

# Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 9th August, 1923.

	PAGE
Questions: Immigration, cost ... ..	186
Wilgarup railway project ... ..	186
Avon butter factory ... ..	186
Address-in-reply, sixth day ... ..	186

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

## QUESTION—IMMIGRATION, COST.

Mr. MUNSIE asked the Premier: 1, What has been the total cost to the State of immigration for the past five years, including the percentage of cost chargeable to the Agent General's Department? 2, Were the expenses of the Premier's trip to England during 1922 charged up to the immigration scheme?

The PREMIER replied: 1, £55,192 2s. 5d. 2, £619 5s. 6d. paid by Immigration Department.

## QUESTION—WILGARUP RAILWAY PROJECT.

Mr. LATHAM (for Mr. J. H. Smith) asked the Premier: When do the Government intend to submit a Bill for the construction of a railway from Wilgarup to Mount Barker?

The PREMIER replied: As the inspection of the land to be served is not yet completed I cannot say.

## QUESTION—AVON BUTTER FACTORY.

Mr. McCALLUM asked the Premier: 1, Is it a fact that the Government have taken over the Avon butter factory situated at Northam? 2, If the answer be in the affirmative, when was it acquired and what are the terms upon which it was taken over? 3, What is the total value of the assets and liabilities taken over? 4, What is the value of (a) land and buildings, (b) plant and machinery, (c) sundry debtors taken over, and who made the valuation? 5, Are there any contingent liabilities not included in figures quoted in answer to question No. 4?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, On 27th July, 1923. The Agricultural Bank and Treasury took possession as mortgagees, and a manager has been appointed to carry on the factory temporarily. When the business has been placed on a sound basis the question of handing same over to the co-operative company, under approved management, will be considered. Since the factory has been in existence over £70,000 has been paid to settlers. 3, Assets as per balance sheet dated 31st May, 1923, £17,111. Liabilities taken over, nil. 4, (a) £8,160; (b) £6,248; (c)

£1,280; also stores and sundries, £1,423. No official valuation has yet been made. The above figures are based on the company's latest balance sheet. 5, No.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Sixth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mrs. COWAN (West Perth) [4.35]: Most of the members who have spoken have referred to immigration. The same old cry that is being raised at present has been heard ever since this country was first settled. As long ago as 1829 we had a visitor to these shores who afterwards wrote a book. I do not think there are many people who have it, or have heard of it. The author was Dr. Wilson. During his short visit he found that many of the wrong type of immigrants had been selected for the Swan River "including lazy, idle, hulking, insolent fellows."

Hon. P. Collier: Now we know the genesis of the six families.

Mrs. COWAN: We are told that, so long ago as 1829, all the land within easy reach and transport on the Swan and Canning Rivers had been given away and was not available for closer settlement. Dr. Wilson gently suggested that if grants had been limited to a maximum of one square mile, things would have been better. Evidently an enormous acreage had been allotted to single migrants and the grants were unwieldy. The settlers had grievances then and they were heavy grievances. One was most vexing; they were taxed for pilot dues, and as there were no pilots in those days, it seems that this form of taxation was somewhat premature. Again, the civil servants were aggrieved because they were not allowed candles or oil, the Home Government having decided that there were plenty of whales on the coast and, presumably, the civil servants could go out and catch one whenever oil was required for the office lamps. I often wondered why civil servants, for many years, worked till only 4 p.m. When we read the early history, we realise that it was probably due to this one of the Government's petty economies.

Hon. P. Collier: Due to want of light.

Mrs. COWAN: We hear a lot about the hardships migrants undergo to-day. I know they have to face hardships that many who come here must find it painful and trying to meet in our hot climate and must have many disagreeable experiences. But these people do not have to meet real old-fashioned pioneering difficulties. I should like to quote from a letter written by my grandmother in 1841, in which she informed her father in England that the new settlers were pluckily facing plenty of difficulties. Two of these difficulties our newcomers have no longer to face. We hear an awful lot nowadays about the high cost of living. One of the difficulties mentioned in the letter was the high cost of necessaries en-

tailed by wheat being £1 per bushel and 2s. 6d. for the grinding, and other food equally dear. Transport from Fremantle to York in those days cost £25 per ton. I should like our friends of the Country Party and of the goldfields to remember that figure when they are discussing the terrible freights and fares charged on the railways to-day.

Mr. Latham: We would readily pay them to-day if we could get the same price for wheat.

Mrs. COWAN: The second difficulty was one which newcomers to-day are not called upon to face—the danger from the natives. In a letter written from "Grassdale," near York, she said—

Mr. Brown has accepted the appointment of assistant surveyor to the Government . . . but he will have a most difficult task to perform, not unattended with danger. Two soldiers will constantly attend him for protection and a civilian also to take care of baggage, instruments, etc. In case of any disturbance from the natives, a detachment of soldiers would have to be sent for from the nearest barracks to quell it.

The nearest barracks, so far as I can remember, was 60 miles away, and I cannot imagine any disturbance on the part of the natives being quelled with satisfaction to the sufferers after having to send that distance. But it indicates one of the dangers with which the early pioneers had to contend, and yet we spend a tremendous amount of, I think, unnecessary sympathy on those who are coming out now, especially when we remember they are of exactly the same blood as our early pioneers, and will ultimately make good in just the same splendid way. These trials did not hurt the early pioneers or their descendants, and I do not think the lesser trials of to-day will hurt the newcomers, though I do wish to see everything possible done to help them and make the burden easier for the women and children. Group settlements are said to present many hardships nowadays, but those hardships can be faced and overcome. I was greatly interested the other day in a letter I received from a woman relative, who is helping her husband to found a home on one of these blocks. Speaking of the trials of a woman in a farming district, she said, "Happy the country and the woman with no history, but oh, how dull! Do collect all the news you can for me."

Hon. P. Collier: That is a woman all over.

Mrs. COWAN: I quite agree, but if it makes her happy, she is in a better position to make happy her man when he comes home to enjoy the good things of the table that she has prepared for him. There has been a lot of criticism of the Premier's defiant optimism in this matter. As a descendant of one of the early pioneers, I am ready to stand by the Premier in his defiant optimism, or by any other person at the head of affairs that is desirous of carrying out a similar policy. There

can be no question about that policy being the right one. Even the Leader of the Opposition, I think, does not really feel all that he says, if one is to judge by the glint of his eye. I believe that if he were in the same position as the Premier, he would have a certain defiant optimism on this question of immigration, just as the Premier of Queensland has. When listening to the criticism of the member for Kaituma (Mr. A. Thomson) and also that of the member for Claremont (Mr. J. Thomson), which were not nearly so constructive as they might have been, I thought that possibly it was a case of "Save me from my friends." If those two hon. members really support the immigration policy, why not help us by bringing to bear on the problem all the constructive wisdom at their command? Let the whole House join hands in an endeavour to do everything possible to make this country what it should be. I feel that we shall survive these troubles just as the settlers of 1828 and 1843 survived theirs. We reap the results to-day in a building where we have the lines of government and law-making laid down as those early settlers could never have imagined in their wildest dreams. Therefore I do not think we need be as pessimistic as the president of the Primary Producers' Association sometimes seems. I have a great admiration personally for that gentleman.

Hon. P. Collier: Political admiration is all right, but personal!

Mrs. COWAN: I do not think anybody has the right to go on posing as the "guide, philosopher, and friend" of the community generally unless he is prepared to stand up to criticism, unless he is prepared to come out fairly into the open and stand for Parliament and let us know what he really does think, so giving us the opportunity, if we think it desirable, to take him as our guide, philosopher, and friend. I speak feelingly on this subject, because one of the reasons why I myself am in this House is that I perhaps have been to some extent the guide, philosopher, and friend of other women. When invited to stand for this Parliament, I therefore had to stand, though I never thought of so doing, and never expected to be here. It is a much nicer rôle to keep in the background and pull the strings and direct other people what to do, in fact to be the power behind the throne, than to stand up here and be the target of all sections of the community. Therefore I think we ought to have a constructive policy from the president of the Primary Producers' Association. Let him come right out and enter the next Parliament and give us his views here. Perhaps I shall not be here to listen to them, but I can learn from outside what they are. Then the president of the Primary Producers' Association will learn what are the difficulties to be encountered when he tries to convince other people.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Don't you think he would lose his power if he came here?

Mrs. COWAN: I am not going into that side of the question. That is not my business.

But I know that everybody who comes here learns a good deal if he has any sense, and for one thing learns to be balanced. During the last few days we have heard a good deal about the wages given to new settlers. I have had a good many letters from various migrants, women as well as men, and have not had any complaints with regard to the wages paid. A man told me that he gave up his job deliberately, although he was quite contented and happy in it, because he wanted to do something else. This also has not been satisfactory, and he is now unemployed. He was getting £3 a week and his keep. Therefore I can confirm the statements of the member for York (Mr. Latham) as to wages paid to new arrivals.

Mr. Corboy: You say it is all correct because of one case.

The Colonial Secretary: The member for York quoted several cases.

Mrs. COWAN: I support the Premier's policy because it is the only one before us at present. I do hope the Government will do something in the matter of an agricultural college. Such a college would afford sensible and practical training for young men who wish to gain a knowledge of agriculture in different centres, seeing that we have entirely different types of soil and even of climate to deal with in the tremendous area of this State. I hope we shall not have any opposition in this respect from other sections of the community. The "Sunday Times" puts the case for an agricultural college remarkably well—

We have colossal problems to solve, agricultural and pastoral, and yet the Agricultural Department have a smaller vote and a smaller staff than that of any other mainland State. Out of the total production of nearly 23 millions sterling, those two industries, agricultural and pastoral, yield upwards of 14 millions, while mining gives us very little more than three millions.

We want to do a fair thing to all, and I think we should not hear quite such bitter animosity as we do from time to time, from people who seem to think that when a little money is spent in one direction it is something that another section are robbed of. It is a great pity that that spirit should come in, because logically industries that bring us in 14 millions deserve more consideration than those that bring us in the lesser amount. I am sorry that the Premier, when speaking the other day, made no mention of the splendid work which has been done by the Women's Immigration Auxiliary Council, a body that was formed a little more than 12 months ago. I know that he does appreciate their work, and that he recognises their assistance as being very valuable. I did hope that I, as the only woman here, would not have to allude to that work, or bring it forward in any way; but I have come to the conclusion that it is not altogether wise to allow the women's side of the work of this community to be always hidden, as with the light, under a bushel. It is a body compris-

ing 100 women who are accepted by the Government as an auxiliary council. It consists of sub-committees, who meet women from Home on their arrival here, give them advice, visit them if they are in hospital, and look after them in many ways. I have here a letter which is quite interesting to quote, especially in view of what the Leader of the Opposition has said regarding the political work of the women of the community being greatly appreciated. The letter says—

On behalf of the settlers on the above group (No. 3, Manjimup), I desire to thank you and your council most sincerely for the kind thought in sending along bundles of reading matter. I can assure you that your action and interest are greatly appreciated, especially by the womenfolk, several of whom are by themselves all day, while the children are at school and husbands at work. I must thank you myself also, since the books and papers help to make the people more happy, and a happy group is a contented group, and a happy, contented group is a joy to yours faithfully.

That is a great tribute to the work of the women, and all the other committees have similar testimonials. The council is also looking after the women in the home and taking them to picture shows and giving them entertainments. We are also taking them to private houses, where they are met in the right way, and given the right kind of social welcome. If similar action is taken in every direction, something can be accomplished in making them feel at home. I would like to thank the Premier for sending a most delightful message to the Women's Migration Auxiliary Committee, which was given them yesterday, and which I can assure the Premier was much appreciated. He will probably see references to it in the Press later on. There is another matter I wish to touch on, and it is that the Government are considering the necessity for attending to the civil service grade increases. I am very glad to know this, and I trust that something really definite is going to be done at last. It is only a fair thing for those people, who have been all these years kept in suspense by one Government and another Government, and by one Commissioner and another Commissioner, until they do not know where they are.

Mr. Corboy: It is a pre-election half-promise.

Mrs. COWAN: I think it will be a very wise and right thing to grant those increases. The civil servants should be given the fair and just consideration to which they are entitled. We should remember in this House that the civil servants are a decided asset to the community in every respect. One thing to their credit is that they were the first body of people in this State to start vocational training for the soldiers, and that they found means to provide for the work some considerable time before it was taken over by others. That stands greatly to their credit. Again, it was the civil servants who created the dis-

tress fund which was such a valuable organisation during the war, and the work of which was so admirable. Through the agency of the National Council of Women the most valuable assistance was rendered by them in the distress which existed on the land during the war. So that all sections of the community have a right to feel grateful for what was done by them. I always deprecate very strongly, perhaps owing to my being the wife of a civil servant who was 50 years in the service, when I hear from time to time the carping criticism cast on that body of men and women by some members of this House. The civil servants are, as regards the main body, thoroughly straightforward and able men. For that reason I hope that the tone and attitude to which I have referred will not be renewed, because such statements are not conducive to making the civil servants do their very best by the community, especially when this, the highest body in the land, never gives them a note or a word of appreciation. I noticed with pleasure that the Government propose to erect a mental detention ward, though I do not altogether agree with the site which has been chosen at Point Resolution. I am glad that the Government have realised the absolute necessity for such a ward. All those of us who are members of the Hospital Board recognise the importance of having such a ward and are glad that the Government have at last made a definite move. The women's bodies who are doing active work in various humane directions appreciate the attitude of the Colonial Secretary towards these questions. He is following admirably in the footsteps of his predecessor, the member for Beverley (Mr. Broun), who displayed a very live interest in these matters. Of course it was not always his fault that he was not able to do everything that he would have desired, and we therefore cannot hold Mr. Broun responsible for the fact that the mental detention ward is still where we find it to-day. I would, however, urge on the Government to reconsider the question of site. I doubt whether Point Resolution is the best that could be chosen on which to erect the ward. As a woman I deprecate strongly the taking away of valuable river sites of this description from public use. The picked positions on the river should be retained for the benefit of the community, where the people may indulge in sports and enjoy freedom on their holidays.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The experts recommended a river site.

Mrs. COWAN: Quite so, but there are other river sites which would not interfere with the rights of the people, and which would be just as suitable as that at Point Resolution. Of course I am not an expert, and perhaps I have no right to criticise the opinions of experts, but while they may theoretically know what is best, they are not always infallible in such matters. We have many miles of river frontage from the Upper Swan reaches away down to Fremantle, and

surely it ought to be possible to select a position on which to erect the ward without causing inconvenience to the community and interfering with its rights. Our reserves, especially those with river frontages, should, in my opinion, be kept for the people, for all time.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You realise that this is not to be an asylum; it is to be a detention ward.

Mrs. COWAN: I realise that, but we must not forget that in such a ward we frequently get a risky type of patient.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Not in such a ward.

Mrs. COWAN: Oh yes. If we are to place a mental ward in the vicinity of a small settled community, our action will not be conducive to the peace of mind of the residents of the locality.

The Colonial Secretary: No person who has been certified to be insane will be received there.

Mrs. COWAN: But these people are often really insane and it is not until they have been treated at the ward and it is found they are actually mental that they are sent away. They may often be incipiently insane when received there.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You cannot do too much for these people.

Mrs. COWAN: I agree and am glad to know that the Colonial Secretary is showing sympathetic consideration for those who are permanent inmates of the Hospital for the Insane, and especially for those who have lucid intervals. It is sad to know that these people have often been detained in the ordinary quarters of the asylum, and have not been given many of those little extras which might have done much towards mitigating their difficult conditions. I hope what the Minister proposes to do will lead to good results, for we need to do more for these cases.

The Colonial Secretary: I hope members will not stop me from doing what is best.

