

hard cases. I will admit that probably there are 100 or 200 men in the State who in a sense could come within the category of the men on the Southern Cross miners' settlement. There is, however, a difference. One lot of men at Southern Cross were persuaded to leave the mining industry to embark on another venture with which I never agreed, because it was a strong man's job; but the other men, without inducement, quitted the mining industry for good. All I ask is that those men should receive proper consideration.

On motion by Hon. C. B. Williams, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 7.52 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Tuesday, 19th September, 1933.*

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

### QUESTIONS (2)—UNEMPLOYED SINGLE MEN.

*As to Policy.*

Mr. DONEY asked the Minister for Employment: What is the policy of the Government in regard to the relief of unemployed single men in country districts?

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT replied: The policy of the Government is, wherever possible, to provide work for them, first attention being given to those in most need.

#### *Reconditioning Abandoned Farms.*

Mr. DONEY asked the Minister for Employment: Will he consider the placing of unemployed single men in the wheat belt districts at the work of reconditioning improvements on abandoned Agricultural Bank farms in those districts, in the same way as is now being done in the South-West on abandoned group holdings—such work to be distinct from the care-taking duties now allotted to married men?

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT replied: Where results would justify such expenditure, consideration will be given to the adoption of this principle.

### QUESTION—RAILWAYS, OIL HAULAGE.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Railways: 1, What is the charge made by the Railway Department for hauling—(a) rail tank cars, (b) trucks carrying oil in drums, from the oil companies' sidings to the main line? 2, What are the distances of such haulage?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, (a) and (b) Usual charge 2s. and 4s. per four-wheeled and eight-wheeled truck respectively, the distance being under one mile. Exceptions and distance: Mullewa—double the usual charge; tanks placed on loco. road (double shunt necessary); under one mile. Geraldton—Shell Co.; Wiluna G.M. Co.—2s. and 4s., minimum 10s.; about two miles. Geraldton—Wiluna G.M. Co. siding to municipal council siding; 2s. per ton, less 10 per cent., minimum 20 tons, plus 4s. per bogie; about two miles. Geraldton—Wiluna G.M. Co. siding to Fertiliser Co.'s siding, Bluff Point; 6s. 6d. per ton less 10 per cent., plus 4s. per bogie tank, plus 5s. for empty return; under four miles. Bunbury—tankers delivered to town council through loco. yard; quadruple ordinary charge; under one mile. Northam—Texas Co. siding; can only be shunted by up trains; in addition to ordinary shunting charge, freight Northam to East Northam is collected; under four miles. Southern Cross

—double ordinary shunting charge (ash dump road used; double shunt necessary); under one mile. Wiluna—4s. and 8s. per four-wheeler and eight-wheeler, minimum £1; under one mile. 2, See No. 1.

## SECESSION—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.

### *Report Presented.*

The Premier brought up the report of the joint select committee, which was received and read and ordered to be printed, and its consideration made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House. (See page 928.)

## ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the undermentioned Bills—

- 1, York Cemeteries.
- 2, Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, W.A. Branch, Incorporated, Headquarters Building.

## BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Southern Cross Southwards Railway.
- 2, Tenants, Purchasers and Mortgagors' Relief Act Amendment.

Transmitted to the Council.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1933-34, and recommending appropriation.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1933-34.

### *In Committee of Supply.*

The House resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the 30th June, 1934: Mr. Sleeman in the Chair.

**THE PREMIER AND TREASURER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.40]: In presenting this Budget it is not my intention to deal exhaustively with the operations of the financial year just closed, for the very good reason that, as the present Government assumed office in April, its administration had no effect on the final result for the year. I will content myself, therefore, with giving particulars of the financial operations, without making any lengthy explanations.

### *Last Year's Results.*

	£
The estimated revenue for the year 1932-33 was ... ..	8,417,577
While the actual receipts amounted to ... ..	8,332,153
A decline of ... ..	85,424

	£
The estimated expenditure was ... ..	9,181,243
And the actual was ... ..	9,196,234
An increase of ... ..	14,991

	£
The estimated deficit was ... ..	763,666
Whereas the actual deficit was ... ..	864,081
An excess of ... ..	100,415

It may be of interest to members to know how this State compared with the other States in regard to its budgetary estimates for 1932-33. At the Premiers' Conference in June, 1932, the agreed deficits of the States were as follow:—

	£
New South Wales ... ..	4,500,000
Victoria ... ..	900,000
Queensland ... ..	1,485,000
South Australia ... ..	1,215,000
Western Australia ... ..	765,000
Tasmania ... ..	135,000
Total ... ..	£9,000,000

The actual results achieved on the 30th June, 1933, were:—

	£
New South Wales ... ..	4,271,000
Victoria ... ..	856,000
Queensland ... ..	1,554,000
South Australia ... ..	1,009,000
Western Australia ... ..	864,000
Tasmania ... ..	55,000
Total ... ..	£8,608,000

It will be observed that, with the exception of Queensland and Western Australia, all the States were below the agreed deficits,

and that in total the deficits were nearly £400,000 less than the amount which the Commonwealth Bank had agreed to advance by way of Treasury Bills. So far as this State was concerned, it is only fair to draw attention to the fact that the deficit for 1931-32 was £1,557,896, and that, as pointed out at the time, it would be very difficult to obtain, in one year, a reduction of £792,896, as required by the Loan Council. The Premiers' Conference held in May, 1931, adopted what is known as the Premiers' Plan, which came into operation for the year 1931-32. The estimated deficit for that year was £1,226,373, and, as stated, the actual deficit was £1,557,896. For the year 1930-31 a surplus of £5,928 had been anticipated, whereas the actual result was a deficit of £1,420,539.

When we assumed office in April last, we found that it would not be possible to keep within the agreed deficit of £765,000, and at the Loan Council meeting in June made a request for further accommodation to the extent of £100,000. In view of the fact that the total deficits of all the States would be within the amount agreed upon, our request was granted.

The Commonwealth Government, which had indicated that it would require no accommodation from the Commonwealth Bank for revenue purposes, completed the year with a surplus of £3,545,000; but for the payment out of revenue of a bonus to wheat-growers and taxation remissions, the actual surplus would have been in the vicinity of £7,000,000.

#### *State's Opportunities Prejudiced.*

No one who has the interest of the Commonwealth as a whole at heart, can find much satisfaction from a review of these figures. A distribution of financial powers and obligations which results in a large surplus for the Commonwealth, and crushing deficits for the States, is fundamentally wrong. It is obvious that the methods of raising revenue exploited by the Commonwealth have prejudiced the States' opportunities of raising sufficient to meet their needs, while on the other hand the States are burdened with the liability to pay the cost of all the necessary social services from which the Commonwealth escapes. Such an arrangement cannot continue indefinitely, and there are indications that all the States are seized with the urgent necessity for a

readjustment of the financial relationships between them and the Commonwealth.

The buoyancy of the Commonwealth revenue is largely due to the measures agreed upon at the Premiers' Plan Conference in May, 1931, and at the time, the fact that the benefits of the increased revenue would go mainly to the Commonwealth was clearly recognised. It was part of that Plan, however, that an adjustment should be made between the Commonwealth and the States, whereby the Commonwealth would make grants to the States in order to relieve the budgetary difficulties.

The report of the economists and Treasury officers concluded with the statement that, as the Plan for increased revenue would benefit, directly, the Federal Treasury, and thereby improve the Commonwealth position more than that of the States, some adjustment would be necessary. It was recommended that, as the Commonwealth would probably have a surplus and the States deficits, "These deficits should be adjusted by special grants from the Commonwealth, so that the Commonwealth and the States concerned should be left with equal proportional deficits."

#### *Commonwealth's Position Strengthened.*

It is regrettable that this deliberate recommendation of the economists and Treasury officers was not put into effect. The result of the Premiers' Plan has been to strengthen the Commonwealth's position by enabling it to expand avenues of indirect taxation, as well as giving it the greater portion of the benefits obtained under the Loan conversion, and at the same time to narrow the field of direct taxation available to the States.

One of the most disturbing effects of this maladjustment is that the Commonwealth apparently views itself as an entity quite apart from the States, and proposes to reduce its direct taxation, leaving to the States the unpleasant task of imposing even higher rates of direct tax on the existing high ones.

Unless some readjustment can be made, the way of the States will be rendered increasingly difficult, and, of necessity, services which should be maintained for the well-being of the whole of the Commonwealth will be starved, and, ultimately, become ineffective.

Reverting to the operations for last financial year, hon. members will be able to see

from the returns before them the directions in which revenue fell and expenditure rose, but I would like to draw particular attention to the fall in the receipts from taxation and land revenue.

#### *Curtailed Income.*

The receipts from land tax and territorial revenue during the past four years have been:—

	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33
	£	£	£	£
Land Tax ...	219,066	168,579	132,368	130,963
Territorial ...	299,661	235,441	223,496	197,412
	<u>518,727</u>	<u>404,020</u>	<u>355,864</u>	<u>328,375</u>

Income under the latter head is a fairly reliable index of the degree of prosperity of our primary producers. It will be noted that the fall between 1929-30 and 1932-33 under both heads was £190,352, or nearly 40 per cent.

For the same period the decline under income tax and dividend duty has been even greater. The figures for the four years ended 30th June last being:—

1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
£	£	£	£
751,116	523,993	438,440	337,624

The fall in collections under these heads in the four years has been £413,492, or over 55 per cent.

It is very clear from the figures quoted, that the income of the people of this State has been drastically curtailed.

This curtailment is reflected, not only in the receipts from direct taxation, but in all the Government sources of revenue. Any action which can be taken to increase the people's spending power will therefore be of untold advantage to all. More money will be available for employment, and as the ordinary income of the Government increases, so should the necessity for special forms of taxation diminish.

The revenue from all sources of taxation was estimated at £1,216,650, but the actual receipts were £1,128,515, a difference of £88,135. The returns from the financial emergency tax were mainly responsible for this difference, being short of the estimate by £97,664. The reason for the shortage was that the Act did not become operative until 1st December, though it was anticipated that collections of tax would commence on the 1st October.

Land tax was below the estimate by £19,037, and income tax by £10,990, but as against these decreases, there were increases in probate duty of £21,995, and in dividend duty of £18,614, due largely to activity in the mining industry.

The receipts from business undertakings was less than the estimate by £8,743, due to decreases experienced by:—

	£
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	7,000
Metropolitan Water Supply ...	3,803
Railways ...	29,183
Tramways ...	7,798
State Ferries ...	7,004

On the other hand, however, several of the public utilities showed actual receipts in excess of the estimate, notably:—

	£
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	23,095
Electricity Supply ...	7,302
State Batteries ...	10,919

As already stated, the expenditure exceeded the estimate by £14,991. The chief contributors to this increase were:—

	£
Unemployed Relief ...	46,956
Railways ...	39,353
State Batteries ...	9,055

All the State batteries are now working at full pressure—a pleasing indication of the revival in the gold mining industry.

#### *Expenditure Saving.*

Saving in expenditure was effected under the heading of Interest, £43,622, due in the main to a steady reduction in the rate charged by the Commonwealth Bank on Treasury Bills. This is now 2½ per cent., whereas at the commencement of the year it was 4 per cent., and in 1931 was 6 per cent.

A decrease in the expenditure of the Mines Department was effected to the extent of £15,389, achieved only by transferring £25,000 from the funds of the State Insurance Office. In justification of the transfer, I would like to make it clear that when the State Insurance Office was established, it was understood that it would become liable for the payment of compensation to men incapacitated as a result of mining disease. Under the Miners' Phthisis Act, however, men who are suffering from tuberculosis are debarred from work in a mine and are compensated out of Revenue. Nearly all the men receiving compensation under the

Miners' Phthisis Act are sufferers from a disease which would in time incapacitate them, and give the right to claim compensation from the State Insurance Office. Since the State Insurance Office was to this extent being relieved of its liability, the last Government decided that it should meet some of it by transferring to revenue, part of the premium income which it received from mining companies for insurance against mining disease risks.

#### *This Year's Estimates.*

Turning now to the estimates for 1933-34, hon. members will see that the anticipated revenue is £8,541,402, and expenditure £9,289,867, leaving a deficit of £748,465. As compared with the actual results for 1932-33, these estimates show an increase in revenue of £209,249, and in expenditure of £93,633. The increased income is expected chiefly from taxation, where it is estimated that an amount of £253,485 will be received in excess of that collected under this heading in 1932-33.

For the information of hon. members, I will supply particulars of the anticipated increases under taxation:—

	£
Land Tax ... ..	4,037
Dividend Duty ... ..	46,386
Totalisator Duty ... ..	2,709
Stamp Duty ... ..	3,453
Probate Duty ... ..	8,005
Financial Emergency Tax ...	197,664
Other ... ..	241
	<hr/>
	£262,495
Less decrease in receipts from Income Tax ... ..	9,010
	<hr/>
	£253,485

Legislation regarding the financial emergency tax has already been considered by hon. members, and they are, of course, well acquainted with the provisions of the Bill, and the estimated amount it will yield.

Other items of additional income anticipated are:—

	£	£
Territorial ... ..	12,849	
Law Courts ... ..	2,805	
	<hr/>	15,654
<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES—</b>		
Harbours ... ..	20,905	
Water Supplies ... ..	12,108	
Railways ... ..	79,183	
Tramways and Electricity	14,496	
Batteries ... ..	3,831	
Other ... ..	8,020	
	<hr/>	138,543

As against these increases, however, it is estimated that there will be declines in departmental revenue of £298,433, made up as follows:—

	£
General Departmental and Trading Concerns ... ..	30,527
Treasury ... ..	266,759
Royal Mint ... ..	1,147

The falling off in the Treasury revenue, which consists mainly of interest earnings, requires explanation.

#### *Group Settlement Reserve.*

Those hon. members who were in this House in 1926-27 may remember that, when the Commonwealth Government decided, as a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission, to pay a special grant at the rate of £300,000 per annum to this State on account of our disabilities under Federation, we transferred the sum of £150,000 from revenue to a special reserve to meet losses on group settlement.

In subsequent years, additional transfers from revenue were made, and when we vacated office in 1930 the Group Settlement Reserve amounted to £711,504.

During the last Government's term of office it was found that the collections of interest from group settlers were declining rapidly, and decided to utilise the reserve to make good the deficiency in the amount of interest due by the scheme. Each year amounts were transferred from Reserve to Revenue and were credited as Treasury Revenue on account of interest earnings. The amounts transferred during the three years ended June, 1933, were:—

	£
1930-31 ... ..	185,287
1931-32 ... ..	199,925
1932-33 ... ..	297,975

There is practically nothing left in the Reserve Account to augment the Treasury's interest earnings for this year. This accounts for the whole of the anticipated drop of £266,759.

The increase under the heading of Territorial, viz., £12,849, is an indication of the uplift in the timber industry, which all hon. members will hope to see continued.

#### *Public Utilities.*

It will be noticed that we have budgeted for an increased return from public utilities of £138,543. Every effort is being made to

lessen the gap between revenue and total expenditure, *i.e.*, working costs plus interest and sinking fund. Last year the surplus revenue available to meet interest and sinking fund was £1,595,803. This year the anticipated surplus is £1,798,739.

