

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I interjected with a question as to whether he was there and he replied in the negative, adding that he was not an agitator.

Hon. E. H. Harris: You misunderstood him.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I was in the streets during the strike and I did not see anything that warranted the exaggerated statements appearing in the Press. I have had a long experience in industrial matters and, in my opinion, the prestige of the police has been increased, owing to the action of the Government during the strike. The fact is that up to that time the police had always taken part against the workers in industrial troubles under instructions from the Government.

Hon. J. Ewing: You ought not to say that.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: That is my experience.

Hon. A. Burvill: It is a bit too strong.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: It is true.

Hon. J. Ewing: No, it is not.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: At any rate, that is my opinion and experience. In this instance, the police were absolutely neutral. When Mr. Brown interjected that it had been a bloodless strike, Dr. Saw retored, "Bloodless, owing to the anæmic action of the Government." I am sorry Dr. Saw is not present because I wished to ask him whether he was serious when he made that interjection. I thought that spirit had died out of our public life.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Dr Saw said that it was bloodless in the sense that the actions of the Government had been anæmic. He did not mean it in the way you infer.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: That is the only construction I could put on the interjection.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: What he meant was that the Government were anæmic in their attitude towards the strike.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Yes, but he said it was bloodless, because of the anæmic action of the Government.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Does not that bear out what I say? He did not mean what you inferred. He did not mean that he wished blood had been spilt.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: At any rate, I think mine is a commonsense interpretation to be placed upon the interjection.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: I think you are quite wrong.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: If hon. members say I am wrong, I shall be pleased to acknowledge it.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: I am sure Dr. Saw did not mean it in the way you infer.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I desired to refer to this matter because I could not believe that any public man would make such a statement. I hope Dr. Saw will take the opportunity to explain that interjection. My experience is that owing to the Governments of the day in the past not understanding the working class conditions, they always used the police against the strikers and so created trouble. That state of affairs does not now exist, and I sincerely believe that in the last industrial trouble the prestige of the police was increased and the man in the street has now a greater respect for the police force than ever before. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

On motion by Hon. H. Seddon, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 18th August, 1925.

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

QUESTION—FRUIT MARKETING LEGISLATION.

Mr. SAMPSON (without notice) asked the Minister for Agriculture:—Is the statement relating to fruit marketing published in the "Mt. Barker District News," and which appears in this morning's issue of the

"West Australian" authentic? In this it is stated that Ministerial assurance has been given that the proposed Fruit Marketing Bill will be a compulsory measure?

The Premier: Do you expect the Minister to tell you what his Bill is going to contain?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: The matter has not yet been determined by Cabinet.

QUESTION—FENCING, FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

Mr. LATHAM (without notice) asked the Premier: In view of the statement of the Federal Treasurer in his Budget Speech of August 13th, that legislation would be introduced during the present session of the Federal Parliament to provide for loans to States to advance to settlers money to erect vermin-proof fences, will he anticipate the referred to legislation by calling for applications from settlers requiring assistance, and thus expedite the construction of such fences, so protecting settlers and the State from losses which must accrue unless urgently dealt with?

The PREMIER replied: I am not able to give a definite answer, but the whole matter of assisting settlers in respect of vermin is now under consideration by the Government.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Divorce Act Amendment.

Introduced by Mr. Mann.

2, Cottesloe Municipal Beach Trust.

Introduced by Mr. North.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Eighth Day.

Debate resumed from the 13th August.

MR. CHESON (Cue) [4.37]: It is very gratifying for supporters of the Government to be able to point to the sound state of the finances. It does not leave much room for Opposition criticism. The late Government left a deficit of £178,000, and the present Government have reduced that by £120,000, and so the deficit to-day stands at £58,000. The present Government have shown economy in the administration of their depart-

ments. Of course, if all the wants and requirements put before us by members were to be met, there would be no opportunity for further reducing the deficit. Undoubtedly some credit for the improved finances can be given to the bumper harvest of 24,000,000 bushels of wheat. Then there has been the increased revenue derived by the railways from timber for export, and indeed, from all commodities carried. The pastoral industry is now beginning to recover from the drought. Recently I visited the Murchison, in company with the Minister for Mines. Everywhere we went the pastoralists eulogised the Government for their action in reducing the railway freight on starving stock during the drought, when the pastoralists were asked to pay freight only one way. It gave those in the industry an opportunity to send their starving stock down to Mullewa and other places where feed was abundant, so minimising their losses. Had not the Government come to the assistance of the pastoralists in that way, probably the greater number of the sheep on the Murchison would have been lost. Whatever the concession may have cost the Government, there can be no doubt it will come back to them twenty-fold within a few years. Pastoralists alongside the railways took full advantage of the concession, but some others at a distance from the line neglected the consigning of their sheep until the sheep were in so bad a condition that they could not be moved, and so were lost outright. Those losses are greatly to be regretted, but no doubt the industry will recover. During our trip we found that pastoral property was changing hands at big figures. All over the Murchison pastoralists from other States were purchasing properties and spending large sums of money on their development and stocking. Everywhere we found stations once used as cattle runs now being turned into sheep pastures. The outside vermin boards are making a big fight against the dingoes, and are gradually exterminating them. The pastoralists themselves are experts in dealing with these dogs, and never move about the country without a supply of bait and laying it. Their attentions are not confined to their own holdings, but they go out into the cattle runs and Crown lands and carry on the work of extermination. The dingoes come in across the Nullabor Plains and follow the Great Western railway, receiving

food through the medium of the rabbits. They come in great numbers but the people on the outer fringe of settlement are fighting them, and in this way are protecting the stock belonging to the people inside. They are doing a great work on behalf of the State. I am glad to note from the Speech that reforestation has now definitely emerged from the experimental stage, and that the State will, in years to come, be independent of outside softwood supplies. In the "West Australian" of 11th August last there is an article dealing with the soft woods of the world, and the views of the Prime Minister concerning the matter. The article is as follows:—

"There has recently come into my hands," said the Prime Minister (Mr. S. M. Bruce) to-day, "an official bulletin of the Queensland Forest Service entitled 'the Softwood Problem in Queensland,' written by Mr. V. Grenning, which, as its title shows, deals primarily with the Queensland position. The facts and figures produced, the arguments developed, and the conclusions arrived at are of such national importance that all interested in the vital question of forestry should study this valuable brochure.

"We have always regarded Queensland and in less degree Northern New South Wales, as holding our great reserves of such softwoods as hoop and Punja pine so it comes as a shock to read that there are only 800,000,000 superficial feet of pine timber standing in Queensland, and at the rate of cutting this mature timber will last eight years. More than half the cut comes from private property, so even were the Forest Service of Queensland to restrict the cutting in Crown forests, the life of Australia's premier softwoods would not be greatly increased.

Mr. Grenning says:—"Previous to the war Queensland supplied her own softwood requirements, and was able to export several million superficial feet per annum to other States. Now the demand has exceeded the supply, and Queensland will import a greater quantity of softwood every year. Fortunately, as will be shown later, there is every prospect of securing our requirements—at an ever-increasing cost, however—from overseas for many years to come, though not indefinitely. Against the threatened shortage of overseas supplies in the future we must prepare, and the only possible method is by establishing plantations. Unless we make a serious effort to forecast the future situation and to meet that situation, we will fail in our duty."

"There is the position and there is the remedy, and what is true for Queensland is doubly true for all other States, for none has her advantages in softwoods but all must depend entirely on imports. Mr. Grenning then goes on to set out Australia's position, and shows that 600,000,000 superficial feet of sawn softwood was consumed on the continent in 1913; that during the war it declined to 259,000,000 superficial feet, but since then it has increased rapidly, and it is expected that the 1913 figure will shortly be eclipsed. In 1920-21 the cost of the importation of essential softwoods was £14,270 per day. We must have softwood; the demand will increase rather than

decrease. An increased utilisation of secondary species and hardwoods will alleviate the situation to a certain extent. Softwoods are necessary, and the only way to make certain of future supplies is by plantation.

"How long shall we be able to import timber? Can we grow our softwood plantations in time before the famine arrives? These two questions require a careful review of the world's softwood resources to enable an answer to be framed. The bulletin goes into the resources of each country as follows:—Canada: Stand of softwood saw logs, 96,330,000,000 cubic feet: annual utilisation, 4,000,000,000 cubic feet. U.S.A.: The position is more serious. Only 137,000,000 acres of the original 522,000,000 acres of forest remain, and 50,000,000,000 cubic feet are being cut a year, which is more than four times the estimated growth. Already she is dependent on Canada for two-thirds of her news print. Of the existing stand of saw timber in the United States of America, estimated at 1,830,000,000,000 superficial feet, 65 per cent. is located in the Pacific Coast States and Alaska. Of this, 1,214,000,000,000 superficial feet only 10,000,000,000 superficial feet is cut annually. This cut will naturally increase to supply the ever-growing demand in the East. Again, Australia is as close to this main source of supply as the Eastern markets. Europe: Total stand of softwoods, 285,000,000,000 cubic feet. The total annual utilisation of softwoods exceeds by 2,250,000,000 cubic feet the annual increment of the forests (28 cubic feet per acre per year). There are only three countries with a surplus—Sweden, Finland, and Montenegro. The others do not produce enough for their own requirements. Siberia: Resources unknown.

"Summing the position up, Australia should be able to secure her softwood requirements for at least thirty years from the West Coast of U.S.A. and Canada. Mr. Grenning points out the possible necessity of the Commonwealth Government embarking on a planting scheme so that Australia's requirements may be produced most economically by growing the most desirable species over large areas of localities most suited to their development.

"What has Australia done to date? The figures giving areas of plantations are very depressing reading:—New South Wales, 8 square miles; Victoria, 21 square miles; Queensland, 2 square miles; South Australia, 40 square miles; Western Australia, 25 square miles; total, 73½ square miles. During the year 1922-23 seven square miles were laid down. The area we should plant annually to meet our future requirements is 40 square miles.

"The Queensland Forestry Service is to be congratulated for having set out so clearly the position in that State, and I can only hope that the lesson this little bulletin teaches will be learnt by the other States, whose opportunities for growing first-class softwoods are as great as those of Queensland. In the matter of the two Federal territories that enjoy temperate climates plans are being laid to plant up areas that will more than satisfy the requirements of the expected population in years to come in those territories."

Mr. Bruce concluded by pointing out that forestry is rapidly growing beyond the confines laid down by State boundaries. The warnings of this bulletin show clearly that it is only by a well-directed and co-ordinated scheme that the timber famine that confronts us can be averted. The Federal

Government is prepared at all times to co-operate with the State in matters that concern the whole Commonwealth, and it views the present forestry situation as one of the most important of the national problems to be solved. It proposes by the establishment of the Commonwealth School of Forestry to provide the means for training the necessary personnel to carry out this great task. It must look to the States each to do their part, as they have control of the land to be afforested.

The importance of this subject is so great that I think the article should appear in "Hansard." I have read a good deal of the evidence taken by the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into group settlement, and the recommendations and summaries of the position. I consider the report is in accordance with the evidence. It is a valuable document. A lot of evidence has been collected, and a comparison has been made with the methods adopted in this State and in Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand. In the opinion of the Commission the scheme was commenced without proper preparations being made for the migrants. The idea was to settle people in the South-West. It was a good one, but I do think we went into it before adequate preparations were made. Many migrants were coming to these shores, and it was the duty of the Government of the day to see that they were placed. As pointed out by the Commission, the idea first was to give these migrants some training in practical farming, but that had to be abandoned. When people are brought from the Old Country to new surroundings and new work, there are bound to be many failures amongst them. That only stands to reason. A man brought up in one walk of life is frequently not a success in another walk. Many of our migrants did not possess the necessary training for agriculture, and in consequence have proved failures on the groups. I agree with the Commission that the scheme was launched without proper preparation.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: What sort of preparation do you suggest?

