

scheme can be carried out in Sweden and the United States we can do the same here.

Mr. North: Congress is doing it already.

Mr. TONKIN: It is also necessary to disseminate proper dietary habits amongst the people. I am reminded that Roosevelt said, "All the lectures on nutrition will avail nothing unless there is food for the child to eat." That is true. We know that many families, while spending sufficient on their food, are ill-nourished, because the money is not spent on the right article. That has been proved over and over again. Here is a field in which we can spread knowledge of the best way to spend the money that is available. In Great Britain the authorities have launched a scheme called "Milk in Industry." The latest figures I have show that in 7,000 factories, covering $2\frac{1}{4}$ million workers, milk is distributed regularly, and the consumption of that commodity in Great Britain has doubled. The scheme has had no adverse effect on retailers who depend upon their sales for a livelihood. All that it has done is to double the consumption and provide an additional market for milk. During my researches I came upon a very interesting fact, although the case may be an isolated one. The principle could well be extended to other places. I discovered that at Oslo, the capital of Norway—it was once known as Christiania—the authorities, with the consent of the parents, give children a free breakfast. The meal consists of one-third of a litre of milk—a litre is equal to a pint and three-quarters—butter, wholemeal bread, cheese, half an orange, half an apple, or a raw carrot. It seems that the diet has been worked out to contain the right proportions of vitamins and carbohydrates. From September to March to the meal is added a ration of cod-liver oil. So that the Norwegian people are to be congratulated on the step they have taken to ensure that at least the children who attend their schools shall get one decent meal a day. They are doing what they can to assist handicapped children.

I think I have detained the House sufficiently, but I hope that I have been able to offer a suggestion or two which may possibly be acted upon. Perhaps that is taking an optimistic view of things, but if only a portion of a suggestion finds some practical outlet my time will have been well spent. I believe it is possible to do much more than is already being done, and I

say to those who represent the farming districts that if as the result of a changed method we can improve the standard of living of the working people and get the right outlook, then of a certainty shall we improve the standard of living of those engaged in the primary industries. As I said at the outset, for me there is no difference between a worker in the mines, a worker on the wharf, and a worker on the farm, even though for the time the last-named happens to be the nominal proprietor.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: There is a difference in the work.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes, possibly in favour of the farmer; but despite that, whether there is difference in the work or not, they are all workers at the present time on the very lowest stratum, and our job is to lift them up so that during their sojourn on this earth they shall at least enjoy the maximum standard of living that science enables us to provide.

On motion by Mr. Hughes, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.53 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 29th August, 1939.

	PAGE
Questions: Bulk handling of wheat, facilities for 3,500 farms scheme	349
Heathcote Mental Home—I, Cost of Royal Commission; 2, Retirement of Matron Shawcross	350
Motion: Metropolitan Milk Act, to disallow regulations	350
Address-in-reply, ninth day	359

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

QUESTION—BULK HANDLING OF WHEAT.

Facilities for 3,500 Farms Scheme.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Chief Secretary: Can either the Government or Co-operative Bulk Handling, Ltd., lawfully

erect bulk handling facilities in the proposed 3,500 farms scheme areas? 2, If so, and failing the erection of such facilities by Co-operative Bulk Handling, Ltd., will the Government provide such facilities?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes. 2, No. The request for the erection of bulk handling facilities in the proposed 3,500 farms scheme has been very carefully considered. On account of various uncertainties it has been decided that for the time no steps should be taken to grant the request.

QUESTIONS (2)—HEATHCOTE MENTAL HOME.

Cost of Royal Commission.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, What was the total cost of the Royal Commission on the Heathcote Mental Reception Home? 2, What payments were made to—(a) the Royal Commissioner; (b) counsel employed by the Government to assist the Royal Commissioner; (c) to other individuals, giving the particulars in detail?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, £838 10s. 2, (a) £150. (b) £648. (c) Secretary, £10 10s.; typist, £9 8s. 8d.; advertising, £1 9s. 10d.; stationery, £5 9s. 1d.; sundries, car hire, etc., £13 12s. 5d.; total, £40 10s.

Retirement of Matron Shawcross.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Was any amount paid to Matron Shawcross on retirement as a compassionate allowance or otherwise? 2, If so, how much was paid?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, The matron was paid the proportion of long service and annual leave due to her at the date of her retirement. 2, £107 17s. 10d.

MOTION—METROPOLITAN MILK ACT.

To Disallow Regulations.

Debate resumed from the 23rd August on the following motion by Hon. C. F. Baxter (East):—

That Regulations 102, 103, 104, and 105, and new Sixth Schedule made under the Metropolitan Milk Act, 1932-1936, as published in the "Government Gazette" on the 9th June, 1939, and laid on the Table of the House on the 8th August, 1939, be and are hereby disallowed.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West) [4.35]: This is not the first time that others have had to go to the rescue of the producers to protect them from the actions of their own representatives. On this occasion the duty falls to my lot. If the debate on this motion has not been productive of any very cogent argument for the disallowance of the new regulations under the Metropolitan Milk Act, at least it has not been without novel features. For example, the solicitude for the metropolitan consumer displayed by Mr. Baxter was quite unprecedented. Certainly his stand on these regulations was in marked contrast to the attitude he adopted on other matters in the immediate past. I still retain a vivid recollection of the hon. member's attack last session on certain regulations designed to prevent diseased meat being placed on the metropolitan market. It is gratifying to find that during the recess his views have undergone some modification, and that he is now at some pains to emphasise that one of his cares is for "the health of the community and particularly the health of the children." He is not alone in his anxiety for the health of the children. The disallowance or retention of these regulations has not the slightest bearing upon the health of the children. On the other hand, the retention of the regulations is essential so that the board that has carried out such effective work in the past may continue to work along lines calculated to institute improved methods and still further care not only for the health of the children but for that of the community as a whole. Furthermore, the regulations are essential to enable the board to go further afield to assure the greater purification of our milk supply.

The point must be stressed that the hon. member's fears that the regulations will have a detrimental effect on the quality of the milk supplied in the metropolitan area are wholly unfounded. Originally the regulations were gazetted on the 9th June and enforced as from the 1st July—not from the 1st August, as Mr. Baxter told the House. Provision was made for the delivery of milk to consumers and holders of milk-shop and milk-store licenses within the city blocks of Perth and Fremantle between the hours of 1 a.m. and noon on any day, and to consumers and holders of milk-shop and milk-store licenses outside the city blocks of

Perth and Fremantle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The amendments to the regulations, which appeared in the "Government Gazette" of the 11th August, enabled the Board, at any time and from time to time, to supply to any licensed milk vendor a permit authorising him to distribute milk to consumers or to the holders of milk-shop and milk-store licenses, at times other than those mentioned in the original regulations. The effect is that hospitals, or children who require milk at specified times or those that require to be supplied with milk from one cow, will be able, with the permission of the board, to secure supplies at any time of the day. Thus, both the arguments advanced in the Press and by Mr. Baxter in this Chamber have no foundation in fact.

Hon. W. J. Mann: More government by the board.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member supported the legislation when it was before this House. The Act has been of great benefit, not only to the primary producers but to the public of Western Australia.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Who introduced the measure?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member did.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: And I am proud of it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Then why is the hon. member trying to slay it?

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The regulations have nothing to do with the Act at all.

The HONORARY MINISTER: If the hon. member succeeds in inducing this House to pass a vote of censure on the regulations, he will aim a vital blow at the existence of the legislation, and that is the point of view hon. members must take into consideration.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: That is a Government threat.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It is also provided in the amended regulations that the permit may be cancelled at any time without any reason being stated. The regulations were gazetted at the request of the Metropolitan Retail Dairy Men's Union of Employers and the Transport Workers' Union. They have been approved by the Milk Producers' and Produce-Retailers' Association. The state-

ment has been made during the debate that for the last 12 years there has been no afternoon delivery in the Fremantle district. In view of the fact that the district is represented by some of the keenest and most alert public men in the State, hon. members may take it for granted that one delivery of milk is not harmful either to the trade or to the consumers.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: No wonder you are blushing!

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have been interested in the supply of milk, especially to children, for the last 17 years. Early in my parliamentary career milk was supplied to children at centres in Fremantle to an extent that for various reasons has not been equalled in these days.

Hon. A. Thomson: Lack of funds is probably one.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Yes, and another is the difficulty of persuading teachers to co-operate with the committees.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane interjected.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Before I conclude my remarks, I will give the hon. member some very sound reasons why the delivery of milk in the afternoon is not possible. I might mention that at a meeting of dairymen from the Peel Estate, Byford, Mundijong and Armadale, presided over by the chairman of the Byford branch of the milk section of the Primary Producers' Association, Mr. Baxter's action was viewed with regret. A unanimous resolution was carried to that effect. That is an unusual occurrence at meetings of the association.

Hon. L. Craig: There is always unanimity on any important question.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Solidarity in time of trouble is very desirable. The meeting to which I referred was not a meeting of the Byford branch of the A.L.P. or any other section of the Labour movement interested in milk supply. It was a meeting of milk producers who are supposed to be represented in this House by men like the hon. member. I maintain that he should be their spokesman. He is here for that purpose, namely, to ensure that the producers get a fair deal, and that their interests, insofar as they are just, are protected by this House.

Hon. G. Fraser: He is out of step with everybody.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member has proved himself, according to the findings of representative men and primary producers, to be out of step with the movement. The resolution carried by the meeting to which I referred was as follows:—

This meeting views with regret Mr. Baxter's action in moving for the disallowance of the regulations and dissociates itself from the opinions which he expressed.

Thus we find that those who distribute milk as principals, the employees of milk distributors, and the producers themselves are all heartily in favour of the regulations.

Hon. H. Tuckey: Do you favour making the Act permanent?

The HONORARY MINISTER: When the Bill for a continuance of the Act is before the House, if members desire it, there will be a change of Government policy along those lines. Apart from any other consideration, the attitude of the bodies I have mentioned is sufficient to indicate that Mr. Baxter's statement to the effect that the regulations "will further curtail the sale of fresh milk" is pure conjecture. If anything is calculated to reduce the sale of fresh milk and increase the consumption of powdered milk, it is the advertisement given to the factory product by the hon. member when he rebutted Mr. Nicholson's statement that powdered milk had not the food value of fresh milk. I was rather surprised at the stand taken by the hon. member because there is no question that powdered milk has not the value of fresh milk.

