannot camouflage in that way. There is nothing self-evident about it except that the member for Swan does not grasp the position at all.

Mr. Sampson: The point has been stressed time after time that the magistrate is anxious to find the defendant guilty.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is not so. Let us assume that the magistrate is anxious to do justice in a case coming before him.

Mr. Sampson: If you admit that, you should vote for the clause.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Not at all. If we put an instrument in the hands of a magistrate, practically compelling him to adopt a certain course of action, which may affect the course of his judgment—

Mr. Sampson: Not necessarily.

Hon. P. COLLIER: But quite possibly and quite probably.

Mr. Sampson: That contention is not reasonable.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is very reasonable.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is the very thing that will occur in these circumstances. It is very hard to deal with these cases of gold stealing and to determine whether the defendant is guilty or innocent. The defendant would be called upon to say where he obtained the gold matter or gold. He would say he obtained it from a certain mine, and the magistrate would immediately fall back on Clause 51 and say, "I will have samples taken of the mine." And the result of the sampling might be misleading in the extreme, for a rich pocket may be taken out of a mine, leaving no trace of gold in the immediate vicinity of the pocket.

Mr. Sampson: Clause 51 might save him.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Of course it might. The Minister himself has swung round and declared that the clause was designed in the interests of the defendant. A man charged with an offence under this measure, and knowing that there is in his mine evidence of his probity, has only to send a reputable assayer into the mine and afterwards put him into the witness box.

The Minister for Mines: The court might not take much notice of that evidence.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Why not? At all events, the Chamber of Mines conceived this clause and placed it in the hands of Mr. Bloxsome, who put it before the Primary Producer's Association purely in the interests of the defendants. Unfortunately it is likely to operate in the opposite direction. We have been told that the Bill was introduced chiefly because it was recommended by successive Premier's Conferences. But I venture to say

that not any of those conferences contemplated such a clause as this. What they recommended was legislation on the lines of the Victorian Act.

The Minister for Mines: But the conditions vary. They have no tellurides over there.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If the Minister will insert in the clause a provision that it shall apply only when the question of tellurides is raised, I will consider it. To say that the clause is merely to enable the court to decide whether telluride exists in a mine, is to practise a little subterfuge. The clause is capable of an immensely wider application than that, capable of application in districts where telluride has never been seen. Will the Minister have an amendment drafted confining the operations of the clause to cases concerning telluride? In all the wide range of our legislation there is nothing so drastic as this measure. Because of this, successive Governments have hesitated to introduce such a Bill, notwithstanding that it has been asked for by the Chamber of Mines for the past 14 or 15 years. We should not lightly imperil the liberty of any citizen. I suggest that progress be reported in order to permit of Mr. Bloxsome being again consulted.

The Minister for Mines: I do not see what you can gain by reporting progress. Knock it out to-night, if that is what you wish to do.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am not sanguine of my chance. When the budget speech was over, a number of members went home, thinking that no important business would be considered.

The Minister for Mines: We suffered more than you in that respect.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I suffered as much as anyone, because I heard the speech right through.

The Minister for Mines: I meant that we suffered more than you through our members going home.

Mr. MUNSIE: Will the Minister explain the position of a man working an oxidised quartz reef in which he discovers a patch of 500ozs. of gold, doliies it and brings it in for sale. The police, on finding out that he had lodged the gold, could immediately impound it and lay a charge against him. The magistrate might order the mine to be sampled, and it would be possible for an assayer to sample all round and not get a trace of gold. In that case an innocent man might easily be convicted. What right have we to empower the magistrate to order the sampling of any honest man's mine. If the Minister wishes to retain the clause let him amend it to state exactly what he desires. Under this clause every man who goes out into the bush and is successful in striking a rich patch is liable to be accused. It goes much too far.

[Mr. Stubbs took the Chair.]

Mr. CHESSON: I move—

That progress be reported.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	13
Noes	..	..	..	18
Majority against				5

#### AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Simons
Mr. Collier	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Corbooy	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Heron	Mr. O'Loghlen
Mr. Marshall	(Teller.)

#### NOES.

Mr. Angelo	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Broun	Mr. Money
Mr. Carter	Mr. Pickering
Mr. Denton	Mr. Piesse
Mr. Durack	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Latham	Mr. Mullany
Mr. H. K. Maley	(Teller.)
Mr. Mann	

Motion thus negatived.

