

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

### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That Order of the Day No. 10 (Factories and Shops Act Amendment Bill, No. 2) be considered next.

Question put, and declared passed on the voices.

Hon. H. Seddon: Mr. President, I voted against that motion.

The PRESIDENT: Does the hon. member call for a division?

Hon. H. Seddon: I thought a division might be taken. A fair thing is a fair thing.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	12
Noes	..	..	..	15

Majority against	..	3
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#### AYES.

Hon. E. H. Angelo	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. W. H. Kilson
Hon. J. T. Franklin	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. T. Moore

(Teller.)

#### NOES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. J. J. Holmes	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. J. M. Macfarlane	

(Teller.)

Question thus negatived.

The PRESIDENT: I shall call the items in the order in which they appear on my notice paper. The next is Order of the Day No. 5, Financial Emergency Tax Assessment Act Amendment Bill, second reading.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.57 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 29th November, 1939.

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

### QUESTIONS (2)—RAILWAYS.

*Axles for "S" Class engines.*

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Railways:—Pursuant to the answers given by him to questions asked by me on 22nd inst., re axles for the proposed "S" class locomotives.—1, If the axles are not being received in a more completed form, what is responsible for the enormous increase in price as compared with that paid recently for "P" class axles? 2, Were the axles for the "P" class engines when received from the Eastern States turned to length, centred and the work of relieving centres between journals done as is now the case with the "S" class axles? 3, Is it correct that piston rods, which have previously been made in Midland Junction, are now being imported from Broken Hill or somewhere else in the Eastern States?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Axles for "P" class engines were ordered as heat-treated forgings and priced

accordingly but the firm found that to comply with the limit of size imposed and to pass inspection it was necessary to rough machine the forgings. Only one quotation was received for "S" class axles and presumably the firm acted upon their previous unfortunate experience. 2, Yes. 3, Bars of specially heat-treated material are obtained from the Eastern States and the piston rods are manufactured in the Midland Junction shops.

#### *Free Travel for A.I.F.*

Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Do members of the 6th Division A.I.F. at present camped at Northam have to pay railway fares when on leave prior to departure from the State? 2, If so, did this apply to members of the A.I.F. in the war of 1914-1918 in similar circumstances? 3, Will arrangements be made to enable such soldiers to travel free on the railway when on such leave?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Vide "West Australian" of this morning that the Commonwealth Department has accepted responsibility of fares when members of A.I.F. are on final leave prior to departure from the State. 2, In the 1914-1918 war the Commonwealth Department accepted the responsibility. 3, Answered by No. 1.

#### **QUESTION--SUPERANNUATION.**

##### *Railwaymen's Claims.*

Mr. SHEARN asked the Premier: 1, Has the Government given any consideration to the report and recommendation of the Select Committee of 1937 in relation to claims for superannuation by wages men employed in the railway service between 1871 and 1904? 2, If so, is any action contemplated?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, No.

#### **BILLS (2) THIRD READING.**

1, Nurses Registration Act Amendment.

2, Reserves (No. 3).

Transmitted to the Council.

#### **MOTION—STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.**

On motion by the Premier resolved:—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees.

#### **BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT.**

##### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. WATTS (Katanning) [4.36]: I do not intend to oppose the measure. At the same time I would like to point out to the Minister, in regard to an observation made by him, that the circumstances may not be quite as he seemed inclined to indicate. He said there was no request for a referendum. I do not deny that is so, but nevertheless the intention to conduct such a referendum has been on the statute book, and it is to be presumed that there would be no request for a referendum on the assumption that the law was that one would be held. That, I think, is the objection to the measure now before the House—that the continuance of the practice that has prevailed over a large number of years will enable Parliament to say that certain rights, as it were, that people consider they have acquired to have certain things done, shall be taken away from them. If that practice were extended, there would be very grave danger in it. I admit the force of the Minister's observation in regard to this particular matter, that the country does not want the expense. I also admit the probability of his forecast of the result of such a referendum and I agree that most likely, in fact almost certainly, this is hardly the time—nor will the time arise during the currency of the next year—when such a controversial matter should be argued on public platforms throughout the State. I trust that if the law is to say, as it will if the Bill becomes an Act, that a referendum is to be taken in 1945, either that referendum will be taken or Parliament will definitely come to the conclusion that it should abandon the project altogether. I do not intend to oppose the second reading but would point out to the Minister the objection that will undoubtedly be raised by some people. If we are going to discard

the question of a referendum in the future, let us set about it promptly and not continue postponing it as appears to have been the position in the past, a situation that will be perpetuated by this measure for another five years.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, Etc.*

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

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

**BILL—SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS ACT AMENDMENT.**

*In Committee.*

Mr. Marshall in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment of Section 6:

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That in paragraph (i) of the Proviso the word "payment" in line 9 of page 3 be struck out, and the word "payments" be inserted in lieu.

The substitution of the word "payments" for "payment" is being made so that it may correspond with "are" in line 10.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 7—agreed to.

Clause 8—Amendment of section 36:

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That paragraphs (a) and (b) be struck out and the following paragraph inserted in lieu:—“(a) by deleting paragraph (a) of Subsection (5) and inserting in lieu thereof a paragraph as follows:—(a) if he has attained the age of forty years, or, being an employee at the commencement of this Act, was not less than thirty years of age when he became a contributor, he may increase the amount of his contribution to an amount not exceeding the sum which will provide units of pension to the number specified in column two opposite to that higher salary group; and

Paragraphs (a) and (b) in the Bill as printed have been amalgamated and slightly varied to make the meaning quite clear, and to be consistent with Subsections (4) and

(6) of Section 36 of the Act. Between the dates of the commencement of the Act (1st March) and the commencement of contributions (1st July) there was a gap of four months. The age on which contributions are based was the "age next birthday" as on 1st July last. So that the context can more readily be followed, paragraph (b) in Clause 8 has been embodied in paragraph (a), and the whole printed as paragraph (a) of Section 36 (5). The alterations affect only the first three lines.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9—Amendment of Section 39:.

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That in line 6 of the proposed Proviso the words "or the qualified contributor" be struck out.

The reference to qualified contributors requires to be deleted, as the clause would not apply to them. Their rates are limited to age 65. The Act in Sections 48 and 69 covers the continuance of their contributions up to the age of 65.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10—Amendment of Section 40:

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That in the proposed proviso to paragraph (a) the words "whose period of service under the State when he becomes a contributor is less than ten years or" be struck out.

The words proposed to be struck out do not affect the meaning of the Proviso, but their omission will make the intention clearer.

Amendment put and passed.

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That after the word "subsection" in line 4 of proposed Subsection 1 (a) the following words be inserted:—“and any employee who is of an age which will permit him to complete ten years' service under the State before attaining the age for retirement for which he desires to contribute and who at the commencement of this Act was an employee, and was not less than sixty years of age when he became a contributor”

The words proposed to be added to new Subsection 1 (a) of Section 40 are intended to make provision for those now in the service between the ages of 60 and 65 to retire on a full pension, instead of having to wait until they are 65 or having to accept a reduced pension in the interim. The proviso is necessary to conform to the other provisions of the clause.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I find it very difficult to grasp the meaning of this amendment. An employee of the service must be 60 years of age or more to come under the Act; he cannot be less than 60 years of age. How can a man of 60 or more remain in the service to complete ten years' service? When the Premier was away I called the attention of the Minister in charge of the Bill to the case of employees who were over 60 years of age all of whom had been more than ten years in the service, and therefore were qualified to come under the scheme. In the other case it is alleged—and I would like to get information from the Premier on the point—that if they come under the scheme they can only retire at 65, although the man who is 59 years of age, who also has ten years' service to his credit, can take out a policy and retire at 60. The man who retires at 65 should have the benefit of the same privilege as that enjoyed by the other individual who retires when he reaches 60. During my second reading speech, I cited the case of men at the Midland Junction Workshops. Some in the engineering shop are physically past their day, and would be willing to retire if they could secure a pension. Their retirement would make room for admirable juniors who will have to leave the service early in the new year because their time has expired. An amendment of this character should be made early enough to save those young men being lost to the service and to Western Australia. Concerns in the Eastern States are only too ready to absorb trained mechanics, and, in fact, are doing so today. Then again I am at a loss to understand the meaning of the amendment which is couched in terms that present the gravest difficulty to anyone seeking to give it any meaning at all. It may mean that a man who is over 60 years of age is entitled to be a contributor, but must remain in the service for ten years.

The Premier: You cannot read that into the amendment.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I think that construction can be placed upon it.

The Premier: No.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I regard it as regrettable that legislation should not be worded in plain English. No doubt the intention is admirable, but trouble is sub-

sequently experienced when effect is sought to be given to such provisions.

The PREMIER: I agree with everything that the hon. member has said, but these anomalies must necessarily arise in the inaugural stages of such a scheme. They will be ironed out in the course of time. The Bill deals with a principle that extends over the lifetime of the contributor. The provisions regarding men retiring at 60 and 65 will be found in the principal Act. Most women and many men will elect to retire at 60 years of age, for they are not guaranteed employment beyond that stage of their life. There are two sets of conditions that have been worked out actuarially, and they provide that a man may retire at 60 or at 65. If a man elects to retire at 60, he pays in accordance with the schedule attached to the Act. If he elects to retire at 65 he pays also in accordance with the provisions of the schedule. The respective proportional payments are in accordance with actuarial calculations worked out to indicate what will happen over a period of years. As the Act was not passed with retrospective effect, the Government has elected to accept the grave responsibility for providing pensions for the elderly employees. Extensive concessions have been granted to those on the verge of retirement. The provisions have given rise to anomalies that would not have become apparent had it been decided that the Act was to remain in force for ten years before any officer could secure a pension. The person who elects to retire at 65 will pay a little less than those who choose to retire at 60, because the expectation of life of the former is less than that of the latter. As the member for Nedlands pointed out, the person who elects to join at the age of 59, will pay a comparatively small sum, and then be entitled to receive a pension at the end of 12 months. His contributions will then be made good in a very brief period of weeks. We agree that the man who is physically or mentally incapable of rendering reasonably adequate service to the Crown should be allowed to retire at 62, 64 or whatever age may be deemed necessary.

Hon. N. Keenan: But the man who is over 60 years has no election.

The PREMIER: He had not. The parent Act gave him no election, but those under 60 years had the right to elect when they

would retire. I agree with all the hon. member has pointed out but, as I have emphasised, anomalies were bound to arise in the circumstances, although ordinarily they would not be permitted to occur. In order that the fund may be placed on a proper basis, the Committee would be well advised to pass the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

The Premier: I move an amendment—

That a Proviso be added to the proposed new Subsection (1a) as follows:—Provided that an employee shall not in any case be entitled to elect to contribute for retirement at an age earlier than that which he will attain after the date when he makes his election.

This amendment is to make provision for public servants between the ages of 60 and 65 years who desire to retire on a full pension instead of waiting until they are 65.

Amendment put and passed.

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That proposed new Subsection (5) be struck out and the following new subsection, to stand as Subsection (5) be inserted in lieu:—(5) Subject as hereinafter provided, where a contributor who has made an election under this section to contribute for full pension upon retirement at the age of sixty years, or at a later age less than sixty-five years does not retire upon attaining the age of retirement for which he has contributed as aforesaid, he shall not be required to make contributions after he has attained the age of retirement for which he has contributed as aforesaid, and he shall not be entitled to receive pension until his retirement. Provided that, if such contributor has elected to make contributions in respect of units of pension at the rates prescribed for the age of thirty years in accordance with paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section thirty-six of this Act, then notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this subsection or elsewhere in this Act, such contributor shall be liable to make and shall make his contributions in respect of the said units of pension at the prescribed rate for a minimum period of five years from the date when he commenced to make contributions in respect of such units of pension, or until he retires, when he retires before the completion of such period of five years, and shall not be entitled to receive pension until after his retirement.

The Subsection (5) which I propose to strike out provides that a person who has contributed for ten years and has remained in the service later than the age for which he had elected to contribute for retirement, would cease to contribute for other than the age 30 concession units, but would continue the payment for the age 30 units until actual

retirement. Further consideration of that phase shows that anomalies would occur unless other provisions were made. It is proposed to supersede that subsection by the subsection I am now moving, under which those who elect for an age earlier than 65 will pay the contributions for the age 30 concession units for five years, if they continue in the service; if they retire before the completion of five years their contributions would cease. I would draw attention to the verbose framing of this clause. Parliament is getting into the habit of using an unwarranted number of words. I am prepared to take a risk by shortening the language of Acts. By doing so, we may occasionally cause some trouble; but unwarranted verbosity often leads to more confusion and makes people—to use an Irish phrase—mithered.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11—New section:

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That in line 4 of proposed new section 46(b) the word "eight" be struck out and the word "five" inserted in lieu.

The rate of interest is not likely to reach eight per cent., and contributors have taken exception to a power that might be exercised at some future time. They ask that the rate of interest be limited to five per cent. I have no hesitation in acceding to the request.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12—agreed to.

Clause 13—New section:

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That after the word "contributor" in lines 3 and 4 of Subsection (b) of proposed new Section 55A the following words and parentheses be inserted:—" (including a qualified contributor) ".

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 14 and 15—agreed to.

Clause 16—Amendment of Section 61.

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 of proposed new Section 61 the words "or a widow" be struck out and that in line 3 after the word "years" the words "or is a widow" be inserted.

The transfer of the reference to "widow" to a position following, instead of preceding, the reference to children under age 16 is

necessary, because a female contributor is eligible for a personal pension only; the rates of contribution by females do not provide for children.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 17 to 19, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

## **BILLS (2)—RETURNED.**

1, Loan, £2,137,000.

Without amendment.

2, Land Act Amendment.

With amendments.

## **RESOLUTION—STATE FORESTS.**

### *Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had concurred in the Assembly's resolution.

## **BILL—ROAD CLOSURE.**

### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**MR. THORN** (Toodyay) [5.18]: I have no objection to the Bill. I have consulted various members whose electorates will be affected by the measure and undoubtedly the proposals are the outcome of representations by local governing bodies and other authorities for the closure of the roads. In some instances the object is to beautify towns or provide tennis courts and other facilities for the benefit of the towns.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee, etc.*

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

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

## **BILL—STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE ACT AMENDMENT.**

### *Council's Amendment.*

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

### *In Committee.*

Mr. Marshall in the Chair; the Minister for Labour in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2:—Delete proposed new paragraph (b1), and substitute the following:—

(b1) in relation to insurance under Part IVA. of the Traffic Act, 1919-1939.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: In the Bill as approved by this Chamber, the definition of the term "insurance business" in the Act was to be amended to give the State office the right to transact all classes of insurable risks, including third-party risks in connection with the ownership and use of motor vehicles. The Council's amendment aims at restricting the State office to third-party risk insurance. If the State office is so restricted, it will be placed in an altogether undesirable and unfortunate position, and in most instances will have to accept the worst classes of third-party risk. Naturally, the majority of motorists would transact the whole of their motor insurance business at the one office, and the State office would be left to transact third-party risks with those motorists who insured against that risk alone, and they would so insure only because it would be compulsory under the law. The amendment is utterly unbusinesslike. If any member of another place was conducting an insurance business, he would argue vehemently, yet logically, that the restriction was thoroughly unbusinesslike and undesirable. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Mr. Watts, Mr. Styants and the Minister for Labour drew up reasons for not agreeing to the amendment.

Reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

## **BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).**

### *Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of 24 amendments made by the Council now considered.

### *In Committee.*

Mr. Marshall in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

No. 1, Clause 2 (1):—Delete the words "a day to be fixed by proclamation" and substitute the words "the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and forty".

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Government cannot possibly agree to the amendment. The date of proclamation will be fixed after full consideration of the premium committee's report, though it is hoped that the measure will be proclaimed by the date stated in the Council's amendment. I assume that the Government representative and also the representative of motor owners will be doing their best to get terms from the insurance companies. We have stated that unless satisfactory rates are arrived at by the committee, the measure will not be proclaimed. There will be no hope of successful negotiations with the companies if the amendment is agreed to, because then the companies could simply stand out and dictate terms. There is all the difference in the world between the Bill without the amendment and the Bill with it. The amendment would make the measure useless, since it destroys the Minister's option to refrain from proclaiming. In fairness to ourselves, the premium committee and motorists the premium committee must not be handicapped. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 2, Clause 6, proposed new Section 13A:—Insert after the word "produced" in line 20, the words, "and lodged."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Bill as it stands asks for the production of the certificate. The Council's amendment requires production and lodging of the certificate. In South Australia considerable inconvenience has been caused by the authorities' inability to insist upon the lodging of the certificate. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 3, Clause 9, proposed new Section 55 (1):—Delete the definition of "Approved insurer."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Council's amendment deals with the amended definition. The definition will be

placed in its proper position in the Bill. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 4, Clause 9, proposed new Section 55 (1):—Delete the definition of "Owner".