Hon. A. Thomson: Is powdered milk produced in Western Australia?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I do not think it is. The hon. member mentioned the great increase in the consumption of powdered milk, but the fact has to be borne in mind that there are fairly large communities on the goldfields—at Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Laverton and other mining areas—that have to depend on powdered and condensed milk.

Member: Will you guarantee that the regulations will not mean an increase in the consumption of powdered milk in the city?

The HONORARY MINISTER: Yes.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Nothing of the sort.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Anyone who compares powdered milk with fresh milk as a beverage for children and adults

should be in Heathcote. I am a standing advertisement of the value of fresh milk. If the possibility existed of a decline in milk sales, it is not likely that the milk vendors would have requested the regulation; neither would the producers have passed a resolution protesting against the hon. member's motion to disallow the regulation. Surely we can depend for our expert advice upon those who are vitally concerned in the trade. Surely they should be able to express an authoritative opinion as to whether regulations of this kind would reduce their trade and thus lower their standard of living. I think the House can well take notice of the advice and opinions uttered by every section of the milk trade. These men do not wish to see either sales or production diminished. As the retailers are constantly in touch with the consumers they must have gauged the attitude of the public towards the regulations prior to requesting their introduction. Before the new regulations were gazetted the quantity of milk delivered in the afternoon was found to be negligible compared with the amount delivered in the morning. I think the amount was about 5 per cent. Many vendors make no delivery in the afternoon. Who are the people that require milk to be delivered in the afternoon?

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Why frame these regulations?

The HONORARY MINISTER: Apart from hospitals and shops, and families where there are sick children, who else would require milk to be delivered in the afternoons? The only people who want it then are those who like to see others working unnecessarily long hours, people who live at Mt. Lawley and Peppermint Grove. Many of those who want afternoon deliveries are fussy old ladies, who delight in seeing milkmen delivering half-a-pint of milk at houses possessed of refrigerators and all modern conveniences. Members will not find the wife of a working man, though she may have five or six children, asking for afternoon deliveries.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: How do you know the old ladies are fussy?

The HONORARY MINISTER: Only fussy old ladies would want such a service. This House should not encourage such practices. We have made investigations into this question, and have ascertained that many milk vendors do not deliver in the afternoon.

Those who make deliveries in the afternoons exclude Wednesday or Sunday, or Saturday or Sunday afternoons. For some 12 years prior to the introduction of the regulations there had been no afternoon delivery in Fremantle.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Are the people fussy there?

The HONORARY MINISTER: No. People in industrial centres are, in the main, satisfied to get their milk once a day. Most of the requests for a second delivery come from places like Peppermint Grove. The previous system of delivery was extremely hard on the men employed, seeing that they had only broken periods of rest. The afternoon delivery was a most expensive system. Milk vendors were forced to travel over the same distance in the afternoon as in the morning to carry out a comparatively small percentage of their trade. More time was occupied in the afternoon delivery as it was frequently found by vendors that the receptacle for the milk was not placed outside the door, or they were informed on arrival that no milk was required. That is another instance of poor domestic management. These fussy old ladies should have people to look after them. They will not do their share in assisting with the general organisation. Whilst milk vendors do not keep separately a record of the milk delivered in the morning and afternoon, the board has been able to obtain information indicating that the quantity of milk delivered in the afternoon represented between 5 per cent. and 10 per cent. of the trade. The Pascomi Company, which is the largest distributor of milk, has not delivered to consumers more than once daily for a number of years. In Fremantle the company has never delivered in the afternoon, except at places such as Peppermint Grove and Claremont.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Are you sure that it delivered in Peppermint Grove in the afternoon?

The HONORARY MINISTER: They say so.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Who says so?

The HONORARY MINISTER: That information was supplied to me by the board. I am sorry if it is a reflection upon the hon. member.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I do not live in Peppermint Grove, but I represent that district.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: He lives so close to it as not to matter.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I represent the district that is fussy.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Only unreasonable people would require a delivery of a half-pint of milk twice a day. One milk vendor in a large way of business—I refer to Mr. H. J. Cartwright—who sells approximately 475 gallons of milk daily, has examined his records and states that considerably less than 5 per cent. of his deliveries were made in the afternoon. That is an authoritative statement from a milk vendor carrying on a large business, and I ask the House to take cognisance of it. Another milk vendor, Mr. R. M. Mounsey, who distributes in the Victoria Park and South Perth districts and sells approximately 375 gallons of milk daily, stated that he used to sell only about 5 per cent. in the afternoon. I have here a schedule giving the names of milk vendors, together with the average quantity of milk sold daily, and the amount previously delivered in the afternoons. These men are typical. The schedule indicates that the quantity of milk sold in the afternoon was negligible. I should be very pleased to see the motion defeated. It is only a political kick at the Government.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Do not talk nonsense.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: You are not assisting us to support the regulations.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member made a speech against them.

Hon. A. Thomson: You are not debating a Government measure. The motion cannot be a kick against the Government.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I cannot understand why the motion was moved.

Hon. H. V. Piesse: We are all looking to you for information.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am giving the information.

Hon. L. Craig: The Honorary Minister is imputing wrong motives.

The HONORARY MINISTER: When we are dealing with the food supplies of the people we must lift ourselves above party politics. I have always taken that stand.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Then why introduce party politics?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member tried to make out a case for after-

noon deliveries, and my task is to show that such a thing is unnecessary and would hamper the milk trade. It would also involve a great deal of unnecessary labour and be contrary to every-day commonsense.

Hon. E. H. Angelo: Go on with the merits of the case. You are all right.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Does the schedule cover the whole of the metropolitan area?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The schedule indicates the general attitude of the trade.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Some of the vendors are not in favour of the proposal. Will you not be giving away secrets?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The schedule is as follows:—

Name.	Address.	Districts in which operate.	No. of Gallons delivered daily.	Afternoon Delivery (if any).	Comments.
C. Burke & Sons	Nicholson Road, Canning Vale	City of Perth, Perth Road Board	70	gallons. None	In favour
C. W. Treasure	Cecil Avenue, Cannington	City of Perth, Subiaco, Canning	117	None	In favour
E. F. Browne	Kent Street, Cannington	Canning, City of Perth	53	None	In favour
T. J. Harper	Albert Street, Osborne Park	Perth Road Board, City of Perth	95	20 gallons
W. H. Taylor	142 Stirling Street, Perth	Cream only—Perth Road Board, City of Perth	41	None	In favour
A. J. Taylor	87 Dundas Road, Inglewood	Perth Road Board, City of Perth	122	2-12 gallons in summer	In favour
H. W. Green	146 Central Avenue, Maylands	Perth Road Board, City of Perth	97	5-10 winter, 12-25 summer	In favour for winter but not summer
R. Hutchison	Government Road, Morley Park, Maylands	Bayswater, City of Perth	23	None	In favour
C. J. O'Connor	McGann Street, Bayswater	Perth Road Board, City of Perth	46	None	In favour
G. J. McLean	23 Seventh Avenue, Maylands	City of Perth	8	None	In favour
T. Gralton	137 Shakespeare Street, Mt. Hawthorn	City of Perth	16	None	In favour
M. Crawford	12 Bourke Street, North Perth	City of Perth, Perth Road Board	70	4-5 summer, 2 winter	In favour
E. Crawford	12 Bourke Street, North Perth	Perth Road Board, City of Perth	85	None	In favour
G. Thompson	53 Emmerson Street, North Perth	City of Perth, Subiaco	56	4 gallons summer	In favour
Westralian Farmers, Ltd. ("Pascoml")	47 Claremont Crescent, Claremont	Cottesloe, Mosman Park, Claremont, Peppermint Grove, Nedlands	206	None—3 hospitals served made no complaint about one delivery, which has always obtained
H. S. Cooksley	97 Cottesloe Avenue, Cottesloe	Peppermint Grove, Claremont, Cottesloe, Nedlands, Mosman Park	120	None—a few in summer
G. W. Birkbeck	1 Balfour Street, Cottesloe	Mosman Park, Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe, Claremont, Nedlands	236	None—In summer about 5% total Peppermint Grove customers	In favour
R. E. Edward	47 Rushton Road, Victoria Park	City of Perth, South Perth	19	None	In favour
A. T. Trigu	1020 Albany Road, Victoria Park	Canning, City of Perth, South Perth	36	Bulk morning, chiefly shops afternoon	Could manage satisfactorily

I do not intend to weary members by reading the whole list. If members peruse it they will see that afternoon deliveries are not required. Mr. Baxter objects that the milk that comes from the country and arrives in the early hours of the morning is

not delivered until the following day, that is, under the new regulations. This, however, has always been the practice in respect of a big percentage of the milk railed from the South-West, for, as I have already indicated, afternoon deliveries comprise only five to ten per cent. of the total trade. It will be obvious therefore that if there are vendors so foolish as to mix morning and afternoon milk, as suggested by Mr. Baxter, they would have had every incentive to do so before the new regulations came into force. I challenge his statement that men in the trade would mix their milk in the manner suggested.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: I do not propose to wear the white flower of a blameless life.

The HONORARY MINISTER: As to Mr. Baxter's general statements regarding the hardship that may be caused by the operation of the regulations, the facts show that prior to their enforcement the majority of people held over their milk from

the morning until the evening. In the first place we know that a great number of milk vendors never delivered in the afternoon, and the proof of that is in the statement I have read to the House of the deliveries by the various vendors. Secondly, even those who did, omitted at least two afternoon deliveries in the week; and thirdly, a negligible proportion of total deliveries was made in the afternoon round. This demonstrates beyond doubt the practicability of one daily delivery even if Mr. Baxter is prepared to discount the efficacy of the system in operation in the Fremantle district. We say that the Fremantle district is just as keen on getting an efficient, good and clean supply as is any other district in the metropolitan area.