The financial position of the public utilities over the past four years, and the estimate for the present year, are:—

	1929-30	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£	£	£
Revenue ... ..	5,298,005	4,613,756	4,409,023
Working Expenses ... ..	4,036,335	3,326,832	2,862,122
Balance available for Interest and Sinking Fund	1,261,670	1,286,924	1,546,900

  

	1932-33.	1933-34.
	£	£
Revenue ... ..	4,436,507	4,575,250
Working Expenses ... ..	2,840,904	2,776,511
Balance available for Interest and Sinking Fund	1,595,803	1,798,739

In regard to this year's anticipated improvement, much depends on the railways. An increase of £79,183 is expected, and up to 31st August, the additional receipts amounted to £33,744. With a favourable harvest it should be possible to maintain the position already secured, while the brighter outlook in gold mining should be of material assistance in enabling us to achieve the anticipated result.

The anticipated increased surplus from the Fremantle Harbour Trust is justified, since, to the end of August, an improvement of £4,000 over 1932-32 has been made.

#### *Commonwealth Special Grant.*

The last item of additional revenue calling for comment is an amount of £100,000 being a special grant from the Commonwealth Government. This amount is not to be confused with the Disabilities Grant, which was £500,000 last year, and is being continued at the same rate this year, pending the recommendation of the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

The history leading up to the payment of this grant of £100,000 is as follows: In accordance with the practice of the last few years, the Loan Council met in June to decide upon the amount which the Commonwealth Bank would be asked to advance for revenue deficits for all the States. In submitting a request for £850,000, Western Australia was the only State which estimated an improvement, although slight, on the

previous year's results. As a result of much discussion, the other States subsequently reduced their requirements, but the Council was informed that the deficit we had forecast was the lowest we could possibly hope to achieve.

#### *Estimated Expenditure.*

Turning now to the expenditure, we have estimated that this will amount to £9,289,867, as compared with £9,196,234 in 1932-33, an increase of £93,633. This is made up as follows:—

	£
Loan Acts—Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	107,997
Other Special Acts ... ..	21,839
Governmental ... ..	28,190
	£158,026
Less a saving in expenditure on Public Utilities of ... ..	64,393
Leaving a net increase of ... ..	£93,633

The increase in expenditure on interest and sinking fund is the natural result of the growth of borrowed money, to which reference will be made later.

One of the principal items accounting for the increase in Governmental expenditure is exhaustion of the Government Property Sales Fund. Prior to the Financial Agreement, all repayments and proceeds of sales of Government property were credited to Government Property Sales Fund, and the Fund was utilised to finance additions and repairs to buildings, etc. The Financial Agreement Act altered this, and the balance remaining in the Fund at the date of the passing of that Act is now practically extinguished. The balance at 1st July was only £2,471 3s. 10d., and in consequence the repairs and additions to buildings, which in the past have been charged against it, have now to be charged against revenue. The Public Works Department estimate that the amount required for this purpose during the current financial year is £46,691, which has to be found out of revenue. Last year the amount expended was £45,233, and was provided from the Government Property Sales Fund. It is an unfortunate fact that repairs to public buildings are becoming more pressing each year. The Education Department will require an additional sum of £10,154, to do no more than meet its normal increase of schools and staff.

Other increases are:—

	£
Child Welfare—Unemployment	
Relief ... ..	9,891
Agriculture ... ..	3,461
Police ... ..	5,189
Other small increases ... ..	6,486

As an offset to these increases, there will be savings in certain directions.

#### *Decrease in Expenditure.*

The Treasury expect a decrease in expenditure of £29,963, due to the fall in exchange between sterling and the American dollar, and to the elimination of the bank overdraft with the Commonwealth Bank. The overdraft was removed by the issue of Treasury Bills, which carry a lower rate of interest than was charged on the overdraft.

It was decided to transfer the upkeep of Wooroloo Sanatorium to the Hospital Fund, resulting in a net saving of £14,677.

The expenditure of the Electoral Department shows a decrease of £3,868, as compared with 1932-33, when the expenditure was inflated on account of the cost of the general election and referendum.

In total, the savings under Governmental expenditure will amount to £53,682.

Under public utilities it is expected to effect a saving of £64,393, due mainly to an adjustment in the expenditure of the Railway Department on relaying.

Relaying expenditure for many years has been charged to a suspense account, and debited to Revenue in equal annual amounts over a series of years, usually five. Cash had, of course, to be found when the expenditure was incurred, and the delay in charging Revenue with the full amount did not alter the cash position. The object was to spread the cost as evenly as possible over the years. The Treasury is now making efforts to bring its accounts on to a strictly cash basis in order that the real position may be revealed, and the operation of suspense accounts discontinued.

An opportunity presents itself this year of clearing up old outstanding debit accounts against a credit suspense account, to which I will make reference later.

The saving in the expenditure of the Railway and Tramway Departments, which will be effected by this change of system, plus some minor savings, will total £98,162.

From these savings, however, are to be deducted certain increases in other public utilities, viz.:—

Metropolitan Water Supply—	£
Delayed repairs to meters, etc. ...	5,492
Ferries—	
Brought under this section of Estimates, previously included as a Trading Concern ... ..	5,695
Electricity Supply—	
Increased activities ... ..	8,003
State Batteries—	
Increased activities ... ..	12,878
Other Minor Increases ... ..	1,701
Total increase ... ..	£33,769
Net decrease ... ..	£64,393

#### *Conversion of London Loans.*

Interest on our London debt has been included at the existing rate, though we are hopeful that, before the present financial year ends, conversions will have resulted in a substantial saving in interest. At the Loan Council meeting in June last, when the deficits were being fixed, it was agreed with the Commonwealth Bank that any such saving should reduce the stipulated deficits. In other words, any saving from an overseas Conversion Loan will not provide the Government with more spending power. I hope that is quite clear.

Mr. Latham: It will reduce your deficit accordingly.

The PREMIER: It does not affect the deficit directly. The amount that would have been saved in interest as a result of the loan conversion, is to be used in decreasing the deficit, agreed upon at the Loan Council meeting, by an equivalent amount.

Mr. Stubbbs: You cannot make use of it as revenue.

The PREMIER: That arrangement benefits the State—

Mr. Latham: Of course it does.

The PREMIER: But the lesser rate of interest does not benefit the State from the budgetary standpoint.

Mr. Latham: It does not give you any more money.

The PREMIER: That is the position. The first conversion to affect this State resulted in £2,716,302 6 per cent. stock being reduced to 4 per cent. The latest conversion includes £1,049,993 5¾ per cent. stock which has been reduced to an effective rate of £3 18s. per cent. The actual saving to this year's expenditure is not known, as the information has yet to be received from the Commonwealth Treasury.

The estimated annual saving resulting from these two conversions is £92,339, made up as follows:—

Loan	Existing Rate of Interest.	Existing Annual Interest Charge.	Re- duced Rate.	Reduced Annual Charge.
£	%	£	%	£
2,716,302	6	162,978	4	108,532
1,049,993	5½	60,375	3·9	40,950
		<hr/> £223,353		<hr/> £149,482
Estimated savings	...	...	...	£73,871
Plus exchange at present rate of £25 per cent.	...	...	...	£18,468
				<hr/> £92,339

We still owe £17,000,000 in London above 4 per cent. The amount on which we pay interest in London at 3 per cent. and up to 4 per cent. totals a further £17,000,000. In addition, there is a 5 per cent. New York loan amounting to £2,000,000.

Mr. Latham: The exchange on that amount is appreciable.

The PREMIER: Yes, the exchange in New York is much more against us than it is in London. While the conversions effected to date are entirely satisfactory, inasmuch as they give practical evidence of the British investors' confidence in our ability to meet our obligations, it has to be remembered that the stocks converted are only those due for redemption or renewal.

#### *Australia's Interest Burden.*

Having regard to the efforts which Australia has made to meet the catastrophic fall in its national income, due to the greatly diminished price received from its exports, an effort which is apparently as great as that made by any other nation in the world, and much greater than that attempted by many others, we could reasonably expect that our efforts would be recognised by our creditors, and that they would hasten to give us the much needed relief that a substantial reduction of interest would afford. The tardiness of the London money market to extend this relief is a matter of disappointment. In the interests of the bondholders themselves, it would be advantageous to reduce interest rates, for Australia cannot continue much longer to pay the pre-depression rates of interest, plus exchange. The burden on our exports is more than they can bear, and indeed is greater than we should be asked to shoulder.

#### *State's Claim for Federal Grant.*

As hon. members are aware, the Commonwealth Government has appointed a Royal Commission to investigate our claim for a grant. The Government have appointed a Committee to prepare a case in support of our claim for submission to the Royal Commission. I understand that the Committee are well on their way towards the completion of the case which, when it has been considered by the Government and approved, will be forwarded to the Commission.

South Australia and Tasmania are also submitting claims to the Commission, and I wrote to the Premier of South Australia suggesting that, as it was probable that in many respects the grounds upon which the claims would be based would be identical, I thought it desirable that the three States should collaborate in the preparation of their cases. Though I have had no reply yet to my suggestion, I am hopeful that some form of co-operation will be established.

A reference to Table No. 6 will disclose how dependent we have been on special grants from the Commonwealth Government since the year 1911-12. To June last the total amount received by the State in this way exceeded £5,000,000. In addition to this sum, Western Australia received special consideration during the five years immediately following Federation, when we were given the right to impose customs duties on imports from the Eastern States.

#### *State's Disabilities.*

There is no need to take up the time of the Committee with a lengthy statement of our disabilities, but when it is remembered that we are, in the main, a community of primary producers, that we produce largely for export—we are by far the greatest "per capita" exporter of all the States; that we have to sell our produce in open competition in the world's markets; that we have to purchase our requirements in what is probably the dearest market in the world; that our exports provide overseas credits to meet the needs not only of our own State but of the whole Commonwealth; and that we cannot pass on any of the added costs imposed by the Federal fiscal policy; then it has to be admitted that some easing of the burden placed on us by Federation is not only just for ourselves but is essential for the well-being of Australia as a whole.



The payment of these special grants is, therefore, evidence of recognition by the Commonwealth of some of the disabilities we suffer under Federation, and I am hopeful, that as a result of a careful and impartial investigation of our position, our disabilities will be properly assessed, and that adequate compensation will be paid so enabling the Government to grant some relief to the primary producers and others who are the principal sufferers.

#### *Loan Expenditure.*

The loan money allocated to this State for the year 1932-33 was £1,955,000, comprised of the following:—

	£
Raised by Commonwealth ...	1,500,000
Local raisings in Western Australia	230,000
Loan repayments ...	80,000
Special loan raised by Commonwealth for relief of unemployment ...	145,000
	<hr/> £1,955,000 <hr/>

In addition to this sum, the Commonwealth Government made a grant of £145,000 to be utilised for the purpose of relieving unemployment in the winter of 1932.

Table 9 shows the Loan expenditure for the financial year just closed, and that of the preceding years since 1920-21. Members will be interested to learn the position in regard to the provision of loan moneys. In 1930 the loan market, both local and overseas, was closed to Australian Governments, and, but for the action of the Commonwealth Bank in making funds available by means of Treasury Bills, loan works could not have been undertaken, and Governments would have been forced to keep revenue expenditure within the income.

The money advanced by the Bank was money which under ordinary circumstances it would have kept at short call. This was made available against Treasury Bills, having a maturity of three months, though in all cases the bills were renewed from time to time. If a demand had arisen for money to assist private enterprise, it might have been difficult for the Bank to have met it. Unfortunately for the trade of Australia, this demand did not arise, and the trading banks were finding themselves in the position of holding a plethora of deposits for which there was little opening for investment.

It was wise, therefore, to make this surplus money available to the Governments to enable them to finance their operations without recourse to further drastic retrenchment, and to carry out unemployment relief works. Such relief works had a two-fold beneficial effect. They provided spending power for men who, otherwise, would have been on sustenance, with an extremely low spending power, and they stimulated private enterprise by the purchase of material, thus providing much indirect work. There is no doubt that if relief work had not been undertaken by the various Governments, the effect of the depression would have been much worse than it has been. I am aware that a considerable amount of criticism is still levelled at the policy of conducting unemployment relief works with the aid of borrowed money, but it is worthy of note that the policy is now strongly advocated by many of the leading economists of the world as a means towards the rehabilitation of industry.

#### *Utilisation of Future Loans.*

When the Loan Council met in June, 1932, the Commonwealth intimated that it was not prepared to advance further money on short-dated loans for public works, and that the Governments would have to limit their requirements to whatever amount could be raised in the market. It was further stated that in connection with all future loans floated, one-half should be utilised to fund the existing floating debt, which was then in the vicinity of £80,000,000. The bank also expressed the hope that revenue deficits would be so reduced that further accommodation would not be necessary after June, 1933. The Commonwealth Government had at this time already arranged a loan through the Commonwealth Bank for relief of unemployment in the winter of 1932, and the funds thus available were sufficient to meet the needs of the Governments to the end of October, 1932.

When the Loan Council met in November, it was decided to float a loan for £8,000,000 at 3¾ per cent., half of which would be used for loan works and half for funding purposes. As members know, that loan, as far as public subscriptions were concerned, was almost a failure, most of the loan having to be advanced by the banks, who had underwritten it.

The Loan Council met again in February, when the question of a further loan was very fully discussed. It was felt, however, that in view of the result of the November loan, it would be unwise to attempt another flotation then. After negotiation with the Commonwealth Bank, the bank agreed to take up Commonwealth stock to the extent of £2,000,000, and expressed its willingness to take up a further £2,000,000 to be redeemed out of any excess over £12,000,000 from the proceeds of a loan to be floated in 1933.

A loan for £5,000,000 was floated in May, and resulted in subscriptions amounting to £8,451,000 being received. In order to assist Governments the Commonwealth Bank agreed to redeem Treasury Bills for the amount of this loan, and to re-issue them as the money was required.

Our floating debt at 30th June last was:—

		£
London	...	3,098,214
Australia	...	5,875,000
		<hr/> £8,973,214

The allocation of loan money for 1933-34 has resulted in this State being promised the sum of £2,750,000, made up as follows:—

	£
Loan proceeds raised by Commonwealth	2,620,000
Domestic raisings in Western Australia	50,000
Loan repayments	80,000
	<hr/> £2,750,000

The provision of the whole of this sum is dependent, of course, on the success of a loan which will be floated during the financial year, but having regard to the over-subscription of the May loan, there should be no doubt that all the money required will be forthcoming. Estimates of the loan expenditure proposed have been prepared and will be submitted later.

#### *Electricity Supply.*

The position in regard to the supply of electric light and power is giving the Government a considerable amount of anxiety. The demands on the existing plant have been so heavy that additions are now imperative. It would be a calamity if, with improving conditions, a demand for increased power to enable industry to increase its operations could not be met. Unfortunately the amount necessary to provide these additions is con-

siderable, and most of the expenditure is for the purchase of plant from overseas. Even with the additional loan money available this year, the Government could not face this expenditure. The pressing demand on any Government at present is to provide work for the large body of unemployed, and the greatest problem to be solved is the finding of reproductive works in which wages absorb the larger percentage of the expenditure.