Mr. CHESSON: Provision should have been made for adequate training of the migrants. For example, a migrant could not be expected to prove a success from the start when put on clearing heavy timber. If a number of men are placed together on a group, never having seen each other before, there are bound to be among them some polers, some who care nothing about the sustenance.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: A good many of the settlers were our own people.

Mr. CHESSON: Even our own people, placed on a group and finding there men unfit for the work, will be dissatisfied. If one or two members of a group lag behind, it has a bad effect on the whole group. Many of the migrants are of excellent type, but they have been brought up as mechanics or aristsans, and their economic value is largely lost when they are put to work as farm labourers. The Commission point out that, according to the experience of the Eastern States, a dairy farmer must have a minimum of 20 milking cows, and this means a herd of 30 cows and heifers. The Commission also state that the area allocated to the group settler is too small. One cow to three acres means 90 acres cleared or partly cleared. The member for Sussex (Mr. Barnard) criticised the evidence taken from officials. My candid opinion is that the evidence of the supervisors was the best evidence that could be obtained as to clearing and as to the general lines of policy laid down by the Government. The trouble was that the supervisors had no power to dispense with an unsuitable man, or with a man who would not make an effort. Men of that description had to be carried by the group. The man in charge of a job should not be there at all if he has not power to discharge an unsatisfactory worker. The supervisor should be the best judge as to whether the men are doing a fair day's work or making a real effort.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But if he discharged anyone, he might be declared black.

Mr. CHESSON: The man who is merely poling represents nothing but a bloodsucker. The Commission also point out that the agreement between the State Government and the Imperial and Commonwealth Governments is unsatisfactory. That is proved by the alterations which have been made in the original agreement. We are still out for further improvements.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: We want more liberal terms.

Mr. CHESSON: Certainly.

Mr. Latham: The agreement was in this House for two years without any objection being raised to it.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You do not want any migrants at all.

Mr. CHESSON: I have no objection whatever to migrants of the right type.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: What is the right type?

Mr. CHESSON: Not men who have been living on charity, or on doles, but men prepared to strike out as our forefathers did. I care not whether such men be miners, sailors, fishermen, or agriculturists. In this young country we want men of initiative and who are prepared to work hard. We do not want men who have been in receipt of doles.

Mr. Latham: That is a very unfair remark. Britain had either to give her unemployed doles, or let them starve.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It is a man's misfortune, and not his fault, when he has to take doles.

Mr. CHESSON: The man who has been receiving a dole for some time has deteriorated. No man works because he likes work; he works because it is compulsory in order to obtain a living. The Commission further draw attention to the fact that in the Busselton district 81,000 acres of alienated land were drained by the Government. They contend that there is no possible chance of the State being recouped for its expenditure in draining that area of privately owned land unless Parliament passes legislation for the purpose. I recognise that the Commission's findings are in accordance with the evidence. It was open to any person who chose to do so to give evidence before the Commission; and if people complain now about the evidence, the fault lies with themselves. They had the opportunity of giving evidence. If the Commission had not taken evidence from the supervisors, they would have been lacking in their duty.

Mr. Sampson: Did you read page 214 of the evidence?

Mr. CHESSON: I read a good portion of it. Another matter I wish to refer to is the sandalwood industry. I have arrived at the conclusion that the goldfields area on which sandalwood is obtained should be earmarked for the benefit of worn-out miners and prospectors. In view of the number of applications from miners and prospectors that are made every year, the quantity of sandalwood to be pulled, 1,500 tons, is not anything like sufficient to allow each applicant an allocation of five tons.

Mr. Panton: Only about 1,000 tons of sandalwood are being pulled now, not 1,500.

Mr. CHESSON: At this moment there are already fully 100 applications lodged

with the Mines Department for permits to cut sandalwood next year. The applications have been made on the principle of getting in early. Genuine prospectors and miners interview goldfields members time after time for the purpose of securing permits. One gets the necessary papers for the man, and he makes his application, but only to find that the whole of the tonnage for the year has been already absorbed. Before long there will be little sandalwood left in Western Australia, and therefore something should be done to provide for worn-out miners and prospectors. It would be a generous act to reserve for such men the sandalwood on the goldfields areas. Another matter that affects my constituency is the Traffic Bill that was before Parliament last session. It was amended along lines suggested by the select committee to which it was referred. We know what happened in the Legislative Council towards the end of the session. In effect, they passed the schedule to the Bill only, and thus taxation was imposed, leaving the rest of the measure to stand aside. The extra taxation affects those concerned with the carting of ore to the State batteries. They have to keep the battery going during the period when crushing operations are undertaken, and the tax which bears heavily upon those engaged in the carting has to be passed on to the inspectors. I recognise that the Government have requested the Council to further consider the Bill, which is to be treated as a lapsed Bill, and if that is done, some relief may be afforded. I hope the Bill will be passed along the lines suggested by this House when the measure was sent to the Council for endorsement. As to the mining industry generally, I travelled with the Minister for Mines throughout the Murchison goldfields. I congratulate the members of the Ministry on the fact that during the recess they have visited practically every part of Western Australia. The Minister for Mines visited almost the whole of the mining areas of the State with the exception, of course, of those in the North-West. During the Minister's trip through the Murchison he drew attention to the relief granted to the mining industry in the taxation measures last session and emphasised that the income tax would be imposed only on profits and that new capital would be exempt from taxation until the amount subscribed by the share-

holders had been returned. Those announcements, together with those relating to the reduction in railway freights, met with the approval of the people outback, especially those concerned in mining operations. They realised how they had been penalised in the past because, when they endeavoured to bring their plant up to date, they were taxed practically on development. Then the subsidy on cartage to the State battery has had a beneficial effect. At present if a show is 30 miles from a State battery, the Government subsidise the cartage to the extent of 25s. a ton, which means that the prospector has to pay only 5s. a ton. This affords the prospector an opportunity to develop his own proposition, if it is more than 30 miles away from a State battery, without having to give an option over the show. It also means that development will be encouraged and then the Government will be in a position to know whether the erection of a State battery, if requested for one of these centres, is justified or not. There is also a chance that, as a result of this subsidy, some of the more distant propositions may be developed into another Kalgoorlie. If that were done, it would provide the best immigration agent Western Australia could have. We would not require help at the other end, because the right class of people would come here, just as people of energy and initiative flocked to Western Australia in the boom days. Much is being done for the prospectors by the State Prospecting Board. The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) and myself are members of the board, and if any genuine prospector advances a claim for assistance, he is not turned down. I have a statement relating to the money allocated and other particulars regarding the operations of the board during the last six months of the financial year ended 30th June, 1925. It is as follows:—

The State Prospecting Board continued to assist prospectors with the granting of sustenance, explosives, railway fares, freight, and the loan of turn-outs and tools for prospecting in approved localities. The central board was guided by the recommendations of the Advisory Boards at Kalgoorlie and Mt. Magnet, for prospectors desiring assistance from those centres. From the inception of the board, on the 1st September, 1919, to the 31st December, 1924, assistance was granted to 711 parties, comprising 1,191 men at a cost of £28,252 14s. 10d. For the six months ended 30th June, 1925, 70 parties, comprising 108 men, were assisted, and 45 applications for extension were granted, on the recommendation of the board, at

a cost of £2,810 10s. 10d. This amount was apportioned as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Rations	1,766	7	8
Hire, horses	192	0	11
Hire, camels	34	15	9
Purchase of equipment	91	16	1
Freight	25	16	3
Fares	38	18	7
Explosives	33	0	11
Miscellaneous	165	19	1
State Prospecting Party, No. 5	121	5	10
State Prospecting Party, No. 6	340	9	9
	£2,810	10	10

This makes a total of 781 parties comprising 1,299 men assisted, at a total cost of £31,063 5s. 8d., since the inception of the board. In addition £4,131 16s. 2d. has been spent on five prospecting parties controlled by the board. During the six months ended 30th June, 1925, 19 applications were refused and four were withdrawn. In some cases where assistance was refused it was because the applications did not come within the scope of the board's powers. During the early part of the year, the whole of the goldfields areas were suffering from the effects of a prolonged drought. For this reason alone the board were reluctantly compelled to refuse some of the applications made. During February, good rains fell in the North-West and Murchison, and fair in other parts of the goldfields. Later, further rains benefited these localities, and more especially the Eastern goldfields, where the rain had previously been insufficient. Some of the assisted prospectors have been successful in finding gold during the six months and some of the returns are as shown hereunder:—

		tons.	ozs.
1753/23	Jones, W.	16	61-56
936/24	Martyn, W.	37-75	26-7
1375/24	Nyborg, A. R.	Dolled	47-56
1441/23	Allen, W.	Alluvial	90-7
		9	18-6
335/22	Solater, A.	3	30
531/24	Curtis & Deeble ...	9	9-6
1721/23	Rogers & Oliver ...	25	20
416/23	Heffernan & Swan- son	3	108-28
1621/22	O'Brien, W.	Dolled	44-25
1702/22	Bankier & McPartin	Dolled	104
		Alluvial	63-1

Good prospects have been reported by Messrs. Hollow & Heaton, 60 miles S.W. of Southern Cross, Heffernan & Swanson at Barrambie, and Gessner & Huffa, at Kurnalpi. Refunds were made during the six months by—

	£	s.	d.	
Allen, Wm.	34	13	4	Boogardie.
Nyborg, A. R.	21	2	0	Taurus.
Heffernan & Swan- son	162	10	0	Boorambie.
Hough, D. E. A.	13	0	0	Mt. Magnet.
Asher, J.	4	10	0	St. Ives.

Assistance had been granted to prospectors in all parts of the State, although the majority of applications were from prospectors in the Eastern

and Murchison goldfields. At the 30th June, they were located as follows—

	Parties.	Men.
North-West	7 ...	12
Murchison	28 ...	38
Northern	8 ...	12
Eastern	30 ...	48
Southern	4 ...	5
	<hr/> 77 ...	<hr/> 115

Of the 77 parties mentioned above, one had a turn-out only, five had turn-outs and tools, 10 had turn-outs, tools and sustenance, five had sustenance and tools, four had sustenance and turn-out, five had tools only, and 47 had sustenance only. During the period under review, the board assisted a party of prospectors by the loan of a boat and equipment, also sustenance for prospecting on the Kimberley coast. Owing to a disagreement in the party, the board would not allow any of them to proceed beyond Roebourne, where the expedition was abandoned. The cost of this party was £340 9s. 9d., but by the sale of the boat and the stores, it was hoped that the ultimate cost would be comparatively small. A further practical test having been made with the hand-boring plant, it was considered suitable for the work required to be performed by it. These machines are now available for loan to prospectors.