Hon. H. Tuckey: Those would be all local supplies.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Some inconvenience or hardship, the hon. member has stated, will be suffered by certain people during the summer months, and critics of the regulations maintain that milk should be delivered in the afternoon during the summer months. The Milk Board does not share this view. Experience shows that delivery of milk in the metropolitan area in the afternoon during the summer time is bad for the milk, as, despite the endeavours made by milk vendors to keep the milk cool, by encasing it in canvas or in bags, hot air causes the bags to dry and the milk to become heated. This is readily understood when it is realised that only a small quantity is transported. Heat on milk—particularly milk that has been chilled—has a most deleterious effect. It has not been unusual for milk vendors to find that, after their milk has been carted in their vehicles for some little time on a summer afternoon, the fat globules rise to the top of the milk, or the milk reaches the point of turning. It is much better for cool milk to be delivered to the consumer in the early morning and for the milk to be kept in a clean vessel in a cool place rather than that it should be delivered to the consumers in the heat of the day. The efforts of the Milk Board have done much to provide a cleaner milk and a milk of a low bacteria content. The board's efforts in this direction have done much to provide milk of a good keeping quality. Everybody who has taken an interest in this question must realise that there has been a

marked improvement in the way that milk has been handled in the South-West. That this is largely due to the control exercised by the Milk Board scarcely needs to be stressed.

The suggestion has been made that there are some members of the community who cannot provide refrigerators or ice chests in which to store their milk. These facilities, I am given to understand, are not essential for the keeping of milk. Milk can be kept cool in a Coolgardie safe, an inexpensive article to purchase or to make in the home, and which costs nothing to maintain. If a Coolgardie safe is beyond the resources of some consumers, the milk can still be kept cool, if the milk is good and cool on arrival, and if the vessel containing it is put in a cool place or a place where there is a breeze, and the vessel is wrapped in a damp cloth. Alternatively, milk can be boiled. Where milk is boiled, it will keep under decent conditions for a lengthy period from one delivery to the next. That is a recognised fact. Unfortunately there are people who are not very particular about the cleanliness of the containers they use.

Since only a small percentage of people own refrigerators, it is obvious that the remainder of the consumers who managed to keep their milk previously with only one daily delivery must have used one of the devices I have suggested. The Chairman of the board, in outlining the various ways in which milk might be stored, did not pretend that they were ideal. He was simply explaining the means whereby people in the most straitened circumstances can and apparently do, make some inexpensive provision for keeping milk fresh throughout the day. Some critics have asserted that hospitals will be inconvenienced, but, as the board is able to grant permission to milk vendors to supply consumers, this objection can be overcome by permitting a milk vendor to supply milk to hospitals.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Can you regulate the price at which the extra supplies may be delivered.

The HONORARY MINISTER: We are not discussing the question of price. Similarly, in all cases where the board is satisfied that it is essential in the public interest to deliver milk outside the prescribed hours, the board is able to grant permission to milk vendors to meet this special need. Therefore, it cannot be submitted

that the regulations will cause any practical inconvenience. Most members who have opposed the regulations have spoken of the usurpation of the rights of the Industrial Arbitration Court. Hon. members may not be aware that the present award provides for a 46-hour week. As I have explained, the hours for milk delivery, as fixed by the board, are, in the city blocks of Perth and Fremantle, from 1 a.m. to 12 noon; and outside the city blocks, from 1 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. This provides a spread during the week of 77 hours and 59½ hours respectively. Surely no member of this House can take exception to that spread. It is comprehensive. Therefore, why endeavour to upset a regulation that is vital to the interests of all concerned?

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The hon. member will be given an opportunity to speak later on.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Every live body of people, whether they be masters or workers, will try to improve their conditions. The spreads I have mentioned do not in any way encroach on the working week fixed by the award. Even if the hours for milk delivery were fixed by the Arbitration Court, they would be ineffective in regard to the whole of the industry, for quite a number of milk vendors themselves deliver on their rounds. These men are not employees, and so would not be subject to the award of the court.

Prior to recommending the Minister to make the regulations, the Milk Board carefully surveyed the whole position. At the time, milk distribution in the metropolitan area was most haphazard, the deliveries taking place at all hours of the day and night. The disadvantages of this state of affairs had long been recognised by the milk boards in Sydney and Melbourne. In those cities the hours fixed for delivery are as follows:—

Sydney—3.45 to 8.30 a.m.; 12 noon to 5 p.m.. Sundays and public holidays: 3.45 to 9 a.m., with a proviso that dairymen-vendors may deliver from 12 noon to 3.30 p.m.

Few do.

Melbourne—1 to 9 a.m., except in the city itself, where delivery is allowed until 12 noon.

With the experience of those cities as a guide, the board arrived at the conclusion that the gazettal of the regulations would be

a progressive step in the direction of more orderly distribution, and would in no way conflict with the interests of the consumers.

At no stage, however, did the board use the argument attributed to it by Mr. Baxter, namely, "that if the regulations were not applied there would have to be an increase in the price of milk." With regard to the validity of the regulations themselves, I have here a memorandum from the Solicitor General which sets out the actual position:—

Referring to the statement by the Hon. J. Nicholson, M.L.C.—"There is nothing so far as my present perusal of the Act shows me to indicate that power is given to fix hours of delivery"—the answer to that statement is to be found in the long title to the Act, and in Sections 36 and 38 of the Act, as follows:—

(a) The long title of the Act is "An Act to provide for the regulation and organisation of the production, purchase, treatment, sale and distribution of milk for use by consumers within the metropolitan area.

(b) Section 36 enacts that the board is charged (inter alia) with the supply and sale of milk to milk vendors (paragraph 1 (b)), the supply, sale and distribution of milk to consumers in the metropolitan area (paragraph 1 (c)), measures and means which, in the opinion of the board, are requisite and necessary to provide a regular supply of fresh, clean and wholesome milk to consumers in the metropolitan area, (paragraph (4)), and any other matter which, in the opinion of the Minister, is incidental to any of the matters aforesaid.

(c) Section 38 enacts that the Minister may, with the approval of the Governor, make regulations prescribing forms and fees and other matters and things which by this Act are contemplated, required or permitted to be prescribed, or which appear to him to be necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for the purpose of enabling the board effectually to perform and carry out its powers, functions and duties under this Act, and for the purpose of effectually carrying out any of the provisions of this Act, or for better effecting the objects or purposes of this Act.

The delivery of milk to consumers is obviously a matter included in the distribution of milk to consumers; one of the objects and purposes of the Act is the regulation and organisation of the distribution of milk to consumers; and one of the powers, functions or duties with which the board is charged under Section 36 of the Act is the supply, sale and distribution of milk to consumers. Clearly, therefore, Section 38 confers upon the Minister power, with the approval of the Governor, to make regulations prescribing hours for the delivery of milk to consumers in order to better effect the object or purpose of the Act, which is the regulation and

organisation of the distribution of milk to consumers, and also in order to enable the board effectually to perform and carry out its powers, functions and duties under the Act, among which is that relating to the supply, sale and distribution of milk to consumers.

The argument used by Mr. Baxter was never advanced by any responsible officer of the board.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: I took it from a report in the Press.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member did not take it from an authoritative report in the Press.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It was not a statement by the board.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member should have said so before. I do not think he can take a statement appearing in the Press and use it as an authoritative argument. In doing so, I think he made a grave mistake.

Hon. J. Cornell: The Minister would not expect the Crown Law Department to say that its own regulations were *ultra vires*.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Has the hon. member the audacity to tell the House that the Solicitor General would give wrong advice to a Minister regarding the preparation of regulations? The Solicitor General is paid a high salary to give Ministers guidance and advice. If it were not possible to issue the regulations under the Act, the Solicitor General would advise accordingly.

Hon. J. Cornell: But the Minister is pointing out that the Crown Law Department declares the regulations to be not *ultra vires*.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have read the reply given to the contention raised by Mr. Nicholson.

Hon. J. Cornell: You have asked the Solicitor General to adjudicate on his own regulations.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Our Crown Law officers are of such high standing that they would not think of leading a Minister or the Government astray in their opinions.

Hon. J. Cornell: I am not questioning that at all.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The opinion is quite plain. It is couched in simple language, the meaning of which any member can grasp.

Hon. J. Cornell: The Crown Solicitor is only defending what he has done.

The HONORARY MINISTER: We have the opinion of the Crown Law authorities,

by whose advice we must be guided, that Mr. Nicholson's fears are quite groundless. Everyone desires to see the milk industry make progress, and the consumption of milk increase, and everyone is equally desirous that all those connected with the industry should get justice. As one interested in the milk industry from a public point of view, I maintain a vast improvement has been effected in the industry since the passing of the Act. It is vital, in the interests of the board, that no action such as is contemplated by Mr. Baxter, should be countenanced by this House.

Hon. H. Tuekey: You want the Act to be made permanent.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I want these regulations to remain in force, so that the position of the industry may be improved. If Mr. Baxter's motion is carried, the effect will be detrimental to the workers in the industry, to their employers, to the milk vendors and the producers—in fact, to everyone connected with the industry. I therefore ask members to vote against the motion.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [5.20]: Although not particularly interested in this debate, I desire to contribute to it, because in my youthful days I worked on a dairy farm. Afterwards I left that work to take up mining. It is a fine thing to see a revolt among the primary producers. The wheatgrowers, for instance, are in revolt. Now we have the milk vendors up in arms. This debate recalls to my mind a somewhat similar debate upon the disallowance of a regulation dealing with fortnightly pay for the workers on the goldfields.

Member: That was the law, not a regulation.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: An amendment of the Act was being proposed. The question had no reference at all to the Arbitration Court. The majority of the members who voted against it were representatives of the primary producers. Of course, their action was reflected in the last elections on the goldfields, as Mr. Seddon can tell members. The primary producers' representatives voted against the workers on the goldfields getting a fortnightly pay. To-day, opposition is coming from them to their own people. I stated at the outset that I knew something about dairying; and of all the heavy jobs in the world, that is the heaviest.

I am about 50 years of age and I assert that the conditions in the milk industry are just as bad as they were when I was a youth. In company with other members of Parliament, I have visited the South-West and attended agricultural shows. What happened after the show was over? Every farmer had to rush home to milk the cows.

Member: The regulations would not help them.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: They might result in improving the conditions in the industry.