Through the Agent General, the Government has been negotiating with manufacturers in England, and there appears to be hope that the necessary financial arrangements may be made without unduly burdening the loan funds immediately available. If these negotiations are successful, I will place the whole matter before Parliament for its approval. In the meantime I can only say that the matter of the extension of the power house is receiving the Government's earnest consideration, and that we have every hope of arranging the necessary finance.

#### *Mining.*

The brightest spot in our activities for the past year has been the continued revival in the gold mining industry, due to the high price of gold. Recently the price of gold touched its highest level, when in Australian currency it rose to over £8 per ounce.

The gold yield for the year 1932 totalled 605,561 fine ounces, of a value in Australian currency of £4,403,642. The output exceeded that of the previous year by 94,989 fine ounces. This is the highest yield since 1920, when the output was 617,842 fine ounces, but the value was £3,475,392. The value of the gold production was greater in 1932 than in any year since 1916, when it reached £4,508,532 for an output of 1,061,398 fine ounces. To make another comparison, the value of the gold production in 1932 was slightly more than 50 per cent. of that of our peak year, viz., 1903, when the value was £8,770,719 for a yield of 2,064,081 fine ounces. It is most encouraging to know that the gold mining companies are using much of their profits to instal modern plant, and to equip their mines so that low grade ore can be treated profitably. We can thus expect a continued life for the mining industry for many years to come.

### *Future Prospects.*

As a result of the rise in the price of gold, a considerable amount of additional English capital has been brought into the State for the purpose of prospecting, and already several companies are testing extended areas with the view of developing mines on a large scale. It is quite possible that with such active and scientific prospecting going on, a new mine will be discovered equal to any of the existing properties.

The Government have done all in their power to assist the industry. The State batteries have had a most successful year, and have treated an increased tonnage of ore. The returns for this year show a marked increase over those for the same period of last year, and it is confidently anticipated that the tonnage in the peak year, 1908, will be equalled, if not exceeded.

The prospecting scheme, initiated by the Government on taking office, is already showing promise of good results. About 2,000 men have been equipped and sent out in small parties to engage in prospecting in approved districts. Quite apart from the relief which such a scheme affords to unemployment, it has the possibilities of bringing great benefit to the men concerned, as well as of increasing the gold yield of the State. Whilst this increased production, together with the high price of gold, is a matter of great satisfaction, it makes but little addition to the direct revenue of the State. The rents from mining leases together with departmental fees are estimated at £30,000, while the anticipated expenditure is £142,000, of which miners' phthisis payments account for £45,000, and Mine Workers' Relief Fund payments £9,000.

### *Re-appropriation of Interest Suspense Account.*

Under the Audit Act, 1904, it was thought that interest appropriations from revenue were required to be made monthly on the basis of one-twelfth of the interest accruing due, and this was done. The reason for this procedure was the desire to prevent violent fluctuations in the monthly statement of expenditure, which would have resulted if interest had been charged against the months in which payment was made.

This method continued without question until the passing of the Financial Agreement Act, which also dealt with the method of paying interest, the provisions of which

over-rode those of the Audit Act. The existing procedure was questioned by the Auditor-General, and after consultation with the Crown Solicitor it was ultimately decided that the provisions of both the Financial Agreement Act and the Audit Act would be met if the interest to be paid in any one year were debited each month in equal instalments. A change to this procedure was, therefore, made as from 1st July, 1932.

The adoption of the new method meant that this Interest Suspense Account would, unless utilised for some other purpose, remain indefinitely in the Treasury books. When the change was made, the balance of the Interest Suspense Account stood at £713,807 11s. 10d., and the question of the best means of dealing with it was again submitted to the Crown Solicitor, and the Auditor-General, both of whom advised that it would be necessary to have the amount re-appropriated by Parliament. Provision for this re-appropriation has been made on page 110 of the Estimates. It is considered that the most satisfactory use to which the Interest Suspense Account balance can be applied is to clear other suspense accounts representing past expenditure which should have been dealt with in previous years, as, for example, losses on trading concerns.

It is well to emphasise that the amount appearing as interest in suspense has already been charged to revenue, and forms part of the accumulated deficit. It was originally proposed to write down the accumulated deficit by the amount of interest in suspense, but technical difficulties prevented this being done.

### *Conclusion.*

In reviewing the positions as it appears to-day, we find that the difficulties which confront the State are still very great. Whilst there has been a satisfactory increase in the price of wool recently, the prices of our other main primary products are still below production cost. Great care will, therefore, have to be exercised in order to husband our resources, and the greatest economy and closest supervision of expenditure continued if we are to live within the amount of the deficit agreed upon at the Loan Council. People as a whole must realise that we are still to a very large extent within the grasp of the depression, which has existed for the past three years.

Details of the different departments' revenue and expenditure will be given later by the Ministers concerned, and it is not my intention to take up the time of the Committee by dealing with those matters now. I

move the first division of the Estimates, namely—

*Legislative Council, £1,442.*

Progress reported.

[Return No. 1.]

# REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1932-33, COMPARED WITH THE ESTIMATE.

		REVENUE.		£	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	...	...	...	8,417,577	
The actual amount received was	...	...	...	8,332,153	
Or a net over-estimate of	...	...	...		85,424
		EXPENDITURE.		£	
The actual amount expended was	...	...	...	9,196,234	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	...	...	...	9,181,243	
Or a net under-estimate of	...	...	...		14,991

## DETAILS.

HEADS.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Over- Estimate.	Under- Estimate.	Over- Estimate.	Under- Estimate.
<b>Taxation—</b>	£	£	£	£
Land Tax	19,037	...	...	...
Income Tax	10,990	...	...	...
Dividend Duty	...	18,614	...	...
Totalsator Duty and Betting Tax	2,709	...	...	...
Stamp Duty	3,453	...	...	...
Probate Duty	...	21,995	...	...
Entertainment Tax	...	2,486	...	...
Unemployment Relief Tax	97,664	...	...	...
Licenses	...	2,612	...	...
Taxation, Other	...	11	...	...
Commonwealth	...	...	...	...
<b>Territorial, etc.—</b>	...	...	...	...
Land	37,588	...	...	...
Mining	...	3,098	...	...
Timber	85	...	...	...
Law Courts	2,805	...	...	...
Royal Mint	...	3,147	...	1,400
<b>Special Acts—</b>	...	...	...	...
Interest	...	...	43,622	...
Sinking Fund	...	...	4,236	...
Forests Act	...	...	2,021	...
Pensions	...	...	3,114	...
Residue	...	...	2,188	...
<b>Departmental—</b>	...	...	...	...
Parliamentary	...	...	...	50
Premier	...	1,370	...	8,647
Treasurer	...	10,797	2,612	...
Minister for Forests	561	...	928	...
Attorney General	...	2,129	...	5,964
Minister for Public Works and Labour	495	...	2,944	...
Minister for Lands and Immigration	...	2,541	1,501	...
Chief Secretary	...	4,443	...	1,404
Minister for Education	...	1,200	1,154	...
Minister for Mines	...	7,773	15,389	...
Minister for Medical and Public Health	2,796	...	989	...
Minister for Agriculture	2,095	...	1,458	...
Minister for Police	...	2,970	6,923	...
Minister for Child Welfare and Outdoor Relief	...	4,608	...	43,148
<b>State Trading Concerns</b>	...	13,783	...	...
<b>Public Utilities—</b>	...	...	...	...
Aborigines Cattle Stations	1,599	...	142	...
Bunbury Harbour Board	7,000	...	...	...
Freemantle Harbour Trust	...	23,095	...	...
Goldfields Water Supply	1,029	...	664	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs	...	880	...	276
Metropolitan Abattoirs	...	253	835	...
Metropolitan Markets	...	4	...	...
Metropolitan Water Supply, etc.	3,803	...	3,795	...
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	2,276	...	...	1,440
Perth City Markets	...	13	...	...
Railways	29,183	...	...	39,353
Tramways	7,798	...	781	...
Electricity Supply	...	7,802	...	4,997
State Ferries	7,004	...	5,995	...
State Batteries	...	19,919	...	9,055
Cave House	517	...	52	...
<b>Totals</b>	<b>240,467</b>	<b>155,043</b>	<b>100,745</b>	<b>115,736</b>
Net Over Estimates	...	£85,424	...	...
Net under Estimates	...	...	£14,991	...

[Return No. 2.]

## REVENUE.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1924-25 TO 1932-33 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1933-34.

Heads,	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	Estimate 1933-34.
<b>TAXATION—</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land Tax ...	113,867	145,830	147,415	162,906	196,301	219,066	168,579	132,368	130,963	135,000
Income Tax ...	478,642	566,344	345,527	323,597	329,603	340,501	246,650	260,253	169,010	160,000
Dividend Duty ...	237,467	265,895	273,613	324,940	315,233	410,615	277,343	178,187	168,614	215,000
Totalisator Tax ...	52,905	54,529	54,553	58,770	57,899	61,156	52,505	50,100	47,291	50,000
Stamp Duty ...	204,108	231,407	252,693	270,756	298,244	262,011	179,170	196,808	191,547	195,000
Probate Duty ...	68,114	84,035	69,366	81,452	82,480	75,707	72,093	63,162	91,095	100,000
Entertainment Tax	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,360	63,169	62,486	63,000
Financial Emergency Tax ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	202,386	400,000
Licenses ...	69,927	69,410	71,176	73,937	90,260	83,737	63,052	59,417	64,262	61,000
Other ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,633	3,444	11	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,224,030</b>	<b>1,418,050</b>	<b>1,211,343</b>	<b>1,296,358</b>	<b>1,370,039</b>	<b>1,452,793</b>	<b>1,134,385</b>	<b>1,006,917</b>	<b>1,128,515</b>	<b>1,382,000</b>
<b>TERRITORIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL—</b>										
Land ...	334,109	336,791	350,531	395,282	343,225	299,661	235,441	223,496	197,412	200,000
Mining ...	16,328	16,366	16,689	18,812	17,725	16,380	17,557	16,006	20,304	22,000
Royal Mint ...	24,294	18,231	15,271	15,800	10,706	9,867	11,519	21,173	21,147	20,000
Timber ...	151,787	188,641	183,692	197,027	153,533	168,321	65,761	52,220	61,435	70,000
Departmental Fees, etc.	1,288,240	1,415,714	1,636,768	1,602,548	1,655,782	1,566,916	1,639,549	1,362,809	1,350,723	1,066,220
Law Courts ...	33,978	37,568	45,441	51,122	57,213	61,132	55,616	52,819	47,195	50,000
Commonwealth ...	583,134	588,510	1,153,132	809,061	811,446	300,000	300,000	300,000	500,000	600,000
Interest Contributions ...	...	...	...	...	...	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>2,436,870</b>	<b>2,601,761</b>	<b>3,401,524</b>	<b>3,089,712</b>	<b>3,049,630</b>	<b>2,886,209</b>	<b>2,818,875</b>	<b>2,522,655</b>	<b>2,671,648</b>	<b>2,501,652</b>
<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES—</b>										
Harbour Boards ...	262,124	245,283	279,034	265,307	305,931	308,775	247,536	233,916	234,095	255,000
Railways ...	3,334,008	3,317,140	3,574,269	3,835,299	3,783,492	3,631,876	3,120,979	2,897,336	2,920,817	3,000,000
Tramways ...	282,418	287,774	295,032	319,438	344,447	350,118	304,241	286,641	282,202	280,000
Ferries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,1996	9,000
Batteries ...	17,816	27,336	21,921	19,196	14,523	18,643	30,573	72,644	93,919	102,750
Avondale, Harvey, Bucklands, and Yandenoona Estates ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water Supply and Sewerage, etc. ...	441,962	469,519	498,272	528,712	588,626	615,478	589,522	587,370	565,392	577,500
State Dairy Farm ...	a	a	a	a	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abattoirs, Markets, etc. ...	24,689	56,569	59,654	61,732	54,637	55,891	53,809	50,350	48,001	48,500
Cave House, etc. ...	14,011	16,190	16,279	17,272	15,724	14,785	8,428	6,238	5,983	6,500
Electric Works ...	186,867	205,073	221,221	247,440	278,535	302,441	258,618	274,516	279,302	290,000
Butter Factories ...	13,329	15,224	4,577	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>4,577,204</b>	<b>4,640,108</b>	<b>4,970,259</b>	<b>5,204,396</b>	<b>5,380,115</b>	<b>5,298,005</b>	<b>4,613,756</b>	<b>4,409,023</b>	<b>4,430,707</b>	<b>4,575,250</b>
<b>TRADING CONCERNS ...</b>	<b>143,342</b>	<b>148,247</b>	<b>167,707</b>	<b>127,482</b>	<b>142,167</b>	<b>113,508</b>	<b>110,740</b>	<b>96,521</b>	<b>95,283</b>	<b>82,500</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ...</b>	<b>8,381,446</b>	<b>8,808,166</b>	<b>9,750,833</b>	<b>9,307,948</b>	<b>9,947,951</b>	<b>9,750,515</b>	<b>8,686,756</b>	<b>8,935,816</b>	<b>8,332,163</b>	<b>8,541,402</b>

a. Included in Departmental.

b From April 1st only. Previously under State Trading Concerns.

[Return No. 3.]

## STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1925-26 TO 1932-33, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1933-34.