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This amendment is on the same footing as the previous one, and therefore I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 5, Clause 9, proposed new Section 55:—In the definition of "Uninsured motor vehicle" on page 6, delete all words after the word "which" in line 5 to end of definition, and substitute the words "there is not existing and in force a contract of insurance under this Part, but shall not include a motor vehicle owned by the Commonwealth Government or instrumentality."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not know that we can bind the Commonwealth. The State is exempt. The Council's amendment exempts the Commonwealth. I presume that the Commonwealth would have the same responsibility as the State if there was any carelessness on the part of the driver of the Commonwealth motor vehicle.

Hon. C. G. Latham: All Governments are presumed to carry insurance.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 6, Clause 9, proposed new Section 55 (3):—Insert after word "Crown" in line 17, page 6, the words and parentheses "(either Commonwealth or State)."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This is a consequential amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 7, Clause 9, proposed new Section 55 (3):—Insert before the word "State" in line 18 the words "Commonwealth or."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This also affects the Commonwealth and it will exempt Commonwealth vehicles as well as State vehicles from the requirements of the Bill. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 8. Clause 9, proposed new Section 55 (3):—Add after the word "States" in line 18, the word "respectively."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This amendment is consequential. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 9. Clause 9, proposed new Section 55:—Add a new subsection to stand as subsection (6) as follows:—(6) This part shall cease to have any effect in regard to any motor vehicle commandeered, requisitioned, or used for military or defence purposes under any Commonwealth Act, regulation or proclamation.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The effect of this amendment will be to exempt vehicles requisitioned for military purposes. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 10. Clause 9, proposed new Section 56:—In subsection (3), page 7, line 36:—Delete the word "may" and substitute the word "shall."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The object of another place is that proceedings shall be commenced within a period of six months. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 11. Clause 9, proposed new Section 56:—In subsection (3), page 7:—Delete all words after the word "or" in line 38, and substitute the following:—

(b) within a period of three months from the date on which it came to the knowledge of the prosecutor that the alleged offence had been committed whichever is the longer, provided that no such proceedings shall be commenced after the expiration of one year from the date of the commission of the alleged offence.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This amendment has been inserted on the advice of the Crown Solicitor. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 12. Clause 9, proposed new Section 57 (2):—"Add after the word 'person' in line 23, on page 9, the following words and 'engaged on his master's business'".

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Bill sets out that a policy of insurance did not indemnify a servant of the insured person. The amendment provides for the addition of the words "engaged on his master's business." This comes under the heading of exemptions, and it is assumed that if a person is engaged on his master's business he must come under the Workers' Compensation Act. I have no objection to the amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 13. Clause 9, proposed new Section 57 (3):—Delete the words "a substantial part of whose usual business is such carriage" in lines 26 and 27, on page 9.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Without the words that another place deleted, the proposed new section will read—"Every policy which relates to a vehicle used for the carriage of passengers for hire by a person must indemnify the insured person . . ." This particular subclause was copied from the South Australian Act as amended in 1938. The 1936 Act of that State contained the words "wholly or mainly", and as a good deal of trouble was occasioned it was decided to alter the words as they appeared in the Bill when it left this House. The South Australian Minister in explaining the amendment last year stated that there had been trouble about the compulsory insurance of passenger-carrying motor vehicles, particularly in the country where primary producers' vehicles were often used for the conveyance of football teams or picnic parties in return for a small consideration. There had been a great deal of opposition to the payment of a relatively high insurance premium to obtain insurance covering the carrying of passengers at rare intervals. The Minister added that the effect of the amendment would be that the owner of a vehicle ordinarily used for the transport of primary produce, and only casually used for carrying football teams and picnic parties, could only be compelled to insure against his liability for injury to third persons other than passengers. The amendment was placed in the Bill to exempt those who only casually

used motor vehicles for conveying parties. If the vehicle owners were compelled to take out a prohibitively high insurance policy when they might only use the vehicle a few times a year, the result would be that it would never be used for that purpose. People should not be compelled to take out a policy as if they were usually engaged in carrying passengers. I cannot agree to the amendment made by another place. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 14. Clause 9, proposed new Section 57:—Delete Subsection (4) on page 9.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This amendment is copied from the South Australian Act and a similar provision appears in the Victorian measure and in the English Act. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 15. Clause 9, proposed new Section 58 (6):—"Insert after the word 'person' in line 17, page 12, the words 'whilst engaged on his master's business'".

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This is consequential. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 16. Clause 9, proposed new Section 59 (6) (a):—"Insert after the word 'writing' in line 34, page 16, the words 'sent or delivered to the officer in charge at the police station nearest to the place where the accident occurred.'"

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This amendment was made at the Government's request. Notice of an accident will have to be "sent or delivered" to the officer in charge at the police station nearest to where the accident took place. As it left the House the Bill provided that on the happening of an accident affecting an uninsured vehicle, the driver or the owner had to notify the Minister in writing of the occurrence. The amendment moved in another place is an improvement, and I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 17. Clause 9, proposed new section 60—Insert after the word "shall" in line 6, page 17, the words "be an approved insurer and."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move—  
That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 18. Clause 9, proposed new section 67—Insert after the word "owner" in line 14, page 24, the words "approved insurer, nominal defendant."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This is in conformity with the last amendment we agreed to. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 19. Clause 9, proposed new section 67—Add at the end of proposed new section, the following:—

In so far as this section is inconsistent with or repugnant to or may be deemed to be inconsistent with or repugnant to any provision contained in any other Act in force at the commencement of this Act, this section shall prevail, and such provision contained in such other Act aforesaid shall be subject to this section and shall be read and construed and have effect accordingly.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This amendment appears to make the Act paramount. It is inserted on the advice of the Solicitor-General. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 20. Clause 9, proposed new section 69 (1)—Insert after the word "any" in line 29, page 24, the words "police officer or constable or."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move—  
That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 21. Clause 9, proposed new section 70 (1)—Insert after the word "Part" in line 41, page 24, the words "before its expiry."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move—  
That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 22. Clause 9, proposed new section 77 (2)—Delete the words "The Auditor-General as Chairman" in line 34, page 28, and substitute the words "A Judge of the Supreme Court or a stipendiary magistrate who shall be chairman."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We gave a good deal of thought to the constitution of the premiums committee. Not only is a qualified auditor required on the committee, but one who is also of some standing. The Auditor-General assisted the Committee that inquired into the question of insurance premiums when the Bill was in preparation. The measure has been considered for the past two years and discussed with the Underwriters' Association, representatives of the Automobile Club and the Government Actuary. I agree that in some instances a judge of the Supreme Court or a resident magistrate would be an appropriate chairman, but when it is a matter of a specialist being appointed, I consider that the Auditor-General should occupy the chairmanship of the committee. Considering the work that has to be done in the examination of the accounts of insurance companies and the arguing of most intricate financial questions, the Auditor-General is the man we would most desire for the position.

Mr. Doney: Is there any provision for someone to act in his place in the event of his being absent?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Every member of the committee would have to be present. It is not as though we are forming a committee to deal with a given subject. The committee will be representative. Two members will represent the Government, two the motor owners and two the underwriters and insurance companies. The matter is one of negotiation and the examination of accounts. Therefore there can be no question of a quorum. All the members would have to be present and all would be equally responsible. No provision has been made for any to be absent. There must be mutual agreement and a unanimous recommendation. For instance, a recommendation not agreed to by the insurance companies cannot be made. The companies could not possibly be held to anything to which they had not agreed. The work of the other four members of the Committee therefore is to endeavour to persuade the insurance companies to agree to rea-

sonable premium rates. The Auditor General would be a greater strength to us in this respect than either a judge of the Supreme Court or a resident magistrate. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 23, Clause 10—Delete the words "Consequently upon the operation of section nine of this Act" in lines 25 and 26, on page 30.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: By this amendment we are for once striking out some redundant words. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 24, New Clause—Insert a new clause after Clause 3, to stand as Clause 4, as follows:—

4, Section four of the principal Act is amended as follows:—

(a) by inserting therein before the definition of "District" a new definition as follows:—

"Approved insurer" means any person or association of persons carrying on the business of insurance who or which has been approved by the Minister as an approved insurer for the purposes of Part IVA. of this Act, and all persons and associations of persons and companies approved under section ten of the Workers' Compensation Act, 1912-1938;

(b) by deleting therefrom the definition of "Owner" and inserting in lieu thereof a definition as follows:—

"Owner" when used in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of a hire-purchase agreement means the person in possession of that vehicle under that agreement, and, when used in relation to a vehicle which is the subject of a hiring agreement (other than a hire-purchase agreement) under which the vehicle is hired for a period of not less than six months, means the person in possession of that vehicle under that hiring agreement. Save as aforesaid the term "owner" means any person who owns a vehicle.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** This is in substitution of the clause we have agreed to delete, but I cannot agree to the amendment. "Approved insurers" under the Traffic Act will be restricted to those companies that signify their willingness to underwrite the business at premiums not in excess of those approved by the Minister upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. Approval under the Workers' Compensation Act is not therefore necessarily a qualification under the Traffic Act. In South Australia an agreement is entered into and only those who sign the agreement can take third-party insurance. The form of agreement is as follows:—

Application to become an Approved Insurer pursuant to the Provisions of Part IIA of the Road Traffic Act, 1934-38.

To the Hon. the Treasurer, Adelaide.

.....  
(Name of company, association or person applying for Treasurer's approval)

hereby applies to the Hon. the Treasurer of South Australia to be recognised as an approved insurer under the provisions of Part IIA of the Road Traffic Act, 1934-38.

In support of this application the following information is supplied:—

Full name of applicant company, association or person.....

Address of head office in Australia.....

Address of principal place of business in South Australia.....

Does the applicant undertake that without the consent of the Treasurer he/it will not refuse to insure on application duly made and payment of the proper fee any motor vehicle for which insurance is required under Part IIA of the Road Traffic Act, 1934-38?.....

Does the applicant undertake to charge premiums at the rates recommended as fair and reasonable by the Government Committee appointed on the 1st February, 1937?.....

A copy of the last financial statement and/or balance sheet of my company/association is attached.

The provisions of the Insurance Act, 1932, of the Commonwealth have been complied with by the applicant.

I,....., the Attorney in South Australia of the applicant, do solemnly and sincerely declare that all the information contained in this application is true and correct in every particular. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act, 1936.

Declared before me at.....  
this.....day of....., 1939.

....., J.P.

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

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The amendment made by another place is not appropriate to the Bill. A special agreement has to be entered into by the insurer under the third-party insurance measure. I, therefore, propose as an additional protection to the motor owner again to include in the Bill the State Insurance Office. The premiums committee will have the utmost difficulty in arriving at an agreement with the underwriters and in obtaining the necessary information from the companies, but by the inclusion of the State Insurance Office it should be possible in, say, 12 months, to assess the cost of this class of insurance and arrive at what is a fair rate to charge under the third-party agreement. Accordingly, I move—

That the amendment be amended by deleting all the words after "insurer," in line 5 of the definition in paragraph (a), and inserting in lieu the words "under this Part," and includes the State Government Insurance Office as established by the State Government Insurance Office, Act 1938."

**Mr. DONEY:** I am doubtful about the propriety of the amendment moved by the Minister. The words he proposes to include have already been struck out, and I should like a ruling whether it is possible now to reinsert them.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The alteration comes from another place, which has made it appear as an amendment to Section 4 of the Act. Another place disagreed with the definition of "approved insurer;" and whilst framing its own definition also used some of the words that were previously struck out. If this Committee is wrong, another place is also wrong.

**Mr. DONEY:** Despite the explanation of the Minister, I still would like to have a ruling from the Chair on this question.

**The CHAIRMAN:** My ruling is in accordance with the explanation of the Minister. A new clause has been inserted by another place, which took the stand that that was the right place in which to insert it.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of the Minister for Labour, Mr. Doney, and the Minister for Works drew up reasons for not agreeing to certain of the Council's amendments.

Reasons adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

### **BILL—POLICE BENEFIT FUND ABOLITION.**

Returned from the Council with an amendment.

### **BILL—WAR FUNDS REGULATION.**

#### *Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

### **BILL—ROAD CLOSURE.**

Returned from the Council without amendment.

### **BILL—NOXIOUS WEEDS ACT AMENDMENT.**

#### *Council's Amendment.*

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Marshall in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

New clause:—Insert a new clause after clause nine to stand as clause ten, as follows:—10. Section twenty-nine of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words "within one mile of cultivated land."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I do not propose to agree to the amendment. Section 9 of the principal Act, which the Council desires to amend, reads as follows:—

On a report being made to the Minister by any local authority that any noxious weed is growing upon any Government railway reserve, stock route or camping ground, or unoccupied Crown lands (within one mile of cultivated land) all such reserves, routes, grounds or lands shall from time to time be cleared by the Minister for Lands and the Commissioner of Railways respectively.

All Governments regard noxious weeds, particularly those that are introduced into the State, as requiring eradication before they become pests or even prevalent in any agricultural district. At the present moment, a rigid campaign is in progress in the South-

West, far from cultivated land, for the purpose of dealing with St. John's wort and Berkhcya thistle, and on the goldfields efforts are being made to eradicate Bathurst burr and star thistle again far from cultivated land. The Government recognises its responsibility to the State to deal with such pests, and to eradicate them before they become a menace to the agricultural community. The Council's amendment seeks to impose an impossible task on the Government. The responsibility rests upon the Administration at present to deal with weeds that may be declared noxious if they are found growing on any railway land or stock route, provided the occurrences are within one mile of cultivated land. If the amendment were agreed to, it would mean that, irrespective of the situation of the affected area, even if it be a hundred miles from any cultivated land, should a road board notify the Government of the existence of the weed, steps would have to be taken to clean up the area. The Council's proposal would be absolutely impracticable.

Mr. Sampson: It would mean the weeds would have to be dealt with irrespective of whether the adjoining area was cultivated or otherwise.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes, weeds could be discovered along a stock route miles away where there was no possibility of any rural industry being threatened in the agricultural areas. Then again, weeds that are regarded as noxious in some parts are considered valuable fodder plants elsewhere.

Mr. Warner: Yes, as good stock feed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is so.

Mr. Thorn: The amendment is impracticable.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is so, I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Thorn and Mr. Withers drew up reasons for not agreeing to the Council's amendment.

Reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

# **BILL—WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT.**

## *Council's Amendment.*

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

## *In Committee.*

Mr. Marshall in the Chair; the Minister for Labour in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2:—Delete the proposed new sections 10A and 10B, and substitute the following:—

10A. (1) Every incorporated insurance office which has received the approval of the Minister under the provisions of section ten shall within thirty days from the commencement of this section transmit to the Minister a statement showing the names, addresses, and occupations of each employer who had in force at the date of the commencement of this section a policy or contract of insurance with that insurance office against liability under this Act.

(2) Every such insurance office shall within fourteen days from the end of the first clear calendar month after the commencement of this section, and thereafter within fourteen days from the end of each succeeding calendar month, transmit to the Minister—

(a) a statement showing the names, addresses, and occupations of each employer who has during the month in question effected a policy or contract of insurance with the insurance office concerned against liability under this Act; and

(b) a statement showing the names, addresses, and occupations of each employer in respect of whom the insurance office concerned has during the month in question marked in its books as lapsed a policy of insurance under this Act.

(3) Every such statement shall be signed by a responsible officer of the insurance office concerned.

(4) No person, except with the express authority of the Minister, should have access to, inspect, or peruse any such statement aforesaid, and the information contained therein shall be treated as strictly confidential and shall not, except for the purposes of this Act, be disclosed to any person. Any person who discloses any in-

formation contrary to the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Penalty: One hundred pounds.

(5) If any statement required by this section is false in any particular to the knowledge of any person who signs the same, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the court, to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding one year, or to a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds.

10B. (1) Any person authorised in writing by the Minister in that behalf may make such inquiry from any employer whose name does not appear in any statement required under section ten A (1) or ten A (2) (a) or whose name does appear on any statement required under section ten A (2) (b) (unless in the latter case the employer's name appears in any statement required under section ten A (2) (a)), as may be necessary, to ascertain whether any such employer has obtained a policy of insurance as required by the provisions of section ten.

(2) Every person authorised by the Minister under the provisions of this section shall produce his written authority from the Minister, when interrogating any such employer in the execution of his duties under this Act.

(3) Every person aforesaid shall, before entering on the performance of his duties under this Act, take and subscribe before a justice of the peace an oath or affirmation to the effect that he will not, except for the purposes of this Act and the exercise of his duties hereunder, disclose to any person any information acquired by him in his official capacity, and every person who wilfully acts in contravention shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Penalty: One hundred pounds.