With regard to hand boring plants, four of these have been made available. They are fairly light and weigh about 30lbs. It is possible to bore to a depth of 30ft. or more. I know of one instance in the Murchison where the boring was taken down to a depth of 28ft. This method will prove a big boon to prospectors because we realise the difficulties owing to the geological formation in various parts of Western Australia. There is a cement that occurs in depths varying from 3ft. to 30ft. and with the aid of the hand borers the prospector can get through the cement and may possibly locate the source whence gold occurrences have been shed. I feel satisfied that the plant will prove efficient and that it will be greatly utilised by prospectors. We have one on trial at Cue, one has been operating at Meekatharra and others on the Eastern goldfields, so there will be opportunities to subject it to a thorough test. During the Ministerial tour of the outer goldfields we visited the huge manganese deposit at Horseshoe. Prior to that I had no idea of its magnitude. The directors should certainly have no difficulty in securing the necessary capital to develop the proposition. If the railway is built they can look forward to many years of quarrying to supply the wants not only of Australia, but also of the world from this one deposit. Through the courtesy of the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) I

have seen particulars of the assays. Samples of the ore have been sent to Germany and other parts of the world, and certain assays have been made in Australia. These have proved satisfactory, and the extent of the deposit is likewise satisfactory. The people from Geraldton northwards are seized with the importance of assisting to develop this deposit, realising that big exportations of manganese will mean much to the port of Geraldton. The people of the Murchison can be relied upon to support the proposition. Wiluna was another place visited. There a majority of the leaseholders are awaiting the results of operations on the Gwalia Consolidated leases, where a shaft has been sunk to 300ft. and crosscuts have been put in. What the values are, we do not know, but if they prove satisfactory, Wiluna will do much to revive the mining industry. Twelve miles from Wiluna we visited Cole's Find. From that district a large tonnage of ore has been treated at Wiluna, and has given good results. The field is a promising one. We visited Mt. Vernon and inspected a lot of surface shows in various stages of development. Though water was met with at shallow depths, the shows gave prospects of good results. The farther out we travelled, the more we realised how wonderful had been the work of the pioneers who struck into those distant parts so many years ago. Wherever I went, I came across men who had been associated with the Murchison in its early days. Such men were to be found working at Mt. Vernon, Mt. Grey, and on the farthest out goldfields, still hoping to strike something rich to provide for their old age. A lot of these men eventually end their days in the Old Men's Home; others receive the old age pension and continue to live in the district. If some of the latter happen to go into a town and get a glass too much of grog, the Commonwealth authorities do not lose an opportunity to stop their pensions.

Mr. Taylor: It is not much of a crime.

Mr. CHESON: No. I blame the police who take action against them. If a man happens to be a wealthy squatter, the police get a motor car and send him home. The unfortunate miner without means, however, is run into the watchhouse, brought before the court and fined perhaps 5s. After having been fined a couple of times, the Commonwealth cut off the pension. Something should be done to get the Commonwealth deputy in this State to adopt a more reasonable inter-

pretation of the Act, because the whole blame for cutting off the pensions rests with him. Another field visited was Reedy's, situated in my electorate. This is a very promising show, and I am prepared to stake my mining judgment that it will prove successful. It is a lode formation and is well developed. The shaft and winzes have been sunk to close on 200ft. and drives have been extended 400ft., and the values along the whole lode are good. What the mine needs is up-to-date plant. There is no doubt that Reedy's will prove to be one of the best propositions on the Murchison. I am in accord with much of the report of the Royal Commissioner appointed to inquire into the mining industry. It would have been impossible to obtain a similar report from any mining man in Western Australia. Mr. Kingsley Thomas was quite independent of local companies and the report he presented is indeed a valuable one. The Commissioner pointed out how heavy were the overhead costs of the various mines in the Boulder district, especially in the matter of staff and management in London. It has to be remembered that while one class of treatment plant is suitable for ore in the oxide zone, quite a different class of plant is required to treat ore from the sulphide zone. In many instances large quantities of stone containing no values whatever have been milled in order to reduce results. Anyone with any knowledge of mining knows that every truck of stone put into the mill carries with it a certain amount of gold into the residues. The Commissioner has pointed out how this sort of thing operates against the industry. He also emphasised the necessity for installing up-to-date treatment plant and adopting better methods. He strongly condemned the system of shrinkage stopping. The Commissioner took exception to the big overhead charges and the statements he made probably hurt some of the mining men. After all, honest criticism must hurt somebody. We ourselves are often criticised and we know that we do not always take it too kindly. Comparisons were made between the work done in South Africa and that carried on in Western Australia. The Commissioner said that the lodes were much easier to work in Western Australia. In South Africa, he pointed out that they were practically conglomerate, comprising all sorts of stone cemented together and water-worn. We all know from practical experience that in soft country you often come

across hard stone, and then it is not always possible to make much progress. By boring holes one often got "fitchered," which meant having to start afresh. We are aware that taxation hit the mining industry pretty heavily until relief came from both Federal and State Governments. All new capital invested will now be free from taxation until such time as the shareholders get it back. The report of the Commissioner is a valuable document and will be referred to by all mining men, because it goes thoroughly into the industry. I commend the Minister for having appointed Mr. Kingsley Thomas. I congratulate the Government on their intention to introduce a Bill to amend the Electoral Act, which will ensure everyone becoming enrolled. Often people are asked whether they are on the roll and they reply in the affirmative, but on examining one roll it is found that the name is not there, and that the individual has, perhaps, seen the other roll, on which the name appeared. One roll should be sufficient for all purposes. The Workers' Compensation Bill, which was passed last session, is appreciated and is regarded as the best of its kind in Australia. I do not wish to say anything further at this stage; there will be other opportunities when the measures referred to in the Speech come before us.

MR. STUBBS (Wagin) [5.50]: The time honoured custom of debating the Address-in-reply gives members an opportunity to bring under notice a number of matters of public interest, and also to refer to the sins of omission and commission of the Government in power. It is a good thing that members are able to do this, because they can talk freely and frankly, and tell the Government, and through the Government the country, what in their opinion should, or should not, be done for the well-being of the State. Members are paid for attending to their parliamentary duties; when I say "paid," I do not think any member will admit that the salary he receives for the work that he does in discharging manifold public duties is commensurate with that work.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. STUBBS: On this subject I read in a newspaper a warning to members of Parliament not to attempt to increase their salaries without a mandate from the people. I say without hesitation that the miserable pittance now paid to members in this Par-

liament does not compensate them even for their out-of-pocket expenses. I do not know what is in the minds of members in this Chamber with regard to the subject, but if a member thinks that his salary is really commensurate with the work he does, then, he does not rate himself at a very high value. I understand that in nearly all the Eastern States members are paid on a much more liberal scale than is the position in Western Australia. We must remember, too, that nearly all the Eastern States are much more compact than is Western Australia. Members' constituencies are more "getatable," and whereas it may take them merely a few hours to reach one's home, in Western Australia it may require the greater part of a day or longer. In such circumstances a member is often compelled to maintain two homes for a period of half the year, during which Parliament is sitting. The time is ripe for the people of the State to recognise that the salaries paid to members in this State is inadequate. A great deal has been said in the course of the debate about the financial position. I, too, am glad to be able to say it is the most satisfactory we have had for a number of years, after having battled hard against circumstances over which Governments and members have had no control. Every member, no matter what his political creed, must be satisfied that the State has turned the corner at last. In my judgment the cause of the past year's satisfactory balance sheet was due to two reasons. The first was the bountiful harvest of nearly 24,000,000 bushels. This brings the thought to my mind that it seems only yesterday when Western Australia was importing from South Australia and Victoria nearly all the flour for its requirements. Contrast that with the 6½ million pounds worth of wheat that has just been raised in the State. When I decided to leave Victoria to come over here, my employer said I was going to a land of sand, and that I would soon be glad to return. I have never regretted my coming to Western Australia. It only shows the ignorance of the people of the Eastern States. Our last season's harvest is not by any means likely to be the apex of the State's wheat production. I venture to declare that in the next 10 years the wheat output will be 25 per cent. greater than it is to-day, and that it will be grown in a safe rainfall zone. Lying to the east of the spur line from the Great Southern is an immense

tract of Crown land. Tens of thousands of acres of that land is first class.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Hundreds of thousands.

Mr. STUBBS: Adjoining that land there is a big area of second and third class land. The railway from Lake Grace to Newdegate is almost completed. I trust the member for Milgarn (Mr. Corboy), in whose electorate Newdegate lies, will forgive me for referring to it. I really thought it was in my electorate until three years ago. The Government have sent surveyors out and the area has been classified into 1,000-acre blocks of first class land. No account was taken of the enormous area of really good mallee country, which is capable of growing millions of bushels of wheat. The old idea that a farmer in this State must have at least 1,000 acres of first class land and 1,500 acres of second or third class land to be able to make a living is no longer held. A number of men got land hungry and in consequence to-day there are to be found down the Great Southern, within easy distance of the railway, very many blocks of land that have not even been rung. A Bill to make such men put their land to proper use, or alternatively pay an increased land tax, would have my hearty support. But the point I want to emphasise is that in the survey of the areas east of Newdegate I hope the old-time idea of 1,000 acres of first-class land will be supplanted by a rule of 600 or 700 acres of first-class land, with a balance of second-class land. I also wish to impress upon members the fact that, side by side with wheat growing, dairying can be profitably carried on by those who will give it the necessary time and energy. One of the reasons why the wheat farmer has not gone in for dairying is that cows have to be fed and milked. Still, all those who have carried on dairying as a side line have earned an extra £2 or £3 per week over and above their wheat returns. Another advantage that the agricultural areas have over the South-West is that for two or three months in every year little or no nourishment is contained in the native grasses of the South-West. This, I understand, is owing to climatic asperities such as cold nights. On the other hand, in the district east of the Great Southern and in other wheat districts, the grasses never get a setback, from the time the first rains fall in April. Two or three years ago I stood up in the House and told the then Premier, Sir

James Mitchell, that the dairying industry was of very great value and that I thought, apart altogether from the scheme for developing the South-West, every Government should assist all those prepared to go in for dairying. I said then that if money were set aside for the establishment of group settlements in the wheat belt it would be greatly to the advancement of the State. I am still of the opinion that had the Government spent in the wheat belt but half the amount already spent on group settlements in the South-West, it would have gone far towards eliminating for all time the enormous wastage represented by money sent out of the State for dairy produce. In the Governor's Speech a prominent place is given to agriculture. Contrast that with the practice of a few years ago, when everybody talked mining. Alas, history has a knack of repeating itself. Mining centres in the older States have been worked out, and now the industry in this State has been on the steady decline for some time past. More than that, it has been revealed that a short-sighted policy was adopted in Western Australia, just as in the Eastern States, namely, that of paying dividends as fast as possible without making any adequate provision for the development of further discoveries. It is of no use locking the stable door when the horse has gone. I hope the Government will not only continue the practical encouragement of the industry as in the past, but will actually increase that encouragement as represented in monetary assistance; for we cannot forget that it was the gold mining industry that gave us our first lift. Although I represent an agricultural electorate, I yield to no one in my claim that the mining industry must be resuscitated, and I am sure that any measure brought down with that object in view will receive the support of every member of the House. The pastoral industry in the North-West has been another wonderful asset to the State. I notice that the Government are endeavouring to improve the shipping service on the North-West coast by the purchase of an up-to-date steamer. That brings me to an important point in relation to Western Australia's future. We have a territory almost self contained. We can grow fruit better than that produced in any other part of Australia, and we have a profitable market at our very doors. Yet we allow the Americans, coming from thousands of miles

away, to capture the market that geographically belongs to us! Why should we allow the Americans to supply fruit and vegetables to Java, only two or three days run from us, and to send to Singapore and the Malay States flour that should be supplied by us? I am hopeful that the new boat will be able to do the journey North in about half the time now occupied, which is 18 days from Fremantle to Singapore. If the trip could be done in nine days every grower of vegetables in the Minister for Works's electorate would find a ready and highly profitable market in Java and Singapore. If we are to successfully carry out the migration scheme—which I am glad to know the Government have decided to continue—then we must find markets for the produce to be grown in Western Australia. Given that encouragement, it will not be long before our producers overcome the problem of the importation of butter. In addition, there is ample demand at highly remunerative prices for the whole of the products that Western Australia can raise from the soil. It is only a question of having proper organisation. A few months ago I saw that apples were being sold by the orchardists at 2d. and 3d. per lb. How, then, is it that when we go into a shop in Perth we have to pay 8d. a lb. for a decent apple? There must be something radically wrong somewhere. How is it that the orchardists appear to have no organisation for the effective distribution of their fruit for local consumption? Only the other day, on a merchant's counter in Perth stood a box of leixias marked 1s. 6d. per lb. I asked were they locally grown, and was told they had come from the Upper Swan. When I remarked upon the high price, the man behind the counter said, "But, look at the quality." Only two minutes later, in the street I met a friend who had started grape-growing at the Upper Swan. Opening a handbag, he showed me some beautiful samples of currants and raisins, and told me he could not get 3d. per lb. for them. They might not have been of quite the same quality as those I had previously seen on the counter, marked 1s. 6d., but nevertheless they were of most excellent quality.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. STUBBS: Before tea I was referring to the number of people engaged in growing currants and raisins, but who had not been

able to dispose of their products at a satisfactory price. I am still of opinion that the lack of organisation is largely responsible for this condition of affairs. We see goods grown in Western Australia sold at ridiculous prices, such as 1s. 3d. per lb. for leeks, when the growers have not received more than 3d. or 4d. a lb. We must conclude, therefore, that there is something radically wrong. A few months ago there was a glut in the potato market and potatoes could not be given away. They were offered at auction by the truck, and growers could not get £2 12s. 6d. per ton. Since then potatoes have gone up to £26 a ton. All this leads one to believe that a better system of marketing should be inaugurated, and that it would be in their own interests if growers would put their heads together to bring this about. In the "Argus" of 23rd June last a cable was published referring to dried fruits. It is as follows:—

Australian dried fruits are selling at very satisfactory prices in London, according to a cable message received yesterday at Melbourne by the Chairman of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board (Mr. W. C. F. Thomas) from the London agency of the board. The prices of 80s. and 85s. a cwt., obtained for two small parcels of sultanas, indicate the very high quality of this fruit. Up to the present 1,265 tons of this season's sultanas have been sold and 120 tons of currants. The sultanas have averaged 69s. a cwt. and the currants 46s. a cwt. The outlook regarding sultanas is considered to be highly satisfactory.