Head.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	Estimate 1933-34.
Special Acts ... ..	£ 3,592,273	£ 3,802,450	£ 3,490,063	£ 3,029,819	£ 3,761,444	£ 3,872,297	£ 3,733,021	£ 3,740,944	£ 3,870,780
Parliamentary ... ..	13,557	13,901	13,954	14,173	14,991	14,415	11,478	11,650	11,713
Premier ... ..	16,529	15,516	15,936	14,843	15,462	13,410	13,701	14,474	11,646
His Excellency the Governor	2,549	2,508	2,518	2,439	2,322	2,458	1,771	1,631	1,634
London Agency ... ..	12,256	12,572	13,844	13,196	11,980	12,167	9,285	9,109	9,168
Public Service Commis- sioner ... ..	1,345	1,873	1,573	1,509	1,460	1,425	1,828	1,263	1,231
Government Motor Cars ...	5,534	5,838	8,473	7,228	5,677	2,589	2,544	3,078	2,115
Printing ... ..	64,946	67,053	67,929	74,237	75,991	56,120	47,400	40,317	49,484
Tourist and Publicity Bureau ... ..	1,579	1,738	1,834	2,120	2,105	1,924	1,523	1,510	1,673
Literary and Scientific ...	9,707	11,115	11,321	11,953	11,377	10,968	8,690	9,099	8,690
Centenary ... ..	...	...	4,915	15,085	...	...	353	...	...
Treasury ... ..	18,513	18,515	19,830	20,395	20,869	20,226	17,157	20,084	19,807
Audit ... ..	12,431	13,375	13,534	13,938	14,592	14,342	11,133	10,406	11,091
Compassionate Allowances	5,216	7,441	5,501	8,979	8,095	4,862	7,018	6,083	1,978
State Savings Bank ... ..	38,404	44,413	48,361	53,059	a 55,128	a 53,732	a 16,122	...	...
Government Stores ... ..	16,637	16,906	17,076	16,806	16,923	13,814	11,548	11,675	11,577
Taxation ... ..	13,937	30,224	30,212	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	31,614	30,000
Workers' Homes ... ..	12,659	13,722	17,212	18,554	a 16,529	a 12,781	a 10,582	a 12,115	a 13,244
Miscellaneous and Refunds	86,304	230,328	511,861	446,523	143,224	469,353	697,927	627,497	601,953
State Accident Insurance Office ... ..	...	2,550	3,104	3,475	a 3,817	a 3,333	a 3,263	a 3,561	a 4,957
Agricultural Bank and I.A. Board ... ..	83,511	83,061	79,514	81,138	a 83,650	a 85,616	a 87,420	a 89,097	a 91,529
Council of Industrial De- velopment ... ..	1,088	1,168	1,176	1,160	1,192	1,148	928	918	921
Commonwealth Grants ...	...	385,905	...	...	...	...	52,045	48,001	49,089
Lands and Surveys ... ..	72,080	72,191	69,141	71,843	72,823	65,675	52,045	48,001	49,089
Immigration ... ..	6,904	5,728	5,914	6,391	5,726	4,007	2,040	791	...
Settlement for Soldiers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Group Settlement ... ..	9,243	10,325	12,978	14,017	15,819	b 18,082	a 808	a 691	a 693
Town Planning ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,288	1,462	1,030	910	901
Farmers' Debts Adjustment Mines, Explosives, Geo- logical, etc. ... ..	68,492	86,160	102,066	102,148	105,116	* 105,141	102,252	87,424	88,578
State Labour Bureau ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,800	3,216	4,048	3,358	6,090
Forests ... ..	23,191	23,192	24,081	23,081	23,096	18,510	14,272	12,835	14,246
Agriculture ... ..	73,865	77,083	85,881	93,851	98,646	77,548	64,918	65,061	68,522
College of Agriculture ...	81,932	94,233	90,321	86,327	99,723	88,112	69,335	71,525	68,135
Crown Law and Branches	209,459	215,908	220,511	236,332	250,200	237,996	201,896	197,005	208,094
Police ... ..	82,688	88,971	89,668	97,712	111,536	46,648	20,330	10,150	65,550
Public Works ... ..	7,415	10,228	12,310	13,580	14,777	5,971	3,779	3,858	4,079
Labour ... ..	229,308	c 30,478	c 31,165	c 32,190	f 29,490	f 27,867	f 23,662	f 23,662	f 23,662
Office of Chief Secretary ...	4,615	8,562	11,626	12,378	13,889	10,893	11,187	11,616	11,703
Aborigines ... ..	5,211	5,448	5,385	5,347	5,687	4,372	3,410	3,620	3,651
Fisheries ... ..	23,351	25,400	25,712	28,204	31,589	31,468	25,873	24,310	25,147
Gaols ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Harbour and Light and Jetties ... ..	22,290	23,082	22,429	23,457	25,074	21,175	16,982	17,328	16,256
Lunacy ... ..	99,467	102,653	101,918	104,813	112,849	99,975	85,432	90,090	91,780
Child Welfare ... ..	109,220	108,425	106,352	136,222	170,642	570,703	138,431	132,576	134,996
Unemployment Relief ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	658,031	357,721	361,857
Medical and Health ... ..	205,573	199,395	200,894	212,292	211,657	143,231	78,658	75,698	80,316
Education ... ..	595,200	647,061	668,685	679,019	692,872	673,202	549,115	553,846	504,000
Department of the North- West ... ..	23,220	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Less Rebates, etc. ... ..	2,170,143	2,795,715	2,772,055	2,820,745	2,643,174	3,080,227	3,116,264	2,720,447	2,762,994
...	143,817	154,571	161,229	69,161	172,434	172,061	118,195	106,061	110,418
Total, Departmental ...	2,026,326	2,641,144	2,810,826	2,651,564	2,470,740	2,808,166	2,698,069	2,614,386	2,642,576
PUBLIC UTILITIES.									
Aborigines Cattle Stations	6,232	7,254	6,079	6,791	6,709	5,582	4,441	4,192	4,377
Butter Factories ... ..	14,673	4,537	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water Supply ... ..	291,053	209,919	307,184	307,554	317,877	279,457	227,637	215,514	221,753
Abattoirs, Markets, Ferries	31,180	32,592	30,120	32,773	32,850	31,042	28,372	31,011	36,888
Railways ... ..	2,519,712	2,684,723	2,903,084	3,075,548	3,119,648	2,519,691	2,116,352	2,080,353	2,010,000
Tramways ... ..	234,332	234,508	253,005	260,973	289,995	244,019	220,623	222,210	198,000
Electricity Supply ... ..	147,934	172,000	191,467	212,909	229,407	201,092	192,924	191,097	200,000
State Batteries ... ..	29,215	29,317	27,712	22,636	26,538	37,605	65,587	80,601	93,479
Cave House ... ..	14,379	14,139	14,815	14,332	13,313	8,344	6,186	6,017	6,014
Avondale, Harvey, and Yan- danooka Estates ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Public Utilities	3,288,710	3,478,994	3,733,526	3,942,536	4,036,335	3,326,832	2,862,122	2,840,004	2,776,511
Total ... ..	8,907,309	9,722,588	9,834,415	10,223,919	10,268,519	10,107,295	9,593,212	9,196,234	9,280,867

a Rebated. b £16,299 Rebated.  
Observatory, and Labour Bureau.c Includes Registry, Friendly Societies, Correspondence, Despatch, and  
d Includes Tourist and Publicity. f Excluding Labour Bureau.  
A £688 Rebated.

[Return No. 4.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND,  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1932-33.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Annual.	
			Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1900 ... ..	...	...	...	...
1900-01 ... ..	3,078,033	3,165,244	...	87,211
1901-02 ... ..	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	...
1902-03 ... ..	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	...
1903-04 ... ..	3,550,016	3,698,311	...	148,295
1904-05 ... ..	3,615,340	3,745,225	...	129,885
1905-06 ... ..	3,558,939	3,632,318	...	73,379
1906-07 ... ..	3,401,354	3,490,183	...	88,829
1907-08 ... ..	3,376,641	3,379,006	...	2,365
1908-09 ... ..	3,267,014	3,368,551	...	101,537
1909-1910 ... ..	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	...
1910-1911 ... ..	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	...
1911-1912 ... ..	3,066,673	4,101,082	...	134,409
1912-1913 ... ..	4,598,659	4,787,064	...	190,405
1913-1914 ... ..	5,205,343	5,340,754	...	135,411
1914-1915 ... ..	5,140,725	5,706,541	...	565,816
1915-1916 ... ..	5,356,978	5,705,201	...	348,223
1916-1917 ... ..	4,577,007	5,276,764	...	699,757
1917-1918 ... ..	4,622,536	5,328,279	...	705,743
1918-1919 ... ..	4,944,851	5,596,866	...	652,015
1919-1920 ... ..	5,863,501	6,531,725	...	668,225
1920-1921 ... ..	6,789,565	7,476,291	...	686,725
1921-1922 ... ..	6,907,107	7,639,242	...	732,135
1922-1923 ... ..	7,207,492	7,612,856	...	405,364
1923-1924 ... ..	7,865,695	8,094,753	...	229,158
1924-1925 ... ..	8,381,446	8,439,844	...	58,398
1925-1926 ... ..	8,808,166	8,907,309	...	99,143
1926-1927 ... ..	9,750,833	9,722,588	28,245	...
1927-1928 ... ..	9,807,949	9,834,415	...	26,466
1928-1929 ... ..	9,947,951	10,223,919	...	275,968
1929-1930 ... ..	9,750,515	10,268,519	...	518,004
1930-1931 ... ..	8,636,756	10,107,295	...	1,420,539
1931-1932 ... ..	8,035,316	9,593,212	...	1,557,896
1932-1933 ... ..	8,332,153	9,196,234	...	864,081

[Return No. 5.]

## SYNOPSIS AND BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH JUNE, 1933, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

—	1929.			1930.			1931.			1932.			1933.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>Dr.</b>															
Consolidated Revenue Fund	949,767	7	11	1,010,231	17	5	1,310,369	2	7	1,208,271	19	10	1,332,629	0	3
Sinking Fund ...	...			...			803,941	11	4	1,474,901	5	6	2,347,843	9	8
General Loan Fund ...	...			...			...			...			...		
Advance to meet Expenditure pending receipt of Revenue (Loan Act, 1931 and 1932)	...			...			...			1,250,000	0	0	2,323,000	0	0
State Savings Bank ...	8,377,578	19	0	8,490,328	14	2	8,085,745	12	5	...			...		
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits ...	305,000	0	0	320,000	0	0	315,000	0	0	318,030	0	0	302,420	0	0
Trust and Deposit Accounts generally ...	4,723,028	17	5	3,966,519	8	11	2,933,683	13	11	2,014,206	14	9	2,086,140	10	11
Westminster Bank, Ltd. ...	...			1,320,000	0	0	...			...			...		
Commonwealth Advances ...	...			1,276,739	10	9	...			...			...		
Government of Queensland ...	...			100,000	0	0	...			...			...		
Bank Account, Perth ...	...			...			518,037	6	0	...			...		
Commonwealth Bank, London ...	...			...			398,904	4	0	...			...		
	14,360,375	4	4	16,483,819	11	3	14,166,281	10	3	7,255,410	0	1	9,292,033	0	10
<b>Cr.</b>															
Investments ...	10,359,962	18	3	10,036,986	10	1	10,409,880	14	1	2,701,061	17	8	2,836,748	9	2
Stores on hand ...	723,600	9	4	664,276	3	1	709,055	6	10	587,974	8	5	489,251	16	9
Treasurer's Advances ...	785,614	16	10	679,023	3	0	542,620	8	11	406,816	1	4	226,922	5	2
Expenditure in Suspense ...	...			...			...			102,440	19	9	...		
Debt Conversion Act, 1931, Redemption ...	...			...			...			20,027	18	4	...		
General Loan Fund ...	1,218,284	6	4	3,516,140	12	1	...			...			...		
Cash in hand—															
Treasury ...	106,922	0	5	2,353	16	11	45,770	14	2	10,313	10	2	218	12	6
General Account with Bank ...	390,209	7	9	Cr. 5,518	5	10	...			Cr. 928,887	0	9	169,732	13	11
Trust Funds ...	...			...			...			694,925	3	11	600,685	10	6
State Savings Bank Account ...	431,161	6	0	69,483	19	7	440,569	17	6	...			...		
Fixed Deposits with Bank ...	...			...			...			...			...		
Government of South Australia ...	...			...			...			...			...		
Government of Victoria ...	...			...			...			...			...		
Eastern States ...	87,117	10	11	96,198	4	10	70,683	4	4	64,835	7	8	35,154	6	6
London ...	2,054	0	5	1,531	14	9	7,726	9	10	873	0	9	1,972	15	0
Remittances and Drafts in transitu ...	18,718	6	11	6,340	14	0	1,423	19	5	8,191	3	9	14,727	10	5
Consolidated Revenue Fund ...	231,730	1	2	518,002	18	9	1,938,541	15	2	3,496,437	9	1	4,360,518	0	8
Deficiency Account ...	...			...			...			...			...		
Sundry Debtors, etc. ...	...			...			...			...			...		
Trading Concerns Banking Account ...	...			...			...			...			556,101	0	3
	14,360,375	4	4	16,483,819	11	3	14,166,281	10	3	7,255,410	0	1	9,292,033	0	10

a £1,295,000 incorporated with General Loan Fund.

b Previously included in Trust Accounts.



[Return No. 6.]

## STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH FROM 1909-10 TO 1932-33.

Year.	Contri- bution towards Interest.	Payment per Head, 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Transferred Properties at 3½ per cent.	Disabilities Grant.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1909-10 ... ..	...	703,723 <sup>a</sup>	...	<i>Nil</i>	...	703,723
1910-11 ... ..	...	569,578 <sup>a</sup>	...	<i>Nil</i>	...	569,578
1911-12 ... ..	...	365,614	232,265	40,648	...	638,527
1912-13 ... ..	...	332,591	222,554	30,465	...	635,610
1913-14 ... ..	...	400,855	212,751	27,358	...	640,964
1914-15 ... ..	...	403,772	203,127	24,388	...	631,287
1915-16 ... ..	...	398,076	193,544	24,485	...	616,105
1916-17 ... ..	...	386,008	183,974	24,485	...	594,467
1917-18 ... ..	...	386,779	174,350	38,110	...	599,239
1918-19 ... ..	...	391,809	164,696	29,163	...	585,668
1919-20 ... ..	...	414,068	154,937	29,268	...	598,273
1920-21 ... ..	...	419,448	145,287	29,099	...	593,834
1921-22 ... ..	...	418,966	135,738	29,063	...	583,767
1922-23 ... ..	...	428,193	126,038	28,955	...	583,186
1923-24 ... ..	...	442,269	116,301	27,153	...	585,723
1924-25 ... ..	...	455,155	106,589	26,391	...	588,135
1925-26 ... ..	...	465,229	96,890	26,391	...	588,510
1926-27 ... ..	...	473,432	87,207	26,588	565,905	1,163,132
1927-28 ... ..	...	<sup>b</sup> 483,286	...	25,775	300,000	809,061
1928-29 ... ..	...	463,578	...	47,868	300,000	811,446
1929-30 ... ..	473,432	...	...	...	300,000	773,432
1930-31 ... ..	473,432	...	...	...	300,000	773,432
1931-32 ... ..	473,432	...	...	...	300,000	773,432
1932-33 ... ..	473,432	...	...	...	500,000	973,432
Totals ... ..	1,893,728	8,852,429	2,556,248	535,653	2,565,905	16,403,963

<sup>a</sup> Surplus Revenue returned.<sup>b</sup> Special payment under States Grants Act.