(4) Any person who obstructs, hinders, prevents, or interferes with any person so authorised in the exercise of the powers conferred upon him by this section, or who refuses or fails to produce for the inspection of any person so authorised as aforesaid any policy or contract of insurance when requested by such person, and obliged under this section so to do, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

Penalty: One hundred pounds.

**THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR:** The Council's amendment seeks to delete Clause 2, which is the Bill. The measure, as approved by the House, provided for the appointment of inspectors who would be armed with all the necessary powers of investigation so that they might satisfy themselves that employers fulfilled their responsibilities under Section 10 of the Workers' Compensation Act. The Bill as passed by this House also provided that approved insurance offices should supply at the end of their financial year a statement setting out the names and addresses of all employers insuring with them, together with details of the classes of business carried on by such employers. The Council's amendment provides for the appointment of inspectors, but somewhat limits their activities, as their investigations will be confined to employers. The inspectors will not have power to investigate the books, papers, documents and records of the insurance companies. The Council's further amendment provides for a different system of returns by insurance companies from that which was proposed by the Bill as passed by this Chamber. The system suggested by the Council is in my opinion preferable. Under that system the companies must furnish a return within 30 days from the passing of the Act and must thereafter furnish returns at frequent intervals. In effect, the Council's amendment, if accepted, will make approved insurance companies responsible for keeping an almost continuous record of their workers' compensation insurance and of such insurance business cancelled from time to time by employers. Briefly, on balance, I think the Council's suggested amendments should be accepted. They were accepted by the Minister in the Legislative Council acting on behalf of the Government, and we should support his attitude. I move—

That the Council's amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

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

## **BILL—LAND ACT AMENDMENT.**

### *Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of three amendments made by the Council now considered.

### *In Committee.*

Mr. Marshall in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 12—In proposed new Section 101A—Insert after the word "drought" in line 34, page 6, the words "cyclone or flood."

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS:** The reason for requesting this amendment is that at times cyclones and floods in the North-West cause severe losses. If the amendment were made, a pastoralist could submit a claim for losses caused by cyclone or flood to the Appraisement Board, in addition to a claim for losses caused by drought. The board would consider the claim, but it is not incumbent upon the board to waive rentals because of losses due to cyclone or flood. The desire is, however, that in the case of an emergency consideration may be given by the board to losses incurred through cyclone or flood. I have no objection to the amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2. Clause 12—In proposed new Section 101A—Insert after the word "drought" in line 3, page 7, the words "cyclone or flood."

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS:** This may be regarded almost as a consequential amendment. If passed, it will have the same effect as the previous amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 3. Clause 17—Insert a new paragraph after paragraph (e) to stand as paragraph (f), as follows:—

(f) by adding at the end of the section a new subsection as follows:—

(11) (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this section, any person, who at the commencement of this subsection has, consistently with the provisions of this Act as in force prior to the commencement of this subsection, already acquired, or become beneficially interested in (either one or the other or both) an aggregate area of pastoral land in excess of one million acres, may continue to hold or be beneficially interested in such area of pastoral land, but shall not be entitled to acquire or become beneficially interested in any other

pastoral land until his holdings of and beneficial interest in pastoral land as at the commencement of this subsection have been so reduced as to entitle him in accordance with subsection (2a) of this section to acquire or become beneficially interested in other pastoral land.

(b) Where any person referred to in paragraph (a) hereof, acquires or becomes beneficially interested in pastoral land contrary to the provisions of the said paragraph (a), such person shall forfeit and pay to the Crown a sum of five pounds for every day or part of a day during which he continues so to contravene the provisions of paragraph (a) hereof.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Section 101A provides that no person shall in his own right or by beneficial interest hold more than 1,000,000 acres of pastoral land. I mentioned when moving the second reading of the Bill that a case on the point had been decided by a Judge in Chambers. To clarify the position, and so as not to nullify a contract already entered into in pursuance of the judge's decision, this new paragraph is considered to be necessary, although the Solicitor-General is confident that the Bill as drafted is sufficient. I have no objection to the amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

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

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1939-40.

### *In Committee of Supply.*

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

*Vote—Education, £768,950.*

**THE MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST** (Hon. A. A. M. Coverley—Kimberley) [8.7]: This is one of the largest departmental votes. The Education Department is practically an expenditure department, not a revenue-producing department. Most members will agree that the department, with the limited amount at its disposal, is doing a particularly good job from one end of the State to the other. The Vote

for this year shows an increase of £11,899, of which amount £11,149 represents salary increases due to classification and promotional increments to teachers.

Mr. Doney: Is the increase of £11,149 the total of the increases desired by the teachers?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST: No. I should imagine they could do with an increase of £111,000. The estimated commitment on items other than salaries is thus £750 above last year's expenditure. The expenditure on new buildings last year was £69,761, compared with £67,199 in the previous year. Of the total, £28,783 was provided from general loan funds for new buildings and additions to buildings, £18,759 from Loan Suspense Account and £21,619 from revenue for renovations and other services. The number of schools now open is 831, of which 42 are assisted schools providing facilities for children where the attendance is as low as five. There are now 1,716 children being taught entirely by correspondence, a staff of 51 teachers being engaged in this work. In addition to direct contact being maintained between teacher and pupil, children in all small schools throughout the State may receive advanced tuition through the medium of these classes. There has been a marked increase in the number of classes conducted at the Technical College and facilities for technical instruction have been established in some of the larger country centres. This work is being further extended particularly as assistance is being freely rendered by certain local organisations in their establishments. Members are no doubt aware of the work now in progress at the Perth Technical College to provide up-to-date accommodation for trade classes and to furnish more satisfactory housing for other classes at present congested and badly placed. A commencement will be made at once with the erection of a new domestic science block to provide further facilities in domestic science and manual training.

An amount approximating £10,000 is being expended annually in maintaining bus services under contract in country districts. The department is anxious to liberalise this policy, which is designed to provide greater educational scope and to wider social intercourse between country children. In addition, over £5,000 is expended in the payment

of grants for the conveyance of individual scholars to country schools. The Government acknowledges and appreciates the very helpful work carried out by the parents and citizens' associations, particularly in country centres. Teaching aids, such as radio receiving sets and film projection machines, facilities for outdoor recreation, and the care and beautification of school surroundings, are among the aims of many of these associations, whose members work at some considerable personal sacrifice to make the children's lot a happier one. Commencement has been made with a scheme of visual education, the value of which has long been recognised. Two projector machines have been purchased to be used mainly for demonstration purposes, while a film library of well-chosen silent films and film strips is being established. The department feels that the establishment of this library will supplement the work of teachers and make available to those schools which have a means of projection an instructional aid that individual schools could not afford. Useful work has been done in co-operation with the Health Department. Last year two medical officers and two nurses examined 3,300 children in the metropolitan area and 8,337 in country districts, while three dental officers visited 57 schools during the same period and examined 4,270 children—an increase of 872 over the number in the previous year. When speaking on the general Estimates, either the member for Williams-Narrogin or the member for Avon mentioned that the opportunities for country children were not equal to those enjoyed by children in the metropolitan area. That is true, but this applies in all walks of life; the country child does not receive the opportunities available to the child in the metropolitan area. With regard to applicants for junior positions in the civil service, provided they have the requisite qualifications for junior positions, they receive the same consideration when appointments are being made as do applicants from metropolitan schools. For such positions in country districts the country applicant has a preference, particularly if the vacancy occurs in the home town of the applicant. There are, of course, very few positions in country districts as compared with the number in the metropolitan area, and again an appointee from the country is not eligible for an allowance to help to defray the extra expense

involved in living away from home. Thus the country applicants have an advantage for positions in the country. As regards the Education Department, country applicants have opportunities equivalent to those enjoyed by metropolitan children to become monitors, provided they have had the requisite education. For the financial year 1938-39, contracts for the erection of new schools and classrooms were completed at the following costs:—

Metropolitan schools, £5,394.

Country and Goldfields schools, £10,768.

The last named figure is exclusive of the cost of erecting the Geraldton High School. I do not think there is any further information I can give members, but if they desire any details that I am in a position to supply, I shall be only too pleased to make them available.

**MR. DONEY** (Williams-Narrogin)

[8.17]: I compliment the Minister upon his concise and very interesting resume of the work of the Education Department during the past year. The Minister's task was not an easy one because he is deputising for a Minister in another place. I wish to make a few remarks on matters arising out of this fact, and later I shall refer to one or two items upon which the Minister has touched. Last year I was a member of a select committee appointed by this House to inquire into certain phases of our education system. Members will agree that the most important thing about a select committee is the fate of the report and recommendations submitted. What happened to the report and recommendations of the select committee I have mentioned? It seems to me they have been completely forgotten. I do not assert that this is so, though I think it is. If not, the Minister in charge of the vote will have an opportunity later of advising me to the contrary.

My investigations during the inquiry and since have convinced me that in the field of education there lies a subject that calls for the close study and understanding of every member who has the interests of the children, and therefore of the State itself, at heart. During the last 12 months I have discussed our education system with the head teachers of schools, large and small, with executive officials of the Education Department, with officials of the Teachers'

Union, with ex-students of the Training College, with young teachers fresh from their Diploma of Education course, and with the parents of children in various parts of the State. From those contacts I hope I have learnt something. Regarding the teachers, I found almost a complete unanimity of opinion on some half dozen points.

The Minister touched on certain disparities between the facilities for education in the country and those in the city. Of the teachers to whom I referred this matter every one without exception considered that educational facilities in the country were meagre indeed in comparison with those accorded to children in the city. This should not be so. The purpose of the select committee was to iron out those disparities. Unfortunately, as I have indicated, that has not been done. Teachers, too, consider that technical education—the Minister referred to this and to the advancement that has been made—should be given vastly increased attention, especially in the rural areas. I think so, too. Technical education is practically non-existent in the rural areas. For that matter, it is insufficient in the metropolitan area, but I am very glad to admit that what there is of it in the metropolitan area is very good indeed. I found also that teachers generally feel a sense of security following the introduction last year of the superannuation scheme. If that sense of security is reflected in a greater feeling of responsibility on the part of the teachers for the general welfare of the children, the Government's contribution towards the superannuation scheme might quite easily prove to be an excellent national investment. One very pleasing thing I noticed was that not a single word was uttered by the officials with whom I discussed the matter against the Director of Education or the Chief Inspector. I feel that way, too. Education in Western Australia, I believe, is quite safe in the hands of those two officials, provided always that the Treasury can manage to finance the very sound progressive ideas that those officials would put into operation if they were able so to do.

Teachers were unanimous in their condemnation of the seating accommodation in particular, and also of the paucity of furnishings and equipment generally, especially in the smaller rural centres. They used the

word "appalling" in order to describe the conditions in those schools. From my own observations, I can say that that word is about the right one accurately to describe those conditions. I say—and teachers are generally in accord with this opinion—that more high schools are needed in the country districts. There can be no doubt on that point. One such school or an agricultural college—I do not mind which—should be constructed in my own town of Narrogin. I should like to explain that seven or eight years ago Narrogin was promised that the next high school to be built would be constructed in that centre.

Hon. P. Collier: Katanning would be a better, larger, and more important centre.

Mr. DONEY: Perhaps my facetious friend might feel like urging the claims of his own town. Some time after Narrogin was given that promise, Fremantle seems to have been given a somewhat similar promise, but I do not know that either promise has amounted to much because Geraldton had a far stronger argument than had either Fremantle or Narrogin, as its member happened to be the Premier of the State. However, I do not at present propose to advance any argument in regard to that.

I should like to say that Narrogin's claim will be difficult to overlook. Narrogin is the centre of a huge district that has not a high school. Narrogin, too, would be roughly equi-distant from the existing high schools at Perth, Northam, Albany and Bunbury. Also, there is this fact in Narrogin's favour that six railways converge on that town, and as there are good roads in every direction, the question of transport is not likely to cause any trouble. I shall say no more about that for the moment, except that I leave the suggestion with the Minister in the hope that he will pass it on to the right quarter. I consider that there should be another high school erected in the extreme South-West of the State, and I think it might very well be situated at Manjimup—a most suitable centre. The Narrogin school should have a strong bias towards the dairying, wheat and wool industries, whilst in Manjimup it should be towards dairying, forestry, fruitgrowing, beet growing and tobacco growing. I leave that suggestion with the Minister hoping that he will do the best he can.

I have mentioned equipment. I have received a surprisingly large number of complaints from country districts regarding school desks. I hope members will not regard this as a matter of minor importance. It is, as members must realise, of great consequence to our children and therefore of importance to us. Particularly is this so at a time like the present, having regard to the stressful times the nations are passing through. Surely every good man should do whatever lies within his power to minister to the physical well-being of the present and rising generation. There are two types of desks in use in the schools today—the dual desks and the long desks. The dual desks are most hygienic modern desks that should be in all schools and are, I think, in all Perth schools. The long desks are those that give the kiddies round shoulders and cramp. Those are to be found, as members would expect, in country schools. I am not asserting that there are no dual desks in country schools, but there are not very many. There is a real anxiety on the part of the Director of Education and those associated with him in the control of education to have dual desks installed in all the schools. I have been assured by him that there is a gradual replacement. That replacement—and this is not the fault of the director—is painfully slow; indeed is barely appreciable. Moreover, such long desks as are displaced from these schools are not entirely discarded. The more usable of them are passed on to other country schools. At that rate the work of replacement will prove a very long job. Why all the rough stuff should go to the country schools has always puzzled me. The explanation would be interesting.

While on the question of equipment let me congratulate the Government and the Education Department upon the new venture in visual training. I refer to the recent expenditure of £200—I am not too sure of the amount, but the Minister will be able to correct me if I am wrong—for the purchase of projectors and films. My investigations have shown me that cinematography is playing an ever-increasing part not only in the education of the young people of Western Australia, but, as I understand it, the education of every section of this community.

I think it right to say that almost every country in the world has developed this phase of education to a high degree. In the

schools commerce, agriculture, community life, and for that matter spiritual wellbeing, culture and education generally receive great benefits from this wing of education. I am therefore hopefully anticipating the time when this educational activity, established at an expenditure of a few hundred pounds, will have so grown that the blessings and the cultural influence of cinematography will permeate through our schools to the remoter parts of Australia. I earnestly request the Government not to restrict equipment for visual training to the towns or to the metropolitan area, but to make it available particularly in outback schools, for the reason that such education would be more keenly needed in the small schools than in the larger with their wider facilities. All the educational authorities whom I have had occasion to consult are strong in their advocacy of visual training through the projector. It is recognised that the radio has quite a number of advantages, but educationists seem to be unanimous in claiming that radios are not comparable to the beneficial impressions coming to the children through the cinematograph.

I would like to place before hon. members the position regarding inspection of schools. A reform or, better, a reorganisation of the system is long overdue. Our education system seems to me to suffer from what I might term a concentrated form of centralisation. This explains the more experienced inspectors being located in and around Perth, whilst the young and the less experienced seem to be invariably sent to country districts. Surely that is not right. I do not see how a square deal can be given to education in the country if that system is followed. Let us admit that it is essential for the Director and the Chief Inspector of Schools to have their headquarters in the capital city; but surely it cannot be necessary to have the other senior inspectors congregate there. I see no need for it at all. These are the men who have a great wealth of directing, of inspecting and of teaching experience that would be invaluable to the young teachers in smaller schools, especially those outback. I suggest for the earnest consideration of the Government and the Director of Education the extreme need for decentralisation. It would mean an economy in time and in travelling expenses; but it would also mean an easier and more satis-

factory method of assessing those values in teachers on which their advancement depends, and above all a better education for the children of our agricultural areas. In the first place, as to the question of inspection, I suggest that inspectorial districts be established, and that the Chief Inspector be responsible for the metropolitan district and the sub-metropolitan areas. I would suggest, further, that the remaining portion of the State be divided into three inspectorial districts, with a senior inspector in charge of each. Younger, less-experienced inspectors could then be allotted to these districts in the required numbers, and would come under the control and guidance of the senior men. Naturally, a central town would be selected where the senior inspector and the junior inspectors would live and be available for consultation. Consultations would take place between the inspectors on the one hand and the teachers on the other, and again between inspectors and teachers on the one hand and interested parents on the other. I think, too, that the senior inspector should be given freedom to initiate experimental forms of tuition, and by that means develop a healthy rivalry which would be conducive to wider reading and certainly to greater elasticity and initiative generally. I think, too, that districts should be most carefully marked out. This would be necessary in order to enable inspectors to travel in circuits and be set down and later picked up in a day's travel. That method would effect considerable economies in use of motor cars and in travelling expenses. As the result of invited discussion, there would be contacts beneficial alike to teachers, inspectors and the children. A senior inspector should have the right to transfer junior inspectors within his district. Again, in the home town there would be important help available from the senior inspectors. I do not think there would be a great amount of disorganisation entailed upon the Chief Inspector and his staff, though some little temporary unrest would be occasioned to the department if the change were brought into being.