The article then goes on to quote individual prices for certain kinds of dried fruits in the viticultural world. The "West Australian" of to-day contains an article that is worth reading. It shows how the Eastern States begin to squeal when they are paid back in their own coin. If I had £20,000 I would not invest one penny of it to-morrow in starting an industry of any kind in this State.

Mr. Taylor: Why not?

Mr. STUBBS: For two reasons. If I established an industry here and began to turn out goods of equal quality to those produced in the Eastern States, and at the same price, the market would be swamped here at 1s. or 2s. a dozen less than I was selling at. I regret to say that the industrial troubles of Western Australia also prevent many industries from being established on a sound footing.

Mr. Panton: There are less here than elsewhere.

Mr. STUBBS: I am endeavouring to give my reasons for my opinions in a calm and

deliberate manner, but in unmistakeable language. One of the reasons is that the industrialists do not obey the Arbitration Court awards. Can any member deny that?

Mr. Panton: Yes, absolutely.

Mr. Mann: Can you prove it?

Mr. Panton: You cannot prove otherwise.

Mr. STUBBS: A little while ago the President of the Arbitration Court made an order concerning the employees of the catering union to go back to work. Can any member say why they did not go back?

Mr. Panton: That is only one case over many years. One swallow does not make a summer.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It does, if it is a red one.

Mr. STUBBS: I saw with my own eyes evidence that the law was not being observed. Several times I saw people being interfered with when going in to obtain refreshments. The police were there, but took no notice of these things. So long as that condition of affairs exists, no matter what Government are in power it will be impossible to establish industries on sound lines. While we have arbitration laws, which the court endeavours to interpret, they should be observed by both sides. I do not say that all employers have acted fairly by the employees, but two wrongs do not make a right.

Mr. Lutey: On the goldfields we have worked under awards for years.

Mr. STUBBS: Any award that was given for the highest possible wages on the goldfields was justified. It is an industry that carries great responsibility, and endangers health and life. I have nothing to say against the administration of our arbitration laws, but when they are brought into operation, they should be obeyed by both sides. We have unlimited areas of land which could grow fifty times as much in the way of currants and sultanas as could be grown anywhere in the world. The quality could not be beaten. In the Great Southern districts there are areas which have proved capable of growing the same high quality of such commodities as has brought the highest price in London. I am sure that in years to come Western Australia will not only hold its own with the rest of the Commonwealth, but will be able to show the world that we have the class of country here that is capable of doing it.

Mr. Mann: What are they complaining about in Victoria?

Mr. STUBBS: They wind up by saying that 200 tons of vine fruits have gone from Western Australia under offer to Melbourne, and that this is giving the growers great concern.

Mr. Mann: Good.

Mr. STUBBS: They are concerned because Western Australia is getting a little of her own back through being able to send over 200 tons of fruit to compete with the fruit in the other States! That is a nice Federal spirit! If any member started a secondary industry here similar to one in Victoria he would soon find himself hard against intense competition. Federation has not been carried out towards Western Australia in the manner I thought it would be. when I cast my vote unfortunately in favour of it.

Mr. Taylor: The Victorian Government have put that embargo on.

Mr. STUBBS: This is what the "West Australian" says—

Considerable interest is taken in the proposal of the Victorian Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Bourchier) to hold a conference of Ministers of Agriculture of other States with a view to obtaining uniform legislation in regard to the dried fruits industry. At present only in Victoria and South Australia are growers compelled to export a portion of their dried fruits, and presumably the object is to bring growers in Western Australia and New South Wales under similar regulations. Western Australia is now becoming a market factor in regard to dried fruits, and its production is in excess of State needs. There is nothing to check it, therefore, from competing in the markets of Victoria and South Australia. New South Wales has been of minor importance as a producer of dried fruits. Developments in the industry there have proceeded fairly rapidly, however, and it is expected that the State will soon be sufficiently advanced to warrant the adoption of similar measures to those which operate in Victoria and South Australia as soon as possible to place New South Wales growers on the same footing. So far, this season, it is reported that Western Australia has shipped about 200 tons of vine fruits to Victoria, and growers and traders in this State have been concerned with this competition.

The Premier has a good answer for the Minister for Agriculture if he attends that conference, as I hope he will do.

The Minister for Agriculture: It will be impossible for me to do so. It is too far away and too much time would be lost.

Mr. STUBBS: The distance that separates us from the Eastern States is a big handicap in a hundred and one ways. I hope the Minister will be able to spare the time to attend some of these conferences, to see that justice is done to Western Australia. The second item of importance in

the Treasurer's Budget of last year was his reference to the export of timber. One has only to go to Bunbury to see the enormous amount of beautiful timber that is leaving that port. If we put on our thinking caps we must ask ourselves the question, how many years it will take, at this rate of export, to denude our forests of timber? In the Speech it was stated that the Government were doing their utmost to advance reforestation on lands from which timber has been removed. I commend the Government for being alive to the importance of this work. At the rate of four vessels a week loading timber day and night it will not be many years before we have exhausted all the reserve timber in our forests. I now wish to speak about group settlement. It seems only a few weeks since a British Royal Commission on overseas migration visited this State, and a member of that Commission after visiting the groups said that on his return to the Old Country he would tell the people there how wonderfully he had been impressed. Whether that gentleman was long enough in Western Australia to form opinions, I cannot say; but his opinions are in utter contrast to those expressed in the report of our Royal Commission on group settlement. The gentleman who conceived the group settlement scheme was the same who conceived the settlement of the wheat belt in 1910-12. All hon. members will give him that credit. Further, it is true that the £6,500,000 worth of wheat grown this season in Western Australia would not have been produced but for the fact that the Government in power during 1912 to 1916 assisted settlers to remain on their holdings. I desire to give credit where credit is due, and to be completely fair in my criticisms. Scores of men in my electorate alone would have been down and out in 1914 but for the help given to them by the Government of the day. I wish to impress upon the Premier the importance of settling our light lands, and the lands which adjoin first class holdings. I have mentioned the fact that 150,000 acres of first class land have been alienated from the Crown within the last three years. Every holding on that acreage included first class land which grew a splendid crop of wheat without having had a plough on it. There is also a huge area, not even surveyed, of good mallee country. The time is ripe for considering the desirability of cutting down the size of holdings.

Another 50 or 60 families could have been settled on the acreage I refer to. Then, eastward, there is the Lake Magenta and Lake Damnosa country, which, I am reliably informed, is of equally good quality with the land at Newdegate. I hope this land, too, is being surveyed and classified for closer settlement. Sooner or later a railway, or several railways, will run east of the Great Southern line to Tammin, to new territory only awaiting willing hands and stout hearts to make it one of our best agricultural districts. The price of land in Western Australia is very low compared with the price of land of similar quality in the Eastern States. Five or six years ago the average price of farm land in my district was from £2 to £2 10s. per acre. Now it is £4 per acre. In Victoria, however, such land would be worth £10 per acre. What is the reason for the discrepancy? In a few years' time, however, land holders in Western Australia will find themselves so affluent that they will not know what to do with their money. When that time arrives I hope they will realise the benefit which kind Parliaments and Governments in this State have bestowed on them in the shape of cheap land. Certainly they should not grumble at having to pay a little extra taxation in order to assist in the development of Western Australia. Mining has played an important part in the growth of this State, and there are still many tracts of mineral wealth, the development of which has not yet been even attempted, either by the Government or by private enterprise. I believe that many new finds will be made in Western Australia if assistance is granted by the Government, and I hope the Premier and the Minister for Lands will show a spirit of optimism and furnish funds to enable more prospectors to go out and open up new fields as yet untouched. In the Kimberleys alone there are mountains of auriferous country, though whether the gold is present in payable quantities remains to be proved. Still, the Government might well spend some money in the North and also in the Marble Bar district, where payable ore bodies, not only of gold but also of copper and lead, are to be found. We shall yet startle the world with the wealth of some of those fields. I ask hon. members during this session to endeavour to assist our primary industries. Any measures having that object in view will, I feel sure, meet with favour. Their

enactment will redound to the credit of Parliament, will prove to the outside world that Western Australia is on the map, and will show that we are determined to take our place and our part in Australia as a whole. I sincerely trust that this season will prove as successful as the last, and that next session the Premier will have an equally favourable financial report to submit to Parliament.

MR. LAMOND (Pilbara) [7.50]: I desire to congratulate the Government on the successful results of their first year of office. Hon. members have called attention to the splendid season experienced by the agricultural areas during the past 12 months. The resultant bountiful harvest, however, does not altogether account for the achievements of the Government, seeing that during the last two years the North-West underwent the worst drought known for 20 years. Thus the revenue lost in the North-West stands as some set-off to the prosperity engendered by the bountiful harvest in the South. As regards unemployed in the metropolitan area, much of the flooding of the labour market from the country district could be avoided. However, it is well known that to-day in Western Australia it is almost impossible to get work, and particularly Government work, without coming into the metropolitan area to secure it. During last year this was especially brought under my notice. Deputation after deputation waited on Ministers, and those gentlemen, in replying to the unemployed, said there would be no work for country people in the metropolitan area, and that country people must not come to the metropolitan area looking for Government employment. But when there is a country job, men are drawn from the metropolitan area to fill the vacancies. As regards the North-West I had occasion to bring under the Government's notice the fact that the whole of the men employed at the Wyndham Meat Works were taken there from Perth. I asked that arrangements should be made to absorb all the unskilled labour unemployed in the North-West before unskilled men were taken from this locality, and I understood that my request would be acceded to. But after informing several old friends in the North-West that if they put in applications for employment on the Wyndham Meat Works, those applications would be favourably considered, I learnt

that the furthest those men got was to be placed on the emergency list. The same state of things exists in the shearing industry. It is impossible for a man to get employment in shearing unless he comes to Perth once a year. Practically every man engaged in the pastoral industry is secured from Perth through employment bureaus. To-day North-West residents who used to get a little work on stations are pushed right out, simply because they are not here in Perth. The men are engaged here, and are sent up by parcel post to the North-West.