Mr. CHESSON: I take it the clause will come into operation when a person is asked to account for being in possession of certain gold. If the police are not satisfied with his statement that the gold came from his mine, the matter will be referred to the magistrate who may order the mine to be sampled. When the mine is sampled, it may fail to reveal any ore of sufficient richness to substantiate the claim made by the person in question, whereas in actual fact the statement may have been a perfectly true one. The clause will not be of much assistance to any accused person, and may in fact cast suspicion upon him. It is impossible for anyone, by sampling the mine, to say conclusively that the gold did not come from it. I shall, therefore, vote against the clause.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not know that the Leader of the Opposition meant what he said when he suggested I was using a subterfuge by way of an argument to bolster up the clause. That is not the case. The clause has a definite purpose of which no argument can rob it. There have been many occasions when a clause such as this would have been of great use. In Coolgardie recently a defendant objected to the persons inspecting his mine on the ground that they were prejudiced through being employed by the Chamber of Mines. He wanted a special inspection made, which, under this clause could have been arranged by the magistrate. Do we not frequently hear complaints of the law as to illegal coinage? And is it not true that but for that law the poorer classes of the community would be made to suffer?

One essential precaution of legal procedure is to allow the court to adopt every means of proving whether an accused person is innocent or guilty. The alleged instances of 500 ounces of gold being found in a little pocket or a small vein do not occur.

Mr. Munsie: They do.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I challenge the member for Hannans to adduce one instance of a man who was genuinely working a mine being brought before the court on a charge of illicit dealing in gold; it has always been a man with a mine and a treatment plant. Suspicion fastens on a man who is working a long abandoned lease and at the same time largely buying gold.

Mr. Munsie: I do not want to protect such a man at all.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member is doing that, however, by opposing this clause. Let us provide an opportunity for sampling the show of such a man. The police are not roaming about the country looking for opportunities to bring charges of illicit dealing in gold. Moreover, a magistrate will not order a sampling unless a prima facie case has first been made out. Our magistrates are not simpletons; they will want to know all about the grounds which the police have for suspecting a particular man. Indeed, the magistrate would not be likely to order an examination unless the accused claimed that the gold had been obtained from a certain show.

Mr. Corboy: Insert in the clause that a prima facie case must be made out before a sampling can be ordered.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am prepared to accept that suggestion, so that there will not be even the possibility of the police coming into court and simply saying, "We want your worship to order an examination of John Jones's mine."

Mr. Mann: When the magistrate has made up his mind that a prima facie case has been made out, he has to a certain extent made up his mind against the accused, because this is summary jurisdiction.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The clause means that something must be shown to the magistrate which warrants an examination of the mine. While there may be a possibility of some innocent person being convicted under this clause, that possibility is so remote that we should be acting foolishly in allowing 50 guilty persons to escape on that account. I believe that the provision in itself would suffice to stop a good many of these ramps that have been and are going on. Thus it will be the means of preventing many innocent persons from suffering. It is not always the members of the Chamber of Mines who are the sufferers. The member for Hannans is anxious about employment in the mines. The Horseshoe dump is said to contain from three million to five million pounds worth of gold. If the company started treating the dump it would provide a considerable amount of employment, but if thieves commenced

stealing gold and made the work unpayable, the company would close down, with the result that hundreds of men would be thrown out of employment. In that case it would not be the thief who would suffer, but the hundreds of men who were thrown out of employment. It is possible that we may close down mines through not safeguarding the position regarding those who steal gold. It is necessary to protect the mines, otherwise we may throw men out of employment, and, for that reason, it is necessary that we should take some little risk in the matter. If it is found that the operation of the clause has the effect of putting innocent men in gaol, Parliament will not be slow to act. This clause is one of the essential features of the Bill and it will do more to stop the operations of men who thief gold, than to catch them. It is time that we closed down a lot of the ramps that have been operating.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am sorry the Minister has taken up the attitude that he must get the clause through to-night.

The Minister for Mines: We have had it before the House previously and postponed it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Bill is an extensive one containing very important provisions, yet it passed the second reading and Committee stages in one sitting. This clause, which is drastic and far reaching, was postponed in order that the Minister might have an opportunity of going into it further.