{Return No. 7.}

## LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1932 (adjusted) ... ..	95,709,189	
Do. 1932-33 ... ..	2,176,000	
<b>Total Authorisations</b> ... ..		97,885,189
<b>Flotations—</b>		
General Loans ... ..	46,078,253	
Local Inscribed Stock ... ..	180,062	
Treasury Bonds under Deficiency Acts ... ..	57,060	
Local Debentures ... ..	510,695	
Commonwealth Loans—Migration ... ..	4,669,704	
Do. Soldiers Land Settlement ... ..	5,463,782	
Do. Overseas ... ..	6,553,938	
London Treasury Bills and London Debentures ... ..	23,165,014	
Australian Treasury Bills ... ..	5,875,000	
Treasury Bills ... ..	4,430	
Australian Consolidated Inscribed Stock ... ..	24,849,681	
Funded Stock ... ..	474,000	
Instalment Stock ... ..	178,000	
		98,059,619
<b>Actual Loan Indebtedness—</b>		
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1932 ... ..	79,707,953	
Flotation during year—		
Counter Sales ... ..	50,625	
Instalment Stock ... ..	178,000	
Funded Stock ... ..	474,000	
Commonwealth Loans ... ..	2,551,730	
Australian Treasury Bills ... ..	1,225,000	
		84,197,308
<b>Less Redemptions—</b>		
National Debt Commission—Securities repurchased ... ..	343,456	
Do. do. London Treasury Bills redeemed ... ..	33,400	
London Treasury Bills—Redeemed from Loan Proceeds ... ..	294,659	
Australian Consolidated Stock—Redeemed from Loan Proceeds ... ..	100	
Do. do. do. Discount on Conversion of 3% Stock to 4% ... ..	995	
		672,610
		83,514,698
<b>Less—</b>		
Sinking Fund at 30th June, 1933 (See return No. 8) ... ..		1,346,550
<b>Net Indebtedness, 30th June, 1933</b> ... ..		82,168,148
<hr/>		
<b>Net Public Debt per head of Population on 30th June, 1933</b> ... ..	£	s. d.
Do. do. do. 1932 ... ..	193	3 9
Do. do. do. 1931 ... ..	185	9 3
Do. do. do. 1930 ... ..	178	18 2
Do. do. do. 1929 ... ..	167	11 0
Do. do. do. 1928 ... ..	165	17 11
Do. do. do. 1927 ... ..	168	16 0
Do. do. do. 1926 ... ..	160	14 1
Do. do. do. 1925 ... ..	158	4 4
Do. do. do. 1924 ... ..	148	2 2
Do. do. do. 1923 ... ..	148	7 6
Do. do. do. 1922 ... ..	142	9 6
Do. do. do. 1921 ... ..	137	1 0
Do. do. do. 1920 ... ..	*124	15 11
Do. do. do. 1919 ... ..	119	7 3
Do. do. do. 1918 ... ..	116	7 0
Do. do. do. 1917 ... ..	118	0 8
Do. do. do. 1916 ... ..	116	5 5
Do. do. do. 1915 ... ..	109	19 9
Do. do. do. 1914 ... ..	101	12 10
	94	4 11

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

a. Adjustments have been made between this and other items compared with the previous year due to conversions in 1932-33.

[Return No. 8.]

## SINKING FUND.

## TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1932-33.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Receipts :</i>							
Balances brought forward, 1st July, 1932—							
National Debt Commission	...	131,924	19	10			
Crown Agents	...	1,093,033	16	6			
Endowment Policy, £140,000 (M.V. "Kangaroo")	...	83,947	10	0			
					1,308,906	6	4
<i>Contributions :</i>							
On account M.V. "Kangaroo"	...	5,250	0	0			
On account Crown Agents	...	9,983	10	8			
State—							
5s. per cent. on loan liability	...	203,107	2	1			
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	...	62,655	6	4			
3 per cent. under Federal Aid Roads Act	...	21,148	0	5			
Commonwealth—							
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on loan liability	...	126,781	5	3			
Net earnings on investments...	...	52,389	7	9			
					481,314	12	6
					1,790,220	18	10
<i>Disbursements :</i>							
Redemptions and Pre-purchases, etc.	...	428,437	18	7			
Contributions to Crown Agents	...	9,983	10	8			
Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo"	...	5,250	0	0			
					443,671	9	3
Balance, Sinking Fund, 30th June, 1933	...				1,346,549	9	7
					1,790,220	18	10

## TRANSACTIONS FROM 1ST JULY, 1927, TO 30TH JUNE, 1933.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Receipts :</i>							
Balances brought forward—							
1st July, 1927—Endowment Policy (M.V. "Kangaroo"), Premiums paid	...	57,697	10	0			
1st July, 1929—Crown Agents	...	897,347	0	10			
					955,044	10	10
<i>Contributions :</i>							
On account M.V. "Kangaroo"	...	31,500	0	0			
On account, Crown Agents	...	35,320	18	1			
State—							
5s. per cent. on loan liability	...	1,077,216	13	1			
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	...	165,087	8	10			
3 per cent. under Federal Aid Roads Act	...	83,435	7	9			
Commonwealth—							
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on Loan Liability	...	619,261	12	1			
Net earnings on investments	...	256,326	14	4			
					2,268,146	14	2
					3,223,193	5	0
<i>Disbursements :</i>							
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc.	...	1,809,370	10	2			
Contributions refunded to the State	...	630	17	11			
Contributions to Crown Agents	...	34,942	7	4			
Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo"	...	31,500	0	0			
					1,876,643	15	5
Balances, 30th June, 1932, viz:—							
National Debt Commission	...	106,293	16	0			
Crown Agents (4 per cent., 15th January, 1934 Loan)	...	1,151,148	3	7			
Endowment Policy, £140,000 (M.V. "Kangaroo") ; Premiums paid	...	89,197	10	0			
					1,346,549	9	7
					3,223,193	5	0

## LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1932-33 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

(EXCLUSIVE OF LOAN SUSPENSE EXPENDITURE).

Undertakings.	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.	1927-28.	1926-27.	1925-26.	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions	180,567	137,168	454,395	824,952	826,500	806,895	642,225	642,864	534,103	561,998	519,557	323,206	146,724
Tramways—Perth Electric	5,601	...	9,550	24,710	8,551	75,247	32,444	16,380	26,571	37,815	72,057	95,835	84,419
Electric Power Station	918	3,681	11,289	44,050	48,479	69,304	104,752	110,640	60,661	31,717	87,761	184,345	18,783
Fremantle Harbour Works	100,616	37,604	69,806	100,086	133,068	113,954	62,652	66,530	58,437	37,891	42,720	40,000	40,080
Harbours and Rivers generally	73,302	30,862	63,810	154,169	140,994	137,691	128,535	152,784	124,576	101,122	77,414	42,632	72,245
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	125,055	90,669	42,102	102,250	151,211	129,430	108,414	109,891	114,798	30,762	47,190	21,348	10,436
Water Supply	650,485	437,200	197,238	236,650	425,004	452,367	393,431	568,570	535,497	395,903	183,667	100,231	104,172
Development of Goldfields	30,196	28,001	20,077	92,219	79,762	81,015	87,598	84,070	85,731	84,221	64,618	43,530	43,002
Development of Agriculture	267,150	125,004	61,400	87,019	143,971	67,091	51,293	127,326	100,626	74,941	61,952	58,602	73,075
Assistance to Settlers	94,079	79,516	262,880	67,121	92,907	110,059	84,060	10,784	192,710	441,546	400,000	74,074	31,696
Agricultural Group Settlement	79,640	67,513	213,298	639,611	766,893	1,122,820	1,428,486	1,393,009	1,121,252	822,910	506,803	...	...
Land Settlement for Soldiers	403	12,284	39,369	46,313	116,914	170,484	326,247	508,649	778,603	958,132	...	983,014	1,527,664
College of Agriculture	...	...	...	1,100	10,805	5,871	25,859	5,043	15,608	...	...	...	...
Immigration	461	500	1,063	7,182	11,887	11,072	11,203	...	7,148	10,229	11,209	8,278	12,024
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital	303,257	317,460	298,734	849,849	704,445	221,170	105,678	229,511	257,072	264,027	260,410	13,516	151,325
Purchase of Wire Netting for Settlers	...	...	...	...	...	25,650	132,854	...	...	...	...	...	...
Steamships	...	...	...	...	20,799	419,119	173,353	94,988	...	...	6,868	200,000	10,000
Workers' Homes Working Capital	25,000	...	...	...	25,000	50,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saw Mills	...	...	...	7,000	8,346	36,934	50,000	...	...	...	...	...	38,663
State Hotels	...	413	...	749	1,653	16,905	953	966	1,424	2,631	3,108	6,868	5,056
Agricultural Implements Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,000	...	7,500	...	...	...	39,929
Brickyards	...	...	...	2,000	1,925	1,506	9,537	1,712	7,500	...	141	...	705
Ferries	...	...	...	268	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Public Buildings	34,634	...	...	54,140	92,353	126,512	117,488	77,795	91,140	88,595	13,680	44,440	24,963
Roads and Bridges	88,004	...	...	315,325	335,718	287,584	175,930	96,835	92,606	77,744	34,331	12,566	32,121
Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account)	...	...	...	...	68,000	50,000	...	...	30,500	30,000	10,000	...	50,000
Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge	...	...	...	...	18	847	...	...	...	...	...	19	...
Sundries	1	f 2,244	e 6,072	d 18,354	d 18,058	a 14,264	b 29,108	16,991	25,140	23,280	13,892	9,710	7,341
Wyndham Freezing Works—Working Capital	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	80,000	...
Fisheries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	5,870
Urgent Minor Works throughout the North-West	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,770	1,714	5,708	2,970	...	...
Purchase of Site at Point Heathcote for Mental Home	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91	7,008	...	...	...	...
Purchase of Avon Valley Native Station	...	...	...	...	156	388	6,469	...	...	...	...	...	...
Reconstruction Canning Road	...	...	...	...	38,907	75,792	8,981	...	...	...	...	...	...
Guildford Road—East Street to Midland Junction	...	...	...	...	10,042	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Metropolitan Markets	...	...	...	8,935	92,418	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Discount and Flotation Expenses	78,007	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2,217,982	1,380,225	1,759,263	3,693,952	4,372,269	4,680,260	4,113,054	4,078,686	4,090,021	3,936,833	3,289,299	2,454,925	2,588,404

Includes Loans to Local Authorities for erection of Country Hospitals, etc., a £10,379; b £21,625; c £9,780; d £5,034; e £3,619; f £1,442.

[Return No. 10.]

## LOAN LIABILITY—STATEMENT SHOWING THE AMOUNT MATURING IN EACH YEAR.

Year.	Amount.		Year.	Amount.	
	London.	Australia.		London.	Australia.
	£	£		£	£
1933 ... ..	...	c312,880	Brought forward ...	22,635,291	20,977,028
1934 ... ..	998,353	d1,020,420	1957 ... ..	a553,807	995,186
1935 ... ..	5,194,828	718,415	1958 ... ..	...	21,000
1936 ... ..	737,497	898,155	1959 ... ..	...	840,075
1937 ... ..	...	27,963	1960 ... ..	888,608	...
1938 ... ..	...	4,863,689	1961 ... ..	...	835,076
1939 ... ..	...	804,679	1962 ... ..	4,964,083	...
1940 ... ..	3,766,295	19,658	1963 ... ..	...	...
1941 ... ..	...	3,250,869	1964 ... ..	...	1,566,000
1942 ... ..	...	3,110,547	1965 ... ..	2,631,165	...
1943 ... ..	...	756,100	1966 ... ..	...	...
1944 ... ..	...	1,340,734	1967 ... ..	...	...
1945 ... ..	5,640,390	...	1968 ... ..	...	...
1946 ... ..	...	...	1969 ... ..	...	...
1947 ... ..	1,433,600	1,203,934	1970 ... ..	...	...
1948 ... ..	...	...	1971 ... ..	...	...
1949 ... ..	...	...	1972 ... ..	...	...
1950 ... ..	...	904,928	1973 ... ..	...	...
1951 ... ..	...	...	1974 ... ..	...	...
1952 ... ..	...	...	1975 ... ..	12,998,962	...
1953 ... ..	...	872,674	Indefinite ... ..	...	4,635,202
1954 ... ..	...	...	Temporary floating debt ... ..	3,098,214	5,875,000
1955 ... ..	64,864,328	871,383			
1956 ... ..	...	...			
Carried forward ...	22,635,291	20,977,028		47,770,130	35,744,567
				£83,514,697	

(a) Raised in America.  
to 1941.(b) £1,518,525 raised in America.  
(d) At maturity £572,660 to be converted to 1941.(c) At maturity to be converted  
to 1941.

Return No. 11.]

## CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1932-33.

Undertaking.	Loan Liability.	Interest Charged for the Year.	Net Earnings for the Year.	Result.	
				Loss.	Profit.
<b>Business and Industrial Undertakings—</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Railways ... ..	25,053,009	996,233	831,464	164,769	...
Tramways ... ..	1,142,757	52,030	59,983	...	7,944
Electricity Supply ... ..	1,237,202	61,775	87,306	...	25,531
Other ... ..	4,075,713	175,581	114,301	61,280	...
<b>Water Supply, Water Conservation and Sewerage—</b>					
Metropolitan Water Supply ...	2,651,439	145,563	186,000	...	40,437
Goldfields and Country Water Supply	3,812,357	93,410	105,553	...	12,143
Sewerage and Drainage ... ..	2,129,362	77,970	90,916	...	12,946
<b>Harbours and Rivers ... ..</b>	6,091,952	250,357	283,009	...	32,652
<b>Roads and Bridges ... ..</b>	2,153,967	88,485	6,040	82,445	...
<b>Land Settlement and Development—</b>					
Agricultural Bank ... ..	7,287,646	334,538	147,472	187,066	...
Assistance to Settlers ... ..	2,330,020	105,403	10,173	95,230	...
Soldiers' Land Settlement ... ..	7,429,017	305,184	95,604	209,580	...
Agriculture, Group Settlement, and Migration ... ..	5,231,051	214,892	Dr. 14,692	229,584	...
Development of Agriculture ...	3,880,992	159,431	54,273	105,158	...
<b>Public Buildings ... ..</b>	1,392,308	57,196	3,684	53,512	...
<b>Loans to Public Bodies ... ..</b>	101,301	4,161	3,834	327	...
<b>Development of Mining ... ..</b>	1,833,586	75,324	1,638	73,686	...
<b>Miscellaneous ... ..</b>	1,000,125	41,085	4,615	36,470	...
	78,833,804	3,238,627	2,071,173	1,299,107	131,653
<b>Reconciliation with Public Debt—</b>					
Advances to meet Expenditure, pending receipt of Revenue ...	2,323,000				
Balance of General Loan Fund ...	2,357,894				
	83,514,698				
			Net Loss ...	£1,167,454	



## [Return No. 14.]

## RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.	1927-28.
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles	miles.
Number of miles open ...	4,338	4,235	4,179	4,111	4,079	3,977
Capital Cost of Con- struction and Equipment of Lines open	£	£	£	£	£	£
{ Loan ...	24,296,424	23,771,124	23,443,042	22,973,997	22,552,665	21,488,043
{ Revenue	640,908	640,908	640,908	641,492	643,943	642,034
	24,937,332	24,412,032	24,083,950	23,615,489	23,196,608	22,130,077
Working Expenses ...	2,089,353	2,116,352	2,519,691	3,119,648	3,075,568	2,903,084
Interest Charges ...	996,233	989,173	968,066	950,797	923,017	920,569
Total Annual Cost a	3,085,586	3,105,525	3,487,757	4,070,445	3,998,585	3,823,653
Gross Revenue ...	2,920,817	2,897,336	3,120,979	3,631,876	3,783,492	3,835,298
Surplus ...	...	...	...	...	...	11,645
Deficiency debited to Con- solidated Revenue, being burden on Taxpayers ...	164,769	208,189	366,778	438,569	215,093	...

a These figures do not include Sinking Fund, estimated to be £60,741.

## [Return No. 15.]

## RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.	1927-28.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ...	1,109,839	1,103,707	1,103,707	1,094,157	1,069,352	1,060,247
Working Expenses ...	222,219	220,623	244,019	289,995	269,973	253,065
Interest Charges ...	52,039	52,259	52,420	51,522	50,155	48,799
Total Annual Cost a	274,258	272,882	296,439	341,517	320,128	301,864
Gross Revenue ...	282,202	286,641	304,241	350,118	344,447	319,438
Surplus ...	7,944	13,759	7,802	8,601	24,319	17,574

a These figures do not include Sinking Fund, £2,775, nor payments to Local Authorities, £5,400.