Mr. Taylor: All the Wyndham Meat Works employees are engaged at the Trades Hall in Perth, are they not?

Mr. Panton: No.

Mr. Taylor: They were two years ago.

Mr. Panton: That was done by the late Government. The present Government have altered it.

Mr. Mann: The difference is that the names are submitted to the Trades Hall.

Mr. Panton: Nothing of the sort.

Mr. LAMOND: I hope that next year some arrangement will be made to give North-West residents a chance to obtain employment at the Wyndham Meat Works. During last session I urged the Government to put an up-to-date steamer on the North-West coast in lieu of the "Bambra," and it is satisfactory to know that the Government have already called tenders for a vessel for that purpose. I am pleased to say that the mining industry in the North has brightened up, and I congratulate the Minister for Mines upon the valuable assistance he has rendered to the prospectors in that part of the State. His action in supplying prospectors with cheaper explosives has been very gratifying. The prospectors are now able to get their gelignite at rates that have been reduced by one guinea per box, detonators by 3s. 6d., and there has also been a substantial reduction regarding fuses. Further assistance could be given to the industry by the provision of pumping plants. Two of our most important fields that have always shown satisfactory averages in the past have been closed down for years on account of the workings having gone below water level. It is beyond the average prospector to carry on because of the water difficulty. Such men cannot procure a plant big enough to pump out the old shafts. If a pumping plant were made available, much good would result. While dealing with mining in the North, I

would draw the attention of the Government to the fact that, although we have thousands of tons of asbestos in the North-West, we are unable to work it at a profit. This is due to the fact that asbestos is one of the few articles imported into Australia in respect of which there is no protective tariff. I hope the Government will make representations to the Tariff Board and to the Federal Government with a view to having a tariff placed upon the importation of asbestos. A tariff of 20 per cent., which is that imposed upon manganese, would greatly assist the development of the asbestos industry in the North-West. A sum of £500 was placed on the last Estimates for the purpose of prospecting for a water supply for Port Hedland by means of a bore. I am afraid the effort will not be successful. This is largely due to the fact that the money has been wasted. I say that because I have done a good deal of boring for water in the North-West and have a fair knowledge of prospecting for water generally. I do not suppose that anyone would find half-a-dozen workers in that part of the State not capable of doing the work the Government officials are now carrying out. If the men were not able to do that work they could not secure employment in the North, because their chief work is that of boring for water and sinking wells. That is an every-day job on the stations, and it is carried out successfully by the men there. When the Government wanted someone to bore for water for the Port Hedland scheme, nothing less than an engineer would satisfy the North-West Department. Therefore they despatched an engineer from Perth to supervise the job, and I suppose that almost the whole of the money available has been expended in salaries and otherwise, which means, in my opinion, that the money has been to all intents and purposes wasted. I regret that the work was not carried out in the manner I suggested to the department. The proposition I put to them was that the work should be left to local men to carry out under the supervision of the local road board authorities, for they were directly interested in securing a water supply for Port Hedland.

Mr. Taylor: And those men would have had local knowledge.

Mr. LAMOND: Yes. At all events, the local men could have bored to the bottom, and that is a thing that up to the time I left,

those who had been despatched from Perth had not been able to do. I trust this is not the final effort that will be made to provide a water supply for Port Hedland. We have a report from Mr. Tindale, who was for many years the engineer for the North-West, in which he states that during one of the driest years experienced 3,000,000 gallons were drawn from a creek 20 miles from Port Hedland. That water was drawn for supplies in connection with construction work on the Port Hedland railway. With a small embankment across the creek sufficient water could be conserved for the requirements of Port Hedland, which are estimated at 4,000,000 gallons. I believe that with the money that was made available an adequate supply could have been obtained at Turner Creek and that would have saved the present effort. I hope to see Turner Creek tried at a later date, and I am very sanguine that water will be got there. I also wish to refer to the manner in which the lock hospital at Port Hedland is being run, or rather, the way in which an attempt is made to conduct it. I do not blame the orderlies in charge, but I blame that wonderful North-West Department!

Mr. Coverley: It does not seem to be too popular.

Mr. LAMOND: The lock hospital was established for the purpose of dealing with venereal diseases amongst natives, and it was hoped by this means to eradicate the disease. We find, however, that the money is absolutely wasted on this effort. I will endeavour to bring forward the facts relating to the institution. There are two compounds, one for the male patients and the other for the females. The sexes are supposed to be locked up in their separate compounds each night. The information I have from the orderlies goes to show that if there is a boy who is just about cured, the work is negatived because there is no proper segregation. The partition between the two yards is so easily surmountable that either the male or female patients can climb from one yard to the other. When that happens, the patients are no further advanced than they were when they entered the hospital first. This sort of thing goes on month after month and year after year, until the disease has so established itself in the patient that it is impossible to effect a cure. We have, therefore, wasted time and money in trying to alleviate

the sufferings of these unfortunate people. Under the present Aborigines Act no power is provided to imprison a native suffering from venereal disease, with the result that the natives are alive to the fact and if they do not like the place, they pack up and clear out. The thing is absolutely useless. By the expenditure of less than £20 on wire netting an enclosure could be provided with perhaps barbed wire entanglements, and that would keep the sexes apart. This has been brought under the notice of the North-West Department for years, but nothing has been done.

The Premier: Barbed wire would not keep lovers apart.

Mr. LAMOND: It would have that effect if entanglements were provided in the native compounds. An attempt was made to deal with it by putting the netting underground but the natives scratched holes through it.

Mr. Clydesdale: Then what is the good of putting barbed wire on top?

Mr. LAMOND: In the instance I refer to a trench 6ft. deep was dug.

Mr. Taylor: These North-Westerns are pretty hardy gentlemen.

Mr. LAMOND: They are notorious. I have been asked in what direction in my opinion the North-West could best be developed. After 20 years continuous residence in that part of the State I have not hastily come to a conclusion on that subject; I have given it much consideration. I am satisfied that the only way the North-West can be fairly and properly developed is by means of a closer settlement scheme. Owing to the action of the National Government, the leases, I regret to say, have been extended from 1928 to 1948. We had expected that the whole of the leases would be thrown up in another four years. I am satisfied we cannot wait for an additional 20 years, and as we do not stand for repudiation, the only way left for the Government is to repurchase some of the stations. The whole North, from half way below the Portescue and Onslow to the edge of the desert, is suitable for closer settlement. I suggest that that country should be cut up into blocks large enough to carry from 3,000 to 4,000 sheep. From 50,000 to 60,000-acre blocks would be necessary. In addition to wool growing, we should have side lines, such as dairying and hog raising. With seasons such as we have had since the breaking of the drought, I can say without exaggeration that millions of tons of fodder could be conserved, and so make it

possible to carry on dairying successfully throughout the whole year. The country lends itself particularly to hog raising. During the last 12 months 26 head of cattle on one station had to be shot in order to provide baits to poison swine. In one shoot alone 300 pigs were destroyed. Thus, a fine industry is being wasted. I hope the Government will give consideration to the question of settling the North-West. One matter of education I wish to bring before the Minister. I hope he will give more liberal consideration as regards continuation classes. Owing to the geographical position of the North, it is impossible for each and every family to send its boys to the metropolitan area to complete their education. If the Minister would arrange for continuation classes, there would be a chance to do something towards completing their education. Sixty pupils are required before a continuation class is permitted in a State school. If that provision is not liberalised in favour of the North-West, we can do nothing, because few of our schools have 60 scholars. In conclusion, I wish to protest against the attitude of the Government. Although I extended an invitation to Ministers to visit the North and see for themselves the boundless potentialities of that part of the State, no response was made to the invitation. If they desire to become acquainted with the conditions in the North and to assist to frame a suitable scheme of development, it is necessary for them to see it. We do not want any more joy riding along the beach; we want them to go right through and see what lies inland. I am still hopeful that they will visit the North this year.

MR. MANN (Perth) [S.18]: In speaking to the Address-in-reply, I am compelled to take notice of two documents that are before us—one the Governor's Speech, which is optimistic, and may I say, full of ambition and enterprise, and the other document the report of the Royal Commission on group settlement in the South-West. As to the latter, I am disappointed. Although the gentlemen comprising the commission had a free hand to inquire into all and sundry regarding group settlement and to report, it appears to me that their commission should have been framed differently to be in keeping with the report they submitted. The commission read—

To inquire into and report upon matters relating to group settlement schemes.

If it had read—

To inquire into and ascertain all the possible points relating to matters that will assist in condemning group settlement and the South-West—

then their report would have been in keeping with the terms of their commission.

Mr. Taylor: They must have read that into their commission.

Mr. MANN: I have failed to find that the commissioners in their report put up one constructive point. They have gone to extremes in condemning all group settlement and the South-West. From the report it appears that the South-West is not suitable for anything except the growing of jarrah and karri, and that when the present crop is cut out, we must lift the railways and leave that territory for 100 years until another crop of timber grows, and then we may start again to exploit the timber industry. It seems to me that the members of the commission were prejudiced wheat growers. The whole of the commission were wheat growers.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: What about the chairman?

Mr. MANN: There is a feeling throughout the wheat areas that those districts will have to carry the burden of the development of the South-West, and it may be that that influenced them in their judgment. The member for Toodyay (Mr. Lindsay) said he was the explorer of the wheat belt and he told us of his exploits there, but he said nothing of his experience of dairying. The member for Guildford (Hon. W. D. Johnson) has had a long and varied experience as a member and a Minister. Addressing this House on one occasion he spoke highly of the South-West, but in this report he failed to live up to his previous utterances as to its possibilities. Taking the commission as a whole, I feel that they were prejudiced by reason of their being wheat growers and because none of them had been a dairyman or had had dairying experience.

Mr. Sleeman: Are you including the member who signed the minority report?

Mr. MANN: That gentleman had had some experience of dairying and he did submit some constructive ideas.

Mr. A. Wansbrough: Who wrote the report?

Mr. MANN: I submit that the South-West must be developed, that we must go on with the dairying industry and that we must go on with the production of bacon, because the necessities of the State demand it. To-day

we are drawing supplies from Eastern Australia. When our settlers have overtaken the home market, there will be the market of the world for them to exploit. Recently I read an article in one of the Eastern papers stating—

The Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, paid his first official visit to Devonshire to-day (1st July). He addressed 30,000 people, including delegates from every constituency between Bristol and Penzance. Mr. Baldwin devoted his speech mainly to agriculture. He insisted that the million grant to the Dominions would help the production of Empire foodstuffs. The sum had been allocated in order to enable the Empire goods to replace those of foreign origin in the home market. "It is our desire and intention," he added, "that the largest possible proportion of our importations shall be from the Dominions and not from foreign countries. We do not desire to displace one pound of our own stuff, but every increase in Dominion stock sold to Great Britain means more settlers. Therefore the more purchasers of our overseas goods, the better trade will be at Home."

Another report stated—

The report of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, which was read at the annual meeting of the organisation in London, points out that the organisation has continued to press for the restriction of all Government meat contracts to Empire suppliers, and is strongly opposed to what is described as the dangerous suggestions of the National Food Commission that the Imperial Government might in future take an interest in the meat industry of the Argentine. The organisation will continue to endeavour to secure the removal of restrictions on the use of certain trade descriptions, such as "Port" wine by Dominion wine growers.

The London Central Markets report, covering the six months ended June 30, show that of 229,306 tons of meat consumed during that period, 82 per cent. was imported. Australia and New Zealand supplied 18 per cent., Argentina 47 per cent., and other countries 65 per cent.