I leave this subject for a moment, to say a word or two in respect of manual training. I am a great believer in it. I am ready to believe that there is a great deal of room for improvement in the teaching of manual training; but in saying that I do not intend in any way to reflect upon the capabilities

of, or the methods adopted by the training staff. Quite candidly, I would like to see Mr. Sievwright and Mr. Rogers, who are in control of manual training, charged with the organisation of their branch of education. I have frequently heard the knowledge, the enthusiasm, and wise methods of each of the two public servants commented upon very favourably indeed. I was greatly surprised to learn in this regard that Mr. Rogers, on account of not having a car, cannot visit schools other than those situated on the railway line.

The Minister for North-West: The staff has been increased by two inspectors.

Mr. DONEY: Without cars, that increase will not enable manual training teachers to reach all country schools. I believe these small schools can be equipped for the teaching of manual training at an expenditure of £4 or £5 per school. Hon. members need to appreciate the fact that there are certain juvenile mentalities that find it most difficult to express thought from the point of a pen or a pencil, but who find it easy to express thoughts through the hammer, the saw, chisel or plane. I am greatly concerned that these two subjects, manual training and domestic science, are not more generally taught.

Mr. Cross interjected.

Mr. DONEY: Any advice that is required in this House can be obtained from the hon. member. We get more useless advice from him than from all the other members of the House combined. I admit that any variation from the present method of education is sure to cost the department something; but that will not prevent me from pressing my claims for the country child. I certainly have found a few small schools equipped to teach manual training, but I have not found a single school—I am of course referring to small schools—equipped to teach domestic science. I assert that if any children are entitled to receive the benefits of manual training and domestic science, those children are the children of the farming community. I understand that at present students at our Teachers' College undergo a course of training to fit them to teach manual training; but when they go to country schools they find, with very few exceptions, that facilities are lacking to enable them to teach that very useful subject. In justice to the organiser of manual training, I must say that it is his

policy to establish these classes in all the small schools. Having regard to that fact, I impress upon the Minister—and through him the Director—the need for helping the organiser. I think it not inappropriate for me to touch upon domestic science. The organiser of domestic science is doing excellent work indeed where centres are established. I put this question to the Minister and hope that he will make a note of it—mental or written. Should not the department be able to evolve a simple practical course that could be taught in every small school? I ask the Minister why it is that the country girl in particular should be deprived of training in this, the most beneficial of all cultural subjects taught in our schools? As I say, male students at our Teachers' College must take a course to enable them to teach manual training. Why should not women students do likewise with respect to domestic science? This would enable them to teach a simple course with such equipment as could be supplied in country schools. The Minister made some references—and favourable ones—to technical education. I am glad to admit that the technical branch of our educational system is showing commendable progress. One cannot over-estimate the national importance of this form of education. I think it can quite safely be claimed that our existence is becoming increasingly dependent upon this particular form of education. That being so, it is the duty of every member of Parliament to ensure that every assistance—financial as well as mere lip service—is given so that technical education may be adequately advanced.

I referred a moment or two ago to the State high schools. My investigations have shown me that such schools are altogether too academic; at least, they appear to me in that light. They do not cater sufficiently for the practical needs of our children. They tend far too much to prepare boys and girls merely for public examinations, most of which I find only lead to an unduly classical education, to the neglect of the technical.

Mr. Withers: They should be trained to be hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Mr. DONEY: That is a matter for individual opinion. They should at least be given the chance to determine whether they desire to take the high road or the low road in life. These high schools are not fulfilling the demands of democracy, and that surely is a

reason that ought to appeal to hon. members on the opposite side of the House. I ask hon. members how often they are content merely to echo the praises of our present system and to proclaim to the world—as we are wont to do—that we have a free system from kindergarten to University. How many members have given more than passing consideration to this matter? I contend that our present system of education is merely masquerading under the guise of democracy; we have seen this is so, but for some strange reason are reluctant to admit it. The system is one that lures the poor man into the belief that he and his fellows can participate in the advantages of free education to the highest degree, when all that is happening is that he is being taxed to provide free high school and University education for children of parents far better able than he to pay for such education. In most cases the poorer person cannot possibly, owing to his financial circumstances, participate in those privileges. Our scholarship system sounds good. There is a sense in which it is the basis or the foundation of our education system; but I contend that it is not being properly applied. In saying that, I am not depreciating the work of the Director of Education or of his inspectors or other officers, because the best they can do is to develop a system that has been handed down to them. A democratic scholarship system would provide for the selection of children of outstanding ability, irrespective of the station in life of their parents. By a liberal system of scholarships, children could be trained, through the secondary schools, to enter the University itself, where their abilities would be recognised, developed and in course of time rounded off. In very few cases does that happen under the present system. I find from my investigations that what happens is this: in our primary schools, and, of course, within the range of compulsory attendance ages, a child wins a scholarship in open competition. Then, with a burst of pride and enthusiasm that, in its way, is proper, he enters upon his course of higher education. The point, however, is that poor parents soon realise that such education is far indeed from being free. They find there are sports fees to pay, heavier expenses for board and lodging than they had bargained for, extra and better clothes to be purchased

and costly text books to be acquired, besides incidental expenses in quite a number of directions which they find it impossible to meet. There is in addition the loss of income that would have resulted from the labour of their child had he remained at home to assist in educating the other members of the family. The position is not rosy, is not nearly as democratic as many members have all along imagined. The result is that all too frequently the scholarships are relinquished for economic reasons, and the positions filled by children of opulent parents, children who probably failed in competition with their poorer colleagues. I was wondering how many members with children could afford to put their boys or girls through a law course or a medical course at the University. Only the wealthy can afford to do that. Only with much sacrifice can poorer parents put their children through either of those courses.

There has always appeared to me to be reluctance on the part of many hon. members of this House and of another House to recognise the position as it really is in regard to University education. I would be pleased indeed if members would wake up and ascertain that education is by no means free. All too frequently, as I have been trying to point out, the poorer people of the State are taxed in order that the children of people richer than they may obtain relatively free education for their children. Our whole system of education, from kindergarten to the University, needs immediate review. In what way, it is not for me to say, but I definitely assert that there should be some review by an authoritative body. My idea is that the free University idea should be scrapped. I hope it will be. The money spent on it—perhaps I should say misspent on it—should be used to educate our talented children, irrespective of the position of their parents. Those children should be given a real opportunity to develop their natural talents. That could be done if the Treasury would lend its help and if the Government assisted in the direction that I indicated a moment ago. It could be done through a more liberal system of scholarships that would really help the holders without unduly penalising parents. I am not for a moment saying that it is wrong that parents generally should be free from all forms of sacrifice; because most hon.

members believe with me that if there has been some sacrifice the ultimate gain is all the greater and sweeter. I might mention that the unseemly conduct of a number of our university students may be traced to the fact that many of an undesirable character are there to the exclusion of the more worthy. I repeat with emphasis that our whole system of higher and so-called free education is screeching aloud for inquiry and reform. If the Minister is minded to take note of what I say, I hope he will take particular notice of that.

For one branch of our education system I have nothing but the highest commendation. I refer to our correspondence classes. Those classes have attained a high standard of efficiency and are a credit to everyone who is connected with them. Members must appreciate the fact that those classes must be and indeed are a blessing to hundreds of parents in the outback, and—I was going to add—to thousands of children. I remember, however, that the figure given by the Minister in his introductory remarks was 1,716. The number benefiting is not as high as I imagined, but whatever the number, the work done reflects tremendous credit upon Mr. Eakins, who for many years has been in charge of this very important department of our education system, under the efficient oversight of the director.

One section of our education system that receives general criticism is the training of our teachers. I find that on this particular question teachers of all grades are anxious to express themselves. Many roundly condemn the whole system. Some condemn it in part and praise it in part, but none has given to the present system a general and generous praise; not a single one. When I find abroad such an opinion as that, I come to the conclusion—no man could do otherwise—that something must be wrong, and that the review I am asking for is certainly overdue.

The Minister for Mines: You mean our system of teaching?

Mr. DONEY: Not our system of teaching but the training of teachers. I congratulate all those who are in any way responsible for the extension of the period of training for teachers. At present I think that a year's course is the order of the day as against the six months' course previously given. Even that is altogether too short

a period. I complain also of the fact that a large proportion of the students' time is occupied in doing purely academic work to the exclusion of the more practical work that can and should be done and which is done at the Teachers' College. I have—and I say it advisedly—never heard expressed such unanimity of condemnation as has been aimed at this system.

The Premier: Criticism from ill-informed critics.

Mr. DONEY: Had the Premier been in his place he would have heard me say that I am not passing these remarks as an expression of my own opinion entirely. I base my opinion not only on what I have discovered for myself but upon information I have had given me by teachers from all grades. I hold that their opinion is worth while and should be relied upon. If their opinion cannot be relied upon, whose can?

The Premier: The director's opinion should be of some value.

Mr. DONEY: Although I am not authorised to say so it is not at all unlikely that the director's opinion for the most part would agree with mine.

The Minister for Lands: That would make his opinion right!

Mr. DONEY: I am not claiming that. The Minister knows full well that I would never claim that for myself. I am not insisting that what I submit to the House is correct. I merely say that, having regard to the source from which I have obtained it, it is worthy of consideration by the House. If what I say is considered on its merits, that is all I ask. I have had the opinion of certain inspectors, not only of today but of the past, and also the opinion of head teachers, students, assistant teachers and those fresh from the college. All of them seem to be unanimous in asserting that the present system of attempting to give the students an academic course at the University in addition to the ordinary professional training is wrong. In my judgment there can be no two opinions as to the value of that criticism. Two subjects that are unnecessarily taught—and if I am wrong the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin) would probably be able to correct me—are English and the theory of education. I hold the opinion that those subjects could easily be acquired later on in the life of the young teacher.

To everybody here it will be plain that knowledge of those two subjects cannot immediately be made use of by the teachers when they take charge of schools outback. A period of one year is not sufficient to permit of either university work or college work being done satisfactorily, yet an attempt has been made to make the students do both at the same time. So long as one year remains the period for training, all university work should be excluded, and the whole of the time should be devoted to the more practical course that is given at the college. I repeat that that is the opinion of an overwhelming majority of those who have been connected—many of them for a number of years—with the Department of Education. Despite that unanimity of generally unfavourable opinion, the hotch-potch university academic course and college course are being persisted in.

Perhaps hon. members may think I am unduly flogging this question, but I would not have touched upon it if I had noticed any intention on the part of the department to put into operation any of the recommendations submitted by the select committee to which I have referred two or three times. I am not suggesting that this Parliament should dictate the policy to be laid down for the training of our future teachers; far from it. Obviously that would be wrong. The Education Department should dictate the policy and leave it to the college authorities to put that policy into practice. A fact that the Premier might take some notice of is that the "Teachers' Journal" lends vigorous support to the course I have outlined.

The Minister for Lands: You are referring to the publication of the Teachers' Union?

Mr. DONEY: Yes. What the journal states is not necessarily right, but having regard to those who are members of the union, what appears in the journal can be said to come from people who ought to know what they are talking about to a far greater extent than possibly do those of us here who talk about education.

The Minister for Mines: Speak for yourself.

Mr. DONEY: Naturally, that includes me. If hon. members care to read the journal they will find the reasons the department gives for the existing situation. I have to

admit that I have not personally informed myself on this point, but I am given to understand that the Teachers' College is being starved in one direction. I refer to the library, upon which I believe not one penny piece has been spent since 1928, 1929, or 1930—I am not sure of the exact year. As a result, the students complain bitterly that they cannot obtain the necessary teaching aids or textbooks for the work expected of them. They cannot secure the assistance they need for either study or teaching practice. That should not be. I know it is claimed in some quarters that the necessary textbooks can be obtained from the library at the University. But I am told that is not so.

Mr. Cross: Where have you been prowling around getting all that information?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. DONEY: One day I shall perhaps have the supreme pleasure of seeing the hon. member fall under a tram or something like that.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Williams-Narrogin cannot reflect upon another hon. member.

Mr. DONEY: I do not know that I am reflecting upon him. That would be a suitable fate to befall the hon. member. As a matter of fact, the hon. member quite understands that when I say that of him I probably do not really mean it. I was pointing out that the university library does not provide the type of literature that teachers require, on account of the academic character of the books at the University.

The Minister for Labour: We are supposed to be finishing this month.

Mr. DONEY: A speech of more than five minutes is not popular at this stage of the session. I do not, however, subscribe to the idea that it is essential for the welfare of the country that we close down so early. Neither do I agree that when certain work requires to be done it is not our duty to do it to the best of our ability. I will, however, meet the wishes of the Committee to the extent of leaving the University and turning to the Narrogin School of Agriculture.

Mr. Cross: Will this be first-hand knowledge or hearsay?

Mr. DONEY: If the hon. member is not careful I will say something about him that I do mean. I ask members to listen care-

fully to the information I am about to give them. Education is not a matter that can be treated lightly by members who are supposed to be interested in the welfare of the State. When they are inclined to deal lightly with such questions I feel there must be something wrong with them. I wish to call attention to the condition and history of some of the ancient implements and pieces of machinery in use at the Narrogin School of Agriculture.

Mr. Patrick: Do you think the school ought to be under the Agricultural Department?

Mr. DONEY: I bring forward this matter in the hope that the Minister will order an investigation with a view to the plant in question being replaced. I would like him to see in particular an old three-furrow plough that is the subject of many jokes at the school. It was found on the scrap heap some 20 years ago, and has been repaired over and over again, though it is still on the active list. The old Sunshine harvester at the school is 30 years old, and the mower, worth £4 or £5, and is 17 years old, is now mowing some 200 acres of meadow hay. The process is going to be a difficult one. If the mower is able to get through its job it will only be because the man driving it has been able to work a miracle. There is also an old binder and drill, and a hay rake that looks about 50 years old, and probably is not—quite.

The Minister for Lands: How old was the binder that belonged to the member for Greenough?

Mr. Patrick: We have had one for 25 years.

Mr. DONEY: The boys at the school have to learn their farming by the use of this antiquated plant.

Mr. Withers: They learn it in an economical way.

Mr. DONEY: The Minister can well understand the effect upon the boys who have to pull the machinery in and out of the paddock every day. If he has made up his mind to authorise an inspection of the machinery at an early date I shall be satisfied.

In conclusion I wish to draw attention to the needs of the school at Duranillin. That school is attended by 23 children, who are entitled to but do not get the same attention as is given to children living near Perth. The school was erected not long ago,

but seems to have been finished rather hurriedly. I have here a letter from the secretary of the body which looks after the welfare of the school, and who, *inter alia*, writes—

It is a fact that there is not even a porch attached to the school, and in wet and cold weather the pupils have to make use of the public hall, which the hall committee wishes to keep locked but cannot do so as it is the only shelter available. They have intimated that this state of affairs cannot go on as vandals are continuously making use of the hall to amuse themselves at the expense of the public.

I know the hall, and that the contents of this letter are correct. The Minister should be able to tell me what a shelter, such as the one indicated, would cost. I imagine the expenditure required would be about £25. The East Perth school cost £82,000. Some members may say that one case has nothing to do with the other. The point is that if the Treasurer had not spent that huge sum of money—I admit the job is a good one—he would have been able to spend very many sums of £25 in those parts of the country where such expenditure is necessary. When application is made to the Treasurer for £10 or £20 for such a job as this, we are told that no money is available. The department says "We cannot do this or that because we have not the money." In view, however, of the huge expenditure on the East Perth school, how can we take such excuses seriously?

**HON. C. G. LATHAM** (York) [9.22]: Every member of the Committee who wishes to speak on the Estimates should be permitted to do so. It is an excellent opportunity we have of saying what we have to say, even in connection with the Education Vote which involves an expenditure of over £700,000. We represent the taxpayers, and have a right to know how the money is being spent.

The **CHAIRMAN**: No one has been prevented from discussing the Votes.

**Hon. C. G. LATHAM**: That is so, but a certain amount of unrest is evident because members are speaking on the Estimates. Members ought to be encouraged to speak upon them, and to gain a thorough knowledge concerning them. With regard to education in the country districts, I am particularly anxious to see a spread of vocational training. We are living in an age of

mechanism, and everyone should have as thorough a knowledge of mechanics as it is possible to acquire. Outside the city area we are doing very little teaching in this regard, and even there we are not doing a great deal. We should put our people in possession of the fullest knowledge we can, and should certainly not overlook the claims of those living in the country. If we have to bring our youths to Perth so that they may learn essential trades—farming, for instance, is a highly mechanised business in these days—and become educated in that respect, we shall find great difficulty in inducing them to return to the country away from the claims of the city. That will be more particularly difficult in view of the position in which the industry finds itself at present.