Mr. Mann: Don't be stopped.

Mrs. COWAN: I wish to say a few words on the housing question. We have been told that it is the intention of the Government to present this session a Town Planning Bill. I hope that they will not again fail in this direction and that we shall be able to do something more in connection with town planning than has been done in the past. Until we adopt a scheme of this description, as well as a different method of taxation, it will be impossible to do what the best authorities suggest. It would certainly be wise to allow the local bodies the option of taxing on the improved or unimproved value, so long as there was uniformity. In some districts taxation is levied in one way and in others in a different way. Uniformity would help considerably to establish the success of town planning proposals. We should realise how short we are of houses, and attention ought to be given to what is being done in the other States. It is certainly time that we here did more than we are actually doing. I would like to see the Workers' Homes

Act made to apply to the metropolitan area, and at the same time to see the Government adopt a scheme on the lines of that in force in Queensland by which it would be possible to provide houses for people earning incomes of not more than £160 to £200 per annum, and thus enable those people to purchase their homes in from 15 to 20 years. The cost of such homes need not be more than, say, £450.

Capt. Carter: What sort of houses would they be.

Mrs. COWAN: They would be constructed of wood. We know it would not be possible to build a house of brick and mortar for that price. In Queensland there is not much to be seen in the way of bricks or stone. I am glad to learn that the Minister for Railways has decided that he will endeavour to do something in the direction of reducing railway and tramway fares, and that he proposes to give consideration in this respect to married men and school children. That will mean that it will be possible to bring into being better housing schemes, and we shall no longer have the spectacle which exists to-day of so many people being crowded together in premises that were never intended to accommodate so many. There is far too much of that sort of thing going on to-day as people cannot afford to pay 30s. a week for four-roomed houses, some of which are without anything in the shape of conveniences. It is time that serious consideration was given to this problem, and therefore one is glad to know the Government are serious in respect of town planning proposals. The result cannot be otherwise than good. I thank the Premier on behalf of the women of the community, and the men, too, for that matter—the subject is just as important for the men as it is for the women—for having granted to us the small sum of £200 with which to start baby health centres. No more important work than that can be undertaken in a community, and it has been a great surprise to us that no Government in the past has attempted to do anything in this direction. The importance of protecting child life cannot be over estimated, especially when we find that in Western Australia the death rate is 78.26 per thousand while in Queensland it is 54.16. The reason for the comparatively low rate in Queensland, as well as the lower rate than ours in most of the other States, is that the Governments in other parts of Australia realise the need for spending money in the direction of saving child life. I have information which tells me that in Brisbane, for instance, maternity training schools for nurses are being established. They have in that city four baby clinics, while there are six in outside centres, and all are maintained entirely by the Government. Then again we find that in Sydney, Government assistance for the past three years has been given to the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers, and special baby grants have been made. Towards the erection of buildings no less a sum than £5,615 has been granted. For the year ended June last the amount spent on baby clinics was £30,718, on salaries £4,138, and on con-

tingencies £14,021. These figures are exclusive of subsidies and special grants to various institutions for the treatment and care of children and are also exclusive of the expenditure on the State Childrens' Relief Department. When Western Australia approaches the stage arrived at in New South Wales we shall be in a very much better position than we are in now. We have two associations here who have started the clinics and the Government, as I have said, have helped us with a grant of £200 a year—while the municipality gives £200 and £100 comes from each association, thus making the total amount required. We hope to see this sum of money grow yearly and it is our wish that the Government will realise the great importance of the work being undertaken, and will put on the Estimates the sum of at least £1,000 to enable us to carry on the work in other towns and in the country districts. Those who are living at the group settlements need assistance in this way. Training should be given to the mothers regarding the health of infants and how to keep them healthy. Only the other day a telegram received from the Commissioner of Health in Brisbane was to the effect that the expenditure in that State last year in connection with baby clinics was £2,572 and in addition to that a grant was made by the Government of £1,200 for the Kindergarten Association, while no less than £5,500 was spent on buildings. This should make the Government of Western Australia realise our request is a modest one. All the same we thank the Premier for having agreed to give us this first £200 because we realise it means that we can make a start. I believe our health expenditure is actually £21,016 per annum, although the vote is £31,071. It appears that of that £31,071 no less than £8,809 goes to the sanitation of Government and public buildings. Surely this should be charged to some other vote. It hardly seems a fair deal to the Health Department that no change should be made in that respect, and that it should not be possible to allow the department that full amount of £31,071 unhampered in any way. Some further allowance ought to be made to the Health Department, because the present position is most misleading to the public. Lately I have been approached by several people on the subject of undesirable books and picture postcards—I am not referring to the cinema pictures. The books and picture cards complained of are distinctly of an immoral tone, and verge on the indecent. We have an Act (Ed. VII., No. 14) under which one would imagine that everything could be done. However, I find it is extremely difficult to deal with these undesirable productions. I spoke to the Commissioner of Police and asked whether he could not take action. He admitted that these books and pictures had a very bad effect, but it seems there is very little he can do. Surely something could be done! If the Government cannot deal with the matter satisfactorily under the Act on the statute-book, I want to know

why they cannot take other steps, perhaps give us a board of censors.

Mr. Mann: Can it not be dealt with in the courts?

Mrs. COWAN: No, because the juries refuse to regard these books and picture cards as being vicious. Of course, when we have already vitiated the moral tone of the people, we cannot expect them to say that a thing is harmful to the younger members of the community. Yet we know that these picture cards and books are harmful, and, without being the least bit of a wowsler, I cannot imagine any hon. member thinking that nothing should be done to check this evil. If we cannot do it on the existing laws, we should have a board of censors. It would be more effective than trial by jury. I feel sure the Police Department thoroughly approve of and sympathise with my views in this respect. I should like to say a word in regard to what has been said about local manufacture of pipes for the water supply extension. I entirely agree with the remarks made by the member for Perth (Mr. Mann) the other day, and hope that every possible consideration will be given to the local tenderers, and that the Government will not even attempt to put up any sort of machinery or plant with a view to having the pipes made departmentally. It is a mistake for us to go on tinkering with these things in that way. I listened to the debate in the House last year, when a good deal was said about the State Trading Concerns. I then came to the conclusion that the more we did to assist private enterprise, the better. Some hon. members wanted to do away with one thing, while others wished to see the last of another. None seemed to consider the question of principle, nor could hon. members make up their minds to trust the Government to deal with these things. However, I think we can trust the Government, and therefore I am opposed to the setting up of another expensive plant in order that the Government might do this work themselves, to the detriment of private enterprise. We ought to learn a lesson from what was said in the Eastern States the other day in respect of the fruit pool. We should profit by such lessons more than we seem ready to do.

Mr. E. H. ANGELO (Gasecoyne) [5.20]: I think everybody who listened to the Governor's Speech a fortnight ago was delighted that it should have been delivered by the present occupant of Government House. Numbers of people were afraid that when His Excellency reached Home, family ties and past associations probably would induce him to remain there. We are fortunate in having him back here. We should be grateful to him for the good work he did in England, and also for the keen interest he has taken in visiting all parts of the State and making himself acquainted with the conditions of the people over whom he presides as the King's representative. I am pleased that during the recess a number of members of the Assembly,

including yourself, Sir, were able to visit the North-West.

Mr. Clydesdale: And see the bananas.

Mr. ANGELO: I have had several letters from my electors expressing their pleasure at having had the Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader, and other members of the Assembly in their midst. In addition to the trip which you, Sir, took, the members for Wagin (Mr. Stubbs) and for Guildford (Mr. Davies) were able to visit the North on other occasions. These visits encourage the people of the North and give them confidence that members of Parliament have their interests at heart. Also such visits enable members to learn from personal observation some of the conditions which the people of the North have to encounter as the result of their distance from the capital, in the same way as we all suffer through our remoteness from the Federal capital. The members of your party, Sir, also visited a portion of the Far East, and, no doubt, you are now able to appreciate to an even greater extent than before the menace of the Asiatic races to the North of our State. We have been told by military experts that the next war—

Mr. Marshall: Where are you getting to now? We were told that the last war was to stop war.

Mr. ANGELO: We have been told that the war centre will shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We see those predictions materialising in the huge expenditure about to be made on the naval base at Singapore. It brings us to the fact that within a few days' sail of our northern shores we have a thousand million coloured people increasing at the rate of five millions per annum.

Mr. Marshall: Are you in favour of cutting up the pastoral leases with a view to expediting the peopling of the North?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ANGELO: The hon. members who made that trip will now be able to realise the truth of the late Lord Northcote's utterance when he said that a person standing on our northern shores could almost smell the East on the spice-laden breezes that blow from the north.

Hon. P. Collier: But you advocate the bringing in of coloured labour.

Mr. ANGELO: Recently the captain of the "Bambra" told me that on several occasions he had seen pearling luggers belonging to Malays, and also small dhows, trespassing and poaching on our coast.

Mr. Marshall: They are British subjects. So is the Chow of Hong Kong.

Mr. ANGELO: Also many of our guano islands are being depleted by those same pirates. That alone should show how close is this menace to us. Therefore it behoves us when speaking of population to consider what portion of the continent should first be peopled. We have embarked on this huge immigration scheme. What were the reasons advanced for the scheme? The

Premier has told us, and every hon. member who has spoken has agreed, that the scheme has been launched with a view to populating the empty spaces of Western Australia, principally from a defence point of view. That being so, where is the most vulnerable part of Western Australia? Of course it is in the North-West. Therefore, if we are going to populate Western Australia, surely we should start at that part where population is most needed for the purposes of defence.

Hon. P. Collier: What is the use of talking of populating the North when it is under pastoral lease for the next 40 years?

Mr. Lambert: It is sheer hypocrisy.

Hon. P. Collier: It makes one sick. We know how you voted on the 40 years lease proposition.

Mr. ANGELO: Why, I was not here at that time.

Hon. P. Collier: You have supported subsequent amendments. It is the greatest hypocrisy.

Mr. ANGELO: When in Queensland I made inquiries and found that every effort is there being made to place the migrants in those areas which have the same latitude as our North-West. The Government of Queensland realise that it is in the far north that population is most needed for defence.

Mr. Marshall: Did you find out if the million-acre policy is in existence there?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ANGELO: I am pleased that the Premier has appointed Mr. Ewing as Minister for the North-West. I have known him for many years.

Mr. Marshall: That is a good recommendation.

Mr. ANGELO: He is a gentleman who will see that anything he takes in hand is carried out to the best of his ability; but he has a hard row to hoe.

Mr. Lambert: No doubt!

Mr. ANGELO: He is a South-West man and has been brought up under South-West conditions. It will take him some time to become acquainted with the North-West. I feel certain, however, he will lose no time in learning about it, and will make every effort to visit the North-West on every possible occasion. It is necessary to do that before one can realise the problems to be handled there. North-West members will be only too pleased to give him every assistance and all the information at their disposal. The Speech contains the usual reference to North-West development. The member for Mt. Magnet (Hon. M. F. Troy) read it last night. It is very brief. It says that the development of the North and the North-West continues to receive special consideration and that a tropical agricultural expert has been appointed. It also says that the Agent General Designate has been making inquiries as to the cotton industry, etc. Every one of these Speeches, to which I have listened for a number of years, contains the same pious resolution regarding the North. I did hope the Premier would have enlarged upon this

matter in his speech. All he said concerning the North-West was—

The North-West is to be developed. I hardly know where the people are to come from for that part of the State.

That is all the information we have from the Premier as to how the North-West is to be developed.

Mr. Lambert: Burst up the big estates and employ white people.

Mr. ANGELO: If the Premier had told us that we should have had something to go upon.

Mr. Corboy: Would you assist him to do that?

Mr. ANGELO: Major Boyd was here a little while ago. He was sent out by a number of Indian officers to inquire into the conditions in Australia, and see what would be the most favourable part for Indian officers to settle in. I had a talk with him about the Gaseoyne, and the possibility of settlement there. He said that part of Western Australia would be more agreeable to the men who had lived for some years in tropical India. I asked him to have a chat with Ministers, but evidently nothing further transpired.

Mr. Mann: How are the settlers in your district getting along?

Mr. ANGELO: I will come to them. People are leaving the North because there is no way of embarking upon any other occupation except the pastoral industry.

Mr. Corboy: And that is all locked up.

Mr. ANGELO: I am dealing with the statement of the Premier that he does not know where the people are to come from to populate the North. I have known people come from Queensland to inquire into the conditions of the North, but they had to go away because they could not get land. Today there are people here who have been accustomed to tropical agriculture and who are willing to go North, but they have not so far been able to get the necessary financial assistance from the Government. How is it that Queensland is getting the right class of people? They are populating the portion of their State that is in the same latitude as the part of Western Australia to which I refer, and for which the Premier does not know how he is going to get population.

Mr. Lambert: You can put it in one word—Theodore.

Mr. ANGELO: During the past seven years there has been only one work of a developmental nature that has been undertaken in the North-West by a Liberal, National or Country Party Government. I refer to the Beadon jetty, a long delayed work that has at last been started. There have been other works of a maintenance character.

The Minister for Works: Are you satisfied with the jetty?

Mr. ANGELO: I am delighted at its having been started, but it should have been started 15 years ago.

Mr. Lambert: You have had the Carnarvon freezing works.

Mr. ANGELO: That is a private, not a Government concern.

The Minister for Works: What about the Wyndham Meat Works?

Mr. Lambert: I think the Government are first mortgagees of the Carnarvon works.

Mr. ANGELO: Yes.

The Minister for Works: What about the various water works?

Mr. ANGELO: Surely these are works of a maintenance character. There is nothing new in water supplies; they must follow the population. I have no doubt the people will very quickly pay for their water schemes.

Mr. Lambert: Just as they have paid for their rabbit-proof fence.

Mr. ANGELO: They are paying for that in accordance with the agreement. The hon. member should make himself more fully acquainted with the position of affairs before he utters such statements. The officers of the North-West Department down here are doing their utmost to give satisfaction to the North. The department was created for a purpose quite different from that for which it is now being used. It was created to organise and control the development of the North. Unfortunately of late it has been asked to take over the functions of other departments, such as the Public Works. This was not intended in the first instance. The officers, however, are doing all they can to carry out the work, but they can do nothing of a developmental nature whilst they are under the domination of an unsympathetic Treasurer. I have known of works, even maintenance works, being put on the draft Estimates and a blue pencil run through them. It is impossible for these important and necessary works to be carried out if no funds are allocated.

Mr. Lambert: The Government have spent £100,000 in your district that they will never get back, and you know it.

Mr. ANGELO: What is that?

Mr. Lambert: In connection with the fish, canning, and freezing works. You have not even paid the interest.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ANGELO: The hon. member does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. Lambert: I will ask some questions about the matter on Tuesday.

Mr. ANGELO: I hope the hon. member will do so. If the Government cannot afford to develop the North, or to vote any money for important works there, they should tell the Commonwealth and Imperial Governments of their inability to do so. It is a national undertaking. The security of Australia and the Empire is in a great measure involved in defending the North, at present the weakest link in Empire defence. It must be populated, and if Western Australia cannot do it the Imperial and Commonwealth Governments should be asked to assist, possibly out of their defence votes.

Mr. Lambert: Would you defend it with another couple of freezing works?

Mr. ANGELO: The hon. member ought to visit the North for himself. If the State Government can raise a special loan for the North it should be done at once.

Hon. P. Collier: Has not Mr. Miles obtained £12,000,000?

Mr. ANGELO: I do not know, but if he has it will be in connection with a private enterprise.

Hon. P. Collier: That would help the North.