We must proceed with our development. We are entitled to a share of that trade. The surplus of bacon produced in the South-West, after meeting the demands of the State, can be shipped to supply the market that Mr. Baldwin says is ours. If we do have to write down certain costs of group settlement development, this is not the only State that has had to do it. It will not be the first time it has been done in Australia or even in Western Australia. It will be a good thing if it leads to increased trade, increased development and increased population. Here are some interesting figures that have a bearing on the development of the South-West. The

quantity of butter imported into Great Britain last year was 625,000 cwt., compared with 375,000 cwt. in the previous year. The imports from Australia increased from 61,000 cwt. to 181,000 cwt. How much did Western Australia contribute? Not an ounce. Where are we going to get our butter production if not from the South-West? It must come from that part of the State.

Mr. Lindsay: The member for Wagin says from the wheat belt.

Mr. MANN: It must come from the country having regular rainfall and assured pastures. Some may come from the wheat belt, but only casual lots; the main supply must come from the South-West. If the group settlement scheme so far has not been quite the success we expected it to be, let us all work together with a view to improving it. Do not let us declare the whole thing a failure, the land of no value, the settlers unsuitable, the rainfall is insufficient or the pastures unsuccessful. Yet those are the impressions that one would gather from the report. I am confident that the land of the South-West is suitable and that a good percentage of the settlers will prove suitable. I am confident that the rainfall is all right, that the pastures will be all right, and that in the end the South-West will become the great dairying centre of the State. If we are not going to draw our dairy produce from the South-West, where are we going to get it from? Settlement down there must be slow. I remember away back in the early nineties when Melbourne was flooded with unemployed. The Government sent them out into the southern Gippsland districts and started village settlement schemes. The settlers there were burnt out two or three times, but they struggled on and eventually made good. Now, in a small place like Leongatha there is a butter factory that turns out 30 tons of butter a week. The difficulties that had to be overcome there were as great, if not greater, than those associated with our own group settlements in the South-West. I regret that the members of the Royal Commission were not able to find some virtues in the settlement scheme and that they did not make some constructive suggestions which would have helped to establish early success. One of the obstacles to our successful exports, and it has been casually referred to by the Premier since his return to the State, is in connection with the preparation of produce for overseas markets. The system of select-

ing and grading apparently has been done by a section without too much consideration, and this has been the cause of a great deal of trouble overseas. I am sure that the Premier, acting on the knowledge that he gained at Home, will see fit to introduce legislation, or perhaps frame regulations which will have the effect of remedying that state of affairs. There is no reason why we should not have, in connection with the export of our products, a proper selection and proper grading and packing. If that be done, then, with good organisation, we shall without difficulty create a market for our produce after we have supplied our own requirements. One of the problems of to-day, and it is a problem that is facing the Government is that of the unemployed. Whenever there is a surplus of labour there is always a rush to the Government to find work for all and sundry. I submit that the Government cannot find work for all that are unemployed. The Government should endeavour as far as possible to see that people are employed, and the best means by which that can be done is to inspire confidence amongst investors, whose money will always create employment. That is much better than the Government having to start relief works and issue meal tickets for those who are unable to get work. At the present time in Perth there are many men unemployed, and it is difficult to know just where to place them. One of the difficulties is that too many desire to get into the one trade or occupation. That class of employment becomes flooded and there are no means of absorbing those who require work in it. They cannot adapt themselves to rough labouring work.

Mr. Sleeman: They can do that if they get paid all right.

Mr. MANN: So far as I know all employment is governed by the Arbitration Court and therefore employees are sure of the Arbitration Court rate.

Mr. Sleeman: What award have the rural workers?

Mr. MANN: Most of them are controlled by the Australian Workers' Union and the officials of that union are energetic officers and see that the right thing is done by the men.

Mr. Sleeman: I wish you were right.

Mr. MANN: I have more confidence in the officials of that union than I have in the hon. member. We have been told that there is an undeveloped wheat belt. The member for North Perth (Mr. J. McCallum

Smith) recently toured the Salmon Gums area and told me that there exists in that part of the State 12,000,000 acres of agricultural land. The Government are now on the eve of constructing a railway to connect two parts of that territory. It might be a good suggestion if the Government did as was done in 1908 and sent out a large number of the present unemployed to ringbark and scrub some of the thousands of acres down there.

Mr. Taylor: They would get lost in the bush.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is mallee country.

Mr. MANN: It is not all mallee; there is a good deal of salmon gum and gimlet. In 1908 a big area of country was ringbarked and a large number of civil servants were settled on blocks. They had the advantage of finding blocks ready for occupation, and to-day most of them have good homes and own motor cars. The Government might think it worth while to send some of the present unemployed to Salmon Gums to carry out ringbarking and in the poor country root out the scrub and make the land ready for the occupation that would follow. It must be that the Government intend to settle that area because they anticipate constructing the line immediately. If the land is there waiting to be developed what better means of employment could be given the men now out of work? The result of their labours would be to enhance the value of that territory and the Government could add the cleared value of the land to the cost of the blocks.

Mr. Sleeman: Would you do it by day labour?

Mr. MANN: I would not. Contracts could be let for the clearing of reasonable-sized areas, but there should be proper supervision and water and food supplies should also be provided for the men engaged on the job. That is as far as the Government should be called upon to go. With the great number of people who are waiting to take up land, our present output of wheat would speedily be doubled. I noticed in an Eastern States newspaper that we to-day are producing only one-eighth of the wheat of the Commonwealth, whilst at the same time we constitute one-third of Australia. The production of wheat for the Commonwealth last year was 158,774,771 bushels and we contributed only 24 millions. Considering the size of

the State and the land that we have available, there is a great opportunity for us to increase our output to the extent of producing a third of the total quantity. I am sure the Government are desirous of doing their utmost for the development of the country and they are also anxious to see an absence of unemployed. They relieve the position only to a slight extent by sending 80 men to the Narrogin-Dwarda railway construction and 30 or 40 somewhere else, but as soon as they do that, others come in to take the places of those that have gone. If the Government adopted the suggestion I have made, they would probably be able to find employment for 500 or 600.

Mr. Lindsay: You could follow that up with settlement immediately afterwards.

Mr. MANN: At the present time if a block is thrown open for selection, say, at Bullfinch, there are 90 applicants for it. We have to-day an army of unemployed and we must find work for them. All those men are not capable of becoming settlers, but they are capable of doing labourers' work and they could be employed just as the Royal Commission on Group Settlement suggested, and carry out work of clearing at Salmon Gums by contract. If it is right that in the South-West similar work should be done by contract, there is no reason why it should not also be done in wheat growing country. I feel that I am in duty bound to congratulate the Minister for Mines on his energy in the past year in the direction of endeavouring to assist the gold mining industry. I have not yet had an opportunity of reading the report of the Royal Commission, but I am sure that that report, if acted upon, will do good. I do not know whether the Commissioner devoted most of his time to the Golden Mile or whether he also gave some consideration to the low-grade ores in other districts. If he did that, I hope the advice he gave will be of service. I noticed the other day that one of our low-grade mines was treating ore of a value as low as 20s. a ton and showing a profit of 7s. 11d.: I refer to the Great Victoria Mine. If that kind of thing can be done there, surely it ought to be possible to do likewise at hundreds of other places where the ore is of low grade.

The Premier: That is a very big formation, you know.

Mr. MANN: Yes, but there are other big formations elsewhere. I have in mind the Big Bell at Cue. I remember going to

the Big Bell with other members and there seeing a mountain half a mile long, the value of which was 5 dwts. or 6 dwts. I understand the ore is free milling. That should be as cheaply worked as the Great Victoria, and should employ a large number of men. I understand the Government are endeavouring to get it going again, and I commend them for it. It is interesting to note from the returns for the last month of a dozen mines, that all except one has worked at a profit. That is reassuring, and should lend zest to investors and others to proceed with development work. My electorate is more or less dependent on secondary industries. In several of them we have reached a stage where we are able to export to the Eastern States, competing with manufacturers over there. That position has been brought about by the increase of population, which has enabled the manufacturers to increase their output, and so cover their overhead expenses. Two of our clothing factories are exporting large quantities of manufactured clothing to Melbourne and Adelaide. Then we have two boot manufacturers exporting large quantities of boots to the Eastern States, while one of our largest confectioners is sending a considerable part of his output to Victoria and New South Wales. Other industries are struggling for a footing. I want to thank the Premier for assistance he gave to one industry that was in very low water. He made certain advances which enabled the industry to get on to a sound business basis, and set it on the way to the payment of dividends. But while the Government are trying to do their best to find employment for all, they will do much more in that regard by so governing the country as to inspire confidence in all classes, and by avoiding class legislation, so that there shall not be a locking up of capital that otherwise might be invested in providing employment that would go a long way to absorbing the unemployed and bringing the State into prosperity. Another point is the increase in our population. I do not for a moment think a judicious increase of population will make for unemployment. If we increase our population by 10,000 during the coming year, surely that will mean 10,000 more pairs of boots to be made in our factories, and 10,000 additional suits of clothes. Then those 10,000 newcomers will have to be fed, which of course gives work to others. It is of no use being narrow-minded on this point. How

are we to develop the country without additional population? If additional population be bad, why did not we remain as we were 30 years ago, with a population of about 40,000? Had we done so, many of us who are comfortable to-day would have been going hungry. These are home truths.

Mr. Sleeman: We have a lot of home truths amongst the unemployed.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member has threatened the Government about the unemployed, but what has he suggested to relieve the position? He threatened that if the Government did not do something to relieve the position, he would do it, but we do not yet know what he intends to do. We must go on increasing our population. There is plenty of room and plenty of work for them beyond the Darling Range. Their coming will mean more work for those on this side of the range. I cannot do better than close my remarks by suggesting that we should have a State-wide ambition of more development, more production, and more progress, which will bring in their train more prosperity.

MR. CORBOY (Yilgarn) [N.52]: At this stage of the debate one might well comment on the lack of criticism, the silent eulogy, from the Opposition benches on the actions of the Government.

Mr. Sampson: Do you suggest that we are culpable in that respect?

Mr. CORBOY: No, I give you credit for having sufficient commonsense to know when a good Government are in office.

Mr. Mann: Do you suggest that it is a sign of weakness in us?

The Premier: No, it is a sign of your broadminded, statesmanlike outlook.

Mr. CORBOY: This Government have earned the commendation of the Opposition because of the manner in which they have carried on the programme of land settlement. Irrespective of party, we must all recognise that, involved in all our other problems, is this one of populating the empty spaces of Australia. Particularly does that apply in this State, the most sparsely populated of all. Certain features of the land settlement question are causing some concern to those who come directly into touch with the question. One thing that impresses the most casual observer is the fact that almost weekly one reads that 100, 107 or 127 applicants have been before the Land Board for the one block of land. It demon-

strates that we are land hungry, and that there is not being made available to those who want to take up land anything like the quantity of land that should be available. Only this week I heard that there is what amounts to an invasion of South Australians here to buy up all the country they can get hold of.

Mr. Richardson: And they are buying it.

Mr. CORBOY: Yes, they are buying up some of the best land in the State.

Mr. Clydesdale: Not buying it. It is being given to them at a price.

Mr. CORBOY: Compared with the prices ruling in the Eastern States, we in Western Australia do practically give away the land, so long as the recipient works it. In some instances, those people from South Australia are actually buying land, and it impresses me as serious that people are leaving South Australia, almost as sparsely populated as Western Australia, and coming to this State for land. One of two things is causing it: either South Australia has no land available, or in this State there is higher quality land.

Mr. Mann: Land in South Australia is £10 or £12 an acre, as against £4 or £5 here for land of equal value.

Mr. CORBOY: Probably that is the true explanation.

The Minister for Agriculture: And the cultivable land in South Australia is circumscribed.