I want the Minister to pay particular attention to what I am going to say about the new technical school. I am proud to know that money will be expended on the new building, and I think it will be a fine one. I deplore the fact, however, that the intention is to fill it up with obsolete machinery. If our young fellows are going to be taught in the building, the most modern means available must be provided for them. The Air Force is endeavouring to obtain young fellows possessing mechanical knowledge, such as fitters and turners. I am surprised that we have not heard from the Minister for Railways a statement to the effect that the Air Force has already taken a number of young men from the Midland Junction workshops, that being the only place in Western Australia where they can be properly trained in these directions. Many young fellows are willing to learn fitting and turning, and ground engineering, and willing to learn what they can about internal combustion engines, Diesel engines, and particularly aeroplane engines. We ought to provide them with everything to enable them to learn the latest and most up-to-date methods. A little while ago it was almost impossible in Western Australia for a youth to obtain practical experience of Diesel engines. I admit the Government has a right to say that is not its responsibility, but it has accepted the responsibility of educating young people and some of the older ones, and we should therefore provide them with the best means possible to enable them to acquire the necessary knowledge. I do not know what money

is being spent on the Technical School. When young people are sent there to finish their training we ought to endeavour to find sufficient money with which to instal up-to-date machinery. The instructor in fitting and turning is an efficient officer. He does not mind working a little overtime, so long as the youths are interested in the subjects he is teaching. We want men of that type. He infuses enthusiasm in the students. It is a good plan to have that class of man in charge. I have no complaint to make about our educational system, though I am afraid we are catering too much for the city folk and insufficiently for the country folk.

Mr. Doney: That is obvious.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Last year an investigation was made by a select committee, whose report was well worthy of consideration at the hands of the Government. It seems that very little, if any, attention has been given to that report. I appreciate the efforts of the former Minister for Education, and I hope to be able to say the same about the present Minister, with regard to putting a better class of furniture into country schools. In Perth a child gets on a tram or train and very soon arrives at school. In the country children may have to walk four or five miles to school. By the time they have finished running about the playground, and sat for several hours on uncomfortable seats, they are quite tired enough for the return journey. I have often wondered why so much discarded furniture has been sent from the city to the country. I have nothing to complain of in respect to my own district, although I do not say I am quite satisfied with what is being done there.

I appeal to the Government to do as much as it can to extend vocational training to the agricultural areas and to the country generally. In places like Collie, Bunbury, Merredin and Katanning there should be an efficient staff to give the children the chance they require. It is surprising how much a boy will learn during special teaching for half an hour a week, especially if he has a leaning towards a particular type of work. I hope members will take the opportunity afforded by the Estimates to ventilate their views on various matters. There is no need for us to close down this week. We could easily continue until Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, and by so doing would pro-

bably give better service to the people than if legislation was rushed through. So far we have spent only a short time on the Estimates. Whether I agree with the views of members or not, I want to hear those views ventilated, for I learn from what members tell us just as Ministers learn from that source. The only way in which we can acquire knowledge, is by listening to a multiplicity of ideas. This is the most favourable opportunity to gain that knowledge. The votes are growing all the time, but probably the money is being wisely spent. Our people must be educated. Competition is so extremely keen, not only between nations but between communities in our own State and everywhere else. Unless our people are well educated they cannot occupy their proper sphere in the activities of the State.

**MR. McLARTY** (Murray-Wellington) [9.30]: I am sorry I was not present when the Minister introduced his Estimates. We are always glad to note an increase in the Education Vote. Unfortunately the increase, irrespective of what it may be, never seems sufficient for the needs of the department. An expenditure of £768,950 represents a large sum, but we all know that a large percentage goes in salaries and wages and for other purposes over which the Director has no control. I wish a larger amount could be allocated to the Director with full power over its expenditure. Under existing conditions it would appear that he cannot spend a shilling unless he first consults the Treasury officials. From my experience I know if the latter do not agree, the proposed expenditure is vetoed. Furthermore, those officials have the final say as to whether the work is to be regarded as urgent or otherwise. The Minister for Health is allowed to spend the money collected from the hospital tax. While there is no specific education tax, nevertheless I cannot see why the Director should not be empowered to authorise expenditure without having to consult Treasury officials to secure their sanction.

I commend the member for Avon (Mr. Boyle) for some of the suggestions he included in the report of the select committee that dealt with educational facilities. I wish to mention one point he made during the course of his excellent contribution to the Budget debate. I agree with those who have

stressed the fact that the country child does not really get a fair chance. I realise that the great majority of the children in Western Australia live in the metropolitan area, but when the member for Avon dealt with the subject the other evening, he said that only 5 per cent. of the country children were able to gain positions in the Public Service after they had left school. Very effectively, the hon. member pointed out the benefits that employment in that service offers to children. Before he can enter the employment of the Government a child must hold the qualification of the junior public examination certificate. If we consider the position of country schools throughout the State, we find that, annually, many of them are not able to record one of their pupils as having passed the junior examination. Therefore those children have no opportunity to enter the Public Service. Perhaps the member for Avon was not strictly accurate in fixing the percentage at five, but to my mind he was very near the mark. Opinions differ greatly regarding the value of the junior certificate. Personally if I were looking for a boy to serve me, I do not know that I would stipulate that he should have that certificate. If that test were applied to members of Parliament some of us might not have seats in this Chamber. In fairness to the country children, the requirement I have referred to should be waived. Why cannot a percentage of country children be allowed to enter the Public Service without the necessity for the junior certificate?

Mr. Needham: What standard would you require?

Mr. McLARTY: I would be prepared to insist that they should have passed a certain standard, but could not they be allowed to enter the service on trial? If they proved satisfactory, their appointment could be made permanent; if unsatisfactory, their employment need not be continued. At a conference of directors of education held in Perth recently, those authorities were inclined to the opinion that great value did not attach to what they termed "external examinations." I suggest the experiment could be made. I hope the Minister will give consideration to the matter and see if something cannot be done to help the children in the rural areas. I wish to pay a tribute to the enthusiasm and the excellent work car-

ried out by the Chief Inspector, Mr. Murray Little, in connection with the young farmers' movement. He has travelled the State widely and has infused considerable enthusiasm into the movement, which is a live one throughout the Commonwealth. The directors of education in all States are doing what they can to encourage it. On previous occasions I have suggested that in Western Australia something more should be done to assist the lads. For instance, there is a shortage of veterinary surgeons throughout the Commonwealth. Cannot some provision be made by means of scholarships that could be awarded to promising lads who are keen on such work? In order to secure some return from any outlay involved, we could stipulate that after they had qualified as veterinary surgeons, they must be prepared to serve the State for a certain period. Another matter of concern is that some of the teachers in the country districts will not live at the centres where their schools are situated. That applies particularly to districts within easy access of the metropolitan area. Preference should be given to teachers prepared to live in the districts where the schools are, and if some are not prepared to accept those conditions, then, unless good reasons could be advanced, I would say to a teacher, "You must be prepared to step down a grade and allow someone else to secure promotion if he is willing to accept the position." I need hardly remind members that the teacher in a country town is highly respected. Much of the social life revolves around him. He is an important factor in the community. When the teacher arrives at his school at 9 a.m. and leaves at 4 p.m. and is not seen at all during the week-ends, there is not the same inducement for members of the local Parents and Citizens' Association to work for the school that there is when the teacher takes an active interest in the task. Such organisations are doing a tremendous amount of good work, more than should be expected of them. Nevertheless, that work is undertaken willingly. In the circumstances they are entitled to the fullest co-operation from the Education Department. I believe that is forthcoming from both teachers and the department. In some cases, as I have already pointed out, where the teachers do not reside in the locality, that does not apply.

Mr. Needham: There may be good reasons.

Mr. McLARTY: As pointed out before, if a teacher can offer some good reason for not living in the district, the position would be accepted. I heard the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Doney) refer to the need for an agricultural college in the South-West. That has been advocated for many years. I realise that finance has always been the obstacle.

Mr. Patrick: But that does not come under the control of the Education Department.

Mr. McLARTY: No, but at the same time anything associated with colleges, should be a concern of the department. I shall not pursue the matter further this evening but I want the subject kept alive. The South-West is developing very rapidly. Farming methods there differ from those adopted elsewhere.

The Minister for Lands: You have a fine school at Mandurah.

Mr. McLARTY: Yes, and I assure the Minister that the Mandurah people much appreciate the erection of such a splendid building in the township. If I may conclude on a parochial note, I shall draw attention to the lack of accommodation in the Waroona district. Members generally realise what the growth of the district, and particularly of Waroona itself, has been quite recently. Few towns in Western Australia have shown such rapid growth, and it continues to develop rapidly. In consequence, the present facilities available are totally inadequate. When the departmental building programme is being drawn up, I hope the position of Waroona will be taken into account, and that before long a new school building will be provided for that centre.

**MR. TONKIN:** (North-East Fremantle) [9.43]: The report of the Education Department for last year again affords interesting reading. The most unsatisfactory feature is that there is still a serious lack of accommodation in various districts, more especially with regard to household management, metalwork and woodwork. Annually for the past five or six years I have drawn attention to the difficulty, but little improvement has been effected. I agree that the shortage of funds is responsible for that position. The Education Department is a

large spending section of governmental activities. Its expenditure is over £750,000 and I know it is difficult for the Treasurer to obtain funds sufficient to enable him to do what I know he realises is necessary. But if there is one branch of education for which we must stretch a point, it is that which deals with woodwork, metalwork and household management. A large number of children, both boys and girls, will never have sufficient ability to progress very far in clerical occupations. Many of them would be able to lead far better lives if they were more skilled in manual work. I am satisfied that we would do much to improve the condition of those boys and girls if we could afford still better facilities for manual training than are being provided at present. Under the heading "Household Management" in the report of the department, page 20, we find—

Most Class VI. girls within reach of the Perth and Fremantle centres also attend classes. Conditions are not so favourable at Midland Junction and Claremont, very few Class VI. being accommodated.

So we can take it that the number of girls of that standard in those centres who receive household management training is almost negligible. That is distinctly bad and we should immediately endeavour to rectify it. The report under the heading "Curriculum" also states—

The full syllabus of work has been followed in all centres where conditions permitted. In others it has been adapted to suit conditions.

Why should we be obliged to modify the course? If a certain course is set down as requisite, it should be the heritage of every child of the right age to get it, and the course should not be modified because of lack of accommodation. Our duty is to provide the accommodation, even if we go short in some other direction. Those boys and girls are starting their lives, and should not be placed under a severe handicap. The report, under the heading "Staff and Accommodation," states—

The number of boys excluded at the beginning of 1938 is—Class VI., 295.

There were available some 2,000 children for woodwork in this class, but 295 of them had to be excluded because of lack of accommodation. At a rough calculation, that is equal to about 12 per cent. who cannot get training because there is no

accommodation for them. What can we say to those boys who are denied this training to which they are entitled? We cannot give them a satisfactory answer. Why should one boy get what another cannot get? We should do our utmost to provide these facilities, and treat all the boys alike. All are entitled to this training, which, in my opinion, is very valuable, far more valuable than many people realise. As regards the equipment provided, I am pleased to note that so far as woodwork is concerned, the department now provides a much better class of wood than it did previously. From time to time I pointed out that we were wasting money by supplying unsuitable timber, but this has been rectified to a large degree, and the teachers are now much better off as regards the timber supplied and as a result are doing far better work. They are getting more work done and work of a better class, and the work is easier for the students and for the teachers. I compliment the department upon that forward step.

I should like to say a word or two on a matter mentioned by the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Doney), namely the training of teachers. This is a most important phase of education because, if teachers are not properly trained, we cannot expect to get the best value for the money paid in salaries. Approximately 50 per cent. of the teachers in training take the rural course for small one-teacher schools. In my opinion there is an insufficient number of one-teacher schools attached to the college. There are only two. True, there are three large schools being utilised to take the place of one-teacher schools. We have, for example, the Swanbourne School, the Claremont Practising School and the Jolimont School, where assistant teachers have been placed in charge of what I cannot describe as anything else than artificial one-teacher schools. These assistants-in-charge may or may not be experienced in teaching rural school method. I do not know. But the artificially set up school cannot adequately take the place of the properly-constructed one-teacher school, and I regard the two such schools that are operating as being insufficient for the purpose, seeing that there are about 60 teachers in the rural course. If members give thought to this matter they will realise

it is not possible to give sufficient practice to 60 teachers if we have only two rural schools available with the three artificial rural schools. Furthermore, I understand there is not now a specialist in small-school method attached to the college, with this exception, that the vice-principal many years ago did have experience of that work; but I should say that his administrative work would occupy practically all his time, and therefore there is not available a specialist in this class of teaching. This is a matter that should be regarded by country members as of vital importance. There is a vast difference between teaching a standard in a city school and teaching in a one-teacher school in the country where the teacher has all standards from infants to Class VIII, to instruct. There should be a specialist in small-school method attached to the college, and if there is not sufficient work to keep him fully occupied, he might undertake the teaching of additional subjects. A few years ago we had an occupant of this office, a most successful man, and I have heard said that since he finished, the teachers going out from the college are not nearly as well equipped in this particular as they were formerly.

A class of student going through the college is that termed the diploma student. These diploma students do a considerable amount of University work, and take the Diploma of Education. It is generally expected that these teachers will take up secondary teaching, but it does not follow as a matter of course that they will be restricted to teaching in secondary schools. They may be called upon—in fact a number are called upon—to take up their duties in primary schools, and those teachers are not getting sufficient training in primary work to equip them adequately for teaching in primary schools if they are called upon to do so. I speak subject to correction, but I believe that this year all the primary school training that the diploma students had was one week at the Subiaco School. One week is not sufficient to enable them to grasp primary school method. Something should be done to remedy this. They should receive a greater amount of practice in this type of teaching. It would be a different matter if we knew that they would give their attention exclusively to secondary school teaching

later on, but they do not do so, and many of them undertake primary school work. If the department is aware of this, it should make adequate provision by ensuring that these teachers receive a greater amount of teaching practice in primary school method.

There is also the question of the teaching of hygiene in college. Dr. Stang takes this work, and I am given to understand that she gives an academic course in physiology, but that the students receive no training in teaching methods in practical hygiene. This, in my opinion, is a serious matter. With all due respect to the doctor doubtless she is giving a most erudite discourse on physiology, but it does not meet the requirements of the teachers who have to go out and instruct in practical hygiene. I think something could be done to effect an improvement in that direction.

One further matter before I conclude. This again involves the expenditure of money and no doubt will be most difficult on that account. Still I do not think we in Western Australia can afford to lag behind the other States. We are lagging behind them, so the report tells us, insofar as visual education is concerned. Much preparatory work has been done in order to extend this class of teaching but the work is held up by lack of funds. I hope that if it is at all possible to find some additional money this year the Minister will endeavour to make it available for this purpose. It is a most valuable aid to teaching and I repeat that our children are just as much entitled to the best that can be obtained in education as are the children in other States. As I have previously said the matter of education should not be regarded as solely a matter for the individual States. In my opinion it is just as important to the Commonwealth as a whole that we should have properly educated children as it is that we should have properly equipped soldiers. If the State is unable to provide sufficient funds to carry out its educational programme as desired the strongest representations should be made repeatedly to the Commonwealth Government to assist us. This is a direction in which assistance could be looked for. Why should we in Western Australia lag behind the other States in anything? It is definitely established, as far as visual education is concerned, that we are not maintaining the pace. That is not fair, and every effort should be made

to ensure that some improvement is effected in this direction. There are several other matters that I would have liked to deal with had more time been available, but as we are nearing the end of the session, it would be wrong for me to occupy too much time when other members are anxious to voice their opinions.

**MR. NORTH** (Claremont) [10.0]: As a rule I am one of the members of this Committee who are unable to speak much after hearing a specialist on his subject. I often come here with many things to say, but then, having heard 14 or 15 speeches, I do not get up at all. On this occasion, however, those speeches have pleased me greatly, because they show the value of the British system of inviting laymen to handle special subjects. The member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin) has been a teacher himself, and he can speak in quite a different way from that in which I shall speak and in which other members preceding me have spoken. The value of such a debate is that we are laymen, and that we approach the subject not knowing the technical side but merely judging it by the results obtained. I have on previous occasions urged material improvements in the Claremont electorate, the various schools wanting this or that; and I have heard country members ask for many more things than I ever have dared to ask for—many more things, admittedly, being needed in the country schools than in those of the towns. However, the problem of education is not a material problem at all. It is in a very limited sense essential that the things demanded by country members should be obtained. However, the education question is not a material problem, but a problem of the kind of work being done by the teachers with the children. I propose to take you, Mr. Chairman, and hon. members of this Committee with me to the United States tonight, to that country where they have five or six times the capital expended on education that we have, and probably five or six times the number of colleges and the most advanced education in the world. Yet we find that the American citizen is as a child. When the American radio transmitted some kind of play which included bombs, noises and squeals, half the American nation thought they were being invaded from a foreign country.