Hon. E. M. Heenan: Do you want one delivery of milk a day?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Yes; that is enough, too. In the dairying industry, one has to work in the dust and the heat, and in the snow and the ice. One starts in the ice of winter mornings and goes through to the night, still working in the cold. Why should not the dairymen try to improve the lot of their employees? But it is costly to deliver milk twice a day. I speak feelingly on this subject. On the goldfields, with the temperature 110 degrees and 112 degrees in the shade, it would be impossible to deliver milk twice a day. The consumers themselves would not desire such a course. It would be stupid to cart the milk through such heat, as it would not keep. Mr. Nicholson referred to the milk supplies for the children in the metropolitan area. How do sick children and sick adults get on in the Government hospital at Kalgoorlie? Milk was delivered by contract from Perth to that institution once a day. Goldfields residents objected to this course, as they consider the milk should be bought in Kalgoorlie itself. I object to milk being taken from Perth to Kalgoorlie. Let the people of Kalgoorlie support the local dairymen, as the people of Perth support their local dairymen. The milk vendors are up against the problem of some vendors who are trying to steal a few customers by delivering milk twice daily. I think it is a disgrace to the country that in all the years I have known this industry, so little improvement has been made in the conditions. Objection could easily be raised to the delivery of milk in the early hours of the morning; I for one have an objection to being awakened by the milkman, because there is then no more sleep. The difference between the milk vendor at Kalgoorlie and

the milk vendor in the metropolitan area is that while the delivery here is started at 1 a.m. and finished at 9.30 a.m., the vendor at Kalgoorlie wishes to start delivering at 2 a.m. and finish a few hours later. The sooner a vendor gets out of the street with his milk on a hot day, the better for the commodity. If any member can conscientiously vote in favour of the motion, he must remember that he is opposing the fair and honest opinion of the experts in the milk industry, who are just as worthy of consideration as are experts in other industries.

Hon. J. Cornell: Experts in what, mixing?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I am not speaking of mixing. As the Honorary Minister told us, if any vendor delivers bad milk, he does not continue the practice very long. I have traversed the interior of this country as much as has any member. Fresh cows' milk is not obtainable beyond Laver-ton or at Lawlers, where people use goats' milk or condensed milk. Everybody on the goldfields boils the milk as soon as it is delivered—I mean everybody with any sense—and it will keep on the hottest of days. In my opinion the ice chest is of no value on the goldfields for storing milk; the Cool-gardie safe is much more satisfactory. Most of the people at Edjudina use condensed milk, which is a good article though much dearer than fresh milk, and there is some difficulty in keeping it once a tin has been opened. It is time the milk producers insisted on their members supporting their efforts to secure improvements in the industry. The Labour Party considers the wishes of the miners who, if they did not get justice, would find other men to represent them. As to the argument that the Honorary Minister might cause Labour to lose votes for adopting the attitude he has taken to this question, my reply is, "Then let us lose votes, but the men in the country will know that the Labour Party is behind them in their efforts to secure an improvement." The contention that the regulations encroach upon the functions of the Arbitration Court is utter nonsense. This is an instance of the employer and employee reaching a decision on the question of the hours of distribution. If the A.W.U. at Kalgoorlie can come to an agreement to prevent a dislocation of industry, why should not those interested in the milk industry do likewise?

Hon. J. Cornell: But the miners have an industrial agreement.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Quite so. The Honorary Minister told us sufficient to satisfy the most obstinate member that the regulations are desired by the people engaged in the industry and by the community as well. Therefore the regulations should not be disallowed. In conclusion, I again express the opinion that anybody who desires to have milk delivered during a summer afternoon in a climate like ours is stupid.

On motion by Hon. W. J. Mann, debate adjourned.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Ninth Day.

Debate resumed from the 23rd August.

HON. V. HAMERSLEY (East) [5.34]: I congratulate the Labour Party upon its success at the Assembly elections and also the various Ministers upon appointment to their respective portfolios. I fully expected the electors to decide on a change of Government on this occasion, but they evidently thought that the State would be better served by the team that had controlled affairs for several years. We know the old saying that a new broom sweeps clean, and my impression was that a change would be beneficial. However, I must admit that I was wrong in my estimate of the opinions of the electors.

The Speech mentions the heavy deficit for the year, £220,442, and I presume the Government will take drastic steps in the hope of balancing the ledger this financial year. How that will be accomplished, in view of the difficulties confronting industry, I cannot imagine. Perhaps towards the end of the session we shall be informed of the measures proposed to be adopted. When a Government is unable to keep its expenditure within the limits of the revenue available, a bad example is set to the community. Surely we should look to the Government to set a good example! Many of our settlers, in spite of all their struggles, are experiencing difficulties that are becoming greater and greater, and when they approach the Government for a little help, they are told that no money is available. The Government is able to provide various sums for expenditure in the larger centres, but these have

more votes than have the country centres where the distribution of the money would help struggling settlers. The Speech contains the following reference:—

Although the State has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to withstand the low prices for wool and wheat, it is certainly hoped that an improvement will soon be manifest, thus enabling full advantage to be taken of the high production indicated by the excellent seasonal prospects.

This I regard as nothing more than a pious hope. True, we have the promise of a bountiful season, but unless the producers are encouraged and assisted, the benefit to be derived will be small indeed. The various Governments throughout Australia seem almost to have shut their eyes to the dreadful conditions under which farmers and pastoralists are labouring. Loan Council meetings have been held; the representatives of Federal and State Governments have held various meetings at Canberra and Melbourne, and after months of promises, from which we expected tangible results, they decided to raise a sum of £40,000,000 and not one penny piece was allotted to aid the farmers and pastoralists. We have reached a position so extraordinary as almost to invite revolution. Many farmers and pastoralists are ready to throw up the struggle and walk off their holdings.

The pious hope expressed in the Speech carries us nowhere, and once more we find the Commonwealth Government holding back with a view to throwing on the States the onus of assisting these industries. I agree with the Premier of Victoria that to assist the farming industry is essentially a Commonwealth responsibility. For years the Commonwealth Government has been rigging the tariff against the wool and wheat industries until it has collected from them at least £150,000,000, and when asked to come to the rescue of those producers and assist them in their difficulties, the Commonwealth is not prepared to shoulder the burden. Some of the producers are in danger of losing their holdings, and the least we could expect was that the Commonwealth would return to those primary industries some of the benefits derived from the backing of secondary industries, particularly those established in Melbourne and Sydney.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Has not a fair amount of money been given to the farming industry?

Hon. G. B. Wood: I think the total amount is £14,000,000.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: That assistance has been spread over a number of years. But more than that sum has been taken from the primary producers in direct taxation, to say nothing of the revenue reaped from tariff duties, which have been imposed in the interests of manufacturers of machinery, rails, vehicles, etc., and have made the requirements of the producer much more expensive. Those duties have rendered it almost impossible for the producer to carry on his industry. There is an old saying that those whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad. That saying recurs to my mind when I go into the country and see how severely the people are suffering. They have been doing so for many months, and the hope deferred on which they have been living has now become practically the last straw. I view this matter most seriously, because the farmers are losing heart entirely, which is not to be wondered at. Those meetings of the Prime Minister and the State Premiers should have brought about something more than we have seen so far. Mr. Menzies visited Western Australia, and when he was back amongst his friends he said that he had visited all the States and discovered a great deal of parochialism. The hon. gentleman should take the parochial beam out of his own eye. He continues to harbour the idea that the Commonwealth cannot back the farming community. The Federal Government's desire is to cast that load on the State Governments, but the matter is one essentially for the Commonwealth. It is the height of parochialism when Mr. Menzies continues to desire to succour secondary industries, leaving the others down and out.

Only to think of the pastoralist and the terrible times he has gone through! And without any help whatever from the Commonwealth. The strongest opponent of the wool man is cotton. His severest competition comes from cotton. The United States Government has helped its cotton-growers to the extent of holding 13,000,000 bales. On the other hand, our Federal Government has been trying to encourage a cotton industry in Australia, in competition with wool; and cotton is a black labour industry. The Commonwealth Government is giving a bonus of 4½d. per lb. on cotton-growing in Australia. The price of cotton

in Liverpool is 4½d. per lb. Yet the Commonwealth Government tries to build up an Australian cotton industry, to down the wool men, by bonusing cotton with the equivalent of its price in Liverpool. That seems to me utter madness. No doubt the scheme is all very well for Eastern Australia. The Federal Government's policy is to bolster industries around the big cities while leaving industries on the outskirts to fend for themselves. We primary producers have to make all our purchases in highly protected markets and sell our wheat and wool in the cheapest market, at world's parity. Assuredly the tariff does not help the people I represent.

Britain guarantees a price to her wheat-growers. The United States Government is giving its growers a bonus of 1s. 10½d. per bushel on wheat for export. Yet here are our Governments requiring the growers to produce without any bonus whatever, while we have to compete with the outside world. The prices we are compelled to accept for wheat are so low that we cannot live on them, and yet there is no help whatever from the Commonwealth. Unless aid is forthcoming, the growers must walk off their holdings. The 1s. 10½d. bonus and the 2s. per bushel obtainable as the price of their wheat has enabled the growers of the United States to carry on. At present our growers do not know whether they can get even 1s. per bushel for their wheat. Being unable to obtain any credit, they do not know how they are to take off the coming harvest. They have made an appeal to the State Governments to anticipate the subsidy coming from the flour tax. In the aggregate it will not amount to much. Growers have had 2¼d., and anticipate a similar amount; but the Federal Government refuses to anticipate the payment and requires the growers to wait until the 31st December for a further amount. What are those growers to live on? What are they to do? How are they to carry on between times? It is a matter of serious moment to the Government of Western Australia how the growers, failing long credit, are to carry out operations to put in crops for next season. We know what the railways will suffer if crops do not go in. They will make a worse showing next year than this year. Things look most serious, quite apart from the inter-

national situation. The Federal and State Governments have displayed a long-winded apathy in bringing the matter to a head. At each of their frequent gatherings a tiny hope flutters again in the hearts of the primary producers, but speedily becomes extinguished. As the months go by, these people become more and more weary. I do urge that something should be done very speedily by the Federal Government. I realise that our State Government is doing its best; but I want the matter finalised without any delay whatever, not only for my own sake but also for that of all engaged in the industry, and for the sake of what the industry means to Western Australia and the Commonwealth.