Mr. CORBOY: The point I wish to make is that week in and week out a great many of our own people are unsuccessfully applying for land. Not many weeks ago I found a young fellow at the Lands Department with his sixth application for land. On each of the five occasions he had previously been before the Board, someone else with a better claim had beaten him. It is serious that we should have arrived at this stage, where on the one hand political leaders cry out for a continuation of our migration policy, and on the other we have numbers of our own people unemployed, while other men are ineffectually trying to get on the land. In addition to the assistance given to people on the land, it is time we had a definite programme along which the Government would seek to open up new areas of country.

The Minister for Agriculture interjected.

Mr. CORBOY: The hon. member's opinion of farming in the South-West is apparently the same as my own; when he wanted a farm he did not go to the South-West. I do not wish

it interred that I condemn the South-West as a farming proposition, but I believe that to the average man with a little capital, the wheat belt offers a very much greater opportunity than does the South-West. Let me put it this way: in addition to the work the Government are doing in the South-West, they should have some comprehensive scheme by which they will continue to open up new areas of wheat lands. I am afraid that is not being done to-day, that to-day the position is somewhat haphazard. A number of men go into the Lands Department and say they know where there is a belt of good country. When the Lands Department have been told of this stretch of country by many successive applicants, the Department send out someone to classify the land. Then many months elapse before anything definite is done to make it available for selection. We are beginning to get down to a sound basis of assistance for prospecting. To-day prospecting is comparatively systematised. Unfortunately it is to some extent haphazard also, but assistance is being given by the department in a much more systematic way than previously. Something on similar lines should be adopted in new areas for wheat growing. In opening up new areas, it is necessary to remember that two things are essential if people are to have a chance of success. One is transport and the other is water supply. From my experience of Government departments, it seems that these two things are about the hardest things to get, notwithstanding that they are essential. While it is extremely costly to provide an adequate water supply on all farms, it should be possible when opening up new areas to do something in the way of laying down key dams along the roads to new areas and at definite points throughout anything like a big area of new country so that settlers would have a chance to get sufficient water without having to cart it great distances. Ever since the Government took office the Minister for Water Supply has been greatly hampered through lack of funds. I have even heard it said by members that they could not get a miserable £4 or £5 to have a well cleaned out, because the Minister did not have the money. Even if that operates in regard to ordinary maintenance work, a special effort should be made to find funds to assist recently settled areas so that the people might have a decent water service.

Mr. Brown: That is the policy of the Country Party.

Mr. CORBOY: I do not contend that every point in the Country Party's policy is bad; probably there are one or two good points. The older settled agricultural areas that are well established should not expect so much attention in future as they have received in the past. The people in the established areas have done fairly well during the last few seasons, and, while the State is doing its best to build up the industry, they should do something to help themselves, at any rate in the matter of water supply. In the new areas—and there are one or two I have in mind not necessarily in my electorate—a good deal could be done by the Government in providing key dams to enable the people to carry on. Transport facilities also are essential. The Government realise that the policy of providing railway facilities, pursued in the past, is too costly and that something more economical can be provided. I have in mind the construction of the Lake Grace-Newdegate line now being built. There the Government have set out to provide a railway service which will be adequate to the needs of the people for some years, but the cost of construction of which will be less than half of that usually involved to build a railway line. They are laying down a railway similar to that adopted by the firewood company on the goldfields, a light line laid on the surface, without ballasting or cuttings of any kind.

Lieut.-Colonel Denton: What about the Decauville railway?

Mr. CORBOY: I have sometimes thought that light railways, such as were used in France during the war, might be used in connection with agricultural development in this State. If the hon. member considers the question, however, I think he will agree that the double handling involved to shift the produce from the light railway to the standard railway would, in a few years, probably outweigh the difference in the cost of constructing the light railway I am suggesting.

Lieut.-Colonel Denton: It would give settlers facilities in the meantime.

Mr. CORBOY: But I do not know that it would be worth while. There are two features of the light railways as we knew them during the war. We had experience of their use in connection with military operations, and it is worth remembering that army commanders had at their disposal practically illimitable labour, and a very cheap form of labour, to do the work. The men were used

in such numbers that would not be tolerated in civil life, because they could not possibly be utilised at a profit. Those lines, too, were used only in areas where it was impossible to use the standard railway.

Lieut.-Colonel Denton: That is so.

Mr. CORBOY: We have no areas in this State where that applies. There is only one instance I know of where a light line was used for agricultural operations, and that was along the valley of the Nile. It was used to bring the produce from the cultivations along the sweet water canal to the ordinary railway. But the conditions operating there were very different. Right along that valley is a standard railway; the cultivated area along the banks of the Nile is very narrow and a great many of these feeder railways manned by coolie labour run at right angles to the main line through the cultivation. That was an instance where it was possible to operate light lines successfully, but I know of no belt of country in this State where the same conditions apply. I am convinced that the laying down of lines on the standard gauge and using the ordinary rolling stock, similar to the Lake Grace-Newdegate line, is a much more sensible proposition than would be the adopting of a different gauge with different rolling stock. I should like to direct the attention of the Government to one or two areas that I think are worthy of very much closer investigation than they have received, and that probably will prove of benefit to the Government by reason of the increased revenue they would return if opened up. There is an area in which the member for Avon and I are perhaps equally interested, the area lying eastward from Kalkalling in his electorate and westward from Bullfinch in mine. For years past there has been talk of linking up the dead-ends on the railway system at Beneubbin and Bullfinch. The Beneubbin line has lately been extended to Kalkalling. I have been out eastwards from Kalkalling 20 miles to the rabbit-proof fence and was in a belt of first-class country, so far as I could judge, all the time, heavy forest country, some of it settled, but not a great deal because of its distance from a railway. I have also been out westwards from Bullfinch for a distance of about 17 miles. There is a gap of about 30 miles between the two points to which I travelled. Coming west of Bullfinch for the 17 miles to Biladji, I was in a belt of good country all the way. At Biladji I went to the top of

a remarkable granite formation 400ft. high that was one of the trig-stations used by Mr. H. S. King when he carried out his big survey in the nineties. So far as the eye could see from that eminence, there was heavy forest country. It seems to me there is a great area of country in that part deserving of much closer investigation than it has so far received. There are possibilities of settling a great many more people in that area. There are settlers north of the railway line at Doongin and Bodallin and stations this side of Southern Cross for distances of upwards of ten or twelve miles, and a railway linking Kalkalling and Bullfinch would pass within ten or fifteen miles north of those settlers.

The Premier: Last week I discussed that matter with the Railway Advisory Board.

Mr. CORBOY: I am pleased to hear that. I have discussed it with the Commissioner of Railways from a railway working point of view, and the Commissioner agrees that it would be a good thing if the dead-ends were linked up. It would be stupid to ask the Government to build 40 or 50 miles of railway merely for the sake of making railway working easier. We could use that length of rails to much better purpose elsewhere.

The Premier: We should build it into the Eastern Goldfields line, perhaps into Merredin.

Mr. CORBOY: That would mean running still another parallel line within a few miles of the existing line into Merredin.

The Premier: Perhaps it would go into Burracoppin.

Mr. CORBOY: Even if it were run into Burracoppin, it would not do so much to open up the country as would the line I suggest. The line I propose would open up the country north of Westonia.

The Premier: I think both lines are required.

Mr. CORBOY: It is a question which line is needed first, and on that I have no doubt. I appeal to the Government to do something definite in the way of having a proper classification made of this area, by an officer who is not already prejudiced with the too-far-east business. I do not want this country classified by an officer who thinks that the rabbit-proof fence stops the clouds. Many do think that the clouds break up when they reach that fence.

Mr. Latham: The season is better out there this year than ever before.

Mr. CORBOY: According to some of our highly placed officers, there is no rain on the other side of the fence. I am sanguine that the crops now growing in the Southern Cross and Bullfinch areas will convince even the prejudiced officers of the department that wheat can be grown profitably east of the fence.

The Premier: There is a limit out there.

Mr. CORBOY: Yes. Not many years ago members of this Chamber said that the limit had been reached when farmers went to Merredin.

Mr. Taylor: And before they got there, too.

Mr. CORBOY: I remember the howl against the Leader of the Opposition, who was said to be murdering people when he sent them out to Merredin.

The Minister for Agriculture: There is a line to be drawn.

Mr. CORBOY: As science goes ahead, breeds of wheat will be found that will grow on less rainfall and with less moisture than is the case to-day, and we shall then find that the line will be pushed further east than ever.

Mr. Taylor: As you populate the country, so will the seasons change.

Mr. CORBOY: I am not convinced of that.

The Minister for Agriculture: They have not changed at Kalgoorlie or Broken Hill.

Mr. CORBOY: I do not think that the chopping down of trees at Southern Cross will induce the clouds to come up in any greater number. Even to-day wheat is being grown at a profit on a rainfall that would have been inadequate 10 or 20 years ago.

Mr. Maley: At Bruce Rock?

Mr. CORBOY: No, nor at Three Springs. Perhaps the Minister is somewhat afraid that the land is on the other side of the country I have mentioned.

The Minister for Agriculture: I am not afraid. I was in South Australia the other day and saw a huge tract of country that had been settled, but it had to be given up, because of the dryness of the conditions, although the settlers were all good farmers.

Mr. CORBOY: People have had to leave huge tracts of country in this State, but the land has been made a success of by others.

The Minister for Agriculture: This will not be taken up.

Mr. CORBOY: That may be so for the next 10 years, but if it was good enough for those people to go on to, it will not be long

before a type of wheat is found that can be grown there on an economical basis. I appeal to the Government to investigate this belt of country and obtain the advice of unprejudiced experts. We want people who are experienced to say whether it will bear settlement or not. I believe that with proper methods, and the utilisation of sheep in conjunction with the growing of cereals, there is a great future before that locality. If the Leader of the Opposition were here to-night he would bear me out in what I am going to say, for he was with me on one occasion when I went to Bullfinch. Our train consisted of one passenger coach, three loaded trucks and a guard's van. The engine had the greatest difficulty on two occasions in pulling this small train up a bank, because the grass had so matted between the track and the wheels.

Mr. Sampson: There was too much weight behind.

Mr. CORBOY: Perhaps so. That line is not frequently used, and the grass gets a good chance to grow. Throughout that district when we were visiting it, feed was plentiful everywhere. Any man on 2,000 acres should, with the aid of sheep and wheat, make a success of farming there. I hope the Government will have a thorough investigation made of it before coming to a decision as to where they run the railway from Cowcowing. If proper reports are obtained they will be convinced that a great deal more could be done by linking that country up with Bullfinch, and enabling people to utilise it for wheat growing and sheep raising. There is another area that is worthy of better attention than it has received, and that is the country east of Newdegate and north-west of Ravensthorpe, known as Lake Damnosia. For some months past the department has had Mr. Surveyor Pitt and his staff classifying the area. I understand he has sent to the department very glowing reports of what he has seen. Although Mr. Pitt has been there for some time and has put in a favourable report, up to the present the Government have not sent out a single surveyor, so far as I know, to survey the country and make it available for settlement. This party, under Surveyor Pitt, must have cost a good deal of money, because the men are situated 40 miles from the nearest store. Once assured reports have been received as to the value of the country, there should be sufficient organisation available in the department to send out surveyors, and

mark out the country so that it may be available for settlement. Before the district can be taken up the question of water supply will have to be gone into. Key water supplies must be provided on the way to that locality as well as on the spot. I understand the department is in possession of reports in which the best dam sites are indicated. Expert officers, months ago decided as to the most suitable places for the provision of dams, but so far nothing has been done. I hope that the Government will look into the matter. Numbers of people are waiting to settle in the Lake Damnosa district, but cannot do so until the land has been surveyed and cut up. Fortunately this year my electorate is looking forward with great confidence to the future, both as regards mining and farming. A few weeks ago I was at Newdegate, where the crops were looking exceedingly well. Last year a number of men did so well out of their first crop that they have practically reached the motor-car stage.

The Minister for Agriculture: Rather foolish of them to buy motor cars.