Mr. ANGELO: I hope he has it in his pocket. The Government ought to borrow £2,000,000 to start with for the development of the North, in the same way that a previous Government borrowed money for the development of the goldfields and water supplies. Any money spent in the North will be reproductive, take my word for that. The North only requires to be opened up to return to the State a greater amount of money than it is returning to-day.

Mr. Marshall: What do you propose?

Mr. ANGELO: If the Government cannot help they should appeal to the Commonwealth and Imperial Governments.

Hon. T. Walker: In what way would you settle new people up there?

Mr. ANGELO: I will come to that. I am in favour of the immigration scheme. I wonder, however, if we have not started in the wrong place. We ought to be placing these settlers upon areas from which quicker returns can be secured. In the warmer climates of Queensland very much quicker returns can be obtained from the expenditure of money than could be the case in our southern climates. A large proportion of our soldier settlement could have been established in areas from which there would be quicker returns. Then there is the question of the work in which the new settlers are engaged. Some are fruit growing, some are dairying, and some are growing vegetables. The member for Mt. Magnet (Hon. M. P. Troy) related a sorry story last night of what is happening in the fruit industry. There is a comparatively small market for fruit. I have known of thousands of cases of fruit sent home to England which have not returned the growers any profit, much less a return for their outlay and work.

Mr. Wilson: It is the same here. They cannot get the cost of cartage.

Mr. Marshall: Here is the reason why they cannot—middlemen!

Mr. ANGELO: I agree with that. If we are to increase our fruit production, we must look around for a market, and it is questionable whether favourable markets will be found. Then, as regards the dairying industry, why is it that Australian butter is being sold in England at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 6d. a lb.? In fact, an attempt was made to send some of our butter back to Australia from England. If we produce more than sufficient for our own requirements, Western Australia must look elsewhere to dispose of her produce, and another marketing difficulty arises. Wheat, again, is a fluctuating commodity. I



have heard the question raised as to whether it will become a very profitable undertaking to grow wheat in the future. Great Britain furnishes our largest market for these commodities, but they get fruit more cheaply from America than they can get it from Australia.

Mr. Lambert: That is absolutely incorrect. You are talking of something you know nothing about.

Mr. ANGELO: I was talking about fruit, not wheat. It must be remembered that wheat is a hard commodity to sell in some years. There is one product, however, that we know of in Australia, and especially in Western Australia, that the world will come and buy. There is no need whatever for us to find a market for that product, for it is already available to us. I refer to wool. We should do our utmost to extend the production of wool. Four or five years ago I was criticised in this Chamber when I suggested that we should turn Western Australia, as far as possible, into a huge sheep station, so that we could grow as many sheep and as much wool as possible.

The Minister for Agriculture: Plenty of sheep and no people.

Mr. ANGELO: Not at all. Years ago mutton was the chief reason for growing sheep, and wool was the side line. Now the position is reversed. I should like to quote some figures of the number of sheep carried in the different States. In Victoria, which we sometimes compare with our far South-West, they are carrying 12,100,000 sheep; New South Wales, which is about the size of our wheat areas, carries 13,700,000 sheep; Queensland, which is about the size of our North-West, carries 17,400,000 sheep; South Australia, 6,300,000; and Western Australia, 6,532,000. The figures, however, are not so significant as those we find when we consider the number of sheep carried per square mile.

Hon. T. Walker: That is hardly fair to Western Australia, for here we may be termed a baby in comparison.

Mr. ANGELO: That is so, and I realise that Western Australia represents a third of the Commonwealth. At the same time it must be remembered that we started as a colony at about the same time as the Eastern States.

Hon. P. Collier: But it was only when the migrants came here that the country started to go ahead.

Mr. ANGELO: That may be so, but the fact remains that Western Australia is backward, and I am merely drawing attention to one way in which we can improve our position. In Victoria the number of sheep carried per square mile is 138.5; in New South Wales, 108.9; Queensland, 25.9; South Australia, 16.7; and Western Australia, 6.7. These figures indicate how very backward we are regarding the number of sheep carried per square mile. I have other figures that are also important. The wool production of the world represents 2,608,445,000 lbs. in weight, and of that total Australia produces 631,290,000 lbs. These figures show that our

sparsely populated Commonwealth produces a quarter of the wool of the world. When we come to merino wools we find that Australia produces three-quarters of the world's output. We in Western Australia are not doing our share in that production. That is one direction in which we should endeavour to increase our production.

Mr. Richardson: How do you propose to do it?

Mr. ANGELO: I am coming to that. People sometimes say that there are no pastoral areas available. I am told on good authority that there is a large area available on the table lands of the Kimberleys. I have not been there myself.

Mr. Underwood: But that is all occupied.

Mr. ANGELO: But they are not growing sheep there. There is plenty of land in the Kimberleys off the table lands where cattle can be grown. There is a very large area that should be growing sheep. The member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) will bear me out when I say that sheep-carrying country in his district was considerably increased when the Port Hedland-Marble Bar railway was constructed. If we in the Gascoyne could only have the railway constructed from Carnarvon to the Junction, it would open up millions of acres of country capable of carrying sheep. At present the land there is too far from the port to cart the wool. I went over portion of this country two months ago and for mile after mile I passed through magnificent sheep country. All that is there at present represents a few hundred head of cattle. Even the people there are disappointed with the existing state of affairs. They realise that the country would carry sheep, but distance from port prevents them from going in for the wool growing industry. When the railway is constructed the industry will become possible. Official reports claim that the railway is not warranted from the point of view of earnings, although they say it may be warranted from the developmental aspect. The officials base their calculation on a return of 6d. per ton per mile. Our pastoralists are paying 1s. 3d. per ton per mile for the conveyance of their products now, and they would be prepared to pay 1s. per ton per mile by rail until such time as the line became a paying proposition. When that stage was reached they would be entitled to a reduction. It has been said that the pastoralists would not agree to such a charge, but I have an assurance that they would be agreeable to that payment. Mention has been made of Mr. Miles, M.L.C., and his mission to London. The scheme he advocated has for its object the opening up of 32 million acres of country, and the scheme is a good one.

The Minister for Agriculture: Where is that land?

Mr. ANGELO: East of Carnarvon, extending along the upper reaches of the Gascoyne River and its tributaries.

Mr. Lambert: Practically all of that is settled.

Mr. Marshall: About eight million acres have been taken up.

Mr. ANGELO: That is eight million acres out of the 32 millions. Of the eight millions I guarantee that only two million acres are carrying sheep. The rest of the country is carrying cattle, although it is all good sheep country. If the ranges and the poor country included in that area were set down at 25 per cent., it would still leave 24 million acres available.

The Minister for Agriculture: What areas would be required.

Mr. ANGELO: That is a matter that will have to be gone into. I am just indicating where the available pastoral areas are located.

Mr. Marshall: But they are all taken up.

Mr. Lambert: What do they want the Government to do regarding the eight million acres already taken up?

Mr. ANGELO: During a recent visit to the wheat areas, especially around Merredin and Bruce Rock, I was surprised to see the huge amount of stubble that had to be burned off each year. All that country there would carry sheep well. When I was travelling from Adelaide to Port Augusta, I was struck by the fact that almost every alternate paddock as far north as Quorn was under wheat, the other paddocks having sheep running over them. The settlers there are doing very well with mixed farming. That is another way we could advance our interests in Western Australia, for we could turn the stubble and grass now going to waste, into sheep and thus into wool. The Government should assist people by providing fencing wire and windmills as well as other necessities. Good water is obtainable in the areas I refer to and that has been fully established.

Mr. Lambert: What about the primary producers' bank? This work was to be one of the objects of that institution.

Mr. ANGELO: When the bank is established, we will do our share.

Mr. Lambert: You will not give them a penny, and you know it! You will do them for their capital!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ANGELO: This is a matter the Government should consider seriously. The Government should also consider the advisability of purchasing breeding ewes and making them available to the farmers. America that can compete with us in almost everything is sending to Australia and paying 2s. 6d. a pound for our wool which, after being freighted to America, has to bear a duty of 1s. 3d. per pound. If the Americans can afford to do this, it is proof that they must have our wool.

Hon. T. Walker: Is not that sufficient inducement to produce it?

Mr. ANGELO: It is, but the Government, instead of turning their attention to the growing of more fruit, of which we have a surplus which it is difficult to market, and to the raising of dairy products, the market for which fluctuates so greatly—

Mr. Lambert: We are importing a lot.

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, but when we are able to supply our own requirements, the production of wool will pay much better. Therefore our chief energy should be diverted to producing more wool. Instead of the slogan "Produce, produce, produce," let us adopt, "Wool, wool, wool."

Mr. Marshall: The other night it was "Water, water, water."

Mr. ANGELO: Reference has been made to the question of subdividing pastoral areas. I am not in favour of repudiating existing contracts, but there are other ways by which the object of members can be attained. Most of the stations have been held by men who went to the North as lads and spent most of their lives battling, until recently, against extremely adverse conditions.

Mr. Lambert: Cannot you shed a tear or two?

Mr. ANGELO: They had to contend with low prices for their meat and wool and with very poor facilities for getting their produce to a port. Mr. Bush on one occasion went to Dalgety's and asked them to relieve him as he could carry on no longer. That man suffered hardship decade after decade, but eventually he pulled through and made good. Would anyone deprive of his station a man who had worked so hard and spent three-fourths of his life in this pioneering work? There are other ways of fulfilling our desires.

Mr. Munsie: What are they?

Mr. ANGELO: Over a dozen stations in my district have changed hands during the last 12 months. Two years ago I suggested that the Government should amend the Land Act so that any person desirous of selling his station must give the Government the first option. When a man notified his intention of selling he should receive no further consideration, his object being to get out of the industry. The idea was to let him have his price, but he should give the Government a two months' option. It would be necessary to provide that he should not ask of the Government more than he would be prepared to accept from a private buyer.

Mr. Lambert: Not more than he was prepared to pay taxation on. That is the game.

Mr. ANGELO: The Government, having the re-appraisal values, could immediately subdivide the country on paper and advertise for tenders for the various portions of the station. If the station comprised a million acres, it could be subdivided into ten stations and a proportion of the stock delivered on each.

Mr. Lambert: Your economics resemble Brewster's millions.

Mr. ANGELO: If the tenders received equalled the total asked by the vendor, the sale could take place. If the aggregate was less, the vendor and tenderers could meet and discuss the matter and in almost every case a sale would be effected. If that had been done in my district, we might have had 40 stations in place of the 12 which have recently changed hands.

Mr. Chesson: And they might have been in the hands of one man.

Mr. ANGELO: That could be guarded against. A homestead and staff would have been required for each and we should probably have had 30 more homesteads and 300 or 400 additional people. When a big station is offered for sale, only about half a dozen people in the State would be able to buy it. If it were cut into six or seven areas, perhaps 100 people would be in a position to purchase. There are numbers of young men serving an apprenticeship as jackeroos, overseers, and foremen, learning the pastoral industry in the hope of getting holdings of their own. They cannot find areas. The stations are snapped up by big people who have the money.

Mr. Lambert: Is that right?

Mr. ANGELO: I regret it.

Mr. Lambert: Will you try to remedy it?

Mr. ANGELO: I am suggesting how to remedy it.

Mr. Lambert: We do not want fantastic ideas.

Mr. ANGELO: There is nothing fantastic about my proposal. We might have had 40 more stations in my district and this could have been brought about without doing anything in the nature of repudiation. Of course anything savouring of repudiation would affect our relations with the financial houses in the Old Country that have so ably assisted the pastoral industry in the past.

Mr. Lambert: Can you persuade the primary producers to take over the freezing works at Carnarvon?

Mr. ANGELO: The stocking clauses are a little too liberal. A man can hold a big parcel of land by running a comparatively few head of stock.

The Minister for Agriculture: Season in and season out, are they too liberal?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, they should be made more rigid. A pastoralist should be compelled to use every acre he possibly can. Some stations have 100,000 acres of country more than has ever been used.

Mr. Lambert: Would you support a motion directing the Government to rigidly enforce the stocking clauses?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes.

Mr. Lambert: I shall give you an opportunity.

The Minister for Agriculture: Have you considered drought conditions?

Mr. ANGELO: I am of opinion that the stocking conditions could be made more rigid. Big tracts of country are being held by men who are running a few head of stock.

Mr. Marshall: Are not they in a happy position if they can finance their holdings under such conditions?

Mr. ANGELO: Perhaps they are holding on in the hope of something turning up. The improvement conditions ought to be brought up to date. These also should be made more rigid. The paddocks on a majority of stations are too

big and the water supplies too few. Half the areas in these paddocks are still in their virgin state.

Mr. Marshall: I would not support you in that because people cannot afford to do it.

Mr. ANGELO: Then why have the land lying idle? Why not require them to improve the area they can handle, and let someone else have the rest? These are methods whereby a larger number of people can be come interested in the pastoral industry, which undoubtedly is the best industry in the State that can be embarked upon. I hope the Government will consider my suggestion. If they do, I feel sure they will think well of it. The reason I am anxious to see the industry encouraged is because of the desirableness of growing a product that can be marketed without trouble and without expense. Buyers will come here and purchase our wool and ship it away, so why not produce wool for all we are worth? At one period we had over seven million sheep in the State. Our flocks number six millions now. We ought to aim at getting 16 million. I am pleased with the good work the Minister for Agriculture has done in striving to reach the 25 million bushel mark in wheat production. I should like to see our flocks raised to 16 million sheep before another decade has passed. However, it will be of no use thinking of increasing our flocks unless the areas are made accessible, and unless the wheat farmers are assisted to carry sheep. They can be assisted by providing plenty of fencing wire and plenty of windmills. I regret that no mention was made in the Governor's Speech of legislation to combat the dingo and fox pest. The Minister promised to introduce a Bill last session, but it did not eventuate. I hope this session will not close without a comprehensive measure applying to the whole of the State being passed.

The Minister for Agriculture: You cannot destroy these pests by legislation.

Mr. ANGELO: But if we have legislation, funds can be raised, partly by the pastoralist and the farmer and subsidised by the Government, and then a crusade can be launched against these pests. If these pests are not combated, the outcome will be the destruction of our chief industry. In Adelaide I was the guest of Mr. Mills, one of the leading sheep breeders there. To his home, which is just seven miles from the G.P.O., he took 50 fowls, and in three months the foxes had accounted for all except two. That shows how serious the pest is even so close to the South Australian metropolis.

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

Mr. ANGELO: When I was in Adelaide I found that foxes were slaughtering poultry within seven miles of the General Post Office. Major King, who was here, told me the other day that two or three years ago he purchased a property within 100 miles of Sydney in order to breed lambs for the fat market. He

said the foxes were so bad that he could only get about 20 per cent. of fat lambs. He told me the foxes came round when the lambs were small, placed their feet upon them, and when the lambs opened their mouths to bleat ate their tongues, and left them to die of starvation. Foxes will become a terrible menace in this State if they are allowed to breed. The Press informs us that foxes are making their appearance along the Wongan Hills line. When I was in the Gascoyne about two months ago I was told at nearly every station of the ravages of dingoes. They seem to be coming in packs. Strong measures will have to be taken against them, otherwise the pastoral industry will be ruined. It is already being seriously affected. We are told that dingoes are becoming very numerous on the Midland line and also in the South-West. Even in the Kimberleys they are attacking calves and becoming a nuisance.

Mr. Marshall: Are they real dingoes?

Mr. ANGELO: Not all. I understand the worst type of dog is the half-breed.

Mr. Marshall: The aborigines are responsible for them.

Mr. ANGELO: Yes. In addition to legislation enabling the authorities to destroy dingoes, we should have a measure to prevent aborigines from keeping dogs. At one time it was necessary to allow the natives to keep dogs so that they might get food for the support of themselves and families.

Mr. Marshall: Who gave the first aboriginal his first dog?