I observe from the Lieut.-Governor's Speech that a million pounds was devoted to road construction during the past year. I presume that million was almost entirely money from the petrol tax, distributed over main roads. In view of the settlers being so hard up, many of them unable to pay their local rates so as to enable the road boards to carry on operations, it is unfortunate that these people require a great deal of petrol to carry on their industry. At the same time they use thousands of miles of road which the local boards have to keep up. I would almost say that an amendment of the Main Roads Act assuring to road boards throughout the State a regular distribution from the tax proceeds is absolutely needed. Many settlers and pastoralists, all paying petrol tax, use many thousand miles of road that are not main roads. From that taxation they obtain no return except that they may use a main road once or twice during the year. Some of them are fortunate enough to be able to take a holiday, and so they use a main road once or twice annually; but all through the 12 months, when travelling backwards and forwards between their homes and the siding or township, they are using 25 or 50 miles of road maintained by the local board. Every one of those boards has thousands of miles of road to maintain, and their only source of revenue is taxational rating on land. It is a great pity that they cannot secure a larger proportion of the proceeds of petrol taxation, and I trust the Government will do something in that direction. Many road boards would be extremely glad if portion of the tax could be distributed amongst them to

help them to keep up and improve their own roads. At present they are in a position of peculiar difficulty, because the bountiful rains have washed the roads about, and bridges and culverts have suffered. The necessary repairs have to be made out of the boards' own resources, while they find it extremely difficult to get money from settlers.

Portion of my province, which was recently visited by the Minister for Works, is concerned in extension of the electricity supply. I sincerely hope that the supply will soon be extended to Maida Vale, Forrest Field, Wattle Grove, Pickering Brook, Kalamunda, Parkerville and Glen Forrest. The people in those districts have, for years, looked forward to being given the extensions, but the trouble has been insufficiency of power. The difficulty should be overcome by the new unit of the East Perth Power House, to which reference is made in the Speech. The matter is highly important to the localities mentioned, more especially as some of them have local supplies of electricity and do not know whether or not to grant further rights to individuals to extend their works. They are between two stools. The localities not yet connected up do not want to grant permits to private persons to instal plants. A good reason why the Government should operate in that direction is that it would be keeping in step with the Minister for Industrial Development, who wishes to encourage secondary industries and small industries. Certainly such industries give a great deal of employment.

Continuing with local worries and troubles, I wish to mention that the question of rabbit virus has not yet been satisfactorily settled. I have requests from several boards to be permitted to try out the virus. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has, I believe, satisfied itself that human beings and animals other than rabbits are immune to the virus. One objection raised by the council was that the virus was too costly. Settlers claimed, in addition, that the fencing of holdings was unduly expensive and if the properties were subdivided as was considered necessary, they would be turned into a sort of chess board. On the other hand, those charged with the investigation have not been starved regarding expenditure in other directions and I cannot understand why any expense should be considered too great for the proper de-

termination of the effectiveness or otherwise of the rabbit virus. Many of the people in the country districts claim they should be given an opportunity to try out the virus for themselves. There have been appeals to the Government to make supplies available to one or two road boards to enable experiments to be carried out in their districts. The claim has been made that the virus has proved successful in open fields. Members will agree that the effective eradication of this great enemy of the wheat-growers, dairymen, fruitgrowers and pastoralists is highly essential. The menace of the rabbit is real. I urge that something should be done to enable some of the boards to secure supplies of the virus in order to try it out in this State. The question of expense seems to be the stumbling block.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Has not the decision been reached that the release of the virus would be dangerous?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I do not know that that is so. To whom would it be dangerous? Regarding the proposal for the settlement of the Kimberleys, I fully support the scheme advanced for the development of the far North. Here we have people who are looking for land, and surely they should be given an opportunity to settle and develop a part of the State that has been crying out for attention for many years past. Settlers came to Western Australia in the early days knowing full well that they would have to face many difficulties. There was no question of Government support or help for them. They had to pay their own way and accept the risks entailed. Surely we should allow this race an opportunity to deal with the undeveloped country, and give them the opportunities that were availed of in the south by our early settlers. In those days there was no spoon feeding and the settlers I refer to have not had much of it since. For the most part they have received kicks. For long have we desired to populate our empty spaces. Reports appearing in the daily Press indicate that the Japanese are taking possession of the North. A system of control has had to be organised in Broome because the people there do not know to what extent the landing of Japanese may swell. Certainly these foreigners are on our coast, and we know of the peaceful penetration methods of both the Japanese and the Chinese. We should take early advantage

of the opportunity to secure the settlement of the northern parts by a race more to our liking. Those people will pay their own way and will prove to be fine citizens. Their presence in the North will create trade, which is so essential if we wish to retain our grasp upon the Commonwealth. The population of Australia is not increasing as it should, and here we have a golden opportunity to populate the empty North.

The Lieut.-Governor's Speech was not an inspiring utterance, and on the whole I think we shall enjoy a very nice quiet session. I do not know what the proposals of the Government are with regard to industrial legislation. The Arbitration Act has been in force for a number of years and we know that throughout the Commonwealth great dissatisfaction has been expressed by the workers regarding the application of that principle to industry. Perhaps the object of the foreshadowed amending legislation is to include the right to strike. However, at a later stage we shall learn what is proposed.

Touching briefly upon the dairying industry, I notice the standard for butter has been raised recently. That instruction should be given to the producers who are not fully alive to the position, particularly those operating in the wheat areas, is certainly imperative. In view of the raising of the standard, the Government should send inspectors throughout the dairying districts to instruct the producers, just as is being done with regard to the education of farmers respecting the proper quality of pigs for export. In the wheat areas special instruction is required upon the methods of improving the quality of cream for the market. Such a step may involve the expenditure of £200 or so, but I urge the Government to embark upon that course in the interests of the producers. During the drought of 1914 men were kept on their farms through the efforts of their wives and families who engaged in dairying as a side line. That applied particularly on holdings in the far eastern districts, which were regarded at the time as questionably safe for production. On the contrary, those who undertook these side lines were successful, and their cream supplies constituted a wonderful addition to the butter industry. When the wheat position improved they ceased their efforts, but I am afraid in these days many will return

to dairying in districts that are looked upon as risky, even for wheat.

I notice that one Bill foreshadowed by the Government will have reference to the Legislative Council franchise. I imagine the Government will endeavour to make it easier for people to secure a vote for this branch of the Legislature. The A.N.A. has made representations to the Government to do away with the Legislative Council, the abolition of which has been an aim of the Labour Party for years past. I sincerely hope that no scheme will be proposed such as that applying to the Federal Senate, for which there is the adult franchise. If that system were applied to the election of the Legislative Council, I would look upon this House as merely a rubber stamp. I view with much disfavour any alteration in the franchise for this Chamber. I trust that many of those who favour the abolition of this Chamber will realise the error of their ways. If they do not, we may lose control of government, and in the end we may have in power someone like Hitler. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

HON. J. M. MACFARLANE (Metropolitan-Suburban) [6.10]: I also support the motion before the House. I was very interested in the speech that His Excellency delivered. I do not intend to refer to many sections of the voluminous document and shall confine myself to a few points with which I can deal with a certain amount of knowledge. On such topics I may, perhaps, speak convincingly to those who listen to me. That production during the last few years has been favourable, even though the periods were regarded as dry, is satisfactory. We have experienced bountiful rains this year and we should be thankful for that in view of the ruling wheat prices. We should have a bumper harvest, which will be some little compensation for the low prices. If our farmers were confronted with low prices and a low yield, the position would be aggravated. I trust that in the final analysis the season's production will be satisfactory from that point of view. I have been greatly surprised that the price of wheat is so low at present. In the course of my long life I cannot remember the price having been so unsatisfactory. Especially is this surprising when we consider the turmoil of to-day. With war threatening, one would expect

wheat to be purchased at premium rates in order to provide for contingencies. Light was thrown on that phase by a cable published recently setting out that Germany had in store sufficient wheat to meet her requirements for a year under the greatest stress. I presume the same applies to other nations, which have been buying heavily for some time past. The result of their purchases is that those nations do not require more wheat, which is now a glut on the market. This brings me to the point that the wheat-grower has to realise that the conditions under which he operates have to be altered. The same applies to other phases of agricultural production. There is, of course, the necessity to foster the production of wool, fat lambs, butter, eggs and pigs, some of which offer splendid returns for wheat farmers. Attention should also be paid to the rearing of calves instead of slaughtering so many at an early age. A large proportion of those calves could be held for beef. The experience generally is that at the fall of the year attractive prices are offered because of the shortage of good beef cattle.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

HON. J. M. MACFARLANE: Before tea I was trying to emphasise the point that mixed farming must definitely be undertaken by wheatgrowers in the future because, with wheat offering such low returns, nothing but bankruptcy will be the lot of the farmers whose activities are restricted to wheatgrowing. The reference in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech to the development of the export lamb trade made good reading, and it was gratifying to learn that during the last three or four years the export figure has grown to such an extent that this year the hope is entertained of 500,000 lambs being sent away. According to the Speech, the Government expects that in the near future the export figure will approximate 1,000,000 carcasses. That brings me to a consideration of the need for making adequate arrangements for handling this product at the port of shipment. If the Government aims to export such a large number of fat lambs, it will have to give attention to providing facilities for slaughtering and holding the animals in cold store at the ports. The Minister for Lands is to be congratulated on the action he took this year to provide means for the adequate handling of the

lambs exported. Early in the season it was believed that there would be insufficient facilities for killing and storing fat lambs. However, the Minister took commendable action to overcome the difficulty, and I understand that killing is being carried on smoothly and that the position will be adequately met this year. Considering the rapid development of the industry since export began, further provision will have to be made for future years.

The butter industry needs fostering, because the equalisation scheme has given butter a fair value. There is one point that has given me concern for some time, and I have taken it up with the Minister—that relating to the wheatgrower who makes butter production one of his sidelines. As a matter of fact, many wheatgrowers already do so. Out of the 8,000 wheatgrowers in our State, I know of 300 or 400 who supply cream to be manufactured into butter; and I am satisfied that that number constitutes only a portion of those who are engaged in dairying and are looking to that industry to help them through their crisis this year. There is one difficulty associated with the supply of cream by the wheatgrower for butter making, and I have taken up the matter with the Minister. Mr. Hamersley mentioned it. I refer to the need for providing the highest grade of cream possible. I realise that the activities of departmental officers are limited by the means at their disposal. Members have been told of the wonderful importance of the South-West butter industry. I believe the department has devoted much time and talent to improving the quality of this product, with the result that splendid progress is being made in that portion of the State. But a number of farmers are using the production of butter as a sideline to their wheatgrowing, and it is for these men that I am making a strenuous attempt to secure a direct and immediate benefit. Acting upon advice from the industry, the Federal Government has decided to prevent the export of butter of a quality less than 83 points at grading of that of first-class butter. This action has been taken because of the belief that butter of inferior quality exported to Great Britain must militate against the better-class product, such as choice butter. The point I wish to make is that most of the farmers sending cream from the wheat areas despatch it in such a condition that it will not

grade 83 per cent. Ninety-three per cent. is a high-grade export butter, and the product that grades at 83 per cent. is a good secondary product. The Federal authorities are endeavouring to export butter up to world standards, if possible, because they want to ensure the sale of the Australian product and maintain Australia's good name in England. I support that view. The departmental officers are now saying they must have that grade of butter; and it is up to the farmer and the manufacturer to see that it is obtainable. I do not want to try to advise the House as to the conditions operating in the wheat areas in respect of dairying.