{Return No. 16.}

## RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

—	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.	1927-28.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	1,269,868	1,268,950	1,265,215	1,253,311	1,210,710	922,396
Working Expenses ... ..	191,997	192,924	201,092	229,407	212,909	191,467
Interest Charges ... ..	61,775	61,476	60,922	59,492	56,654	43,627
Total Annual Cost <i>a</i>	253,772	254,400	262,014	288,899	269,683	235,094
Gross Revenue ... ..	279,302	274,516	258,618	302,441	278,535	247,440
Surplus ... ..	25,530	20,116	...	13,542	8,972	12,346
Deficiency ... ..	...	...	3,396	...	...	...

*a* These figures do not include Sinking Fund, £3,175.

{Return No. 17.}

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

—	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.	1927-28.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	5,087,527	4,872,947	4,735,281	4,695,313	4,497,566	4,297,531
Working Expenses*... ..	83,359	97,046	127,093	149,126	142,785	143,831
Interest Charges ... ..	235,920	229,077	220,323	183,436	169,841	128,901
Sinking Fund ... ..	10,606	10,224	9,387	8,408	7,129	6,002
Total Annual Cost ... ..	329,885	336,347	356,803	340,970	319,755	278,734
Gross Revenue ... ..	350,197	373,175	388,496	398,458	374,974	324,900
Surplus ... ..	20,312	36,828	31,693	57,488	55,219	46,166
Deficiency ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...

\* Years 1927-28 and 1928-29, include Interest and Sinking Fund on debentures, £33,510; 1929-30, includes Interest and Sinking Fund on debentures, £34,581, 1930-31, £34,939, 1931-32, £24,673, and 1932-33, £14,671. *a* Adjusted under Financial Agreement Act.

[Return No. 18.]

## RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

—	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.	1927-28.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ...	3,491,408	3,433,912	3,350,404	3,329,393	3,312,089	3,289,021
Working Expenses a ...	108,239	108,973	128,038	136,805	134,941	136,633
Interest Charges ...	47,772	43,744	40,708	40,157	38,808	37,358
Sinking Fund ...	14,183	12,535	11,739	11,549	11,023	10,547
Total Annual Cost ...	170,194	165,252	180,485	183,511	184,772	184,538
Gross Revenue ...	171,971	170,315	161,602	173,365	171,181	164,909
Deficiency ...	...	...	18,883	15,146	13,591	19,629
Surplus ...	1,777	5,063	...	...	...	...

a Includes interest on Debenture Capital.

[Return No. 19.]

## RETURN RELATING TO OTHER HYDRAULIC UNDERTAKINGS.

—	1932-33.	1931-32.	1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.	1927-28.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ...	1,058,585	758,296	746,610	499,844	471,806	416,971
Working Expenses ...	23,916	21,618	24,326	31,073	29,828	26,719
Interest Charges ...	43,645	30,962	32,300	21,984	20,981	19,109
Sinking Fund ...	10,986	7,160	7,404	5,476	5,273	4,364
Total Annual Cost ...	78,547	59,740	64,030	58,533	56,082	50,192
Gross Revenue ...	43,224	43,884	39,424	43,652	42,671	38,903
Deficiency ...	35,323	15,856	24,606	14,881	13,411	11,289

[Return No. 20.]

## RETURN RELATING TO OTHER UTILITIES FOR 1932-33.

Utilities.	Capital Cost, etc.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Total Annual Cost.	Gross Revenue	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	2,611,022	...	115,942	115,942	231,095	115,153	...
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	444,435	...	20,596	20,596	3,000	...	17,596
State Batteries ...	424,567	80,601	10,105	99,706	98,919	...	787
Aborigines Stations ...	32,641	4,192	1,365	5,557	2,901	...	2,656
Albany Cool Stores ...	20,915	...	937	937	...	...	937
Perth City Markets ...	20,000	602	1,000	1,602	1,203	...	399
Metropolitan Abattoirs ...	112,592	25,518	6,951	32,469	38,253	5,784	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	9,360	2,886	438	3,324	5,130	1,806	...
Tourist Resorts ...	21,240	6,017	952	6,969	5,983	...	986
Total ...	3,696,772	119,816	167,286	287,102	386,544	122,743	23,301
Estimated Sinking Fund...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,020
NET SURPLUS ...	...	...	...	...	...	£90,422	

[Return No. 21.]

## ESTIMATED CASH POSITION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1934.

Items.	Estimated 1933-34.		Balance.	
	Receipts.	Payments.	Deficiency.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£
Aborigines' Native Stations (Moola Bulla and Munja) ...	3,400	4,377	977	...
Goldfields Water Supply Undertaking ...	175,000	107,911	...	67,089
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	5,000	2,629	...	2,371
Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale Yards ...	39,000	25,959	...	13,041
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage ...	356,000	88,851	...	267,149
Other Hydraulic Undertakings ...	46,500	24,991	...	21,509
Perth City Markets ...	1,100	600	...	500
Railways ...	3,000,000	2,016,000	...	984,000
Tramways ...	286,000	198,000	...	88,000
Electricity Supply ...	290,000	200,000	...	90,000
State Batteries ...	102,750	93,479	...	9,271
Cave House, etc. ...	6,500	6,014	...	486
State Ferries ...	9,000	7,700	...	1,300
	4,320,250	2,776,511	977	1,544,716
Net Surplus ...			£1,543,739	

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

Class of Goods.	1932-1933.		1931-1932.		1930-1931.		1929-1930.		1928-1929.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	216,419	7.85	197,779	7.16	204,393	6.67	260,654	7.78	252,063	7.10
Ores and other Minerals ...	231,854	10.23	177,016	6.41	264,450	8.63	629,499	18.39	688,233	19.32
Wool ...	21,464	0.78	23,763	0.86	23,815	0.77	23,909	0.70	22,433	0.63
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	15,498	1.65	4,712	1.76	51,955	1.70	68,010	1.88	73,011	2.05
Wheat ...	1,041,011	37.78	1,159,948	42.00	1,320,394	43.27	850,045	24.79	804,536	24.27
Other Grain and Flour ...	146,126	5.30	150,230	5.44	147,700	4.82	139,775	4.68	146,086	4.10
Firewood ...	237,709	10.44	307,015	11.12	313,765	10.23	348,540	10.16	350,070	9.83
Local Timber ...	175,026	6.35	176,378	6.39	210,160	6.86	402,854	11.75	457,089	12.85
Imported Timber ...	1,825	0.07	680	0.02	514	0.02	6,029	0.17	6,811	0.19
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	70,075	2.54	72,396	2.62	72,676	2.37	92,458	1.82	72,327	2.03
Fertilisers ...	217,852	7.90	216,403	7.84	188,023	6.15	270,053	8.05	257,090	7.24
All other goods ...	251,100	9.11	231,572	8.38	200,679	6.51	350,118	10.48	370,057	10.39
Total ...	2,750,019	100.00	2,761,892	100.00	3,004,835	100.00	3,428,874	100.00	3,562,215	100.00

Class of Goods.	1932-1933.		1931-1932.		1930-1931.		1929-1930.		1928-1929.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	118,455	5.92	110,087	5.56	111,225	5.13	146,056	6.14	136,587	5.52
Ores and other Minerals ...	72,404	3.62	47,774	2.42	64,313	2.97	148,368	6.24	156,620	6.33
Wool ...	60,961	3.05	74,565	3.77	79,476	3.67	89,854	3.78	84,408	3.41
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	30,004	1.80	37,580	1.90	41,050	1.89	49,072	2.09	57,143	2.31
Wheat ...	602,754	33.13	743,302	37.55	852,702	39.35	520,540	21.88	531,317	21.49
Other Grain and Flour ...	80,999	4.05	82,710	4.18	82,482	3.81	80,073	3.37	83,346	3.37
Firewood ...	20,853	1.04	20,654	1.04	22,784	1.05	31,011	1.30	32,004	1.29
Local Timber ...	145,145	7.25	126,546	6.30	153,940	7.10	307,540	12.92	342,990	13.88
Imported Timber ...	1,731	0.09	1,240	0.06	1,391	0.06	4,345	0.20	5,136	0.21
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	91,251	4.56	90,707	4.58	90,480	4.17	80,161	3.37	84,806	3.43
Fertilisers ...	62,125	3.10	62,307	3.15	56,004	2.61	83,528	3.51	92,509	3.74
All other goods ...	618,216	32.39	581,960	29.40	611,643	28.19	837,460	35.20	865,887	35.02
Total ...	2,000,988	100.00	1,979,421	100.00	2,167,538	100.00	2,379,118	100.00	2,472,771	100.00

[Return No. 23.]

## TRADE PRODUCTION; POPULATION, ETC.

	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
Railway and Train- way Revenue	£2,913,611	£3,054,258	£3,150,037	£3,466,297	£3,616,426	£3,604,914	£3,869,300	£4,154,787	£4,127,939	£3,981,994	£3,425,220	£3,183,977	£3,203,018
Railway Mileage (Route)	3,539	3,539	3,555	3,629	3,733	3,865	3,918	3,977	4,079	4,111	4,179	4,235	4,333
Wool exported ...	£2,388,119	£3,202,145	£3,232,596	£4,237,152	£3,736,300	£3,527,895	£3,518,313	£4,962,916	£3,910,886	£2,779,113	£2,386,338	£2,345,570	£2,513,892
*Wheat produced (bushels)	12,248,080	13,904,721	13,857,432	13,920,271	23,887,397	20,471,177	30,021,616	36,370,219	33,790,040	39,081,183	53,504,149	41,621,245	41,055,000
*Hay produced (tons)	264,244	368,720	457,371	368,122	448,625	355,269	423,839	416,707	421,504	428,328	491,595	453,353	435,363
†Gold produced & ...	£3,475,392	£2,935,693	£2,525,811	£2,232,186	£2,255,927	£1,874,320	£1,857,716	£1,734,571	£1,671,093	£1,602,142	£1,804,442	£2,998,137	£4,403,612
Timber exported ...	£1,137,223	£1,040,640	£997,454	£1,367,713	£1,477,997	£1,522,958	£1,658,018	£1,295,321	£960,435	£803,154	£503,696	£361,700	£285,510
Coal produced ...	£393,424	£404,521	£372,130	£365,567	£371,152	£364,304	£405,770	£414,451	£415,926	£416,360	£371,956	£281,174	£202,235
Other Minerals (ex- ported)	£199,394	£75,534	£143,898	£140,153	£151,896	£118,021	£75,655	£22,383	£20,379	£32,080	£9,698	£7,520	17,364
†Number of Sheep...	6,532,065	6,606,177	6,664,135	6,595,867	6,396,564	6,861,795	7,458,766	8,447,480	8,943,002	9,556,823	9,882,761	10,096,614	10,417,031
†Number of Cattle...	849,303	893,108	939,596	953,764	891,664	835,911	827,303	846,735	837,527	836,616	812,844	826,417	857,473
†Number of Horses	178,664	180,334	181,169	181,944	175,116	170,563	166,463	165,021	160,876	159,628	150,973	156,447	157,443
Area of land selected (acres)	1,728,455	1,924,129	1,830,270	1,836,083	1,684,063	2,023,671	2,179,616	2,147,202	2,618,318	1,541,707	1,024,787	533,572	403,350
Area of land leased (acres)	20,354,785	23,641,868	7,665,229	20,389,232	20,899,952	8,931,282	10,323,845	11,105,900	14,822,663	8,686,464	3,253,044	3,492,791	3,231,418
*Area of land under cultivation	7,583,272	7,704,242	8,305,232	8,898,204	9,099,933	9,757,189	10,474,172	11,486,893	12,027,793	13,803,310	14,407,756	14,212,769	14,194,047
*Area of land under crop (acres)	1,804,986	1,901,680	2,274,998	2,323,070	2,710,850	2,932,110	3,324,623	3,720,100	4,259,269	4,566,001	4,792,017	3,961,459	4,256,000
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	2,843,470	3,231,392	3,166,116	3,097,386	3,666,226	3,269,883	3,763,957	3,796,310	3,688,802	3,955,079	3,487,857	3,555,403	3,050,000
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	2,825,586	3,231,366	3,037,946	3,101,168	3,657,520	3,256,182	3,706,564	3,806,078	3,674,298	3,932,429	3,686,220	3,530,279	3,050,000
Exports, including Gold	£12,258,639	£13,628,838	£11,105,220	£14,123,289	£14,664,648	£14,581,657	£15,151,959	£18,240,775	£17,185,954	£17,769,529	£17,026,054	£16,299,086	£15,531,126
Exports, excluding Gold	£10,440,617	£10,647,324	£8,853,728	£11,796,939	£13,976,719	£13,521,377	£14,048,367	£17,569,994	£15,900,545	£13,139,726	£11,238,158	£11,374,476	£10,790,757
Imports ...	£14,899,241	£12,037,779	£13,777,679	£14,344,145	£16,074,035	£16,462,572	£18,376,083	£18,287,633	£20,053,772	£18,781,656	£10,879,854	£10,656,404	£12,131,505
Savings Bank De- posits	£8,625,296	£7,308,377	£7,425,492	£8,078,135	£8,102,733	£8,834,389	£9,817,412	£10,920,089	£12,142,575	£11,719,493	£9,636,023	£7,864,997	£5,612,969
Savings Bank With- drawals	£8,332,858	£7,440,156	£7,331,770	£8,063,995	£8,203,644	£8,380,000	£9,324,740	£10,289,589	£11,590,296	£12,026,896	£10,877,719	£8,734,317	£5,906,007
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	b 1,077	1,557	3,132	7,374	2,749	2,368	4,957	9,516	6,893	1,762	b 3,423	b 2,329	b 1,407
Population ...	333,644	340,059	343,119	360,352	368,027	375,158	385,943	399,700	411,734	418,643	420,616	422,495	a 425,333

\* Season ended 28th February. † Year ended 31st December. a Preliminary figures, liable to slight revision. b Excess of Departures over Arrivals.  
 c Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc. e Australian Currency Value. f For 9 months only.