Mr. ANGELO: I do not know. The half-breed dogs have been accustomed to human beings and are more daring than the wild dogs. I was told on one station that two dogs came within 100 yards of the house, and that one of them was shot from the verandah. This will show how daring they are. There have been several interjections this evening concerning the unsatisfactory state of the meat works at Carnarvon. When the pastoralists of the Gascoyne considered it advisable to erect meat works they asked the Government if some of their officers, who were acquainted with meat works, could be allowed to visit the locality and furnish a report. Mr. Dalton, who was then manager of the Wyndham Meat Works, and Mr. Tindale, the Engineer for the North-West, were sent to Carnarvon. They selected a site and, after making exhaustive inquiries as to the number of stock, etc., available for the works, they proposed in their report that works costing about £30,000 should be erected. In the report the necessity for deeper waters at the jetty was stressed. It was pointed out that the depth of water was insufficient for overseas vessels if they desired to come alongside the jetty, and that later on it would be necessary either to extend the jetty or deepen the water. The officers in question also pointed out the necessity for opening up a route to get sheep to the works. On the strength of the report the pastoralists of the district formed a company and raised £45,000. After the company had been formed experts

from the Eastern States advised us to double the capacity of the works. At a later stage wages increased by nearly 40 per cent., and the cost of material rose about 100 per cent. Cement was the principal item that increased in price. It was then found that the work could not be completed under an expenditure of £90,000. Meanwhile the price of mutton had gone down. The war had ceased and the market for canned mutton had disappeared. The price of meat and its by-products also fell far below the price required for operating.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Does not that position also apply to Wyndham?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And yet the Wyndham Meat Works are condemned.

Mr. ANGELO: I have not condemned them. There has been a chain of unfortunate circumstances connected with the Carnarvon works. The Government loan amounts to about £51,000. If the works are sold they should certainly bring £50,000. The taxpayers will therefore not suffer; only the pastoralists.

Mr. McCallum: They are better than the Fremantle works.

Mr. ANGELO: Yes. We are very desirous of seeing these works started—I have £50 of my own money invested in them—and considered it necessary to do our best to keep faith with the Government. After a chat with the Premier I arranged with the Chairman of Directors of the company to make a tour of the district with me. We were told we could purchase culled ewes at 3s. 6d. per head. Our proposal was that the pastoralists should supply 50,000 culled ewes on the pooling system, that they were to get nothing for the stock until the Government were repaid, that the Government were to assist us with men from Wyndham, retain the whole of the output of the works and pay the working expenses, anything over and above these expenses, and interest, to be returned to the pastoralists. Mr. McGhie went thoroughly into the matter and considered the scheme a good one. With the approval of the Premier Mr. Mathieson, the Chairman of Directors, and I started on our rounds. We had 20,000 sheep promised to us. Suddenly rain fell. The demand for culled sheep became great. The fat stock market took such a tremendous bound that sheep which two or three months before could have been secured at 3s. 6d. were bringing 27s. in Perth. We could not, therefore, get any more sheep and the proposal was abandoned. Owing to the general rains that have fallen I think sheep will come down in price in a few months time. We should then be able to get sufficient sheep to make a start with the work. I understand the Government are talking about selling us up. I do not know who is to buy the works. Under the terms of the agreement, wherein the Government gave us the land, it was distinctly understood that no one was to hold more than 5,000 shares. This was arranged to prevent people outside from securing our works, which were to be operated on a co-operative basis.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: To whom does the land belong?

Mr. ANGELO: The Government.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Then the agreement is no good. They can sell you up?

Mr. ANGELO: I do not think the Government will do anything unfair.

Hon. P. Collier: Have you paid the interest?

Mr. ANGELO: No.

Hon. P. Collier: Why not do as the Fre-mantle works did, borrow money from the Government to pay the interest?

Mr. ANGELO: I acknowledge that the position is unsatisfactory, but I am anxious to do what I can to put it right.

Hon. P. Collier: I thought Wyndham was the only unsatisfactory freezing works.

Mr. ANGELO: I have never said a word about Wyndham. In my opinion Wyndham is a developmental work, and not a trading concern. Had it not been for the Wyndham Meat Works, there would have been no cattle breeders up north now.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is something we did, then.

Mr. ANGELO: The position can be righted if the Government will only grant us a little more consideration, until such time as the price of sheep falls, as it must fall, to a figure low enough to enable us to operate. Whilst not wishing in any way to put this forward as an excuse for the unsatisfactory position, I may say that some time ago it was estimated that if the works were got going under the proposal Mr. Mathieson and I set out to obtain, we would have returned the growers about 1s. per sheep, after payment of all expenses. The growers would have been prepared to accept that, had the price not risen. It was Mr. McGhie's estimate. I will, however, take the figure of profit at 2s. 6d. per head, because I consider that with careful handling 2s. 6d. per sheep could have been returned. Half-a-crown per sheep would have meant a return of about £6,000 to the pastoralists from the 50,000 sheep. As it is, through our not having slaughtered those sheep, owing to the demand for wool and culled ewes, those sheep are bringing £50,000 to the pastoralists. Thus the pastoralists are making £44,000 more from the same sheep than they would have made if the sheep had been slaughtered. The income tax on the £44,000 would amount to £7,000. So that the Government, instead of losing their interest and insurance, will really be about £3,000 in pocket through the works not having operated. However, I am not making that a set-off in any way. In common with other members, I am very disappointed about the result; but I think that with a little more consideration we shall be able to get the works operating before another 12 months. Mr. McGhie is very anxious to get our works started, so that they may be run in conjunction with the Wyndham works as a second going concern, though not as another State trading concern. Mr. McGhie would be assisted in this way, in that the men employed at the Wyndham Meat Works would get a longer run of employment.

That is the great feature in having the two propositions working one after the other.

Mr. Marshall: Is it a matter of cutting wages?

Mr. ANGELO: The question of wages, I hope, will be adjusted to the satisfaction of all concerned. With the advantage of continuity of work, Mr. McGhie will be able to keep good men at Wyndham. I am indeed pleased that the Federal Government have given us a grant for road development.

Mr. Marshall: Are you sure the North-West is getting any of that grant?

Mr. ANGELO: Under the terms of the grant we are to get two-fifths of the money allocated on an area basis. In that connection there are several very important works affecting our meat works. There is the question of a bridge over the Gascoyne. We must have that bridge. I am very pleased indeed that the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy, together with other members, have been made aware of the disabilities created by the want of that bridge.

Mr. O'Loughlin: What is the Government's reply?

Mr. ANGELO: It has not yet come, but it is sure to be favourable.

Hon. P. Collier: The Government said they did not think you would pay the money for the bridge.

Mr. ANGELO: I am hoping now to get the bridge built out of the fund for road development. Mr. Bruce's speech distinctly states that the grant is to be used in the development of the outside portions of the Commonwealth and to create avenues for the bringing of produce to the ports. In the absence of Mr. Teesdale, I would like to mention in this connection the new approaches to the town of Beadon. A question has been asked as to how the Gascoyne settlement is getting on. Some two or three years ago a petition was sent to the Government by some 20 or 30 men desirous of settling on the banks of the Gascoyne. I was asked to urge the Government to facilitate this settlement, and in bringing the matter before Ministers I pointed out that none of the men knew anything about the growing of tropical fruits, and that therefore, if such a settlement were started, it would be essential to provide expert tuition so that the men might know what to grow and how to grow it. This tuition was promised, and an area was cut up and men were induced to take up blocks. The expert, however, has not eventuated. Only three returned soldiers who went up there were financed by the Government. One of them left after waiting two or three months for the expert to come along. Another is still on his block awaiting the expert. The third is now doing contract work in the district, with the hope of having a little more money to spend when the expert comes along to teach him what to do. I made the stipulation as to expert tuition at the time, because I myself had lost a lot of money in precisely the same connection. Mr. Despeissis, when at Carnarvon, persuaded my brother and me to go in for irrigation; and we were

then promised that experts would be sent along to teach us what to do. We put in a plantation of bananas and a grove of orange trees, and a good many other tropical plants. Unfortunately the pests which generally make their appearance came along and we have never succeeded in having a man sent up to show us how to get rid of them, though there are numbers of experts running round the various settlements here in the south. I see by the Press that one expert at last has been secured, and is coming from Queensland; but what is the good of one expert in a huge province like the North-West? It wants at least a dozen. When in Queensland I inquired how many experts they had, and was informed that there were from 20 to 30 going out in the various districts and doing all they possibly could to assist the settlers to make good. The member for Kanowna (Hon. T. Walker) has asked in what direction I would suggest that population could be employed in the North-West. In the Kimberleys there are tens of millions of acres of magnificent country, well watered and well grassed, without a hoof upon it.

Mr. Wilson: How far is that country from the seaboard?

Mr. ANGELO: It is right up to the seaboard, but not close to an existing port. Hon. members may recollect that some years ago I strongly advocated the sending of an expedition to the Kimberleys for the purpose of securing a port between Wyndham and Derby. There are a number of fine ports available on that coast. A small town could have been established, and men sent out in small groups to quieten the natives and gradually settle the land. It is impossible for that country to be settled by individual efforts, the natives there being too bad.

Mr. Wilson: Would you pacify them by kindness?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, or by stern measures if necessary. It has got to be done sooner or later. The only way it can be done is by sending out small groups of men as I have suggested. Then I am perfectly certain history will repeat itself. When the white men come about in sufficient numbers—

Mr. Wilson: The natives will be wiped out.

Mr. ANGELO: No.

Mr. Wilson: You will have to send out Hickson with the white men.

Mr. ANGELO: The blacks will be wiped out later by too much civilisation. In the meantime the natives, who in many cases represent a menace to the settlers, will become valuable assets as cattle men. They make excellent boundary riders and horsemen.

Hon. P. Collier: And they are cheap.

Mr. Marshall: Very cheap.

Mr. ANGELO: When people are starting out in a small way and cannot afford to pay big wages, they must use what cheap labour they can. I am not in favour of cheap labour in a settled district, where

the stations are sufficiently established to pay white men. But in a new district every available means should be used to give the settler a start. Then there is cotton. Cotton can be grown in the North-West. In connection with the small settlement at Derby, there was the same experience as in connection with the settlement on the Gascoyne. Men were sent to Derby who knew nothing about what they had gone for, and no expert knowledge was supplied to teach them what to do. Even the land was not suitable for the settlers.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Who said that?

Mr. ANGELO: Colonel Evans said that the land selected is not suitable.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He was there half-an-hour.

Mr. ANGELO: That is what I am talking about. These things should not be started unless experts are on the spot to teach the people how to start the new industry. Cotton growing is a new industry. When I was in Queensland recently I saw some immense buildings going up, and asked, "What are those places?" The reply was, "Those are the new cotton mills." I believe that in addition to what I saw, a dozen new establishments were then being erected in Queensland for the harvesting of the cotton grown this year.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Who is building them?

Mr. Marshall: The Bolshevik Government of Queensland.

Mr. ANGELO: I understand the Queensland Government are assisting in the work just as our Government are assisting in other industries here. What have we got here? A small table in the office of the secretary of the North-West Department will be adequate to hold all the cotton we will grow in Western Australia this year. The cotton position will never be revived here until we have the services of a man who understands the industry.

Mr. O'Loughlen: There is a man at Carnarvon who understands it.

Mr. ANGELO: That man is successful so far as he has gone, but after all, he is only an amateur. There is a man in Perth, however, who has grown cotton for many years and who is willing to go up North if given a small sustenance allowance and the necessary land. The Government will not agree to the proposition; yet he is an expert who can teach us. Then there is the question of pig raising in the North-West. We know the immense wealth derived from pig raising in America.

Hon. T. Walker: You require to be close to a market for pigs.

Mr. ANGELO: We are raising pigs successfully in the Gascoyne district and no diseases are apparent. My brother and I have slaughtered hundreds of pigs each year for the last 15 years. We cannot go in to the business more extensively because no shipping is available to bring the produce down. If settlement of any dimensions is commenced, shipping must be provided.

Tropical agriculture—I refer to fruit growing principally—does not appeal to any extent, but a certain number of men can be settled in that industry.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What about the man who failed with his peanuts?

Mr. ANGELO: Peanut growing has not had a trial.

Mr. O'Loughlen: One man told me that he had lost £1,000 at Carnarvon.

Mr. ANGELO: The man did not put a peanut into the ground.

Mr. O'Loughlen: He put £1,000 into the ground, but not a peanut came up.

Mr. ANGELO: He did not put a shilling into peanuts. He put all his money into a house, sheds, windmill and so on and then waited for the expert who never came along.

The Minister for Agriculture: What about your fish industry there?

Mr. ANGELO: That will be successfully established in time. Unfortunately a start was made by people who did not understand the canning business and they failed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Four attempts have been made at it there.

Mr. ANGELO: No. Another industry which will not appeal to those in the South-West, because it clashes with their own pet scheme, is dairying. A few months ago, thanks to the Minister for Agriculture, the dairy expert (Mr. Hampshire) was allowed to visit the North-West. I do not know how the South-West managed to spare him but we had his services for a week. He reported on the dairying possibilities there and in the course of his report he said—

The character and quality of the land waiting to be watered appears such, and its area so immense, that if investigations should prove it practicable and the Government can finance such a scheme, the Gascoyne should prove another Yanco irrigation area, where the land of three sheep stations was resumed and irrigated and today supports 700 to 800 families engaged in dairying and fruit growing.

In another paragraph Mr. Hampshire says—

From data available and inquiries instituted, it would appear that there is little likelihood of exhausting the subterranean water which these wells along the river banks would tap, as all the information points to an underground river which flows towards the ocean.

Mr. Hampshire proceeds to set out a scheme under which 100 farms could be established with windmill irrigation—he favours damming the river 50 or 60 miles back, but that would be a larger scheme—at a total cost including buildings, land, 25 cows, pigs, and so on, of £1,750 per farm. The cost of grading and clearing the land would be only £4 10s. per acre. The report of the expert was submitted to the Director of Agriculture, who comments on it as follows:—

Though the report of the dairy expert is particularly optimistic, yet this optimism is contingent upon several factors.

The director deals with the question of water, the productive capacity of the land, the capital outlay and the probable profitable returns. Mr. Hampshire dealt with all those points in his report but, as I have suggested several times in this House, it is necessary to get really good advice as to whether water is to be found there. I again urge the Government to ask the Indian authorities to lend us the services of one of their engineers, one of those men who have been turning deserts into wonderfully flourishing areas by dealing with similar dry rivers. It would not cost much and I am certain the Indian Government, if requested, would make an officer available to us, particularly if we paid his fare. In fact, the Indian Government might pay his fare for us.

Hon. P. Collier: The Indian Government might pay us to use their officer's services.

Mr. ANGELO: If we secured an officer from India, we would know once and for all if our dry rivers, which are similar to those with which they have been dealing in India, will assist us in the development of these parts.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Would it not be better to send one of our officers to India?

Mr. ANGELO: It would not be fair to send one of our officers there and expect him to acquire the necessary knowledge under a year, whereas the Indian officer with his years of experience, could come here and give us a report within a minimum time.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He would not have local knowledge.

Mr. ANGELO: That difficulty could be overcome. As to the price of meat. In the metropolitan area beef is quoted on the average at 11d. a lb. At the same time the Government are exporting from Wyndham our prime beef at 2½d. per lb. Why should we not get some of that meat here?

Mr. Davies: The people will not eat it.

Mr. ANGELO: That is all nonsense. Some little time ago Mr. Colebatch, in an interview, said that people would not eat frozen meat and that chilled meat could not be brought from Wyndham. Chilled meat is conveyed from the Argentine to England and it takes nearly twice as long to do that journey as it does to bring meat from Wyndham to Perth.