Hon. H. V. Piesse: How far do you propose to direct, and how far to assist?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: The hon. member will see in a moment. I have asked the department what is to be the solution of the problem. The officers have said that inferior cream must be rejected, but I have inquired what is to be the position of the farmer who has gone to considerable trouble to secure a price that would compensate him for his labour. After producing the article, the farmer has to pay money in freight. Is the grader to appear on the scene then, and reject the product if it does not attain the 83 per cent. standard? If so, what will that mean to the farmer? Either that the commodity has to be sent back to the grower or else that the cream must be turned into a low-grade butter to come into competition with margarine.

Hon. L. Craig: It has a value as second-grade cream.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: But the sale is restricted. Butter manufacturers are worried as to what is going to happen this year, and I am trying to find a remedy. I consulted the department, and followed up my interview with a letter to the Minister asking him to appoint three or four instructors to visit the farmers by car during the next three months with a view to assisting them to improve the quality of their product by issuing to them necessary instructions.

Member: A very good idea.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I think the expenditure of £300 or £400 would return to the State between £3,000 and £4,000 a year.

Hon. A. Thomson: Are you advocating an attempt to improve the feeding?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: The dairy farmer of whom I am speaking is labouring under difficulties not experienced in the South-West. He has a poor railway service. He believes that the factory can manufacture first-grade butter out of any class of cream.

Hon. H. V. Piesse: When the hot weather comes the position will be worse still.

Hon. L. Craig: It is impossible to produce first-class cream on a wheat farm in summer.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I do not agree with that. I understand the difficulties to be faced, and I want to try to overcome them. I desire to interest members representing those areas, with a view to their co-operating this year in giving the wheat farmer some help in his predicament.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Do you suggest that he put in ensilage?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I took the matter up with the superintendent of the department, and he gave me the answer I have indicated. I then consulted the Minister, and received a reply on exactly the same lines as that of the Superintendent of Dairying. I expect what happened was that the superintendent made a recommendation to the Minister and that the Minister sent it on to me. Apparently the Minister was not seized with the importance of the matter. That is why I am discussing it here. I receive cream from those areas, and so am in a position to speak with some authority on the matter. Of course, mine is not the only firm obtaining cream from those sources. The area is bounded on the north by Northampton and Mullewa, eastward by Lake Brown and Moorine Rock and Southern Cross, and on the south by Lake Grace. Dairying has been conducted in those centres for a long time, and some of the farmers have been highly successful. I am sure that even better results can be secured by concerted action. These people are endeavouring to help themselves and the Government, and should receive the support for which I am asking.

Another industry that should be fostered by the department is the production of pigs. During the last year or two the

export of pig meat has become fairly profitable. The return is so good that pig raising should be undertaken by wheat farmers. A good sale of this product is probable in England during the next three or four years.

Hon. G. B. Wood: Is that all?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: As far as can be seen at present.

Hon. G. B. Wood: The department is sending inspectors around the areas in question.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: The Superintendent of Dairying is already touring the country. I have read several of his addresses describing the value of the methods to be adopted and pointing out that every penny per pound that pork realises, when the pigs have been brought up on wheat, represents an additional 6d. or 7d. per bushel. It seems that the system is worth while. Wheat farmers are now trying to get a return from their work that wheat by itself will not give them.

I compliment the department upon its activities regarding poultry. The adviser on poultry is doing excellent work, and has done so for the last two or three years.

Hon. A. Thomson: He is keenly interested in his job.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Yes. With better organisation and the introduction of improved breeds, the poultry industry should do well. The export side of the industry should be further developed. The poultry expert has that in mind, and is trying to devise means of overcoming the difficulties that will occur in the event of war being declared. He has also been endeavouring to stimulate interest in turkeys. For many years the local turkeys were of good quality, and sufficient in number to supply the demand. Lately, however, through in-breeding or other conditions, the industry has not developed here as it has done in the other States. For some time now turkeys have had to be imported to meet the local demand. The poultry expert has been investigating the industry from various points of view, and hopes to induce the growers to take up the breeding of turkeys. Some fine stud turkeys have been brought over lately, and these should prove beneficial to the industry. I hope that at no distant date the local demand will be supplied once more, and that it may even be possible to fulfil

orders from the Eastern States. I told members last year that orders for poultry sometimes came to Western Australia. I have had inquiries for 25,000 head of poultry from one or two firms, and could have supplied the orders if the price and the quality of the local birds had been right. A market therefore exists not only abroad, but within Australia, for our poultry. When a wheat farmer supplies cream to the factory he receives his cheque every month, or at shorter intervals if desired. This money helps to provide him with the necessities of the home until he receives his wheat or wool cheque. Another disadvantage to which I would like to refer is the equalisation charge. That is a disability. The board imposes an equalisation charge during the flush of the year. When the flush is over, the charge is lifted, with the result that the wheat farmer has to pay his quota during the flush period, and, when he is supplying no cream he can get no benefit from the scheme. The money really goes to the South-West, where the farmer is producing cream all the year round.

Hon. L. Craig: The export takes place during the flush part of the year.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: The dairy people in the South-West gain the benefits of the equalisation throughout the year. There is a great difference between what the wheat farmer gets for his cream, and what Mr. Mann quoted as the return received by the more fortunate farmers in the South-West. What is to happen to the cream that is below grade 83 I do not know, seeing that it will have to compete with margarine.

Hon. A. Thomson: What remedy would you suggest?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: The use of margarine should be discountenanced by Parliament. The granting of a quota of 200 cases a week was a mistake. Something should be done to prevent the development of the margarine sales.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The steps to be taken cannot be enforced.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Where there is a will there is a way.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The way has not yet been found.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Vested interests constitute the greatest difficulty. Not only must farming conditions in the wheat belt be improved—as a result of the instruction that is given to the farmers—but

many other factors must be taken into account. There is, for instance, the cartage of the cream to the railway station.

Hon. A. Thomson: Transport is a very important matter.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: One member said that a man had to travel 40 miles to reach a railway station. I know of instances where people have to transport their cream 20 miles. In effect, they are endeavouring to achieve the impossible; but I do not say that to their disparagement. Something more should be done for these people than has been done. Provision must also be made to protect the cream on the railway station until it is put on the train. A speeding-up of delivery should be brought about, and more care should be taken in the transport of the cream by rail.

Hon. V. Hamersley: Especially at junctions where the cream is put out of the van into the sun and left there.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Cream is usually carried in the guard's van, which contains all kinds of miscellaneous goods. The cream must be seriously affected by contact with that assortment of merchandise. I could say a good deal that I would not like to see in print, but I do suggest that members should take concerted action to impress upon the Minister the seriousness of the position and endeavour to induce him to give some relief. Just now the season is a good one, and farmers are getting better results than usual from their pastures.

Hon. J. Cornell: I know of one man who carts his cream 40 miles.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Hon. members would say he was a fool, but it will be agreed that he was a trier.

Hon. J. Cornell: He is a fool to do it now.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Only a trier would do that. He deserves all possible help and support.

Hon. J. Cornell: The Honorary Minister knows all about that case.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: If members would like to become personally acquainted with a butter factory, I would be pleased to place my staff at their disposal, so that they may better understand what I am telling them now.

The Speech tells us the Government has been particularly active with respect to secondary industries, and expects to be more so. It is difficult to believe that it is really

sincere in its protestations. Mr. Baxter dealt with the case from his point of view, and called forth some severe criticism from the Minister for Labour. Mr. Bolton spoke with some heat, and from his remarks I gather that his industry is feeling the pinch. Mr. Craig gave his point of view. His endeavour evidently was to impress upon the Government the risk in adopting such methods to bolster up secondary industries. He pointed out that the cost of living must be materially affected by each industry that was so handled. Those three speeches alone will give the Minister and the gentlemen on the committees he appointed food for thought. How do they intend to harmonise existing conditions and give relief to secondary industries, and at the same time carry out the desires of the Government? The Minister will have to review industrial costs, and bring them into line with those in the Eastern States. Industries cannot be expected to develop when handicapped to such an extent in comparison with similar enterprises elsewhere in Australia. The Minister declares he intends to wipe out a good deal of the Eastern States competition. The important factors to be considered first are industrial costs and peace in industry. Unless both are harmonised, there will be no chance of building up secondary industries in the way indicated. I wonder, therefore, whether the Government really is in earnest. If we take hours of labour, wages and conditions generally, we find that the handicap imposed upon local people is altogether too great to achieve this. We must endeavour to reduce the difference between conditions appertaining to the production of the locally-made article and conditions applying to that imported from the Eastern States. The Minister for Industrial Development took Mr. Baxter to task for criticising him regarding his comments on the trouble at Mills & Ware's factory, and indicated that he was hard at work to bring about peace in the trouble that has been in existence at Fremantle for some six weeks. Members, I think, will agree that the results achieved by the Minister in the direction of solving the difficulty are a poor showing.