Mr. Patrick: From Mars.

Mr. NORTH: Yes, Mars. This is a question which must be faced. It is more important than the material problem of so many desks, so many rooms to be looked after, and so forth. We have to remind ourselves that not only in this State are there committees on education, but throughout the civilised world, all talking about more desks, more rooms, more teachers. But where is all this education getting us? What is the state of the world today? The question is not one of material improvements. They of course are necessary to a point, but the real question is what is being put into the child and what is being drawn out of the child. There is a book now advertised in Western Australia which I hope to read during the recess; it is called, "Who Cares About Education?" According to the précis it is written by a Western Australian school teacher. It seems to me that that work intends to criticise the curriculum, the actual teaching given to the child. But whether it does or not, we have before us the state of the world today. I wish to point out the contradiction that during the period of compulsory education, which has gone on for about a hundred years—

The Premier: No; about 50 years.

Mr. NORTH: Not here, but in the world.

The Premier: No, no!

Mr. NORTH: The average mentality of the average person is being in some way undermined. The natural ingenuity of the average individual suffers during the education period. I am convinced that the logical faculty is damaged by existing education courses. We are not producing that intellectual honesty which the average citizen requires to meet modern social troubles and to do justice to the problems of the day. Why have I to tell hon. members of this Committee those things? We know they are true every day of the week. We know that words are bandied about and that phrases are used which have no exact meaning, but which are accepted by the public. If there is a question of a logical deduction, it is not made. On most main questions, is accuracy the essence of the subject at all? No. It is generally a second-rate slogan of some kind. I shall give three instances to illustrate that.

The first one is the phrase "sales resistance." Hon. members have heard that

phrase. I cannot speak for the Education Department as it is teaching today. The only way I can criticise, or attempt to influence, the department today is to suggest what is the state of the world and the people of middle age who were educated as I was, and to offer a few comments on the education which I suffered, and, I suggest, the education which other people similarly suffered. The phrase "sales resistance" absolutely condemns our race and society by its acceptance. We know in middle age what it means; but is it challenged? "Sales resistance" is the power of a housewife on £4 a week to resist having forced upon her the purchase of a £30 radio on easy terms which she cannot afford. That is sales resistance. We ask here for more rooms, more playgrounds, more desks. Now, another term is bandied about—"The freedom of the Press." We know what it means. Of course we do. But is the phrase challenged? Not very often. Now let me give a third illustration—"The flight of capital." That is the phrase which is used and accepted. If the present generation is being educated as we were, when the problems ahead of the new generation are what we know them to be, all I can say is, "God help them!" The problems confronting the world today could not have become what they are today if the Education Departments of various communities had tackled the question of the natural ingenuity of the child and saving its mental powers, its logical faculties, and then enabling the child to achieve intellectual honesty. On the other hand, I am very pleased to say that while this State does not spend perhaps within a quarter of the American expenditure on education, our results are far more satisfactory. I cannot imagine that if there was a play let loose on Western Australia after the style of the Mars play which caused such a panic in America, we would think that we were being invaded just because of a few bombs over the radio. With our limited equipment we are putting over a far more rational education than that. But I do consider that the result of so much pumping into the child of undigested knowledge and undigested facts is not benefiting the child.

The Premier: Don't you consider we are training the child to think?

Mr. NORTH: I do believe that this Education Department of ours, through its

Director and through the Minister, is aware of the problems which have been stressed, and I would not be a bit surprised to see within the next few years great changes in the methods adopted in regard to children and their teaching. I am quite convinced that the results desired can be achieved without the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds on material equipment. Not that I would not like to see that money spent on this lower plane in spite of the arguments which I have tried to put up.

**MR. BOYLE (Avon) [10.8]:** The Minister was extremely brief in introducing these most important Estimates, presumably with the object of hiding the Government's shortcomings in regard to education, particularly from a country point of view.

The Premier: That is a bad start.

**Mr. BOYLE:** It is an excellent start for the Minister, and I think it is also a good start for me.

The Premier: A bad start for you, also.

**Mr. BOYLE:** I am not condemning the Minister. I think that with the scanty material he had, he made a good effort. But that the Government has been remiss in regard to country education is not seriously disputed, at any rate not in the country.

The Premier: That assertion has been made for the last 50 years, and considerable improvements have been effected.

**Mr. BOYLE:** The Premier refers to improvements which have been made in country education. I tremble to think what must have been the condition of country education years ago.

The Minister for Mines: Did you see the country children's exhibition at the Royal Show?

**Mr. BOYLE:** A most commendable exhibition achieved under a terrific handicap; an exhibition that reflects great credit on the teaching staff as well as on the country children. But a parsimonious Government, so that this exhibition might be made possible, allowed the teachers and the children to provide their own materials. No financial provision whatever was made in that regard. Complaints have reached me on various occasions to the effect that these exhibitions are entirely the work of the children, aided by their teachers, and that not even any materials are found to assist them.

The Premier: That is developing their initiative!

**Mr. BOYLE:** That argument of the Premier goes to prove that country children in Western Australia have initiative above that possessed by any other children in the world. To starve all that work is not commendable. If the withholding of assistance is going to develop the initiative of those children, I do not wish to see it developed at such a cost. Now as regards our education system particularly in our country areas; and let me say that I have little intention of referring to education in the metropolitan area. As chairman of the Select Committee on Education which sat a year ago, I had a peculiar and particular opportunity to study the incidence of education within the metropolitan area, and also without the metropolitan area. Undoubtedly in the metropolitan area the system of education is of a very high standard. The children of the metropolitan area, from the educational aspect, are nursed through the kindergarten to a free University. They are taken through all the grades of education. We members of the select committee saw one school at Claremont that dealt only with children up to a certain standard. We were told that they could then go to another school. We know that the children of the metropolitan area do proceed step by step until they reach the only free University in the wide world.

Mr. Patrick: In the British Empire.

**Mr. BOYLE:** Yes. We did examine that position, and found that to be a fact. The University, as we learnt to our sorrow, is practically reserved for the children of the metropolitan area. We discovered that no less than 77 per cent. of the youth that went to the University came from within a radius of 12 or 15 miles. But contrast that with the conditions obtaining in what are known as the sixth and seventh class schools of the country areas of Western Australia. That is the grave complaint I have in that regard. The children in the sixth and seventh class schools who comprise about two-thirds or more of the total attendance at schools in the country areas, are close up to an average of 12 or 14, and are isolated. They are working under wretched conditions. We made a few humanitarian recommendations. One was that blinds should be fitted to the windows of the country schools. Another was that wire blinds should be sup-

plied as well. Evidence was given to the select committee that children were compelled to eat their lunch in the open. I can assure members that conditions in our out-back areas are far from pleasant. The temperature reaches 100 degrees and more in the shade, and these schools consist mainly of one room, in many cases without even a blind. We ourselves would not tolerate such conditions for an instant even in the sheds of our homes. Yet these children travel long distances to be tormented by flies, heat, and dust. How can children settle down to study under such conditions? Nevertheless they are compelled to attend school under such conditions. A parsimonious Government refused to adopt any of the suggestions that the Select Committee made; a Government that prides itself on being the champion of the workers decided that children of workers who are producing wealth for the State should not be allowed to come within the scheme of things at all.

Much has been said on the subject of technical education. The fact remains, however, that there is not one centre throughout the agricultural areas of the State where technical education is imparted to children. In Collie, children can obtain technical education. In coastal towns technical education is also provided. The select committee had before it a most valuable witness, Mr. J. S. Lynch, the Director of Technical Education. He put up a most excellent proposal, which was to separate technical education from the ordinary education system of the State.

Mr. Lambert: He has always been on that subject.

Mr. BOYLE: I suppose in the same way as the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie challenges a certain vote year after year in this House. Even if the proposal has been consistently advocated, that is not to say it is wrong. Mr. Lynch made other valuable suggestions, one of which was to the effect that as the Perth Technical College closed for ten weeks each year, country children could be brought to Perth and given a few weeks' intensive training there. That recommendation was made by the select committee. Mr. Lynch said that he himself and his staff would be only too willing to impart that special technical training. Notwithstanding the select committee's recommendation, the Government again refused to assist country children even to the extent of arranging for

them to secure a fortnight's technical education each year. That sort of thing is irritating, because we were not asking much. It would not be costly for the staff of the Perth Technical School to impart such education to country children for ten weeks while the college was in recess. Such little assistance from the Government would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Lambert: Why should not the staff go to the country?

Mr. BOYLE: There are difficulties in the way of adopting that suggestion. All the plant and machinery required is located in Perth. Another matter that Mr. Lynch impressed upon the select committee—he made many valuable suggestions—was the fact that children in country centres could receive some technical training from local people, such as owners of garages or tradesmen with shops. Country children could receive training at the hands of those people, provided they were selected and suitably paid. But all the 24 recommendations made by the select committee fell on deaf ears. As far as I know, not one of them was adopted. An interjection made by the member for Canning (Mr. Cross) tonight rather amused me, if one can be amused by tragedy. He said that the Government could not afford to send school desks and other furniture to country schools. Incidentally, the member for Canning—the power behind the throne—was able to secure a post-primary school costing £15,000 for his electorate, and that school is almost within sight of the wonderful school at East Perth that cost the people of this State some £80,000. However, the influence of the member for Canning—notwithstanding his unsympathetic attitude to the supplying of desks and furniture for country schools—was such that he could persuade the Government to erect a post primary school costing £15,000 in his electorate. Such is his powerful political influence, his pull with the Government! As a member of the select committee the hon. member was not particularly helpful. I shall not allude to that subject, because the member for Williams-Narrogin had a good deal to say on it when the select committee presented its report.

The Minister for Mines: Are you quite sure that the post-primary school is in the hon. member's electorate?

Mr. Cross: He was wrong as usual!

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Avon will kindly address the Chair.

Mr. BOYLE: One great factor with which we have to contend today is the migration of farmers from the land. Farmers in this State are abandoning their holdings. Year after year we have an appalling list of thousands of farmers who have left their holdings. They do not all leave for economic reasons, not by any means. I have on my files letter after letter from fathers and mothers in agricultural areas who say they cannot allow their children to be debarred from securing an equal opportunity with other children of the State. An American educationist has described the position very well indeed. He referred to education in city centres as opportunity plus, and to education in country centres as opportunity minus. That sums up the position. The average person prefers to have his children in places where there is opportunity plus; farmers in this State and also country residents are compelled to put up with opportunity minus. I make no apology for taking up the time of the House.

I wish to refer to the provision made for scholarships. It is based upon most inequitable grounds. A country child winning a scholarship and whose father has an income of £300 or more, cannot take up the scholarship. I know of a man who was earning a little more than £300 per annum—not much more, £350 to £400 a year. One of his sons won a scholarship. There were eight children in the family, but in deciding the question of granting the scholarship, no deduction from his yearly income was made for his children. From an income tax point of view, he was practically tax free; but from an educational point of view, his position was such that his child was denied the scholarship. Had the child been his only child, the disability would not have been so great; but this man as I have said had eight children, one of whom by winning a scholarship had a chance to become something better than the person mentioned by the member for Bunbury—a hewer of wood and a drawer of water. The parent had to obtain a certificate from the Taxation Department as to his income. The certificate showed that he was in receipt of about £350 a year, and so his child was prevented from taking up the scholarship. That is not a course which the Government of this country should pursue. Every encourage-

ment should be given to people who have large families; we should do our best to assist such people. Yet this stupid regulation penalised a man and a wife who had done their duty.

I shall not ask the Minister to provide an agricultural college, but I draw his attention to the fact that at Merredin we have practically no facilities for higher education. The local schoolmaster—a most estimable man—undertakes to coach children for the junior examination. His work is done under difficulties in a wretched room. I do not know what his percentage of passes is; if any of his scholars passed at all, it would be a tribute to himself and the scholars. We have a research station at Merredin, an outstanding State farm with ample accommodation. Why not adopt the Queensland system of farm scholarships? Under that system boys are sent to country training centres of that type. The Government allows them £33 per year and travelling expenses to and fro; and the passing of an examination is not essential. As long as a certificate is obtained from a headmaster that the boy is of good character, scholastic standards are overlooked. The result is that these children get an opportunity that is lacking in Western Australia. We could adopt such a system at the research farm at Merredin. There is an excellent school 2½ miles away: the children could cycle to this school to receive part-time instruction and could then cycle to the farm to receive practical training for the remainder of the time. In that way we could get trained agriculturists, and the need for them is greater than we think. Today our farmers are mostly old people. Young people will not work on farms in Western Australia today. Why should they, with the miserable standard of conditions now prevailing? I could take members to any part of my district and guarantee they would find that the average age of men working on farms is nearer 60 than 40. The young people in most cases have left because farming offers nothing to them. So the need for trained, educated help is greater than most people think. We also have stations at Tardun and Werribee besides other places, but these are mostly for orphans, who really in the long run are better off than are the children of our poverty-stricken farmers. Those orphans know nothing of the misery that some country children have to endure. That

is why country children go to places where they can earn a few shillings, and such places are usually industrial centres. I think the Minister has an idea that we on this side of the House are speaking against the clock, but that is entirely wrong.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest the hon. member stick to the Estimates.

Mr. BOYLE: Unfortunately the Minister for the North-West is only deputising for the Minister for Education. I should like the Minister for the North-West to have complete control of the department. I know that does not rest with him, but in him I think we would have a sympathetic Minister. If he had control of that department he would make a name for himself that would ring down the ages. I hope he will use his influence with the Minister for Education. He is a country representative himself; he comes from the North-West, a land of wide open spaces, and like other members has to face difficulties with regard to education in his electorate. Those difficulties could be and must be overcome. It is disappointing for us to come here year after year and find that we have made no further progress towards the realisation of our aims.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [10.31]: First of all I should like to congratulate the Director of Education on the general progress made in his department. The annual report submitted to hon. members contains a wealth of information; in fact it is a record of progress of which any State might well be proud. The great difficulty that has existed for as long as I can remember has been that of finance; but there is no limit to the enthusiasm of those carrying out the work of the department. The teachers are ready to continue their activities long after school hours. Their efforts in this direction are worthy of the greatest acknowledgment. Few people engaged in any other skilled calling show such real interest and sincerity in their work as are exhibited by the teachers. Because of that, we are under a heavy debt of gratitude to them. The work done outside school hours by the teachers is so extensive as to constitute a record which I dare say is unequalled in any other profession.

I wish to thank the Minister for the practical help he is giving to the junior farmers' movement. He has made available the ser-

vices of Mr. Murray Little, who has shown himself to be thoroughly practical in his ideas and who is doing a tremendous amount of work. If there is any effort that will prevent the declining interest in farming referred to by the member for Avon (Mr. Boyle), it is the junior farmers' movement, and I hope the work of that movement will be extended.

I wish also to refer to the consolidation of schools. I know there is not complete enthusiasm in regard to this matter on the part of many parents, but as the idea is more widely understood, I believe the consolidation of schools will become more popular. It stands to reason that where there are many small schools in each of which dependence must be placed upon one teacher, the task of that teacher is a physical impossibility. Generally, the consolidated schools have made for more efficient education, and the time is not far distant when their establishment throughout country districts will be generally supported. The adoption of radio in the schools is proving a valuable innovation, although all the progress hoped for has not been achieved. Those who teach through the radio must possess what can be fairly termed radio personality, and the art of speech as applied to lessons over the air must be developed. Another new activity of the Education Department is the safety-first instruction being given in the schools. This is a most useful departure. In Perth there are cross-walks in every street of any importance. I consider that if anything is inclined to lead people into danger it is the existence of those cross-walks, because when our citizens go to other States they are apt to be run over because the same system is not in such strict operation there.

Progress is being made in the provision of school libraries, and I am glad to know that technical works are being included in the volumes supplied to the various schools. That is a wise procedure and one that must be of great advantage to the scholars, and especially those in agricultural districts who are thus able to secure information about the special industries on which their living will depend. The reorganisation of the travelling libraries is to be applauded. So far as I can ascertain, well-balanced boxes of books—fiction, technical and educational—are sent out to the schools. That is as it should be. Given the time and the opportunity to read the literature provided,

those participating in the scheme must find it extremely helpful. I would like a course of addresses or lectures of particular interest to orchardists, to be given in the fruit districts.

I desire now to read two short extracts from the report of the Superintendent of Technical Education. One is headed "Commonwealth Grant for Unemployment" and reads as follows:—

An amount of £14,000 was granted to the State in 1937/38, of which £7,000 was made available for the Perth Technical College, £6,000 to be used for building purposes. It is not known how much of the 1938/39 grant, when made, will be available. It is expected that the amount in hand will be expended on new buildings on the Mount's Bay-road frontage.