Hon. P. Collier: The people here have never had an opportunity to eat that meat. No attempt has been made to market it here.

Mr. ANGELO: I had some frozen meat recently and I do not want to eat anything better. Why are we paying on an average 11d. per lb. for beef when it can be sent to England at 2½d. per lb.? One reason is the shortage of shipping. The Government should never have given permits to the boats trading to Singapore without stipulating that they should have insulated space available. No future permit should be given to ships unless they provide those facilities.

Mr. Lambert: Is that in exchange for the concession regarding coloured labour?

Mr. ANGELO: We must allow that, for other boats will not come here.

Mr. Lambert: How do you know that?

Mr. ANGELO: Because I have made inquiries. I asked a representative of one shipping company if his ships would trade on our coast if the State steamers were taken off. His reply was in the negative. The motor ship "Kangaroo" can carry 400 tons of beef, but she is so slow. It would not pay to send her to Wyndham and back again for beef alone.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yes, because she would carry live-stock as well.

Mr. ANGELO: If she did that, it would pay. Under the old conditions, however, it was too costly to carry live-stock. The animals deteriorated and lost in weight. The fact remains, however, that we should get Wyndham meat brought to us. I was pleased to hear the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) advocate the provision of a cool storage chamber at Fremantle. Three years ago I strongly advocated that those facilities should be erected as part and parcel of the Fremantle Harbour conveniences. If we had them we could deal with fruit, butter and beef, which could be stored there prior to distribution. In our Public Service to-day we have a gentleman who is regarded in the Eastern States very highly as an expert in his particular line. I refer to Mr. L. McGhie. I strongly recommend the Government to ask him to prepare a report dealing with the meat question, including the supplying of chilled or frozen meat in the metropolitan area and suggesting the possibilities of markets in the Far East. It is seldom that the Government have the advantage of the services of a man who knows so much about his particular subject. Mr. McGhie knows all about Eastern conditions, all about the frozen meat trade, and the ships necessary for the carriage of that commodity. I am certain that a report of this description would be of great interest, and would probably lead to good results. In Brisbane I noticed beautiful beef for sale in the shops, the average price being 6d. per lb. The highest price was 8d. per lb., yet here we have to pay 1s. 4d. per lb.

Hon. P. Collier: That is the result of a Bolshevik Government.

Mr. ANGELO: At any rate they know how to deal with meat, and our own Government would not do wrong in following them. The Premier has admitted that owing to the cormorant-like tactics of the Federal Government this State has been badly bled.

Mr. Lambert: Of course, blame the other fellow.

Mr. ANGELO: Last year in both Houses of Parliament a motion was passed asking the Premier to communicate with the Commonwealth and State Governments and urge the summoning of a constitutional convention to consider amendments of the Commonwealth constitution. Yesterday the Premier, in reply to a question, told us he had taken no action in the matter because the Pre-

miers' Conference had been called to consider the financial relationship between the Commonwealth and the States.

Hon. P. Collier: It was outside our power, anyhow; you know that.

Mr. ANGELO: In view of that conference, I think the Premier was right in not doing anything. Since the conference the Commonwealth Government have done nothing to alleviate our distress, and so the Premier should now negotiate for the constitutional convention. If the Federal Government will not agree to that, why should we not hold a State convention, at which each of the States will be represented? When such a convention arrives at an agreement on the suggested amendments to the Federal Constitution, we could forward those amendments to the Federal Government. If the Federal Government refused to act upon that agreement, we should have a good case to put up with the Imperial Government.

Mr. Johnston: What about Victoria and New South Wales?

Mr. ANGELO: I think they would meet the other States in conference. When over East, I discussed the matter with many politicians, and they all agreed with me.

Hon. P. Collier: They were pulling your leg.

Mr. Davies: Why did not the Premier bring it up at the Premiers' Conference?

Mr. ANGELO: What was the use? The Premier came away from that conference with assurances of relief; yet after he left we were turned down. The proposed convention to amend the Constitution was promised to us years ago. Since we cannot get it from the Federal authorities, why should we not endeavour to set up a conference of our own.

Mr. Luty: Why not do it through our Federal members?

Mr. ANGELO: They are too small in numbers to make themselves heard in the House of Representatives, and the Senate has become a party House, and so will not listen to any such proposal. I should like to hear in this House a searching debate on the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: But not on the motion now before us.

Mr. ANGELO: No. The member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering) wants to know when the report of the Royal Commission is to be submitted. That Commission was appointed to prepare a case for the then proposed Convention. Immediately Mr. Hughes heard that Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland were preparing, he decided against the Convention. We have had the assistance of Mr. Owen in preparing a financial statement, we have taken evidence, and now we are marking time until we know what is going to happen. As soon as that point is decided, we will get to work again. I remind hon. members that the Commission is an honorary one. As one of the four members representing the North-West in this House, I have considered it my duty to point out the seriousness



of the position in the North, where the population is decreasing.

Mr. Lambert: But where the holdings are getting bigger.

Mr. ANGELO: They are not. The position is serious from the defence point of view.

Mr. O'Loughlin: Why won't the squatters employ whites?

Mr. ANGELO: I do not know of one squatter in my district who does not employ whites exclusively.

Mr. Hughes: Do you know of one who does not employ blacks?

Mr. ANGELO: None of them does.

Mr. Hughes: Then you do not know your own electorate very well.

Mr. ANGELO: I do not know what you may have in East Perth, but I assure you that the few aborigines on stations in my electorate are there on sufferance, are not worth anything at all as labourers. The whole of the work on those stations is done by white men. I remind hon. members that the North has but four members in this House.

Mr. Lambert: Whereas you should have only one.

Mr. ANGELO: As the State suffers by having only five members in the House of Representatives, so the North suffers by having only four members in this House. I hope hon. members will give the requirements of the North every consideration and remember that the populating and developing of the North is of vital concern to the State, to the Commonwealth and to the Empire.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George (Murray-Wellington) [8.25]: I should not have intruded at this juncture were it not that I think, from remarks made by previous speakers, that information which I have to give may serve to clear away misapprehension. A number of the speeches made have been informative and served to show that the interests of the State have been well considered by the speakers. Criticism of the Government may be either destructive or helpful; destructive when the Government are held to be at fault, helpful when members wish to assist both their electorates and the Government by bringing before us points which otherwise might be overlooked. The Commonwealth Parliament has passed an Act under which the Commonwealth may contribute to the making and improving of roads in the several States with a view to assisting settlers to get their produce to market. For ages past it has been said that the man who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before, renders greater service to his country than all the efforts of politicians. To-day we might paraphrase that and say that any man who can enable the settler to cart two loads per day where previously he carted one, has added to the wealth, not only of that settler, but of the State. This State's share of the Commonwealth grant for roads will be about £96,000, to which the State Government have to add an equal amount, making in round figures £200,000 for the improvement of the roads. I am hopeful that

this grant will be found by the Commonwealth Government to prove so beneficial as to become a legitimate claim upon the annual surplus revenue. I have received 50 or 60 letters from various road boards, and have heard representations by members of both Houses, asking for particulars of the allocation of this grant. The only reply that can be given is that the Public Works Department are now working on the preparation of a map of Western Australia showing the various roads which appear to us to come within the four corners of the conditions laid down by the Commonwealth. In addition we are preparing another map to show where the money may be expended on roads of greater benefit to the settlers, which roads, however, do not quite come within the four corners of the Commonwealth Act. This map I hope will be completed next week. It will then be brought before the Premier and Cabinet and dealt with by communication with the Commonwealth Government. This represents a forward step to get this big matter settled. Until it is settled, although it is of service to us to receive requests from the different road boards, we cannot do anything in connection with the distribution. No member need have any fear but that, so far as lies within the power, knowledge, and experience of the departmental officers, every consideration will be given to make the best use of this grant.

Hon. M. F. Troy: See that we all get a fair deal.

Capt. Carter: Will that obtain in the agricultural portion of the metropolitan area?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It applies to the whole of Western Australia. We must start our main roads from a centre and carry them to a centre and try to link up with our railways, so that communication may be made easy and economical.

Hon. M. F. Troy: What about our main roads in the back country?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I showed a deputation that waited on me to-day a map prepared three years ago, and they considered we were on right lines. When this matter is brought forward, members may be able to suggest some improvements, but I think they will be able to say that every effort has been made to deal with the main arteries of traffic.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Do you propose to bring the map here?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That rests with the Premier. That members may know the exact position, one of the conditions laid down in the Act is that we have not only to mark out our roads, but to show the methods of construction proposed to be employed and the material to be used in the different parts of the country. The Commonwealth officials will have some say as to whether the work is being carried out correctly.

Hon. M. F. Troy: It is peculiar that you can show a map to a body of private citizens and not to Parliament.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member can see the map in my office, but I would have him understand that this map

was prepared three years ago in connection with a Main Roads Bill. I simply showed it to the deputation—as I am prepared to show it to any member—to prove that we are trying to do the best we can for the whole State. If members wish to see that map I have no objection to laying it on the Table, but it must not be confused with the map we are preparing to deal with the Commonwealth road grant.

Mr. Angelo: Are you taking into consideration the two-fifths area basis?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member is facetious.

Mr. Angelo: Not at all; that is in the Act.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member will see all in good time. I am not prepared to deal with the details. I merely mentioned the matter that all interested may know something is being done. This will save members and me a lot of correspondence.

Capt. Carter: Which will be the greater consideration?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Last evening the member for Katanning (Mr. A. Thomson) exhibited to the House his great grasp of the various matters bearing on the welfare of the State. One or two things I feel it incumbent upon me to explain in order that members might know the other side of the question. He referred to the Katanning hospital. I claim that the Works Department is carrying out its manifest duty in connection with the hospitals. He said the Works Department made an estimate of £7,500. The Works Department did not make an estimate of any such sum. The Works Department made an estimate of £10,650, but that was for a new hospital entirely, providing for the whole of the accommodation asked for by the Principal Medical Officer. In addition to the building we had to provide for a septic tank, drainage, lighting, X-ray room, mortuary and everything complete. The plan put forward by the architect, whose name the hon. member did not give, was not a plan. It was simply a sketch showing how the accommodation might be arranged. An architect does not put up a plan showing all the details of the accommodation required unless he is appointed as the man to be responsible for the carrying out of the work. This sketch did not include a complete hospital or anything like it. It could only be regarded as a sketch plan indicating how the work might be carried out. The hon. member admitted that the Government were asked for a certain sum of money towards the hospital. Then those responsible asked a member of the Government for a loan to make up their half of the required sum. This would mean that the whole of the money to be expended would be Government money.

Mr. Pickering: That was good finesse.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Perhaps so, but I do not know that I should call it straight dealing. When the whole of the money had to be found by the Government,

surely those responsible for seeing that Government money is expended economically and wisely should desire that the plans be correct before the work was started. The plans are about complete and will be forwarded to those concerned. When the hon. member spoke about an estimate for making extensive alterations, he did not mention that those alterations were in connection with the existing hospital. The estimate was given at the personal and insistent request of the hon. member himself, and surely he had not much to complain about. The Works Department claim the right and regard it as a duty to prepare plans in connection with buildings for which the Government are providing the funds. We provide such plans free and we supervise the expenditure of the Government money without charging anything for it. If this building were erected by a private architect, he would receive a commission for drawing the plans and a commission for supervising the work. The architect of course would be entitled to this: but in a job costing £10,000, £15,000, or £20,000, these fees are of serious moment. When there is a department capable of doing the work, rely the officers of the department, as watchdogs of the Government, should supervise the work.

Mr. Corboy: Do the Government intend to provide all the money for that hospital?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I cannot say much about that.

Hon. P. Collier: The House is not greatly interested in the Katanning hospital.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: When we have drawn the plans, the local bodies are entitled to call tenders. I do not know that any greater good is achieved thereby than would be the case if the Works Department called for tenders in the ordinary way. When those tenders are received, we hold that it is right for the skilled officers of the Works Department to examine them and see that the specifications and conditions are fully complied with. The hon. member made some rather caustic remarks regarding our professional men. The same architect who produced the sketch plan was the man who designed the hospital at Kojonup and who gave an estimate of £1,500, whereas the building cost £2,300. When the hospital was proposed, the Minister was told that £1,500 would build it, and the Government were asked to give a pound for pound subsidy. Accordingly £750 was granted. When the hospital was finished, the Government received a request for £1,150, instead of £750. Members will therefore realise the necessity for the Works Department looking carefully into these matters. All the extra expenditure on the Kojonup hospital was for essential items which had been omitted from the plans, perhaps inadvertently, perhaps intentionally or ignorantly. The work was well under way when reference was made to the Works Department and it was too late for us to do much. Remarks have also been made regarding the cost of houses. Mr. Hardwick, Chair-

man of the workers' homes, supplied me this morning with the following facts: Near to the Calyx works at Subiaco a number of workers' homes have been built during the last 12 months. The land, consisting of a quarter of an acre, was provided. The houses consist of three rooms, a small hall, a separate kitchen, pantry, bathroom, earth closet, front and back verandah, and a 6ft. picket fence, and the cost is £500. In these days when the prices of material and labour are naturally high, a cottage like that for £600 is a creditable performance.

Capt. Carter: Is that inclusive of land?  
The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes.

Mr. Corboy: You ought to put the Federal authorities on to your people when dealing with the war service homes.

Mr. McCallum: Those houses are built on leasehold land—University land.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have given the information as it was given to me. Whether it is leasehold or freehold I cannot say.

Mr. Hughes: That does not matter. It is a good performance.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I consider it a creditable performance.

Mr. Hughes: So it is; I wish we had a thousand more.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The rooms, I am told, are of a fair size.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I have been in them. They are nice little houses.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The question of dams has been raised. Water is essential in the wheat areas, and dams fit to contain water are as important to the farmer as anything else. There has been much criticism levelled against the branch of my department dealing with dams. The member for Katanning said our price was 1s. 6d. a yard, but that he could have got dams sunk for 1s. 6d. or 1s. 9d. At first sight it would appear that someone in the department did not know his business, and did not care a hang how he parted with the money. The hon. member brought under my notice a certain dam that he required to be put down. He said he could get the excavations done for about 1s. 6d. a yard. I said, "If so we will see about it and call for tenders." Instead of tenders being put in for 1s. 6d. a yard they were for about 2s. or 2s. 3d. A great deal besides excavating has to be done in connection with a dam. It is not a question of simply putting down a hole and thus making a dam that may or may not be useful to the people who want it. We have to send an officer to select a site, and his salary and expenses cost something. We have then to obtain the land, arrange for clearing, and carry out the work of excavation. We have to make contour drains, so that water may be conducted into the dam. We have to put up fencing, and in most cases have to put in pumps and troughs. With all these expenses included, the original cost of excavation must swell. Nearly every dam sunk during the last seven

years has been the subject of tenders being called. It has not been a question of departmental work and going slow. We have called for tenders and wherever possible have accepted them. I think the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin), when Minister for Works, had several dams put down on the Yandanooka estate. It was considered that the price should range about 1s. a yard. Sir Henry Lefroy thought the work would be done for that, but we found on calling for tenders that the work could not be done for double that price.

Capt. Carter: The work cost nearly four times that amount for the soldier settlement there.