Member: He said he was working silently.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Surely the influence of the Minister and that of his colleagues should be strong enough, if they were in earnest, to preserve peace in indus-

try. They should make it clear to the strikers that they must return to work and abide by the award that was in existence, and that then assistance would be given them to secure an early hearing of their case by the court. That would be the most logical step to take. But no, as the Minister told us, he was working silently with those people. Six weeks, however, have already passed and the employees are still walking about the streets. In the meantime imported biscuits and cakes are getting a foothold again in the State, and are taking the place of articles that were of first-class quality and really worth purchasing. An incident such as this must prove a serious setback to any negotiations that may be taking place with any firm or person who may be contemplating the establishment of manufactories in Western Australia. In his reply to some of Mr. Baxter's criticism, Mr. Trainer made remarks that must have had a disquieting effect on those people with whom the Minister negotiated. Mr. Trainer stated that we had a splendid Arbitration Act and Workers' Compensation Act, and while admitting that our costs were higher than those in the East, he said that good as they were, even better were wanted, especially regarding the length of the working week. Surely anything of the kind will mean a further handicap to the development of secondary industries in the State. On this subject, too, I noticed in last Thursday's paper a telegram from Melbourne wherein Mr. Crofts, a Labour representative, speaking on the High Court's ruling or to the minutes of an award on the subject of a 44-hour week, said it was Labour's objective to have a 40-hour week, and then to continue the fight until a 30-hour week was obtained. Is that kind of thing an encouragement to the establishment of secondary industries here? For those who are in business to-day, and those who contemplate going into business, such statements must have a disturbing effect on any attempt to eliminate the adverse interstate trade balance. How is it possible to give Eastern States manufacturers any promise of encouragement? If encouragement is to be given, why not extend it to the manufacturer already established here, the man who may not have modern equipment? Why not assist him to get it? This should be done, as well as to assist in the direction of equalising costs.

If Western Australia had to contend with Australian conditions only, it might be possible for industries to succeed. But in spite of the heavy duties and protection afforded in many ways, foreign goods are in our stores and warehouses, and are displayed at prices that eclipse anything we can possibly do. I will quote an extract from the "Daily News" of the 13th July last, which will indicate to members just what our engineering and hardware firms are up against—

Reason why Nazi abuse continually showered on the British Foreign Publicity Department designed to counter Axis propaganda has a hysterical note is more easily understood in the light of the following comparison.

Recent 2s. wage increase won by 1,000,000 men in Britain's engineering industry brings the average weekly pay to more than twice that earned by similar workers in Germany.

Compared figures of minimum earnings of skilled metal-workers are: Britain—£4 4s. (48 hours) and £4 18s. (56 hours); Germany—£1 18s. 4d. (48) and £2 10s. 4d. (56).

I ask members to note particularly the wages and the hours referred to in that newspaper extract. So it will be seen that we in Western Australia are severely handicapped in our attempt to compete with those countries. From the Labour point of view, the Government must consider the position if it wishes to bring about an increase in the number of secondary industries. I am finding it difficult to understand why the Government should send the Minister for Industrial Development to the Eastern States to induce firms to establish themselves in Western Australia, when already our own people operating here could be better induced to modernise their plants and seek scientific aid in the production of commodities. If the Minister could overcome their fears industrially and give them aid in producing those articles, which form the bulk of the adverse trade millions, something really would be achieved. It appears to me, and I expect to many others who know something of the local manufacturing position, and the competition created by State trading concerns, that the Government realises that it has sucked the industrial life-blood to the full from our own people, and now requires new firms from the Eastern States for the same purpose. Many cases can be cited of the Government's indifference to the needs of our local firms and manufac-

turers, and I consider the timber merchants have been hit the hardest by the Government's support of the State Saw-mills' unfair competition.

I may now be permitted to pass on to one or two matters that concern the province I represent, the first being the South Perth ferry and the long delay in the work of completing and altering the plans of the vessel from a double-ender to a single-end. I am disappointed at the reason given for the delay, which is that it is due to the cost that would be involved if the plan were carried out. From time to time there have been public meetings and deputations on this question, and in spite of the promises made nothing whatever has been done. The Government seems to forget that many people are to be catered for, and it is a mistake to attempt to do anything but accede to the full requests that have been made. On the subject of the Perth trams, about two years ago, as a result of a public complaint, the tramway management provided three steps on a number of the cars. In that way the task of boarding and alighting from the trams, especially in respect of elderly people and women with children, was simplified. The department, however, appears to have discontinued the work of providing the additional steps, and I should like to know the reason why. It is pitiful to observe the difficulty a percentage of the passengers experience in boarding the trams because of the high steps. I should like the Minister to tell me when he replies why this useful work that was started by the tramways has been discontinued. With regard to the Milk Board regulations, I shall have something to say about them at the next sitting, and I will conclude by thanking members for the patient hearing they have given me.

HON. H. TUCKEY (South-West)
[8.13]: We have entered on the work of another Parliament and we are no further advanced in respect of our problems. I admit that there are difficulties facing the Government in the way of dealing with a number of questions, but any action to deal with those matters should receive support from every section of Parliament. The Legislative programme includes several major questions that have already been discussed in this House, and some that are

likely to be introduced this session will be found to be similar to those that were submitted last year. I was pleased to receive the Minister's explanation on the subject of the disease of contagious abortion in cows, regarding which I asked a question a little while back. My object in seeking information was to prevent the spread of a disease which is serious and a menace to the dairying and stock raising industry in the South-West. I would be in favour of making it an offence to market any cows carrying this disease, unless for butchering purposes; furthermore, the stock should be branded before being sold. It is all very well for some people to treat this matter lightly, but I consider that when a farmer has stock that is affected with this disease, the stock, I repeat, should be marketed only for butchering purposes. It should not be permitted to be sold because of the danger of infecting clean herds. It is not my intention to say more on this subject because of the explanation made by the Minister after he answered the question. I should, however, like to read to the House a copy of a signed statement by a settler concerning this matter. The statement reads—

These stock (4) were purchased by me about October, 1938, from Group 51 depot, having been recommended to me by the local bank inspector (Mr. Hawkes) and described as coming from Sabina Vale. In January, 1939, one of these aborted an (about) 5 months embryo calf, the first abortion to occur on the farm, which has been occupied by us for 15 years.

Since then another seven of my own stock have aborted and I am wondering where it will end. It will certainly cause me much loss during the coming season.—E. Clayton.

That will indicate, to some extent, the seriousness of the disease. I was speaking to a prominent resident of the Bunbury district, who said he had 80 cows on his farm and that at least 40 were infected. He had intended to fatten them for sale to the butcher, but I understand the veterinary officer suggested he should persevere in his efforts to stamp out the disease. He is therefore keeping the cows on his farm: but it is more than likely that the disease will spread through his herd of 80 cows. He certainly would have disposed of the cows but for the fact that he was able to milk them, although they had lost their calves. The position is very serious, as I can say from my own experience. I buy cattle occasionally, but take care not to buy cows,

as I do not want the disease on my farm. I hope sooner or later legislation will be passed to deal more effectively with this disease.

I congratulate the Government on rebuilding Caves House. An up-to-date building has been erected, which is a credit to the designers and the builders. Much criticism was indulged in because of the delay in starting this work, but if it was only to enable the erection of a first-class hotel, then the long delay was justified. There is now sufficient accommodation at Yallingup to meet requirements for some time to come. Already the hotel is being well patronised. No doubt a fairly large sum has been expended on the various caves, but the facilities will be considerably improved when electric light is installed in the Mammoth Cave. This is a very large cave, without any light whatever. I understand an engine is available, and that it is only a matter of the cost of the installation. When the road system can be extended along the coast between Busselton and Flinders Bay, the caves and other adjacent places will be a far greater attraction to tourists. I am sure the money spent on Yallingup will yield an excellent return.

It is to be hoped that the Traffic Act will be suitably amended this session. Car owners should not be debarred from claiming insurance in the case of an accident occurring before a driver has renewed his license. Again, the present law says, in effect, that the driver of a motor car on the right at an intersection can do no wrong: I certainly disagree with that contention. There is the problem of excessive speeding, which undoubtedly is the cause of most accidents. I have on a previous occasion suggested the control of speed by affixing governors to motor cars. Surely, if the speed limit is fixed at, say, 40 miles an hour, it would not be unreasonable to compel governors to be fixed to cars so that their speed could not exceed 50 miles an hour, thus leaving a margin of ten miles per hour for safety. If the facts were known, it would be disclosed that most accidents occur when cars are travelling at a rate considerably over 50 miles an hour. A road patrol, in my opinion, would be too costly. I think that if a definite check were put on the speed of cars and compulsory third party insurance introduced, great benefit would accrue to the public generally. Our hos-

pitals would certainly be relieved of much trouble and loss.

The Road Districts Act also requires several amendments. At present a person not eligible to take a seat on a road board may nominate for a vacancy and cause a board to hold an election at considerable expense to the ratepayers. Neither the returning officer nor the Minister has power under the Act to reject a nomination.

Hon. A. Thomson: The same thing applies to State elections.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: That is so. Two such cases have occurred recently; and, although representations were made, the Government was powerless to take action. Such law is sheer nonsense.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Is not some penalty provided if such a man takes his seat?

Hon. H. TUCKEY: Yes. The peculiar thing is that, although a candidate may be elected, yet if he takes his seat he is liable to a penalty. However, he is not so foolish as to take his seat. That, however, does not overcome the fact that the board is put to unnecessary expense in holding the election, and also a subsequent election. In one of the cases I mentioned, the candidate, although he was told he could not take his seat, had no option but to contest the election, because the Act provides that if the nomination is not withdrawn within 48 hours of the closing of nominations, then the election must proceed. Although the candidate may be willing to withdraw his nomination, he cannot do so, because under the Act his nomination must stand. To my mind, that is a foolish law and should be altered at the first possible opportunity.

Hon. J. Cornell: It is questionable whether a man whose name is not on the roll can nominate.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: It does not matter whether he is on the roll or not, he may nominate. In this case the man's name was not on the roll.

Hon. J. Cornell: He must have the necessary qualifications.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: He had no qualifications.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is another matter.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: Any person may nominate for a seat on a board, whether he is qualified or not.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Any ratepayer may nominate.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: Any person has the right to nominate.

Hon. J. Cornell: If his name is on the electoral roll, then he may do so.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: It is strange that such cases should be permitted to occur year after year. The position has been known for some considerable time. Other desirable amendments have been brought under the notice of the Government by the Road Boards Association, but I shall deal with those matters later in the session, when I hope an amending Bill will be before the House.