Mr. CORBOY: I have in mind one or two men who were certainly not foolish, because their returns were so great that they were able to purchase a motor car without its being a luxury. Their prospects for the coming season indicate that their returns should be even greater than those of last year.

Mr. Lambert: Motor cars are not a luxury on a farm.

Mr. CORBOY: Some of the settlers there have legitimate cause for seeking consideration in connection with the railway now in course of construction. It is proposed to run the line to the Newdegate townsite. There are, however, settlers upwards of 16 and 18 miles south and south-east of the townsite. One man will have to cart 17 miles to the present terminus.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: And there are some just as far north.

Mr. CORBOY: Yes. It would be wise, while the necessary plant and gangs are there, for the Government to investigate the matter. The people I speak of have worked hard, and the man who has to cart 17 miles has 450 acres under wheat this year. Now would be the proper time for the Government to extend the railway another five or six miles in order to bring these people within a reasonable carting distance. They are playing their part and developing their holdings properly. They have big areas under crop, but unless they are given reasonable transport

facilities, they will have great difficulty in carrying on. I would also refer to the question of transport on the south coast. This subject is, of course, a hardy annual: whenever I have spoken on the Address-in-reply, I have found it necessary to refer to the matter. Again on this occasion it is, unfortunately, necessary to mention that the people on the south coast are paying freights which are appreciably hampering the development of the country, if not preventing its further development. As I think I stated last year, we have been successful in securing the reduction of the wheat freight by one-third; but even now that freight stands at 10d. per bushel, or double what is paid on any railway.

Mr. Latham: That is the shipping freight alone.

Mr. CORBOY: No; it includes railage from Ravensthorpe to Hopetoun. It is the through freight from the railway station at Ravensthorpe to the wharf at Fremantle.

Member: Why take the wheat to Fremantle?

Mr. CORBOY: The State Shipping Service do not care whether they dump the wheat off at Albany or at Fremantle; the freight is the same. In fact, a considerable proportion of the wheat is not shipped to Fremantle at all. The freight of 10d. per bushel is altogether too heavy a burden on the people who are endeavouring to make a success of our southern lands.

Mr. Latham: They have to pay the highest freight on superphosphate too.

Mr. CORBOY: Yes; these people are also handicapped by excessive freights on superphosphate, machinery, and all that they have to take into the district in order to produce their crops. At the same time, they have to pay very heavy freight on what they send out of their district. I am hopeful that relief will be given to that country from the burden under which it suffers, and has suffered for many years.

The Premier: The difficulty is largely geographical.

Mr. CORBOY: I recognise that, but the people in other parts of the State are getting a considerable subsidy. Farmers along the railways who are taking super to their farms receive a considerable concession from the Railway Department, whereas no such concession is granted by the State Shipping Service. There is a considerable area of good country at Ravensthorpe available for selection.

Mr. Latham: It is very good land.

Mr. CORBOY: That in the Ravensthorpe hills is, I suppose, some of the finest land in the State.

Mr. Latham: That is so.

The Premier: If the district were connected up with the railway system, it would be very prosperous.

Mr. CORBOY: Eventually I hope to see the Newdegate line extended eastward through the Lake Damnosa country, and then it will be possible to link up with Ravensthorpe. But that is a matter of the days to come; it is not an immediate possibility. However, if it is possible to subsidise farmers along the railway system with cheap freights, it should be possible to do something for the farmers in the area along the south coast. I appeal to the Government to keep this question closely in mind when framing the freight rates which are to operate after the new steamer comes into commission on the coast. I know it is not much use looking for relief while the "Eucla" remains in commission, but when the new oil-burning vessel which, while having a bigger carrying capacity, is to effect a saving of £10 a day in running costs alone, becomes available, relief should be in sight. I hope the Government will bear in mind the difficulties under which the south coast settlers have suffered for so many years, and afford them some appreciable relief. There is magnificent land in that district. A friend of mine, Mr. Stewart of Ravensthorpe, has for years past had an average crop of 28 bushels to the acre; but owing to the cost of transport and other disabilities he has found the game an up-hill fight all along. Certainly he has not been able to get ahead anything like as fast as he should have done. Had he secured land of similar quality on the railway system, he would have been able to retire years ago. With regard to hospitals and hospital accommodation, my electorate has the doubtful distinction of being the most heavily burdened community in the whole State in respect of amounts paid for medical attention. I do not know whether my constituents are pleased about it, but I am not. We have the greatest difficulty in retaining medical facilities. In Southern Cross there is a hospital which to-day is run as a private hospital, the matron receiving a subsidy from the Government. There is also a doctor who is subsidised by the Government. Yet in order to keep the doctor in the district it is

necessary for each family to contribute £5 a year. In addition to that, if a person falls ill and goes into the hospital, he has to pay four guineas per week to the matron. On top of that he has to pay for the doctor's services. All that, again, is on top of the annual contribution of £5. In Ravensthorpe we are even worse off. We have not a doctor at all. We have only a matron, and again the Government have to pay a subsidy to keep the matron there. If anyone is seriously injured, it is necessary to get a doctor across from the Great Southern district, over a distance of about 150 miles. Unfortunately we had a couple of deaths at Ravensthorpe which I am sure could have been prevented had there been a medical man in the vicinity. By the time medical aid had been brought across from the Great Southern district, it was too late. I recognise that it is extremely difficult for us to get anything more than we have at Ravensthorpe. For some two or three years the Government had a doctor at Ravensthorpe. He was also resident magistrate, and received two salaries so that he might be induced to remain. The member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) originally agreed to that arrangement. Unfortunately, however, the two salaries combined do not reach an amount which appeals to any young medical man, even one who has just finished his course. Such men find they can get a great deal more elsewhere. The last doctor we had at Ravensthorpe was paid £600 a year, plus what he could earn by private practice. One of the timber centres wrote offering him £1,000 a year as a subsidy, and of course he dropped Ravensthorpe like a hot potato and took the thousand a year; and one could not blame him for doing so. Our difficulty has been to find a man willing to take on the job, even at the combined salaries. It sometimes seems to me that the only real solution of such a problem is the nationalisation of the medical profession. However, that also is something which may be possible only in the distant future. I trust that something will be done by the Government to place our outback and country hospitals on a better basis than they are on to-day, and to provide the people, who are paying very much more than metropolitan residents, with something like decent medical facilities. Take the people in Southern Cross or Ravensthorpe. They are paying, as I have mentioned, £5 per family by way of medical

contributions. Here in Perth the subscriptions to hospitals would not average £1 per head. Again, as against the four guineas per week charge at the Southern Cross hospital, the charge at the Perth Hospital is 8s. per day.

Mr. Panton: The collection per patient amounts to very little.

Mr. CORBOY: I know that demands for payment have been pressed by the Perth Hospital in cases where that should not have been done. People have been dunned week after week by the secretary of the Perth Hospital, people quite unable to pay, and other people, who apparently could afford to pay, are admitted and very little is heard of them afterwards. They are people who should be told to go to a private hospital.

Mr. Sampson: That is never knowingly done.

Mr. CORBOY: I could tell the hon. member of one case where it was done.

Mr. Sampson: The Perth Hospital people are very hard pressed for money, and I do not think they would lose the opportunity of collecting fees.

Mr. CORBOY: At all events, the position is that the burden of maintaining medical facilities is distributed most inequitably. The people in the back country are bearing a great deal more than their proper share of the burden, and metropolitan residents are managing to evade their share.

Mr. Sampson: Moreover, the hospitals in certain big country centres are looked after by the Government, and the local people are not called upon to the same extent.

Mr. CORBOY: I believe that is so. I regret that Parliament did not see fit last session to pass a certain measure. Though I am not by any means an advocate for developing the gambling instincts of our people, yet I know that a considerable amount of money goes out of this State every year to Queensland and Tasmania. If some of that money can be used for the maintenance of hospitals in Queensland, I see no reason why it should not be used for the same purpose here. However, the Bill in question was unfortunately defeated, and so the Minister was not provided with the money he expected to receive towards the maintenance of hospitals.

Mr. Sampson: We shall have to go back to the previous measure.

Mr. CORBOY: I am not particularly concerned whether it is the last measure or the

one before that, but I do hope that this session something will be done to place our medical facilities on a much sounder basis, and to remove some of the burden on the people outback, and also to give those people something like reasonable facilities. I appeal to the Government to do something to place the matter on a better footing. I had intended to refer to the position of the mining industry, but I shall reserve what I have to say in that regard for the Estimates, except to remark that at the Ravensthorpe end, copper mining is still at a standstill. That real old hardy annual of mine, the Ravensthorpe smelter case, is not yet finalised; the money is not yet paid. Let us not look hard at the Government; the money has been available, so far as they are concerned, for the last 15 months; but unfortunately the plaintiff will not take it, and so the other men are still in the same difficulty. Until the plaintiff takes it, the others cannot get their money. Apart from that, at the other end, Southern Cross and Yilgarn, mining is on the up grade. Very fine development has taken place during the last few months. At Burbidge the syndicate which took over the Great Victoria mine are doing good work. For some six or eight months now they have returned an average profit of £1,000 per month from under 8 dwt. ore. From that fact those members who represent mining electorates will realise what good work is being done in that particular instance. The syndicate have an up-to-date plant that treats the ore economically and they are working on proper lines. I understand that Mr. Kingsley Thomas, the Royal Commissioner on mining, said that the mine was one of the only two decently equipped in the State. At any rate their figures show that their plant is effective. At the Manxman good developments have taken place, and it looks as though one or two really good mines will be developed on the Radio line of lode there. It is gratifying to know that at the Yilgarn end of the fields, mining appears to be on the up grade. They are getting good returns and there is an optimistic note throughout the mining community there that is quite pleasant after the dismal and mournful tales one used to hear some years ago. However, I shall reserve anything more I desire to say under this heading until the Mining Estimates are before us. In the meantime I again appeal to the Government to consider seriously the

opening up of the areas I have referred to. I trust they will proceed with the surveying and throwing open for selection of the lands in the Damnosa country, and the classification of the Kalkalling lands. I also trust that they will place the medical facilities I have referred to on a proper basis.

On motion by Mr. Wilson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.47 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 19th August, 1925.

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

PETITION—WEST AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEE, EXECUTOR, AND AGENCY CO., LTD., ACT AMENDMENT.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON presented a petition from the West Australian Trustee, Executor, and Agency Company, Limited, praying for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the West Australian Trustee, Executor, and Agency Company, Ltd., Act.

Petition received and read and the prayer of the petition granted.

BILL—WEST AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEE, EXECUTOR, AND AGENCY CO., LTD., ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by Hon. J. Nicholson and read a first time.

Referred to Select Committee.

On motion by Hon. J. Nicholson, Bill referred to a select committee consisting of Hon. W. H. Kitson, Hon. H. Seddon and the mover, to report on the 26th August.

QUESTION—INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS.

Hon. J. E. DODD asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, How many conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Office of the League of Nations have been received from the Federal Government? 2, With what matters do they deal? 3, Have the conventions and recommendations been ratified?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Thirty-six. 2, A list of the matters laid on the Table to-day. 3, The obligation to ratify is not with the State Government. Many of the points dealt with in the conventions and recommendations are covered by existing State legislation and regulations. Matters that are applicable to the requirements of this State, and for which adequate legislative provision has not been made, are now receiving consideration.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. J. Ewing, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to Hon. E. Rose (South-West) on the ground of urgent private business.

LAPSED BILL—RESTORATION.

On motion by Hon. H. A. Stephenson, ordered: That a message be sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting that the consideration of the Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill, passed by this House last session and transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, may be resumed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Ninth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. J. E. DODD (South) [4.38]: The Address-in-reply debate gives us an opportunity to review the actions of the Government during the recess and to express our opinions on the programme they are going