Mr. Underwood: Did you call for tenders at Herdsman's Lake?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No. We have not dealt with the big number of dams of another sort—

Mr. Underwood: You have not finished paying out there yet.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I think not, and we have not yet finished with the water. The statement has been made that we have been bolstering up the State trading concerns by forcing people to buy their materials from us and charging any price we like in order to swell our profits, and make it appear we are having a good time. The member for Katanning spoke very strongly about Katanning bricks. Those bricks are good enough for any work the department may require to be done in that district. In connection with the building to which he referred, State bricks were specified, but immediately it was ascertained that the local bricks could be used, that point was waived and the Katanning bricks were used. The hon. member knew that when he was speaking. The question arose in connection with the Albany High School. When it came before me I said, "If you can obtain bricks at £3 18s. delivered on the site, a man would be false to his duty if he ordered that they should come from the State Brick Works." As it happens, local bricks will be used in the building. Instructions were issued long ago that wherever the material of good quality could be obtained nearer the job at a cheaper price than from the State trading concerns, it should be so obtained and used. These instructions are well known amongst the contractors. I am sorry the hon. member is not here to-night.

Mr. Marshall: And we have to put up with the consequences of his rot last night.

Hon. P. Collier: Why punish us for his offence?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I should be sorry to think I was punishing the hon. member. He is just as much interested in knowing the facts of these matters as I am.

Mr. Wilson: Why is he not here?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Two days ago a petty contract somewhere in the Great Southern came under my notice. It was pointed out that the man who had put in his tender wished to make his own sashes and doors, because he possessed a plant of

his own and could make them on the spot. This is the minute I wrote on the subject—

While I hold that the State trading concerns should have preference in Government jobs, I am not so silly as to press this against common sense rules. If timber can be supplied locally at less cost than State Sawmills, and equally good, and the Government get the benefit of the saving, or tricks of "good enough" quality can be obtained at lower railage and consequent cost than from Byford, of course this should be permitted, but I consider that the discretion should remain in the department and that our specification should clearly make the position known. I should consider it absurd and unworkable to insist that joinery must be obtained from State Sawmills, when a contractor has the plant and can make it on the ground, and even if he only has hand tools to do the job it is his funeral and not ours if he elects to carry on.

Mr. Corboy: We know now who wrote the Governor's Speech.

Mr. Marshall: When was this?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This month. Men have been putting in tenders for various works for the Government, and if they could they would have tried to evade the conditions of the contract. I have said that if a man has put in a tender, knowing all the disabilities—if they have been disabilities—he has calculated upon them and has allowed for them in his price. I will not be a party to that man putting in his tender and getting the job, and then trying to make an extra profit by obtaining his materials in this way. I have insisted that the difference in the cost between these materials, and those that he reckoned on when he put in his tender, shall belong to the Government, and I will always insist upon that. Because I have insisted upon that, all this bother has come about.

Mr. Pickering: It would not be fair to the other contractors.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No. If a man puts in a tender at £500, and then by taking local material he can bring his costs down £50 or £60, the other contractors will say, if they had known the position they too could have reduced their price. I have insisted, therefore, that this difference shall belong to the Government. On the 8th I put this further memorandum forward. I hope the Press will take notice of it because it is of interest to all who put in tenders. It is as follows:—

Further to my memo. of yesterday on file dealing with the question of supplies of material for Government contract work, it has been decided that for the future the conditions in regard to the purchase of materials or State enterprises shall be withdrawn, and that persons tendering shall be at liberty to obtain the necessary materials from whatever source they choose. The State Sawmills, State Implement Works, State Brick Works, and State quarries, will quote in the ordinary course of business, and take their chance just the same as any other trader in the State.

You will therefore arrange for these conditions to be clearly made known in connection with tenders for the future and advise the manager of each of the four trading concerns exactly in the terms of this memo.

Hon. P. Collier: Why this change of policy?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The State Sawmills and the State Brick Works are well out of the swaddling clothes stage. They can stand on their own feet against any other business concern in the State.

Hon. P. Collier: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Their books and their methods of conducting their business are laid down on modern business lines. They can hold their own against any opposition that comes along.

Hon. P. Collier: Hear, hear!

Member: By spoon feeding.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Spoon feeding! The State Sawmills have paid into the Treasury £135,000 in cash. That is not a bad sort of spoon feeding.

Capt. Carter: That money was not made out of open tender.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was made out of business acumen.

Capt. Carter: You flatter yourself.

Hon. P. Collier: They would like to see them all losing.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is a good job some of them are paying.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Most of them are paying.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: My views of State trading concerns have undergone no change. They should never have been established. They are cutting into the business of all other traders engaged in similar lines in the State and must seriously be encroaching on such businesses.

Mr. Corboy: How is that?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have been placed in charge of them as Minister and trustee. As trustee I have given to the State the best of my knowledge and ability and, seconded by experienced and loyal officers, the result has come about—

Hon. M. F. Troy: They are here to stay.

Mr. Pickering: Are they in the combine?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. O'Loughlin: What about the Mount Barker railway station? Is the expenditure of £7,000 justified?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That is a matter for the Railway Department. Reference has been made to the metropolitan water scheme. Last summer there was a considerable amount of criticism concerning it. Some of it was justified, but some of it was unjustified and put forward for a purpose that was easily discernible. A lot of it was directed at my devoted head, though that did not matter, but a lot of it was directed at the heads of my officers who did not deserve it. The question of improving the metropolitan water supply has been under consideration for many years. Water schemes are not supposed to be turned out like a tin of Wyndham tongues or a politician's speech. There are things that the officers in charge have to think out and plan, not only because of the job itself but for the sake of their reputations, which are as dear to them as is the reputation of any hon. member to him.

For anyone to say that these officers have not been doing their best for years past, that they have not put forward any schemes to the Government, but have merely sat idle whilst drawing their salaries, is a most unmanly and unjust way of putting the position. The debates of Parliament as they have appeared in "Hansard" for the last five years show that the reason why the metropolitan water scheme could not be enlarged was that there was no money with which to do it. However much people may like to get up on platforms and talk about what should be done, they can no more pay their butcher's bill or baker's bill without money than the officers of the Water Supply Department can build a water scheme without money to do it.

Capt. Carter: Don't look at me when you say that.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: A large proportion of the money which we are spending to-day at Mt. Hawthorn, Melville Park, Cottesloe and Applecroft is money which was applied for in August, 1920, but which could not be supplied because the Treasurer had not the cash. About two years ago the Government applied for an expert to come here from Victoria—Mr. Ritchie. He came, and very good service he rendered to this State. He is a man of high authority. He went through our schemes, and amended some items of them and put forward some views of his own. Things were then gone through by our engineers, and eventually came before the Government for consideration. Some slight undertakings were carried out, the necessary cash being got somehow. I only mention this to show how absolutely unfair and unmanly it was and is for certain members of Parliament to go about the place making out, for their own purposes, that the officers were fools and lunatics and all the rest of it.

Capt. Carter: I think names ought to be given. The charges which the Minister is making are very unparliamentary.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I shall make stronger charges yet. There was the agitation—

Hon. P. Collier: It was at Leederville.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There was an agitation fostered by a newspaper of this State, the proprietor of which journal I regret is not present to-day.

Hon. P. Collier: Who is that?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Those conducting the agitation did not care what they said about the officers of the department so long as they could manage to get at me. Surely I am big enough for the whole lot to get at me if they wish. I only ask them to let my men alone, because my men have done their work and done it well. The next thing was the North Perth meeting.

Hon. P. Collier: Someone stole your clothes that night.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No. The Leader of the Opposition spoke as if a great indignity had been cast on me. He said that I was cajoled into the bush, and all the rest of it. As a matter of fact, I was ill at home.

Hon. P. Collier: Very opportunely ill.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I got out of my bed when I heard of this North Perth meeting.

Hon. P. Collier: I am sure you did.

Mr. McCallum: It made a new man of you.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Unfortunately, when I am ill in bed it is pretty serious. Ill as I was, I got out of bed and went to the telephone.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I spoke to the Premier. If he were present, I am sure he would not for a moment deny it. I said to him, "I hear you are going to North Perth, to a meeting in connection with the water business."

Hon. P. Collier: He had not consulted you up to then?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Wait a bit. I said to the Premier, "You have got all the particulars from Lawson, and you went through them last week. I do not care what they say about me, but tell the meeting straight out that I have asked you for this money for the last three or four years."

Hon. M. F. Troy: He did not tell the meeting that, did he?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Now wait a bit. I said to the Premier, "You could not give me the money." He said, "No, I could not give it to you." I said, "Let them say what they like about me, but don't let them blame my men." I understand he did tell the meeting that.

Hon. P. Collier: Did he?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. gentleman opposite has asked why I was not at the North Perth meeting. The reason—it may be an old-fashioned prejudice—is that I was brought up not to push myself in where I was not wanted.

Mr. Corboy: Now you have let the cat out of the bag.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: When the gentlemen who arranged the meeting were framing their programme, they did not ask me to come.

Hon. P. Collier: Nor the Premier either.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: If they had asked me to come, hon. members know, I would have been there. I would have been there right enough. There would have been no need at the end of the meeting to hustle me out through a grocer's shop. I would have gone right through the meeting, no matter what had happened.

Hon. P. Collier: Was the chairman hustled into a grocer's shop?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I understand that one of the prominent persons at the meeting not the Premier, made his way out through a back door, and through a grocer's shop. It may be a lie.

Capt. Carter: We had supper in a grocer's shop; we all came out of the grocer's shop.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I understand there were 200 questions to be asked. I understand also that only one of them was asked, "Where is the chairman"? To return to the various works, let me say that the Mt. Hawthorn reservoir is well in hand, and that the excavation is nearly finished. It will be well worth any hon. member's while to go and see the work of the big excavator. Concreting has been started and will be continued. The reservoir will be in working order for the coming summer. The filter beds at Mt. Hawthorn are being made, and they also will be in working

order for next summer. By reason of those filter beds, we believe, there will be no more complaints regarding the peculiar colour of Perth water, which is said to be as brown as my soul is supposed to be and said to be by persons who do not care whom they slander if they think that thereby they can camouflage their own shortcomings.

Mr. McCallum: Black, not brown.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Melville Park reservoir is pretty well finished as regards excavation, and the concreting is in progress. The King's Park reservoir is in the hands of the contractor, who is bound under heavy penalties to get it finished by a certain date. Originally that reservoir was designed to be very much larger than in fact it will be. Unfortunately we have not full jurisdiction over King's Park; so we had to bow to circumstances.

Mr. Johnston: How much is all this costing?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It will cost money, as the hon. member knows: but whatever it costs, Perth must have water. We cannot keep the people without water. Country people do need water as well. A 24-inch main is being laid in the Perth-Fremantle road, and the Melville Park main and so forth, as well as all the works with which I have been authorised to proceed, are going on. As regards the other big works, plans and specifications are quite ready for the time when it is thought ripe to put them in hand.

Mr. Corboy: What is the eventual rate proposed for the metropolitan area?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That matter is on the knees of the gods.

Hon. P. Collier: You have indicated a rate of 2s. 9d.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: When the hon. member makes a statement, he is responsible for it; I am not.

Mr. Corboy: As soon as the first assessment is made, you should have a meeting. I will arrange it for you. I will not sidetrack you like the others did. You had better not stand for a metropolitan seat if you want to make a rate of 2s. 9d.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: As I said before in connection with dams in agricultural areas, a supply of water for the farmers is essential. They must have supplies so that when they get to the railway station, or a suitable point, they can water their horses. The problem can be conveniently solved by the establishment of what are known as key dams, dams within reasonable reach of more than one of the main roads leading to the different stations. All this work requires money, a fact which I should like individual members and also the House as a whole to remember when asking for things to be done. They should keep that fact before them like the death's head was kept before the revellers at banquets in the centuries gone by. Without £ s. d. it is impossible to do work.

Hon. P. Collier: Will there be any rate or charge for these water supplies?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That point is receiving full consideration. I only wish to refer now to State trading concerns. Ordinarily I would have left this matter until the Estimates

came along, but I think it well to say a few words at the present juncture. The State Saw-mills and the State Brickworks are absolutely in a sound financial position. The latest accounts of the Implement Works show a position greatly improved upon that of the previous year. At the Boya quarry we have doubled the output of stone. I shall have to deal at length with these matters later in the session, but the point I wish now to impress upon the House relates to the financing of the State trading concerns. I have been trained, and all my life have worked, on what may be termed conservative lines in connection with finance and administration. A certain rule was taught me in connection with business concerns having only a limited life—say a sawmill, which may peter out in a few years. The rule is to estimate, as far as experience can, the life of the concern, and to frame the depreciation account accordingly. Then when a forest is cut out, or a quarry or a brick works has been worked out, one is in the position of having discounted beforehand whatever might be the amount of the loss on the original cost. There are some people outside this Chamber who think that that is making it too strong. I have had it said to me, "If you cut down your depreciation percentage, cut a good lump sum off, you will have a very much larger profit to show, and therefore there will be more money that can be brought to bear with the eventual result of reducing taxation." My reply to that has been simply "I am going on lines which I was taught when I was a youngster, which have guided me throughout the whole length of my life, both when working for other people and when working on my own account. My rule is to make sure lest I or someone else should be hurt." Although we have large sums of money honestly laid by in our depreciation funds, yet if I were now speaking to a board of directors or to financial authorities I would express the opinion that the lines upon which we have gone are absolutely sound and are in the best interests of the State.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [9.15]: Like other members I was pleased to see that the deficit, which, it was anticipated would exceed £700,000, did not reach that sum but the modest figure of £400,000.

Mr. Marshall: That is not correct.

Mr. PICKERING: That is the statement made to us.

Mr. Marshall: That is like many other statements in the Governor's Speech—it is not correct.

Mr. PICKERING: I am willing to accept the statement which has been made to us.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You are basing your argument on that statement?

Mr. PICKERING: Yes.

Mr. Marshall: Then your foundations are weak!

Mr. PICKERING: That may be so, but I am taking the Treasurer's statement. The point is, however, that the State is labouring under grave disabilities. The indebtedness of the nation is proportionately greater on account of our population, and our disabilities are in proportion to our population.

The price of money is higher to-day than it has been for many years and the value of the sovereign is at a low ebb. With these factors confronting the Treasurer, it is not an easy matter to finance the State to advantage. We may congratulate ourselves, therefore, that the results have been as good as those reported by the Treasurer. I wish to discuss the fruit industry. It has been said that the Primary Producers' Association has done little or nothing towards the advancement of this vital industry. That is not so. The industry is one of the most important in the State and it has passed through the gravest period of hardship. The industry has received less assistance from the Government than has any other. It is a very difficult industry to assist and that is evidenced by the action taken by the Commission in Melbourne.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Only one member of your executive comes from the South-West.

Mr. PICKERING: Who is that?

Mr. O'Loghlen: Howter. That is why all the money goes to the wheat areas.

Mr. PICKERING: No, it is because the fruit industry is so difficult to assist.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Then why have you not had the benefit of the E.A.B.?

Mr. PICKERING: I have been trying for a long time to get those benefits extended to the South-West.

Hon. P. Collier: The Primary Producers' Association does not push it very hard.

Mr. Johnston: There are other South-West members on the executive.

Mr. PICKERING: The Primary Producers' Association has assisted the fruit industry as far as possible. Several resolutions have been passed by the conference which has been sitting during the past few days, with a view to further assisting the industry. It has been found that primary industries cannot get the protection that is available to secondary industries through the tariff. If primary industries are to succeed, that success can only be brought about by better handling and by the quality of the products. These are two essentials. We can assist the fruit industry by a reduction in handling charges and freight on rail and by sea. At that end conference carried a resolution yesterday which read as follows—

That owing to the serious position the fruitgrowers are in at present, the Government be asked to assist in finding new markets for the export of fruit.