The other paragraph is headed "Royal Commission on Youth Employment and Apprenticeship" and is as follows:—

During 1938 the Royal Commissioner issued his report and recommendations. Many of these recommendations have an important bearing on the future of technical education and the training of workers for and in industry. When funds are available, many of the Royal Commission's recommendations will be carried out with advantage to the State.

There is no doubt that effect should be given to those recommendations. With regard to the former paragraph, the Commonwealth grant should be used for the purpose of imparting the necessary skilled training. Vocational training is of great importance to the youth of this State but unfortunately many of them are not given an opportunity to obtain it. Certainly there are self-supporting classes at the Technical College but unless a lad is an apprentice he is, in the case of other classes, denied the right of enrolment. In the first instance he is not able to secure the advantages of apprenticeship and in the second place, not being an apprentice, he is not permitted to attend the technical schools.

In conclusion I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to the need for a school at Stoneville which is on the Eastern Goldfields line three or four miles from Mundaring. Perhaps that work is contemplated, but if not, the consolidation of the Mundaring schools might receive consideration. I feel proud of the progress made by the department and while the additional amount of £12,000 provided on the Esti-

mates is not a large sum, it does indicate the desire of the Government to do what is possible with the limited funds at its disposal.

**MRS. CARDELL-OLIVER** (Subiaco) [10.41]: It is said that brevity is the soul of wit and I think that in politicians it is the soul of commonsense. I shall therefore say only a few sentences. I have no intention of asking the Government to do this, that or the other thing, knowing full well it has not the money available. I do intend, however, to ask the Government to do something that will not require expenditure. I request that school grounds be kept open until 6 o'clock at night, so that children may have organised games thereon until that hour. We have a Physical Fitness League that could undertake such a scheme. Older boys and girls could help to organise games and keep the younger children in order. The school grounds would provide a better playing area for the children than do the streets. Secondly, I think some schools might be kept open in the evening for the holding of technical classes. Many children in the outlying suburbs cannot possibly go to the central technical school for further education, but if some of the schools in those suburbs were kept open at night, the children might there receive the training they desire. I hope these requests will be brought to the notice of the responsible Minister.

**THE MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST** (Hon. A. A. M. Coverley—Kimberley—in reply) [10.43]: I do not intend to reply to the various requests made by hon. members. Two or three speakers said they thought someone on this side of the House was uneasy about the length of their speeches. So far as I am concerned, they can talk all night because the more they speak the more I shall be able to learn. I have taken note of some of the important requests made and will place them before the Minister concerned.

Vote put and passed.

Vote, Police, £259,700:

**THE MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST** (Hon. A. A. M. Coverley—Kimberley) [10.45]: The Police Department is not under my control, but it is my pleasing duty

to present these Estimates on behalf of the Chief Secretary for the consideration of the Committee. The information I have to present is to the effect that the expenditure of this department is showing a slight increase. A proportion of that is due to Arbitration Court awards, etc. The activities of the department have become greater, as is the case with other departments, and the expenditure during the year has also increased. Arrangements have been made for members of the C.I.B. to visit country towns, such as Geraldton, and there to deliver lectures on detection, the investigation of crime, and on general criminal procedure. It was found advisable for a woman constable to visit Geraldton, Bunbury and Northam. Five women constables are now employed by the department, and are doing good work amongst the female section of the community. A plain clothes constable branch has been appointed to attend to breaches under the Gaming Act, and the Licensing Act. Members of that staff do nothing but attend to offences against the gaming laws in country districts as well as in the metropolitan area. Part of their duty also is to attend to liquor inspections, which entail a great deal of work. There are 916 licenses in operation under the Licensing Act, and of these 386 are publican's general licenses; 120 are gallon licenses; 110 are billiard-table licenses; 63 are wayside-house licenses; and 52 are licenses for the sale of Australian wines. No less than 780 inspections of liquor were made, and two convictions were obtained for false trade descriptions, and one for the adulteration of liquor. The activities of the department in connection with the weights and measures legislation have considerably increased. The number of traders' premises visited during the year was 167, and 12,354 packages were examined, of which 1,138 were incorrect. The Firearms Act has brought a lot of extra work into the department. The use of small-bore rifles in urban districts of the metropolitan area, and also of air rifles, is giving the department grave concern with respect to their indiscriminate use by youths at week-ends. The Traffic Act is also administered by the Police Department and entails a considerable amount of work. It is imperative that additional motor-cycle patrols should be employed in the control and regulation of traffic. At present, with the sparse staff employed,

only the fringe of this work receives attention. The department would like to give far more attention to this particular branch. Salaries and allowances make up a big proportion of the increased expenditure of the department. Under this head the expenditure last year was £229,460, made up of salaries £195,560, and allowances £33,900. The difference between last year's expenditure of £255,354 and this year's estimate of £229,460 is made up of basic wage increases of £1,600 and grade increases of £2,400. Additional duties have been cast upon the department during the last 12 months because of its work in connection with the Weights and Measures Act, the Traffic Act and the Gaming Act. The department has taken on 20 recruits, and it is hoped they will be ready in a few months to strengthen the staff. I will quote a short extract from the last annual report of the Commissioner of Police, dealing with gaming activities, for the reason that the department has continually been criticised on this subject. For the 12 months ended the 30th June, 1939, in the Perth area the fines inflicted on S.P. bookmakers in connection with shop and street betting amounted to £21,182, an increase of £5,324 compared with the previous year. The number of prosecutions was 557. The department also pays attention to the country districts, and I could read a long list of the towns visited and the convictions obtained. If members desire to be further enlightened on this subject, the report is available on the Table of the House. Most members will agree that our police force is an efficient one. I have pleasure in submitting the Estimates.

**MRS. CARDELL-OLIVER** (Subiaco) [10.50]: I do not intend to say much on this Vote, but cannot refrain from asking the Minister how it is he has not closed the starting price bookmakers' shops. We have had them in our midst for many years, and they are increasing in number. I cannot understand why the Commissioner of Police has not cleaned them all up. We know that the fines have been increased in some instances, but that is not sufficient. The men concerned should be put into gaol, in which event we would soon find that the shops would be closed. It is a disgraceful thing that the sale of lottery tickets in these shops is allowed. This means that it is possible for a contract to be made between the Lot-

teries Commission, representing the Government, and the shops that are carrying on this illicit business. Fully 90 per cent. of the betting shops in the metropolitan area are selling lottery tickets. That is certainly a disgrace. I feel that the whole business is most demoralising for the youths and young people of this country. It is a demoralising thing that the Police Department and the Government should be willing to allow these conditions to exist. I assure the Minister and the Commissioner that if I were either one or the other for three weeks, not one of these places would exist any longer.

**MR. DONEY** (Williams-Narrogin) [10.53]: The matter to which I wish to refer is one that seems to me completely appropriate to the Police Department Vote. I wish to deal with the remarks made by a member of this Chamber, under cover of privilege. The privilege we enjoy is something that should not be abused, something we should be proud of, and, when it is abused, attention should be drawn to it. Members are required at all times to be very careful of such of their remarks as are likely detrimentally to affect other people. Of course, there are occasional lapses. One such lapse occurred in this Chamber about a month ago when the member for Victoria Park (Mr. Raphael), probably without realising that he was in any way being unfair, during a discussion brought up by the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes), said things about Mr. John Stratton that suggested the latter had been guilty of misdemeanours. It is fair and proper that the other side of the question should be submitted to the Chamber; otherwise definite harm might be done to the gentleman in question.

The **CHAIRMAN**: There is no vote dealing with Mr. Stratton.

**MR. DONEY**: I imagine no vote could be more appropriate than this for a matter such as the one I desire to discuss, affecting as it does the legality, the propriety, or the conduct of a member of the House.

The **CHAIRMAN**: The hon. member may not proceed along those lines.

**MR. DONEY**: Will the Chairman tell me under what vote this matter can better be discussed?

The **CHAIRMAN**: The hon. member may take an opportunity to discuss it in connection with the appropriate vote, but we are

now dealing with the activities of the Police Department only.

**MR. DONEY**: Is not the way open for a general discussion on police matters?

The **CHAIRMAN**: Not for a discussion on Mr. Stratton, or any member of the Chamber.

**MR. DONEY**: I should like to know what opportunity I may have for discussing this matter. I regard this as an appropriate opportunity. In the circumstances, I shall have to dissent from the Chairman's ruling.

*Dissent from Chairman's Ruling.*

The **CHAIRMAN**: Will the hon. member put his dissent in writing?

*[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]*

The Chairman having stated the dissent,

**MR. DONEY**: By reference to the note from me that you have, setting out the grounds for the dissent, you will see, Mr. Speaker, that I claim the question I wish to discuss is appropriate to the Vote under consideration, in that the charges I was dealing with were advanced by the member for Victoria Park during a discussion regarding betting transactions. Those charges related to matters that could easily lead to police action. I do not say that they would, but that is at least conceivable. I do not desire to place the member for Victoria Park in a false position, but because I considered that a man against whom the charges were levelled under the privilege of this House should at least have his case stated before members, I proposed to do no more than give such facts as I believe to be correct and have a direct bearing on the charges made by the hon. member. I do not allege against him, nor do I think he would find in what I propose to say any such suggestion that he desired to misrepresent the position to the House, but rather that he had been given certain information which he found himself conveying to members. I consider that matter appropriate to the vote under discussion.

**MR. MARSHALL**: By no possible stretch of imagination can any member really believe that utterances made by a certain member several weeks ago, which had no reference whatever to the Police Department or its administration, could be replied to during the discussion on the Police Vote. The statements to which the member for Williams-Narrogin desired to reply, were made during

the course of the debate on a motion moved by the member for East Perth regarding the control of racing. The member for Williams-Narrogin imagined he was entitled to raise the question at this stage and reply on behalf of Mr. Stratton. If the hon. member wishes to discuss that matter, he can do so by means of a motion, but the Estimates do not provide him with an opportunity to comment upon the attitude of the member for Victoria Park.

Mr. Raphael: The remarks I made were on the motion moved by the member for East Perth and conveyed no suggestion whatever that there was anything crooked regarding the administration of the Police Department or about any single member of the police force. They contained definite allegations of crookedness regarding the administration of T. J. Stratton in connection with trotting.

Mr. Speaker: Order! The hon. member is getting away from the subject.

Mr. Raphael: I shall link up the two.

Mr. Speaker: Order! The hon. member is not in order in discussing such matters on a motion to disagree with the ruling of the Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Raphael: I would be quite satisfied with that in other circumstances. Later on, I will reiterate what I said, and will add a lot more to the statements I made before. I will give the member for Williams-Narrogin an opportunity to defend the man he wishes to stick up for here.

Mr. Speaker: Of course I must rule in favour of the Chairman of Committees. The member for Williams-Narrogin was not in order in discussing the position of Mr. Stratton or of anyone else on the Police Estimates. I have no option but to uphold the Chairman's ruling.

Mr. Raphael: That is what the member for Williams-Narrogin thinks! Since I made the statements in Parliament they have been sending me letters and threatening my life, and that is the sort of person that he stands up for.

Mr. Doney: I shall have to appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, to protect the House, not so much myself—

#### *Committee Resumed.*

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member may resume his seat. I will attend to that matter.

Mr. Doney: I will not stand for that.

Mr. Raphael: That is the type of man—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the member for Victoria Park wishes to remain in the Chamber, he must obey instructions from the Chair.

**MR. J. HEGNEY** (Middle Swan) [11.7]: I have complained from time to time about the lack of police protection for the Bayswater district. For many years, the local authorities have raised the question and have advocated the provision of a police station at Bayswater. I have made representations to the Commissioner of Police and have, by interviews and correspondence, placed the matter before various Ministers. Generally the reply I received was that while the establishment of a police station in the Bayswater district was necessary, funds were not available for the purpose. A few weeks ago a further complaint from the local authorities was received, and again they urged that more adequate police protection should be made available. At present the district is patrolled by policemen on motor cycles. On Saturday nights and when dances are conducted in the local hall, complaints have been lodged on account of the manner in which a number of young fellows conduct themselves. Recently the windows of the local town hall were smashed and the hall itself was broken into. Another matter affecting the Maylands district, as well as my own district, is the need for the establishment of a police station at Maylands. This matter was considered some years ago, when it was proposed to transfer the Highgate Hill police station to Maylands. A site was secured at Maylands and I understand the intention was to proceed with the construction of a police station. Nothing has been done, however, and the time has arrived when the matter should receive attention. The adjoining district of Bassendean has a police station, and so have Guildford and Midland Junction. Bayswater is a large, scattered district, and the people residing there are entitled to that protection afforded to people in other districts.

**MR. SHEARN** (Maylands) [11.11]: I do not intend to detain the Committee unduly. I support the remarks of the mem-

ber for Middle Swan. Necessity exists for the supply of police protection at Inglewood. Replying to an interjection by the member for Perth (Mr. Needham), I say the people of Maylands are no more unruly than are the people in the district which he represents. Representations have been made to the Minister to provide a station in the densely populated area which, as the member for Middle Swan said, is now almost dependent upon a motor cycle patrol. In view of the large area of the district and its rapid growth, the present service from the Maylands station has become entirely inadequate. In reply to the last request made by the local authority, the Minister said that while he recognised the urgency of the matter, funds were not available. In view of the fact that a site has been acquired at Inglewood, I urge the Government to give consideration to this matter at an early date. Despite the fact that other urgent representations have been made to the Government, this particular matter is, as was indicated by the member for Middle Swan, so urgent as to warrant its receiving early and favourable consideration.

**MR. NORTH** (Claremont) [11.13]: The councillors of Claremont have been exercised for some considerable time about the expenditure incurred in collecting traffic fees. They have asked several questions and made statements in the council chamber at Claremont, and I have endeavoured to ascertain on their behalf from the Minister what the cost of collecting the traffic fees is. The Claremont Council thinks that the Police Department receives a commission, amounting to £16,000 or £18,000, for collecting traffic fees which the councillors seem to think is devoted to the Police Department. The Government has indicated, however, if not directly then indirectly, that the £16,000 or £18,000 is paid into revenue, and that the Minister determines the actual amount which the Police Department is to receive for its work. I would be pleased if the Minister would furnish a statement explaining exactly what is done in this respect, because it is unpleasant that local authorities should criticise public expenditure. Nor is it pleasant that a council like the Claremont Council should be demanding police patrol with a view to minimising the risk of accident on

the Stirling Highway. As far as the councillors are aware, money is available for that purpose, and they consider they have a claim to some portion of it for extra police patrol.

The other matter I desire to stress is that, unfortunately, as the years pass, larrikins on the sea front are still causing damage to public conveniences and dressing rooms, especially the ladies' dressing rooms. These are damaged and their appearance spoilt. Neither the police nor the wardens seem able to check this vandalism, I hope additional constables will be appointed with a view to bringing these larrikins to book.

**MR. McLARTY** (Murray-Wellington) [11.15]: I desire to ask the Minister whether the police force is much below its proper strength at the present time.

The Premier: Very little.

Mr. McLARTY: I think it is somewhat below its proper strength.

The Premier: No. Many special constables are doing work for defence purposes.

Mr. McLARTY: I am glad to have that information from the Premier. In a time such as the present, when the nation is at war, the police force should be kept up to full strength. I know that applications have been made by country residents for additional police protection which they are unable to obtain. The Commissioner's reply is that he has no men to spare, and he gave as his reason that the force was not up to full strength.

*Vote—Crown Law Offices, £88,790:*

**THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE** (Hon. E. Nulsen—Kanowna) [11.16]: This is my initiation tonight as far as the Estimates are concerned. The older one gets, the greater the number of new matters he comes in contact with. The revenue to be derived by this department from all sources, namely probate, law courts, Land Titles and Crown Law departmental reimbursements, etc., is estimated at £277,000, compared with an actual revenue of £250,958 for 1938-39. The estimate represents an increase of £26,042, which is all expected from probate duties. The following table shows the position under

the respective revenue headings, compared with the actual results of 1938-39:—

—	Collections, 1938-39.	Estimate, 1939-40.	In- crease.	De- crease.
	£	£	£	£
Probate .....	123,798	150,000	26,202	
Law Courts—				
Judicial fines and fees .....	54,004	54,000	.....	4
Local Court fees .....	9,479	9,500	21	
Supreme Court fees .....	24,675	25,000	325	
Crown Law Department .....	9,787	8,500	.....	1,287
Land Titles .....	29,215	30,000	785	
	250,058	277,000	27,933	1,291

Net Increase—£26,042.