Although no wheat is grown in my Province, I fully appreciate the plight of wheat farmers, owing to the state of the market, and I shall support any reasonable scheme that will assist the industry. I venture the opinion, however, that any action—whether State or Federal—will only be of a temporary nature; because, after all, the problem is a world-wide one, and will have to be adjusted on that basis. In the meantime, however, assistance is urgently needed; and I trust the Federal and State Governments will soon be able to agree upon some plan that will afford that much needed, urgent help. If a policy of extreme nationalism by the Commonwealth is to be continued indefinitely, the position of the primary producer may be beyond remedy. We are now told that the importation of tin plates for manufacturing purposes is to be stopped. I understand a certain company is prepared to manufacture tin plates in Australia under what one may term "hot-house" conditions. I can remember when I.C. coke tin plates were landed at Fremantle for £12 10s. a ton. To-day the local price is over £30 a ton and the proposal is to increase that price considerably. I cannot see how this is going to assist the secondary industries of Australia. I admit certain industries must be protected; but surely, for economic and international reasons, there must be a limit to tariffs in a primary producing country like Australia. Every effort should be made by the Commonwealth to adjust its trade position with that of other countries. The more we prohibit imports, the more such a course will reflect to the disadvantage of primary production. While dealing with this matter, I am pleased to note the Government has appointed a council to deal with secondary industries and has nominated my colleague,

Mr. Craig, as a member. I feel sure he will keep an eye on the interests of the primary producers, while attending to the interests of other industries as well.

Hon. A. Thomson: I was wondering why he was selected.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: I am indeed of the opinion that we must trade with other countries. As I just said, while we must protect certain industries, we must admit certain commodities in order to induce other countries to buy our goods.

In regard to the Constitution, I understand Mr. Parker suggested cutting down country representation. I do not consider three members too many for the South-West Province. Personally, I have for the past three years averaged 20,000 miles in my own car. This will indicate to some extent the area and travelling in connection with the work I have to do. All the country Provinces are large and should have adequate representation.

Hon. J. Cornell: In my Province I require an aeroplane.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: I do not favour Mr. Parker's suggestion to reduce the number of country representatives; but, as he did not approve of a greater number of members in this House, and if he wants additional representatives for the metropolitan area, then the number of country members must be reduced. For my part, I consider that to cut down country representation would be fatal. My Province is very large and the calls on me are so many that I am kept extremely busy.

Hon. J. Cornell: To say nothing of the quality of the members.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Abolish the Chamber altogether!

Hon. H. TUCKEY: It is a big question, and if any further discussion takes place on it, I hope it will be dealt with on a different basis, and that the districts will be so arranged as not to reduce representation.

Member: The country certainly wants a higher vote than does the city.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: I do not think members should count altogether. It would be far easier to represent the whole of the metropolitan area than to represent the South-West Province. I strongly support the remarks of previous speakers in regard to harbour facilities for the South-West. Much money has been spent at Bun-

bury, and the people there are anxious that this work should be completed. Many promises have been made by the Government, and its silence and inaction are disappointing. Production is increasing day by day, so there would be no risk at all in providing adequate shipping facilities. Busselton and Flinders Bay should also be considered. There are great possibilities right through those districts. Immense progress has been made there. I am told that more than half the abandoned farms in the Sussex district have already been sold, partly by Goldsbrough, Mort & Co., Ltd., privately. Practical farmers are buying these holdings, and the agents are having a busy time. That, in my opinion, proves the value of the land beyond question.

I hope the Government will put in hand the construction of the Stirling dam. It is unnecessary to quote figures relating to the Harvey district; that has been done many times, and the Government already has all the necessary information. I do not know of a more urgent or reproductive work that could be put in hand. I know that at times the Government finds it difficult to provide sufficient reproductive work for men on relief; and to me it seems strange that this work is not started, because it would not only be useful to the district of Harvey, but of benefit to the State generally.

Improved water supplies at Waroona are partly responsible for much progress in that centre. Nestle's Milk Co. has been able to increase its output considerably. The company expects to treat this year up to 5,500 gallons of milk daily, and, subject to market arrangements, an attempt to double this output is to be made very shortly. At present, 60 per cent. of the condensed milk manufactured in Western Australia is exported, approximately 10,000 cases a month. The Waroona factory is one of three remaining in the Commonwealth, a large number having been closed down by the company. The State is fortunate indeed in securing such an industry, and its achievement demonstrates the value of irrigation areas and justifies the expenditure of the Government in that district.

Hon. A. Thomson: Is the company taking off the market 5,000 gallons of milk per day?

Hon. H. TUCKEY: The quantity I mentioned was 5,500 gallons. The company is not taking that quantity at present but will do so next month.

Hon. C. B. Williams: One delivery a day or two?

Hon. H. TUCKEY: One, extending over the whole day. We are fortunate in having a factory in this State because in Queensland the company closed down four factories. The quality of our milk is 100 per cent. I understand that if there is any difference at all, we are producing the best milk in the Commonwealth. That, no doubt, accounts to some extent for the export trade. I have it on good authority that the output will be doubled in the near future and I am pleased to be able to say that there is no question of the quantity of milk being available. As soon as arrangements are made for the extra quantity to be taken, the milk can be supplied. I should like to direct the Government's attention to the lack of school accommodation at Waroona. The town has grown so rapidly that the present facilities are inadequate. I hope the Government will take steps to provide better facilities.

Legislation should be introduced in all the States to make impossible the sale of margarine as butter. I understand that the prescribing of a distinctive colour for margarine is all that is necessary, and I am informed by an expert that the cost of colouring would be nil.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Make it green.

Hon. J. Cornell: Margarine goes green now if it is kept long enough.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: Surely our valuable dairying industry is entitled to protection from such unfair competition.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Do not force up the price of butter too high, as was once done with wool.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: This is a very important matter to the whole of Australia. In each State the dairying industry is a large one, and I am surprised that the authorities have not introduced legislation to provide for the colouring of margarine and so protect the butter industry.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane interjected.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: This is as much the concern of the Commonwealth as of the States, perhaps more so. Let me direct attention to the need for a reclassification of certain poison areas in the Upper Black-

wood district. There is a small area of country that might be described as 90 per cent. poison. It was selected before the invasion of the rabbits, and the people are finding great difficulty in eradicating the poison and at the same time coping with the rabbit pest. Every acre of land cleared has to be matted against rabbits, and the poison is so thick that it has to be ploughed out. If some of the farmers were given consideration in the matter of land rents, it might be the means of keeping them on their holdings. I hope that an investigation will be made with a view to affording them relief.

Some members are advocating the establishment of a Jewish settlement in the Kimberleys. So far I have not been convinced that the proposal is a sound one. A comprehensive scheme should be framed, including provision for marketing, before the project is seriously considered. It would be unwise to admit thousands of Jews to the North if those people eventually had to come to Perth where we already have several thousand men on relief work. Parliament should be given an opportunity to discuss the scheme before it is decided upon.

Unemployment is probably one of our greatest problems, and on this question there is no room for party politics. I feel sure that every member will support the Government in a policy to assist in getting some of the men off relief work. There must be quite a large number of men capable of doing more than they are doing to-day, provided they were given some help and opportunity. Much has been said about single men and their rate of pay, but I should like to mention two important points—firstly the difficult financial position, and secondly the scarcity of reproductive work. This scarcity is also a great problem in the other States. A Minister of the Victorian Government told me recently that one of his greatest difficulties was to find reproductive employment for relief workers. I am not trying to excuse our Government, but we must face the problem. If we admit the facts, we cannot but agree that the Government has tried to keep the men in employment in spite of difficult circumstances. There are generally two sides to every question. Some of us who travel about the country and see the relief workers have to admit the difficulty of the problem of handling several thousand unemployed. Amongst them are all classes of men, some who will give a fair

deal and others who never try to do so. Summed up, I believe the Government has made an earnest effort to treat the men fairly.

The single men, I understand, are getting only two days' work a week, enabling them to earn about 30s. Pensioners get less than that: they receive only £1 a week, on which they have to live. Although we have a large number of single men complaining of getting only 30s. a week, the fact remains that there is an absence of labour for private enterprise in country districts. It seems strange that in a country supposed to be more than 90 per cent. primary producing, we cannot get men who are prepared to work on the land. A dairy farmer in the South-West had to wait 11 months before he could obtain the services of a man to take charge of his dairy at 10s. a day and keep. We have men complaining of receiving only two days' work a week and of other disabilities, but they are not prepared to undertake rural work, which is a great disadvantage to employers requiring labour and unable to find it. Two prominent farmers in the Donnybrook district tried for three months to get men. They, too, offered 10s. per day and keep. Although in that district there were 20 or 30 men on relief work, those farmers could not obtain the labour they required. They had to go without labour while the Government was finding work for men.

I have been informed that the Fruit-growers' Association at Bridgetown had to bring 19 men from Victoria last year to pack apples. It seemed rather a tall statement that we in Western Australia with all our unemployment had to bring 19 men from Victoria to pack apples at Bridgetown. Consequently I made inquiries: the statement was confirmed, and I have reason to believe it is correct. We should not have to import one man for work of that kind. Surely we have the numbers here and amongst them men of the necessary ability to do that class of work! It is difficult to understand why so many men should be out of work. Nobody can say that our industries are stagnant. The timber industry has been booming: the goldmining industry has been going ahead, and although wheat prices are low, we are still producing a large quantity of grain, and just as much labour is required to produce wheat at 1s. a bushel as at 10s. a bushel. There seems to be a desire

on the part of many people to depend more or less on the Government. Such a policy must come to an end sooner or later.

I feel rather alarmed at the great loss incurred by the railways last year. Only a few years ago we appointed a Transport Board for the express purpose of protecting the railways. The people of the metropolitan area are exempt from the provisions of the Act; that is to say, the people living outside the metropolitan area have to bear all the increased charges and submit to the inconvenience occasioned by the passing of the Act. There is something wrong when, in spite of the work of the Transport Board, the railways show a loss of about £300,000 in one year. I have been wondering whether this is due to the railways being overmanned, though I have no information on the point. If the Railway Department has been used to absorb labour irrespective of the loss incurred, the policy is a wrong one.

Hon. J. Cornell: As a matter of fact, where the Transport Board is operating, it is saving the railways from losing further money.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: If the people throughout the State were supporting the railways, I would not feel so concerned, but the people of the country districts are being made to pay dearly for freight and to do without many conveniences in order to support the railways. This matter should be investigated, because the loss incurred by the railways is serious. If such a loss continues, it will be a bad day for the State and particularly for those people who have to submit to inconvenience. I express my appreciation of the co-operation of the Public Works Department engineers with the local authorities in the South-West Province, and also of the ready advice given by the officers of the Department of Agriculture. The assistance given by those officers to the farmers of the South-West is considerable, and is appreciated, and I hope the good feeling that exists will continue.

On motion by Hon. A. Thomson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.41 p.m.