That is a very big order. If we look round the world we can only find markets for our fruit in the East. If we endeavour to find a market in those parts, it is only reasonable to expect that we should be prepared to take something in exchange. Australia is not in that position. Owing to our protective tariff and the White Australia policy, which suggests that we should not encourage the buying or using of products from foreign countries where coloured labour is employed, it is difficult to secure an interchange between Australia and those

countries. If we cannot secure goods in exchange, we can only take money for the goods we export. Other countries will not be prepared to trade on those conditions. There is a way, however, by which our fruit industry can be assisted. I refer to the introduction of sugar at such a price as will enable it to be used in the manufacture of jams and preserves for exchange with Eastern countries. That is the only way. That it is necessary that we should have some means other than the export of fruit to deal with that part of the crop which is unsuited for export, is very evident. Efforts have been made on previous occasions to establish a jam factory in this State. Members are more or less familiar with the story of disaster that that attempt involved. Jam making was first started in the Donnybrook district as a co-operative concern and it failed. Then the business was transferred to Perth and at the present time it is in the hands of Mr. Rayner. What do we find? The moment anyone endeavours to start an industry such as jam making in Western Australia, the manufacturer is up against keen competition from the Eastern States. The question of dumping enters into the problem. There has been a great outcry in the Eastern States against the dumping there of goods from foreign countries. We can protect the Commonwealth from dumping but when it is a question of dumping as between States, no possible protection can be obtained.

The Minister for Agriculture interjected.

Mr. PICKERING: They are dumping certain lines of jams here and I will give some particulars of what is happening.

Mr. Wilson: What was the cause of the Donnybrook failure?

Mr. PICKERING: The history of that concern dates rather far back.

Mr. Wilson: It was because the growers would not give their fruit.

Mr. PICKERING: That was not the only thing. Inexperience in jam making entered into it.

Mr. Wilson: I happened to be a shareholder, and so I know.

Mr. PICKERING: That may be so, but the fact remains, it did fail. Even had the growers given the fruit the same result would have been achieved. Subsequent ventures were on a firmer basis. I instance this matter because it is very important. The following is an extract from a letter from H. Rayner & Co.—

There is no shadow of doubt that dumping has been going on to a very large degree, and a perusal of the file will show the Government have been continually advised of the fact. I have succeeded at last in getting the Council of Industrial Development to act, also the "West Australian" newspaper, and am enclosing copies of two very pointed articles on the subject. These articles will place the position accurately before you. This State has been flooded with jams, chiefly from South Australia, Melbourne and Tasmania

have been offenders also, Jones's jams being retailed at 13s. in Melbourne and 13s. 9d. per doz. here a few months ago. Approximate retail prices in Perth to-day are—"Reindeer" 13s. 9d. per doz.; "O.K." and Jones's jams 13s. 9d. per doz.; "Rosella" 13s. to 13s. 6d. per doz.; South Australian jams 10s. 6d. to 11s. 6d. per doz. The 10,000 cases landed here about February last were from South Australia, made by H. Brooker & Son, Croydon. These jams are being retailed in Perth from 10s. 6d. to 11s. 6d. per doz., and the purchase price was in the region of 9s. per doz., Fremantle. Naturally the purchasing public get the benefit of these cheap jams, but the fact remains that no industry can survive whilst this method of dumping is allowed to exist. I think the printed articles will suffice to give an idea of the disadvantage under which this industry is placed and, therefore, I will not bore you with a long letter on the subject.

These figures can be taken as accurate, and they illustrate clearly that it is not possible to easily establish industries here against such opposition. This position was realised in the Eastern States when a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Manufacturers was held in Sydney recently. The conference dissociated itself from any attempt against the interests of Western Australian industry and carried the following resolution:—

That in the opinion of this meeting it is not in accordance with the common interests of the manufacturers of Australia that manufacturers established in a State having large demands for their products should offer their goods in other States for consumption at prices having for their object the prevention of the establishment of the manufacture of such goods in the State in which they are being offered. This, particularly applies to the State of Western Australia, which has the sympathetic support of this meeting in its endeavours to establish local manufactures.

From this it will be seen that our point of view is appreciated in the Eastern States as well. The Government should take every step possible to bring representations forcibly before the Commonwealth Government to secure protection for industries established in Western Australia.

Mr. Marshall: On what lines would you work?

Mr. PICKERING: It is possible, within the four corners of the Commonwealth Constitution to prevent the foisting of jams on one State at a price lower than that charged in the State of origin.

The Colonial Secretary: The South Australian jams do not compare with Raven's in quality.

Mr. PICKERING: The point is that those jams are cheaper and people will buy them on that account if the quality is only reasonably good. This makes it almost impossible for local manufacturers to make their business pay, and it is a course of action that

is not confined to this particular industry alone.

Mr. Wilson: If the quality is right, there will be a sale for the product, but when windfalls are sent out it is a different matter.

Mr. PICKERING: I am not referring to the Donnybrook factory, but to the larger issue involved in the dumping of Eastern States products and the damage done to local industries. If it can be demonstrated that jam is being dumped to the detriment of our local industry, we have just cause for complaint. Another resolution carried by conference was in favour of a flat rate of 1s. per case being charged by the Railway Department. By this means fruit could be distributed throughout the State more effectively than at present. The Commissioner of Railways agreed to a rate of 1s. 6d. per case, but I was under the impression that the Minister for Railways made a reference to 1s. as the rate to be charged. I trust some concession as outlined in the resolution will be made. I can give the House my definite assurance—it can be borne out by other members who are interested in this question—that it is not possible to put a case of fruit on rails from an orchard, and get any profit at all, under 5s. a case. If we can get that price, and the charge of 1s. as a flat rate, it will be possible to distribute our fruit throughout Western Australia and the consumers will greatly benefit. When it is realised how difficult it is to get a profit from fruit, no objection should be raised to this concession.

Hon. P. Collier: That would work out at about 2d. per lb.

Mr. PICKERING: Something like that.

Hon. P. Collier: Yet the fruit will be retailed to the consumer at about 6d.

Mr. PICKERING: I know that. One of the troubles with which the industry is confronted is the putting up of inferior fruit. Any man who puts up for market anything but the best, is doing injury both to the industry and to the State. The fruitgrowers have attempted to organise with a view to overcoming the difficulty, but that is not at all easy. First of all there are tactics of the astute middleman, and then the desire of the producer to do better than his fellows.

Hon. P. Collier: The high price of fruit in the city is largely due to the exorbitant rents imposed.

Mr. PICKERING: I dare say they have something to do with it. Valuable assistance could be rendered the industry by the Fremantle Harbour Trust if they would lend one of their sheds to be insulated as a cold store. However, they decline to do that, declaring that the solution of the difficulty lies in building a special shed at the north wharf. But all the fruit ships berth at the south wharf, and it would mean expensive dislocation to move them to the north wharf. Moreover, one of the existing sheds on the south wharf could be insulated for £50,000, whereas the erection of a cooling shed on the North



wharf would involve an expenditure of £200,000.

The Minister for Agriculture: Where do you get that information?

Mr. PICKERING: It has been put up by the Fruitgrowers' Association. Again, it is not possible to pay more than 6d. per case cold storage charges, notwithstanding which it is estimated that under the alternative scheme 2s. 6d. per case will be required. Moreover, it would be wrong to expend a large sum of money on a big shed at Fremantle when the proper place for the shipment of fruit is the nearest port. Obviously cold storage accommodation will have to be provided at Bunbury and at Albany.

The Minister for Agriculture: Already it is provided at Albany.

Mr. PICKERING: And it will have to be provided at Bunbury. A resolution has been passed asking that a conference be called of all those interested in the establishment of central markets and cold stores. I trust that the Minister will give effect to that resolution. One of the greatest needs to-day is the provision of a central market in Perth. Another resolution passed is to the effect that in view of the poor prices received for apples in London during the past season, the Commonwealth Government be approached for a further reduction in freight and handling charges. If any one industry stands for relief, it is the fruit industry. Every effort should be made by the Minister to afford that relief.

Mr. Lambert: What about minerals?

Mr. PICKERING: I am not dealing with minerals just now.

Mr. Marshall: Have you read this report on the handling of fruit in England?

Mr. PICKERING: I am aware that innumerable difficulties confront the fruit industry and require the immediate attention of the Government. One way in which the Government can assist is by a reduction in the price of fruit cases from the State saw-mills. Again, serious trouble arises through the fluctuation of temperatures between here and Great Britain. Many things must be done if we are to improve the position. It has been held that fruit growing should be included in the activities of the group settlers. I for one advise the Government to be chary about encouraging settlers to go in for fruit growing, until the prospects brighten. I notice that under the proposals of the Commissioners dealing with the redistribution of seats I am to have 40 group settlements in my electorate. While, no doubt, members opposite hope that after the next elections I shall cease to be a member of the House, I have every confidence in the intelligence of my electors.

Mr. Lambert: Do you think that is recapitulated?

Mr. PICKERING: I do. I fail to see in the House anybody who could more fittingly represent the Sussex electorate.

Mr. Lambert: You require a new pair of spectacles.

Mr. PICKERING: In the Speech very little is said about group settlement.

Mr. Marshall: It is too expensive to mention.

Mr. PICKERING: I regret that there should be the slightest doubt as to what group settlement means, but I have heard the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture explain group settlement, and as a result I am convinced that the Government are not fully seized of what it really does mean. I speak in all earnestness and with the fixed belief that group settlement is the only policy on which we can successfully develop the South-West.

Mr. Lambert: Any man with 40 groups in his electorate would say the same.

Mr. Underwood: How was the rest of the world developed?

Mr. PICKERING: By men familiar with their environment. One hon. member said that the proper people to put on groups in the remote areas were the migrants, that our own people should be given land adjacent to railways.

Mr. Marshall: Who said that?

Mr. PICKERING: It was said in this Chamber. The development of Australia, so far as it has gone, has been achieved by men from Great Britain. There have been added to my electorate 1,271 settlers in groups.

Mr. Lambert: This is not election day.

Hon. P. Collier: But the hon. member is making an election speech.

Mr. PICKERING: The main thing to aim at in group settlement is the avoidance of over-capitalisation. When we start each succeeding group with green hands, the same lesson has to be learnt 64 times over. In consequence, each of the group settlements is being developed in the most expensive manner possible. The clearing should be undertaken by contract, which would give the best and cheapest results. The cost of clearing has to be borne by the groups.

Hon. P. Collier: I am afraid a lot of it will have to be borne by the State.

Mr. PICKERING: Maybe, but the intention is that it should be borne by the groups. Therefore we should see to it that we do not overburden those people with the cost of development.

Mr. Wilson: It will have to be reduced by 50 per cent.

Mr. PICKERING: I have heard it said that the first 25 acres to be cleared cost £1,060. Since then there has been a revolution in the manner of clearing. At first 25 acres had to be fully cleared. Then we found that five acres were being fully cleared and 20 acres partially cleared. To-day all 25 acres are only partially cleared. The trouble is that this partial clearing is not partial clearing at all. I have suggested to the Premier that partial clearing should mean "sufficiently cleared to permit of the use of modern implements." The settlers should be able to go through their crops with a reaper and binder, instead of having recourse to the scythe, as at present.

Mr. Wilson: Would you take out all the small timber?

Mr. PICKERING: There is not much small timber to be dealt with; it is all very large timber. Another question arises from the many various forms of clearing that have been undertaken. After having started 60 groups, is it not time to decide on the cheapest form of clearing? Surely by this time the department can see that there is one method cheaper than all others, and that the present costly experiment in clearing should be cut out. The object should be to arrive at the cheapest form of clearing. The people on the groups are beginning to wake up to the question of cost. Last Sunday week I visited group No. 36, and the people there were entering closely into the cost of clearing and other matters. They wanted to know how they could be debited. If members refer to "Hansard" of last year, they will see that I asked several questions regarding the cost of clearing. This session I asked a similar question.

Hon. P. Collier: You asked so many questions last session that we do not remember them all.

Mr. PICKERING: Last session I did not do myself justice. I had earned some distinction in the matter of asking questions, but I lost it.

Hon. P. Collier: I can understand the Government not having been able to answer your questions last session, but they ought to have the information now.

Mr. PICKERING: I did not ask a fraction of the number of questions that the Leader of the Opposition asked last session.

Hon. P. Collier: I will bet you on that. Mr. SPEAKER: Not in here.

Mr. PICKERING: To remove all doubt, I shall quote the question. On page 99 of last session's "Hansard" will be found the following:—

Mr. Pickering asked the Premier: 1, Has a proper system of accounts been inaugurated for each group settlement which will include all phases of expenditure? 2, What will be the basis of allocation of costs on individual farms? 3, Is the cost of supervision to be made a charge against each group and to be debited equally to each property?

The Premier replied: 1, Yes. 2, The total charges against the group must not exceed the total costs. Allocations to each block will be made by the General Manager of the Agricultural Bank when it takes over the liability. 3, Yes, so far as the working foreman is concerned.

Hon. P. Collier: That was a satisfactory answer.

Mr. PICKERING: It may have been to you; it was not to me. When a group is begun, the inexperienced members of the group start clearing the first block. Is the whole cost of learning to be debited up to the first settlers? Is the cost of clearing, no matter how much it may vary on individual blocks, to be assessed as a lump sum?

Hon. P. Collier: Each block will stand by itself.

Mr. PICKERING: Then those people put on the first blocks will have to pay higher prices. That would not be fair to them.

Mr. Wilson: Do you want a flat rate?

Mr. PICKERING: I do not think it is possible.

Hon. P. Collier: What is the basis?

Mr. PICKERING: I do not know. Each time I have inquired regarding the system, there has been no answer. Whenever I visit a group, I am asked these questions and I cannot answer them.

Hon. P. Collier: No wonder Monger complains. That is the muddled state of the whole scheme.

Mr. Hughes: What method do you suggest for the allocation?

Mr. PICKERING: I am not responsible for the policy. If I were, all the clearing work would be done by contract, and then we would know the costs. In some cases the costs have been abnormally high. The cost of my clearing by contract was £8 per acre. That was partial clearing, but it was much better than the partial clearing on the groups.

The Minister for Agriculture: How long have you held that land of yours?

Mr. PICKERING: About 18 years. What is to be done regarding fencing? Are the Government going to let the people on the groups fence their own properties, or will the fencing be done by contract? When I first started fencing I began at one corner and described almost a circle before I got to the next. Many men who start fencing make an awful mess of it.

Hon. P. Collier: The Government are certainly fencing your question.

Mr. PICKERING: Yes. Fencing is not an easy matter, and there is a big difference between the cost when the work is done by experts as against the cost when it is done by inexperienced men. We have to consider these points if we are going to avoid over-capitalising these people.

Hon. P. Collier: And they are points on which we have no information.

Mr. PICKERING: That is so. When a start was made to build the houses on the group settlements, green timber was used for livings, flooring and everything else, and the consequence is that the linings and partitions are of no value. I directed the attention of the Premier to this and to-day, instead of building a gable roof over two rooms and a skillion over the back, all the rooms are under a gable roof. This will mean a great difference in the temperature of the rooms in summer. Instead of using green timber in the partitions, seasoned timber is being used, and so there will be some chance of the houses standing.

Mr. Marshall: Seasoned timber should be used throughout.

Mr. PICKERING: Seasoned timber should certainly be used for the linings and flooring. It is evident there are many vital matters that ought to be considered. There is the question of stock and implements. What

principle is to be adopted here? Are implements to be supplied on a communal basis, or haphazardly to every individual? These points must be decided. It would be ridiculous to provide every settler with a reaper and binder.

Mr. Hughes: You are a communist.

Mr. PICKERING: But not of the class of the hon. member.

Hon. P. Collier: Did not the Minister give those particulars to the primary producers' conference?

Mr. PICKERING: The Minister made a very good speech.

Hon. P. Collier: I read it and it did not seem to explain much.

Mr. PICKERING: We do not know who is really controlling this big proposition.

Hon. P. Collier: Mr. Richardson is the controller.