The Minister for Mines: And to get the opinion of the Solicitor General.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is so, and also to see if it was possible to amend it to meet the views of those opposed to it. I consider it can be amended or modified. I do not take up the attitude that there is nothing in this clause that is not warranted. Some provision of this kind is necessary, but it can be modified. I have not had an opportunity of preparing any such amendment because I was not aware of the attitude the Minister intended to adopt, until we reached the clause to-night. I honestly believed the Minister would be able to say that, after consultation with the Solicitor General, he was able to amend the clause to meet the objections raised. I am sorry he has announced his determination to stand by the clause. It is not possible to frame an amendment at this hour. The Minister has attempted to justify the clause by reading into it something which it does not contain. The Minister has endeavoured to state precisely what attitude every magistrate will adopt when an accused person appears before him. The Minister has no warrant whatever for assuring the Committee of any attitude which may be adopted by any magistrate. We are justified in saying that any magistrate will take the extreme powers conferred upon him by a clause. The Minister does not know what a magistrate will do.

# Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 28th September, 1921.

The Minister for Mines: I know there are things a magistrate cannot do, otherwise his decision will be upset on appeal.

Hon. P. COLLIER: We all know that. A magistrate, however, can do anything he is empowered under the clause to do. The clause is specific and definite, but the Minister has tried to tone it down by assuming that the magistrate will not do this and will not do that. The Minister has no warrant for any such attitude. The Committee is wise in assuming that a magistrate will adopt the most extreme limit of the powers conferred upon him. Although it may not happen in one case in a thousand, still that possibility is always there. It is begging the question to say that the magistrate would not do this or would not do that. It is practically impossible at this hour of the night to draft a satisfactory amendment. To submit the whole broad question to the court is conferring too much power altogether. The case put up to-night has been insincere, because those who support it are not prepared to agree to a postponement to allow of the drafting of an amendment. No effective reply has been advanced to the case submitted in regard to the possibility of an innocent man being convicted.

Mr. J. Thomson: No innocent man has yet been convicted.

Hon. P. COLLIER: How can the hon. member say that? Only the Creator could say such a thing. Innocent men have been hanged. The attitude of the hon. member is that if the court says a man is guilty he must be guilty. Take the case of McCahon's Great Hope mine with its wonderful crushing reported in this morning's paper. Nobody would be surprised if after that crushing the values were to fall.

The Minister for Mines: If we postpone the clause will you see the Solicitor General and get your proposed amendment drafted?

Hon. P. COLLIER: I will. We must have in the Bill some power dealing with the examination of mines, but the clause as printed is altogether too sweeping. I will endeavour to have a satisfactory amendment drawn.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11.7 p.m.

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

## QUESTION—WONNERUP TUART MILL.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT asked the Minister for Education: 1, When was the Forests Department tuart mill at Wonnerup commenced? 2, When was it finished? 3, What is the present output? 4, What is the total output to date? 5, What is the total expenditure in connection with the mill to date? 6, What is the cost per load on trucks of sawn timber? 7, Who authorised the expenditure?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, 1st May, 1920. 2, 11th June, 1921, but owing to difficulty in obtaining a manager, did not start cutting until 23rd August, 1921. 3, Five loads per day. 4, With the exception of two trucks of tuart, only jarrah timber for constructing mill cottages has been cut. 5, £10,295 to 31st August, 1921. This includes cost of tramline to railway siding, and all mill and bush equipment. 6, A full month's figures not yet available. 7, The establishment of the mill was approved by Parliament under Working Plan No. 2.

## BILL—ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

## RESOLUTION—FEDERATION AND THE STATE.

Select Committee appointed.

On motion by the Minister for Education (Hon H. P. Colebatch) resolved: That the Legislative Council be represented on the joint select committee by five members, the Hons. J. Ewing, A. Sanderson, H. Stewart, A. H. Panton, and J. W. Kiwman.

## MOTION—ELECTRICITY, GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION.

To Inquire by Royal Commission.

Debate resumed from the 6th September on the following motion by Hon. J. Ewing.

That in the opinion of this House the Government should appoint a Royal Com-