## BILL—FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Message.*

Message from the Lieut-Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

### *Second Reading.*

#### THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

(Hon. H. Millington—Mt. Hawthorn) [5.42] in moving the second reading said: This Bill seeks to amend the Fire Brigades Act of 1916. Although the Act has worked reasonably well, it is in need of amendment in three principles to make it more serviceable in the management of the fire services of the State. The first concerns the constitution and gazettal of fire districts. At present it is only possible for the Governor to issue an Order-in-Council declaring the whole of any municipal or road district to be a fire district, and as a subsequent action, to declare a specified portion of such district to be a fire district. Usually it is desired to declare only the principal town of a municipal or road district to be a fire district, but as the law stands this cannot be achieved until the whole of the district has first been declared a fire district. Having done this, it is then possible to issue another Order-in-Council for the excision from the fire district of the area outside the town boundary, and when this is accomplished, the remaining portion, namely the town itself, is the declared fire district. To avoid this circumlocution, the Bill proposes that the Governor shall have power to declare straight away that a portion of a municipal or road district shall be a fire district. The need for the amendment is apparent; in fact, it is long overdue. The second aspect requiring attention is the advisability of placing the permanent firemen on the same footing as the volunteer firemen in the matter of representation on the board. The experience gained from the representation of the volunteers on the board has been so satisfactory in administration as to make it plain that the active co-operation of the permanent men should also be sought in fire matters, and to this end it is proposed that the membership of the board should be increased from nine to 10. To provide for the new member it is also proposed to increase the fees of the members of the board by £25, making a

total of £275. The fees now total £250 per annum, but the amount is subject to the deductions under the Financial Emergency Act. This board is perhaps the most cheaply remunerated body in the State, particularly in view of its extensive responsibilities. Regarding the increase in the number of members, advanced opinion realises that the representation on bodies controlling public services and utilities of workers concerned in the function of the activities, is a step in the right direction. In support of this contention experience has shown that such representation has had more than a tendency towards co-operation in meeting the problems facing the administrations concerned. Particularly is this necessary in the fire-fighting services where thorough understanding and hearty goodwill are essentials in the preservation of life and property. In the absence of this close association, the objects and interests common to both often suffer in fruition. In treating the permanent firemen in a manner similar to the volunteer men, a spirit of tranquility will be engendered and all obstacles to the smooth working of the board and staff will be removed. Moreover, membership of the board will permit the permanent men to share the responsibilities of the board, and it will remove any need for explanation why a certain thing cannot be done, or why it is necessary for the men to do something readily. In all undertakings, harmonious relations in employment matters are desirable because such a state presages a better understanding of the common difficulties in the employment afforded, and this together with the spread of responsibility which naturally accrues must be for the benefit of all concerned. Besides the important aspect of industrial contentment, it must not be forgotten that the permanent men are the most practical, experienced and efficient people of those engaged in fire-fighting, and it is passing strange that they should not have the opportunity to contribute their quota of ideas in the management of the service. The third desirable amendment provides that no member elected by a local authority shall continue as a member of the Fire Brigades Board, if he has ceased to be a member of the council or board of the local authority. This is a very necessary amendment because the spirit of the Act seeks the direct representation of local authorities. A little while

ago a certain person was elected by the metropolitan local authorities to represent them on the Fire Brigades Board. When nominations were called, he was a member of one of the local authorities, but immediately after his election to the Fire Brigades Board he ceased to be a member of the local authority, so that for the whole period of his membership on the Fire Brigades Board he had no connection whatever with the local authority. One of the local authorities subsequently raised this question with the result that a referendum was taken, and 25 authorities voted in favour of the Act being amended and 15 against any change. These are the principal amendments. The question of the permanent men having a representative is one that has been requested by the men themselves for a considerable time. When the volunteer firemen were given representation, most of the fire-fighting was done by volunteer firemen. Now, of course, there are permanent men not only in the metropolitan area but in certain districts throughout the State; they are the backbone of the fire-fighters. Generally speaking there is good reason why the permanent men should have representation. It will be not only for their advantage but of advantage to the management of the board. Regarding the third amendment, if a member of the board representing a local authority ceases to represent that local authority, he should automatically cease to be a member of the board, and someone actually representing the local body should take his place. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Thorn, debate adjourned.

## **BILL—GOVERNMENT TRAMWAYS ACT AMENDMENT.**

*Second Reading.*

**THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS**  
(Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton) [5.55]: This Bill which has come to us from another place is a small amendment of the Government Tramways Act. It is designed to give the Commissioner of Railways power to run trolley buses in addition to trams. Section 21 of the Government Tramways Act, 1912, already contains provision that the Commissioner may, with the approval of the Minister, provide and run motor buses in con-

nection with the tramways. A trolley bus does not come within the term "motor bus" and therefore it is desired to make provision specifically to enable the Commissioner to run the trolley buses. This is done by amending Section 2 of the principal Act by the addition of definitions covering tramcar, tramway and trolley bus. This is all there is in the Bill. It is considered better to have these buses running than to renew rails. One advantage of the trolley buses will be that it will be possible to use the current which is generated in the State, whereas ordinary motor buses use petrol which has to be imported. Trolley buses have proved successful in England and America, and from a traffic standpoint they are much better in the streets, being more mobile, silent and clean-running. They can also pick up and set down passengers alongside the footpath instead of in the middle of the road as in the case of trams. There is no danger from fire, whilst also there is less mechanical trouble, and the saving in track construction will amount to about £9,000 a mile. The Bill should not be controversial in any way. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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—FRUIT CASES ACT AMENDMENT.**

*Second Reading.*

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE**  
(Hon. H. Millington—Mt. Hawthorn) [6.0] in moving the second reading said: The Bill is to amend the existing Act, in which the Railway Department is under a distinct disadvantage in the carriage of fruit when compared with road transport; because fruit in second-hand cases is permitted to be carried by road, but is definitely prevented from being sent over the railway, excepting grapes to stations east of the No. 1 rabbit-proof fence. This apparently anomalous position has arisen owing to the fact that when the Fruit Cases Act was drafted, transport of fruit over long distances by

any other medium than rail was not thought of, and it was expected that the danger of disseminating, by second-hand cases, disease from infested to clean districts would be overcome by limiting the transport to road vehicles. In other words, it was thought that fruit would not be carried in second-hand cases over long distances, except on the railways. But the position during the last few years has altered considerably, for motor trucks are being increasingly used as carriers of fruit as well as other produce, and they run over very long distances. Moreover, at present while a second-hand case containing fruit can be carried by motor truck from Perth to Kalgoorlie, no fruit could be carried by rail in a second-hand case from Perth to Midland Junction. This limitation acts adversely to the railways, particularly in the transport of tomatoes, great quantities of which are grown near Perth and offered for sale in the Perth markets in second-hand cases. Not only are they brought into Perth by road, but if the buyer desires to send them to a country dealer, he must repack them into new cases before the railways can accept them for carriage: whereas if a motor truck is plying on the same route, the fruit can be forwarded by that means without further trouble. It is thought the Bill now submitted will offer greater protection against the spread of disease, and yet allow the railways to participate in the carriage of fruit contained in second-hand cases, because the Bill will prevent second-hand cases from being transported either by rail or road to places other than those named in regulations under the Act. At present motor trucks are not permitted to cart fruit below the 33rd parallel of south latitude. That line, I think, approximately runs through at about Collie. Motor trucks cannot carry fruit in second-hand cases below that parallel. That regulation, of course, has been imposed for the protection of the industry from the spread of disease, and the regulation could at any time be amended should it be thought desirable further to restrict the use of second-hand cases. The Bill also provides that the person whose name is marked on the outside of the case as the grower or packer of the fruit contained therein, shall be deemed to be the grower or packer of such fruit until the contrary is proved. In the past great difficulty has been experienced in tracing the actual grower of fruit offered for sale in the market, the name shown on the

end of the case not always corresponding with the name of the person who produced the fruit. The proposed amendment will overcome that difficulty. It places on the person whose name appears on the case the onus of proving that the fruit contained in the case was not placed therein by him. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Thorn, debate adjourned.

## BILL—POLICE ACT AMENDMENT.

*In Committee.*

Resumed from the 12th September; Mr. Sleeman in the Chair.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 66 of principal Act—(Partly considered.)

The CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported, Mr. Keenan had moved the following amendment—That the following be inserted to stand as Subsection 2A:—

2A. Any person who, by wilfully making any false statement or representation,—

- (a) as to any sum or sums of money being his own personal property then in his possession or power; or
- (b) as to any property real or personal then owned by him; or
- (c) as to any sum of money then receivable by him by way of income, gift, or allowance; or
- (d) as to any sum of money received by him as salary or wages over any period; or
- (e) as to any employment in which he was engaged over any period; or
- (f) as to any sustenance relief received by him over any period; or
- (g) as to the number of persons then dependent on his earnings; or
- (h) as to the financial position of persons then dependent on his earnings,

obtains or attempts to obtain under any scheme for the relief of unemployed destitute or indigent persons any work or employment or any benefit in money or money's worth either for himself or for any other person.

On this amendment Mr. Marshall had moved the following amendment:—"That the words 'or attempts to obtain' be struck out."



Mr. MARSHALL: At the last sitting, with a view apparently to placating those opposed to the Bill, the Minister said he was ready to provide that the words "deemed to be a rogue and vagabond" should not be applied to offenders under this clause. I may frankly tell the Minister that even that concession would not render the Bill palatable to me. The Minister, during his remarks, declared that persons who did what is forbidden in the Bill would be stealing. He emphasised that word "stealing." I did not think any imagination could convict of stealing a person whose only offence was to obtain employment by dint of hiding his identity, or making false representations. The whole principle of the Bill is wrong, and I hope to see it drastically modified. The Minister ought to be satisfied with punishing an actual offender, without demanding punishment for one who at worst merely attempts to secure work by false representation. I will not be a party to punishing any person whose only fault has been committed in an attempt to obtain work. Nobody loves work very much, and so I say that the man who will tell a falsehood in order to secure work, must be accepted as a worthy citizen. I will stick to my amendment on the amendment, despite the Minister's offer to compromise.

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

Mr. MARSHALL: If my amendment is not carried, the individual who attempts to obtain, not cash but work, will on conviction be liable to imprisonment. A person who, by misrepresentation, conceals his real identity in order to obtain work cannot be said to be guilty of any great crime. It can be argued that in certain circumstances such a person should be punished, but he should not be sent to prison. The Bill in its present form is altogether too drastic, and should not have been brought down as an amendment to this part of the Police Act.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: We should be establishing something new in legislation if we set up by statute that, whilst it is wrong to do a certain thing, the attempt to do that thing carries no penalty. I cannot follow the logic of the hon. member on that point. The Government have a certain sum of money with which to provide relief works, and are endeavouring to absorb the unemployed in those undertakings. Those who are most in need and in want, whose homes have been depleted of furniture, etc.,

are entitled to have first call upon the resources of the Government. There are, however, men in the community with incomes of £8 or £10 a week, who by signing false declarations are depriving men in necessitous circumstances of a portion of the limited amount of work that is available. Those, who would see their fellow men remain in want whilst they enjoy comfortable circumstances themselves, should be dealt with as proposed by this Bill. I hope the amendment will be defeated.

Mr. DONEY: The person who commits a crime is treated somewhat differently from the person who merely makes the attempt. Murder is punishable by death, but the person who attempts to murder is not usually hanged.

The Minister for Employment: Many people have been hanged for attempted murder.

Mr. DONEY: To steal work in times like these is certainly an act of robbery, in that it deprives a comrade of what he might have for himself, but the attempt to do this does not injure anyone. There are various kinds of attempt, the deliberate attempt, the half-hearted attempt, and the attempt born of the impulse of the moment. The member for Murchison has clearly demonstrated the difference between the accomplishment and the attempt in this particular case, and I hope his amendment will be carried.

Hon. N. KEENAN: To some extent I should be pleased if the Minister were to accept this amendment. What he says is correct. The dividing line between an attempt to commit an offence and the commission of that offence is exceedingly fine and sometimes indistinguishable. The law usually provides that an attempt to commit an offence shall rank the same as the commission of the offence.

Mr. Marshall: But it has to be remembered that the judge or magistrate has discretionary power in regard to other cases. That is not so here.

Hon. N. KEENAN: It can be provided. Personally I would be pleased if the Minister would make an exception, in this particular measure, to the ordinary rule applying to the commission of offences.

Mr. Stubbs: Can it not be provided that for the first offence there shall be a fine?

Hon. N. KEENAN: Yes. That can be provided by an amendment even if the clause is passed now.

Mr. Marshall: But that would conflict with Section 66 of the Police Act.

Hon. N. KEENAN: We can pass legislation in any form we choose. We can provide that in the case of a first offence the magistrate, instead of inflicting even imprisonment till the rising of the court, may, if he thinks fit, inflict a fine. The necessary amendment might be made on recommitment. In view of the strange nature of this legislation, and its purely temporary character, and of the fact that it must pass away from any sphere of utility in a short space of time, such an amendment might well be made.

Mr. MARSHALL: According to advice I have received from those who should know and are responsible for advising us in such matters, there is no power to amend this Bill so as to interfere with the penalties imposed by Section 66 of the Police Act. The only crime of which this clause takes cognisance is the getting or attempting to get work. A person might deprive a more worthy person of work, but still I am not convinced that it is a crime to obtain work. Even in the case of murder a culprit can be bound over to keep the peace. But in the case of an offence against this clause, such a punishment is not admissible: the accused must be imprisoned with or without hard labour. Any amendment such as that suggested by the member for Nedlands would be a direct infringement of Section 66 of the Police Act. There would be one penalty under that section; and under this clause, if amended as suggested, there would be a series of punishments. A man convicted under the Bill would be a criminal in the eyes of the law; and I am not prepared to make a criminal of a man whose only offence is the attempt successful, or unsuccessful, to get good, sound, hard work.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: I am unable to accept the amendment. If a position were established whereby a man attempting time after time to obtain work to which he is not entitled would not be amenable to any punishment, the situation of the department would be almost as impossible as it is at present. There have already been instances where a man, having secured his period of work, has under a different name and by a false declaration sought to secure an extra period of work from another officer, whilst hundreds of men have been waiting to get work. If that

kind of thing is to be permitted, an army of officials will be needed to police the situation. I propose to have the Bill recommitment with a view to striking out the words as to declaring a man a rogue and a vagabond, and at that stage I shall be prepared to give attention, should the Committee so desire, to bringing the penalty to the same level, or as nearly as possible to the same level, as the penalty for obtaining sustenance by similar means. The present amendment, however, would make the position intolerable.

Mr. Thorn: Will you provide the alternative of a fine?

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: I am prepared to have this penalty made the same as that which applies to wrongfully obtaining sustenance.

Mr. Latham: A magistrate can do that now under the Justices Act.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: I think that is so. Before the Bill is dealt with again, I will consult the Crown Law Department to secure an opinion as to whether the doubt is justified. Should there be any doubt, I will be prepared to meet the views of the Committee by amending the penalty provision.

Amendment on amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	11
Noes	..	..	..	26

Majority against .. 15

#### AYES.

Mr. Brockman	Mr. Raphael
Mr. Cross	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Doney	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Withers
Mr. Latham	Mr. J. I. Mann
Mr. Marshall	(Teller.)

#### NOES.

Mr. Clothier	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Collier	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Piesse
Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Seward
Mr. Keenan	Mr. F. C. L. Smith
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. McCallum	Mr. Thorn
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Troy
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Millington	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Munsie	Mr. Wise
Mr. Needham	Mr. Lambert
	(Teller.)

#### PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Wilson	Mr. North
Mr. Welsh	Mr. Moloney
Miss Holman	Mr. J. M. Smith

Amendment on amendment thus negatived.

Amendment (Hon. N. Keenan's) put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

## **BILL—GOLDFIELDS ALLOTMENTS REVESTMENT.**

### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 12th September.