Mr. PICKERING: If we can judge by the remarks of the Premier, group settlement is going to be one of the biggest forms of settlement that the world has known. The Premier told us a couple of nights ago that it was only limited by the area of land available, and he said it would extend from Augusta to Eucla. If it is going to take six millions of money to settle the few groups which we have started, this policy will cost something like 20 millions of money.

Hon. P. Collier: Fifty millions.

The Minister for Agriculture: Why not stop it?

Mr. PICKERING: I do not suggest stopping it. So long as it is not over-capitalised, I see no better form of group settlement, but that is the rock on which the scheme will split, unless every possible care is exercised to prevent these holdings from being over-capitalised. What are the Government paying the men who are responsible for this huge policy? I believe the controller of group settlement receives the munificent salary of £450 or £480. One of his field officers receives in the neighbourhood of £250, which is less than is paid to the foreman working under him. If this policy is such a huge one, it demands the most capable officials to control it, and if they are so capable—

The Minister for Agriculture: You admit they are capable?

Mr. PICKERING: I know nothing to the contrary—if they are so capable, the Government should be ashamed to pay them such miserable salaries.

Hon. P. Collier: You neither affirm nor deny their capacity?

Mr. PICKERING: In my opinion they have exhibited capacity, and if the Government are satisfied—the Minister indicates that they are—the men should receive reasonable salaries.

The Minister for Agriculture: We are all under-paid.

Mr. PICKERING: Speaking for the Minister, I should say so. I have no doubt, though, that these men are not receiving salaries commensurate with their duties. There is another fault—the manner of selecting land for group settlements. A classifying surveyor first goes out and reports on an area for a group. The next man to follow him is a sur-

veyor who cuts the area into blocks. After the surveyor has cut up the area, another official goes along and rejects or accepts the different blocks. Does it not seem obvious that the proper course is to send out the third man first of all, before the expense of classifying and surveying has been incurred? Who is going to bear the cost of this? Without these errors, the cost of the groups will be heavy enough.

Mr. Wilson: The land down there is patchy.

Mr. PICKERING: If the classifying surveyor knew his work, he should cut out the patchy land that is considered unsuitable.

Mr. Wilson: He could not do that.

Mr. PICKERING: The man who comes afterwards is able to do it.

Mr. Wilson: He cuts it out of a certain area.

Mr. PICKERING: The classifier should be able to cut it out in the first place, instead of its being left until the cost of classifying and surveying has been incurred. That position should be arrived at in the first instance and not in the last, because all the cost of surveying is thrown upon the funds of this scheme. We have been asked what we are going to do with these settlers. We are told that in two years virgin forest is to be converted into pastures. I hope that will be possible, but it is a great deal to expect virgin forest to be turned into pastures in two years. If we cannot get the pastures in that period, can the people in the groups undertake remunerative farming? Can we trust these settlers with valuable stock? It will be of no use giving them other than valuable stock, or cows that will milk well. On 25 acres a man cannot run many cattle. Unless the settlers get the best of stock they cannot get proper results, and unless they have pastures on which to sustain the cattle it is foolish to put valuable stock into such country.

Mr. Piessé: We will get it.

Mr. PICKERING: I have seen a property close to the settlements containing magnificent pastures of subterranean clover and paspalum, but it has taken seven years to bring it to such a stage. Most of what country members saw last year is old country, and therefore contains good pasture. The country we are speaking of will ultimately provide good pastures, but I shall be pleasantly surprised if what we desire can be brought about in two years. I do not say that there is anything wrong with the group settlement principle, or the country, but I warn the Government it will take longer than they think to make these group settlers self-supporting. We must be careful as to what industries the group settlers are encouraged to engage in. These are very few in number. We must encourage the settlers to operate only in that direction where they can be sure of finding markets. Dairying and kindred industries are those upon which it would be safe for them to embark.

Mr. Lambert drew attention to the state of the House.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

Mr. PICKERING: The question has been raised as to the extent to which we can overtake the local market. When it is all boiled down the main items to be considered on the local market are tinned milk, butter, cheese, bacon and eggs. These things can all be worked in association with each other. The first requisite is to have good pastures, then to see that the settlers get approved stock. If we are to buy adequate stock for the settlers we should take steps at once to see that there are sufficient supplies forthcoming. It will not be an easy matter to do this. The average butter fat obtained from the cows in this State is not the average upon which group settlers can be started. It is time we woke up to this fact, and saw that provision is made for rearing or securing the stock necessary for the equipment of these people.

The Minister for Agriculture: Have we not awakened to it?

Mr. PICKERING: There is no evidence of it. I have before me the final report of the select committee upon the conditions and prospects of the agricultural industry in New South Wales. It is an excellent work, and illustrates how vital it is to the success of the dairying industry that herd testing and proper pedigreed milking-strain bulls be obtained as speedily as possible. This will have to be done in time if the group settlers are to be successful in their operations. The matter must be taken up in a business-like way, and speedily, if we are to meet the early contingency of equipping the settlers. I had the pleasure this evening of meeting Mr. Miles, who has just returned from England. He gave a very interesting description of pig raising in England, and showed what avenues there were in that particular industry if properly undertaken. These are the lines upon which we shall have to work. We must have good cows, good bulls and good pigs if we are to make a success of this form of settlement. There is no reason why we should not take into consideration the development of the cheese industry. That may be associated with this group settlement. It will be necessary to make provision for dealing with the products of the settlers, such as milk, butter fat and bacon. It is no use waiting for the difficulty to arise before we grapple with it; we must deal with it speedily. One of the essentials in the construction of a building is that the architect who first plans it out should thoroughly understand all the conditions connected with the building. The same thing applies to the group settlements. The Government must see that the foundations are well and truly laid, and everything arranged before we go much further.

Mr. Richardson: What do you suggest?

Mr. PICKERING: I have made many suggestions which the hon. member could have heard had he been here. I have suggested that instead of going on with the present haphazard method, we should let contracts for certain things. I have suggested that there

should be a proper system of accounts, so that we should know how these things should be debited to the settlers, and at what cost.

Mr. Hughes: The Premier says there is a proper system of accounts.

Mr. PICKERING: There is no evidence of it.

Mr. Hughes: Do you not take his word?

Mr. PICKERING: We want practical evidence of it.

Mr. Marshall: No one knows what the Peel Estate will cost.

Mr. PICKERING: When we do erect factories in connection with our group settlements we should secure the best possible men to control them. One of the essentials to success in the output of butter, bacon, and cheese is that the standard must be high.

The Minister for Agriculture: Of course.

Mr. Underwood: What about the Fremantle Freezing Works which Monger manages?

Mr. PICKERING: They have been managed fairly well, I believe. Every possible care should be taken to ensure that the group settlers are given an opportunity of making good.

The Minister for Agriculture: We all desire that.

Mr. Richardson: What is the general cost of clearing by contract?

Mr. PICKERING: I have already told the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then the hon. member must not repeat himself.

Mr. PICKERING: If the hon. member has not enough knowledge of clearing to be aware that it varies in different districts, I cannot tell him.

Mr. Richardson: I want to know what the cost is in your district.

Mr. PICKERING: It varies. The general cost in the South-West should not exceed £12 an acre.

Mr. Richardson: But you said £8.

Mr. PICKERING: It cost me on the average £8 an acre to clear my land. No one would be fool enough to say that clearing would cost the same throughout the South-West. Land down there should be cleared for a cost not exceeding £12, after the manner in which it is now being cleared.

Mr. Marshall: You will be surprised at the actual cost.

Mr. PICKERING: In connection with the immigration movement, the country has had the assistance of the Ugly Men's Voluntary Workers' Association of Western Australia. This association has done excellent work. A branch of it is the New Settlers' League. I have been connected with that organisation for the last six or eight months. It has been a great pleasure to me to have been associated with it.

Mr. Marshall: Did you join up?

Mr. PICKERING: I could not be a member of the executive if I had not joined up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. PICKERING: A great deal has been said in this Chamber about the New Settlers' League of the Ugly Men's Association, and I regret that some of the things stated have not been favourable to the league. To my knowledge, the league is representative of almost every section of the community, and also of every religious body. Its composition is as broad as it can possibly be. It has proved itself of inestimable benefit to the State; and I defy contradiction of that statement. People who stay outside and criticise, without doing a dashed thing themselves, should be silent. The members of the league give their services gratuitously, and give them willingly, and do their utmost to assist the State in a very difficult position. It is of interest to know that the league has helped in placing a very considerable number of migrants. The society's report states—

Forty-five steamers conveying new settlers have arrived at Fremantle, and twelve at Albany, the single men and a small percentage of married couples being disposed of by the joint efforts of this league and the Immigration Department. The majority of the married people having been placed upon the group settlements by the Government, 4,197 positions have been found by this league during the period under review, which makes a grand total of 13,220 positions filled, of whom 1,501 have been placed a second time, 586 a third time, 178 a fourth time, 91 a fifth time, and 19 a sixth time.

These figures are very striking. Out of 13,220 positions filled a first time, it has been necessary to fill only 1,501 a second time, and the number dwindles to 19 filled for the sixth time. Evidently the positions found by the association for migrants have been satisfactory.

Mr. Underwood: Western Australians were displaced.

Mr. PICKERING: That may have been so, but I do not know.

Mr. Underwood: But I do. Some good "gropers" were displaced.

Mr. PICKERING: In answer to the hon. member, let me quote further from the report—

The above total included local men as well as new arrivals.

Mr. Underwood: Where have they gone?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. PICKERING: The report continues—

The summary of the commencing wages paid by employers for the year just ended referred to is as under:—Lads and youths from 14 years and under 20 years at 15s. to 20s. per week and keep, according to age, 428. Single men over 21 years, 25s. and keep, 2,552. Single men over 21 years and above 25s. and keep, 472. Contract work, 475. Married couples, 135 ranging from £2 to £2 10s. per week and keep, with 57 children, 270. Total, 4,197.

Mr. Hughes: How are those figures compiled?

Mr. PICKERING: They have been compiled from the records in the office of the league.

Mr. Underwood: What about the recent population, because Western Australians were driven out?

Mr. PICKERING: The hon. member has a full knowledge of this subject, and probably in his address will explain how Western Australians have been driven out. I am not able to do so, because I am not cognisant of any having been driven out. One of the urgent necessities which arose on the initiation of the immigration policy was that we should find billets for the people as they came in.

Mr. Underwood: And drove our fellows out.

Mr. PICKERING: It has been often said by members of this House that our loss of population was due to the people of the goldfields leaving the State because they could not make good at mining here. How the migrants have driven out those goldfields residents I do not know. Those goldfields residents must have gone of their own volition. The Premier clearly explained the other evening that the statistical returns regarding population are not accurate and reliable. I do not wish to go over those figures again. If the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) had been here, he could have heard the figures explained and would have known the exact position. Now I wish to give an explanation of a statement made here the other evening by the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie). I asked the secretary of the New Settlers' League to put up the position as it really is, and he wrote me this letter—

I would be pleased, when you are speaking to the Address-in-reply, if you would refer to the statement made by Mr. Munsie regarding the two vagabonds whom he refers to in his speech. Firstly, the night on which they slept out and were caught by the police they were in possession of an order from this association for beds at the Salvation Army Home in Pier-street, but unfortunately the place was full and evidently they could not obtain accommodation. After they had been prosecuted the following morning in the police court, they came to this office in a great state at having had to appear in a police court, and were provided with board and lodging at the People's Palace in Pier-street pending their being found situations. The lad whose arm was badly shattered informed us that he had been employed at a boarding house at Warraming on light work, on account of his disability. He further stated that his position was still available, but a telegram to his employer did not bring forward a reply that resulted in his return. He was then given a light position on a poultry farm, and the other lad was given farm work on the Great Southern line. The same applies to the three men who were also referred to, who were sent to a clearing contract. The secretary of the Trades Hall, Mr. Pantom, hearing of their plight,

asked me to again place them. Two of them were found further clearing work at 30s. per week and keep, and the third on a farm at 25s. per week and keep. During the time they were waiting for employment this association provided them also with board and lodging at the People's Palace. This information, I trust, will be given to the House to show that where necessitous cases have arisen, the association has provided board and lodging, pending employment being obtained.

I have read this letter especially because some slur has been cast upon the association regarding the payment involved in the business. The writer of the letter is an officer of the association, and the only paid officers in it are the secretary and those actually out finding billets. No member of the executive receives any remuneration whatever, and all the work done by the executive is of an entirely gratuitous nature. In addition, the Ugly Men's Association, of which the New Settlers' League is a branch, goes further, and provides funds when the funds made available to the New Settlers' League by the Commonwealth are not sufficient.

Mr. Hughes: And how do the Ugly Men get their funds?

Mr. PICKERING: They get them in a perfectly open way.

Mr. Hughes: By securing privileges which are allowed to nobody else.

Mr. PICKERING: Is that true?

Mr. Hughes: Yes.

Mr. PICKERING: Has the hon. member never had any such privileges as the Ugly Men's Association have had?

Mr. Hughes: For ten minutes, and then they were stopped.

Mr. PICKERING: Anyway, this association is entirely a charitable institution, and its books are open for inspection by anyone who cares to inspect them. So there is no reason for heaping contumely upon men who in their own time help the immigration policy.

Mr. Richardson: It is the best organisation in Australia.

Mr. PICKERING: It seems to me that when a public man decides to take part in the affairs of such a body as the Ugly Men's Association or the New Settlers' League, he becomes an Aunt Sally and a cockshy for the general public. Apparently a man who desires to serve the State succeeds merely in bringing contumely upon his head. It was with regret I noted the other night that when certain members made references to the composition of the New Settlers' League, one member said the league was composed of employers, whereupon another member added, "And third-rate architects."

The Minister for Works: That could not apply to you.

Mr. PICKERING: I am the only architect in that organisation, and I think it is pretty well known. It is a matter for regret that such things should have been said. In the whole of my political career it has

never occurred to me to impugn the honour or the ability of any member of this Chamber. I respect members in the position they occupy as representatives of the people. I take it they are here to state the views of their constituents. I have never inquired as to the private business of any member; and, even if I had done so, I should have hesitated to use the information by way of bringing indignity upon him. The remark to which I have referred appeared in the "West Australian" on the next day. It is no credit to the "West Australian" to have published it. My attention was drawn to it by many people who know me. I think it is unfair, and I am glad to know that there is a possibility of a new paper being started in this State. I shall welcome it. I trust that any new paper which we may get will treat members of Parliament impartially and give them a fair chance. There is scope in this State for an impartial paper, and a paper that will devote itself to the advocacy of the best interests of Western Australia. The cheap and nasty reflections cast upon Mr. Monger do not come well from the lips of members of this Chamber. Who are they to heap contumely upon a man who has rendered good service to the State gratuitously?

Mr. Underwood: Who is he?

Mr. PICKERING: Mr. Monger has nothing to do with the sandalwood question, so far as I know. I had hoped when speaking on the Address-in-reply to deal with the questions of sandalwood and forestry, but when one is so situated that one cannot speak until it is too late to deal with important subjects—and that was the case last year when I wished to speak on forestry, but was debarred by the lateness of the hour—one has no real opportunity of placing one's views before the House.

Mr. Corboy: Were you prevented from speaking by the lateness of the hour, or by the fact that you could not get a newspaper report by speaking at that hour?

Mr. PICKERING: The hon. member interjecting measures me by his own standard.

Mr. Hughes: How do you know the new paper will be impartial?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) must keep order.

Mr. PICKERING: I shall not detain the House longer, as I shall have an opportunity on the Estimates of dealing with those subjects which the lateness of the hour and the smallness of the attendance make it not worth while to discuss now.

On motion by Mr. J. Thomson debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.*