When the Budget was introduced it was announced that an additional £35,000 was expected from probate duty as the result of amending legislation. That amount was based on the original departmental estimate of £115,000, not on last year's collections, which, owing to the inclusion of several large estates, was exceptionally high. Since the Estimates were prepared one or two large estates have been submitted for assessment and although these will not be subject to the increased rates, the duty payable will be substantial. No difficulty should be experienced in collecting the amount estimated. The estimate of receipts from the law courts is £88,500. Last year's collections amounted to £88,158. These collections are the result of the activities of the police courts and local courts and also the Supreme Court, and depend entirely on the volume and nature of the work handled. Of the amount estimated it is expected that the police courts will produce 61 per cent., the local courts 11 per cent., and the Supreme Court 28 per cent. Judicial fines have shown a gradual increase over recent years, but it is not expected that last year's collection will be exceeded. The Estimate for the Crown Law Department is £8,500. Last year's collections totalled £9,787. The anticipated reduction in the revenue when compared with last year's collections is due to a decrease of approximately £1,000 in the amount to be escheated to the Crown by the Curator of Intestate Estates. The amounts so escheated are those which remain unclaimed at the expiration of a period of six years. There is little variation in the other revenue items and this year it is expected that the esti-

mates will be produced in the following manner:—

	£
Escheats .. .. .	4,600
Commonwealth Bank Savings Bank branches .. .. .	870
Bankruptcy services .. .. .	788
Other profit costs .. .. .	1,100
Miscellaneous .. .. .	1,142
	£8,500

The Land Titles estimate is £30,000 and last year's collections totalled £29,215. The estimate was framed under normal conditions and it was then considered that £30,000 was a reasonable expectation. Real estate activities are, however, very susceptible to violent changes in the ordinary life of the community and war or depression conditions immediately produce an adverse effect. The collections for September were approximately £400 below those of September, 1938. It is, therefore, possible that the estimate may not be realised, but on the other hand a reduction in the expenditure of the Land Titles office may be effected.

With regard to expenditure in the Crown Law Department the estimate is £88,790 as compared with £89,137 last year. Salaries paid last year totalled £70,226 and the estimate this year is £74,540. The increase of £4,314 is due chiefly to basic wage adjustments and statutory increases payable to a large number of officers. The amount does not include arrears of salary, paid since the preparation of the estimates, as the result of Appeal Board decisions and which will cost several hundred pounds. There has been no great increase in the staff but for the time being an additional magistrate is chargeable to our vote. Stipendiary magistrates are paid by the Treasury Department, the cost being debited to "special Act" expenditure, but those appointed under the Public Service Act are paid by the Crown Law Department.

With regard to contingencies, an amount of £150 is set aside for law books as against an expenditure last year of £134. Prior to the depression approximately £300 was paid annually for the purpose of keeping the Crown Law Library as up to date as possible. The sum now provided is hardly adequate and barely covers the cost of those books that are absolutely essential.

Last year an amount of £4,258 was provided for incidental expenses as against £4,600 this year. The amount asked for has been apportioned in the following manner:—

	£
Postage .. .. .	975
Telephones .. .. .	880
Travelling .. .. .	1,600
Water, fuel and light .. .. .	245
Stationery, stores, etc. .. .. .	685
Mileage to Police Department .. .. .	100
Miscellaneous .. .. .	115
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£4,600</b>

These are essential services chargeable direct to the departmental vote. The difference between the estimate and last year's expenditure is the provision for a cash register at the Land Titles Office. The amount was provided last year by the Treasury but was not expended.

The estimate for elections is £3,000 as compared with £8,163 last year. The high expenditure last year was due to the general election. This year's provision is to cover the cost of the Council election to be held in May, 1940 and any by-election that may be necessary. Incidental expenditure and the wages of temporary officers connected with the Electoral Department are also paid from this vote, but the salaries of permanent officers are paid from the general salaries vote. The expenditure in connection with inquests was £2,032 last year and the estimate is £2,000 for this year. That is based on last year's expenditure, although of recent years there has been a gradual increase in the cost of this service. This can mainly be attributed to the increase in motor accidents with fatal results. The expenditure is quite beyond departmental control and is governed by the number and nature of the cases handled.

On law reporting £200 was spent last year and the same amount is provided this year. The figure is constant and covers the cost of supplying quarterly 100 copies of the "W.A. Law Reports." This work is done under contract. Last year £3,767 was expended on witnesses and jurors as compared with an estimate this year of £3,800. This item is also beyond departmental control, depending entirely on the activities of the various courts. The heaviest expenditure is associated with the Criminal Court. On circuit courts £61 was expended last year and the estimate for this year is £100. The pro-

vision is to cover the cost of circuit work undertaken by the various judges. It was anticipated last year that the appointment of an additional judge would somewhat increase the travelling on circuit work but the retirement of one of the senior judges has probably lessened that possibility. Although not fully expended, the amount provided last year, namely £100, has again been asked for.

In respect of awards and law costs an amount of £200 is provided as against an expenditure last year of £163. There is likely to be a substantial increase in expenditure chargeable to this item. It has already been necessary to brief outside counsel to conduct the Criminal Sessions because of the absence of the Crown Prosecutor while undergoing military training. For the same reason it will be necessary to obtain outside assistance for portion of the October and November sessions. For the defence of destitute persons £100 is provided as against an expenditure of £131 last year. The provision covers the cost of legal assistance under the Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act. Last year's expenditure was higher than that of previous years owing to assistance having been granted in divorce actions. Several such actions were dealt with during the early part of this financial year but owing to the financial situation assistance of this kind has been discontinued for the time being.

A sum of £100 has been provided in respect of Native Court Administration which is provided for by Section 63 of the Native Administration Act, 1905-36. Expenditure in this direction was first incurred in 1937-38, the amount involved being £90. Last year there was very little activity in native courts and only £2 was expended. It is difficult to estimate this item with any degree of accuracy but £100 should be ample provision.

The revenue to be obtained from liquor licenses is expected to amount to £80,000 as against collections last year totalling £77,071. This income is derived from the following sources:—

- (a) Minimum annual fees (Section 72 of the Licensing Act).
- (b) Five per cent. and 6 per cent. additional fees (Sections 73 and 201 of the Licensing Act).
- (c) Premiums payable on the granting of new licenses.

It is expected that premiums this year will amount to approximately £2,500 and there is no reason to anticipate a business decline sufficient materially to affect the percentage fees. From other licenses it is expected that £1,400 will be derived as against £1,390 last year. This revenue is collected in the form of employment brokers' and billiard saloon license fees. There is no great fluctuation from year to year. On the expenditure side, salaries are estimated at £2,830 compared with £2,787 expended last year. The item covers salaries payable to members of the Licensing Court, one clerk and one typist. The small increase provided is to meet additional payments due to the officers. The incidental vote is £250 compared with an expenditure last year of £280. Practically the whole of this amount is to defray the cost of travelling by members of the Licensing Court. A substantial portion represents a transfer to the Railway Department for fares incurred.

Vote put and passed.

*Votes—Licensing, £3,080; Native Affairs, £39,000—agreed to.*

*Vote—Harbour and Light and Jetties, £28,490:*

Mr. HILL: I received word to-day that the Naval authorities have taken over the tug "Bonthorpe." I understand she is to leave Albany, and this means there will be no tug at the port. I appeal to the Government to take steps to ensure that there is a tug at the port. This is a matter that the State Government should take up with the Commonwealth Government, because the tug is needed not only by the shipping companies but also to maintain communication with the lighthouses. Last year Albany was the only port that made ends meet, and in asking for Government assistance in the shape of a tug, we are only asking a fair thing.

Vote put and passed.

*Votes—Fisheries, £6,500; North-West generally, £200—agreed to.*

*Public Utilities:*

*Votes—Goldfields Water Supply undertaking, £132,266; Kalgoorlie Abattoirs, £4,042; Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale Yards, £32,750—agreed to.*

*Vote—Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department, £32,250:*

Mr. SAMPSON: I wish to place on record my appreciation of the work of the ex-

under secretary of the department, Mr. G. H. W. Long, who recently vacated the position on reaching the retiring age. Nobody can say that Mr. Long ever failed to do his work with thoroughness. His enthusiasm for and interest in his work were such that he was good enough on a number of occasions, to accompany me into my electorate and view the opportunities that existed for the extension of water supply. Such thoroughness, enthusiasm, capacity and courtesy constitute a complete answer to the jibe one sometimes hears about public servants. I do not agree that those jibes are justified in any case, but Mr. Long has left a wonderful record of which his department might well be proud.

Vote put and passed.

*Vote—Other Hydraulic Undertakings chargeable to Revenue, £59,983—agreed to.*

Progress reported.

### BILLS (3)—RETURNED.

1. Nurses Registration Act Amendment.
  2. Reserves (No. 3).
  3. Licensing Act Amendment.
- Without amendment.

### BILL—STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE ACT AMENDMENT.

*Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it insisted on its amendment to which the Assembly had disagreed.

### MOTION—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

*Standing Orders Suspension.*

On motion by the Minister for Lands, resolved—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a motion to be considered in connection with the appointment of a committee.

*To Inquire by Joint Committee.*

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS** (Hon. F. J. S. Wise—Gascoyne) [11.39]: I move—

That a committee of three members of each House of Parliament be appointed to consider alternative sites for the erection of public buildings for the accommodation of the Public Service; that the committee have power to sit on days on which the Houses

stand adjourned, to call for papers and examine witnesses, and to report to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor; the members of the Legislative Assembly to be Messrs. McDonald, Styants and the mover.

This is a matter of great urgency. This House considered very fully proposals submitted by the Government in connection with sites for public buildings. The Government brought down a separate Bill to deal with a particular site, and that measure has been defeated by the Legislative Council. The Government has been very earnest in its endeavour to cope with this very pressing problem. The problem of the Titles Office is particularly urgent. The situation there in regard to the housing and protection of very valuable documents referring to the land transactions of the State is specially dangerous. As all members know, the Agricultural Department is also in a very bad way. The first opportunity should be taken for both Houses to confer, and take advantage of the knowledge of trained officers of different departments to acquire all possible information and recommend a site which, in the view of the committee, after consultation with all the authorities, should be the one on which to proceed.

**MR. HUGHES** (East Perth) [11.41]: I should like to know what the effect of this motion will be. Does it mean that after Parliament has rejected a Bill three members from each House are going to sit and make a recommendation, and that the works are going to be carried out on the strength of that recommendation; or will the committee merely report back to Parliament?

The Minister for Lands: That is the position; the committee will report to Parliament.

Question put and passed.

On motion by the Minister for Lands, ordered: That the resolution be transmitted to the Legislative Council requesting the appointment of three members of that Chamber to the committee.

## **BILL—FIREARMS AND GUNS ACT AMENDMENT.**

### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**MR. WARNER** (Mt. Marshall) [11.43]: I listened attentively to the speech of the

Minister when moving the second reading of the Bill, and it would appear to me that most of the amendments sought to be made to the Act are reasonable. Power to deal with the use of firearms by natives is to be extended throughout the State. There can be no serious objection to that. Some people, however, object to the idea that they may not supply a native with a firearm, and imagine that will cause them inconvenience in that the natives will not be able to kill foxes, eagles and other vermin by means of such a weapon. We must, however, consider the danger of supplying natives with guns. We cannot place as much reliance upon natives when using firearms on stations, as we can upon the white people who are employed there. The desire to control the use of air guns is also reasonable. The airgun of to-day is a powerful weapon compared with what it was when the parent Act was first passed. Some of these guns are more powerful than is a pea rifle, far more powerful than when the Act was passed in 1931. That being so, they are very dangerous, particularly in crowded centres in the metropolitan area. They are used by many people for sport, such as the killing of rabbits and birds, and so on. They are also used extensively in the country for such purposes. It is necessary to control their use, by youths in particular. Nowadays numbers of men in uniform, carrying rifles, are to be seen about, and it is the desire of every lad to have a gun. Many such guns are displayed in the shop windows in Perth in readiness for the Christmas season, and parents may easily be persuaded to buy one of them as a present to a son. Now that it seems likely these guns will at the request of the department be brought under the Act not so many will be sold, and that is all to the good. As a consequence, boys will be supplied with some other toy that will not be so dangerous. Another amendment provides that the police shall have power to refuse a license to certain persons. That is reasonable. No one knows better than do the police the calibre of the people who apply for licenses, and we all realise that some persons should never be allowed to carry a firearm of any sort. There can be no objection to that provision. Another amendment gives power to a justice to reduce fines. It was time such an amendment to the Act was made, and it should have been made at the time the Act was passed. Now that airguns are to be brought

under the Act many juvenile offenders no doubt will be dealt with. Most offences committed by juveniles will be looked upon as trivial, and in such cases a fine of £10 would be too great. Justices would find it difficult to deal with such juveniles, but the proposal to give them discretionary power as to the penalty will adjust the situation, and may be regarded as reasonable. The Act, when amended, will bring under control all airguns and such other lethal weapons that are in the hands of various people. It will protect the community. The Police Department will be able to say what persons shall be licensed to carry firearms, although we have to admit that some people ought never, under any conditions, be allowed to carry a lethal weapon. I see no objection to the Bill, and hope it will be allowed to go through.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, Etc.*

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

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

**BILL—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT  
AMENDMENT.**

*Second Reading.*

**THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH** (Hon. A. H. Panton—Leederville) [11.52] in moving the second reading said: This Bill has been brought forward for the purpose of amending Section 35 of the Friendly Societies Act, which was enacted during the period of the last war in order to protect the interests of members who were engaged on active service. The proviso to that section sets out that "the committee of management of any society or branch may, during the continuance of the present war (i.e., 1914-1918) suspend or modify the benefits of any member who is on active service. . . ." As the existing proviso operated during the period of the last war only, it is now obsolete and the friendly societies accordingly desire to have a new proviso inserted. The Bill therefore provides that the committee of management of any society may, subject to the approval of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, suspend

wholly or partly the contributions of any member on active service. Similarly the benefits may be suspended wholly or partly. It is obvious that the managing committees of the societies must have this power to deal with the contributions and benefits quite apart from the rules of the societies themselves. Most of the societies have only biennial meetings for the amendment of rules, others have annual meetings; but, in either case, too long a period would elapse if any emergency arose, before it could be dealt with by the societies.

Members will appreciate the necessity for the proposed amendment. If the present war were to continue for any length of time, and the societies had not the power to suspend or reduce contributions, then it is fairly obvious that many of their members enlisting for active service would be likely to cease membership by reason of non-payment of dues. In any case, members on active service will receive their full military pay during the period of any incapacity, and they will therefore not require sick pay from the societies. In the event of death, a modified death benefit will be paid to dependants; and after the period of war or date of discharge, members will retain all rights and privileges in the society for full benefits.

The societies are taking steps to ensure the provision of medical benefits for wives and children of members on active service, and require this legislation to enable them to give the best possible service to members and dependants.

Anything that the committee of management of any society may propose is subject to the approval of the Registrar, whose duty it will be to protect the financial interests of the societies. I feel sure that this duty will be faithfully carried out. I may add that the first proviso was not enacted until 1915. On this occasion the societies are taking time by the forelock. I move:—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

**MR. SAMPSON** (Swan) [11.56]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

**Mr. SAMPSON:** I admit that the Bill is a very short measure, but I would have preferred to discuss it with the grand secretaries of certain friendly societies.

The Minister for Health: The friendly societies proposed this measure.

Mr. SAMPSON: Quite so; I realise that. However, adjournment of a debate in these circumstances is usually granted as a courtesy. While the grand secretaries of different friendly societies could see the Minister, a representative of the Opposition has had no opportunity of seeing them until the Bill is introduced here. However, I do not raise any objection. The principles contained in the measure will receive general support; in fact, they will be welcomed by members of friendly societies, without exception.

The Premier: You can go further and say that the Bill has been requested by those members.

Mr. SAMPSON: As the Premier remarks, the measure has been introduced at the request of the various societies. A very important phase of the Bill is that the operation of the amendment is subject to the approval of the Registrar. The Registrar watches the interests of the various friendly societies; and that being so, there can be no objection. I support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

## **BILL—POLICE BENEFIT FUND ABOLITION.**

*Council's Amendment.*

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

*In Committee.*

Mr. J. Hegney in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3:—That the following be added to the definition of "member of the police force":—"The term also includes any person who having, prior to the closing day, been employed as a member of the police force, and during such employment contributed to the Police Benefit Fund, had prior to the closing day been transferred to another department in the service of the

State, and has not received any benefit from the Police Benefit Fund under the Ordinance and the regulations made thereunder."

The PREMIER: The amendment was moved by the Minister in charge of the Upper House and it was framed after consultation with those concerned. It protects the rights of certain members of the police force who have been transferred to the Public Service. Three former police officers have been transferred to the Traffic Office and are now under the Public Service Act. While they served as members of the police force, they acquired certain rights by virtue of their contributions to the Police Benefit Fund. Had the Bill been agreed to in its original form and transfers had been made retrospectively by the Public Service Commissioner, the three officers in question would have been deprived of their rights. When the matter was discovered, negotiations were commenced by the Police Union and, in consequence, the Minister agreed to take appropriate action. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

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

*House adjourned at 12.3 a.m. (Thursday).*