**MR. LATHAM** (York) [8.6]: This is an unusual type of Bill. It displays some of the disadvantages experienced under the Transfer of Land Act. According to the Minister, the Bill deals with land that has been abandoned, or has been transferred to the Crown in order to avoid the payment of rates and taxes levied by local authorities and the Government. It involves a new principle. It would have been advisable if the Minister for Lands had taken control of the whole of the areas concerned, instead of leaving them in the hands of the Minister for Water Supplies. Apparently at the present moment the titles have been transferred to the Minister for Water Supplies, and, in order to avoid the payment of transfer fees to the Titles Office, it is proposed to effect the alterations by means of the Bill. The schedule deals with a considerable area of land that is to be surrendered to the Crown without any charges being levied against the surrender or transfer. In going through the schedule, I notice that it deals with a lot of property that evidently at one time belonged to persons of means. Whether or not it is a good principle to allow a man to possess land and when it suits him to abandon it and then for the Government to introduce legislation to relieve the land of charges against it, I do not know. I am not aware of any instance of similar legislation having been introduced previously. I notice that protection is provided for a man in the event of his desiring to retain his block. The Bill will not come into operation for three months after it is passed, and it will not become operative until a proclamation is issued to that effect. If in the intervening period an owner makes application to the Minister, the transfer will be made to him so that he may retain his block. Will the Minister inform the House whether it is intended that the charges against the property will remain, if the transfer to the Minister is not effected?

The Minister for Lands: Yes. If the owner claims his land we cannot exempt him from such liability.

Mr. LATHAM: The Bill does not say so.

The Minister for Lands: If a man should say that the block was his and that he desired to retain it, he must shoulder the responsibilities attaching to the holding of the block.

Mr. LATHAM: I am pleased to know that that will be done. That will be a bar against a man making an application for the return of his title. It would seem to be somewhat irregular if the Minister for Water Supplies should take the title deeds from persons who are land owners, immediately they desire to abandon their properties. If we were to continue such a practice, I do not know how much land would revert to the Crown. I should imagine there would be quite a lot. We could amend the Transfer of Land Act to make it possible for the Crown to accept titles free of encumbrances. I understood that, provided the person cleared his land of all encumbrances, the Crown would accept the title, but evidently that is not so, in view of the introduction of this legislation. We have considered this type of measure before, because it is not only on the goldfields that land has been abandoned. In the older parts of the State such as Albany, Augusta and, I believe, Northampton, as well as a number of other places, land was held at one time by some persons, but it is now difficult to trace the owners with a view to ascertaining if they desire to retain their interests in the properties. I do not know whether the Bill represents the best means of dealing with the problem, but apparently, at the moment, there seems to be some demand for land in goldfields areas, and if the land referred to in the schedule is all that is available, I do not know that Parliament should refuse to pass the Bill. I suggest that the legal members of the House should have something to say about the matter, because, in respect of some of the areas mentioned, there may not be any titles to be handed to the Water Supply Department. There is also the question of the sanctity of contracts, about which our legal friends are so concerned. I refer to the taking away from a person of something that he has. I presume the Minister for Lands will say that if there is anything wrong with the introduction of the Bill, it is on account of a measure I introduced myself some time back. The object of that

measure was to gain possession of Lot E1 in the Wanneroo district. In that instance, it was difficult to say who the actual owner was; but if the files had not been lost, I believe we could have proved that the surrender had been made to the Crown in exchange for other land.

The Minister for Lands: We may have to do that in respect of Augusta blocks.

MR. LATHAM: We may. However, the Bill indicates one of the effects of the Transfer of Land Act, under which we cannot transfer land except under certain conditions and unless the person gets what I believe is called the possessory title, I understand we cannot get the use of it at all. On account of the necessity for securing land for building purposes on the goldfields, I do not propose to oppose the second reading of the Bill.

HON. N. KEENAN (Nedlands) [8.13]: The Bill deals with a phase of the history of the goldfields that is well within the knowledge of those who have lived in that part of the State. In certain towns that have grown up on the fields, people have secured land and then, owing to the mines in the neighbourhood not being successful, the possession of the land has become, instead of a source of income or value, something in the nature of an incubus. Those people sought, from time to time, to be relieved of that incubus by surrendering the land to the Crown. The form adopted, as set out in the preamble to the Bill, has been for the owners to apply to the Minister to accept the surrender of their land, and if the applications were agreed to, the surrenders were made. The Bill really is concerned with the vesting in the Minister, as unalienated land, the areas so surrendered. Under Clause 5 the Minister may, on the application of any of the parties, direct that the land shall be returned, but only under Subclause 3, and on such conditions as the Minister thinks proper.

Mr. Latham: What are those conditions?

HON. N. KEENAN: One, I should think, would be that they should pay in respect of the land, water rates and other rates of which they were relieved by the surrender. It is absurd to suggest that we should prescribe in the clause exactly what the conditions are. The Minister may impose any conditions which he may think fit as conditions precedent to the return of any title.

Presumably, he will have full power to direct that the recipient shall pay all the water rates due at the time of surrender, and which possibly may have since become due. It is not at all wise to fix the conditions of that surrender; it is very much better to leave them in the form the Bill proposes, namely at the proper discretion of the Minister. I think the Bill is definitely a necessary measure.

MR. F. C. L. SMITH (Brownhill-Ivanhoe) [8.17]: I do not propose to oppose the measure, but I agree with some of the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition. It is a remarkable position that a Bill has to be introduced into Parliament in order to effect these transfers or surrenders. A similar position is likely to arise in the future, and if there are difficulties under the Transfer of Land Act which have made it impossible to effect these transfers without legislation, it seems to me the legislation should be directed to amending the Transfer of Land Act, so that it would be possible to make the transfers without all this cumbersome procedure. On one occasion I made inquiries for land that was vacant in Kalgoorlie and discovered that the persons holding the title, although they owed many years of rates, could not be discovered, that they had left the country altogether and were not likely to return. And my inquiries elicited the information that, for the municipal council to take action for the sale of that land in order that they might recoup themselves the rates that were owing, they would have had to take Supreme Court proceedings more costly than the value of the land. Therefore it was pointed out to me that the Water Supply Department could handle the matter more readily. I do not know whether transfers are effected by any other means, but I do know there are many people on the goldfields who have rid themselves of the obligation to pay rates and taxes on vacant land by paying £1, by which action they transfer the land back to the Crown. Possibly that may not be so, because I know that in many instances blank transfers have been signed and left with the Land Titles Department.

Mr. Latham: But the Minister has no power to do that sort of thing.

MR. F. C. L. SMITH: I do not think it is a very desirable procedure.

HON. N. KEENAN: Take Coolgardie. What would you do with all those vacant areas?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: There should be facilities whereby they could be transferred direct to the Crown without all this cumbersome procedure. I suggest that some such legislation could be introduced.

Mr. Latham: But the local authorities can sell for rates.

Hon. N. Keenan: The land has no sale price.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: No, they could not get rid of it, for nobody wants it. Those people should be allowed to relinquish their titles to the land, and legislation should be introduced for the purpose of facilitating such transfers. But the proposal before us is a cumbersome procedure; people come along to the Water Supply Department and simply sign a blank transfer, and the land is not disposed of for many years. And, as the Minister points out, those allotments are still rateable from year to year, the rates are piling up, and the Minister charged with the administration of the Goldfields Water Supply Act has them assessed every year. The lands under the Bill are in Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Southern Cross, Brownhill, Trafalgar and Coolgardie. The measure would lead one to the conclusion that the people who own the titles to those lands are unable to pay, or to continue to pay, the water rates upon them; but having looked through the schedule of the Bill, and knowing many of the owners of those lands, I say definitely they have been able to pay and still are able to pay even the rates that have accrued on the allotments mentioned. There are in all about 375 blocks: At Kalgoorlie, 180; Boulder, 180; Southern Cross, 12; Brownhill, 12; Trafalgar, one; and Coolgardie, one. I trust that when the Bill does go through—I do not think there will be any opposition to it—the Minister for Lands, before putting up this land for auction so that it can be secured by land agents and other speculators in land on the goldfields, will seriously consider the reserving of a lot of these blocks such as are suitable for the erection of workers' homes. The re-vesting of these lands in the Crown will provide a very favourable opportunity for that purpose. And it is very necessary at the present juncture, for the high rents on the goldfields, owing to the shortage of houses, are most oppressive to those workers who have to pay rent. Much of the vacant land to which titles are held is held by builders and agents

who hold the land for speculative purposes. The Workers' Homes Board during the past two years have had a wonderful opportunity for extending their activities to the goldfields, and if that is to be done the securing of suitable land for the purpose will have to be considered. No better opportunity could present itself than that represented by the Bill. The workers on the goldfields do not desire mansions to live in. All they want is to be provided with fairly comfortable houses. The State Sawmills, I see by their printed pamphlet, can provide a decent four-roomed house for £135. Such a house is only partially lined, but with the expenditure of another £75 or £100 a decent house would be provided, suitable for goldfields people, on the land that will be made available to the Crown under the Bill. Such a house could be built for about £235.

Mr. Latham: Does that include freight?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Yes.

Mr. Marshall: They are building them at Wiluna for about that amount.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: I do not know that I am right in that assertion. I fancy the freight is £46 10s. and the house £135 net. If I recollect aright, the quote given to me by the State Sawmills was £135 for a four-roomed house, with a freight of approximately £45. However, that, with the extra £100 to which I have referred, will not represent a very big capital investment, and at present there is every prospect of the gold mining industry prospering for many years to come. An investment by the Workers' Homes Board of, say, £300 would—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member would be well advised to discuss all that when dealing with the Workers' Homes Act Amendment Bill.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Very well. I was pointing out that the investment would not be a very serious one, nor would it represent a very long period of time in repayments. I may not have another opportunity to discuss the making of this land available for the purposes of workers' homes on the goldfields. That is the point I wish to emphasise. I know there is a lot of land up there, but quite a large proportion of it is reserved for mining purposes. There is not very much residential land—with the exception of such as is held by speculators—that could be made available to the Workers' Homes Board. The land which is being revested in

the Crown offers a splendid opportunity for the Government, if they can provide the necessary finance, to permit the Workers' Homes Board to extend their activities to the goldfields.

**MR. GRIFFITHS** (Avon [8.28]: As one who lived on the goldfields for many years, I regard it as somewhat extraordinary that it should now be necessary to pass legislation like this. One would have thought that, after all these years, that land would have automatically passed back to the Crown. However, it appears that legislation is necessary and I presume this is the best way by which it can be done. When one remembers the accumulations of rates and other charges against the land dealt with in the Bill, charges amounting to many times the value of the land itself, one sees that there is not very much likelihood of the former owners wanting to claim their titles if to get those titles they will have to pay all the accumulated charges. However, in view of all the reservations and the activities of speculators, it is good to see that legislation of this sort has become necessary, and that land for long vacant is likely to be used once more and become an asset to the country. I support the measure because it is a hopeful sign when such legislation is necessary.

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS** (Hon. M. F. Troy—Mt. Magnet—in reply) [8.30]: The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe have pointed out that quite a number of the owners mentioned in the schedule might be sufficiently financial to pay the arrears. The point is that they will not pay and they could easily evade payment by transferring the land to somebody else. That is frequently done. Consequently it is far better to effect a transfer to the Crown as proposed in the Bill. The owners concerned purchased the land in the early days when the goldfields were prosperous and prospects were bright. They paid rates and taxes for years, and then the goldfields declined and they paid no more. We consider it best to accept the position and make the blocks available so that they can be sold at auction or put to some use. That is preferable to having the owners transferring their properties to persons of no financial stability and unable to meet the charges due. There cannot be any objection to the Bill. Its provisions are fair, square and above-board, and we arrange for

those who so desire to claim their titles. Of course the passing of the Bill would not free any individual from discharging his obligations. Before anyone could receive his land, he would have to pay the arrears.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

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

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Allotments of land vested in His Majesty:

**MR. LATHAM:** The preamble refers to persons unable to pay or continue to pay water rates on their allotments, and because of their inability to pay, it is proposed to discharge them from their liabilities and accept their titles. I hope this action will not establish a precedent.

The Minister for Lands: Some of the titles were handed in during the term of your Government.

**MR. LATHAM:** Only some of them. It is a dangerous precedent thus to release from liability a person who desires to get rid of land. If the owner has the money, he should be compelled to pay, and after having discharged his indebtedness, he might be allowed to hand over the title. If land values increased, owners would probably pay the arrears and the Crown would not get the benefit of the land. I hope that the Minister has had the titles carefully checked to ensure that all of them are in the hands of the Crown. I know that some of the titles were lodged and that some signed transfer forms are in the hands of the Crown, but there were some difficulties owing to transfers having been lodged without titles.

The Minister for Lands: I am given to understand that only those for which the actual titles have been handed in are included. There are others that are incomplete.

**MR. LATHAM:** I thought that we should have a select committee to check the titles. I hope the officers of the department will not regard this action as a precedent. The Minister accepted titles that he should not have accepted, deprived local authorities of rates, and relieved owners of a burden of which they were not entitled to be relieved. This seems to be an unfair way to give relief to individuals who abandon a town when

it is declining. The houses that stood on the allotments were sold chiefly for re-erection in the agricultural areas, and then the owners of the land looked for a way in which to unload the land, and a scheme was devised to hand the titles to the Water Supply Department. The result is that other residents have to pay the rates and taxes while the owners of the allotments in question get off scot free.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3, 4—agreed to.

Clause 5—Provision for the return of instruments of title to owners of allotments prior to the commencement of this Act:

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: We should have been advised of the amount of rates and taxes owing on each block. Some of the land might be worth more than the arrears of rates and taxes. The owners will have had a two-headed penny chance. They signed a blank transfer to the Crown when conditions were bad, but when the lots have become valuable, they will probably have an opportunity to get their titles back. Some of the land near the racecourse has been sold lately for £25 a block, and many of the allotments in question may not have accrued rates amounting to £25. I hope the Minister will not exercise the power under this clause, particularly if the land is now worth more than the arrears of rates.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The clause is reasonable. No individual should be deprived of a right that he may possess. It should be our desire to be fair and just. Had this provision not been included, I could imagine members raising the objection that people had paid their rates for years and were entitled to retain their land. Members might even have quoted a widow who could not meet her obligations for a time, but who might be in a position to do so now.

Mr. Latham: They cannot prove it if they have surrendered their titles.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: If owners can prove that they surrendered their titles in circumstances over which they had no control, they should receive consideration.

Mr. Stubbs: Every case will be considered on its merits?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes.

Mr. Griffiths: Many of the blocks must be worth less than the debt on them.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Probably. In all legislation of this kind we should be scrupulously fair.

Clause put and passed.

Schedule, Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

*House adjourned at 3.45 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Wednesday, 20th September, 1933.*

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

### BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

1, Industries Assistance Act Continuance.

2, Reduction of Rents Act Continuance.

*Passed.*

### BILL — MORTGAGEES' RIGHTS RESTRICTION ACT CONTINUANCE.

*Third Reading.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central [4.36]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES (North) [4.37]: This Bill deals with the reduction of interest on mortgages, and another of the Bills which follows this Bill and will be read a third time deals with the reduction of rents. A further Bill which should be